The ten days between 9 April and 18 April 2001 were bloody ones for African students and youth. They epitomized the literal war African states (committed to the structural adjustment ideology of the World Bank and IMF) are waging against African youths who see no future for themselves or their countries in the path these states are following.

On Monday 9 April, a Zimbabwean science student, Batanayi Madzidzi, aged 20, died from injuries suffered during clashes with the police on Sunday. The clashes arose from a demonstration organized to protest the late payments of their stipends. This was one of many demonstrations in the last decade the students of the University of Harare have organized focusing on the rising costs of food, accommodation, and tuition due to the government's structural adjustment policies. The immediate trigger of the students' anger was the apparent suicide on Friday 6 April of a first-year female student who was found dead in a female students' hostel with a note beside her body that referred to a relationship gone sour. Apparently many female students, in the context of the economic crisis, are financing their education through making liaisons with wealthy men. The results are not, however, always under their control.

On Wednesday 11 April, students of the Addis Ababa
University in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia were demonstrating against the police presence on campus, and demanding elementary academic freedom rights like freedom of assembly and expression on campus. Apparently two plain-clothes policemen were spotted by the students in their midst; this triggered an attack by riot police bent on rescuing their colleagues. The police riot ended in the injury of 50 students that night. In the following days, student demonstrations and strikes were echoed by rioting in the city by youths who state officials called “hoodlums and lumpen.” Shops were looted, government buildings burned, and cars were trashed. The state unleashed a deadly response, killing 38 people and wounding 252 others. The deaths were due largely to gunshot wounds caused by police fire. Thousands of students were arrested and sent to a concentration camp in the village of Sendafa, 17 miles north east of Addis Ababa. Students returned to campus in early May, but continued to demand the release of all their fellows. They eventually left the university campus en masse on 12 June, concluding that the government was not seriously negotiating with them.

On Wednesday 18 April, while the deadly confrontation in Ethiopia between students and police was beginning to quiet, Algerian police killed a student, Germah Massinissa, in the Kabylia region during a demonstration anticipating the huge annual gathering of indigenous Berbers to celebrate “Berber Spring” on 20 April. The killing of the student was followed by demonstrations of protest throughout Kabylia, and by sympathetic demonstrations in Algiers and other parts of Algeria where students chanted, “We are all Berbers!” These demonstrations were met with determined violence by state forces. At least 50 people have been killed in a long series of demonstrations demanding the right to practice Berber culture. But they continue, and they threaten the government’s hold on power.

We present these moments of Zimbabwean, Ethiopian, and Algerian state violence as an indication of African states’ confirmation of the World Bank’s judgment on the students of Africa: there are too many of them; they are expendable. At the same time the political leaders of Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, and Algeria, through their decision to respond with massive mortal force, have lost hold of the future while these heads of the IMF in Bamako, Mali. Banners outside the meetings announce that the World Bank and IMF are assassinating African people, and causing poverty and catastrophe.

>> February 20 >> Direct actionists in the Earth Liberation Front network burn a research cotton gin at Delta and Pine Land Company in Visalia, California, US. Their communiqué announces that the warehouse was chosen “because it contained massive quantities of transgenic cottonseed in storage”. No one is injured in the action.

>> February 21 >> Indian farmers disobey police orders, and march towards the port in Mumbai to stage a symbolic protest against import of food grains and the World Trade Organization (WTO). Police arrest over 51,000 of them, release them after several hours, and then disperse the crowd with water cannons.

>> February 24-March 11 >> Following the historic route of Emiliano Zapata into Mexico City, 23 Zapatista commanders and Subcomandante Marcos caravan through 13 Mexican states on the March of Indigenous Dignity. They are joined by thousands of members of national and international civil society. Their demands are constitutional recognition of indigenous rights, the