

CHRONOLOGY OF GLOBAL CIVIL SOCIETY EVENTS

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Note on the Chronology

In this section of the Yearbook we provide accounts of global civil society events which occurred during 2001. Whereas chronologies of the year usually focus on events and personalities from the North/West and depend on media coverage which tends to be biased against civil society activities, our aim here is to offer a different type of chronology. We include the activities of diverse types of groups and organisations which belong to a broad understanding of what global civil society is and which can help us to understand the process of globalisation from below. Some of these types of events do not necessarily get included in statistics on the growth of civil society activities and organisations, and our chronology enables us to capture civil society activities in the South/East.

This chronology builds on the chronologies provided in *Global Civil Society 2001*, which detailed events of 2000 and of the decade 1989–1999. The chronologies are thus being built up as a reference tool, part of the records section of each Yearbook. They also provide information about the variety of events that take place in different parts of the world, and so can contribute to the development of a type of global collective memory. These objectives can be fulfilled only with the help of a global team of correspondents, and we would like to invite you to become part of this team (please see the details in the following section).

When is something important enough to be a 'global civil society event'? For the first Yearbook we developed the criterion that, in our entirely subjective opinion, a global civil society event was one that involved or had implications for civil society and that resonated, or had implications, beyond national boundaries. The range of activities included as events is diverse, as is the size and scale of actions. Government actions are occasionally included when they had significant impact on, or were a reaction to, global civil society. Events involving violence have been included where the perpetrators may be seen by some as broadly part of civil society or where the action can have significant implications for civil society. On the whole natural disasters have not been included unless they act as a catalyst for civil society action. In a similar way

election-related events have also been included only when civil society mobilisation has had a direct bearing on the event. We expect that our criteria will continue to be refined and adapted as each chronology is compiled and as our team of correspondents expands. The chronology presented here should therefore not be seen as a definitive list of all that has happened in global civil society, but as an indication of the variety, growth, and diversity of events we have learnt about.

Become a global correspondent for the Global Civil Society Yearbook

The success of this initiative is dependent on the contributions made by our team of global correspondents. We are very grateful to this team (whose names appear at the top of this section) for their efforts. We aim to include entries from every part of the world and to focus on events that may not otherwise be known or be included in dominant understandings of global civil society. Therefore, we are continually looking to enlist new contributors. Are you interested in global civil society and in contributing to this project?

We are looking for people who take an active interest in the activities of global civil society in their part of the world. We would like to have a mix of journalists, students and academics, and activists/practitioners, with men and women, young people and older people from all regions of the world represented. Correspondents would submit events to be included in the next chronology, so would need to be looking out for suitable activities to report on. Preferably, they would know about or be involved in activism on more than one type of issue (for instance peace, human rights, the environment, consumer activism), possibly in more than one country.

If you are interested in becoming a correspondent, know someone who might be, would like to know more, or have comments to make on this year's chronology, then please do contact us. Further details can be found at <http://www.lse.ac.uk/Depts/global//Yearbook/yearbook.htm>. As well as becoming part of the Yearbook team, all correspondents are acknowledged and receive complimentary copies of the Yearbook.

Global Civil Society Events of 2001

January

- 15–16 January** Appeal proceedings are heard in Montpellier, France, of the 12 peasant activist members of the Confederation Paysanne prosecuted for the dismantling of a McDonald's restaurant in Millau in 1999. The dismantling was a protest against US and World Trade Organisation (WTO) policy imposing hormone beef on the European market. The first trial was held in August 2000, with 100,000 people demonstrating in support of the activists. In this appeal, several thousand come together to protest against the appeal and against the larger consequences of globalisation.
- 17–20 January** In the Philippines, thousands of civilians march in the streets of Manila to protest against corruption and demand that the government of President Joseph Estrada leave office. This is a reaction to news of his acquittal from an impeachment trial. Over several days, labour union power unites with other civil society activists in a move to finally bring Estrada down from power. 30,000 workers and urban poor are mobilised by militant groups to rally at the People Power Monument, with the protest being described as 'People Power II' as reminiscent of a previous action against dictator Marcos. The military then withdraws its support from the Estrada government, and Gloria Arroyo is being sworn in.
- 22 January** A teenage girl, Bariya Ibrahim Magazu, is sentenced to 100 lashes for engaging in pre-marital sex in Zamfara state, Nigeria. Her earlier conviction by a Sharia court has attracted widespread international condemnation coordinated mainly by the government and civil society groups in Canada.
- 25–30 January** The first World Social Forum is held in Porto Alegre, Brazil, as an alternative to the World Economic Forum being held in Davos, Switzerland. 11,000 activists gather to protest against neo-liberalism and discuss alternatives to capitalist globalisation under the banner of 'another world is possible'. The event is organised by a number of civil society organisations, including many progressive Brazilian ones such as the Landless Movement and trade union groups, with ATTAC-France also being prominent. It is decided during the forum that the event should be held annually.
- 26 January** The earthquake that hits Gujarat in India on this date, causing the deaths of an estimated 20,000 people, is followed by a tremendous outpouring of civil society support for emergency relief and rehabilitation. By the end of the year, almost half the houses are already reconstructed or on the way to being constructed.

29 January–3 February The World Economic Forum is held in Davos, Switzerland, and, despite police efforts to seal off the event, anti-capitalist protesters still attempt to demonstrate but are held back with water cannons. Pressure groups invited by the Davos organisers to encourage dialogue respond to the police actions by threatening to boycott future participation in the forums if demonstrations are to be banned.

February

- 3 February** The Mexican government hands over the Argentine ex-captain Ricardo Miguel Cavallo to Spanish courts to be tried for crimes against humanity during the 'Dirty War' which occurred at the time of the military dictatorship in Argentina between 1976 and 1983. The actions of the Mexican government are largely a consequence of the pressure exerted by civil society organisations in Argentina, Spain, and Mexico.
- 10 February** After a week of protests against rising domestic violence, more than 1,000 Ethiopian women march to the centre of Addis Ababa in the first public action of this kind in the country. Organised by the Ethiopian Women's Lawyers Association, the demonstrators call for tougher laws to protect women and especially young girls from the rising number of sexual offences.
- 12 February** In the Philippines more than 20,000 wage-earners and friends of the slain labour leader Felimon 'Popoy' Lagman of Buklurang Manggagawa ng Pilipinas (BMP) wear red shirts as a sign of their protest. They march in protest against his death and call for justice carrying placards and banners bearing the symbol of labour and his name.
- 17 February** Police disperse pro-democracy protesters in Osogbo, capital of western Osun state in Nigeria. The self-styled '2 million man march' is led by the National Conscience Party.
- 20 February** The Syrian government undertakes a series of measures to restrict the freedom of the civil forums, which have flourished since President Bashar al Assad assumed power in July 2000.
- 22–27 February** Anti-capitalists initiate a series of activities to parallel the regional World Economic Forum (WEF) held in Cancun, Mexico. These include an important encounter between anti-globalists and globalisers as the leaders of the WEF and Mexican authorities meet with 25 civil society organisations, 15 of which are Mexican. Jose Maria Figueres, director of the Agenda of the World Economic Forum, declares that the encounter is a success for there has been a series of shared arguments around globalisation, such as the demand for inclusion of marginal groups and access to the economy, education, and health for everyone. Representatives of various organisations, unions, peasants, and NGOs take the opportunity to urge President Vicente Fox to conduct a

'real' dialogue and to encourage accountability to civil society for the economic policies of the country. Outside the forum many activist groups come together to protest, and there is a heavy police presence throughout the city as well as in the bay, where Greenpeace moors its Rainbow Warrior ship. More radical activists protest fiercely in the area surrounding the hotels of the WEF participants.

25 February–5 March The Zapatistas leave their refuges in the highlands of Chiapas to initiate a march to Mexico City called the 'Zapatour'. Passing through several major cities, the Zapatistas raise large numbers of people in protest against the historical oppression of indigenous peoples. The caravan is supported permanently by civil society organisations from Mexico, and participants from all over the world, especially from Italy, take part. They create an enclosure for the leaders, the so-called 'enclosure of peace'.

26 February Protesting Nigerian youths from Oben, Ikobi, Obozogbenugu, and Igueleba, all in Orhionmwon Local Government Area of Edo state, invade oil and gas stations belonging to Shell.

March

9–11 March Zapatistas enter Mexico City after the 'Zapatour'. This event is particularly symbolic for its resemblance to the entry of Emiliano Zapata to the city, during the aftermath of the Mexican Revolution at the beginning of the twentieth century. 150,000 people join a rally in support of the campaign, where sub-commandante Marcos demands publicly the right of the indigenous leaders to address the National Congress.

15 March The Sudanese government is accused by Christian Aid of systematically depopulating oil-rich areas for the benefit of foreign companies.

17 March A Global Forum is held in Naples, Italy on governance and the impact of the Internet on government. Parallel initiatives are organised by an estimated 20,000 anti-capitalist protesters, and violent street clashes also take place between demonstrators and the police.

19 March Meetings are held at the WTO's headquarters in Geneva to negotiate a liberalising of world trade in services, such as in telecoms, financial services, and tourism. Outside, protesters and anti-capitalist groups gather to voice their opposition, dressed up as business people waving butterfly nets at other protesters dressed up as mobile phones and first-aid kits.

20 March In the Middle East a loose coalition of civil society organisations, including religious leaders, politicians, and intellectuals, demonstrate against a visit scheduled for 20–24 March by a delegation from the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF). This is the first leg of a regional tour, which includes Saudi Arabia, Israel, and the Occupied Territories.

23 March In an unprecedented event in Mexico, indigenous leaders are given the opportunity to address the national Congress. To a large extent this is due to the enormous pressure that civil society organisations and the Zapatista demonstrations put on the government to find legal solutions to allow them to speak in the Tribune, the area designated for members of the Congress only. Four indigenous leaders speak in their native languages to the Congress and the country, as the event is broadcast by all national TV channels.

30 March An umbrella group called the National Coalition for Press Reform is formed to campaign for the independent press in Korea. The coalition demands an end to the government practice of granting special tax exemption to media companies.

April

14 April On Easter Saturday the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament organises a demonstration in London which marches to Downing Street to oppose and call a halt to any UK/US collaboration on nuclear missile defence plans. About 400 demonstrators complete the march, carrying a giant Darth Vader puppet and are then addressed by a number of speakers.

19 April The court case initiated by pharmaceutical companies against the South African government over the production of generic copies of AIDS/HIV drug treatments is unconditionally dropped. Activists see this as a landmark victory in their attempts to secure medication for the millions of sufferers of the disease in Africa.

19–21 April The first International Citizens Meeting is held in Barcelona, organised by UBUNTU, the world forum of networks whose president is Federico Mayor Zaragoza. This meeting has the aim of offering a forum for NGOs to analyse and discuss world affairs and to concentrate on issues such as human rights, international disarmament, human development and social justice, ecology, globalisation, peace, and conflict prevention.

21 April Tens of thousands of protesters from diverse groups demonstrate against the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) project at the Summit of the Americas held in Quebec, Canada.

23 April The opening session of a symposium 'Towards an Arab Developmental and Cultural Project' is held in the Moroccan city of Fez. More than a 100 Arab intellectuals, activists, and academics participate in an attempt to analyse the Arab world within the framework of an Arab developmental and cultural project that encompasses concepts such as independent development, democracy, social justice, national independence, and cultural renewal.

26 April The Belarussian democratic opposition organises a demonstration with other civil society groups to commemorate the catastrophe at the Chernobyl nuclear power station in 1986. The Chernobyl radioactive fallout affected one-fifth of the Belarussian population and contaminated one-third of the country's territory.

May

1 May Protesters, trade unionists, and anti-capitalist demonstrators take to the streets throughout the world in global May Day protests. Protests are held in many Australian cities, with activists in Brisbane attempting to raid the stock exchange. Throughout France, hundreds of thousands of trade unionists march to defend workers' rights. In a number of German cities, police are deployed to disperse demonstrators, and clashes become violent with many arrests. In Iran, protesters call for stricter action against illegal foreign workers and in Italy trade unionists organise a huge rock concert. In Japan, nearly half a million people join a workers' march in Tokyo, and Japanese trade unionists are joined by delegates from Burma. In London, 10,000 police are deployed to control demonstrators. Police use a strategy of trapping protesters in the central Oxford Circus, surrounding them with riot police for up to 8 hours. As this is done without arrest; legal battles continue against the action. In Norway protesters show their dissatisfaction by throwing a cream pie at Foreign Minister Thorbjørn Jagland. In Pakistan, thousands of security forces are deployed in Karachi to block a May Day rally against military rule, and hundreds are arrested. In South Korea thousands march through Seoul to protest against economic reforms, and in Turkey protests focus on the plight of left-wing prisoners on hunger strike. Riot police are used in Zimbabwe to break up confrontations between trade unionists and government-backed 'war veterans' during the traditional May Day rally. Other demonstrations are held at sites including Russia, Ukraine, Austria, Greece, Spain, and Indonesia where workers march to demand more rights.

25 May A network of environmental NGOs organises an international campaign to halt plans for further reclamation in Saemankum tidal wetlands, South Korea, and hold an inauguration meeting for the campaign. The government's decision, announced on 17 June, to go ahead with the reclamation project later raises further international concerns. Ricardo Navarro, president of Friends of the Earth International, visits South Korea just after the government announcement to show international solidarity for local NGOs, and urges the government to reconsider the plan.

31 May The 'second popular conference for the resistance of normalisation with the Zionist state' is opened in Kuwait. It stresses the importance of popular mobilisation in the Arab and Islamic world to exert pressures on the Arab governments to sever all kinds of relations with Israel.

June

Early June Ten Ukrainian NGOs start the 'your vote' initiative to ensure fair parliamentary elections, to take place in Ukraine in the end of March 2002. The 'your vote' initiative's goal is to ensure conscious choice, make fraud and ballot-box stuffing impossible, and crush the attempts to abuse or garble information.

2 June An Arab Women's Forum is held in Tunisia under the headline 'women and politics', calling upon Arab states to promote the political participation of women through literacy campaigns for girls, and the preparation of women to activate their role in political parties.

8 June Ijaw youth protesters of the Sangana Local Government Area of Bayelsa state in Nigeria take over oil production platforms of multinational corporation Texaco Overseas Petroleum Company Limited (TOPCON), and hold some staff on duty hostage.

9 June Protests are coordinated against European fiscal paradises, with demonstrations being held in Jersey, Andorra, and Monaco. These are organised by ATTAC-France in conjunction with other organisations.

14 June The Council of the Arab Organization for Human Rights holds its closing session in Cairo after discussing a number of field reports reflecting the state of human rights in Arab nations. Issues discussed include Palestine, Iraq, the Algerian and Sudanese crisis, and also the pressures exerted by some Arab states on human rights organisations. The session calls for more freedom of action for these organisations.

14–16 June In Gothenburg, European leaders meet to discuss the future direction and expansion plans of the EU. During the meeting Gothenburg is overtaken by protests, and violent clashes take place with the Swedish police. Protests focus on privatisation and economic plans of the EU leaders. Demonstrators also march against US President George Bush and his stance on climate change.

19 June A World Bank meeting planned to take place in Barcelona is cancelled due to fears that anti-capitalist protests would disrupt the event. The conference is instead held partially on the Internet; however, 20,000 demonstrators still gather to protest in Barcelona's Central Square.

22 June A case is filed in Washington by the human rights group, International Labour Rights Fund (ILRF), against ExxonMobile Oil Company. This is done on behalf of 11 Acehese villages in Indonesia, accusing Exxon of complicity in the torture, murder, and sexual abuse of the local population by the Indonesian military.

25 June The United States drops its legal case against Brazil, allowing generic Aids-treatment drugs to be produced within South America. This follows intense pressure from a range of civil society organisations in Brazil, the US, and elsewhere.

26 June Protests are held by students and other activist groups in Papua New Guinea against the World Bank and the government's privatisation policies in Papua New Guinea. Demonstrations in Port Moresby, the capital, leave three protesters dead and more injured.

28 June As a result of South Korean NGOs joining forces with international organisations such as Transparency International, the National Assembly of South Korea passes an anti-corruption law. This is a direct result of NGO campaigns that have called for legislation for more transparent practices in politics as well as in business.

July

6–7 July In Geneva, a symposium is held with the World Trade Organization and 450 representatives of NGOs on issues confronting the world trading system. The meeting is part of the preparations for the 2001 Ministerial Meeting in Doha, Qatar and is seen as a progressive step towards civil society involvement.

16–20 July An initial planning meeting is held for the World Civil Society Forum (WCSF), aiming to bring together large numbers of different kinds of civil society organisations in Geneva. The actual forum will be held in Geneva in July 2002.

16–27 July The UN conference on climate control held in Bonn, Germany, reach agreement about the Kyoto Protocol. Discussions are hampered by US resistance, and pressure is kept up by a diverse mix of demonstrators, including anti-capitalist and environmentalist civil society groups.

18–21 July The G8 Summit is held in Genoa, Italy, and is marked by large-scale protests, marches, and demonstrations as a contingent of 250,000 protesters from 700 groups descend on the city. The majority march in peaceful protests, and many alternative conferences, meetings, and events are organised. However, the police are prepared for violence and use many tactics which an Italian police chief later admits involved excessive force. This includes the raiding of demonstrators' accommodation during the night, unnecessary use of tear-gas, and mistreatment of those arrested. One protester is killed by the police and approximately 200 others are injured. Legal battles continue against the actions of the police.

19–20 July A general strike brings most of Argentina to a standstill as trade unionists join with dissatisfied citizens to protest against the government's handling of the economy and the dramatic social spending cuts.

August

8 August NGOs hand over a collection of signatures to the Japanese embassy in Seoul to protest against the Japanese government's decision earlier in the year to grant permission for the use of right-wing history textbooks in state schools. This decision provokes public outrage and eventually leads more than 100,000 people to sign a petition to cancel the policy. Protesters claim the books gloss over episodes of Japanese aggression, such as the violence of the Japanese Empire during the first half of the last century. Both the South Korean and the Chinese governments have insisted on amendments to the textbooks written by a group of right-wing scholars. The signature gathering and public denouncement campaigns have drawn support from Japan as well as South Korea.

9 August A 'living chain of concerned people' is formed by several hundred people along the main street in the Belarussian capital Minsk, holding portraits of prominent political leaders who have disappeared during the years of President Lukashenka's rule. The disappeared include the former parliamentary deputy chairman, the head of the electoral commission Hanchar, former minister of interior Zakharenka, and a cameraman of the Russian TV company Zavadsky. These disappearances have been linked to the activity of an alleged death squad under the president's personal command. 'Living chains' are held in other cities and towns throughout the year.

15 August More than 500 citizens and activists gather in Seoul to protest against Japanese Prime Minister Koizumi's visit to Yaskuni war shrine. The gathering is a part of a bigger pan-Asian network including China, Taiwan, and the Philippines, which seeks to prevent the Japanese military from reviving itself in the region.

15–21 August A group of South Korean delegates of NGOs and labour movements visit North Korea to attend the ceremony for the 56th anniversary of the national liberation from Japanese colonial rule. It is the first time that South Korean activists are allowed to visit North Korea in an official capacity. The 337 delegates from South Korea reached agreements with the North to build solidarity for peaceful reunification and peace-keeping.

17 August Guy Verhofstadt, Prime Minister of Belgium and President of the European Union, writes an open letter to the anti-globalisation movement. Newspapers around the world publish this letter and the responses are collected for publication.

28 August A global delegation, spearheaded by groups and networks such as the Kakampipi, Platform of Filipino Migrant Organizations in Europe (Platform), Global Coalition for the Political Empowerment of Filipinos (Empower), and eLaAGDA (Connecting Filipinos through Technology) lobby for the passage of a bill on absentee voting in the Philippines. The consolidated version of the bill extends absentee voting rights to overseas Filipinos

who can prove their Filipino citizenship by showing either their passport or any other relevant document. It also proposes to include undocumented Filipino workers overseas, temporary workers, and permanent residents.

28 August–1 September An NGO Forum Against Racism is held in Durban, South Africa, in preparation for and parallel to the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. NGOs from around the world attend meetings and stage marches and protests. However, the event is marred by many disagreements and incidents, as is the main conference, mostly centring around the issues of Zionism, anti-Semitism, and slavery.

30 August Members of Greenpeace Southeast Asia and representatives of the Crusade for Sustainable Environment (a local NGO) plant 200 white crosses in the ash field to protest the toxic wastes produced by the National Power Corporation (Napocor) plant in Calaca, Philippines. The wooden crosses signify potential graves for the communities surrounding the plant.

September

Early September Two world summits due to be held in Italy this month are cancelled due to fears of protests such as were seen in Genoa in July. The UN Food and Agricultural Organisation's World Food Summit and a planned NATO conference are the two events affected.

7 September Under the banner of 'the cry of the excluded', protests take place in cities throughout Brazil, on this annual day of demonstration which coincides with Brazil's Independence Day. The event brings together a diverse range of religious movements with other organisations including trade unions and neighbourhood associations. This year's protest also focuses on the external debt, the creation of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), and neo-liberal globalisation.

11 September Four aircraft are hijacked in the USA. Two of the planes are flown into the World Trade Centre Twin Towers, causing both towers to collapse with an estimated death toll of 4,000, including 250 firefighters and police who attended the scene. The third plane is crashed into the Pentagon in Washington, the centre of America's military operations, and the fourth crashes 80 miles south-east of Pittsburgh.

13 September The Australian government cites the terrorist attacks on the US to justify its hard stance on asylum seekers entering the country. It is claimed that Australia is becoming a target for refugees from a number of countries due to its geographical accessibility, and that a strong line is necessary to discourage the increasing number of refugee boats heading for the country. This and future action is met with fierce resistance by a variety of civil society groups, including Amnesty International, resulting in protests

inside and outside many of Australia's detention centres for asylum seekers.

16–22 September Environmental activists from South Korea join together to visit the headquarters of a German multinational corporation, BASF, in Ludwigshafen, Germany, to protest against its expansion plans in South Korea. The company is accused of having used heavily toxic materials. The activists meet the company's CEO and visit the German Bundestag in Berlin. German local environmental groups join the Korean activists in generating publicity.

19 September Activists from 20 Islamabad-based NGOs hold a protest at Aabpara to express solidarity with the families of the victims of the September 11 terrorist attacks on World Trade Centre and the Pentagon. The demonstration is organised by the Citizen Peace Committee.

22 September The government of the Philippines and the leftist Rebolusyonaryong Partido ng Manggawa (RPM-P) renew their commitment to the peace treaty they signed in December 2000. Representatives of the church and student groups, local government officials, and the business sector participate in the dialogue.

26 September–3 October The Asian Network for Free and Fair Elections (ANFREL) takes part in election monitoring in Bangladesh. This is a Bangkok-based network consisting of six countries in Asia, and aims to help prevent election irregularities and ensure a free and fair election. It later also contributes to election monitoring activity in Sri Lanka. The experience of South Korean NGOs in the democratisation struggle during the 1970s and 1980s is contributing to this by helping to establish democracy in other parts of the developing world, particularly Asia.

27 September An anti-war demonstration is held in Naples, Italy to protest against the possibility of using military action in response to the September 11 attacks on the US. 10,000 people attend the event to demonstrate against war and NATO.

29 September In Washington DC, civil society groups come together for a march to 'stop war and racism'. This is attended by 25,000 anti-war protesters.

October

7 October Air strikes are launched on Afghanistan by the US in the 'war on terror'. Training camps and military installations of the Al Qaeda network are targeted with the objective of capturing those involved in the organisation of the terrorist attacks of September 11, including the leading figure of Osama Bin Laden. Anti-war protesters around the world voice their opposition and step up campaigns to stop the military action.

- 8 October** In Santiago, Chile, an anti-war protest is held to demonstrate against the military action of the US, with activists claiming that the Americans are now committing terrorism themselves through their bombing of Afghanistan.
- 9 October** Environmentalist groups and anti-war protesters come together in South Korea to demonstrate against the war.
- 12 October** Thousands of Muslims in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, defy a police ban and come out to protest against the American-led attacks on Afghanistan.
- 12 October** Clashes between Christians and Muslims in response to the World Trade Centre and Pentagon attacks leave an undetermined number dead in Kano state, Nigeria.
- 13 October** In London a march and rally for peace and justice is attended by more than 20,000 from a wide range of communities.
- 13 October** An anti-war demonstration in Berlin is attended by 30,000 people, calling for peace, solidarity, and social justice.
- 13 October** In Italy, 250,000 anti-war demonstrators participate in a 23-mile peace walk between Assisi and Perugia, making it one of the biggest peace demonstrations so far in the protest against the US-led strikes on Afghanistan.
- 14 October** Activists in India take part in an anti-war march and rally in Calcutta with 70,000 people involved in the demonstration.
- 15 October** A protest to denounce the US-led air strikes on Afghanistan is held in Ankara, Turkey.
- 17 October** In Paris commemorations take place for the massacre perpetrated by the French police against unarmed Algerian demonstrators on 17 October 1961. Thousands of people demonstrate in the street, supported by anti-racist and human rights movements, left-wing political parties and trade unions.
- 18 October** The activist for human rights Digna Ochoa is murdered in her house in Mexico City. This unchains a series of declarations and mobilisations of groups within Mexico and abroad to urge President Vincente Fox to issue a statement marking a new position for Mexico vis-à-vis human rights. The new government is also pressed by civil society organisations to free the indigenous peasants jailed for protecting the environment.
- 18 October** After a two-year legal struggle that has been supported by Brazilian organisations and international NGOs such as Greenpeace, the Denie Indians of Manaus in the Amazon win the right to protect their land from illegal logging and industrial practices.

- 26 October** Student demonstrations in Sao Paulo, Brazil, result in police captain Francisco Roher having a cream pie thrown at him as he is presented with his degree from PUC University. The captain is the commander of police who had violently repressed protesters from different organisations at a previous demonstration against the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), resulting in 69 arrests and 100 injured.
- 31 October** With the upcoming legal registration period for a right to vote which lasts three months every year, a renewed campaign is launched by Egyptian women's NGOs to increase the percentage of Egyptian women's participation in the elections and to fill a gap in the Egyptian law which registers males automatically while making female registration optional.

November

- 6 November** In Delhi, 15,000 people gather to protest against the World Trade Organisation ahead of its planned meeting in Doha, the capital of Qatar. The protesters include farm labourers, slum-dwellers, and low-caste Hindus, who condemn the Indian government's failure to protect its own interests.
- 9–15 November** A World Trade Organisation meeting is held in Doha, Qatar. Tight security and the geography of the location prevent protesters from attending in great numbers. Some of the main issues discussed include workers' rights and access to cheap pharmaceuticals. A small contingent of 100 NGOs is invited to attend, with their activities limited to lobbying and quiet protest. Many complaints are made by protesters at the lack of opportunity to voice opinions, and fuel their criticisms of the WTO's undemocratic nature.
- 18 November** Another anti-war demonstration is held in London with up to 100,000 marching to the capital's Trafalgar Square for a rally.
- 18 November** A revision of the Earth Charter announced at the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992 takes place in Amman, where a number of Arab thinkers who have an interest in civil society, representing Egypt, Syria, Tunisia, Lebanon, Palestine, and Bahrain, meet to formulate a collective viewpoint on the Charter and the necessary amendments reflecting an Arab point of view.
- 21 November** A court of appeal in the Moroccan capital of Rabat acquit 36 human rights activists, who had been sentenced earlier to 3 months' incarceration for participating in the organisation of an unauthorized demonstration in the previous December. A number of groups have been campaigning on their behalf.
- 26 November** More than 100 Arab scientists, activists, academics, and politicians meet at the Arab League Headquarters in Cairo to discuss the 'dialogue between civilisations'.

30 November An international solidarity network is founded in Los Angeles to exchange information about, and to launch a campaign against, the imperial Japanese atrocities during the Second World War. The network comprises more than 50 groups in 13 countries including North and South Korea, Japan, China, Indonesia, the Philippines, Taiwan, US, and the Netherlands. The network is to launch a lawsuit in a US court for a former victim of forced labour during the war.

December

2–6 December In Lille, France, the World Citizens' Assembly of the Alliance for a Responsible, Plural and United World meet. This brings together 400 civic activists and personalities from all over the world, representing youth movements, peasants and fishermen unions, women movements, NGOs, municipalities, and journalists. The participants work towards a new concept of governance and sustainable development.

5 December This is International Volunteer Day, and the global closing of what has been the UN-sponsored International Year of the Volunteer. This draws together a year of diverse events held worldwide, such as parades, volunteer fairs, workshops, conferences, and work camps, some of which are aimed directly at young people.

7–9 December A seminar is held in Istanbul, Turkey, on the 'clash of civilisations' organised by Euro-Arab Dialogue, the Dutch Interchurch Peace Council (IKV), and the Helsinki Citizens' Assembly. The participants attend from European, Mediterranean, and Middle Eastern countries. At this event the project of a Middle East Citizens' Assembly (MECA) is launched.

9 December National Blanket day is celebrated in India, promoted by different student groups. The idea behind this initiative is to encourage people to donate a blanket to homeless people all around the world.

11 December The biggest general strike for more than 40 years paralyses Venezuela, as people throughout the country take part in a 12-hour stoppage. Fedecamaras,

the country's largest business association, claims that 95 per cent of businesses have taken part. Business leaders have called the strike to protest that they were not consulted in the development of new labour laws. However, other protesters gather in Caracas in support of President Hugo Chavez. The president addresses them to claim this was a strike of the rich and he will not abandon the poor of Venezuela.

13 December A 24-hour general strike is held by public workers in Argentina, bringing the country to a virtual standstill. This is in protest against government restrictions, such as curbs on bank withdrawals, implemented in response to the deepening economic crisis the country faces. With a national debt of \$132 billion the government's plans are thrown into turmoil when the International Monetary Fund refuses a payment of \$1.3 billion, which was part of a larger loan package; however Argentina has repeatedly failed to meet economic targets. The mood of the country becomes increasingly discontented.

13–14 December The European summit is held in Brussels, with European leaders launching a review of the future direction and shape of the EU with the aim of increasing efficiency. This takes place, however, amidst mass protests. A march organised by trade unions is attended by up to 80,000 people. There are later clashes between some protesters and police.

20 December Mass public protests by Argentinian citizens lead to the resignation of President Fernando de la Rúa, a culmination of prolonged protests at the government's handling of the economy. At least 25 people are killed during the riots. Some neighbourhood councils are set up to try to restore order in the communities.

24–25 December After the September 11 attacks more than 600 NGOs in South Korea organise a peace network to campaign for the end of the Afghanistan war. They also hold a big concert on Christmas day to raise funds for the refugees in the region. In particular, NGOs express concern over the Korean and Japanese decision to send troops to Afghanistan.