Communication of FIMARC Bureau after the Tsunami

When we are gathering for our Bureau meetings, we use to exchange information and news from the rural movements of the four continents. In those times, our attention goes particularly for our friends living in India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Thailand. Even if we don't count an affiliated movement in Burma, we are also thinking to the population without means to express its voice and we dare to imagine what can be the living conditions of the survivals.

The information we received have confirmed, sometimes worsen the media echoes and proof that the effects of the Tsunami will last for a long period if strong choices for another development are not taken as quickly as possible.

The wonderful mobilisation of solidarity that followed this cataclysm is a positive sign of what could be the globalisation of solidarity.

Emotion was so strong because the scope of the catastrophe could not let any people indifferent. It was also that much because a lot of European and American tourists were affected by the same. Cataclysms like this, spitefully, happen from time to time: Bam in Iran, Kobé in Japan, Turkey, the cyclone Mitch in Central America... but did not have the same echoes.

Emotion was also that much because of the fundamental questioning provoked by this kind of event on life, on the weakness of humankind faced the uncontrollable power of nature.

The European States and United States couldn't do less than follow their population to provide help and assistance to the affected countries. But after the immediate and concrete assistance provided in the first moments of the catastrophe, these are much more promises of donations... For what to do?

We made a dream that all this human and financial mobilisation, this enormous energy to save and reconstruct after the devastation provoked by the destructive tsunami energy, be oriented to the service of a development for all.

In the times we are living, we see at the same time the confrontation of the technical and scientifical human power, with all the promises to better the life for all, with the confiscation of this power by some even if it means the exclusion for the third of humanity.

Isn't the event of the tsunami, world catastrophe, a sign to re-orientate our world society choices by stopping this concentration which excludes millions of people, pollutes the planet, generates violence at all level and make the choice of a development which gives the possibility for the maximum of people to take care of themselves of their life while choosing their own way of living and destiny.

We are particularly thinking to the ethnic minorities like the Dalit in India, to the fishermen and small farmers which are very often denied from their right to fish or to access to land and more globally to whom who are excluded from a minimum economic activity.

We hope that the millions of dollars and euros collected or promised will not provoke another catastrophe; that after the natural disaster and loss of so much lives, people will not be dominated by their so called benefactors whom are coming with their money and impose a type of development that will accelerate the marginalisation started even before the tsunami.

FIMARC Bureau members Moundasso, BURKINA FASO February 2005

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