

Report of Cultural Working Group

In the last few months as a part of the international campaign „Support the peoples war in India“ we, the Cultural Working Group, discussed and studied the revolutionary culture-organisations, how they work and fight in India and also which kind of solidarity-work we can do here in Austria as a working group. Our focus lies on the culture-front. With this focus we wanted to propagate the people’s war also in Austria and make the Austrian people get interested and thinking. Our goals, as the Cultural Working Group, were to inform ourselves and to discuss at first, to be able to inform the people to spread solidarity. With this focus we concentrated and worked towards the main part of our solidarity work, organising a solidarity-celebration to support the people’s war in India. Our question was, what the meaning of the revolutionary culture work in India is, which part of the fight it is and how we can reach the people here.

In this context we prepared a presentation with the focus on how the culture organisation Chetna Natya Manch (CNM) is doing their work and fights a important part of the people’s war: *They go into the villages to the people, they study their culture, their different forms of art, in order to revolutionize them. They carry out a strong fight against the exploiting imperialist culture, which oppresses the people and workers of India. This is expressed in dances, songs and plays, which pick up the contradictions and issues of the people. And at the same time the people are directly involved and so everyone is included in a collective collaboration. But first of all their task is the finding of solutions and raising of consciousness for the fight against an imperialist, feudal culture. Culture work in India means first of all education of the working class and the people for the new democratic revolution and its strengthening. “With all our efforts we fight to build an anti-imperialist, anti-feudal and new-democratic culture. Our call to the people out there is to dare to fight and eliminate this oppressive class culture” (CNM-Activist).*

As a next theme, we concentrated on and discussed the hindu-fascist Indian State and the repression they use against the revolutionary culture-organisations and their members. For example, the Adivasi Uttpal Baski, who was illegally arrested by the police in Mai 2012. We could clearly see on this example, how dangerous progressive cultural work is for the Indian state and how liberating and important it can be for the people. Based on this we put our work under the slogan „Art is a weapon“.

From then on we concentrated on the mobilisation and organisation for the solidarity-celebration. Also important for our work was to get people involved which are not in any organisation, to get them interested. We did not really reach this goal, but we could get a few new people interested by drawing a transparent with the slogan „Let’s create a strong and secure base of higher culture for the broad masses“. By agitation, poster activities and a CD with revolutionary Indian songs we tried to get attention for the celebration and the international campaign to support the people’s war in India. Quantitatively, the celebration was not really successful, but we reached a few new faces, by discussing and celebrating together. On the day itself we held workshops on the topics of women’s struggle, culture work and newspaper. The working group Newspaper discussed parts of the book “Red Star over India”, the working group Women’s Struggle prepared an exhibition and the Cultural Working Group designed t-shirts with progressive solidarity slogans for India.

To sum it up, it was a challenging task to win people making solidarity-work for progressive fights, sometimes it was hard, but we think we were able to make a few small steps forward, knowing what revolutionary culture could be and propagating it, the solidarity of progressive movements in general and especially with the people's war in India. We look forward to starting the work of the Cultural Working Group again within the next campaign.

To come to an end:

Forwards in the struggle for a revolutionary, new-democratic culture of the working class and masses of the people!

Lets establish a strong and secure foundation of a higher culture of the broad masses!

For victory in the people's war!

Forwards with the anti-imperialist, new-democratic revolution!

Up the international solidarity!