

# GGJ CONGRESS 2011: HIGHLIGHTS

September 16-18, 2011: Hosted by Black Workers For Justice in Raleigh, NC

We are thrilled to call the first GGJ Congress a great success!!! Thanks to all our participants, we were able to achieve the overarching goals of our gathering. Not only did we affirm the overall framework of the No War, No Warming! Build an Economy for the People and the Planet proposal, we made significant strides in sharpening our political positions on each area and the intersection of the three. We also did some foundational work identifying opportunities, questions, and flags for moving the work forward through deepened member engagement.

*This report highlights some of the key outcomes of the Congress*



## Moving forward our New Initiative

- Affirmation of the “No War, No Warming, Build an Economy for the People and the Planet” framework as the basis for GGJ’s analysis and areas of work for the next period.
- Initial 6 months- 1 year work plan directions for each area of work
- Conducted 5 successful Political & Popular education sessions to help build the analysis and practice



*Credit for all photos: Cindy Perron, Vermont Workers Center*

## Deepening our Roots and Broadening our Base

Though Hurricane Irene delayed us a few weeks and caused us to miss out on the presence of some active members, the overwhelming majority of members and allies originally registered for the Congress in August were able to come through. We even had some key additions to the mix who were not originally planning to come.

In the end we had a grand total of 30 member organizations, 20 ally groups, and 3 international allies representing, as well as a number of representatives from potential member organizations and local organizing and cultural groups from throughout North Carolina.

Members held 8 open space workshops covering a range of issues to share campaigns, skills, successes and strategy lessons among participants

A significant and exciting increase in member commitment to leadership in GGJ, with more than 10 organizations pledging the highest levels of commitment to GGJ: as potential coordinating committee members or potential anchor organizations who will lead coordination of the work in each area.

“GGJ creates the space for all of our constituencies to coordinate, to put out unified platforms, to coordinate on media. GGJ clears a place for the social movements to cohere and magnify our demands.”

*- Clayton Thomas-Mueller,  
Indigenous Environmental  
Network*



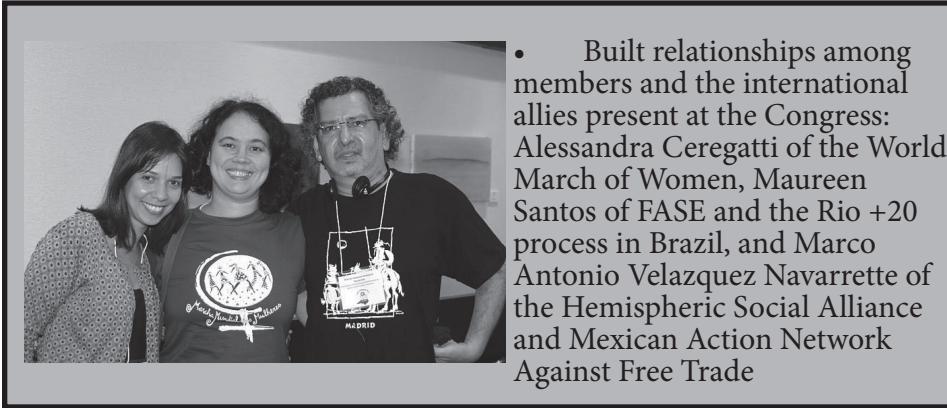


# Building Grassroots Internationalism

*More key outcomes of the Congress...*



- Passed 5 resolutions in support of Troy Davis, Mexican Trade Union workers, US postal workers, food sovereignty movement, and HSA- the prolongment of the crises- Movements Hemispherically needing to unite.



- Built relationships among members and the international allies present at the Congress: Alessandra Ceregatti of the World March of Women, Maureen Santos of FASE and the Rio +20 process in Brazil, and Marco Antonio Velazquez Navarrete of the Hemispheric Social Alliance and Mexican Action Network Against Free Trade

- Heard powerful solidarity statements, thorough feedback, and clear calls to action from more than 6 international allies including Hamouda Soubhi of Alternatives Morocco, and Desmond D'sa of the South Durban Community Environmental Alliance - their overall messages: GGJ is needed to build a U.S. internationalist force that can undermine U.S. imperialism and link with international social movements to build alternatives to the current systems. As Desmond D'sa said: "Together we must build a global movement linked from the ground up, made up of people with our backs to the walls!"

- Began to collectively define "grassroots internationalism" through video interviews and political education discussion with international allies



*Ajamu Dillahunt of Black Workers For Justice gets the rally fired up!*



- Heard from an incredible local panel including: Michelle Laws, NAACP: North Carolina, Caitleen Breedlove: Southerners Organizing on New Ground, Sergio Reyes and Justin Flores: Farm Labor Organizing Committee, also speakers from UE 150, NC Environmental Justice Network, and NC Heat.

- Marched to the N.C. Republican Headquarters where we called for more jobs and for support for the thousands of public sector workers who have lost jobs.

- A smaller delegation of participants stayed an extra day to attend a rally at the rural office of FLOC for the release of the report "State of Fear" about the unjust and inhumane conditions that exist for tobacco farm workers in North Carolina, where they spend hours in the sun, exposed to toxic chemicals.



*Credit for all photos: Cindy Perron, Vermont Workers Center*

**To watch videos, check out news coverage, and read resolutions and solidarity statements, visit our website: [ggjalliance.org/congress2011](http://ggjalliance.org/congress2011)**