

INVITATION

INTERNATIONAL COURSE ON POLITICAL TRAINING FOR POLITICAL EDUCATORS

October 26th to December 12th, 2015

Dear comrades in struggle,

Receive our most sincere greetings!

We would like to inform you that we are beginning the recruitment call for the II International Course on Political Training for Political Educators, for militants and activists from movements and popular organizations of all Continents.

The first International Course was held from March to May 2015, with the participation of 60 activists and militants representing 48 Popular Movements and Organizations from 17 countries.

The II course will be held from **October 26th to December 12th**, 2015, at ENFF, located in São Paulo, Brazil.

Following is some information about the course and orientation for the selection of participants:

I. OBJECTIVES:

- a) To strengthen the political training of political educators of movements from La Via Campesina International, as well as from different social, popular and political movements which organize struggles and resistance against the capitalist system in their countries.
- b) To contribute to the political training of militants, activists and leaders who have the ability and / or the responsibility to organize schools and political training programs for their organizations in their countries of origin.
- c) To provide a space for exchange between social and political organizations and for the mutual articulation and integration of the various existing processes of struggles. To build deeper unity between organizations, to promote solidarity within the international working class and to strengthen internationalism.
- d) To promote revolutionary, socialist, and Marxist ideas as the historical legacy that has been developed through the course of working class struggle.
- e) To discuss the design, content and methodology of political, ideological and organizational training, in order to deepen efforts participants' capacity to develop training programs that are tailored to the current moment and to their specific contexts.

II. CRITERIA FOR SELECTING STUDENTS:

This course is aimed at militants, activists and leaders who are linked to social movements, particularly those people who are connected to political training or popular education tasks. **It is imperative that militants are organically connected to a movement or an organization**, that is, that they are officially part of and active within the organization. The participants must be

nominated by the organization and the participation must be a reflection of the movement's interests, and not the participant's personal or individual interests. Additionally, candidates will:

- Preferably be young men and women, with conscious discipline and commitment to collective work.
- Have an appetite for study and the pursuit of knowledge.
- Be open to live and learn from other cultures, other experiences and other people.
- Be connected to political training or popular education tasks in their movements/organizations.
- Be of peasant or urban organizations, involved in the debates of Via Campesina, or other groups that organize struggles against capitalism and imperialism.
- Organizations should take gender dynamics into account - nominating 50% women and 50% men - to promote equal participation in the course.

III. PERIOD:

The course will last for 48 days. It will be held at the National School Florestan Fernandes, outside of Sao Paulo - from **October 26th to December 12th**, 2015.

IV. BASIC PROGRAM:

During the course, we will use readings, lectures and discussion to study topics including: a historical overview of the class struggle; political philosophy; critical thinking; theory of political organization; popular work; imperialist strategies and current struggles processes. We will also organize seminars so that participants can learn about and understand the experiences of the participating organizations with political and ideological training. We will also have a week engaged with the practical experiences of working class organizations in Brazil.

V. METHODOLOGY OF THE COURSE:

- a) The course will cover both theoretical and methodological topics. The mornings and most afternoons will be classroom-based presentations, provided by allied educators. In the evenings we will organize other activities for individual and collective deepening, including research, group and individual studies, cultural activities, exchanges, and so on. There will also be seminars, discussion circles, guided reading on specific topics to complement the discussions on political training.
- b) At the end of the course students should have a proposal for a Political Training Program that they will run with their own social organizations. During the period of the course, the participants will have to prepare this political training program, week by week.
- c) Saturdays will be dedicated to the participation at ENFF Cycle of Debates.
- d) The fifth week of the course will be practical exposure. Students will be divided into groups and placed in current struggles and organizations of the working class in Brazil.

VI. COSTS

- a) The Florestan Fernandes National School, with the support of the Bertha Foundation, will ensure the costs of teaching materials, accommodation, food and other educational expenses.
- b) Tickets will also be provided with the support of the Bertha Foundation. Therefore, along with the registration form, each participant must inform us of their intended travel route to

Sao Paulo (that is, their city of exit and return) and preferred dates for the trip, taking into account the dates of beginning and end of the course.

- c) Other travel expenses - including transportation to and from the airport, food at the airport, and so on - will be the responsibility of the organizations that send militants.
- d) All costs with visa process will be the responsibility of the organizations that send militants.
- e) Each movement and / or student must have their own resources for personal expenses during the period in the school.

VII. IMPORTANT GUIDELINES:

- 1) We ask you to send the registration forms filled out with the information of your recommended participants to **srimst@mst.org.br by September 10, 2015.**
- 2) VISA: Everything regarding the visa process to stay in Brazil for the period of the course **is responsibility of each organization/participant.** We can provide individual invitation letters for those who need it.

Deadline to submit application forms: October 1st, 2015.

In solidarity,



Florestan Fernandes National School - ENFF



International Relations Collective - MST