

The nuclear disaster in Japan is not a natural disaster, but a crime!

(speech at a Rally outside Vattenfall (a European atomic energy company), anti-capitalist bloc,
Hamburg, 03. 26. 2011)

When we look to Japan now, we are filled with sadness and deep compassion for the affected people - we are appalled and shocked.

But we are also full of rage and anger.

For the nuclear disaster is not a natural disaster, it is not inevitable, it is not an error, a mistake or a miscalculation - but a calculated risk.

We've always known that such a catastrophe cannot be ruled out. Nevertheless, we lived in hope that it would not occur.

For over 40 years, we have - through countless analysis, public hearings, court cases, media articles, demonstrations and other actions – pointed out the fact that this technology is uncontrollable, that it is a crime against humanity and the environment; that the slogans:

- “German nuclear power plants are safe”,
- “Without nuclear power the lights go out”, and now:
- “Nuclear power as a bridging technology”,

are big business lies.

Now the question presents itself:

Have we done enough so far, have we exhausted all the possibilities in order to put an end to this nuclear policy?

This is the question we must answer anew for both the present and future!

Even the greatest disasters with hundreds of thousands of deaths and injuries:

- Malek, Russia, 1957,
- Windscale, England, 1957,
- Harrisburg, the USA, 1979,
- Chernobyl, the Ukraine, 1986, or
- the close-call in Forsmark, Sweden, 2006,

have not caused those responsible for the nuclear business to stop their murderous work.

In Forsmark - a Vattenfall-nuclear station – the reactor went off-line after a short circuit and subsequently the cooling failed for 23 minutes. One of the chief engineers publicly said, "We were seven minutes short of a meltdown" - but what happened?

Vattenfall fired the man and everything continued to run as usual.

Only a day after the nuclear disaster in Japan became public, the energy group E.on (with 80% involvement in Brokdorf nuclear power station), published an article in the Wilterschen newspaper (03/12/2011). This was in response to demands from the Bremer Organisation for the Monitoring of Work and Environment Protection for them to report on the significant increase of cancer in the vicinity of the Brokdorf nuclear power plant. The E.on article stated that, “Using modern, scientific measuring

methods, it is proven that during full power operation, there is no direct transmission of radiation in its vicinity.”

And it continues:

“The Bremen group, with the unassuming, confidence-inspiring name Organisation for the Monitoring of Work and Environment Protection, is a uniquely left-wing political spectrum organization. Its understanding of a radical ecological point of view is inseparable from its critique of existing political and social conditions.” Consistent with this ideology, the group demands the immediate shutdown of all nuclear facilities on their web-site.”

This attempt by E-on to divide the Bremen group and the local population by defamation and lies is not acceptable and will backfire on E.on. (see: www.MAUS-Bremen.de)

The business of nuclear technology and nuclear energy makes it clear how it deliberately speculates with the life and health of both humans and the environment. The greed for profit and power comes over dead bodies.

We must always remember that nuclear technology is no mistake, no error, it is not an aberration of the prevailing conditions, but a conscious, logical choice of capitalism. For the corporations, profit is important and thus exploitation and destruction of both humans and the environment is accepted. Therefore we must attack the causes of these symptoms – that is, the capitalist system. Otherwise, we will fight one symptom after another - for ever - without bringing our utopia of communication, solidarity and liberation, of self-determination and collectiveness one step closer.

To make allegations against capitalism, to be outraged about certain aberrations, is to suggest that a more humane capitalism is possible. But within the capitalist logic, a humane solution is unthinkable. Capitalism does not make mistakes - it's the mistake. And it must be eliminated, so that we can live!

The world is now, after the disaster in Japan, a different place than before. Large areas of land, for decades or centuries, will be contaminated by radiation. Large sections of the population will be exposed to extreme health risks.

And if here, in Germany, people think that Japan is so far away and the disaster will not affect us here, then they are mistaken. We also will - at least in the longer term – feel the effects.

What is the situation in Germany?

Bremen, for example, has in its surroundings (that is within a distance of 150 km) six nuclear power plants. No major city in Germany has a higher density of nuclear power plants.

Bremen's Senator, Ulrich Mäurer (SPD), stated recently that “In a nuclear disaster, we have no answer!” (15/03/2011, Weser Kurier)

And in Hamburg, it is similar.

And of the dangers posed by even so-called normal operation of nuclear facilities or from uranium mining and the unsolvable problems in the storage of nuclear waste is not even spoken about.

Further:

Through the city and ports of Hamburg and Bremen / Bremerhaven a number of nuclear shipments continually go..

Every one and a half days is a nuclear transport through Hamburg!

Every two days is a nuclear transport through Bremen!

Northern Germany is a crucial hub in the international nuclear business. Uranium oxides, the extremely toxic uranium hexafluoride, non-irradiated and irradiated fuel, and other products associated with the use of nuclear technology are handled in the ports and/or transported through the urban areas. Recipients and originators of the nuclear material are from all around the world: Germany, Belgium, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Norway, France, Spain, Canada, the USA, Argentina, Australia, South Korea, Russia, Kazakhstan, Namibia, Brazil, South Africa and Finland.

An extremely well-flourishing world-wide trade!

Speaking about the massive public protest against various transports, the mayor of Bremen, Jens Böhrnsen (SPD), said in an interview that, "... generally because of the security problems of such goods in transit, and also because of the expected demonstration potential, given the current debate they are classified as a very high risk. These transports mean disproportionately high police operations are necessary. This takes not only money, but it also affects the function of our ports. "

And former Mayor of Hamburg, Christoph Ahlhaus (CDU) feared, after the recent mass protests in Gorleben, political unrest and blockades of the port and wanted to "stop the unacceptable burden of the transport on the city."

Other cities, for example, Emden, Wilhelmshaven, Lübeck, Cuxhaven, Rostock and Kiel, have in the meanwhile at least spoken against the transport through their harbours and/or discussed the possibility of changing the designations of their ports.

This is in itself a huge success for the anti-nuclear resistance movement, we should not let go and must continue our fight.

Nuclear transport is of utmost strategic importance for the functioning of the nuclear industry. Preventing nuclear transport will shut down nuclear facilities. And that is exactly our aim.

A look into the future:

If German companies continue to be involved with the construction of nuclear facilities worldwide or produce export materials for the construction and operation of nuclear facilities or if nuclear power is imported from other countries – then all the talk about 'quitting nuclear energy' or 'nuclear energy as a bridge-technology' are blatant deceptions and lies.

For the immediate and unconditional and definitive shutting down of all nuclear power plants worldwide.

But we will not achieve this exclusively through arguments and appeals to politicians, but rather we must do it ourselves.

And in doing so, should not forget:

There is no peace with the the prevailing conditions. We need to fight for a world where people are at the centre of thought and action, rather than economic principles. And that needs to happen now and everywhere!

In this sense, it is our moral duty to name those responsible for the nuclear industry - and thus also for the many deaths and injuries - within politics, economy, science and technology and to hold them all to account:

In Germany these include:

- the four big power companies: Vattenfall, E. ON, EnBW and RWE;
- the former Red-Green government of Gerhard Schröder-Fischer Trittin with for example, their consensus agreement for purposes of maintaining the German nuclear plants - the guarantee of substantial duration and profits, and the expansion of the Gronau uranium enrichment plant;
- and now also the Black-Yellow government of Merkel-Westerwele-Röttgen who have just decided to extend the lifetime extension,
- the scientists and engineers, as long as they refuse to hold a value position or are silent despite knowing better. (With the exception of the few who are then politically pursued and subject to black-listing and silence orders)

Our experience tells us:

It is not the example of adaptation and subjection that make people of courage, but the example of rebellion.

**The great appear only so large because we are on our knees before them
- we need to stand up and fight!**

That is, for us:

Forward and do not forget solidarity!

We will meet each other on the streets! Take good care of yourselves!