

Activists from the
anti-nuclear camp
near Kiel in
Germany send
solidarity greetings
to the people of
Idinthakarai in India.

22th August 2014

Dear friends in Idinthakarai,

activists from the 2014 anti-nuke camp in Germany send you solidarity greetings. The well known German artist Karin Hilbers made an art print as a sign of solidarity with the people of Idinthakarai. This print is included. We added some photographs to give you an impression of our actions and the camp.

You may wonder, why we are still fighting against nuclear power in Germany. There are many reasons. We don't trust our government. Eight nuclear power plants are still producing nuclear waste every day. Nobody knows where this waste will go.

In Germany there is a factory for nuclear fuel elements. This factory has an unlimited license. It will export nuclear fuel even when all German NPPs will be closed down. The factory is run by Areva. The very same company which wants to build a huge nuclear power plant in Jaitapur / Maharashtra.

In Germany there is also an uranium enrichment factory, with unlimited license also. The enriched uranium is exported to many countries all over the world.

Companies in Germany are involved in building nuclear power plants abroad. Siemens has helped to build the Kudankulam NPP. Another German company, the Kaefer Group, made insulations in the KKNPP. The Kaefer Group delivered also components for the Areva NPPs in Olkiluto / Finland and in Flamanville / France. They hope to make business in Jaitapur too.

Germany is a hub of international uranium transports. German government still funds nuclear research. The deconstruction of shut down nuclear power plants follows the logic of profit making, protecting people and environment are subordinate.

The German Green Party, which has it's origin in the anti-nuclear movement, is now a governing party in many German states. It supports the nuclear politics.

We fight for shut down of all nuclear plants worldwide. We believe in the strength of grass-roots movements. Our struggle started in the 1970's and it

is not over yet. We had many up and downs. It is like ebb and flow. Eight month after the Tschernobyl catastrophe the NPP Brokdorf in Germany started commercial operation. We were not strong enough to stop it. You were able to stop commissioning of KKNPP for half a year. After Tschernobyl German government did not dare to start any new NPP project.

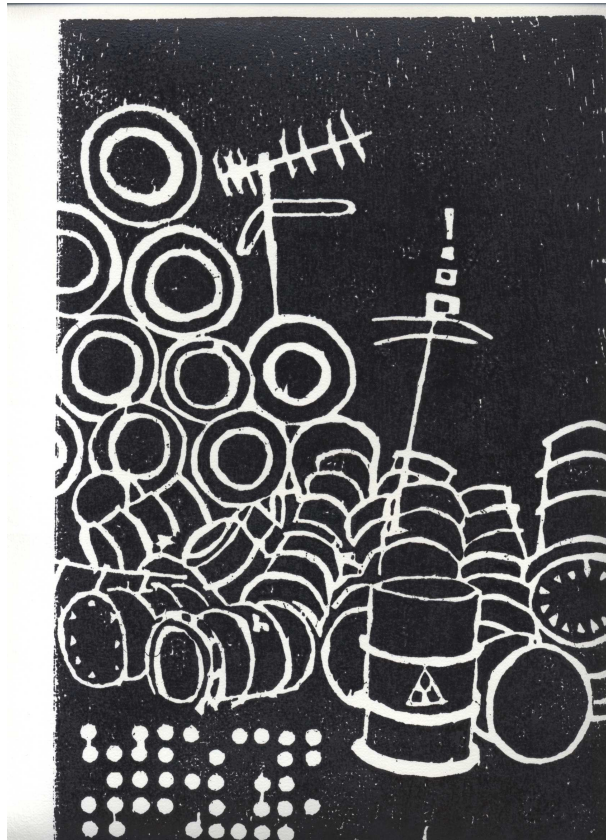
A nuclear accident anywhere is an accident everywhere. Your struggle is not only a struggle for life and health of Tamil and Indian people, it is a struggle for all people all over the world. We are very enthusiastic about your struggle. We wish you perseverance and patience.

With cordial regards,

Peter

on behalf of the activists of the anti-nuclear camp
2014

„Asse” by Karin Hilbers



More than one lakh drums and containers with radioactive waste were buried in the former salt mine „Asse” in Germany. It was supposed to be for ever. Scientists had checked.

But now water is flowing into the mine and the mine is collapsing. Radioactive gas could be set free and lead to a nuclear disaster. That's why the German parliament decided to take all the waste out of the mine again. This will take years, and the costs will be about 6 billion Euro, that are about 48,000 crore rupies.

The print made by Karin Hilbers is called „Asse”.

Solidarity Greetings from Activists



From 9th to 16th August 2014, up to 100 activists from Germany, France, Netherlands, Sweden, Belarus, Poland, Russia and other countries met in an anti-nuclear camp at the Kiel Canal, which links the North Sea with the Baltic Sea.

Ships from Russia loaded with uranium from Uzbekistan or Kazakhstan took a detour of several hundred kilometres to escape actions of the anti-nuclear activists. In many workshops, the camp participants learned about nuclear transports and the situation in the various countries.

There was a talk about the anti-nuclear struggles in India also. Various actions made the normally secret nuclear transports public.

Solidarity from Artist Karin Hilbers



The well known German artist Karin Hilbers made an art print as a sign of solidarity for the people of Idinthakarai. It is about the nuclear waste repository Asse in Germany.

Routes of Uranium



Karin Hilbers stayed a few days in the camp and printed pictures about the „Routes of Uranium”.

She carves artwork masters in linoleum or wood. Some artwork masters already yield a complete picture. Some are combined when printing. This way each print is a unique picture. For example the picture with the big ship with containers is such a collage.

Banner actions

Many activists like climbing. To hang up banners. Sometimes also to block trains - a train will stop when an activist is hanging over the tracks. Sometimes to protect trees.

Climbing keeps cops on distance – for some time. Police has to bring in special forces to get down the activists. One of the famous climbing activists is called squirrel.



This banner was put up between two trees in a public park of the city Kiel. E-On is a nuclear company. Other activists play the guitar and sing satirical songs. Others distribute flyers to passers-by.

On another day activists put up a huge banner at the roof of the main railway station in Kiel. Activists visited also the energy-ministry and put up banners in front of it.

Theatre play



This is a role play. Martians, inhabitants of the planet Mars, came to earth to make a reportage for Mars-TV. They interview pedestrians and ask the earthlings questions about all these strange things they didn't understand.

Other activists dressed themselves with coveralls and walked along the waterside promenade with leaking fake nuclear barrels on hand trucks.

Sailing Boat



On the sail is written „Nuclear power no thank you”. The sun is the symbol of anti-nuke struggle in Germany and many other countries. The banner at the sailing boat says „Stop Nuclear Transports”.

There are many nuclear transports in Germany, not only for the nuclear facilities in Germany. The port of Hamburg is a central hub for nuclear transports.

On 1st May 2013 a fire broke out on the freighter „Atlantic Carter” anchoring in the port of Hamburg. In the belly of the huge ship radioactive uranium was stored next to munitions and ethanol. Just a few hundred meters from the burning freighter thousands of people clueless celebrated a religious meeting. Nobody was prepared. Fire fighters had no information about the ship load. It took more than five hours to get the fire under control. A horrible disaster was not far.

Paddle Boats



Police boats surround and watch activists on paddle boats. This time paddling is just fun and a demo.

In the camp we had some more paddle boats ready to use. Police watched the camp, with motor boats on the Kiel canal, and patrols around the camp. Police distributed flyers at the camp, saying you have to pay a fee for paddling on the canal.

At the beginning of the camp a freighter with uranium avoided the canal and took a much longer route in the north. They tried to avoid public attention.

Citizens' inspection of containers with Uranium at the harbour of Hamburg



Activists make an inspection in the harbour of Hamburg. The ship on the photo brought Uranium from Namibia. The banner says „Close down all nuclear facilities world wide now” and in small letters „solidarity and solar instead of capitalist and nuclear”.

An observer had detected four uranium containers in the harbour, which should have left Hamburg in July already as the Hamburg government had told the local parliament. These containers got public attention in July, because control authorities had detected some defects.

That's why activists decided to look themselves, how many containers with radioactive materials were stored in the harbour. They detected 51 containers including those four. The Hamburg government had to admit, it had given false information to the parliament.

The containers came from Namibia, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. Their destination was an Areva uranium factory in Malvesi in the South of France.

Cops and Activists



Cops take data of activists. One young woman is being arrested.

The inspection was an illegal action of civil disobedience. Very soon after the activists had entered the company area and had started to take pictures, a police helicopter circled over the area. The exit was closed by putting containers in the way as you might see on the picture (blue container behind the stop sign). Nobody was allowed to leave without identity check.

Police probably will file a FIR against all activists, because of domestic disturbance, home invasion or something like that. One activist was hurt by a police dog.

Uranium train stopped



After the camp a few activists blocked the train with all 51 uranium containers by chaining themselves to the rail track. At one end of the train two activists, at the other only one. The banner held by the two women says: „Every second day there is a nuclear transport through Hamburg by ship, train or truck.”

Blocking trains with nuclear waste packed in so called castor-containers has a tradition in Germany. Trains to Gorleben were often blocked by many thousands of people.

The uranium train in Hamburg was blocked by only very few activists. It took four hours to them cut off. The action got very good media coverage. At least this nuclear transport could not pass secretly through Germany.

Of course we hope, some day thousands of active citizens will make these transports impossible. Then the nuclear industry in Germany will be dead and the global nuclear mafia will be weakened significantly.