

IN HÄLSINGLAND

government lawfully can surpass municipal decisions and allow mining against the will of the local population. And according to the Euratom treaty from 1958, the EU is the owner of all fissionable material within the union, a fact that very possibly can be applied in the future.

Nature as living environment

The nature is differently valued by different people, and in Nianfors is clearly illustrated the conflict between those who have a personal relation to it (the villagers), and those who see it as a separate area (the mineral company). While for the local population it is a living environment and concretely signifying survival, it's merely a resource to exploit and make profit of for a company like Mineralbolaget i Stockholm AB.

In Nianfors, over 80 percent of the food fish comes from local waters, and the Majsja mountain, where they want to drill, lies on a peninsula in the Finnsjö lake, only 600 meters from the village.

The hunt for uranium therefore threatens to destroy the most fundamental of living prerequisites, as well as the locality's capabilities for self sufficiency in the future. These waters are furthermore the second largest of the municipality, and therefore an extremely important resource for so many more than just the people of Nianfors.

The struggle continues and spreads

Nowhere in the country the resistance against uranium drilling is as massive as in Nianfors, where the villagers besides having sent complaints to authorities, distributed information and protested, also have made blockades, and promised resistance with all means.

But the law is a knife that never cuts the one who holds it. Despite the impressive resistance the mineral company still have their permit, although for the moment they have postponed the drillings. For how long, the company's CEO Carl Wiktorsson does not want to tell, and therefore the villagers feel they can't really start relaxing.

We're on our guard and will do what is needed to protect us also in the future, promises Inge Sylvén. This is a question on life and death.

Perhaps it is the curse of Finnmajsa that's haunting, or the uncompromising resistance of the villagers that is delaying the company. In any case, the countryside rebels of Hälsingland have got a respite.

Now we're working on strengthening ourselves, says Inge Sylvén. We'll also help other villages to organize themselves.

And it's needed. For as the oil is running low and getting more expensive, prices are rising and the demand for uranium, as well as the threat of climate changes, have awakened interest in nuclear power again.

But Nianfors is a village with a future. A living countryside to be inspired by when it's late on earth, and the future is glowing radioactively.

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weblinks:

web page of the initiative in Nianfors:
nianfors.nu/engvers.html
 Uranium Project. Drillings Delayed:
greenkids.de/europas-atomerbe/index.php/News:Uranium_Project_Drillings_Delayed_Sweden

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