

ECOLOGICAL SELF-DEFENSE



Save Majsa Hill –
No To Uranium In Nianfors

Agneta Enström Mineralbolaget i Stockholm AB (The Mineral Company in Stockholm) is the name of the company wanting to drill in the rock of the Majsa hill, but that has met with surprisingly strong resistance from a countryside in revolt. In Nianfors, the local population has given up resultless symbolical actions for a real resistance, for the simple reason that protection of the bedrock equals self defence ecological self defence.

No-one in Nianfors wants to have anything to do with the test drillings, and even less with having a uranium mine as a future neighbor. This has made the villagers organize themselves with inspiring decisiveness.

We are going to do all that's in our power in order to stop the [assault], says their own press responsible Inge Sylvén. One can see how other communities have been affected by drilling and mining of uranium, and against this background we obviously choose life.



Majsa Hill, the place where the test drillings are planned, is only 600m from the bathing area of Nianfors.

On a summer night's forest walk in 1800, the iron factory patron met a small, dirty woman, and spat after her. After that, his factory went downhill. This is the legend of the curse of Finnmajsa, in Nianfors, a small village southwest of Hudiksvall in the naturally rich Hälsingland. Today the threat of the patrons is again present, but this time, it's uranium they are after, disrespectfully trying to bulldoze over the whole local population.



road blockade
in Nianfors

Ecocide with state support

The inhabitants of Nianfors have reasons for their suspicions. The test drillings conducted by Sveriges Geologiska Undersökningar (Sweden's Geological Surveys) in the 1970-ies, and where multinational corporations continue drilling today, have affected the population gravely. Three Saami villages got deformed reindeer calves in the years after the drillings, and SGU warned against drinking the water or picking berries in the area. Local medicians also noticed an increase in cancer cases in the region, and according to the surveys of the regional government the radon levels remarkably increased.

The environmental specialist and activist Louise Ågren, who comes from Enånger, one of the neighboring villa-

ges, says that uranium contamination in nature causes problems and health hazards that persist for long time and can aggravate practically infinitely. But despite consequences and risks being known and cold fact, the national mining authority, Bergstaten, has passed over two hundred permits for uranium prospecting in the last two years, and in several places drilling has already been commenced.

It's incomprehensible that the state sanctions and actively participates in a deadly activity such as the uranium industry, says Louise Ågren.

Because of uranium mining causing large-scale, dangerous and serious problems, it has usually happened in regions where people have small opportunities of protesting and defending themselves, such as sparsely populated or indigenous regions. Besides radionuclides, emissions of heavy metals, acid, and other forms of groundwater contamination are big problems. Louise Ågren emphasizes that mining and enriching of uranium also always carries the risk of proliferation, i.e. spreading, of nuclear weapons.

And the test drilling is in itself always the first step in a chain that leads to these potential disaster scenarios, she says. It must never be forgotten that uranium is exclusively used for nuclear power or nuclear weapons.

In Stockholms Fria Tidning (Stockholm's Free Paper), Thomas Toivonen writes that the most remarkable and paradox argument for test drillings, that is used by authorities and drilling companies, is that they do not lead to any mining. But the fact is that the

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 Finnmaisja 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.

yelah.net original licensed under: creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.5/se

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

Anzeigen

Die ganze Lage schwarz auf rot

Aktuelle Ausgabe (Nr. 190. Nov./Dez. 08)

- Finanzkrise und Klassenkampf
- Psychische Erkrankungen durch Lohnarbeit
- Arbeitskampf im Web-Business
- Register: Alternative zum Tarifvertrag?
- Spanien: Syndikalismus-Boom in Sevilla
- Kleine Geschichte des Neoliberalismus
- Privatisierung und Verstaatlichung gestern und heute
- Sozialrevolutionäres Kreuzworträtsel
- u.v.m.

Probheft gratis!
da-abo@fau.org

DA DIREKTE AKTION
 onorhosmidikalitische zeitung

NUCLEAR POWER? NO THANKS
ATOMKRAFT? NEIN TACK
ATOMKRAFT? NEIN DANKE
NOMENERGO? NE DANKO

STADT LAND grün

DAS NEUE HANDBUCH IST DA!

Klimaveränderung und demographischer Wandel, Bildungsnotstand und Debatten über soziale Gerechtigkeit – was unsere Gesellschaft bewegt, beschäftigt auch die Kommunalpolitik. Wer im Kreistag, Stadt- oder Gemeinderat sitzt, muss sich in vielen Bereichen auskennen, von der Wirtschafts- und Finanz- bis zur Umwelt- und Kulturpolitik. Das Handbuch für alternative Kommunalpolitik führt in die einzelnen Themenfelder ein, zeigt die wichtigsten Probleme auf und weist auf Lösungswege sowie Gestaltungsspielräume hin.

Bielefeld 2008, 320 Seiten

Ich bestelle Exemplar(e) „STADT LAND grün“ zum Stückpreis von 16,80 € + Versandkosten

Lieferung an folgende Adresse:

Name/Vorname _____
 Straße/Nr. _____
 PLZ/Ort _____
 Kontoinhaber/in _____
 Konto-Nr. _____ BLZ _____
 Bank/Postgiroamt _____

Bestelladresse:
AKP, Luisenstr. 40, 33602 Bielefeld, Tel.: 05 21/17 75 17, Fax: 05 21/17 75 68
 e-mail: akp@akp-redaktion.de, www.akp-redaktion.de

Gewünschte Zahlungsweise bitte ankreuzen:

Einzugsermächtigung
 Rechnung bei Lieferung erbeten
 Scheck, Bargeld, Briefmarken liegen bei

Datum _____
 Unterschrift _____

GID
 Kein Patent auf Leben!

GID Nr. 190

Bitte schicken Sie mir:

- allgemeines Infomaterial
- GID Nr. 190 (6,50 Euro)
- 3 Hefte der Zeitschrift GID im Schnupperabo (15 Euro)
- Infos zur Mitgliedschaft

Gen-ethisches Netzwerk e.V.
 Brunnenstr. 4 • 10119 Berlin
 Tel.: 030/685 7073
gen@gen-ethisches-netzwerk.de
www.gen-ethisches-netzwerk.de

Spendenkonto: 144 99 102
 Postbank Berlin • BLZ 100 100 10