



Dear Fellow Migrants, Refugees, Advocates and Friends:

We are once again cordially inviting you to join us in the SECOND INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES (IAMR) in Athens, Greece, on Nov. 1-4, 2009. This assembly is OUR assembly, and will be held in the militant tradition of the first IAMR held in Manila, Philippines last October 2008.

Our IAMR is the MIGRANT and REFUGEE challenge to the inter-government-led Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) which is again holding its third session in Athens, Greece, on Nov. 4-5, 2009, to continue discussions surrounding migration and development.

Our objectives for the Second IAMR are:

1. Bring to the fore the urgent issues and challenges facing migrants and refugees all over the world and take the progressive positions on such issues especially in the face of the worst global economic crisis since the Great Depression;
2. Challenge the EU claim of being an open and humanist society in the face of a growing list of draconian laws and measures being taken against migrants and refugees such as the EU Return Directive.
3. Expand and strengthen the International Migrants Alliance (IMA) as a militant and progressive alliance of organizations of migrants and refugees, and advocates of migrants rights;
4. Develop a broad international advocacy network that will continuously engage states and official multilateral bodies regarding issues and concerns affecting migrants and refugees;
5. Adopt a program of action/campaigns around general and specific issues on migrants rights and welfare.

The theme for our International Assembly is - UPHOLD AND ADVANCE THE RIGHTS OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES AGAINST EXPLOITATION, WAR AND DISCRIMINATORY LAWS, AMIDST THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS! OPPOSE 'FORTRESS EUROPE' AND THE EU RETURN DIRECTIVE!

As with the First IAMR, our international assembly in the picturesque city of Athens, Greece is a collaborative effort of several organizations, namely: the International

Alliance of Migrants (IMA), Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants, IBON International, Migrant Europe and ATIK. IMA is the first-ever global alliance of more than a hundred grassroots associations, organizations, unions, networks and alliances of migrant workers, immigrants, refugees and displaced peoples.

Our International Assembly will include plenary and panel discussions, workshops, caucuses, solidarity and cultural bazaars and mass mobilizations.

There shall be a registration of Euro 150 for each participant to contribute for food, accommodation, conference materials and mobilization expenses.

The IAMR Athens Secretariat will send you more detailed information as soon as possible. Other information, such as the Participation Form, will be available for download from the IAMR2 Website. In Canada information is available from the website of IMA-Canada at: <http://imacanada.blogspot.com/>

We are looking forward to see you in November in Athens, Greece!

Sincerely yours,

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*"For many years, others have spoken on our behalf.
Now we can speak for ourselves."*