

Pledge for food sovereignty and climate justice

- Proposals, background of fast (and hunger strike), and several meetings to cope with the ‘forgotten’ food-, energy and climate crises

In this document you will find first the proposals for a more just trade, agricultural, climate and energy policy, which are supported by many civil society organisations, enterprises and civilians inside and outside the Netherlands. These proposals are directed to the Dutch politics and have been send at 10 October with an accompanying letter to members of Parliament and ministers. Also the CEO’s of Solidaridad, World Wildlife Fund and the Initiative for Sustainable Trade (IDH) received these proposals. These demands were enforced by 28 people inside and outside the Netherlands who fasted for 24 hours at World Food Day 16 October 2011. At this day also Working group Food Justice was established, see www.foodjustice.eu. Also at 1 (7 people), 20 (3 people) and 24 November (5 people) and at 13 December (5 people) fasted for 24 hours. Moreover from 1 November onwards food and climate justice activist Guus Geurts continued these actions by fasting for forty days, urgently requesting to take over as much proposals as possible. During this period he didn’t eat anything and only drank water, herbal tea and coffee, added by salts recommended by doctor Co van Melle. The last two weeks he also ate some dextrose and Vitamin B1, because of heavy weight loss. He started a hunger strike from 11 December onwards, with the plan to stop at the time that at least one of these demands was met. But at 14 December he had to stop at doctor’s advice, because he lost 18 kilogram (from 79 to 61 kg; much more than the critical 18% body weight loss) and his blood pressure was 70 over 50.

The second part of this document contains the letter mentioned before, with background and inspiration of the fast / hunger strike. Also you will find more information about how you could support these actions. You can download this whole document at: www.guusgeurts.nl/hungerclimate

1. Proposals for food sovereignty and climate justice

- Analysis and proposals to cope with the ‘forgotten’ food-, energy and climate crises

In this document we give proposals for a more just trade, agricultural, climate and energy policy. We do this at this moment because the coming months crucial decisions will be made for the supply of basic needs and the future of our planet. So the Climate Summit COP17 will be organised in Durban South Africa (28 November – 9 December) and the WTO-summit will be from 15 until 17 December in Geneva. Also the G20 summit will be organised at 3 and 4 November and these months negotiations will start about a new European Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) for 2014-2020. Besides that protection of the right to food and right to a livelihood, and the prevention of disastrous climate change have everything to do with the political choice for competition on the world market in WTO and other free trade agreements.

We have now the chance to say **no** to:

- Liberalisation of agricultural markets; a political choice which has been made (only) twenty (EU, WTO) to twenty five (World Bank, IMF) years ago. Before that time politicians realised that agriculture and free trade don’t go together, because farmers can only produce sustainably when they get remunerative prices.
- Those free trade agreements because they also lead to access to and ongoing depletion of natural resources, especially in developing countries. These resources such as land, water, minerals and energy are used to produce even more luxury products for the happy few who have purchasing power, instead of supplying basic needs for everybody now and in future.
- The EU trade strategy *Trade, Growth and World Affairs*¹. This strategy – unknown to the general public – seems to have been written to maximize the profits of European multinationals, but is leading to a social and environmental crisis in and outside Europe. This strategy considers access to markets and natural resources in other countries as ‘constitutional rights’. This political choice for competition on the world market blocks effective policies in areas such as agriculture, energy, climate change and biodiversity, because every environmental and social regulation then weakens competitiveness.

- Misleading ‘solutions’ such as self-regulation by the corporate sector (for example by ‘round tables’ on soybeans and palm oil) in stead of market regulation, binding social and environmental regulations, and protection, fulfilment and respect of human rights.
- Unjust and ineffective climate ‘solutions’ such as the Clean Development Mechanism, Carbon Emissions Trade, biofuels and tree plantations, that allow developed countries to avoid taking their responsibility to reduce their energy consumption drastically. Moreover the proposals made in Cancun in 2010 will (possibly) lead to an increase in temperature of 4 – 5 °C², even though an increase of 2 °C can already lead to an irreversible and disastrous situation.

Former attempts such as demonstrations, petitions, advocacy letters to politicians, non violent actions, or opinion articles in newspapers and magazines and other publications, have hardly led to a change of policy. Arguments for a political change towards an ecologically sound and socially just future for all don't seem to count. The influence of big multinational corporations on governments is too big, the courage of politicians to deviate from ‘Business as Usual’ is too small and the belief in the neoliberal ‘world religion’ is ongoing despite the current crises.

Hence this ultimate demand in the decisive months for the climate, regulation of world trade and the European common agricultural policy, to change for the better now when it's still possible.

We demand from the Dutch government to change its policy – towards the EU – in the following way:

Food sovereignty within agricultural and trade policy:

- The WTO-summit in December is a good opportunity to break down the current negotiations in the Doha Development Round. The *Agreement on Agriculture* about free trade in agriculture also needs to be reformed drastically in such a way that food sovereignty and the respect for human rights will be the central focus.³
- Europe stops imposing liberalisation in agriculture on the poorest developing countries in bilateral and regional trade agreements, such as the Economic Partnership Agreements with former colonies of the EU, the so called ACP-countries.
- Developing countries should be able to increase their import taxes to protect the food production by their own farmers as soon as possible. The World Bank and the IMF should delete the orders to liberalise trade from their country strategies and adjustment programmes.
- Free trade agreements and the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) for 2014-2020 should be reformed in such a way that the EU becomes as self sufficient as possible in food, feed and energy. In order to achieve this the following measures should be taken:
 - Import taxes and supply management are established or maintained for all agricultural products so that all farmers can get remunerative prices.
 - All income subsidies and export subsidies are abolished so that dumping in developing countries is prevented.
 - European farmers produce alternatives for products which are now imported from the Global South and are leading to a social and ecological disaster, e.g. soybeans, palm oil and biofuels.
 - Environmental and animal welfare standards should be raised considerably. In combination with European ecotaxes – and the import taxes already mentioned – this will lead to internalising all environmental and animal welfare costs in the price the consumer pays.
 - The 25 billion Euros⁴ which are saved by changing the CAP in this way can be used to stimulate ecological, small scale, local agricultural production and processing, and decentralised sustainable energy production in Europe and in developing countries.
- European companies and investment funds must be prohibited from buying land in developing countries in order to stop the European share in the current landgrab.
- A renewed European trade strategy should lead to fair trade with developing countries, a more self-sufficient Europe in which the mineral cycles are closed, with much lower energy use and more employment. In this way developing countries will get their markets and natural resources

back for their own development, in the speed they choose themselves.

Climate justice and energy security:

- A renewed The EU should take its responsibility and cut the use of fossil fuels and green house gas emissions by 50% before 2017. Those figures are analogous to The People's Agreement drawn up in Bolivia in 2010.⁵ In order to achieve this the following measures should be taken:
 - the Clean Development Mechanism and Carbon Trade are abolished;
 - European eco taxes on fossil fuels are increased drastically (and taxes on labour are decreased);
 - subsidies on fossil fuels are abolished (7,5 billion Euro per year in the Netherlands);
 - no more public money goes to construction of new highways, airports and harbours;
 - drastic expansion of public investment in public transport;
 - also greenhouse gas emissions by ships and by airplanes are decreased drastically;
 - a German style feed-in-tariff system is established European wide, in order to stimulate decentralised sustainable electricity production for remunerative prices;
 - the construction of new Dutch and European coal power plants is cancelled, working coal plants are closed as soon as possible (but 2020 at the latest);
 - a European-wide prohibition of imports of oil(products) from tar sands;
 - 50 to 75% of all global GHG-emissions can be prevented or stored by bringing back organic matter into the soil, re-integrating animal and crop production, putting local markets and fresh food back in the centre of the food system and by halting land clearing and deforestation.⁶
 - cancellation of the European bio fuel directive (10% bio fuels in 2020) and a European prohibition of imports of bio fuels from developing countries;

Stop the Dutch and European violations of human rights and *Green washing*:

- A parliamentary research (Parlementaire Enquête) will be conducted to investigate the past, current and future human rights abuses, especially in developing countries, that result from free trade policies imposed by WTO, bilateral- and regional Free Trade Agreements and structural adjustment programmes imposed by the World Bank and IMF. Especially violations of the right to food, water and a livelihood should be investigated. The Netherlands and the EU reform these treaties to prevent these human right violations as quickly as possible.
- The same investigations are conducted concerning the climate treaty.
- Trans National Corporations that violate human rights during the exploration of raw materials and the production, processing, import or trade of products in countries outside Europe, are prosecuted in the country of origin and/or in the country where the crime took place;
- *Specific demands to Dutch NGO's:* The World Wildlife Fund and Solidaridad retire from the Round Table of Responsible Soy and the Roundtable on Responsible Palm Oil.
- The Dutch government stops putting public money into these greenwash platforms. Also the 100 million Euros in subsidies to the Initiative for Fair Trade (IDH) will be cut drastically. Their programmes on soy, palm oil, sugar, tropical timber and aquaculture are abolished. Sustainable imports and production of these products on a massive scale is impossible, and the IDH gives importing companies undeservedly a green image paid for with public money.
- To prevent the misuse of the term 'sustainable' by companies a society-wide discussion is organised in order to determine which criteria should be met. These criteria are binding for all purchases by national, provincial en local governments.
Some suggestions: no (indirect) violations of human rights, closed cycles of nutrients and fresh water, no destruction of nature and no eviction of farmers, pastoralists and indigenous people from their land - including by indirect land use changes, as little use of fossil fuels as possible, no genetically modified organisms, respect the species-specific behaviour of animals on farms and the smallest possible ecological footprint.

¹ *Trade, Growth and World Affairs – Trade policy as a core component of the EU's 2020 strategy*, European Commission DG Trade, November 2010, see: http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2010/november/tradoc_146955.pdf

² *The Cancún Agreement: Not Worth Cheering*, Friends of the Earth Europe, 20 December 2010, page 2, see: http://www.foeeurope.org/climate/download/Cancun_20_12_2010.pdf

³ *Rebuilding the WTO Agreement on Agriculture on food sovereignty*, Jacques Berthelot, Solidarité, 30 May 2011, see: <http://solidarite.asso.fr/IMG/pdf/Rebuilding-the-Agreement-on-Agriculture-on-food-sovereignty.pdf>

⁴ *Assessment of the budgetary effects of the 'New Policy'*, JM Boussard and others, Dec. 2010, p. 8, see: <http://www.europeanfooddeclaration.org/sites/default/files/10%2012%2013%20budget%2021%20Odec.doc>

The People's Agreement was drawn up during the *World People's Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth* in Bolivia in 2010. See: <http://pwccc.wordpress.com/support/>

See: *Small scale sustainable farmers are cooling down the Earth*: <http://www.viacampesina.org/dl/click.php?id=14> and *Small farmers can cool the planet* http://www.grain.org/o_files/climatecrisis-presentation-11-2009.pdf

These proposals are supported by the following 40 civil society organisations and enterprises (as per 19 July 2015, more organisations are asked to join):

- Amsterdams Vredescafé
- ASEED Europe - Action for Solidarity, Equality, Environment, and Diversity Europe
- Atlantis Handelshuis BV/ St. Helderse Hallen
- Bangsa Adat Alifuru
- Behoud de Parel (Noord-Limburg)
- CIMI, Cigla for Indigenous Missionary Council, Brazilië
- Climate Justice Action Nederland
- Congregatie Zusters van Liefde, Schijndel
- Corporate Europe Observatory
- EVS - EcoVrede
- Free West Papua Campaign (NL)
- Front Siwa Lima
- Fund Rescue Maluku Sekarang
- Gifsoja.nl
- Haagse Mug
- Indigenous Movement
- Kollektief Rampenplan
- Leef op Safe Horst aan de Maas
- Museum Maluka (MuMa), Utrecht
- Nederlandse Provincie van de Zusters van de Sociëteit van Jezus, Maria en Jozef
- Nieuw Nederland (politieke partij)
- NVLV – Netwerk Vitale Landbouw en Voeding
- Radio Siwa Lima
- Society "Sustainable development", Azerbeidzjan
- SP - Werkgroep Land- en Tuinbouw Noord-Limburg
- stichting Samenwerkingsverband Hoogland Indianen (SHI)
- Stichting Aarde
- Stichting Leven met de Aarde
- Stichting Nusa AlifURU
- Stichting Oyugis Integrated Project, Nederland
- S.V.D.; Missionarissen van het Goddelijk Woord in Nederland en België
- Vasten voor Vrede, België
- Voetprint Cooking
- Wij stoppen steenkool
- Werkgroep Gerechtigheid en Vrede van de Missionarissen van Afrika
- Werkgroep Openheid naar de wereld, van de Zusters Franciscanessen van Etten
- WILPF Nederland - Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
- Wolverlei geitenhouderij
- Young & Fair
- Zonnehoeve Ing. P.M.A. van IJzendoorn MEd

The proposals are supported by the following 271 individuals (as per 19 July 2015). The people from the support team and the fasters on 16 October 2011 are mentioned first:

Alowieke van Beusekom

Co van Melle, *doctor*

Biju Negi, India

seMUel Sahureka

Thomas Reineke

Riky Schut-Hakvoort

Lies Visscher	<u>Other supporters:</u>	Didi Van Dijk
Hugo Beunder	Lou Keune	Varpu Sairinen
Conny Bergé	Hay Coenen	Kushal Neogy, India
Wilbrord Braakman Linda Coenen	Paulina Lovo	Elvira Helena Brock Mendoza
Paul Hendriksen	Lily Marlene	Hylke Sierksma
Francine Thielen	Eelco Fortuijn	Marc van der Sterren
Jan Juffermans, <i>Voor Mondiale Duurzaamheid</i>	Bart van Baardwijk	Liza Hirschegger
Marianne Juffermans	Jayakumar Chelaton, India	Paulus Benny Bernady, Indonesia
Tracy Worcester, England, documentary maker <i>Pig Business</i>	David Sánchez Carpio, Spanje	Petra Lala
Sophie Schaffernicht, Austria	Laís Lima, Brazil	Paul Geurts
Scott Cetie, Germany	Rashmi Painuly, India	Senada Rougoor-Mahalbasic
Kirsten Smalenberg	Luka van Tudor	Karlijn Dijkgraaf
Jan Assies	Michal Zareba	Jan Dijkgraaf
Edwin Cornelissen	Krishan Kalsi, India	Joris Heylen, Belgium
Niels Gorisse	Annelies Schorpion, Belgium	Lucija Talijancic, Croatia
Irma Beusink	Jaya Mishra, India	Pelle Berting
Jan Schut	Paul Connor, Australia	Hugo Klip
Margreet van Wijk	Karen Eliot	Anton van Alebeek
Trees Daverveld	Dante Ryel, Canada	Baba Conteh, Switzerland
Jan Willem van Leenhoff	Sara Svensson, Sweden	Iris van Alebeek
Klaas Strooker	Modroocka Klimova	Kartini Le Grand
Rix Kijne	Daria De	Greet Goverde
Renu Thakur, India	Małgorzata Bortko, Poland	Nico Schoen
Guus Geurts	Marek Griks	Jan Janssen
Oridek Ap	Wiebe de Boer	Michael van Rengs
	Pieter Jansen	Jacques Kelleners

Bart Visscher		Abraham Jochem
Jelle de Groot	Jenny Gkougki, Greece	Fred van Eenbergen
Çağdaş Öğüt	Anwar Siwa	Janneke Juffermans
Jean Armand Bokally, Cameroon	Caroline Docters van Leeuwen	Anne Maatoke
Loes Berkhout	John La Haye	Edwin de Bruijn
Job van Weelden	Anastasia Poimenidou, Greece	Joop Eggermont
Ian Wagenhuis	Piet van der Lende	Sibbe Jan Kramer
Lin Tabak	Jaap Simonis	Fenna Bastiaansen
Rozi Konjo, Ethiopia	Nellie Werner	Rosan Stuijt
Eddy Lerou	Taru Salmenkari en Mussu, Finland	Peter Huber
Ammy Langenbach	Mike Venekamp	Monic van Houdt-Geurts
Monique Veenstra	Martijn Stekelenburg	Harry van Houdt
Theo Weenink	Linda van IJzendoorn	Ger Vankoolwijk
Alec Boswijk	Patricia Bergink	Luc Vankrunkelsven, <i>Wervel</i> , Belgium
Brenda Strooker	Cokky Klein Hofmeijer	Els van Dongen
Irmi Salzer, Austria	Sibe Jan Kramer	Lucas Buur
Pankaj Bhuskan, India	Mariana Cristova, Bulgaria	A. Matahelumual
Stephan Eshuis	Marja van Hedel	Gerard Floor
To Elting	Esin Candan, Turkey	Jacob M. Sahureka
zr. Ancilla Martens	Carlien van de Stadt-Sabel	Jacqueline Vorst Benghazi
zr. Jacoba de Ceuster	Niels Hollenbeek Brouwer	Benjamin Pessy Dirk Hart
zr. Augustina Bastiaansen	Erna Klaasse-vanMaaren	Naomi Sahureka
zr. Jean-Marie Verhulst	Joke Coldenhoff	Mireille van Hout
Netty Sanchez	Antonis Koul, Greece	Milly Cuijpers
Rentia Krijnen	Cevher Demir, Turkey	M.W. Sahureka
Pablo Eppelin	Louis Banens	John Habets
Jeannette Albers		

Jaap Schouls	Rowena Latupeirissa	R. Freijse
Edwin Matahelumual	Firhanna Ohorella	A. de Groot
Ans van Oers	Batti Sahureka	M. Krupers
José van Leeuwen	Otto Sahureka	Zr. Marianne Kemmeren
M. Talarima	Julius Arnoldus Tahamata	J. Senten
D. Tuynman	Lounusa Besi	J. v.d. Wiel
Geurt van de Kerk	Matua Maone Matulessij	Ingrid van Dijk
Rymke Wiersma	Paul Metz	Zr. Imaria Niessen, <i>SSPS</i> Peter van de Wiel, <i>coördinator</i> <i>van de commissie Vrede,</i> <i>Gerechtigheid en Heelheid van</i> <i>de Schepping (GVS) van S.V.D.</i>
Ingrid van der Beele	Cor van den Brand	
Floor Hermans	Carlo Duncan, Italy	
Mart Schellekens	John Huige	Helena Kartsen
Hans Wijering	Tijn van Beurden	Joost Schneiders – Evers
Ramona Fortuna	Bart de Boer	Wilhelmine van Hövell
Rinie van der Zanden	Coby Baars	Paul Delrue, <i>Missionaris van</i> <i>Scheut, Brussels, Belgium</i>
Gerdien Kleijer	Jeroen Flapper	Peter van den Berg
Hellen Opie	Louise Bredero	Emil Möller
Akindimeji Olabode, Nigeria	Roeland Schweitzer	Bets Verbakel
Wim Gielingh	Jeroen Flapper	Fatima-Zohra Buurman
Welmoed van Mansvelt	Henk van de Wal	Atit Sigari
Maaïke Wijngaard	Suze Lases	Philip de Goey
Chomi Tegeltija	Sjef Kuppens, <i>mafr</i>	Juan Noguera
Roosje Hart	Zr. Albertha te Wierik	Dorien Soons
Gerrit Barnard	Johanna van Woerkum	Lars Keizerswaard
Frank Ntim	Antoinette Witjes	Willem Hoogendijk
Willem van Middendorp	Zr. Margaret Lammerts	Peter Lubbers
Marc Joolen	M.A.J. van den Eijnden	Aristide Amok
Nona Verzijde	D. Huismans	Maranke Spoor

Agnes Konings, België	Marc Oyserman	Dette Glashouwer
Ademir Arapovic	Hugo Hooijer	Janneke Trapman
Renate Ebner	Joyce van Heijningen	Dela Geerling
Rob Bleijerveld	Nel Sahuleka	Bea Segers
Jurrien Kok	Adrie Noordhuis	Yvonne Soudijn
Kris Tsakona, Griekenland	Grace Jagdewsing	Wout Hermans
Like Kocken	Piet Siebers	Jan Diek van Mansvelt
Karina Kroft	Mariska Laan	Marc Siepman
Piet Kroft, <i>voorzitter</i> <i>Mondiaal Platform Venray</i>	Nathalie van der Vorst	Carol Schyns
Cees Sies	Lia Heemskerk	Theo Berendsen
	Harry van den Berkmortel	Quetzal Tzab

Working group Voedselrechtvaardigheid, www.foodjustice.eu

Contact person:

Guus Geurts,
Amsterdam, the Netherlands
+ 31 (0)20 – 638 7578,
+ 31 (0)6 – 4397 9879
guusgeurts@yahoo.com,
www.guusgeurts.nl

19 July 2015

2. Fast (and hunger strike) for food sovereignty and climate justice

- Background and inspiration to cope with the ‘forgotten’ food-, energy and climate crises

Amsterdam, 31 October 2011,

To:

- Minister-President Rutte, the Minister of Economic Affairs, Innovation and Agriculture (ELI), the Assistant Secretary of International Trade and Agriculture, the Minister of Infrastructure and Environment, the Assistant Secretary of Environment, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Assistant Secretary of Development Cooperation
- The member of Parliament of the following Commissions: Economic Affairs, Innovation and Agriculture, Infrastructure and Environment, Foreign Affairs and European Affairs
- The CEO’s of Solidaridad, World Wildlife Fund the Netherlands, Initiative Sustainable Trade (IDH)

Dear Mrs, Mr,

In the attached document you will find an analysis and several proposals in the area of:

- **Food sovereignty within agricultural and trade policy;**
- **Climate justice and energy security;**
- **Stopping the Dutch and European violations of human rights and *Green washing*.**

These proposals are supported by 27 development, environmental, farmers, human rights, indigenous people and women’s organisations, and by 161 individuals (31 October).

In this letter you will find the background and the inspiration for the choice of several people in the Netherlands and in other countries, to enforce these proposals by means of fast for 24 hours at World Food Day 16 October, 1 November, 20 November, 24 November and 14 December.

Moreover from 1 November one individuals will continue this action by going on a forty day fast out of solidarity with the people and nature mentioned below, by not eating anything. During this period he won’t eat anything and only drink water and herbal tea, added by salts recommended by a doctor. Depending on your reaction to this request, he will possibly start a hunger strike from 11 December onwards, until some demands are met.

Besides that you will find in this letter information about other activities within this action, and how to support this action.

We wish you courage and wisdom.

In solidarity with:

- all (unnecessary) hungry and malnourished people now and in the future;
- all climate refugees now and in the future;
- all murdered, threatened and (with violence) evicted farmers, pastoralists, indigenous people and environmental activists, who want(ed) to protect nature, their living areas and/or way of living, against destruction to make way for plantations of soybeans, palm oil, bio fuels and timber, for cattle ranches, or for drilling or mining for fossil fuels and raw materials – especially when these products are exported to Europe;
- all farmers in the global North and the global South who are driven from their local, national and regional (e.g. the EU) markets by free trade agreements;
- all indigenous people whose livelihoods and culture are threatened by the current western development model based on growth, over-consumption and competition;
- all animal and plant species which are threatened with extinction because of human activities;
- our children and grand children, who will surely ask “why didn't you do anything when you still could?”,

- **28 Dutch and foreign citizens** force the mentioned proposals by fasting for 24 hours on World Food Day 16 October 2011 1 November, 20 November, 24 November and 14 December;
- **Guus Geurts**⁷ **starts a forty day fast at 1 November**, in which he will eat nothing and drink only water and herbal tea. Out of solidarity with the mentioned living beings he makes an urgent request to you to take over these proposals as much as possible;
- depending on your reaction to this urgent request he will possibly continue this action by going on hunger strike from 11 December onwards, until an amount of these proposals are taken over by you.

Why now?

During the G20-summit in France at 3 and 4 November, the Climate Summit COP17 in Durban South Africa (28 November – 9 December), the WTO-summit (15 – 17 December), and the upcoming negotiations about a new European Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), crucial decisions will be made about the supply of basic needs and the future of the planet. Protection of the right to food and right to a livelihood, and the prevention of disastrous climate change have everything to do with the political choice for competition on the world market in WTO and other free trade agreements.

Until now former attempts such as demonstrations, petitions, advocacy letters to politicians, non-violent actions, or opinion articles in newspapers and magazines and other publications, have hardly led to a change of policy. Arguments for a political change towards an ecologically sound and socially just future for all don't seem to count. The influence of big multinational corporations on governments is too big, the courage of politicians to deviate from 'Business as Usual' is too small and the belief in the neoliberal 'world religion' is ongoing despite the current crises.

Hence this ultimate demand in the decisive months for the climate, regulation of world trade and the European common agricultural policy, to change for the better now when it's still possible.

This fast / hunger strike is inspired by:

- Gandhi, because of his non-violent actions (such as several fasts / hunger strikes) and his pleas for inter-religious dialogue. He also said: 'The world has enough for everybody's needs but not for everybody's greed'. Finally he invented concepts which are still very inspiring for a just and ecological future, such as *Swadeshi* (self-sufficiency, localization), *Swaraja* (local autonomy, self-rule) and his principles of *Satyagraha* (the ultimate truth, soul power).⁸
- Three climate justice fasters who fasted for 43 days before and during the climate summit in Copenhagen in 2009.⁹
- Trust and self-confidence; with spiritual help we will hopefully bring this action to a desirable end. Hopefully the ones who are able to decide about meeting these demands will also get this spiritual help and be courageous enough to take their responsibility. Depending on the specific person the source of this spiritual help could be Allah, Yahweh, God, Brahma, Mother Earth, ancestors, soul groups or the divine in oneself.

Public manifestations at World Food Day, 1 and 24 November 2011

- At World Food Day 16 October (28 people), 1 November (7 people), at 20 (3 people), 24 November (5 people) and 13 December (5 people) in and outside the Netherlands fasted for 24 hours. This in solidarity with the victims of human right violations of Dutch and European trade, agricultural, energy and climate policy.

- During World Food Day 16 October a public meeting was organised about food sovereignty and climate justice, with speakers from human rights, development, environmental and farmers' organisations. See: www.guusgeurts.nl/wereldvoedseldag

- At 1 November – the first day of the forty day fast – a petition with all demands was personally handed over to the Parliament Commission on Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation. At

that day a manifestation will be organised on the square Plein in front of the Parliament in The Hague. See: <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=274304525933171>

- Every Tuesday 1, 8, 15, 22 November 2011 the forty day fast was sitting in front of the parliament from 9.30 am until 4.30 pm. Between 8 and 15 people joined him there. At those days from 1.30 pm until 3 pm a silent action was held with candles.

- At 24 November a climate demonstration was organised in front of the Parliament. This day the Parliament debated about the proposals for the Climate Summit in South Africa.

3. Possibilities to support the campaign for food sovereignty and climate justice – Working group Food Justice

- In the Netherlands as well in other countries this fast and hunger strike is supported by other people, see for this: <http://www.causes.com/causes/635070-support-for-hunger-strike-for-food-sovereignty-and-climate-justice> and <http://www.causes.com/causes/634694-steun-voor-hongerstaking-voor-voedselsoevereiniteit-en-klimaatrechtvaardigheid> This list of people will be used during contacts with politicians and the media.

Please send an email to guusgeurts@yahoo.com if you want to support these proposals!

- The current Dutch campaigns on food sovereignty and/or climate justice are organised by volunteers and without government subsidies. If you would like to support financially this specific campaign by Working group Food Justice on both these issues, you can contribute into bank account 8119.93.124 of Stichting Platform Aarde Boer Consument, while mentioning Campaign Food and Climate.

Thank you very much in advance!

Guus Geurts, Amsterdam, the Netherlands,
on behalf of Workgroup Foodjustice (www.foodjustice.eu) the other fasters for food sovereignty and climate justice and many others who support this proposals and action

Environmentalist, owner Swadeshi – Bureau for Alternative globalization
Also involved as campaigner agriculture and globalization with Alternative Trade Mandate (www.alternativetrademandate.org), Platform Aarde Boer Consument (Dutch Platform for Food sovereignty – www.aardeboerconsument.nl) and X minus Y Solidarity Fund (www.xminy.nl).
Author of *Wereldvoedsel – pleidooi voor een rechtvaardige en ecologische voedselvoorziening*

Contact:

+ 31 (0)20 – 638 7578

+ 31 (0)6 – 4397 9879

guusgeurts@yahoo.com

www.guusgeurts.nl

⁷ At this moment one person (Guus Geurts) will go on hunger strike starting on 1 November for the whole period, but several other people will join the action for one day or longer. He considers this hunger strike also as a spiritual quest and would like to combine this fast with periods of meditation. He will attend a ten day course Vipassana-meditation from 19 until 28 October. During this meditation he will eat a meal at 6.30 am and 11 am. After 12 noon no meals are allowed (see for more information: www.dhamma.org). So this would mean that he fasts for 24 hours at 16 October, partly fasts from 19 until 28 October, and start his long term fast from 1 November onwards...

⁸ - A recommendation on Swadeshi: *Gandhi's Swadeshi – The Economics of permanence*, Satish Kumar, see: <http://caravan.squat.net/ICC-en/Krrs-en/ghandi-econ-en.htm>,

- More information about Swadeshi: <http://www.transitiontownrotterdam.nl/wiki/Swadeshi>

- More information about Satyagraha: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satyagraha>

⁹ See for goals, background information, the participants and short time fasters: www.climatejusticefast.com