

• The Journey for Life - Call for solidarity with the Zapatista sea journey

Presentation of the Zapatista sea journey to Europe spring-summer 2021

1- The meaning of the Zapatista journey: why is Chiapas crossing the Atlantic Ocean?

After 500 years of colonialism in Mexico, the Zapatistas – a group from indigenous communities of the Chiapas region who have been building autonomy since the 1994 uprising and the National Indigenous Congress - the NIC brings together in struggle indigenous peoples fighting against their extermination and plunder capitalism -, have made the decision to cross the Atlantic Ocean.

The large delegation (comprising a hundred people, at least, and made up mostly of women) will travel through Europe to express that the indigenous communities of Mexico were never defeated, and in order to encounter what struggles and social movements actively mark European territories. Through this journey, the Zapatista delegation intends to weave and reinforce links and alliances, to share commitments and energies to the defense of life, political autonomy, and the fight against all forms of oppression.

A communiqué in six parts is available here:

- **Part Six: A Mountain on the High Seas :**
<http://enlacezapatista.ezln.org.mx/2020/10/07/part-six-a-mountain-on-the-high-seas/>
- **Part Five: The Gaze and the Distance to the Door.**
<http://enlacezapatista.ezln.org.mx/2020/10/11/part-five-the-gaze-and-the-distance-to-the-door/>
- **Part Four: Memory of What Is to Come**
<http://enlacezapatista.ezln.org.mx/2020/10/23/part-four-memory-of-what-is-to-come/>
- **PART THREE: THE MISSION** <http://enlacezapatista.ezln.org.mx/2020/12/24/part-three-the-mission/>
- **Part Two: The Tavern** <http://enlacezapatista.ezln.org.mx/2020/12/30/part-two-the-tavern/>
- **Part One: A DECLARATION...FOR LIFE**
<http://enlacezapatista.ezln.org.mx/2021/01/01/part-one-a-declaration-for-life/>

We have listed important dates for the Zapatista movement at the end of this document.

2- The voyage at sea: crossing the Atlantic.

The first part of the delegation crossing to Europe will set sail in April, provided all the conditions are met (weather, logistics). As of this day, the biggest logistical concern is to find enough boats to transport all the members of the delegation.

After meeting with numerous social movements across Europe, their objective is to reach Madrid on August, 13th, exactly five hundred years after the capture of Tenochtitlan by Hernán Cortés and his army in 1521.

The journey by sea will emphasize the importance of this historic voyage, five centuries after the Spanish sacking of Mexico, and will give greater scope to the demands of the communities still fighting.

3- How to contribute:

To make the voyage possible, we are looking for boats, crew, financing and equipment (jackets, sailing pants, boots, gloves, and any technical material).

As of now, we have some leads on “older but modern” boats, but nothing is confirmed yet. The most viable option so far is a very large sailboat anchored on the Pacific coast of Mexico. Another option would be to rent one or several boats along with a crew which would cost more than 100,000 euros roundtrip for each boat. We don't have access to this kind of money at the moment, which is why we need your donations and support! At the moment this option is too expensive for our budget, so we need your donations and your help.

To support the voyage, you can contact us at :
[mail of the collective belonging to the naval coordination. If not,
unemontagnesurlamer@riseup.net can serve as a reference]

We will soon be launching our donation and fundraising options, and we will need maximum support.

We would be excited to set sail with boats from various regions of Europe; but time is running out (flying!) and the easiest thing would be to find boats that are already located around the Gulf of Mexico and that are in good condition for the trip. If you know of boats and people in the transportation world on the Mexican side of the ocean, please reach out. We are looking for boats to rent, loan, donate, or sell. If you are or know a captain, sailor, or are simply motivated to help the journey, please contact us:

[mail of the collective belonging to the naval coordination. If not,
unemontagnesurlamer@riseup.net can serve as a reference]

We also asked ourselves : Why not buy a boat ? All options are open! If we find one in good navigation conditions and that is not too expensive, the boat could allow the Zapatista delegation to continue its journey to other continents and, in the future, could serve to transport coffee from communities in Chiapas (why not?).

For now, all these options are out of our budget, so we are proposing a fundraising, for the boat rental, the hypothetical purchase of a boat, and all the expenses that will be made during the voyage.

4- Peace fleet and welcome fleet:

If you'd like to participate in the journey, you're also very welcome to sail alongside the Zapatista boats for the entire trip, or for parts of it.

We haven't made a decision regarding the Zapatista fleet's port of arrival: Spain, France? Atlantic or Mediterranean coasts? Wherever that is, it would be wonderful to give a warm welcome this exceptional delegation! We call on all people who have access to a boat and who want to contribute to a better, more just world to sail with them from their point of departure or when they arrive to Europe at the end of the spring.

Get in touch, and we will make sure to share information and details as they come.

5- Thank you for spreading this message in your networks!

To learn more about the organization of the trip you can write to
[mail of the collective belonging to the naval coordination that spreads it.
If not, unemontagnesurlamer@riseup.net may serve as a reference]

Coordination is currently happening from Europe, but please spread the word in your networks wherever you are!

6- A journey born of a long history

The arrival of the Zapatista delegation in Europe is part of a long string of events and actions by which Zapatistas have made their struggles known globally and have created strong ties with a great diversity of other fights and social movements across the world.

January 1, 1994: Zapatista uprising in Chiapas. Thousands of women and men from the original communities of these lands take up arms, as a form of self-defense, to demand Democracy, Liberty and Justice. Peace talks quickly begin.

1994-95: Creation of the first and later the five "Aguascalientes", centers of political-cultural encounters.

1996: Intercontinental Meeting for Humanity and Against Neoliberalism in La Realidad, Chiapas.

2001: March for Indigenous Dignity and for the People of the Color of the Earth throughout Mexico, culminating in a multitudinous demonstration in the capital of the country, bringing

together about a million people for the recognition of the rights and autonomy of the original peoples.

2003 : The "Aguascalientes" become "Caracoles", political-cultural centers that serve as meeting places and headquarters for the new "Good Government Councils" that coordinate the dozens of autonomous municipalities and Zapatista rebels.

2005 : Publication of the Sixth Declaration of the Lacandon Jungle, called La Sexta, which calls for the federation of struggles "from below, to the left" opposing the capitalist system.

2006-2007: The Other Campaign: Faced with the false promises made during the presidential elections, the Zapatistas decide to travel to Mexico's 31 states to give visibility to the resistance and bring together grassroots fights across the country.

2007: First and second meeting of the Zapatistas with the Peoples of the World.

2013 : Creation of the "Little Zapatista School": thousands of people from Mexico and around the world are invited to share the daily life of Zapatista families and communities, and the patient construction of their own autonomy (education, health, cooperatives, agro-ecology...)

2014 : Organization with the National Indigenous Congress of the World Festival of Rebellions and Resistances against Capitalism.

2015: International Seminar on "Critical Thinking in the Face of the Capitalist Hydra".

2016-2019: CompArte por la Humanidad art festivals, ConCiencias scientific meetings, "Puy Ta Cuxlejaltic" film festivals, Bailate otro mundo dance festivals, Forum in Defense of the Territory and Mother Earth, and International Meetings of the Women Who Fight.

March 2018 : First Encounter of the Women who Fight (more than 8000 participants in the caracol of Morelia).

December 2019 : Second Encounter of the Women who Fight (more than 4000 people in the caracol of Morelia).

August 2019 : Creation of new Zapatista Autonomous Regions and Municipalities, raising the number of Caracoles and Good Government Councils to 12.

2021 / The Journey for Life: *"for life, we will travel across the 5 continents"*, the Compas have shared with us.

THANK YOU FOR CONTRIBUTING TO THIS HISTORIC MOMENT!

The European naval coordination of the organization of the Zapatista welcome