



Guidelines: Keeping our activities nonviolent

The ICC and PAGAN have a clear consensus that all activities organised by the ICC and/or PAGAN are strictly nonviolent. This includes our participation at the demonstration organised by CPPC, and also actions of civil disobedience. However, in the last weeks police and media in Portugal created an atmosphere of violence, mostly blaming PAGAN. Although both organisations reiterated their commitment to nonviolence, the climate created can be used for provocations. These guidelines will give you some ideas what to do in the unlikely event that you see violence, or preparations for violence.

- **Do not ignore violence!** If you see someone preparing for violence, make your disagreement known, and make sure that others also see what is happening. Talk to the person(s), talk to people around you. Seek support from others.
- **Don't intervene physically!** Don't hold someone's arm, and don't use other forms of physical constraint. This can escalate the situation. Stay calm, and try to communicate in a non-threatening way.
- **Do not provide an audience!** People standing around and watching while others smash a window or use violence are a great audience, and in fact encourage those using violence. If you can't intervene, move on calmly, and move away. Make sure the organisers of the demonstration know what is happening.
- **Stay safe!** Your own safety comes first. Don't try to intervene if you do not feel comfortable doing it. Seek the help of others. Alert the organisers and stewards.
- **Don't panic!** Try to stay calm, and move away calmly if you don't feel safe. Running can be dangerous, and people might fall to the ground, with others trampling over them. If you can't get away, try to get people to sit down. A group of people sitting down does not pose a threat to anyone, and cannot be moved.
- **Don't play police!** We are not the police, and it is not our role to hand people in to the police. In fact, this can be very counter-productive if you want to de-escalate a situation.
- **Document police violence.** If you witness police provocations or violence from the police, document it! Take notes of place and time and what happened. Take pictures, if you can (be careful when taking pictures of police – they often don't like it!). Again – your safety comes first. If you can't take notes at the time, try to remember what happened, and write it down as soon as possible afterwards. Pass on your notes to the ICC and/or PAGAN.

Help us to keep all our actions nonviolent. Thank you!