

# “Long Live Oaxaca!” By Raoul Vaneigem<sup>1</sup>

In this world dominated by cowardice, resignation and voluntary servitude, there is a town and a region [in Mexico] resolved to resist a local and global government that knows no other laws than those of corruption and profit. For several months, the population of Oaxaca<sup>2</sup> has been refusing the diktats of a corrupt administration that doesn't hesitate to kill the opponents of its misappropriations and embezzlements. This movement hasn't stopped developing and has given birth to a popular assembly, which is still infiltrated by the old politics of cronyism, but which is increasingly orienting itself around a refusal of all power and a single priority: to improve the everyday lives of children, women and men.

I call upon those people who have no other strength than their will to live to demonstrate in favor of Oaxaca, because it is there that we find the only thinking that isn't in the pocket of the patrons of the global market.

I call upon them to use all the forms of their inventiveness to defend the free Oaxaca Commune so that its popular assembly can develop the direct democracy and self-managing practices that the barricaders, the urban populations and the indigenous peasant communities are in the process of consolidating.

I call upon them to alert all the living forces, who, little by little, are awakening and helping millions of other human beings to get out from under the nightmare that economic totalitarianism brings down upon them. We must prevent Governor Ulises Ruiz and his murderous friends, supported by “Fecal” (Felipe Calderón),<sup>3</sup> the new President of Mexico, from crushing the experiment in regional autonomy – both urban and rural – that is taking place there, following in the line of the Paris Commune and the Andalusian, Aragonese and Catalan collectives of 1936-1938.

What's going on in Oaxaca furnishes hope to all those who despair of living lives that are worthy of the name while being under the yoke of financial capitalism, which reduces life and the environment to commodities.

Let's remember this! It was global attention that helped the still-fragile Zapatista movement elude repression by the Mexican government and its army in January 1994 and then again in February 1995. What the Zapatistas did for the indigenous peasant communities in Chiapas, the population of Oaxaca is attempting to do in the urban areas. The stakes are considerable. Let's work to ensure that the chances of inaugurating the Oaxaca Commune are increased, because this chance is ours: the existential and social emancipation that is dear to our hearts.

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<sup>1</sup> Raoul Vaneigem, “*Que vive Oaxaca !*” dated 28 November 2006, “in total individual autonomy,” and published that same day by La Voie du Jaguar: <https://www.lavoiedujaguar.net/Que-vive-Oaxaca>. Translated by NOT BORED! 25 May 2021. Footnotes by the translator.

<sup>2</sup> In May 2006, a teachers' strike was violently attacked by the police. In response, the inhabitants rebelled and eventually formed the Popular Assembly of the Peoples of Oaxaca.

<sup>3</sup> When combined, the first few letters of Felipe Calderón's name spell “fecal,” as in “he is a piece of shit.”