



RESISTANCE



AGAINST MINES, FOREST COMPANIES & WINDPOWER IN SWEDEN



KOLONIERNA.SE

CONTENT

RESISTANCE PAYS OFF

THE MINES

OJNARE FOREST

GÁLLOK

NORRA KÄRR

TAKE CONCRETE ACTION

MORE

THE FOREST

VILSESKOGEN

LILL-SKARJAK

BLODSTENSSKOGEN

FOREST REBELLION

PAHAROVA

JUOKSUVAARA

THE WIND POWER

TWIN PEAKS BLOCKADE

MORE

FÖRVILDA

ANARKI I NORR

ELLOS DEATNU & NÀSA FJÄLL

KOLONIERNA

RESISTANCE PAYS OFF

How much hasn't all the direct actions that's been going on for the last decade in Sweden drowned in the mass media? Ten years of struggles easily falls between the lines. We understand that the companies and the state are scared. They do all they can to quiet down and shoo away. At the same time they are spreading their green lies to be able to legitimize continued exploitation and colonialism. That's why we put together this zine. To show that resistance actually works and pays off! They don't want us to know this. The Ojnare Forest is still there, Gállok is still there, Vilseskogen is still there, Blodstensskogen is still there, Lill-Skarjak is still there... We will here give five examples of areas which have remained unexploited as a direct consequence of the use of civil disobedience. Four of these areas now also have some sort of protection. If individuals wouldn't have put themselves in the way and prevented the companies from exploiting probably all those places would have been gone by now. It's also worth mentioning that there hasn't always been that many people involved in these blockades. You don't need to be a big mass to be able to make a difference. Sometimes a blockade hasn't consisted of more then a few friends.

Over these pages you will get an insight into the resistance in Sweden: gatherings, ockupations, blockades and other relevant information. The focus is on environmental struggles in the backwoods of the north of Sweden where civil disobediance has been a part of the resistance. You will also get tips about mines, infrastructure, factories and windmill parks that are on the way. Of course. We could have missed something. You are more then welcome to write to us and tell.



THE MINES



OJNARE FOREST

It feel almost like the ember for the coming wave of resistance was born in the Ojnare Forest on Gotland. In Ojnare there was a camp 2012 to try to physically stop the preparatory work of cutting down the forest for the establishment of a lime stone mine there. Several forest machines were blocked during the summer and there was a lot of support from the outside. Gotlands biggest police operation started august 28 to get the protesters out of the way. Due to all the turbulence, Mellanskog ended the felling in September, while the County Administrative Board on Gotland gave Nordkalk (the company responsible for the mining establishment) an injunction. In October 2012, the Supreme Court decided on inhibition and began partial review. In 2017, the Supreme Administrative Court decided that the government's decision to expand the Natura 2000 area Bästeträsk, and thus protect the Ojnar forest, was correct. Thus, the Supreme Administrative Court upheld the government's designation of the area as Natura 2000.



GÁLLOK

After an intense struggle in Ojnare the conflict in Gállok followed the summer after. Gállok has received a lot of attention and engaged people all over the world. In this place Beowulf Mining wants to build an iron mine not so far away from the World Heritage Site Laponia. During the summer of 2013 several blockades emerged against the test drillings. For example several high towers in the middle of the road. After a long bureaucratic process, and despite the dissuasion from

many scientific experts, environmental activists and several big organisations like UN, Amnesty International and the Sami Parliament, the Swedish government now has approved mining in Gállok. Jåhkågasska Sami village have appealed the decision and in the autumn of 2022, the inventories were started, which will form the basis for the environmental impact assessment. After that, it may take a few more years before the company could start a mine in Gállok. But they can still cut the forest there, so Gállok continue to be under threat during that time.



NORRA KÄRR

2014 a "Protestival" was arranged in Norra Kärr, Gränna. By the end of the festival (24 July) a group of people jumped up on one of Tasman Metals machines and stopped the test drilling for rare earth minerals. Mining of rare earth minerals is a very dirty industry. In this location it would most likely also pollute the drinking water for several hundred thousands of people and the whole lake ecosystem of Vättern.

One of the activists reported:

"We had heard that the company eventually had put surveillance equipment in place, so we decided to drive as fast as we could straight through potential alarm systems. Then we ran a few kilometers until we found the test drilling rig. With bicycle locks we locked our bodies to the horrible machine. We sent out a press release about the action. After a few hours the police and some people from Tasman came. They gathered about 20 cops, but Tasman decided that they would not intervene and create more commotion with scenes of police violence. So we could stay all day on the beautiful place with the ugly machine. We talked to journalists and drank coffee with enthusiastic supporters.

We know that mining for rare earth minerals has had apocalyptic effects on desert areas due to all the poisonous waste products. This mine would be right beside the biggest reserve of drinking water of Sweden, the beautiful lake Vättern. It has bright clear water, 260 000 people drink its water today and more cities want to connect to the water supply. Tasman Metals wants to withhold information about their ugly plans to get investors to play a game with humans and non-humans lives and we cannot accept that."



TAKE CONCRETE ACTION

Take concrete action perhaps did the first direct mass action for the climate and environment where a bigger group of people with their bodies managed to stop the production of cement on Cementas factory in Slite on Gotland for a whole day. Activists from several countries gathered and managed to get into the area and block the work.

MORE

There are also plenty of other mining plans in Sweden. It is even so that the number of mines could be doubled this century. For example will the company Botnia Exploration aim at starting the first new mine in Sweden in 10 years in Vindelgransele, **Fäbodtjärn**, wanting to start already in 2022. It is mainly gold they are after. Gold which primarily will be used to produce gold bars.

Other planed mines which have received a lot of resistance is for example **Rönnbäcken** and **Laver**. But everywhere where there are plans to make mines there is resistance in one way or another. Some planed mines that are close in time to be started are among others **Vittangi** and **Viscaria** in Kiruna.

THE FOREST



VILSESKOGEN

In the south of Norrland the struggle against the clear cutting industry has been focused against SCA who owns a lot of land there. After useless "dialogues" and paper work regarding Vilseskogen the activists were tired of all the bullshit and stormed SCA's closest office a workday singing "Why SCA?" with movements. (See video on youtube: "Stormning av SCA. Why SCA?").

But in march 2019 the harvester suddenly came to Vilseskogen. Some locals ran there as fast as they could and stood in the way. Several activists and persons from different environmental organizations were on their way when the forest machine left the area. After that it has been completely silent in the forest. Now also the already existing key biotope has been expanded.



LILL-SKARJAK

After the blockade in Vilseskogen Kolonierna were contacted by Protect the Forest and individuals from Maskaure sami village who said that Sveaskog would cut down a beautiful old forest in Lill-Skarjak. A car full of activists took off shortly after and put up their tents in the forest (April 2019). Early the morning after they woke up by the horrible sound of a forest machine, went straight up to the driver and told him that they would stand in the way if he tried to cut the forest. The driver asked if they wanted coffee and tried to call his boss who didn't answer. Finally the forest machine left the area. According to information from local contacts the forest is still standing and is now

protected permanently due to a finding of some rare ecological species during the inventory. Lill-Skarjak is now part of a 890 hectare big nature reserve.



BLODSTENSSKOGEN

As a part of the gentrification project in Eriksberg Uppsala municipality has decided that Blodstensskogen will be cut down and become a residential area. The forest which is more then 200 years old is inhabited by a big amount of threatened species and work as an ecological corridor where animals and plants can walk between Stadsskogen and Hågadalén. The summer of 2020 a group of activists started to build a two-floor tree house to protect the forest. The spring of 2021 a bigger part of the area was proposed to become a nature reserve and that the residential area would be on 1/3 of the area which would be cut down. The tree house is still there, and the struggle continues to protect the forests close by.

If you want to get involved in the occupation the easiest way is the visit a saturday around three. Follow the path between Marmorvägen 10 and 12 in to the forest. Or contact the occupation on:

blodstensskogen@riseup.net



FOREST REBELLION

In Forest Rebellion samis and other dissatisfied and pissed off people has come together to try to wreak havoc on the state owned forest company Sveaskog. The initiative is not really XR, but has

roots in XR. The Forest Rebellion started in november 2020 when some activists, among them the samis Tor Tuorda and Henrik Andersson, stormed Sveaskogs office in Stockholm.

During the winter after two blockades were made to try to stop Sveaskogs forest machines from working. The first in Paharova, and the second in Juoksuvaara.



PAHAROVA

The night of the 22 april 2021 a group of activists occupied Paharova in Ängeså sami village. Further in along the road a lonely forest machine was standing waiting in the dark. Some activists started to build a traditional sami birch bark "goahti" (tipi) in the middle of the road. Some put up skypods in trees which were tied to barrels filled with cement with a lock-on were a person would lock their arm when the police came. Further down more lock-ons and later also a monopod attached to the harvester were build. In the forest they put up another goahti with a stove where they could dry their clothes and have a cozy time in the warmth.

The eviction came earlier than expected, and the activists were not fully prepared to take their positions. The police tore down everything including the birch bark goahti. One person free climbed the goahti and sat there for some hours. Despite that the goahti was obviously unstable the cops continued to take away the poles while the person was still sitting up there. After they had been shaking the goahti a bit, and tried with all kinds of scare tactics, they instead started a fire with the poles they had collected. The police laughed and made jokes while the fire took off. The symbolism is disgustingly obvious...



JUOKSUVAARA

Simultaneously with the action in Paharova some activists occupied Juosuvaara and chained themselves to a machine there. A reindeer timber fence was built across the road in front of a tower. Yet another skypod attached to the forwarder. The state sent a lot of vans full of cops. They blocked the whole area and surveilled the activists while the machine could drive around the blockade.

THE CONSEQUENCES...

When we asked some in Gällivare Sami village about the consequences after the Forest Rebellion in the spring of 2021, they replied that they had not been on a single consultation on logging with Sveaskog since the blockades. This probably means that Sveaskog has not cut a single area within their lands in a year and a half! Do you start to see how resistance pays off?

THE WIND POWER

It has been harder to get an overview of the resistance against wind power. What we do know is that many windmill parks have met a lot of local protests. Probably all of them, for example like this:



TWIN PEAKS BLOCKADE

In Sollefteå municipality there have been many active struggles against the building of wind turbines. One struggle that recently has gained speed is the one against the building of two wind parks in Salsjö and Ranasjö – so called Twin Peaks – where the company just had started to build and plan to be done the fall of 2023 at the latest. The Twin Peaks Blockade is, from what we know, the first blockade of the establishment of wind turbines in Sweden. The first blockade started 1 May 2022 in Salsjö and consisted of a skypod attached to a car called "Mad Max" that was dug down and fixed with concrete in the road. The second blockade started some weeks later in Ranasjö where a skypod had been attached in the company's own gate. A big tripod was also built which was occupied all the time. A local reported:

"Due to the current uprising against the establishment of wind turbines in Salsjö the company Arise now has put gates on all the Twin Peaks roads and also hired a security company. During two weeks time the road leading in to Twin Peaks Salsjö has been continually blocked by big rocks, logs, hay bales and an old roof. According to the police the keys to several machines has disappeared. Additionally a bridge leading in to the area has burned up."

MORE

Piteå municipality has been hardly hit by the wind power industry where they are building one of the world's biggest wind parks in Europe right now. This has been met by a lot of protests since the area for example has high ecological value.

Hällberget in Övertorneå municipality has been put on the map when local Samis have been fighting against the project since the park would have gotten horrible consequences for the local reindeer herding for example.

Other areas they want to build a lot of wind turbines exist close to for example Storuman, Ånge and Åsele.



FÖRVILDA

2012 a small group of green anarchists gathered in a tipi in Ångermanland. The camp was called Förvilda ("Rewild") and was the start of a series of gatherings. It has mainly been forest camps, but 2015 the camp was in a house which was temporarily squatted in Umeå. The latest camp was held in Vilseskogen 2018.

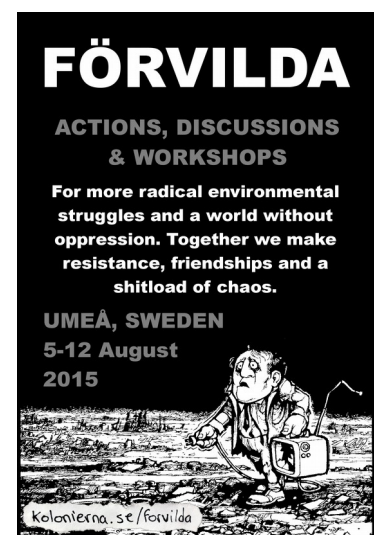
Here is a short text some of the organizers wrote:

What we want is quite simple. We want the concrete to crack up into an ocean of medicinal herbs, to let the clearcuts grow wild and away from the "sustainable" forest industry, that the psyches of the civilized people, their emotions, realities and everyday life are liberated from the chains of civilized culture, that the oceans are filled with life and not plastics, that our wild friends are let out of their cages, to destroy the the scientific objectification which justifies everything from rapes to vivisection, that hierarchies are overthrown, that the air is liberated from its bad breath and so much more.

The challenge is to get there.

Förvilda is just a name on what you see everyday in the corner of your eye, in the cracked asphalt, in the empty lots, outside your window, in the peepholes of the balaclava or the liberated animals first steps outside the cage,

The Earth is angry and those who feel the Earth feels the same anger. Feel it you too!



ANARKI I NORR

In april 2019 a group of northern activists gathered in an apartment in Härnösand. After that several gatherings have been organized in both Västerbotten and Västernorrland. The ambition has been to arrange two gatherings per year, one in the winter and one in the summer, preferably by different organizers and in different places. "Anarki i Norr" means "Anarchy in the North".
svartaadalen.wordpress.com



ELLOS DEATNU & NÀSA FJÄLL

We couldn't make this compilation without mentioning the Moratoria movement. Unfortunately it is hard to find information about it, but what we know is that it is a project started by Outi Pieski, Jenni Laiti, and Niilas Holmber on the island of Čearretsuolu in the river Deatnu in Utsjoki. The summer of 2017 the group "Ellos Deatnu!" declared a moratorium in the area to oppose the new fishing regulations in Deatnu. An moratoria office has also been created to encourage other to declare their own decolonized moratoriums. The initiators to the project writes:

"Decolonialisation means deconstruction of a foreign power and the return of power to the inhabitants of the colonised area. The project's goal is to empower and activate people to take action to promote common goals."

The summer of 2018 yet another moratorium was created by Svaipa, Grans and Semisjaur-Njarg sami villages against the establishment of mines in Nasa fjäll. Sara Ajnnak says:

"The Nása moratorium means that the usage of the land, water and air not in any way is allowed to encroach on sami rights or interests in the geographical area of Nása. This means that no mining operations such as preparation, exploration, road mining or other activities that interfere with traditional reindeer husbandry in the area may occur. These rules will be maintained through the Sami villages, until local Sami self-determination where reindeer husbandry as representative ongoing land users is recorded in Norwegian and Swedish law, and that mining operations and other penetrating environmentally destroying land, water and air use are banned from the area for all future..."





KOLONIERNA

We're a loose network of fighters who wants to decolonize the world. We do that by organizing gatherings and camps, spread information and support direct action. Kolonierna does not have an ideology or action consensus you have to follow. We support all forms of anti-colonial grass root struggles and believe in a resistance that uses a diversity of methods. We will simply try and see what works. Feel welcome to contact us if you would like to support environmental struggles in Sweden in any way, or if you need support where you live. We are happy to hear from you.

DONATE

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