

Food Not Bombs

Around the World
2010-2013



Chicago, May 2012

Food Not Bombs is an idea that has spread worldwide. No single person or entity, historical moment, or identification by popular culture is responsible for it. For over 30 years people have simply identified with the desire for Food, Not Bombs, and have set their minds, kitchens, and communities, to the task. For some it is a casual hobby, while others risk their safety, freedom, and lives. Some FNB chapters last years...some only a few days.

While there are big differences in FNB groups worldwide, some if not most of them believe that food is a right, not a privilege, and engage in acts of mutual aid with their communities. Vegetarianism for the sake of animal rights and involvement in demonstrations against government oppression are also common traits by FNB groups worldwide.

So enjoy the following photo essays put together about Food Not Bombs activities from around the world, all from the last couple of years.

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November 2012

Long Island, New York USA

This chapter is a must-visit for the movement - it is almost certainly the largest, most organized, and most successful chapter in FNB history. Currently they share 6 times a week, 3 of which are produce give-aways that provide for hundreds of families at every sharing.

LIFNB does this by successfully understanding and navigating the US non-profit maze, undermining Feeding America and the United Way's choke-hold on food donations that have become commonplace across the US. Along with a dedicated staff of core volunteers they count on dozens more to constantly pick up donations and deliver them to their different sharing locations.

LIFNB is perhaps also the chapter most experienced in providing hunger relief during disasters. Mostly recently they provided enormous aid relief to tens of thousands victims of Hurricane Irene (2010) and Sandy (2012). In Long Island, Food Not Bombs is seen as a vital social service and is rarely troubled by police or local government officials. Unlike other groups they do not engage in many protest activities and are not overtly "political."

Eastern Europe



Cluj, Romania 2012



Bratislava, Slovakia 2013

Many Americans know next to nothing about Eastern Europe. However activists in nations such as Hungary, Romania, and many Balkan nations engage in mutual aid and autonomous community building in ways that are very similar to FNB groups in other parts of the world.

Activists in Cluj, Romania, currently hold a monthly event known as Piata Autonoma Cluj, which is a combination Food Not Bombs and Really Really Free Market. Similar events occur in Bratislava, Budapest, Warsaw, Minsk, and in many other cities throughout Eastern Europe.

In some countries, such as Belarus, FNB and other activist groups are often subjected to police oppression. In March 2012, over 100 people were arrested for attending a FNB fundraiser in Minsk.



Warsaw, Poland 2012

Florida USA



Riot control, Tampa RNC 2012



Mobile homeless surveillance tower, Fort Lauderdale 2011

Florida is home to Disney World and a million other tourist stops...it's also a tough place to be homeless.

Most famously, Orlando FNB engaged in a 2 month campaign of civil disobedience during the summer of 2011, when the City of Orlando passed a law banning food sharings at the park they had been using twice a week for years. FNB and other activists converged from all over the state to attend now criminalized sharings. After 27 arrests, several Anonymous hack attacks, and a whole lot of international scrutiny, the city allowed OFNB to move their sharings down the street to City Hall.

The City of Fort Lauderdale campaigned not just to displace the homeless but FNB activists themselves, surveilling, harassing them and raiding a collective house in 2011. In South Florida, there are FNB groups in West Palm Beach, Fort Lauderdale, Hollywood, and sometimes Miami.

The Tampa Bay area also has both severe restrictions on homeless activities and homeless advocates. Most recently, FNBER's from across Florida and elsewhere again converged to provide food for protesters at the 2012 Tampa RNC - during the largest military operation in Florida history.



Sharer being arrested at Orlando FNB
June 2011

Russia



Police repression protest, 2013



Timur Kacharava, murdered at a St Petersburg FNB sharing in 2005

Russia is perhaps one of the most dangerous places to be involved with Food Not Bombs. Anarchist and other autonomous political organizers are often threatened with beatings, imprisonment, and murder in the Putin era.

In Russia there are many anti-fascist and mutual aid groups besides Food Not Bombs, including the Anarchist Black Cross.

In 2012, Nizhny Novgorod Food Not Bombs activists were arrested and accused of plotting violent "anti-fascist" attacks on neo-nazi groups, charged under evidence they say was planted on them. They faced up to 10 years in prison. However as of November 2012, the case has been ordered to be "re-investigated" after a number of holes in the case were exposed in court, with a re-trial unlikely to occur.

Convergences

Food Not Bombs activists are staples at convergences across America and worldwide. Political conventions, anti-globalization protests, and occupation camps more often than not have some FNB activists helping supply food to protesters.



Chicago, IL, May 2012



Tampa, FL, August 2012



Columbus, GA, November 2012

Reykjavik, Iceland

Since the 2008 financial crisis that started Iceland's historic peaceful revolution, an FNB group has been sharing in downtown in the nation's capital.



Haifa, Israel

Despite a massive social-economic justice uprising in recent years, peace groups such as Food Not Bombs are still outside the norm in Israel. Started in 2012, Haifa FNB advocates counter-recruitment and peace as well as weekly sharings.

SE Asia

There are a number of anarchist and mutual aid oriented groups in communities across the islands of the Philippines and Indonesia. FNB and punk culture often are at odds with conservative communities in Indonesia, which has a larger Muslim community than any other country.



Taos, New Mexico, USA

All summer long, FNB activists come from all over to teach, learn, and farm at the Food Not Bombs Free Skool, surrounded by mountains and desert.



Flagstaff, Arizona USA



Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

This is far from a comprehensive book on Food Not Bombs groups! Perhaps if you don't see a group you know about, you could let us know about them!

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