

Thousands Stage Protest Against G-7 Summit in Germany



Munich, June 5 (RHC)-- Thousands of people have taken to the streets in the southern German city of Munich to protest against the upcoming summit of the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrialized countries.

Police said about 23,000 people took part in Thursday's protest in the Bavarian capital, which was organized by environmentalists and globalization opponents. Demonstrators marched behind a banner, reading, "stop the TTIP (the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership deal), Save the Climate, Fight Poverty."

According to a recent poll, some 43 percent of Germans believe that the TTIP, a free trade agreement currently under negotiation between Europe and the U.S., is bad for their country.

Participants in Thursday's protest also criticized the industrialized countries for their failure to take action on pressing global issues such as free trade agreements, poverty, climate change and migrants rescue.

The group Stop G-7 Elmau 2015 wrote on its website that "the richest and most powerful countries in the world lay claim to decide the fate of the entire world, without having any legitimization for this." The group added: "The G-7 politics means neo-liberal economic policies, war and militarization, exploitation, poverty and hunger, environmental degradation, and [shutting out] refugees."

The protest comes as leaders of the G-7 group, which consists of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Britain and the U.S. will meet in the town of Elmau in the German state of Bavaria on June 7th and 8th. They are expected to discuss a number of issues, including health, poverty reduction, international trade and global crises at the two-day summit.

The group has its origin from the Group of Six (G-6) that was formed in 1975. It then changed to the G-7 in 1976 with the addition of Canada, and to the G-8 with Russia joining in 1998. Later in 2014, Russia was excluded from the group over the crisis in Ukraine.

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