Suggested Questions for Workshop Facilitators

Getting Started:

Several of the original organizers of the MTDs describe similar trajectories: working on various smaller, self-contained, neighborhood struggles (i.e. land grabs, stopping privatization, etc.), then beginning to work on more comprehensive projects like the MTDs, and having those projects become more radical and militant over time. Is this a natural progression which we've experienced in our lives and our organizing?

What do you think of the advice the Viki gives about being prepared for crisis in our area? What are the crises that you see already playing out in our community? If an economic crisis is indeed on its way here, what kind of organizing makes sense to "prepare"?

The economic, political, and social conditions of our country are constantly changing. Do we build time for analyzing these changes into our organizing work? If so, how do we do this analysis?

For those of us already doing the neighborhood work organizers described (meeting basic needs), how do we make the next step to form a strong social movement?

After watching this section, what thoughts do you have about the projects you're working on now?

Education & Health:

What does health mean? What does it mean to have good health, or good healthcare?

What work are we doing to provide ourselves with the healthcare and education we desire for our communities and ourselves? How do we do this "in little ways"?

Do we need our own systems of healthcare and education or can we create spaces within existing systems that are "good enough?"

How can we spread knowledge so that the role of "teacher" or "doctor" isn't one of power over the student or patient?

Behind the Piquete:

One of the central arguments of the piquetes is that the government has stolen from the people for a long time, and therefore owes a debt to the populace that must be repaid. Is this true here as well? How can we win repayment of the debt our communities are owed?

In several interviews, they refer to the idea that they are taking what they have been able to recuperate from the government and use it to transform their lives and become more self-sufficient. Is self-sufficiency a goal which we have for ourselves and our movements as well? In what ways are we already working towards being more self-sufficient? How can we become more self-sufficient?

What cooperatives might make sense for this community? What might we be able to produce that the community needs or if we're already part of a coop, what social projects might accompany our work? Do any of the projects featured in the video make sense here… bakery, communal kitchen, community garden, construction, food preservation and sweets, health center, adult education workshops, clothes recycling, youth spaces, a school?

One of the problems they mention is that the media only pays attention to the piquetes, to the violence, and not to the projects of change in the neighborhood. Without the piquetes, would the media pay any attention to these movements at all? How do we engage the "mainstream" media to cover community projects that takes place behind the direct action? Are we better off focusing on our own media outlets? What are "our" media outlets? Where do our peers get their information? How could "our media" be better?

How are we still reliant on the government and corporations? Why would they want us to be reliant on them? How do they do this?

What is a useful and practical first step that our organization could take to be more self-sufficient?

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Autonomy & Horizontality:

Are there times of the day or places where you have more autonomy than others? Where do you experience more control over your life and where do you experience less? Why?

Are we autonomous in the sense of being able to make our own decisions and set our own priorities? What dependencies do we have and how might we work toward self-sufficiency in this area?

Can we transform the world without taking power?

How does our group deal with unhealthy hierarchies as they arise? How do we move in the direction of full participation and horizontal decision-making when one or a few strong voices frequently dominate our process or represent us in public?

How can we set up better ways for those with more skills or knowledge to share them with the rest of the group?

Networks & Repression:

What forms of repression have we experienced here?

What tools do we have to fight back against this repression? Which have been the most important, most effective?

How can we improve the solidarity we're able to offer to other movements here and around the world? - How can we improve our ability to ask for and receive solidarity when our movements face crises and repression?

Have we experienced issues of values that make it impossible to work with other groups?
Do you agree with the final speaker that the fundamental struggle is against capitalism and the market? Should we limit our deepest bonds with other movements also fighting against capitalism?

Do you agree with the last speaker's statement? "The best way of identifying with a struggle is to do it ourselves right here. Any differently and they'll take advantage of our struggle to fight against other compañeros elsewhere. So the best struggle is in every territory, every corner, every universe where we inhabit. This is the most active solidarity."

Race, Gender & Diversity:

Are there spaces for women to discuss the gender dynamics and sexism in our group? Is something else needed? How can men support these spaces? Do men have their own work to do with each other?

How can our group be better equipped to deal with sexual harassment or abuse that may occur in the group or involving one of our members?

MTDs see anti-sexism and anti-racism work as part their quest for autonomy. What role does anti-oppression work play in our organization and how is it related to our main focus?

How can our group proactively address racism (within the group and in society) while embracing diversity as the last speaker suggests?