

TIMELINE OF MAJOR EVENTS MARKING THE NO DAL MOLIN MOVEMENT

2001-2006: SECRET MEETINGS Mayor Hullweck and Prime Minister Berlusconi deal secretly with the U.S. to concede Dal Molin to the U.S. military.

25 May '06: PROJECT REVEALED Councilor Cicero and U.S. military officials present the project for the new military base to City Council.

23 July '06: DAL MOLIN IN PARLIAMENT A delegation travels to Rome to bring the issue to the attention of parliament. Newly-elected Prime Minister Prodi **promises to reconsider the proposals** made by the previous government.

26 Oct '06: POTS AND PANS City Council discusses and approves the project, selling off the city of Vicenza. Thousands express their dissent by banging pots and pans **for seven full hours**.

24 Nov '06: MEETING WITH DEFENSE MINISTER After having announced a protest at the Ministry in Rome, a delegation from Vicenza is invited to meet with Defense Minister Parisi.

2 Dec '06: 1st NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION 30,000 people take part in a protest march, the largest the city had ever seen.

16 Jan '07: DAY OF SHAME Prime Minister Prodi announces from Romania, "the Government does not oppose the project." Thousands occupy the train station for over two hours. The *Presidio permanente* (Permanent Encampment) is erected on the edge of Dal Molin, still there to this day.

17 Feb '07: NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION More than 200,000 people from all over Italy protest in Vicenza against the new base.

18 Apr '07: PALLADIAN BASILICA OCCUPIED The Basilica Palladiana, symbol of Vicenza and masterpiece of renaissance architect Andrea Palladio, is peacefully occupied for 24 hours.

1-7 May '07: LOBBYING US CONGRESS A delegation from Vicenza takes their message to Capitol Hill, meeting with House and Senate members and strengthening ties with US activists.

3 June '07: PRODI CONTESTED No Dal Molin activists infiltrate a conference where Prodi is speaking and, after interrupting his talk with shouts of "SHAME", a representative is invited on stage to make the views of the movement known.

4 July '07: INDEPENDENCE (FROM MILITARY BASES) DAY Thousands celebrate the first ever Independence Day for Vicenza on the main square.

8-16 Sept '07: NO DAL MOLIN FESTIVAL 30,000 participate in a weeklong campout with direct actions, including planting 150 trees at Dal Molin, symbolically creating a public park.

6-8 Nov '07: INITIAL PHASE SUSPENDED Hundreds camp out for 3 days blocking the entrance to the base; the firm contracted to begin the initial phase suspends work.

14-16 Dec '07: INTERNATIONAL MOBILIZATION A three-day event with activists from Italy, Europe and the U.S.; over 80,000 march in Vicenza.

16 Jan '07: OFFICES OF PREFECT OCCUPIED On the 1st anniversary of Prodi's announcement in support of the base, 30 activists occupy the offices of the Prefect of Vicenza.

13-14 Apr '08: NO DAL MOLIN ELECTED TO CITY COUNCIL Cinzia Bottene of the municipal list *Vicenza Libera No Dal Molin* is elected to City Council. On April 28, center-left candidate Achille Variati, who ran on a platform opposing the base, is elected mayor in this stronghold of the right.

20 June '08: COURT RULES TO SUSPEND WORK The administrative court of the Veneto region rules to suspend all work on the base, citing failure to consult the local population and lack of a proper environmental impact assessment.

29 July '08: COURT DECISION OVERTURNED Italy's highest administrative court overturns the lower court ruling, summarily dismissing the case in record time for Italy's sluggish judicial system.

3-14 Sept '08: 2ND NO DAL MOLIN FESTIVAL The 10-day campout returns, with participation by Nobel Laureate Dario Fo and direct actions resulting in police brutality and the first arrests.

15-17 Sept '08: EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT A delegation of women from Vicenza speak at European Parliament and request poll observers for the upcoming referendum, defined as "seriously inopportune" by Prime Minister Berlusconi.

5 Oct '08: REFERENDUM DAY In a volunteer-run referendum, called by City Council but suspended by the Italian government just 4 days prior, 24,094 participate with 95% voting against the new base.

20 Nov '08: POSTCARDS FOR OBAMA Citizens of Vicenza send 30,000 postcards to President-elect Obama. "*Stop 2nd US Base? Yes, You Can!*"

31 Jan '09: DAL MOLIN OCCUPIED Hundreds occupy the Dal Molin Airport for 4 days resulting in two wins: office space to conduct an "unofficial" environmental impact assessment and talks to create a Peace Park in the former airport.

10 Feb '09: CONSTRUCTION BLOCKED Activists attempting to block trucks entering the base are met with an unprecedented police presence. Reorganizing, they block one of the construction companies for one hour. 18 activists are arrested.

20 Feb '09: FINAL PROJECT APPROVED US and Italian officials announce the approval of the final project for the base; no environmental impact assessment will be conducted.

21 Feb '09: MOBILIZATIONS CONTINUE The activists of the *Presidio permanente No Dal Molin* pledge to continue the protests as long as it takes.