



Media release

Basel, May 17, 2018

## **Basel and Syngenta: The protest against the city of Basel's unholy alliance with the largest pesticide manufacturer is increasing**

### **Open Letter to the Basel Government - Not in our name, Basel!**

The first 100 signatories make a stand in an open letter against Basel's imperial way of life. They are urging the government of the canton of Basel-Stadt and the parties in the Grand Council to make a change of direction and shoulder responsibility for the role of Basel-based corporations in human rights violations worldwide.

The city of Basel has a long history of an unholy alliance with the agrochemical giant Syngenta. The banishment of the ever-increasing social protest "March against Monsanto & Syngenta" from the city centre on May 19, 2018 is just the latest chapter in a long history. If competition between locations matters more than human rights, and one's own government is becoming part of the greenwashing strategy of a harmful multi-billion-dollar corporation, then resistance is a duty.

The first 100 signatories of an open letter are now demanding a change of direction in Basel politics. Basel must shoulder responsibility if local corporations violate human rights, fuel global warming and force people into dependency with their business practices. If Syngenta toxins, some of which have long been banned in Europe, are causing massive harm to humans, animals and the environment worldwide, we are all responsible in Basel and Switzerland. Competition between business locations must not be more important than climate protection and the health of farmers and consumers. Live well, yes, but not at the expense of other people!

The 100 signatories are making five demands to Basel politics. They are demanding reparations for the victims of Syngenta toxins, the funding of an agro-ecological institute at the University of Basel, the end of sponsoring and tax deals, the Basel government's active commitment to the corporate responsibility initiative and the implementation of the right to demonstrate in the city centre.

You will find the letter with the first 100 signatures in the attachment. It will be handed over to the Government and the Grand Council in a few weeks in the form of a petition and can be signed here. On Saturday, the "March against Monsanto & Syngenta" will take place at Barfüsserplatz in Basel from 1.00 p.m. ([www.marchagainstsylgenta.ch](http://www.marchagainstsylgenta.ch)), a demonstration that will fight for solidarity-based and sustainable agriculture. Already on Friday, Kathrin Hartmann, the author of 'Die grüne Lüge (The green lie)', will be speaking at 7.00 p.m. in the Gewerkschaftshaus about the power of corporations and their devastating greenwashing strategies. Her presentation will then be followed by a discussion of the role played by Basel and the companies located here in this context.

Representatives of the core group of the "March against Monsanto & Syngenta" and of Multiwatch Basel

#### **For further information:**

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