

International Series

G8

THE SUMMIT IS
SITTING SO HIGH
THAT WE CAN SEE
WHAT IS HAPPENING
UNDER THE TABLE

Loesje

LAST WEEK
I JUMPED
INTO MY TV
TO SEE
WHAT IS IN IT

Loesje

ENVIRONMENTAL
POLLUTION

AFTER WATCHING
THE NEWS
AUNT RITA
RAN OUTSIDE
WITH HER
VACUUM CLEANER

Loesje

WHO HAS BUILT
THIS SPRINKLER
INSTALLATION
IN MY
LAPTOP

Loesje

GET A TICKET

FOR YOUR PLACE
IN THE TRAFFIC JAM

Loesje

IF YOU COUNT
ALL THE KM
TRAVELLED
BETWEEN
YOUR HOUSE
AND WORK
YOU COULD
ALSO BE IN HAWAII

Loesje

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Loesje

WITH MONEY
AS A UNIVERSAL
LANGUAGE
YOU CAN'T SAY
WHAT YOU THINK

Loesje

May 2007

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Colofon

Loesje

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Members only Page:

www.loesje.org/members
Login: member
Password: IntMem#&

Are you ready? For the ice-cream,
ice-clothes and icy fresh mood! It's
gonna be a hot
season! Check out the Loesje agenda if
you wanna a proof! One needs a good
refresh! Now check out the Loesje agen-
da again - there you'll find the way to
do it!

Lena



a g e n d a

8 May, 22 May 2007
Poster sticking in Berlin

12 May 2007
World Fair Trade Day

15 May, 29 May 2007
Textwriting. Berlin

20 May 2007
MDG ecological action. Berlin

all the month through:
editing the "Book in One Day"

3 June 2007
MDG action on environmental sustainability

9 June 2007
Black'n'White expression expo
+ "Still Wishes" expo

14 June 2007
MDG "Balloon action" at the Sternfahrt

21 July - 4 August 2007
Loesje summer camp. Latvia

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www.creativeacts.org
www.mdg.loesje.org



LOESJE ACTIVIST BOOKLET NOW AVAILABLE IN RUSSIAN



download it on
www.loesje.org
under download

Dear Loesje,

Always loved your writings, in Dutch those days.

Now I live in **Portugal** and your writings can do a good job around here. BUT Loesje Portugal doesn't exist? ...Not yet? ...Not any more?

I would love to help you around here!
Have a nice day!

Lín



**Loesje Summer camp in Latvia
21st of July until the 5th of August**

100% fun guarantee

This years locations of the summer camp has never been so exciting as before and we can know it since at our office we have over 25 years Loesje summer camp experience.

It is not far from Latvia's capital Riga and the place has even a sauna and a swimming pool and a camp fire place outside for those that miss their times as a boy (girl)scout. You can sleep inside in 1 of the lovely wooden rooms or if you are more the camping person you can put up your tent.

It would be great if you would come to **meet other Loesje people** and to **exchange ideas**, have fun, ask critical questions, **get inspiration for actions**, have good discussion, **party** and who knows even become friends (somehow this happens every year).

The **costs** for the summer camp are 160 euro's for 2 weeks and 90 euro's for 1 week. This includes food, accommodation (the price doesn't matter if you sleep in a tent or not) and an excursion. Travel expenses and drinks in the bar are your own costs.

So don't doubt just come and let's meet again.

You can apply for the summer camp on <http://www.loesje.org/members/>
username: member Password: IntMem#&



Loesje Free Speech exhibition in Indonesia

Paul Peters is director of the Erasmushuis in Jakarta. He got the plan to 'bring Loesje to Indonesia.' Therefore he got in touch with Loesje Half a year later Loesje is present in the south-east pacific.



The Erasmushuis is the cultural centre that belongs to the royal Netherlands embassy. It's situated near the centre of the city, behind a strong fence guarded by much security, like all important buildings. It's a very nice building with next to the offices a library, an exhibition place and a theatre room. A huge banner invites people to enter the place. The exhibition is especially meant for locals.

Director Peters wanted 'to show what street art can do to stimulate debate in society.'



Toilet room

Doeko and I travelled to Jakarta to create the exhibition and to give three workshops. We had great fun making the exhibition. Some preparations we made in advance worked out; others didn't. We are very happy with the final result. The exhibition contains on the wall A0-posters in Indonesian, English or Dutch always with translation. In glass display cases –covered with newspaper- lay A4 Loesje posters from the past 23 years. Next to that photos show actions and events of Loesje now and in the past.

Visual pieces are an electricity box with a poster stuck on it, a freedom of speech-wall on which visitors can contribute and a half open typical Dutch toilet room, decorated with Loesje-products such as a daily calen-

Of course he knew Loesje from The Netherlands ("I had a daily calendar of Loesje in my student house.") Besides Loesje also two local artists exhibited work. "In Indonesia we came across a few interesting parallel developments where language hits the streets to make people think twice about what matters in life", Peters says in the introduction of the brochure that goes with the exhibition. Shortly before May 3rd, World Press Freedom Day the Loesje exhibition is opened.

Loesje succeeds in countries with limited press freedom

Free speech and freedom of expression it sounds so natural for Loesje and the people engaged in her activities. But when you look at the 'press freedom index' yearly made by the independent NGO 'Reporters Without Borders' **it's rather shocking to see the ranking of many countries where Loesje is active.**

In total 168 countries are ranked. **Nepal** is ranking number 159 in 2006, now that there is peace press freedom will most likely improve. **Belarus** is ranking 151 and **Russia** 147, **Uzbekistan** where people want to start up Loesje is ranking number 158, **Armenia** 101 and **Indonesia** where Loesje just was 103. Number 1 on the list is the **Netherlands** together with Iceland, Finland and Ireland.

Remarkable is that the **USA** the country that claims to spread democracy and freedom is on place 53 together with **Botswana, Croatia and Tonga.**



phone Putin and asks him, so I did and I was wrong. Putin guaranteed me he wasn't obstructing free speech and press freedom, before I could ask a second question he hang up the phone. I tried to phone again but my phone was blocked.

Doeko

The part beneath is quoted from the Reporters without borders website.

"Reporters Without Borders compiled a questionnaire with 50 criteria for assessing the state of press freedom in each country. It includes every kind of violation directly affecting journalists (such as murders, imprisonment, physical attacks and threats) and news media (censorship, confiscation of issues, searches and harassment).

The questionnaire was sent to partner organisations of Reporters Without Borders (14 freedom of expression groups in five continents) and its 130 correspondents around the world, as well as to journalists, researchers, jurists and human rights activists. A scale devised by the organisation was then used to give a country-score to each questionnaire. The Statistics Institute of the University of Paris provided assistance and advice in processing the data reliably and thoroughly.

The index should in no way be taken as an indication of the quality of the press in the countries concerned."

www.rsf.org

The ranking might explain why in the Netherlands Loesje published many **critical texts with names of politicians** on it and in for example Russia the **texts are more innocent** about life in general that spread optimism in society and make people laugh.

But what is even more remarkable is that **Loesje somehow succeeds** in starting up (how small it sometimes is) in countries that obviously lack press freedom and free speech and the moment you become too critical towards the authorities you'll get prosecuted.

The past month I've been speaking with several people from Russia **that don't think that Putin is oppressing freedom of speech.** I thought let's

OUT NOW! - Masta #2: play



If you think playing is childish, go back to kindergarten. According to us, playing means openness, an imaginary mind and freedom of expression. Not getting stuck in dogma's or big ideas, but

experimenting and playing with your ideas.



Taking the freedom to change the world around you, expressing yourself the way you want. Playing is an act of ultimate freedom.

"If I can't play, it's not my revolution" Playing can be an art of creative activism. Not fighting against the world you live in, but changing it by creating the world you want to live in. An act of engagement and perception, a positive provocation. Making the world to go forward by playing with it. Next step in evolution: Homo Ludens, a playful humanity.



In the latest Masta you can see how people got inspired by play.

Download it now on

www.creativeacts.org



The next issue of Masta will be about: Drive

Masta #3 is about inspiration, your drive. What makes your world go round? Not like cars drive, but like what is your drive. It includes passion, inspiration, motivation, energy, dreams. Whatever keeps one going. A bit like oil, but cheaper. Does it ring the bells of

creativity? Does it start your brain storming? So don't be shy, break the borders and express yourself!

Go to the www.creativeacts.org and contribute



dar and a birth day calendar. The technical people from the Erasmushuis definitely had a lot of fun constructing this one.

Next to Loesje the artist Arya Pandjalu exhibited his pentacycle. It has four back-wheels that print messages on the street. Now the message was printed on the floor of the exhibition area. The street art group RuanGrupa covered one wall of the area with a huge painting. The exhibition will stay till June 2nd and travel on to another exhibition place of the embassy in Yogyakarta.

Opening

The exhibition was opened on April 27th by Renj van der Linden, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. He held a speech telling the importance of freedom of speech and making a connection with the work Loesje is doing as well as other people that use public space for freedom of expression. Visitors gave very positive reactions. We heard a lot of laughter. Indonesian people like to laugh anyway, we found out in our few days in Jakarta. Before and after the opening we did three

workshops. Participants were from several local NGO's, contacts from the embassy, teachers and students from

universities and artists. The workshops raised enthusiasm. Six students and a teacher told us that they liked the workshop and posters a lot, and they want to spread some in the campus of the university and start a Loesje-group. I am curious how

this will develop. I hope to hear from them in the future.

Personally

Next to the Loesje work, this trip was also interesting for me personally. Experiencing life on the other side of the world, although only for a few days, puts things in perspective. In Indonesia the gap between the poor and the rich is enormous.

Capitalism is building many shiny shopping malls with an uncountable number of shops before the eyes of people earning a living by owning only an umbrella with which they walk shoppers to a taxi when it rains. Prostitution is wide spread. Pollution is all around. Fortunately, a smile is also always there. We met many nice people. They are always in for a talk. I surely like to go back some day.

Marc



News from the Lowlands

Here in the Netherlands we had a lot of sticking-actions the past few weeks. We got magic powers; nobody got caught. Also the news in the Netherlands was dominated by the message that Loesje Amsterdam quits.

A lot of people thought that this was the end of Loesje, because they think that Amsterdam is the Netherlands. Luckily this is not true but it was a cool new confusing rumour about Loesje. Also a lot of people wanted Loesje Amsterdam to go on and so now we got a bunch of new enthusiastic people over there.

On the office in Arnhem everybody is trying to make the most delicious tosti of the year and fighting about a place in the tosti- 'apparaat'. We also got a new fashion over here: Indonesian T-shirts with a personal message, thanks to Marc and Doeko.

And everybody who is planning to come to the Netherlands this summer (or who might get there without planning), you'll be sure to spot some sunflowers since we had a guerilla-gardening action with all Loesje members over the whole country.

Lonja and illustration Ted



That is why it was even more inspiring to get the opportunity to meet young Nepali and listen to them about their views and plans. Both the members of WYPPF and **Loesje Nepal** are full of energy, inspiration, knowledge and a great interest in doing something good for their WYPPF have already started their information campaign and will train students about the MDG's and have written a song especially for the project. Loesje Nepal has an office of their own, but Raj lauding says that the members keep on coming to his living room instead... I'm curiously looking forward to hear more from our Nepali friends in the future. Being in Nepal gave me a great boost of energy and inspiration for this project and others.

/Rola

Black and white or white and black?

Now you got it!
Your chance to see the color attitudes of the guys from Holland, Finland, Serbia, Sweden, USA, Belarus, Italy, Germany and more.
This time in visuals!

Because the date for the black'n'white expo and the dream-expo (portraits of people taken while they are making a wish) is now set.

June 9th. 21.00
Karl-Kunger str. 55, Berlin
Dress code: black'n'white

See you there and keep nice mood and the color palette!

Still want to be in it?
You have your chance for the self expression if you send your emotions today.
You can send photos, drawings, text and so on that expresses your emotion. Please explain in short why you chose for specific colors in your work, if you did.

Mail to: lana@loesje.org



loesje in berlin...

On Sunday the 6th of May Loesje Germany/Berlin gave her first workshop! We were asked to give a workshop at McPlanet.com, a congress about globalisation and environmental issues that took place in Berlin.

Except from not being prepared and not expecting any participants, the workshop went quite well. We were 12 people from different parts of Germany (and two Dutchies) and with some improvisation everything finally went fine and we wrote very nice texts about the climate and its change, the environment, summer, gender equality, happiness etc. etc. For us it was a very nice experience. We had fun, we got good feedback and we spread some Books-in-1-day, Mastas #2 and posters. Is there anybody who wants a workshop?



Loesje in Nepal

In the beginning of April me and Doeko set off to Nepal to give a training to our partnerorganisation World Youth Peace Propagation Forum. They are part of the project *THE WORLD IS TOO ROUND TO SIT SILENTLY IN THE CORNER* in which we will spread information on the *Millennium Development Goals*.

Our Nepali participants were supposed to join the training in Berlin with us and the Uzbek, Kazakh and Latvian groups, but unfortunately the German embassy did not grant them visas. So we adjusted the project a bit and went to Nepal instead.

Stopping over the lovely Moscow airport (the ceiling is great and the Irish pub makes it endurable, but the rest..) and a short stop in Delhi we landed in Kathmandu valley. Ghana from WYPPF had already waited for us for a few hours and we were happy to see each other. We directly dived into the more than hectic Kathmandu traffic and dodged cows, mopeds, rickshas, cars, bikes and people, most of them honking their horns. After a while I learnt to get into a state of mind somewhere between panic and meditation when we were on the road, but we always got to our destinations without crashes.

Our hostel had the greatest view over **Kathmandu valley** that inspired us every morning. For the training itself we had a house in a gated community, that we kindly could borrow through Raj from Loesje Nepal.

Some of the Nepali Loesje members also joined the training, as well as the advisers from WYPPF. It was around 15 excited people who gathered in the house to *write texts, take photos, learn about PR and measurement of impact* together with us. We had a very fruitful and pleasant time, planning the local information campaign for Kathmandu and developing ourselves. For the photo workshop we had an infinite number of motives all around us and the creative textwriting gave many laughs as well as important ideas. One example is when we wrote about child labour someone wrote *"Ending child labour in Nepal - but what should they eat then?"* which unfortunately is ever so true. Also in our hostel, our daily lunch restaurant and the shop around the kids were working. Nepal is a great country with many assets, but also great challenges before all kids can go to, and stay in school; before everyone has access to clean water, enough food and safe working conditions.



VIDEO EXCHANGE BERLIN

overview



Was it really happening? Right! From the 26th of April till the 5th of May Loesje was having FUNtastic time. An you know what???

This time she put it on record!



There was something to see!



Freedom of expression was in use!



This time it has finally been discovered! The best way to turn for a workshop on time is dead easy: don't go to bed at all.

Yes, it was that busy. But for a good reason. Shooting, recording, spying, filming editing and...finally presenting. 16 nice short films out!

And now...going worldwide!

Who knows where those guys gonna meet again.. Hollywood? Bollywood? Or shall they already start setting Eurowood?

/Lena



w o r l d p r e s s f r e e d o m d a y

m a n y a c t i o n s a r o u n d t h e w o r l d

In the first week of May many actions connected to freedom of expression took place. All action were planned around world press freedom day, May the 3rd.

In Germany, the Netherlands and Latvia exchanges took place involving Loesje members and other organisations. The results are short movies, photographs, texts and theatre performances.



Besides these exchanges other Loesje groups organised workshops Loesje text writing, photography, collage workshops and even organising debates.

Some people did street actions such as in New York where Loesje posters were spread on 1 of the highest buildings. In several place people organised exhibitions such

as in Indonesia but also in Bucharest and Riga. Other people were just alone and started their own rite for themselves.

The coming week we expect to receive all results and after that the editing process will start.

As it looks now the book will contain more photos than last years book.

It's expected that the book and dvd will go to the printer before the 18th of June.

You can follow the process on



Workshop summary done in Serbia

"Drawings from a collective consciousness"

„- Dejan: Should one start and then we swap or we all start drawing at the same time?

- Ana: I think we should all start at once, than we'll put it into a whole later somehow.

- Goran: Ok, than we can start... communication, freedom and the world we live in are the topics.

- Vlada: Isn't it a bit too wide...?

- Goran: Well, maybe, let's try to do it and we'll see how it goes.



One paper, 4 people, 4 personalities (maybe even more), 4 styles of drawing and tastes and a bunch of leaving-a-trace objects. First lines are born, object start to appear. Paper is under the pressure, colors are flying around. After some time we reach each others area and than we look at each other. We agree to a new form of interpersonal creation.

When we all reached the same point in the picture, we stepped away and took a look at it. What kept us staring at a picture was the number of possible stories that on picture can tell and a number of ways to feel about it.

There are numerous ways to interpret one picture, as there are different ways to perceive the reality we live in. That is what freedom means to us, it is a colorful picture which gives birth to a new universe of diverse ideas, forms and entities. What we do share is the same vision."

