

## **From ghetto plan to citizen's democracy. The case of 'Ordinary Resistance' in Denmark**

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On March 1, 2018, the Danish Liberal-Conservative government introduced its plan "One Denmark Without Parallel societies — No Ghettos in 2030", a set of twenty-two proposals purportedly designed to combat "ghettoization." These 'ghettos' are identified through criteria regarding residents' income, employment status, education levels, number of criminal convictions and "non-Western background." The proposals limit the rights of people living in the areas. Courts are allowed to double the punishment for certain crimes if they are committed in one of the twenty-five ghetto areas. Other proposals allow local authorities to increase their monitoring and surveillance of "ghetto" families. Some of these proposals are clearly racialized and target families with ethnic minority and/or religious backgrounds. The plan has a strong class component. The proposals also include the possibility of demolishing buildings, of removing inhabitants (e.g. people without employment) to secure a "better" composition of residents, and of privatizing council estates. Hence, although the plan is racialized, the target group is not only ethnic minorities but poor people in general.

In opposition to the government's ghetto package, the Almen Modstand (Ordinary Resistance) emerges to organize and articulate neighbors' resistance against it. Ordinary Resistance entails an attempt to redefine the spaces defined by the government as ghettos and insert the housing struggle as part of the larger democratic struggle. The movement unveils thus the connection between space, class (low income and education) and ethnicity used to stigmatize social groups, particularly based on their ethnicity. On the other hand, Ordinary Resistance is mainly a democratic movement (in their horizontal and leaderless organization as well as in their demands) that fight against the privatization of housing (the imposition of economic interest over neighbors' interests) and the communization of the space (through shaping together a space for co-existence and diversity where neighbors' opinions matter).