

This is resistance

Since Resistance first went to press in 1999 everything and nothing has changed. The media hype around elections increases every year, as voter turnout reaches a record low – the last illusions in the Labour Party have gone, sold to the highest bidder. Rather than run the country on the behalf of the rich, the politicians have decided to let them run it directly, through privatization – of schools, of hospitals, of transport. They've cut out the middle man, and it's time we did too! No more 'representatives' in parliament, at the heads of unions or pressure groups – let's take this straight to the top. And although small, that is exactly what the anticapitalist movement did, meeting the summits of the IMF, WTO and G8 head on.

But it took the leaders themselves to smash the illusion of peace far better than any black block. With bombs on our news screens and on our buses they brought the war home. Bush and Blair welcomed us to the New American Century, courtesy of 4000 dead US UK soldiers, 49,600 dead Afghans and 1,168,000 Iraqis, as the planet experienced its first resource war. The world united on February 15th 2003 for the biggest protest in history, but without action, the war went ahead.

As the bankers in the square mile play with invisible figures, those figures have come home to roost, huddled together in trucks or under trains. The world's destitute have begun to flock to the centres of finance, and are shunted instead to the working class districts, desperate for homes, desperate for jobs.



So the far-right makes its comeback, as the rulers and their mouthpieces blame anyone but themselves for the crisis.

The gap between the wealthy and the impoverished is at its widest in 40 years, and the bottom earners now live for an average of 20 years less than the highest in the UK. Still, everything must be fine, statistics show that this is the lowest period of class struggle yet, with the fewest strikes worldwide ever recorded. But those looking for million man marches and general strikes are looking in the wrong place.

We know that wages are falling and you can't get secure, skilled jobs. That casualised service industry work will never pay for a home as the developers snap up the last council stock and the well off buy-to-let in boroughs they don't dare walk at night. And on top of it all we have to learn to smile and "have a nice day" as we earn enough

to buy the shiny consumables that keep the economy growing. In today's competitive marketplace, we must fight each other for the mangiest scraps from the bosses table.

It is when we stop that you will see it. When we stand up to the sell-offs and sackings in our services, taking all action necessary to increase our control. When we stop paying rent to the speculators and kick the landlords out of our communities. When the bailiffs once again will fear to tread in the streets that can't keep up the payments. When the boss can't offer us a middle management position to shut us up, and can't call in the agency workers because they are out too. When we get together to solve our problems without the cops. It can happen anywhere at any time, as long as there is a rich and a poor it will be there, we will be there: this is resistance ★

Sock it to SOCPA!

... And on the same day in other parts of Britain...

Milton Keynes and Cambridge saw demonstrations in support of the right to protest. In Liverpool protesters marched through the town centre to the town hall. Welsh activists handed out copies of the consultation paper and held a series of protests in Aberystwyth. The monthly peace camp at Aldermaston staged a solidarity 'Freedom of Assembly' demo outside the Atomic Weapons Establishment.

A demonstration in Oxford against a proposed new shopping centre took place in solidarity with the other anti-SOCPA actions as locals took direct action to prevent the fencing off of the square ★



Anti-SOCPA protest march

When Gordon Brown first took up the position as the new UK Dictator, he decided that the state should review the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 (SOCPA). The areas of attention are the clauses which restrict protesting within one kilometer of parliament. However, this is nothing to celebrate, but quite the opposite. He aims to extend this exclusion zone to the entire country to 'simplify' police activities. On the 12th January the Campaign for Free Assembly organised a gathering of people at Trafalgar Square to challenge the extension of this exclusion zone.

About 200 activists arrived on the day and after presentations by several speakers decided to march in to the exclusion zone. What followed was an array of spontaneous tactics. The march mobilised at Parliament Square and moved to a number of key areas on the basis of consensus by those participating. These areas included

the Ministry of Justice and Scotland Yard. Throughout the march well known protest chants were vocalised enthusiastically. The march returned to Parliament Square and it was at this point that confrontation kicked off. Protestors moved into the intersection between Whitehall and Bridge Street causing an interruption of the flow of traffic. The approach by the police quickly changed as they began to physically remove people from the area. The protest group then moved to Downing Street and a number of us joined the Kenya protest.



Several protestors including Brian Haw were then brutally arrested by the Territorial Support Group police (TSG) outside Downing Street. Those arrested only began to get released from Belgravia Police Station at 3.00am the following morning. Further action is planned by the Campaign for Free Assembly. Who's streets? Our streets! Refuse, resist! ★

On the frontline

A round-up of workplace struggles around the world in January

Belgium—A wildcat strike by railway conductors began after two were attacked on a train. There was at least 30% wildcatting at Brussels. Four hundred strikers fought police trying to prevent them occupying group headquarters.

New Caledonia—Workers at Carsud, the bus transport system for the capital Nouméa, struck over a colleagues' sacking. They began a general strike, rotating between different regions. Two hundred police were deployed to prevent the strikers occupying. Picketing workers were attacked with tear gas grenades, rubber bullets and batons. Those caught were beaten in police vans. Workers responded with stones, and clashes continued all night and into the next morning. Sixty three arrests were made with 12 strikers remanded.

France—Fourteen strikers required treatment after police charged blockades at the Miko factory in Saint-Dizier in January. Workers had confined the manager to his office and occupied the site. The ice cream manufacturer

recently announced a restructuring plan sacking over half of the 493 employees. Management has since offered redundancy packages of one month's salary for each year of service, rejected by the workers. Over 2000 jobs are going in a 200 km radius, mostly 45–50 year old women with little chance of new jobs. In Paris, posties began an unlimited strike against a 'modernisation' plan which will relocate a sorting office over 15km away.

At the nearby Areva TD factory in Montrouge, 89 striking workers occupied and blockaded the factory for four days after management announced closure plans.

Italy—three of the main unions called for a nationwide ports strike after two workers died in a port near Venice. Workplace safety is topical following a Turin steel plant fire in December which killed seven.

Bangladesh—garment workers continued the escalating protests and strikes over several weeks. Several thousand fought cops in the Dhaka Export Processing Zone pressing their demands for

improved pay and conditions and calling for the release of a leading militant. Three hundred and fifty factories closed for the day. As workers from 100s of factories converged, electric poles were used as barricades. Several factories were looted as the security forces struggled to regain control. Police baton charged and used tear gas; workers responded with missiles, burning tyres and blockades of main highways. The city's garment industry was completely paralysed. Strikers' demands centred on pay rises, holidays, medical facilities and immediate payment of arrears. Rampant inflation has constantly reduced real incomes and the grudging concessions won from reluctant employers ignore inflation.

Argentina—Check-in workers in Buenos Aires walked out after passengers stranded by a baggage handlers strike rioted on Saturday. Tempers flared as hundreds of travellers awaited word on suspended and cancelled flights ★

Government and the climate crisis

Climate change has already started, with devastating effects on people throughout the world. It's bad and getting worse, with workers and poor receiving the brunt and bearing the blame; we're 'addicted' to cars and air travel (not big oil) and the poor of Africa and Asia—already on the worst land—are the deforestation criminals.

Hot air (that smells bad)

It's the rich and powerful who, at first, ignored and then tried to deny that human-made climate change exists, despite the strong scientific evidence. Having been pressured to do something, they may have turned to cosmetic measures. Green wash is being used to soften dirty corporate images; a good example is BP's name change (formerly British Petroleum to Beyond Petroleum). When seriously pushed governments and big business prefer 'technical' solutions.

In bed with the enemy

Hold on, why target Big Business? Surely if we change our personal habits we can change the situation? It's true that we can do a lot of good by changing our obsession with consuming unrennewable resources. However it has to be pointed out that big business by far produces the largest percentage of CO2 emissions. So why aren't governments forcing big business to change its toxic habits? The answer lies in the relationships governments have with big business. Their system (market capitalism), is based on the few—the

bosses and politicians—exploiting and dominating many, and the environment. This world wide system of production and domination needs to continually grow in order to function. To consistently increase profit, new markets have to be created, old ones more thoroughly squeezed. By taxing the company's profits, governments can increase the tight grip over their citizens (investing in cutting edge military and surveillance technology).

The relationship is not a one way road, with government screwing big business for tax. It's symbiotic. The government enforces the profit system (debt collectors can call the courts and police for back-up when payment is overdue). When big business is in trouble financially the state usually steps in to prop them up with your money (the £23 billion spent saving Northern Rock after the board carelessly speculated on capital markets).

All Doom And Gloom? No

There are real solutions to climate change. Production must be for need determined by us, the working class majority, not profit. Bosses, politicians and leaders of all sorts are part of the problem, not the solution—a world run by the few for their profit and power. We need to organise, make decisions and act collectively, with our workmates and neighbours in order to maximise our power. It's our world, lets take it back ★

RIP Jan Kucera

On January 18th in Pribram (a town 50km south-west of Prague) 20 year old neo-Nazi Jiri Fous stabbed 18 year old Jan Kucera in the groin and back about an hour to midnight. A group of Nazis had been looking for trouble in town when they came across Jan and his friends. Fous pulled a knife and chased a small unarmed group of them into an apartment block, where he stabbed Jan who fought to the last to defend his friends. His family have said Jan was a staunch anti-fascist and would never hide the fact. His honesty cost him his life. To join the fight against fascism, visit Antifa.org.uk ★



Arm the homeless

Around 40 young people made homeless by rising rents in Reading took matters into their own hands on the 4th of January. The group had come together whilst squatting a women's hostel that had been shut down and left empty by the council. With notice of their eviction served they set their sites on empty student halls which have been left empty for over five years now. The halls could provide housing for near 100 people and are less than a decade old, but the university has decided to knock them down ... to build student halls?! Entry to the building was swift and the power was soon on. Unfortunately university security spotted the group and a fire alarm was set off, which can only be switched off by the Fire Brigade. This forced the squatters out to face the police who had now been called. Because they stood together in overwhelming numbers and weren't intimidated, the cops had to let them go (squatting is legal). Reading and London AF worked together on this, and expect to take direct action again soon: the rent won't pay itself ★



Into the future

The past century has been a nightmare! But, there has never been a better time to be an anarchist. The past century has been a nightmare for many of us. For a long time anarchists in Britain have played the 'supporting band' to state socialism (aka state capitalism). No more. The vicious attacks by the Thatcherite government on community and work place conditions has exposed the basic failures of Trade Union and Party (revolutionary or otherwise) organisation. The trade union leaderships' complicity in negotiating a 'settlement' with the political ruling class angered many working class folk. The betrayal of the 'socialist' Labour Party coupled with the historic failure of Marxist bureaucracy (exposed after the dissolution of the Soviet empire) left vast sections of the working class disillusioned. The collapse of the traditional left has opened fresh new opportunities for anarchist ideas and practice. Across the world anarchist ideas are being experimented and used to create: direct democracy, horizontal structures, autonomist, etc. This is clearly

demonstrated by the scale and nature of the anti- globalisation movement through out the 'noughties' (2000 and beyond). From J18 to the May day protests, the principal organising emphasis is non-hierarchical. All these have dwarfed the traditional locations of resistance against the boss class – the work place. The activists have continually rediscovered the timeless human condition: 'The emancipation of the oppressed is the job of the oppressed' We must win back of our lives to stop the wars, deaths and environmental exploitation ruining the planet. Capitalists and Politicians will NEVER solve the potential disasters that lay ahead of us. We need to organise, in our communities and workplaces in order to maximise our power and take control. Our method should be direct action: occupations, blockages, work-ins, wild cat strikes etc. There are some who say: ' we are prisoners to our past and held hostage by our future' This is bullshit, as autonomous conscious entities (exclusive to our species and perhaps alone in the universe) we alone are free to determine our future ... lets make it Anarchist ★



Black man in White House!

So America faces the prospect of a black president. Bring it on. Surprising thing for anarchists to say? Not at all. Maybe when every minority group has had a president it will become clear it is not who holds the position that is the problem, but the position itself. "Lots of young people like him, and lots of black people like him, but I think he's just the same as all the other politicians. I didn't vote in 2004, and I'm not sure who I'll vote for this time. If he becomes president, what is he going to do that everyone else hasn't tried? Obama doesn't have any magic wand or pill that's going to make everything better." ★

24 year old black Wal-Mart employee, quoted in The Guardian 25.01.08.

We're 100!

Resistance has now reached the magic number of its 100th issue. We've been coming out now on a monthly basis (with the odd holiday break) consistently since 1999. On top of this we've produced special runs of Resistance for various demonstrations and events.

We feel that the regular appearance of Resistance, a free newsheet explaining basic anarchist ideas and highlighting the acts of resistance against the system, big and small, has made a bit of a difference.

We want to make Resistance more effective in the coming years ahead. We think that we can help take part in the creation of a far stronger anarchist movement than has existed in Britain for a long time.

If you'd like to help, take copies of Resistance (even if it's only one or two extra for your friends) and send in news, article and details of forthcoming events.

We want Resistance to act as voice for a growing anarchist movement, but we need you to help us do that! ★

Conservative family values

Even out of power the Tories are good for a scandal or two! Conservative MP Derek Conway has found a nifty way to beat University bills his Party brought in – have your kid registered as an assistant and pay him £12,000 a year! Altogether a £45000 fraud, the fact that his son was at Newcastle University and Parliament is in er, London doesn't seem to have fazed him. He already pays his other son £32,000 in parliamentary allowances a year, and his wife is an 'assistant' on £3271 a month. And hey, everyone is at it – over 70 Tory MPs employ family members. In the same week Conservative shadow pensions secretary Nigel Waterson was nicked for battering his teenage kids – perhaps they'd asked for a raise! ★

Pat on head for Bingers

Ex health secretary Patricia Hewitt is so concerned about underage drinking she has called on the chancellor to raise taxes on alco-pops. A brave move – or it would have been if she was in the cabinet. As she has lost her job she can say what she likes – and she does. She has called on all parents to prevent their children from drinking whatsoever under the age of 18. Again this would be a bold move if [allegedly] both her own kids weren't out clubbing with fake ID when this author was at school with them [allegedly]. One rule for them! ★

Come to this!

INNER TERRESTRIALS
Politically charged punk and dub from the masters.

POWER CORRUPTS
DIY punk and ska.

HIROSHIMA BABIES
Walked up punk rock.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16th
CASBAH, SHEFFIELD
Doors 7:30
£7 on Door
£6 advanced guest list
(email name to sheffield@aaf-north.org)

all proceeds go to anarchist federation solidarity fund.
ANARCHIST FEDERATION www.aafed.org.uk

Why we want you to join

We want people to join the Anarchist Federation!

Working together makes us stronger.

New people bring new ideas and keep us fresh. They bring understanding of areas of struggle that we haven't thought of before. New members make it possible for us to distribute our publications further. We already produce 2,500 copies of Resistance each month (sometimes more) – we'd like to double that! We can be more effective when we are involved in struggles and campaigns. For new members it means meeting with like minded people, realising we're not alone and being able to work more effectively as part of a group project. If you want to join us, there are a few things you need to know first...

There are two things you need to do

1. Agree with our Aims and Principles – they are published in Organise and most of our pamphlets. They are also on the web. It's probably best if you've read Beyond Resistance too as it's something of a manifesto of ours and broadly represents our collective views.
2. Be prepared to work with us. That's a bit of a variable one. What we mean is that we aren't interested in having lots of 'members' who don't do anything.

The joining process

If you want to join then it's important

that you meet someone in the AF first. That's how we find out if you do basically agree with us and also how you find out whether you really want to be part of the AF. It's a two way process of getting to know each other, not an "interview".

Once you are a member you have exactly the same rights as anyone else. That means you can be an editor of one of the papers (Organise! and Resistance), have a voice when it comes to decisions, can go along to delegate meetings and conferences (We'll explain what they are in a minute). It means you can do one of the many jobs we need to keep the AF going. Or, of course, you can do none of these! It depends on your confidence and skills. However, we really do encourage new members to take on things. You also get to pay dues! Sadly as we live in a capitalist world we need money to do stuff. The lowest rate is £16 a year for unemployed people, £24 for those with a job. It goes up depending on how much you earn. We reckon 1% of wage or salary is reasonable – but obviously people with kids aren't expected to pay the same as those without.

How we organise

Throughout the year delegate meetings and conferences are a very important

part of our life as an organisation. As you can gather we have agreed policies and principles. We try to co-ordinate what we are doing and to work together as well as we can. To do this we need to meet together to discuss things. We don't have a central committee to tell us what to do. So once every three months we get together.

At Conferences we spend some of the time on routine business, but there is also plenty of time for discussion of our views and activities. All members should try and get to conferences. We try to make decisions by consensus, but if that fails we vote. Sometimes we decide that we need more time to think things over, so we are prepared to wait. It may not always be fast, but it does mean everyone's opinions are valued. National delegate meetings (NDMs) are held during the rest of the year. They are to allow routine business to take place and decide on day to day matters. We also try to work in some discussion at these. Plus there's always a good social evening (or two) during the annual conference weekend, so we do manage to mix 'business' with pleasure whenever possible!

If you want any of our pamphlets you can download them off the web, most are on our site but if you want the real thing let us know and we'll send them to you ★

Punishment fits the prize



Perhaps the judge who handed down indeterminate sentences of at least 15 years to the £53million robbers was genuinely concerned for public safety. The robbers carried guns, made threats and kidnapped the

family of the depot's manager, as well as tying up fourteen workers. So why did he give the gangs mastermind, Emir Hysenaj, a 20 year sentence? Hysenaj took no part in the raid or kidnap. And why such lengthy sentences when street robbers also use weapons, threats and kidnap – but routinely get community service? Simple. £53,000,000 makes it the biggest British heist of all time. And the fact that the robbers used movie quality make up, a combination of official uniforms and meticulous planning to avoid having to hurt a single person only pisses off the powers that be even more. Lets face it, you get 15 years for battering a pensioner to death – they don't give a fuck. But steal slightly more than a judge earns? You are direct threat to the status quo – an evil monster that might give people ideas ★

Anonymous is Legion?

After the Church of Scientology realised that their star player Tom Cruise was to most peoples' eyes, completely bonkers, they decided an internet video of said nutter being a nutter posted on Youtube should be pulled, citing copyright violation. Obviously the millions of net-heads who had been pissing themselves at his brainwashed baloney knew the real reason for their actions, and they were not amused. The shadowy internet figure of Anonymous swore to do deadly battle with the multi-billion dollar cult which has been linked to the deaths of at least 7 people. Immediately, Scientology's site went down as millions leached its bandwidth. Anonymous was making his presence known. When the Church called him a petty criminal and terrorist, statements from anon were released and aired on all major news sources – who sided with the hackers. The next step has been a series of 'real life raids' on the notoriously confrontational 'church', which will culminate in early February – see partyvan.info for details of your nearest picket. Is this Serious Business or is this an epic troll? Only time will tell ★

Fash hijack cops?

As 22,500 police marched through London demanding higher pay, who should lead their march but Richard Barnbrook, the mayoral candidate for the fascist BNP. Ex Brixton police chief Brian Paddick (who's boyfriend takes the reefer so he can't really be a bad cop etc etc) says he was 'uncomfortable' about this. We can suppose the Black Police Association and Gay Police Association were too. Really?

"I spoke to one of the organisers of the march and I explained who I was and he was quite happy about it," said Barnbrook. "We did some interviews for BNP TV. I spoke to a few Pcs and they were happy to talk."

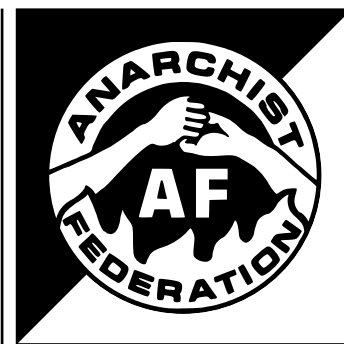
Certainly the police couldn't have told him to get lost if they wanted too. Fancy the police telling a protestor to move on. Never happens ★



Cop hijacks cops

Hats off to PC Geoff Jackson of the Tactical Support Group (formerly SPG, formerly Riot Squad, formerly 'mercenary thugs'). Keen to prove the TSG is just like any other group of violent hooligans and likes a laugh as well as fight, he got blind drunk after work and nicked A RIOT VAN which he then crashed "with such force one of its wheels had been torn off". Beat that.

(from internal pig mag 'Police News' 22.01.08) ★



The Anarchist Federation is an organisation of **class struggle** anarchists which aims to abolish Capitalism and all oppression to create a free and equal society. This is **Anarchist Communism**.

We see today's society as being divided into two main opposing classes: the **ruling class** which controls all the power and wealth, and the **working class** which the rulers exploit to maintain this. By racism, sexism and other forms of oppression, as well as war and environmental destruction the rulers weaken and divide us. Only the **direct action** of working class people can defeat these attacks and ultimately overthrow capitalism.

As the capitalist system rules the whole world its destruction must be complete and world wide. We reject attempts to reform it such as working through parliament and national liberation movements as they fail to challenge capitalism itself. Unions also work as a part of the capitalist system, so although workers struggle within them, they will be unable to bring about capitalism's destruction unless they go beyond these limits.

Organisation is vital if we're to beat the bosses, so we work for a united anarchist movement and are affiliated to the International of Anarchist Federations.

The Anarchist Federation has members across the British Isles fighting for the kind of world outlined above. Contact us at—

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www.afed.org.uk / www.iaf-ifa.org

Subscriptions to Resistance cost £4 to the address above for 12 issues. A two issue subscription to our magazine, Organise!, is also £4. You can subscribe to Resistance by email via the website above.

Subvert!

When going on demonstrations stay sober, don't talk to the police and if you're arrested give only your name and address then say 'no comment' to any other questions. Visit www.ldmg.org.uk

February

1—Peter Gelderloos, author of the book 'How Non-Violence Protects the State' will be speaking in the Cowley Club at 6pm (followed by a gig at 8pm: Karaktermoord from Holland plus others) 12 London Rd, Brighton. Email cowleyclub@yahoo.co.uk

6—Liverpool Defy-ID Meeting - campaigning against ID cards & the National Identity Register. 7pm Next To Nowhere, 96 Bold Street, Liverpool. Web: www.liverpool-defy-id.org.uk

8—Anarchist Prisoner Support benefit gig. Inner Terrestrials, KilnAboy, Rejected & Dirty Revolution from 8pm at Tjs, Clarence Place, Newport. £5 adv £6 otd. Web: news.southwalesanarchists.org

9/10—UK Indymedia Network Meeting. Hosted by the Sumac Centre, Nottingham

9/10—National Squatters Meeting in Leeds. E-mail: squatmeetup@googlemail.com

March

15—World against war demonstration against war in Afghanistan and Iraq. 12noon, Trafalgar square, London www.theworldagainstar.org

Smash EDO Tour 2008: For nearly 4 years the Smash EDO campaign have been demonstrating outside EDO/MBM, the US arms manufacturers, in Brighton. The campaign will be touring the UK (or beyond) and will be screening the new full length Smash EDO SchMOVIES film – On The Verge. Initially the campaign is looking for dates in March/April. The tour will allow those involved in the campaign to discuss tactics, get feedback, and organise for the future. If you want the tour to come to your town or city email: on-the-verge@hotmail.co.uk. View the On The Verge trailer at www.smashedo.org.uk or www.schnews.org.uk/schmovies