

# resistance

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# Betrayal in South America

THE PEOPLE OF South America have been betrayed by those they put their hope in to deliver real social change to their terribly impoverished living conditions. Their illusions that the popular leaders they gave office would bring them what they desired were dashed as it became clear that only the rich and powerful were being served (reminds you of Tony "Thatcher mark II" Blair, doesn't it?). Just a few years back there seemed to be a lot of hope for the oppressed workers of that poverty-stricken continent. After decades of largely peaceful struggle many thought that they were about to achieve a breakthrough. In many countries the so called 'leaders of the dispossessed' were gaining office in government.

Venezuela was first, with the presidency of Hugo Chávez and the "Bolivarian revolution". Then came Brazil, with Lula da Silva becoming prime minister, after nearly two decades of running, and losing, elections. Lastly, Evo Morales, the Bolivian leader of the cocaleros (coca-leaf growing peasants) and of the MAS (Movement Towards Socialism), who came second in the general elections. Many people thought that something was about to change.

Several years have passed since then, and we can now look back and take stock. Venezuela is a divided country, with a president that poses as the most strident anti-imperialist, while making business with the same corporations that ransacked the country for its natural riches. All the money from the massive oil exports have ended up in the hands of American corporations, of which Enron is only one



example. The relentless application of monetarist recipes for recovery has only plunged the country deeper into poverty.

In Brazil practically nothing has changed. Many were suspicious when Lula seemed favourite to win so early in the election. Soon they found out why. The secret deal he had brokered with bankers and international businessmen won him the position, and he dutifully began to apply the measures they advised. Cuts in welfare programs for the working class, cuts in taxes for the rich.... Again, disappointment.

In Bolivia, after the so-called gas wars, Morales started backing the new govern-

ment with its neoliberal policies, to the frustration of the peasants – who kicked him out of the COB general union in mid July.

There is a common thread running throughout these diverse experiences. The working class backs a leader to parliament, builds up a mass movement directed by a party, places the bloke in office ... only to discover that they are to be traded for a bigger share of power. The problem is not in backing one or another politician, or backing this party rather than that. The problem is in accepting leaders, and believing that parliamentary politics is going to bring about any meaningful change.

It is about time that we ordinary people started to organise ourselves collectively without leaders, using delegates rather than representatives. Many of us are already doing just that and we can learn from each others' struggles. In Latin America, as much as here. ★

## KEEPING OCCUPIED



AFTER A VISIT from an Israeli activist from Anarchists against the Wall, Manchester Anarchist Group have made a presentation available showing what the wall in Palestine is really about: [www.af-north.org/wall.htm](http://www.af-north.org/wall.htm) ★

## ON THE FRONTLINE

WE'LL START IN South Yorkshire where a strike by 800 drivers on First buses has brought public transport to a standstill. First are characterised

by regular accusations of management bullying and regular unofficial local actions. This strike is over crap pay and conditions has stopped almost all buses in South Yorks for nearly a week now (except for a few being driven by management) and there are no plans to discuss the dispute with management as we go to press - the strike itself is solid with overwhelming support from the drivers for the action and no sign of a return to work being on the cards.

Staying with transport, a strike is looking very likely on the Eurostar network, where drivers are angry at an inadequate pay offer and at attempts by management to turn different sections of the workforce against each other by offering different pay in different areas - workers in Ashford are paid £4,000 a year less than in Waterloo - and that pay itself has *not been raised for ten years!*

And just to complete the transport network hat trick, British Airways check-in workers at Heathrow and Gatwick, are on the brink of also walking out, effectively shutting down the airports to all travel, the dispute is over a pay freeze disguised as a reasonable pay increase and also the exactly the same salami chopping tactics to divide the workforce against each other as above - tactics that BAs management have become very skilled at during the cut-backs of the last few years. These are the same workers who managed to shut down the airports in a mass wildcat last year, so we already know they're prepared to put up a fight to maintain their conditions.

The fire-fighters might be coming out again as well, as they're still in dispute over their promised pay-raise, but with management still withholding the money.

Workers at Scotlands largest whiskey bottling plant (which produces Famous Grouse) are striking over a pay row - they are in a particularly strong position as each day of strike action costs the company £7 million - 94% of the workforce voted to support the action, so this could develop into a rather bitter little conflict. ★



## ALL GOVERNMENTS MURDER

MANCHESTER ANARCHIST FEDERATION went to a picket outside Marks and Spencer in the city centre on 24th July. The pro-Palestinian Victory to the Intifada (VI) has picketed every Saturday for the past three years. They chose M&S because of its financial support for the Israeli State. A few weeks before, Likud (right wing Israeli Zionist party) began an aggressive counter picket. If we had not known, we would have thought Likud were fascists from the British National Party or Combat 18.

VI have adopted a policy of not talking to Likud, not wishing to be involved in violence and knowing that M&S would use this as an excuse to slap Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) on them. Amongst the Zionist group were big, aggressive men resembling football thugs hiding behind baseball caps and high-buttoned jackets.

Their role was to provoke VI through racist and homophobic insults. ASBOs would suit them just fine. Also present were ordinary Jewish people with their sons. Few Zionist women were there. The kids handed out leaflets referring to the



pickets as National Socialists, the Nazi Party's name in Germany.

### What made this a shocking demonstration?

Because of so much fear and aggression, neither group was engaging in any discussion. The VI adopted dignified silence as their tactic. Likud heavies made sure that no Jews could talk to the VI. The riot police made a wall between them. Anarchists believe in connecting with individuals on a human level. When we tried to talk to the thug element they said, "If you don't understand the question, you are too unintelligent to talk to." They labelled us as unintelligent just as the Nazis labelled their victims in the Holocaust. Labelling people means you can treat them as less than human which is exactly what the Israeli State is doing to the Palestinians. Manchester Anarchists talked creatively to the more ordinary Jews, putting forward an Anarchist solution of no state and showing how all the leaders were murdering workers and children, Israelis and Palestinians. One aggressive Likud member screamed repeatedly at the VI demonstrators, "One state or two? One state or two?" We would answer "NO STATE but an Anarchist World." ★

### WHO KILLED SHEFFIELD JOHN?

A TEENAGE WORKER has died after being buried under tons of rubble on a construction site in Sheffield. Eighteen year old John Morton was suffocated under rubble when a ten foot deep trench collapsed on top of him. A co-worker, Dan Thompson, suffered multiple injuries. Firefighters had to haul away mountains of shale, bricks and stones to get to them, but too late. The 'accident' is now being investigated by the police and the Health and Safety Executive. The safety record of construction firm TG Beighton Ltd - who made no comment - is under scrutiny.

In incidents like this - all too common, unfortunately - the word 'accident' is both overused and often just plain wrong. Unskilled, inexperienced - and therefore cheap - youngsters frequently work at the outer edges of safety and are often sent into dangerous situations *because* more experienced workers won't go there. Such refusals are the last line of defence for workers. The company health and safety reps turn a blind eye on danger, union reps are rarely seen on sight and shop stewards sacked as soon as they question working methods. Workers who know the danger do sometimes refuse to do the work but only get away with it because the developer wants his profit and won't risk a walk-out or delays. Teenage workers

who don't are the ones who pay the price in crippling injuries or - in John's case - a horrible death, with choked mouth and crushed limbs.

The sad fact is that such deaths are becoming more common, not less, as time and money - not safety or sound construction - rule the building sites. But construction firms are rarely blamed and almost never prosecuted, except in really blatant cases. Laws and union lobbying have not changed a thing in fifty years. Its time for building workers to take their workplaces back, and that means getting organised around the real issue: will they be alive when its time to knock off? Or will they be just another statistic and a time-consuming insurance claim at corporate HQ? ★



## AM-BUSH-ED!!

ON JUNE 28th, protesters successfully disrupted George Bush's visit to Ireland at Shannon airport. A participant writes...

We assemble at the peace camp at the Clonmoney fly-over, the head of the march formed by the Mid-west Against Military Aggression banner, next a cluster of red and black flags, and alas but a solitary green and black.

Heading off up the open road with energy and enthusiasm, a zeal tempered with only a little trepidation, the stock of hooters recently acquired from Catalonia added a celebratory cacophony to the chants of 'Whose Streets? Our Streets!'

As we advance up the Dual Carriageway a desultory attempt is made to stop us, police hurriedly erecting a steel crowd control barrier. A few people run to it's sides, a few more run to it and hop over, or push it aside, and we are through, the path cleared for the main body of protesters.

As we approach the junction and flyover of the section of road reserved for the leaders of the free world, a more serious attempt at blocking our path is made.

About one hundred riot cops sealed off both lanes of the road.

We fan out across both lanes.

The Prime Time special live from Drumoland showed the American press corps running to take their seats, and this was the headline news across the United States i.e. protesters delay summit press conference, with mentions elsewhere, e.g. Lebanon, Turkey, Mexico, Portugal.

Now as riot police resolutely blocked our path, as had previously been agreed it was time to find an alternative route.

We turn; head back in the direction from whence we had came, back towards the peace camp.

At Ballycasey Beg, we turn and go cross country through wasteland at the rear of the industrial estate at Smithstown, and reaching a Lufthansa building ran straight into two Irish Army armoured cars. Breaking through the so-called "security cordon".

Refusing to be intimidated by armour or lines of balaclava clad riot cops, the mood was festive and celebratory as well as defiant. We expressed our feelings about the ridiculous coercive apparatus

unveiled by the Irish state by surrounding and blockading the two armoured cars. It was probably the best demonstration in Shannon since the mass trespass on October 12th 2002, or perhaps even the best.

The extent of popular support that the protesters had restrained the police and army, forcing them to adopt a softly-softly approach. The action worked because it wasn't planned or organised by a small group of people, but was a product of many groups who were able to respond creatively and dynamically as the situation changed.

Finally the 3 people in a boat, who breached the security cordon according to Garda, plus the woman who was to play

Lady Macbeth and was arrested on a harassment charge, as well as one person arrested on Friday night in unclear circumstances, all these people will need support.

Our naval unit makes it's next court appearance on 3rd of September in Ennis courthouse. ★



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## TRUCKERS' BLOCKADE

PORT TRUCKERS ACROSS the US have been taking direct action in response to declining conditions. Spikes in fuel costs, together with generally worsening conditions as truck brokers undercut each other- passing the losses onto the owner/operator drivers- drove truckers in Los Angeles to blockade freeways during the early morning commute on April 30th. This inspired other truckers to picket shipping lines at the ports of Stockton and Oakland. The Oakland picket lasted eight days until the port authority obtained a court injunction which intimidated the truckers from blocking the main gate of American President Lines.

The State's latest tactic has been to pick three of the de-facto Oakland leaders and charge them with disruption. A nationwide event was planned to start on June 28th, calling on *Non-Troquois* to picket- "Economic torture can be used by the workers as well... The Oakland 3 are victims of **economic imprisonment**, a state of the art tool to keep workers from organising". ★

## OCCUPATION OF IRAQ

THE SECULAR FAMILY Status Law that Iraqi women fought for and won in the 1950s- and which gave them more rights and freedoms than enjoyed by any other women in the middle east- was nearly abolished by the US-controlled Iraqi Governing Council (IGC). In a secret vote on December 29th, the IGC passed *Resolution 137*, which would, if approved by Paul Bremer, have replaced the secular code with Islamic Shar'ia law. This particular resolution was eventually defeated by women's protest, but was a close call.



In other occupation news, the *Iraqi Federations of Trade Unions* is being lined up internationally as the only legitimate trade union in Iraq- such that any more militant workers' organisation is likely to be crushed.

For information about the radical "*Federation of Workers Councils and Unions in Iraq*" please visit [www.uiraq.org/](http://www.uiraq.org/) ★

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## TENANTS FIGHT BACK

COUNCIL TENANTS LIVING in a tower block in Stockport are opposing recent "upgrading" of their security system which, along with the installation of extra CCTV cameras, has also seen the introduction of "electronic PAC fobs" in replacement of the old key system. The use of these swipe-keys to gain entry to the building is closely monitored, providing security with information on exactly who is in and out, and when the flat is empty.

All visitors and tenants will now be monitored, as they now have to gain access through security.

One tenant has already had their fob blocked for dropping it out of their window to a visiting relative. Tenants are fighting back against the system by swapping fobs with other tenants on their block on a regular basis, so as to preserve access but disrupt the monitoring of their movements by the council security guards. This new system isn't exclusive to this area, and other tenants experiencing the same invasion of privacy are encouraged to follow a similar line of action.

For more information, contact [mrwinstonsmith@msn.com](mailto:mrwinstonsmith@msn.com) ★

## INSIDE INFORMATION

### War resisters released

Five young men imprisoned in Israel for refusing to kill for the state, are to be released on September 15th. A military committee has recognised their substantial support for other inmates, and been forced to acknowledge that they are committed conscientious objectors.

The *Refusers Parents' Forum* wishes to express gratitude for support received, as it undoubtedly contributed to the decision to reduce their sentence by a quarter. A public campaign will commence shortly, as they need continuing support.

For more information visit: [www.refuz.org.il](http://www.refuz.org.il)

### UK Prisoners

**James Borek** LL6803, HMP Blundeston, D-108, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 5BG Sentenced in January 2004 to four and a half years for injuring a cop during the June 18th 1999 "Carnival against Capital" riot in London's financial district.

**John Bowden** 6729, HMP Glenochil, King O' Muir Road, Tullibody, Clackmannanshire, FK10 3AD Long time prison resister.

**Keith Pringle** CB0078, HMP Whitemoor, March, Cambs, PE15 OPR

Keith has been inside for 11 years and continually harrassed for standing up for himself and other prisoners, rioting, dirty protests, and general disobedience. Recently fitted up for threatening to kill a screw landing him with another 3 years just when he was due for release.

### European Prisoners

There's a steady stream of reports of extensive repression from Italy. Ecological anarchists, squatters and ALF activists are more and more active, but are also facing more arrests, raids and random fit-ups. The following five anarchists were accused of belonging to a fictional armed anarchist organisation, and fitted up by the infamous prosecutor Marini in a trial ending on April 20th, 2004.

**Gregorian Garagin**, Via G. Leopardi 2, 61034, Fossombrone (PU), Italy (sentenced to 30 years)

**Francesco Porcu**, Via provinciale San Biagio, 81030 Carinola (CE), Italy (sentenced to life)

**Carlo Tesseri**, c.c. La Dozza, Via del gomito, 2, 40100 Bologna, Italy (sentenced to 3 years 10 months)

**Alfredo Maria Bonanno**, Via Papiniano 1, 34133 Trieste, Italy (sentenced to 6 years)

### Tagged

Seventy asylum seekers in Scotland are guinea pigs in a pilot scheme in electronic tagging.

They will be tracked by satellites. The Home Office say they will be able to pinpoint which side of the street a person is walking down. The government have plans for three contracts in England and Wales, and one in Scotland, which aim ultimately to cover 18,000 asylum seekers. Entire families fleeing persecution could land here, only to be tagged- further victimising people already at rock bottom.

For more prisoner information, please contact the **Anarchist Black Cross** at [www.brightonabc.org.uk](http://www.brightonabc.org.uk) ★



## Subvert and resist

Take precautions when going on demonstrations and don't take cameras, booze or drugs. If you're nicked give your name and address then say 'no comment' to any other questions.

### AUGUST:

**3rd-9th:** EarthFirst! Summer Gathering. Non-hierarchical anti-capitalist direct eco-action summer camp in the west midlands. For more information: [www.earthfirstgathering.org.uk](http://www.earthfirstgathering.org.uk). Phone: 0845 3550111

**5th:** Manchester Social forum, Friends Meeting House, 7.30 pm.

**20th - 29th:** No Borders camp in Rivesaltes, France. Latest in a series of camps over the last few years fighting against state borders and for the free movement of human beings. [www.rivesaltes2004.org](http://www.rivesaltes2004.org)

**20th - 22nd:** Anarchist Youth Network Summer gathering, Birmingham. Gathering of younger UK anarchists, organised and administered by themselves. Everyone welcome. More information from [wmanarchists@email.com](mailto:wmanarchists@email.com)

**23rd:** Mass non-violent direct action against nuclear bases in Scotland. Coulport and Faslane will be targeted: More info at [www.tridentplowshares.org](http://www.tridentplowshares.org)

**27th - 30th:** Reclaim the Bases summer camp. Aldermasten (near Reading) sees this years' anti-militarist summer gathering. More info: [www.reclaimthebases.org.uk](http://www.reclaimthebases.org.uk)

**29th - 2nd:** Smash EDO Protest camp. Campaign against arms dealers EDO, who manufacture weapons in Brighton. Protests throughout the week. Contact [thewallmustfall@hotmail.com](mailto:thewallmustfall@hotmail.com)

## Subscribe to resistance

- I enclose £4 (£6 EU, £12 Rest of the world) for the next 12 issues of resistance bulletin (cheques payable to "AF") and send to AF, PO Box 375, Knaphill, Woking, Surrey, GU21 2XL
- I enclose £4 for a year's subscription to **Organise!** the magazine of the AF.
- I am interested in the **Anarchist Federation** and would like more information.

Name.....

Address.....

## Join the resistance

The **Anarchist Federation** is an organisation of **class struggle** anarchists aiming 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 Britain and Ireland fighting for the kind of world outlined above. Contact us at: **Anarchist Federation**, 84B, Whitechapel High Street, London, E1 7QX. Tel: 07946 214 590 Visit: [www.afed.org.uk](http://www.afed.org.uk) Email: [info@afed.org.uk](mailto:info@afed.org.uk)