

RESISTANCE

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Suicide Sparks Mass Anger in Greece



Last month saw spontaneous protests break out in Athens following the suicide of Dimitris Christoulas. The retired pharmacist shot himself on the morning of Wednesday 4th April, in Syntagma Square, adjacent to the Greek parliament. In a note left at the scene, he wrote:

“The government literally nullified my ability to survive ... I find no solution other than a dignified end, before resorting to going through garbage for food.”

“One day, I believe, the youth with no future will take up arms and hang the national traitors at Syntagma Square, just like the Italians did with Mussolini in 1945.”

News of his death spread through the Greek capital, and by that evening a crowd of around 2,000 protesters had gathered in the square. News network Al Jazeera reported chants of “this was not a suicide, it was a state perpetrated murder” and “blood flows and seeks revenge.” Fighting broke out, with police hurling tear gas grenades and flash bangs into the crowd, who responded with rocks and petrol bombs. Protests rumbled on over the following days.

Suicide rates in Greece have risen by 20% over the last two years, as the government has imposed increasingly severe public sector cuts while Greeks are facing falling living standards, frozen wages, and rising unemployment.

Refugee Evictions

Over 150 refused refugees in Glasgow are facing being thrown out onto the streets by “Ypeople”, the former Glasgow YMCA, which currently holds housing contracts from the UK Border Agency (UKBA) in Red Road and other locations. Their contracts, some from the end of May, are being transferred to Serco, a huge multinational corporation that also runs deportations and security in detention centres. This injustice is happening at the same time as the Scottish Government has cut funding to the Scottish Refugee Council and Glasgow City Council has cut funding to community groups which support destitute and homeless refugees. The real people of Glasgow, however, are not about to stand idly by and let 150 refugees - including people with severe medical problems, and pregnant women - be made homeless. There are 19,000 empty flats in Glasgow; no one

should be sleeping rough. Capitalism, greed, and the state and police that protect them are the only things keeping people homeless.

A large coalition of Glasgow residents supporting the Glasgow Destitution Network have called a national demonstration for the 20th May but are also planning a series of actions leading up to that date, beginning with a protest on Saturday 21st March at the UKBA office in Glasgow. The network is determined to stop the evictions and to directly challenge the appallingly unjust law that tries to send people back to war zones. In recent years, under both Labour and the Coalition, the UK government has cut back on granting refused refugees exceptional leave to remain. This means increasing numbers are not allowed to work unless they sign a document saying they will return to their country of

origin voluntarily as soon as possible. Signing the document means that even if they are able to obtain new evidence, or if the situation in their country of origin becomes worse, they cannot appeal their claim to asylum. Effectively, UKBA is blackmailing people to go back to life-threatening situations as they are either forced to abandon their cases and be sent back to the countries they have fled, or become homeless and destitute in cities across the UK when Christian charities like Ypeople evict them.

Glasgow isn't going to stand for this. For more information, check out the Glasgow Destitution Network, <http://destitutionaction.wordpress.com/>, Unity, unitycentreglasgow.org, or the Glasgow Campaign to Welcome Refugees, at <http://www.gctwr.co.uk/>.

Bahrain Unrest Smoulders On

The ongoing campaign against the dictatorial Bahraini government escalated this April, with protests against the imprisonment of Abdulhadi al-Khawaja. The Bahraini-Danish activist began a hunger strike in February, and at the time of writing has not been heard from in days and is feared dead.

The struggle against the regime in Bahrain began over a year ago, part of a series of uprisings that swept

across North Africa and the Middle East in the spring of 2011. It started with protesters occupying Pearl Roundabout in the island nation's capital, Manama (reported in Resistance #130). After a month-long occupation and repeated attacks by the police, which left hundreds injured and several dead or missing, the square was finally cleared by police with tear gas and shotguns. This was the start of months of brutal repression, in which government forces,

backed up by Saudi-Arabian soldiers and tanks, crushed protest marches and arrested and killed rebels.

Fourteen months on, the struggle continues. On 6th April protesters attacked police vehicles with Molotov cocktails, during street fighting in the village of Jidhafs, west of the island's capital. In another village, Eker, a homemade bomb was detonated injuring three police officers. Elsewhere angry crowds were attacked by government forces with tear-gas, water cannon and stun grenades.

Bahrain is a constitutional monarchy under the rule of Hamad Khalifa, and along with neighbouring Saudi Arabia, is a close ally of the United States - the US's 5th fleet is stationed in the country, along with the US navy's central command NAVCENT. Both Bahrain and Saudi Arabia are member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council, a bloc of six monarchies bordering the Persian Gulf.



Anonymous China Take Down Government Websites

Hackers working under the banner 'Anonymous China' successfully took down hundreds of websites on Thursday 5th March. The websites of a number of Chinese government bureaus were targeted, although national government sites were unaffected.

The hacked sites were replaced with messages telling people how to avoid government internet restrictions, as well as calls for an uprising against the government: "Today websites are hacked, tomorrow it will be your vile regime that will fall" read one website following the action. On another, hackers wrote: "We demonstrate our revolt against the Chinese system. It has to stop! We aren't asking you for anything,

just saying: protest, revolt, be the free person you always wanted to be!"

As well as the websites that were taken down, the phone numbers and email addresses of over 800 Chinese officials were leaked to the public.

The group behind the hacks, Anonymous, is a loose internet community that grew up around the website 4chan.org. In recent years Anonymous has become increasingly involved in online "hacktivism": internet hacking as a political action. Previous targets have included the Church of Scientology, PayPal, and the US Government. Anonymous' icons include Guy Fawkes masks, suits, and the slogan "we do not

forgive, we do not forget".

This is the second time Anonymous has targeted Chinese websites. Several months earlier they exposed Chaoda Modern Agriculture, a Chinese fruit and vegetable supplier, for corporate fraud.



The General Strike in Spain

The following is a summary of an article by the CNT (National Confederation of Labour, an anarcho-syndicalist union) about the General Strike in Spain that took place on 29th March. Workers took to the streets not only to protest against the severe cuts in

how many people went out on strike, one thing was made very clear to both the government and bosses: the workers are waking up. Despite the huge media campaign that sought to disqualify and disparage the strike and the threats made

to distort the results of the strike, it was impossible to hide the huge turnout for marches which exceeded all predictions and left no doubts as to where the working class stands over cuts and the government's new labour reform. This was demonstrated by the success of the mobilisations that CNT and other grassroots organisations organised independently of mainstream unions, most notably in Madrid and Barcelona.



social spending but also against the new labour reform which has dealt a huge blow to workers rights in Spain. (Taken from CNT newspaper No. 388 [April 2012]).

by a number of companies to prevent workers from walking out, the look on the faces of ministers and industry leaders was one of fear, not victory.

The large number of workers that marched to defeat the labour reform – not to negotiate it – demonstrated not only the resurgence of the working class but also their support for a different type of unionism outside of official lines. And if anyone is aware of the power of the working class when they take to the street it's the government and the business class.

CNT will continue fighting until it achieves its goal: the complete scrapping of the labour reform. To achieve this, CNT asks for working class unity on all fronts as it's only together that we will achieve our aims

After the usual media circus over

As much as the government tried

Pensions Fight Continues

Teaching unions last month signalled more strikes on the way in the ongoing struggle over public sector pensions. Cuts imposed by the coalition government would result in increased pension contributions, amounting to cuts in workers take-home pay, as well as raising the pension age to 67.



Unions struck last year on 30th June, and again on 30th November, which saw millions stop work in the biggest strike in a generation. But a further strike day on 28th March this year saw workers divided, with union officials from UNISON, PCS, GMB and others pulling out of strike action, and NUT and UCU only strik-

ing in London. Union leaders called off strikes or allowed only limited action, despite overwhelming strike votes from the membership, 90.5% voting to reject the government's deal in the case of civil servants' union PCS.

Pension cuts will begin to take effect from April 2012, and the country's biggest teachers unions, the NUT and the NASUWT, have responded by calling for further strike action starting in the summer term. This is likely to include regional days of action and at least one nationwide strike before the end of June. The decisions were made at the unions' national conferences by delegates from around the country.

In addition to the ongoing dispute over pensions, the NUT are striking in Nottingham this April over plans to shorten the summer holidays and introduce a five term year.

The Unions: Who Are They?

UNISON: The UK's largest union, with over 1.3 million members in the public sector.

GMB: General trade union with over 600,000 members nationwide, including manual workers in schools, the NHS, utilities, distribution and retail.

PCS: The Public and Commercial Services Union, with 250,000 members, most of them civil servants.

UCU: The University and College Union, made up of university and college teachers, with over 100,000 members.

NASUWT: A school teachers' union with over 280,000 members across the UK.

NUT: The National Union of Teachers, covering England, Wales and the Isle of Man with over 300,000 members.

Workfare Picket in Bournemouth

Anarchists descended on Bournemouth High Street on 31st March as part of a coordinated National Day of Action Against Workfare. Members of Surrey & Hants Anarchist Federation, Solent Solidarity Federation, IWW, Portsmouth Anarchists and Bournemouth Uncut came together under the banner of Wessex Solidarity (<http://wessexsolidarity.wordpress.com/>) and held pickets outside two Holland & Barrett stores.

The picket aimed to raise awareness amongst the public about the real implications of Workfare and also to show that any company participating in the scheme will be met with some rather unwanted publicity. Leaflets were handed out outside both stores to passers-by and a letter was handed to staff at one of the stores

outlining the negative implications that the scheme will inevitably have on their own jobs.

The location of the picket was decided upon after the announcement that Workfare could form no less than a quarter of Holland & Barrett's workforce. That means a quarter of Holland & Barrett staff could be working for free or face having their benefits taken away. Unsurprisingly, one of the managers of the picketed stores claimed that the company was "creating jobs" although he seemed to have forgotten there is no guarantee of a job after the enforced (unpaid) placement.

The picket came after coordinated action earlier in the month against Workfare in the Surrey and Hamp-

shire area with pickets taking place in Portsmouth and Egham. Anarchists in Surrey and Hampshire will be continuing to raise awareness about Workfare and letting any company participating in the scheme know where they can stick their free jobs.



Wave of Direct Action Saves Jobs and Departments at Royal Holloway

After a year-long campaign of direct action to defend courses and teaching staff at Royal Holloway, University of London (RHUL), education activists, including members of Surrey & Hants Anarchist Federation, have won in their battle with senior management.

The campaign has seen students, lecturers and other staff coming together as stakeholders to decide their approach to cuts on campus. The group, 'Royal Holloway Anti-Cuts Alliance' (RHACA), has campaigned tirelessly this year since the news broke in summer 2011 that courses and departments were set to be axed, with the added implication and discussion of compulsory redundancies.

Working against the grain of a culture of apathy and indifference at RHUL, RHACA have held open assemblies which have initiated lobbies of the College Council and a high-profile occupation of the senior management corridor and Principal's office in solidarity with the November 30th lecturers' strike called by the Universities and Colleges Union (UCU). The occupation lasted 8 days before disbanding due to victimisation and High Court notices being issued on behalf of the senior management team. Acting as a platform to raise awareness over the proposed cuts to departments such as classics, modern languages and computer science, the occupation also put pressure onto management over incompetence such as wasteful spending and a failure to engage the stakeholders affected by the proposed cuts and redundancies.

Though senior management tried to warn the activists against any future protest, with the implicit threat of imposing a year-long court-enforced ban on such activity, such as those attempted at Sheffield and Birmingham universities, RHACA have continued to lobby the College Council with the support of the RHUL UCU branch. Now they have received confirmation of their achievements: a halt to department closures and compulsory redundancies, down from thirty to zero, and a commitment to putting money into expanding the library.

The news has been welcomed by activists within both RHACA and the UCU branch, who have campaigned often at a personal cost out of a commitment to the cause. However, efforts are now being turned to demanding greater transparency, accountability and democracy in the university structures and

processes which initiated the debacle in the first place. The tangible results of the year's campaign look set to continue into the next academic year, with the RHUL students' union now committed to supporting direct action including occupations in defence of education.

The Sparrows' Nest

Run by a collective of dedicated Bookings, the Sparrows' Nest was established in late 2008 as a 'Centre for Anarchist Culture and Education' in Nottingham. Its library and archive holds an ever growing collection of books, papers and pamphlets, open to everyone.

The Bookings need your help to finance running costs, enlarge the collection and to preserve the precious and often fragile papers in the collection!

If you want to help the Bookings, please send a cheque (made payable to "The Sparrows' Nest") to:
 The Sparrows' Nest
 Box AF
 Sumac Centre
 245 Gladstone Street
 Nottingham
 NG7 6HX

If you can support them regularly please set up a standing order. £5 or £10 a month would be a massive contribution to the Bookings' work.
 Sort Code 12-34-56
 Account No 12345678

info@thesparrowsnest.org.uk
<http://thesparrowsnest.org.uk>

www.sheffieldbookfair.org.uk

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International Prisoners - Robert "Seth" Hayes

Robert Hayes was born in Harlem, New York in October 1947. Growing up in New York City, Hayes saw for himself the poverty and neglect in the black neighbourhoods. After his schooling in New York City, Mr Hayes worked as a psychiatric aide. He was drafted into the U.S. Army and sent to Vietnam. He was wounded in combat and was awarded four medals, including the Purple Heart.

In the armed forces, Seth underwent a change of consciousness. After



the death of Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968, Seth's troop was ordered to patrol the city streets with fixed bayonets to put down the rebellions resulting from Dr King's assassination. "It was the saddest day of my life," Seth remembers, "and I could never identify again with the aims of the armed forces or the government."

Seth joined the Black Panther Party. He worked in the 'free breakfast for children' programme and became convinced that the Black Panthers' program of community service and community self-defence was what was needed. His work, like that of so many others, was disrupted by the FBI attack on many radical organisations known as COINTELPRO.

Fearing further attacks he went underground and was involved in the activities of a Panther offshoot, the Black Liberation Army. Captured and sentenced to 25 years to life

in prison in 1973, Seth has been a prisoner now 39 years! He has been diagnosed with Type II diabetes. He has been extremely ill and had great difficulty procuring the necessary healthcare. He also suffers from Hepatitis C.

He has refused to be broken and has worked in prison as a librarian, pre-release advisor and AIDS counsellor. Whenever possible, he has taken college courses. He is also a long-time advisor and collaborator in the annual Free Political Prisoners Calendar project. He is dedicated to continuing to work for social justice when he gets out of prison.

Write to Robert Seth Hayes at:
Robert "Seth" Hayes
#74A2280,
Wende Corr. Facility
P.O. Box 1187
Alden, NY 14004-1187
USA

"Yesterday, Subversives. Today, Terrorists"

The "Day of Remembrance for Truth and Justice" is a national holiday in Argentina that takes place on 24th March of each year and commemorates the thousands that were murdered at the hands of the state during the military dictatorship. However, the day is also an opportunity for bourgeois democracy to exploit the atrocities of the past for its own political ends.

As President Cristina Kirchner took to the podium and spoke live on Argentine television about the "love", "honour" and other "universal values" that her government represents, ordinary people were out on the streets protesting against the President's own human rights record and highlighting the fact that, whilst the government might like to promote itself as "democratic", it is increasingly acting in ways reminis-

cent of the old regime.

Marches took place across the country against the repressive measures being taken by the government to criminalise protest and dissent. A major cause of anger has been the implications of the new "anti-terrorist" laws that are being used to arbitrarily detain any individual or group involved in organised resistance or direct action. Protestors were also calling for the dismantling of the police intelligence gathering system, named 'Project X', which has been used to secretly gather information about activists and militants. Protestors also displayed pictures of those killed on marches during President Kirchner's government and called for an end to widespread police impunity. The largest rallies were in Buenos Aires and in La Plata, where around 2,000 people marched through the

city filling the walls with graffiti and stencils.

A report compiled by various Argentine human rights organisations, which documents the number of activists arrested or killed on marches during the period 2001-2012, was handed to the President. Of the more than 4,000 arrested, 63% were either labour activists or involved in indigenous rights campaigns.

On a day when the government sought to capitalise on a dreadful era in the country's history, ordinary Argentines took to the streets to show the darker side of President Kirchner's political agenda. As the Argentine anarcho-syndicalist organisation, FORA, puts it, "the methods are refined but the essence doesn't change: control, persecute and eliminate the 'problem makers'."

Prisoners' Support

Here Resistance lists some prisoners' contact details so that messages of solidarity can be written to them. Go to the Leeds Anarchist Black Cross site and download the 'Writing to Prisoners' PDF. The leaflet can be printed-out, photocopied and distributed by local anarchist groups. Anarchists can set-up prisoner letter-writing sessions and use the Leeds ABC leaflet as a way of advising people about writing to prisoners. Also check all ABC sites for more addresses.

Ravi Gill is the only remaining anti-fascist still in prison out of the seven who were convicted at the Welling Trial in June 2011. Please send Ravi letters or cards expressing solidarity.

Ravi Gill
A5770CE
HMP Wayland
Griston
Thetford
Norfolk
IP25 6RL

Omar Ibrahim was sentenced to 18 months in November 2011 for throwing a smoke bomb at Topshop on the March 26th 2011 Anti-Cuts demo. Omar writes a blog from prison: 'banged up for protesting'.

Omar Ibrahim
A0253CH

Peterborough Prison
Saville Road
Westwood
Peterborough,
PE3 7PD

Joseph Binney was sentenced to two years in prison for actions on the March 26th 2011 Anti-Cuts demo.

Joseph Binney
A5569CH
HMP Highpoint South
Stradishall
Newmarket
Suffolk
CB8 9YG

Oguz Ornek was sentenced to 18 months for actions on the winter 2010 student protests.

Oguz Ornek
A6914CH
HMP YOI Glen Parva
10 Tigers Road
Wigston
Leicester
LE18 4TN

Richard Bezzina imprisoned for 20 months for participation in the August 2011 London Riots. Note that Richard struggles to read and write. But still write solidarity cards and letters to him that London Anarchist Black Cross will be able to forward to him.

Richard Bezzina
c/o London ABC
Freedom Bookshop
Angel Alley
84b Whitechapel High Street
London
E1 7QX

Richard Craig was sentenced to 20 months for participation in the August 2011 riots.

Richard Craig
A9989AH,
HMP Wandsworth
P O Box 757,
Heathfield Road,
London,
SW18 3HS



Alfie Meadows Solidarity Demo

On the 26th March a crowd of around 150 people gathered outside of Kingston crown courts to protest in solidarity with Alfie Meadows who was beginning his trial that day. During the student protests of 2010, Alfie was brutally beaten by riot police, knocked unconscious by a police officer's baton which caused serious bleeding in his brain cavity. The injury could have easily resulted in his death but thankfully after brain surgery he made a strong recovery. He was one of 38 other protestors

who were hospitalised that day.

Members of Surrey & Hants Anarchist Federation group and Staines Anarchists attended the protest to show solidarity not only with Alfie Meadows but with all students who have been put on trial, imprisoned and subject to the brutality of the police because of their involvement in the student demonstrations. The police officer who beat Alfie so badly that he almost died is not on trial, the police officer who murdered Ian

Tomlinson has not been imprisoned and it has recently come out that there probably will not even be a public investigation into the murder of Mark Duggan. This is yet another example of the completely unaccountable and vicious institution we call the police doing what it does best, we must at the very least support those who have been attacked and are lucky enough to have survived. Solidarity forever!

Sheffield Black Rose Centre

Like Social Centres in other towns this is an anti-capitalist space for people to get together to discuss ideas and take action for social change. It is also a space to share skills and food, run events and watch films in a non-commercial setting. This social centre is run without leaders (non-hierarchically) with a "safer spaces" policy that rejects racism, sexism, homophobia and all other forms of oppression.

The Black Rose Centre is an alcohol and drug free space. We aim to make this space a practical example of what we can achieve when we work together.

If you have any ideas of events you would like to run in the space that fit with the principles of the project (or would like to get involved) please come along to our next general meeting – these happen every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month.

What will be happening at The Black Rose Centre?

- Public meetings and discussion groups
- Bitfixit café, offering computer maintenance and free wi-fi
- Drop-in clinics for people having problems at work
 - A radical library
 - Sheffield Anarchist Archive
 - Art workshops
 - Skill-sharing

The centre will be open until 10:30pm in the evening.

Black Rose Centre website:

<http://sheffieldsocialcentre.org.uk/>

Liked *Resistance*? Try *Organise*

Organise! is the Anarchist Federation's theoretical and historical magazine. It is published in order to develop anarchist communist ideas. It aims to give a clear anarchist viewpoint on contemporary issues, and initiate debates on areas not normally covered in agitational journals. You can order or subscribe online at www.afed.org.uk, or get in touch with your local AF group for a copy.

Subscriptions

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£3.50 UK/£4.00 EU /£4.50 rest of world

Annual subscription to *Organise!* (two issues, saving a pound a year or 50p an issue):

£6 UK/£7 EU /£8 rest of world

Resistance subscription (10 issues per year, to cover postage and packing) is:

For UK addresses only: £8.00

Anywhere in Europe: £15.00

Rest of World: £20.00

ANARCHIST FEDERATION

The Anarchist Federation is an organisation of class struggle anarchists (based in Britain and Ireland, but with many contacts overseas) 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 (like the IRA) 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.

NATIONAL CONTACT

Web: www.afed.org.uk

organise@afed.org.uk

England & main national/international email address

Resistance editors
Resistance, BM ANARFED, London, WC1N 3XX

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resistance@afed.org.uk

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International of Anarchist Federations:

Organise! editors
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<http://i-f-a.org/>

LOCAL GROUPS & CONTACTS

Scotland/Alba

scotland@afed.org.uk
<http://scotlandaf.wordpress.com/>

Edinburgh & the Lothians
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Strirling
stirling@afed.org.uk

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cardiff@afed.org.uk
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Leicester AF
leicester@afed.org.uk

Leeds AF
leeds@af-north.org
<http://yorks-afed.org>

Lincoln AF
lincoln@afed.org.uk

Liverpool AF (including Merseyside)
c/o News From Nowhere Bookshop

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liverpool@af-north.org

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nottingham@afed.org.uk
mansfield@afed.org.uk
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