

resistance

anarchist bulletin

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Where there's blood there's profits

THE TALIBAN ARE overthrown and the "terrorist training camps" are in ruins.

So why are more troops being shunted into Afghanistan? For the sake of a few Taliban leftovers up the mountains? When it's more trouble to go after them than to leave them there?

The answer lies to the north of Afghanistan in the oil and gas fields of Central Asia. This is the traditional turf of Russian imperialism but now Uncle Sam wants to move in, and has done so with new bases all over thanks to the "war against terrorism"

These largely unexploited resources represent a new Middle East but the heart of the question is "who gains?" – the rulers of Russia, the U.S., China or Iran? The problem for them is getting the oil and gas out of the region and to the world market. As it stands all of the pipelines are under the control of either Russia or Iran. So for the last few years the U.S. government have been looking to develop new pipelines, to Europe, and most importantly to South Asia. The only way south to the markets of India and Pakistan, other than Iran, is Afghanistan.

In Afghanistan local warlords are offering their services to rival imperialisms. Russia backed the Northern Alliance to take Kabul against American wishes, while various rulers in the north and east are being supported by Iran.

U.S. Army documents written less than two years ago openly call for military intervention as a way of controlling Central Asia for U.S. corporations. One of them talks of the need to be "willing to commit even military forces" otherwise

"Russia will be able to exclude all other rivals and regain hegemony over the area."



And they are not planning to leave: "When the Afghan conflict is over we will not leave Central Asia. We have long term plans and interests in this region."

says U.S. Assistant Secretary of State, Elizabeth Jones. Next target is to be Iraq. Getting rid of the Butcher of Baghdad?

Well that was what was happening in '91 when the working people and mutinous soldiers rose against the Hussein regime. Then the U.S. airforce massacred deserting troops and ended open hostilities so as to give the

Republican Guard a chance to quell the rebellion.

The real interests involved in the U.S. Middle East policy are economic and strategic. Look for example at the corporate interests in Saudi Arabia:

"Since 1981, U.S. construction companies and arms suppliers have earned more than \$50 billion in Saudi Arabia ... U.S. investments in the country reached \$4.8 billion in 2000 ... The U.S. oil giant Exxon Mobil Corp. recently was chosen by the Saudi government to lead two of three consortiums developing gas projects worth \$20 billion to \$26 billion." (Washington Post 21/9/01)

And strategic in that being the military strongman in the region gives the U.S. ruling class a bargaining chip with the economies which are dependant on imported Middle Eastern oil (the E.U. and Japan for instance).

So what can we do to combat the cycle of slaughter and retaliatory slaughter?

Recent opinion polls show a majority opposed to any new offensive on the Iraqi people, if even a small fraction of the country took action the Blair machine would be knocked off it's tracks.

There is an airfield or recruiting office near you, just waiting to be blockaded.

There is also the work of counter-information, of countering the murderous lies put out by the corporate media. Such as this bulletin and the poster illustrating this article (both available from London AF, contact details on back page, or produce your own).

Read more on this issue on at:
www.struggle.ws/freearth.html

ON THE FRONTLINE

THE DISCONTENT ON the Railways is still rumbling on as Arriva ticket office workers staged one day strikes timed to coincide with a work stoppage by conductors - which demonstrates the possibilities for linking up the different struggles that the bosses and unions are trying to keep fragmented. Commuters in the North of England were able to enjoy free travel for the day, and can look forward to more of the same in the first week of April when further stoppages are planned, whilst drivers from First North Western have announced their own series of one day strikes straight after Easter. Drivers on the Tyne and Wear Metro system have also decided on a series of one day strikes.

Half of **London's** schools and around 500,000 kids enjoyed a day off on march 14th as teachers protested about cost of living allowances. Staff at **Manchester** airport are also out on strike over proposed job cuts- a one day stoppage on 22nd March was followed up with a four-day walkout over the Easter weekend.

Big trouble is brewing in Consignia/Royal Mail over 15,000 proposed job cuts - this on top of the already announced 30,000, and another 10,000 already. The cuts are a result of the privatisation plans - as the most profitable section, the bulk mail business, is being split off and opened up to competition, leaving the normal mail delivery section to fend for itself - despite the vital social service it performs. The unions will of course be talking up their determination to stand and fight, whilst at the same time, working hard to minimise any chances of proper action that could put them at risk of losing funds. PO workers need to link up directly between themselves, deciding what action to take and when, and if possible extend this link up to other struggling workers.

Things are hotting up abroad as well especially in **China** where up to 50,000 protesters gathered every day at the Daqing oil field in Heilongjiang province for nearly two weeks to protest at cuts in severance pay and heating subsidies promised them when they were sacked three years ago, and an increase in unemployment insurance premiums. In Liaoyang workers are protesting against the privatisation of vast swathes of industry, and attacked the government offices. Where this could possibly lead is shown by the wave of killings of repressive bosses. Important struggles have also been taking place in Kerala (**India**), as public employees went out on strike, **South Korea** where a number of big disputes are taking place, most importantly the power workers - and a general strike is looking likely for the first week in April. ★

CELEBRITY PRAT OF THE MONTH

POOR OLD (HAT) Billy Bragg. The folkie singer songwriter must have his fingers in both ears (or up his arse?). He's still stuck in the tired rut of leftie thinking - vote Labour and keep voting for them even when they're elected as the capitalist government.

On his latest album the troubadour of tripe pleads: "Can you hear us? Are you listening?/No power without accountability!" Not just shit lyrics - shit politics too!

For Bilious, some people feel driven to action such as trashing McDonalds because Labour hasn't acted on issues they care



Bragg: Prat

about, such as fox hunting. The radical alternative he proposes to direct action is reform of the house of lords, though apparently, "It's not a question of whether there are hairdressers in the house of lords. They are no better than captains of industry". Well, we think Bill must have hair for brains if he thinks governments ever have been or can be accountable.

The only "accountability" is direct control over our streets, neighbourhoods and workplaces through direct action, which means social revolution and an end to the puppet show of parliament. ★

NOTTINGHAM SQUAT TO BE EVICTED

LONG-TERM SQUATTERS in Nottingham are due to be evicted from their home by the City Council. The grade 2 listed building that has been occupied since 1998 had been neglected by the council and up until its occupation was in an awful state of disrepair, the squatters known as 'The Forest Lodge Collective' had carried out repair work, fixing leaks and unblocking drains, which, had they been left would have resulted in serious structural damage. They have also decorated, had heated the building protecting it from damp.

The council have refused to show that



they have any plans for the building, or to enter into dialogue with the squatters. James Slater of

the Lodge Collective said: "*It is our belief that the council have no plans for the building and that as before they plan to run the building down, maybe because they can't afford to renovate it, because they have spent too much money on an un-needed tram system, or because they plan to build a leisure centre in the area of the Forest Lodge*"

Visit the campaign website at www.forestlodge.150m.com

Email: theforestlodge@hotmail.com

PERSECUTE A POLITICIAN!

FORMER ARGENTINE PRESIDENT Raul Alfonsin's doorstep was transformed into a boxing ring when the old git came to fisticuffs with angry protesters banging pots and pans and shouting "thief!" Lacking pots and pans, Argentine passengers on a flight from Europe banged their seat belt buckles together to protest against the presence of Foreign Minister Carlos Ruckauf.



Ruckauf and Alfonsin are from different parts of the political spectrum, but both were targets of public anger that has exploded as Argentinians blame politicians for a crisis in their country. "The people repudiate all of us," said Alfredo Avelin, a Peronist governor of San Juan province.

In elections in October 40% of voters turned in spoiled or blank ballots - "nobody" won more votes than any of the political parties.

Every Friday in the district of Belgrano, hundreds of residents gather by posh homes of politicians to demand that they leave the neighbourhood with shouts of "Oooh, kick them all out, don't let a single one stay." "We are going to keep banging

our pots and pans ... until they leave. We don't want these thieves in the neighbourhood," said one fuming resident on a muggy summer evening.

One legislator was forced to seek refuge in a cafe and wait for police protection after an livid mob threatened him.

Wigs, hats and dark sunglasses have become the latest fashion among politicians who do not want to be recognized. ★

RESISTANCE IN ITALY

ON MARCH 27th the Italian working class once again demonstrated that it will not allow itself to be walked all over by the Berlusconi's vicious attacks on their social conditions. Three million people demonstrated in Rome bringing it to a standstill - and this despite the states clear message that it is prepared to return to the 'strategy of tension' of earlier years, if these protests continue. The target of this demo was the labour reforms that will make it easier for bosses to fire workers, then re-hire them at lowered wages. The anti-reform movement has grown rapidly in recent weeks, with protests of hundreds of thousands of people showing their anger in different cities. The next step is the 'General Strike' called for April 16th - the first since 1982 - and after that... ★

MAYBE MAYDAY

FOR SEVERAL YEARS anarchists and others in Britain have been holding events on Mayday, International Workers Day, to celebrate our struggles against capitalism and the state and reclaim our revolutionary history (see **resistance** #1). This year in London a "Festival of Alternatives" will be held on and around Mayday. This is a mixed bag with some events about the anarchist alternative to capitalism and some events more about alternative lifestyles *within* capitalism. Check out the website www.ourmayday.org.uk or Tel: 07786 716 335 to see if anything interests you.

The libertarian socialist group *Solidarity* put it well when saying what they



though was worth getting involved with:

"*Meaningful action*, for revolutionaries, is whatever increases the confidence, the autonomy, the initiative, the participation, the solidarity,

the equalitarian tendencies and the self-activity of the masses and whatever assists in their demystification. *Sterile and harmful action* is whatever reinforces the passivity of the masses, their apathy, their cynicism, their differentiation through hierarchy, their alienation, their reliance on others to do things for them and the degree to which they can therefore be manipulated by others - even by those allegedly acting on their behalf." ★

BLACK BLOC BATTLES IN BARCELONA

MARCH 9th-16th saw a week of protests against the European Union (EU) summit. Up to 600, 000 people were involved despite police intimidation (ID checks, stop and searches), violence and the labelling of the protesters activities as "terrorism" by the Spanish government.

On March 9th 3,000 were involved in a reclaim the streets party, followed the next day by a 400,000 strong protest against plans to re-route Spain's largest river.

One hundred thousand trade unionists marched on the 14th, and 20,000 people took part in a range of de-centralised demonstrations on the 15th called by the "Lobby Busters" group against the power of multi-national companies.



A massive 500,000 people marched through the streets of Barcelona on March 16th, including a sizable red and black bloc against the European summit. There were black bloc groups, libertarians, CNT (anarcho-syndicalists), squatters, and many anti-capitalist and radical activists marching together with red and black flags, and shouting anarchist slogans.

There was direct action against symbols of the state and capital (two police stations, dozens of banks, military and judicial buildings, offices of a trade union), confrontations with the police, including attacks against their squads and vans, barricades, and the presence of thousands of people refusing to run away and shouting together VIVA LA ANARQUIA (long live anarchy), and POLICIA ASESINA (police assassins). This created an atmosphere of fiesta and revolt, of rage and revenge for the repression of the previous day, and all the repression, arrests and tortures of our comrades who fought all over the world, from Seattle and Prague, to Gothenburg and Genoa. In Barcelona it showed again that the struggle against global dictatorship of state and capital is not retreating due to repression and has not sold out to the reformists. The only limit is a world without states, borders, exploitation and oppression. We carry a new world in our hearts, and we make it alive through our efforts to destroy the existing hierarchical and repressive society. ★

TIME BOMB



Italy 1977

ITALY 1977 SAW a spontaneous and creative outbreaks of rebellion demonstrating that the potential for revolution still exists in the working class of the industrialised west - no matter what the leftie cynics say.

Tension built up throughout 1976 with the growth of *autonomi* (groups outside traditional left / Union formations) and the Circolo Del Proletariato Giovanile (Circles of Proletarian Youth), both strong in the slum areas of the great northern industrial cities. They developed many confrontational tactics directly linked to working class needs. The most successful was *autoriduzione* (self-reduction), where price rises in essential commodities were not paid, or communities decided a 'fair' price. Direct sabotage of capitalist property was also popular - blowing their cars up, beating up particularly authoritarian bosses, or refusing to let them enter the factories. These tactics grew in popularity, worrying both the leftists and the capitalists, as all relations of dominance were brought into question.

Things blew up in Bologna in early 1977, when Lama, the leader of the Stalinist CGIL Union went to the University to lecture members of the Circolo and Autonomi (who used it as a base) and students, arguing they should join the Communist Party. He was chased from the building, and only saved from serious harm by his security team and the cops he had brought with him. The University head called in cops to restore order, sparking off a fierce battle leading to the occupation of all the university facilities, which became the focus for workers and students meeting (as in Paris 1968).

This soon developed into larger public manifestations, culminating in the physical capture of Bologna for three days in March, following the shooting of a demonstrator. An eyewitness wrote that "Downtown, numerous shops and luxury restaurants were looted; side by side with young proletarians, old pensioners could be seen fleeing happily, pushing handcarts full of delicacies. For once in these streets and squares people were *communicating*...over the next few days police found scores of guns and rifles hidden in improbable places, the fruit of an armoury raid." Similar episodes occurred in Rome, Milan and Turin. Radio Alice was set up, and broadcast the movements of police and troops, which helped extend the occupation. Eventually the movement was repressed, with all the political parties working hand in hand with the judiciary, but the lesson remains - anything is possible! ★

Revolutionary Anarchist

Summer School

A day of discussion organised by the Anarchist Federation.

Including:

- What anarchism is
- Building the free society
- The free society realised



All Welcome

27th April,

10.30am-4pm

Big Issue office, Pace House,
25 Summer Lane, off Constitution
Hill, Birmingham

Email: brumafed@hotmail.com

Tel: 07866 443 407

INSIDE INFORMATION

Finnish anti-militarists

ALL PRISONERS LISTED below have been sentenced to up to 197 days in prison for total refusal from both military and alternative service, and agreed to have their prison addresses published. Please write to them:

Valo Lankinen, (15.1.-2.8.2002), Pyry Nurmi, (17.10.2001-4.5.2002), Suomenlinnan tyosiirtola, Suomenlinna C 86, 00190 HELSINKI Finland

Sadri Cetinkaya, (15.10.2001-1.5.2002), Helsingin tyosiirtola, PL 36, 01531 VANTAA Finland. Sadri Cetinkaya is an anarchist.

Lauri Uusitalo, (7.1-24.7.2002), Satakunnan vankila/Huittisten osasto, Toivarintie 581, 32700 HUITTINEN Finland

Ville Laakso, (29.1.-16.8.2002), Kylmakosken vankila, PL 101, 37911 KYLMAKOSKI Finland

Andras Lahdelma, (23.1-9.4.2002), Ari-Pekka Tamminen, (6.1.-20.7.2002), Laukaan vankila, PL 55, 41341 LAUKAA Finland

Day of action in solidarity with Mark Barnsley

DEMAND THAT HOME Secretary and Sheffield MP David Blunkett takes action in the case of Sheffield man Mark Barnsley, the victim of an appalling miscarriage of justice. Mark has so far spent nearly 8 years of a 12 year prison sentence in the worst conditions that the prison system has to offer.

Day of action - Saturday 13th April
Picket of the home secretary/ Sheffield MP David Blunkett. Meet at 11 am (prompt!) Meadowhall bus station (Near Sheffield).

Followed by information stall and mass leafleting in Sheffield city centre 1.30 pm onwards on Fargate.

You can write to David Blunkett (in Braille if possible) at: 50 Queen Anne's Gate, London, SW1 9AT

Email: gen.ho.@gtnet.gov.uk
Write to: Justice for Mark Barnsley - PO Box 381, Huddersfield, HD13XX,
E-mail: barnsleycampaign@hotmail.com
Web: http://www.freemarkbarnsley.com

You can write to Mark directly at: Mark Barnsley WA2897, HMP Whitemoor, Longhill Road, March, Cambs, PE15 OPR

Prison, Racism and Injustice - a conference, 8th and 15th May.

THIS CONFERENCE AIMS to introduce some of the many cases of injustice within the prison system. Satpal Ram has been in prison since 1987 after defending himself in a racist attack in which one of his attackers died. He has suffered further injustices once inside: he's been moved to 72 different prisons and suffered beatings.

Another speaker will be representing Gary Mills and Tony Poole. These two men were tried in Bristol in 1990 for the murder of Hensley Wiltshire. They have been in prison for 13 years, but they still claim to be innocent and remain inside.

Among others invited are Raphael Rowe from the M25 two. Despite being released he was never recognized as innocent for a crime he didn't commit and he did 11 years inside. Also invited are the campaigns on behalf of Mark Barnsley and Winston Silcott.

On the 15th of May, the speakers are coming to represent the Angola three campaign (see **resistance** #33).

Bristol Prisoner Support Group- ABC, c/o Kebele KP, 14 Robertson Rd, Easton, Bristol BS5 6JY ★



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.

APRIL - 11th: *Nought for Conduct* anarchist film club presents "Mujeres Libres" (Free Women) Women in the Spanish Revolution. Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1. Nearest tube Holborn. Wheelchair access. £2 waged, £1 unwaged.

20th: Anti-fascist mobilisation in London. For more info contact London AF.

20th: Legal Defence and Monitoring Group benefit gig. From 8pm at Union Tavern, Camberwell New Road, SE5, (Bus 36 or 185 or short walk from Oval Tube). Cost £5/£3 concs. For more info Email: ldmgmail@yahoo.co.uk

24th: Henry Kissinger, the world's greatest living war criminal, is coming to speak to top business people in London. Kissinger and the Corporate Criminals. Come to the Protest. 8.30am, all morning, Royal Albert Hall, South Kensington tube.

24th: Simon Jones memorial campaign day of action against casualisation. For more info Email: simonjonesaprilaction@hotmail.com

27th: Revolutionary Anarchist Summer School. In Birmingham. Organised by the Anarchist Federation. See advert inside.

MAY - 1st: International Workers day, Events around the world. See article inside.

9th: *Nought for Conduct* anarchist film club presents 'Zero de conduit' Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1. Nearest tube Holborn. Wheelchair access. £2 waged, £1 unwaged. More info from London Anarchist Federation.

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- 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
Email: anarchistfederation@bigfoot.com