

resistance

anarchist bulletin

Free/Donation
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A brutal attack on every worker

By a Spanish member of the Anarchist Federation living in London.

I CAN SEE the picture on the internet of a maimed corpse lying at a spot where I used to go for a walk with my dog. One of the train stations where the explosions took place is down the road where I used to live. I took the train there every morning and travel to uni at about the same time when the attacks happened. That was a few years ago. My friend is still working in the botanical garden, across the road from the main station, where most of the carnage took place. I couldn't speak with him until late at night. He's all right but very shocked. The local meeting place of the CNT (anarchist union) is nearby and we used to go to bars in this area for a drink after the meetings. Well, all these are painful memories now.

All this zone is the main working class area in Madrid, some of the most conscious and militant workers in Spain. It is obvious that those who did this have no regard for life, at all. Whether they were muslim extremists or Marxist Basquian separatists they have shown the conception of the human being that underlies their ideologies. They despise people, they simply don't care about suffering as they considered themselves devoted to a superior cause or abstract being. Something that transcends real persons, individuals, who can then be sacrificed by the dozen. For the muslim extremist, what counts is his selfish will of salvation, self-salvation, carried ahead in despite of the others, who are the instruments and victims of his holy war. Religion and carnage, that's pure fascism. For the Marxist nationalist the individual must be submitted to ideology and the

hierarchy, so as to achieve a supposed better world. Only that this is again carried ahead against the will of the individual members of that society, that are tools in the hands of the bureaucrat.



Defaced Popular Party poster

That is why I am an anarchist, as probably also were more than a few of those who died today. The difference is that we privilege the individual whose freedom and happiness are our real goals. We don't care about gods or heavens, as we believe only in this real world, that of people who work and laugh, suffer and struggle with courage. Real people, that's all we need, not superstitions and myths that justify death and hatred. We don't care either about economic abstractions according to which increased production means increased happiness. The real persons, individuals, are what we care about, people like those who died that day. That each one of these normal people is happy, or that at least has all the means to be, is our goal. And this must begin,

obviously, for absolute respect to life.

There's been a lot of speculation about who did this, and we've seen the shameful show of politicians trying to take advantage of it, making this and that declaration. They don't care either about normal people, but we knew this already. Same as banks, big companies and corporations, none of which interests have been attacked now, but which have been consistently opposed by the very conscious working class population of the area affected by the blasts.

To all my CNT and anarchist comrades living in the area: Rodri, Juani, Hector, Quicar...I still don't know, at the time of writing this, if you are all right. Keep up the struggle for freedom and justice. ★

In Madrid, this 11 of March, we are killed again. We, the workers, the people, are again the victims, this time maimed and shattered in the most brutal way. We, the workers, the people, are always the victims of all terrorism. Those that are called so, and those others that are in disguise. We are the victims of unemployment, bad housing, misery, manipulation, exploitation, causalisation...we are used in every war, in every power struggle, by every fanatic, by every power. We are the victims of their decisions, of interests and wants of groups that use us to hide behind and bargain over.

In Madrid, in Iraq, in Palestine, in Afghanistan, in New York, in Chicago, in Bilbao, in Russia, in Chechnya...every where we are killed for causes that are not ours.

We must state clearly and loudly, that only we, the workers, those of us who don't have bodyguards or armoured cars, who don't decide on any one else's lives and futures, can mourn really our death. We can say clearly and loudly, with real pain, that we are one with the victims and their families, because they are us.

A wordless hug, from the heart, to all those affected. Their world destroys us, lets build up our one.

National Committee, CNT ★

ON THE FRONTLINE

WE'RE PLEASED TO report another aggro packed month in UK workplaces

Wildcats in the post office

About 100 postal workers walked out of the West Derby sorting office on the 25th Feb. They were protesting at the behaviour of a manager. Royal Mail described the strike as "unofficial and illegal" (which means the strikers might win!).

In Peterborough more than 100 Royal Mail staff took part in the unofficial strike action at the city's sorting office in a dispute over working practices. The action began at when 70 staff dealing with seven postcodes walked out. They were joined by postal delivery staff.

Nursery Nurses strike in Scotland

On the 2nd March nursery nurses embarked on the first day of an all-out strike. Doors were closed to all but vulnerable children on at-risk registers. Pickets appeared at hundreds of schools and day centres as about 4,000 staff took action in pursuit of a claim which would give them higher pay and three months' paid holiday.

Strike hits bin rounds

300 dustmen in Brighton and Hove downed tools in support of a senior union rep who was marched off-site. Rounds were delayed across the city as workers took part in a wildcat strike after shop steward Richard Warren was suddenly suspended. Some staff have also been unhappy with the introduction of new methods of rubbish collection including wheelie and communal bins.

Driving Standards Agency strike

Staff working in Driving Standards Agency offices took part in selective strike action on 27th February. The strike action involved over thirty support staff in the agency's offices disrupting the deployment of driving examiner cover and the processing of driving tests. The action follows an ongoing work to rule campaign and a recent national strike by driving examiners and support staff, which saw the failure to deliver 5,000 tests at estimated cost to the agency of £500,000.

Housing Corporation strike

Unions claimed that only 140 of the agency's 600 staff showed up for work on the 1st of March, in the corporation's first strike for 25 years. The one-day strike was held in protest at a pay increase last year of 4%. Further action is still being planned for the last week in March. ★

METRO STRIKERS

AROUND 450 DRIVERS working on the Tyne and Wear Metro train system have revealed a good level of militancy in recent months, in a long-running dispute over pay and conditions that shows no sign of ending. The dispute is over the workers' claim for an increase in pay linked to a reduction in the working week. Nexus, the company running the Metro, most recently offered a 2.5% pay rise and a reduction in the working week from 37 to 36 hours worth, they reckon, a total of 5.2%. The unions are seeking a pay rise above the rate of inflation and a 35-hour week and rejected Nexus' latest offer because of the conditions attached that would erode working conditions. These negotiations came after a one-day stoppage in January. Before that, two 24-hour strikes in the run-up to Christmas were only averted at the last minute.



The worker's rejection of the Nexus offer led, in early March, to a weekend of strike action that caused more major disruption. There were two 24-hour strikes over the weekend, the first starting at 7p.m. on Friday 5 March and the second at 7 p.m. on the Sunday. Businesses expressed worries that the action would affect their profits (shame): the dispute has definitely affected the profits of Nexus. So far, the three 24 hour strikes this year have cost the company an estimated £300,000. Worse for Nexus, there is at present no sign of a settlement on the horizon. Instead, the threat of further strike action is looming as the workers seek to tighten the screws on the bosses.

Contact Tyneside AF at Anarchist Federation, PO Box 1TA, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE99 1TA

TORFAEN RESIDENTS TAKING CARE OF COUNCIL

RESIDENTS OF THE Tower (Cwmbran, Wales) at a recent meeting told representatives of Torfaen Council Housing department exactly where to stick their proposed caretaker charge of £4.44 per week per tenant.

The Council's "Caretaker Review" caused distress to residents by implying in a survey that the caretaker would be removed if this charge was not paid. So not wishing to be intimidated the majority voted to keep the caretaker service and not pay the charge! It was pointed out to the council officials that the rent for living in a 60's style tower block is in fact higher by an average of £5 per week than comparable properties in more sought after areas of the town!

Also, it seems incredible that the council cannot find the £18,000 cost of the caretaker service from the rent money collected (over £150,000 per year).

Torfaen Council's "Caretaker Review" is just a sneaky attempt to extort more cash from tenants for the rent. If the council want to save money they should get rid of those officers who thought up this underhand scam.

Tower residents are not hopeful as to whether the council will take any notice of their wishes as the council's motto "Putting People First" usually means the opposite! Watch this space.

Contact Wales AF at PO Box 7 Pontypool, Gwent, NP4 8YB Cymru/Wales ★

MET PIGGY BANK FILLED AGAIN

EVERY YEAR IS a rollover for the Met police when it comes to their financial budget.

This year's expenses come in at a whopping £2.3 billion. We are left wondering if such a huge sum of our hard earned, forced from our pockets by the State, is being well spent, especially given the complete failure of the Met to actually make London a safe place to live.

This amount represents a six percent (£135.5m) increase on last year's budget. Of this £66.7m is put down to inflation, which still leaves a real increase of £68.8m. Of the £2.9 bil-

lion expenditure, 78% or £2.2 billion goes on pay and overtime. The amount of overtime dished out to the capitals Police and Traffic Wardens totals £131m, or 6%. Not a bad little earner.

As anarchists we see crime and the apparent need for a police force as a result of inequalities in wealth and power created by capitalism. Let's tackle the problem of anti-social crime at the root by getting rid of the system that creates it. Then the money hungry coppers can all go too, and find something more productive and beneficial to society to do with their time. ★



BLAIR'S NATIONALIST PARTY

THERE'S BEEN A lot of noise recently on the immigration issue. Blunkett and Blair (B&B) like to make heated comments on it every time some other issue is threatening them, presumably to draw our attention away from more pressing issues. B & B like to pose tough on immigration, voicing aloud what they read every morning in The Sun. B & B are very concerned about the pitiful state that British borders are in, as if we were about to get flooded with immigrants. But on the other hand B & B are very happy to send death and misery abroad by many means. By guns and bombs or by invading and occupying the land of the Iraqi people and many others. By the action of multinationals effectively enslaving millions of workers in sweatshops

around the world or ruining farmers who cannot compete against agribusiness methods or poisonous GM technologies. Why on earth are B & B so surprised

about these people trying to get a living in another country? No one leaves his/her home, country, family and friends for no reason. We would do the same if we had to, wouldn't we? But this seems to be the logic of globalisation, and B & B are very happy to implement it: open borders for goods and business, closed for people. Of course it is all for the benefit of corporations and multinationals that use politicians to carry their agendas ahead. And in fact it all sounds as if it had been planned beforehand, as exactly the same policies are being applied all over the western countries. In America they have reached the point of paranoia and in the EU the pattern is the same all over.

They argue the need to make cuts in essential social services (housing, health, etc.) while creating opportunities in which big business can thrive, through low taxation. This done, it's easier to blame some minority than admit their own guilt. Easier to blame asylum seekers for bad housing instead of saying that councils and the government in Britain stopped building new houses more than 15 years ago. It's an old trick, the Nazis did that already. And then B & B get the chance to make some tough remark against foreigners, that The Sun will be eager to repeat. But it is simply not true. And it conceals a racist implicit idea of "outsiders" as carriers of all evil.

Anywhere in the world workers are facing the same problems every day, only

that it is worse in poor countries. And equally, bosses and politicians are enjoying the same privileges that, no matter how British they feel, don't want to share with us. Today, more than ever, we define

ourselves as anarchists and internationalists, as we understand that borders are only means to carry ahead the policies of the big companies by their tool, the state. So if you want to help us oppose this racist agenda we could start by bringing down the borders, or force them open. Why not? We only need to cut the strings of B & B, the puppets of the big corporations, and make our society open to every one, black, white, asian... All are welcome. ★

The Anarchist Federation is an active member of IFA, International of Anarchist Federations, with sections in many countries and campaigns for solidarity between workers of every nation and race.



TIME BOMB



Lions lead by Donkeys.

The 1984/5 Miners' Strike

The miners' strike of 1984/5 was the most furious and prolonged episode of class war in the post-war period. Despite the defeat that was imposed on the mining communities of the UK, the strikers fought hard and well. In fact, it took the capitalist state many months to subdue the strike and this involved the mobilisation of tens of thousands of violent police officers, the manipulation of the legal system, illegal eavesdropping and a united mass media spreading misinformation about the strike.



Thanks largely to Arthur Scargill, who like many generals was fighting the previous battle (that of the 1974 strike), the miners suffered from trusting a leader's poor tactics. By over-relying on mass picketing, which the police wised up to quickly, the miners were outmanoeuvred.

One of the messages, despite the defeat suffered is that solidarity of workers can be very powerful. Despite desperate shortages of money, food, fuel etc the miners and their families held on against the state for what must have felt like a lifetime. The high levels of combativity and solidarity of the miners were, and still are, an inspiration.

The problem was that the strike was a defensive operation and that some more secure sectors of the miners (especially Nottingham) did not join in.

But now, 20 years on, we must learn from our mistakes. Our reliance on egotistical leaders is a disaster. Locally worked out methods of attack need to be developed to suit local circumstances and overall there needs to be an aggressive use of class war troops to severely thrash the enemy. Finally, rather than restricting the fight to one industry, there is a need to widen action into a whole class offensive. ★

DISCUSS WITH US

THE LONDON AF and Freedom Press have recently starting holding joint discussion meetings on the last Thursday of every month.

The venue is the Autonomie Club, upstairs at Freedom Bookshop, Whitechapel (contact details on back page) and the meetings start at 7.30pm We recently had a well attended and interesting debate about the nature of fascism and how to



combat it. By the time this paper is out we will have had a discussion on anarchism and religion. Feel free to join us with your questions, arguments and ideas. All participants are invited to suggest the next meetings subject matter.

You can also share your thoughts with us on our internet discussion board at www.enrager.net/forums/viewforum.php?f=62 ★

INSIDE INFORMATION

Former Black Panther needs help

ROBERT SETH HAYES, a former Black Panther, has collapsed in prison ten times over the past few months due to lack of treatment for diabetes. He fears that unless he receives a transfer to another prison where they take his illness seriously, he may die.

Write to the Correctional Services Commissioner to demand his transfer:

Glenn S. Goord, Commissioner, NYS Department of Correctional Services, Building 2, 1220 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY, 12226-2050, USA.

Letters of support to:

Robert "Seth" Hayes #74A-2280, Clinton Correctional Facility, PO Box 2001, Dannemora, NY, 12929, USA.

For more info on prisoners see www.anarchistsps.org

Help with letter campaign

The following is a letter campaign appeal on behalf of John Bowden, an anarchist

and long time prison resister.

The Governor recently put a taped message on the front of prisoners phone calls warning whoever they called that the person making the call is an inmate in a maximum security prison. Her alleged reason for this is that she claims she has a duty to "protect the public". Their calls are already closely monitored and recorded, and all phone numbers are vetted and checked by the security department.

The imposition of the phone message would have a seriously detrimental effect on prisoners contact with their family and friends because they would now be reluctant to phone their wives and girlfriends, etc, at work or their children if they were in foster homes.

Please send your letters of complaint to:

Governor Kate Donegan, HMP Glenochil, Tullibody, Clackmannanshire, FK10 3AD

Concerning the phone message as John says that "It will at least make her aware that her actions are being monitored by people on the outside, which they really hate."

U.S Anti-Fascist jailed

Two years ago neo-nazi and white supremacist groups assembled in York, PA. Claiming to support the Mayor of York, a cop from the 1970s who was accused of being linked to the racist murder of a black woman, these groups attempted to use York as a recruiting ground for their fascist agenda.

Anti-racists in the hundreds came out to protest and disrupt their plan. Physically confronting the white supremacists, anti-racists have generally marked York as a substantial victory in the fight against organised fascist white supremacy.

One protester, however, of many arrested that day is now in jail. Tim Fasnacht, member of the Industrial Workers of the World and the Anarchist Black Cross Federation, started serving a 90 day jail sentence on the 9th Feb 2004 for a simple misdemeanours disorderly conduct charge.

Write to Tim at:

Tim Fasnacht #81647, York County Prison, 3400 Concord Road, York, PA 17402-9007, USA ★



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 - 6-7: Demonstration against the NATO security conference in Munich, Germany. For more info Email: con_action@no-nato.de

9-12: Peace Walk to Faslane from Glasgow. Leaving George Square at 1pm Friday and arriving at Faslane, 1pm, Easter Monday. Stopping in Clydebank, Dumbarton and Helensburgh with street events at each place.

12: March & Rally at Faslane - home of Trident nuclear submarines. Assemble 1pm at Faslane Peace Camp. Tel: 0141 423 1222

15: BP Annual General Meeting. Join the demonstrations organized by Rising Tide. Email: london@risingtide.org.uk www.burningplanet.net

22: London AF/Freedom public meeting - Freedom Books, Angel Alley, 84b Whitechapel High St. London (Nearest tube Aldgate East).

MAY - 1: Mayday in Dublin. Join the anti-EU festivities on the streets of Dublin, Ireland. RTS parties, street blockades and forging links with Ireland based activists. For info on getting to and staying in Dublin, go to www.geocities.com/eufortress or www.wombles.org.uk

1: Mayday Join the Libertarian bloc for the TUC march on International Workers Day. Provisional meet up 12noon, Clerkenwell Green.

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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: info@afed.org.uk