



G8 Gangsters Gathering

THIS month in Scotland the meeting of the G8 leaders takes place. As thousands of protesters demonstrate, picket, blockade, discuss and resist, the leaders of the most powerful nations meet behind closed doors, protected by a security operation that will have cost millions of pounds. These leaders know the protesters are there; they know *why* they are there and what they represent- a growing anger and dissatisfaction with the way these leaders have contributed to a world ravaged by the effects of global capitalism: environmental destruction, poverty, war and repression. The protesters have come to vent their anger and disgust and to let the leaders know that they do not support them. But for so many people to have come all this way, at considerable cost in terms of both time and money, it is hoped that this week will mean more than just a ritual 'letting off steam'.

With people coming from many countries and representing different political perspectives, there will be a variety of aims. New Labour itself is hoping to divert attention away from its role as one of the main culprits by trying to make out that it supports the demands of the 'Make Poverty History' march and that the G8 summit is really about trying to tackle poverty. Many of the protesters may unfortunately buy-in to this version of events and think that by having a mass protest that the leaders will actually listen to their demands. However, they will be very disappointed. The most we can actually ex-



'Lets go to work'

pect from the summit is a few pious statements, setting 'targets' for action that, like all the other targets that have been set in the past, will never be implemented. Even if people have no illusions in New Labour, many will still hope that such a large protest will force the leaders to do something. But the record so far does not give many grounds for optimism; huge protests against every G8 summit, World Trade Organisation meetings, as well as enormous anti-war demonstrations have had no impact. It is unlikely that this will be any different. Even if the tactics are more militant and there is some actual disruption to the summit, Bush, Blair and the others will remain unresponsive. ★

See inside for a real alternative.

GLOBALISE MY ARSE!

WE are sure that most of the people taking parting the anti-G8 demonstrations would agree that globalisation is a bad thing. Globalisation is part of an offensive that the rich capitalist countries are waging against the dispossessed of this planet

under the name of the free market and neo-liberalism.

So, when politicians talk about globalisation, you know what they mean- open borders to commerce and traffic of goods, but closed to people. They apply a certain set of policies, regardless of these having proved catastrophic for local economies in the past. This means the imposition of so-called Western style democracy at the point of a missile, even if in reality this often leads to a worsening of rights and conditions for the mass of people.

Obviously, that's why we anarchists oppose globalisation. Or rather that half of globalisation. Because in fact, what we actually want is the other half of it. The one capitalism and its supporters are leaving out. We mean a globalisation of solidarity, of freedom, of self-organised struggle and resistance, without any leaders.

That's actually what we work for every day, This globalisation is one that will spread cultural diversity and respect, instead of stamping out any local distinctive culture in favour of MacDonaldisation. One that will learn from the local ecologically integrated ways of producing, instead of covering the whole planet with smoking chimneys.

A globalisation which won't shrug its shoulders in front of the vast misery capitalism is creating in this world, but one which tackles the root of the disease: capitalism itself. ★

ON THE FRONTLINE

Our regular look at workplace struggles:

WE'LL start this month with the news that the Fire Brigades Union executive – after a very short lived bout of 'awkward squadism' has voted to BAN members from reading or posting on an independent public rank-and-file website!

This piece of petty bureaucracy was described by one member as being "in the best traditions of a tinpot eastern European dictatorship". Members who ignore the ban could find themselves expelled from the union! If only the FBU executive had been so pro-active in fighting the national strike eh? The clear message is that the members dismay and anger at the feeble actions taken during the strike is beginning to worry the 'tops' and they're trying to clamp down on any movement that could lead to them losing their power – the union hierarchy is – once again – doing the States job and pouring cold water on workers anger.

Maybe those Respect supporters currently working with Louise Christian could pass on her number – she does have legal experience of shutting down rank and file groups for union bigwigs after all...

MPs could soon find the hard-working people who clean up the mess they've made in their 24 hour bars, gyms and restaurants walking out in protest at their 12 hours shifts for just over £10 000 a year (in London!) MPs, by the way are themselves on a basic £59 000 a year, plus an average of double that in expenses.

There's continuing trouble for the bosses on the transport network. In London tube drivers are refusing to book on at the Earls Court station because of the unhygienic nature of the 19th century toilets they're provided with – on a network that been given millions of pounds to modernise. As ever, the actual workers are the last to see any of that money.

And workers on Midland Mainline held four one day stoppages to highlight lapses in safety that were putting both them and travellers at risk.

Asda bosses in the north have some serious trouble on their hands as they face two separate strikes in their supermarkets and distribution centres.

The first is over the victimisation of a shop steward and industrial action is likely very soon.

The second follows the rejection of a 4% pay offer to the generally low paid workers from the company which made £2 billion in profit last year. ★

CELEBRITY PRATS OF THE MONTH

BON(E)OHEAD and Ge(l)dof – rich, talentless, pop preachers. Geldof described George.W. Bush as 'the best president Africa ever had', Blair and Brown as 'the John and Paul [of Beatles] of the world development stage' [!!! by June, British arms sales to Africa had reached



Bono, Geldof and some other prat

£1 billion], and the head of the (vampire-like) World Bank, James Wolfensohn as 'the Elvis of Economics'. In 2001 our two superheros slated the militant anti G8 protests in Genoa as 'unhelpful' [to the Bosses]. Bono's attitude is summed up in his recent song lyric 'I'm waiting for the crumbs from your table'. His personal fortune is around 500 million euros, and he pays no tax on it in Ireland courtesy of the artist's income exemption; he wants governments to spend more taxpayers' money on aid to Africa however.

Africa's poverty is not an unfortunate accident of geography and climate (as the Band Aid lyrics suggest), but the result of the theft, murder (15 million slaves) and exploitation of Empire, which continues today through the actions of multinational companies, supported by Western governments and local African elites. Africa is rich in resources with large amounts of Gold, Platinum, Diamond, Oil, Gas, and Coal. Equatorial Guinea exports are worth £2.5 billion pounds a year, but the government only receives 12% of these revenues (and trousers a wadge also). Consequently, vampires such as BG (formerly British Gas), with annual profits

of £1.5 billion expect 'considerable profits'. Other British based companies involved HSBC (\$17 billion profits). Shell has pumped \$30 billion worth of oil from Nigeria since the 1950s, polluting rivers, charring farmland, and turning the air rancid, but 70% of Nigerians continue to 'live' on less than \$1 a day.

As a result of the 'debt victory', European governments have agreed to spend 0.7% of their income on foreign aid by 2015. Even this pathetic gesture is undermined by their boycott of corrupt and dictatorial governments (that is ones they don't like, and the G8 countries won't sign up for the 'anti-corruption' stuff themselves). Worse still these governments insist on 'free trade' (i.e on their big brother terms), and the forced privatisation of essential services, such as the government's support for the British company Biwater's plans to privatise Dar es Salaam's water supplies (it doesn't just fall out of the sky, you know). So, after Iraq, our heroes help Bush and Blair to rehabilitate themselves as kind and caring, promoting the idea that governments and multinationals who cause and benefit from poverty, can help the poor. The poor in Africa need to seize back control of their land and resources from governments and bosses - African and Western, they need our solidarity, not patronising charity from pious windbags like Bono and Geldof, who can't even include African musicians in their 'concerts for Africa'. ★

ANARCHIST SOCIAL CENTRE FOR GLASGOW

THE Saorsa social centre is a newly opened social centre on Glasgow's southside. It is run by a loose collection of anarchists and other anti-authoritarians under the banner of the G42 Collective.

This collective was set up in September/October 2004 in order to open another centre after the experience of running a previous project in the summer. The actual centre is a suite of three rooms in a small office building behind a disused garage.

The primary focus of the centre over



the next few weeks will be as an infoshop in preparation for the G8 summit but the hope is to continue using the space afterwards as a community resource. The centre will be used to host meetings and other projects, such as a small bookshop and internet café. In the more distant future it is hoped that the centre will become a base for promoting social change more directly, through helping the local community with poverty and inequality issues. Saorsa means "freedom" in Scottish Gaelic. ★

A REAL ALTERNATIVE

IN the week of demonstrations and actions against the G8 meeting in Scotland a number of different groups with different motives will be visible. Various left-wing groups have their own agenda for the week. Using front organisations like Globalise Resistance, they hope to extend their influence and recruit members – it doesn't really matter what the outcome of the summit is. They, as with many lobbying groups, are really just 'states-in-waiting'. They hope that eventually they can replace the current leaders and then they will institute alternative policies. In other words, they are using the G8 protests as a means of getting people to follow their leadership.

Anarchists have a completely different perspective. We have no illusions that the protests, no matter how big or how militant will in themselves have an impact on the policies of this global State. Neither do we put our trust in other self-proclaimed leaders, no matter what revolutionary statements they may make. Real change can never come about through either lobbying the State or replacing the State with another one. We will only transform society by confronting capital and the State in our everyday lives. It is here that our real power

can be felt – in our resistance to bosses at work, in a fight to preserve a green space from developers, in the chasing of fascists out of the community or in our refusal to have our lives revolve around passive entertainment and consumption. It is the building of such a 'culture of resistance' that will provide the foundation of our struggle and give us the means by which we can change this world. The leaders of the G8 may be able to hide behind their security fences and their armed guard, but they will be helpless against a mass movement of resistance which will strike them everywhere. It is within the context of this growing movement that we must see this week of protests. By bringing people together internationally, giving us the experience of organising actions and communities and providing opportunities for spreading ideas of resistance and alternatives to capitalism, we are developing our strength and our capacity to resist. It is not so important what the outcome of the summit is in terms of policies and promises, but what confidence, enthusiasm and experience it has given us for when we go home to continue the struggle where it most matters. ★

BOLIVIA BOILS OVER

BOLIVIA is Latin America's poorest country. The imposed policies of privatisation, cuts to welfare and other business friendly reforms are only designed to help the multinationals get richer whilst the poor get even poorer. Five years ago, during the Cochabamba 'water war',



a mass uprising wrestled back control of the water supply from the grip of the Bechtel Corporation which had even managed to persuade the Bolivian Congress to introduce a law banning people from collecting rainwater! People are now fighting to keep the hands of British Gas and their like off their gas supply.

In March, demonstrators foiled a deal which would have given the Pacific LNG consortium, which includes British Gas, ten dollars for every one they invested in the country. Tens of thousands of people forced the shutdown of four oilfields and access to seven of Bolivia's nine regions, demanding that a tax of 50% be levied against the gas companies. Over the past month protesters have firmly rejected the 32% 'compromise' tax suggested by Congress. On 7th June the mass protests forced President Carlos Mesa to resign. The new presi-

dent, Bolivia's Supreme Court head, Eduardo Rodriguez is the country's third president in less than two years.

In a country where 30% of the population lives on less than 60p a day, G8 policy has been more concerned with privatisation and profit than poverty. The current economic system, invented by US economists in the 1980s, has destroyed the country's agriculture and industry, bringing hundreds of thousands of workless families to live at the gates of the capital city, La Paz. It is from here that they have been able to hold the country to ransom: only one road connects La Paz with the outside world and it's been blockaded by large numbers of people since May. Meanwhile, a powerful business elite in the south-eastern city of Santa Cruz has been pushing for far greater regional autonomy and a bigger share of the region's gas and oil wealth. Leaders there, where most of the country's gas is located, have pledged to hold a referendum on increased autonomy this August - with or without the approval of central government. But mass resistance has forced a turn-around already and it can be used again here. ★

TIME
BOMB



Our monthly look at history:

Summit going on:

WHEREVER the world's rulers meet to finalise their plans, they are met with the rage of the people on the streets. Summits are no longer photo calls and fancy announcements, today the true face of the State and capitalism is revealed as riot police, tear gas, red zones, beatings, prison and murder.

Looking back we can see in fights for public services, housing, and the Miner's strike, the birth of the same struggles now being fought around the world, the anti-globalisation struggle. This constant struggle has made headlines during Summit protests, particularly after the "Battle of Seattle" however, the method predates Seattle.

The G7 met in Bonn, in 1987, 30,000 people took to the streets, three years later the "action day" was repeated in Berlin, when the IMF and World Bank met. This time the response was more militant, with 1,000 arrests, 300 cop cars and 40 bankers cars destroyed, and 110 arson attacks recorded, the autonomists declared this a successful "political and practical attack on the ruling class."

In 1995 the IMF and the World Bank met in Madrid, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of their foundation. Demonstrations and riots organised under the banner "50 years is enough" continued until the summit ended. Many people were injured, including some bankers who decided it was a good idea to go for a stroll... In the end police tanks were used to guard banks!

In 1998, the G8 met in Birmingham and activists descended on the city, creating a street party and scuffling with the police, the summit location was moved at the last minute to safeguard the delegates! From here many struggles followed: J18, Seattle, Prague, Gothenburg, Genoa, Cancun, Evian and many more that never made headlines, many without names or faces, together today they are making history.

The next chapter is being written... It is up to us what comes out of it. ★

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Bush's gulag

There are 2.2 million prisoners in the United States, nearly twice as many as in 1990. That gives the US the biggest prison population in the world and one of the highest proportions of the population in jail. Young black men are 10 times more likely to be in prison than white men. Forced labour and violence are commonplace. But even these prisoners are luckier than some; they know the crime they are accused of and the length of their sentence – unlike the detainees in the US's network of secret prisons.

And Bush dares to talk about a crusade to bring freedom to the world, especially when he keeps quiet about places like Uzbekistan, with 6,000 political prisoners living in atrocious conditions. But unlike Saddam's Iraq, the Uzbekistan regime is still useful to the Unites States.

Peace activist arrested

Peace activist Paul Lesniowski was jailed for allegedly breaching the controversial injunction imposed by Brighton arms dealers EDO MBM. This-is the first-time that a political activist has

been remanded under section 3 of the Protection from Harassment Act.

Paul was arrested on the 15/06, for filming the director of Guardian security (employed by EDO MBM to enforce the injunction). The director, accompanied by his own cameraman had crossed the road to confront protesters. Both men refused to identify themselves when asked.

Andrew Beckett, press spokesman for the campaign said "It is disgusting that a committed peace activist finds himself in prison for an alleged minor breach of this draconian injunction. Sussex Police have taken it upon themselves to enforce an exclusion zone by whatever means necessary".

Paul was later freed on bail after Lewes Crown Court overturned a District Judge's ruling that he should be detained for 'breaching' the injunction. Paul was acting as a legal observer (wearing a clearly marked yellow bib) at the regular Wednesday noise demo when an unidentified man in a suit crossed the road to confront demonstrators.

For more info visit: <http://www.smashedo.org.uk/> ★

SUBVERT!

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

JULY: INVITATION TO THE ANARCHIST/ANTI-AUTHORITARIAN ASSEMBLY: JULY 3rd, EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND.

A collection of UK-based anarchists and anti-authoritarians seek to encourage anarchists and other malcontents from around the globe to work together in taking practical, direct action to effectively disrupt the G8 summit. We are calling for an assembly of anarchists and anti-authoritarians in Edinburgh on **July 3rd** to coordinate action specifically against the opening day of the Summit on **July 6th**, and also to facilitate other anti-authoritarian activity over **4th-8th** July. We invite you to get involved. To contribute to the discussions at the Assembly, let us know you're planning to come and if you can provide translators, please contact us at 'aaa_assembly@hushmail.com' and we'll send you more details.

For a full list of dates see: www.dissent.org.uk/content/section/12/63/

1 Edinburgh Critical Mass

2 Make Poverty History March, With an anti-capitalist bloc, cos after all capitalism causes poverty. Edinburgh. www.makepovertyhistory.org

3 Make Borders History A Tour of Immigration Controls and the "Chain of Deportation" in Glasgow. We will visit organisations involved in locking up and deporting Asylum seekers. www.makebordershistory.org

4 Big Blockade at Faslane Nuclear Submarine Base. Peace campaigners are called to blockade the base. Visit: www.faslaneg8.com

4 Carnival for Full Enjoyment Street Party, Edinburgh. Meet around the West End 12 noon. Email: dissentagainstwork@yahoo.co.uk

5 Close Dungavel Detention Centre. Hundreds of people - including families with children - are imprisoned behind the razor wire of Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre, join the No Borders demonstration. 11am to 4pm Strathaven, South Lanarkshire, ML10 6RF. To Book transport: Tel: 0141 946 6193 email glascamref@hotmail.com or visit www.makebordershistory.org

6 Global Day of Action at the opening day of the G8 Summit A day of decentralised action, in villages, towns and cities worldwide. The biggie: www.agp.org or www.dissent.org.uk

6 G8 Blockades 'The Blockades Group', call out to all autonomous direct action groups and individuals opposed to the G8 to carry out autonomous actions starting on the 6th July to blockade the summit. www.g8blockades.org.uk

6-8 Hill Walking Actions Cross Country Rambles and Scrambles on the Ochil hills with a big day-glow banner or two.

7 The People's Golfing Association is hosting an open golf tournament at Gleneagles. Form autonomous golfing affinity groups! For more info email: pgag8@lists.riseup.net

8 Day of action on the root causes of climate change. www.cca.movingpages.org

Also in July: **4** Independence from America Day, Menwith Hill SpyBase, North Yorkshire 12 noon - 4pm 01943 466405 www.caab.org.uk



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.

If you're interesting in joining contact us at:

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Also visit: www.afed.org.uk
and www.iaf-ifa.org

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