



Asylum-no crime

ANARCHISTS AIM FOR a world where people can live where they want. Yet the media tells us that asylum seekers are here to make money or harm the "British people". As we write this issue of Resistance, St George's day is almost upon us. This time is often taken by the right to push for a 'whites only' England. Racism experienced in the UK fuels hatred of asylum seekers. It allows the Government to maintain its cruel treatment of individuals and families.

- *A Rwandan woman was taken to Uganda after her parents were slaughtered in the genocide of 1994. As supporters of an opposition party, her husband and brother were killed. She was detained, and was repeatedly gang-raped by government soldiers. In the UK she was detained and went on hunger strike. She has been refused leave to stay.*
- *Innocent is a 35 year old university graduate who fled homophobic and political persecution in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). He has suffered terribly in Congolese prisons for refusing to kill. He has been refused leave to stay.*
- *A Congolese man suffered imprisonment and torture over a 21 month period for supporting the opposition. He escaped to the UK. Whilst here his wife has vanished and his daughter died. The UK Government want to deport him to Congo.*
- *A Roma mother and daughter from Kosova face persecution and abuse if forced to return. The daughter is disabled. Her father and brother 'disappeared' after threats. If they return they will be at risk of rape and beatings. The UK wants to return them.*



Lisa, partner of an asylum seeker wrote this most recently. "...I only learnt how evil the Home Office can be when they sent my partner a letter asking if he would return home and make arrangements after he had been refused Family Amnesty. It was a shock in which I lost our unborn child in November 2005. ...Soon after, in February 2006, our family home was surrounded by police at 8am on morning, witnessed by

our children ... This is when I learnt that I had made the worst mistake ever and in fact should never have trusted the Home Office the way I once did. "

These personal stories are only a glimpse of the suffering experienced. There is no space here to give the full picture of these peoples' experiences and of the thousands of others.

Housing

ASYLUM SEEKERS ARE placed in housing by NASS who take out contracts with housing providers. These providers have a duty to ensure basic care of those in their homes. Basics should include regular visits, assistance in registering with doctors and schools and provision of bedding, pots, pans and seating.

Recently housing providers including Clearsprings lost their contract with NASS on the grounds of costs. Clearsprings provided some of the better quality houses nationally. The full effects of this are not known but currently we expect most families in their housing to be moved. Letters sent to families contained leaflets on repatriation. How to make a bad situation even worse! Campaigning by a local school in Oldham was able to protect two families from being moved but it is anticipated all others will be forced into poorer housing in the near future. This places them at greater risk from racist abuse. How do the NASS sleep at night?



Public Sector Workers Strikes unions sell out, again...

In March over a million workers took strike action over proposed cuts in their pay. This was the biggest show of industrial action in years. Encouraged by their show of strength, they got ready for further strikes at the end of April. Their plans were dealt a cruel blow, not by the employers but by the unions.

The unions backed down and called off the strikes on the strength of a government statement, "... calling on both sides to begin talks, to start now on a nothing rule in nothing ruled out basis". In other words, they offered absolutely nothing.

However, Unison have promised that ... "all participants are firmly committed to change in pension provision, now and in the future, being made by agreement as far as possible"

To put it another way, they will negotiate away their members' pensions, as long as they and the bosses agree how to do it. In exchange for these negotiations, they are willing to see the abolition of the protection of pension rights.

So it remains for Public Sector Workers themselves to continue the struggle to maintain the right to retire while they are fit enough to enjoy it and on a living pension.

Once again the union bosses have shown themselves to be the willing middle men between the bosses and the workers, happy to negotiate away workers conditions in favour of a bit of industrial peace.



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 interested in joining, contact us at:

BM ANARFED, London WC1N 3XX
Email: info@afed.org.uk
Also visit: www.afed.org.uk
and www.iaf-ifa.org

Subscriptions to **resistance** costs £4 from the address above for 12 issues. A two issue subscription to our magazine, **organise! for revolutionary anarchism**, is also £4.

You can subscribe to **resistance** by email for free via the website above.

THIS issue of **Resistance** has been edited and produced by members of Manchester Anarchist Federation.
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Teachers strike against pay cuts

Meanwhile, another group of public sector workers are experiencing government imposed pay cuts. Many teachers have found their wages under threat as the government has forced a wide-ranging salary review. Faced with concerted threats of action, most head teachers have found ways to maintain pay. In a smaller number, teachers have been faced with cuts ranging from hundreds to *thousands of pounds* a year. Education workers are split into many unions. Two out of three teachers' unions have agreed to the cuts! However, the National Union of Teachers (NUT) has held ballots and then a series of local, one-day strikes with pay. So far around 20 schools have taken action. Some have settled while others are still in dispute. The offer of strike pay has strengthened the resolve of those involved and has led to some members of the other unions to join the NUT. Members of the Anarchist Federation are involved in these strikes. We do so with no illusions that the NUT will drop things if its own financial position is threatened or teachers become too independent. **We urgently want to meet and discuss with other education workers.** We want to build a network of militants irrespective of union or job within education; a network that can spread the understanding that we all need to stand together in the face of attacks on our wages and pensions by the employers.

Contact: education@afed.org.uk

Tags: an insult to humanity

NEW ASYLUM SEEKERS to the UK will be forced to wear tags. Having thought to have escaped from torture, abuse, rape, war or imprisonment, asylum seekers are tagged. Many arrive in poor health and have their condition exacerbated by the tag, both psychologically and physically. Only children and those with documentation proving they have been tortured are exempt. A unit worn by asylum seekers can be seen below. It weighs about 12 ounces, and locates the precise whereabouts of the wearer every few seconds by fixing on signals received from satellites. (OFFENDERS TAG ASSOCIATION 2005)

Section 36 of the Immigration and Asylum (Treatment of Claimants) Act of 2004 allows for the electronic monitoring of those liable to detention under the Immigration Acts. This includes asylum seekers, illegal entrants, those found working in breach of their conditions of stay, those who have overstayed, people subject to further examination at a port of entry, and those refused leave to enter. (Home Office)



a wrist tag

Ways to defeat ID

LIKE THE TORIES poll tax, ID cards are Labour's own version of a 'tax on being alive'. We can scupper ID cards as soon as they try and force us to register, but only if we start preparing now. Once the scheme is in place it will be harder, although certainly not impossible, to beat it. We cannot allow the state to get away with becoming more authoritarian than it already is.

Get involved

One way to fight the national identity scheme is to get involved with a local anti-ID group (or set one up) and help get the message out by producing and distributing information against ID in community & social centres, libraries, health centres and door-to-door. There is still a lot to do to explain the basic facts of the scheme, as well as its likely effects, and to work out effective forms of direct action.

Get informed

ID will affect different groups in society in many different ways. Applications to the Student Loans Company will be linked to ID, so they can keep tabs on any address changes, and university students may even need to have an ID card to get a loan. The Connexions Card scheme for 13-19 years olds also gathers information on other school leavers and students. There are likely to be big changes in levels of police harassment for minority groups, and ID records could easily be used to control access to benefits or healthcare.

Get the inside information

Those in work can try and find out about any ID-related developments there. Anti-ID groups will be pleased to hear from any council workers or anyone else who can help the campaign find out when ID data collection starts to happen locally, especially in areas that may be chosen as a trial area for ID registration.

Councils also hate local people turning up in their cosy council offices to protest, especially when they would rather maintain the illusion that they are victims of a scheme instead of an integral part of it. Workers in companies implementing the scheme, like Experian, may know details about how their employer is planning to operate their part of it.

Get your passport

Personal information from passport applications will be used to build the National Identity Register from 2008-9 although you can 'opt out' of having an actual card until 2010.

Some data collection has already started, taking face dimensions from passport photos. Later on, applicants will have to attend in person to get fingerprints or eyes scanned (69 Identity & Passport Service centres will be set-



up around the country from October 2006 for in-person applications). So, for anyone who needs a new passport, it would be a good idea to get one now before the new systems are up and running properly, making sure the photo is not too clear so it is harder for the Passport Office to extract facial data.

One Post Office service for the newer photo ID driving licence has your photo pre-checked so you can see what you can get away with (postage is also included which can work out cheaper than paying for this separately) - this may also be the case for passports.

There must be lots of individual ways to confound the ID scheme and these can be shared in anti-ID groups, and even better, by telling friends and neighbours. This will help build a mass refusal campaign, because a scheme like this won't be prevented by small numbers of individuals helping themselves.

Get angry

Remember that local politicians of whatever colour cannot be trusted. Under the Tories, Labour council leaders enthusiastically issued poll tax demands and court orders, sent in the bailiffs and condemned local and national demonstrations as mindless riots. But as local people, we supported each other, we defied the courts and saw off bailiffs. We were angry and we fought back. Many of us disappeared off the registers for good. There may be a local MP against ID in some areas, but lobbying has been shown to be useless. We know that governments do not listen and that ID will be beaten on the streets or not at all.

Get Involved

There are many groups around Britain opposing ID. Some of the local groups the AF is involved with are in Liverpool, Manchester,

Nottingham and Reading. For more info see: www.defy-id.org.uk/localgroups.htm.

Big Oyster's Watching You

Meanwhile... Do you realise that if you register your Oyster Card to travel round London, that every journey you make can be tracked in its smallest detail. Now there are plans to turn it into a general shopping card for small items. Not only will your journeys be known, so will everything you buy on the day and where.

Rosspport Solidarity Camp

Rosspport Solidarity Camp was re-opened on the 25th of February.

The camp is part of a community based struggle against Shell's plans to devastate a remote coastal area in the West of Ireland.

The camp is now bigger and better than it has ever been before.

The Rosspport Five, five residents jailed last year for refusing to obey court orders preventing them from protesting the development, went free from the High Court, without further imprisonment, on the 7th of April. One of them, Willie Corduff, attributed this to "people power". Costs were awarded in favour of Shell, though the feeling is it is unlikely they will get away with trying to claim them.

In April we were visited by Rhythms of Resistance, a London based samba band, we have also had contingents over from Earth First!, from Nine Ladies anti-quarry protest site, and from the Saving Iceland campaign.

On Good Friday, April 14th, there was a march through Rosspport, along the proposed route of the gas pipeline, to commemorate the Ogoni nine, opponents of Shell who were executed in Nigeria.

Also in April Roadbridge, the main contractor for Shell, made a number of unsuccessful attempts to enter the refinery construction site at Ballinaboy. These attempts were brought to a halt by picketers, and it is believed Shell was testing the waters for an attempt to re-start construction.

On the June Bank Holiday weekend, the 4th to the 6th, a gathering will take place on the camp, this is to commemorate its first anniversary. The gathering will feature workshops, a tour of the area, music, and a forum on privatisation. All are welcome.

For more information see:

www.shelltosea.com

www.indymedia.ie/mayo

www.struggle.ws/rsc



NCADC Demo in Manchester, 15th April 2006

SUBVERT

Earth First!

This years Earth First Summer Gathering will be held in West Wales 16th-20th August. "Exploring Alternatives to the corporate world of greed, lies and exploitation".

Email: efgathering@aktivix.org

Web: www.earthfirstgathering.org

Write to: EF! 38 Wells Rd, Colchester CO1 2YW

Phone 0845 223 5254

Leeds 6 May - City of Shame tour.

Contact: info@leedsnoborders.org.uk

Solidarity

Vahagn Orujyan is an Armenian member of the anarchist/libertarian communist network 'Autonomous Action' operating across countries of the former Soviet Union.

In November 2005 whilst protesting about a state referendum right-wing vigilantes attacked him and his comrades. He fled the country but has had to leave a wife and children behind.

He is seeking asylum on the ground of his political convictions. The date of Vahagn's next Asylum and Immigration Tribunal hearing is on the 29th of June in Manchester.

Offers of support, which we will forward, to: solidarity@af-north.org

No Victory to the Daily Mail

National Coalition of Anti-Deportation Campaigns facing closure

THE NATIONAL COALITION of Anti-Deportation Campaigns (NCADC) provides support 24 hours a day, seven days a week for people seeking asylum.

It is the only national organisation that campaigns against deportations and tries to help those at risk set up and run their own campaigns to stay in Britain.

It has done this for the past ten years and has become the backbone of support for all anti-deportation campaigns.

The NCADC charges nothing for its work. Now, faced with a campaign of hate from the national press, it faces closure.

Hate mail

The Daily Mail spurred on this campaign. Angered by a £340,000 Lottery Grant to the NCADC, the Mail started spreading lies. It claimed the organisation supported criminals and terrorists.

It egged on its readers to contact the Community Fund (which distributed the Lottery Funds).

The flood of distortion and the hate mail that followed persuaded David Blunkett, who was then Home Secretary, to set up an inquiry into Lottery funding. Now the NCADC has had its funding removed.

Already a number of offices have closed. Others will follow and the whole organisation is in danger of going under in May.

Closure will leave frightened, vulnerable people on their own trying to fight the Home

Office and immigration law. An asylum seeker said: *"We need to campaign for NCADC to keep their doors open for those who are suffering under the threat of deportation to where their human rights were severely abused. The work they are doing needs some money and this is very important because they can't achieve their objectives and help refugees and asylum seekers without it. They can't disappear because our lives depend on them"*

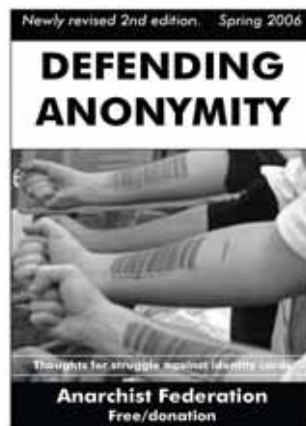
Support NCADC

If the NCADC folds it will be another victory for the government in its attempts to keep refugees out. It leaves the field open to racists and little Englanders. The NCADC needs money urgently. Our readers can help. Standing order and one-off donation forms can be downloaded from: www.ncadc.org.uk/donations/donate.htm

While you are there, take a look around their website and see some of the many campaigns NCADC is assisting. We cannot let the Daily Mail win.

AND REMEMBER, 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

info@afed.org.uk www.afed.org.uk



Our new pamphlet on fighting ID Cards. Send an SAE for a FREE copy. Or take a bundle to distribute.