

MOVEMENT

No Borders Newsletter ★ noborders.org.uk



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Activists Save Globe

On the 7th-18th December No Borders activists joined thousands of others in Copenhagen to attend the mobilisations at the UN Climate Summit – COP15. There was a Climate No Borders convergence space, a day of action as well as several talks, workshops and discussions.

The main story that came out of the protests was the newly rushed-in law which allowed police to 'preventatively arrest' anyone without charge for up to twelve hours. The arbitrary arrest of nearly 1000 people from the Libertarian Socialist bloc on the "System Change not Climate Change" march of Saturday 12th December set the tone for future days.

On Monday 14th December before the "No Borders! No Climate Refugees!" demonstration could begin at its announced start time of 11am, police intervened to seize and impound the stage truck, along with banners and equipment, arresting 17 people including many of the speakers. Organisers managed to get hold of a replacement truck and equipment, and the protest was able to march on the Danish Defence Ministry a bit late.

Over 3,000 people mostly 'chained together' through linked arms in a tight bloc, with a sound system on a truck in the centre of the crowd and a large number of drummers maintained a well



spirited, noisy and intense surge through the streets. Chants included:

"No border, no nation, stop deportation"

"Unemployment and inflation are not caused by immigration! Bullshit! Come off it! The enemy is profit!!"

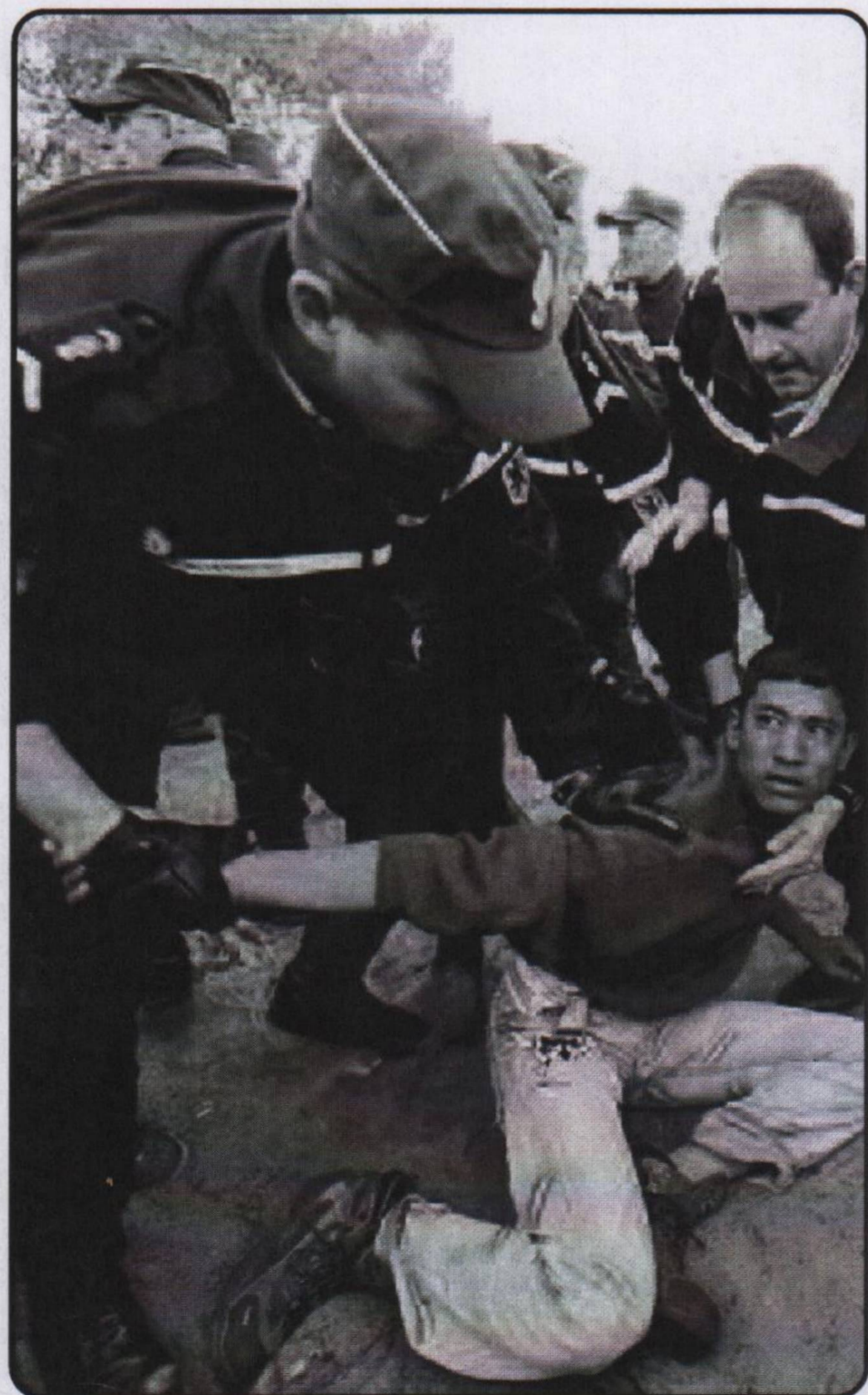
"No nation, no border, fight law and order"

"We are here and we will fight! Freedom of movement is everybody's right!"

When the march reached parliament square outside the Defence Ministry and the legal demonstration ended, attempts by the police to control people were unsuccessful. One of the huge pieces of greenwash displays that littered Copenhagen for the duration of the summit, a giant inflated globe, was the subject to a surreal 'tug-of-war' between the crowd and the huge mass of police. Protesters were able to break police lines and confound kettling tactics before

continuing to the Christiania free town. Here people attend the "Reclaim Power" party later in the evening, which was attacked by police tear gas and baton charges arresting a number of people.

This summit itself has been roundly condemned as an unparalleled failure. For the best part of the entire event the world's major economies aggressively protected their economies at the expense of the safety of much of the planet. This came as no surprise to anyone with any kind of anti-capitalist critique. There are no solutions to the crisis that can be found in the ideology of imperialist economic domination that typifies the neoliberal agenda. We must resist the false solutions and attempts at increased social control that typify so much of the governmental response to climate chaos. climatenoborders.wordpress.com



Update of the situation in Calais

An estimated 2000 migrants live around the coast of Northern France, at least 300 in the town of Calais itself. Local charities and the council opened a small night shelter for around 150 migrants, during the period of harshest weather. The shelter was to have 8 showers, half of which were deliberately burnt down by one or more persons hostile to the migrants. The facility is expected to close soon, and those sleeping there will be back out on the streets.

The smugglers are still here. The price of a journey from Calais to England has doubled since the destruction of the jungles: the average cost for a 'guaranteed' journey to the UK in the back of a truck is now 1500 Euros. This is another remarkable result of the new immigration policies, despite the French immigration minister's assertions that the destruction of migrants' camps was done for 'humanitarian reasons' and to defeat people's smugglers. In fact the smugglers are profiting from people's misery and people are pushed further into the mafia's hands by the desperate conditions they are forced to live in.

The jungles are still here. The Pashturi jungle was razed to the ground, trees included, but people are sleeping in the woods nearby. New camps have been destroyed or torched by the authorities so people just shelter under bits of tarpaulin. The police keep going there and arrest everyone who doesn't manage to escape. They slash the plastic covers with knives and destroy the blankets and people's property. It rains a lot. Most of the people who were sleeping under bridges have moved elsewhere, due to excessive police harassment and repeated destruction of tents and blankets.

calaismigrantsolidarity.wordpress.com

FOR FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT & EQUALITY FOR ALL! ★ PHOTOCOPY & DISTRIBUTE

Desperate Acts by Desperate People

A 51 year old Algerian man has been sentenced to 10 months in prison for affray for threatening to set fire to himself in Liverpool MP Louise Ellman's constituency office last September after he feared his 16-year battle to stay in the country had failed. Smelling petrol, the MP went into the corridor to find Abdel Zahali doused in petrol and holding a lighter.

In court his barrister claimed Mr Zahali had taken the drastic step because he felt he was "at the end of the road," that he "had previously attempted suicide... (&) ...believed this was the only way." Despite the conviction, Mrs Ellman believes that he will be given leave to stay.

On Friday 18th December another asylum seeker, a teenage Afghan, actually managed to set fire to himself outside the UK Border Agency's Waterside Court reporting centre and short-term holding facility in Leeds. He was rushed to hospital after suffering extensive burns and is in a critical but stable condition.



Paddington Bear Condemns Child Detention

Michael Bond, the creator of the much-loved illegal immigrant from 'darkest Peru', has contrasted Paddington's experience with that of children held in detention centres by the UKBA.

Over 60 celebrities added their signatures to a letter to the Prime Minister condemning the detention policy and supporting the Royal College of Psychiatrists, Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, Royal College of General Practitioners and the Faculty of Public Health in calling for its immediate cessation.

The letter is accompanied by a message written in the words of Paddington Bear: "Whenever I hear about children from foreign countries being put into detention centres, I think how lucky I am to be living at number 32 Windsor Gardens with such nice people as Mr and Mrs Brown. Mrs Bird, who looks after the Browns, says if she had her way she would set the children free and lock up a few politicians in their place to see how they liked it!"



Solidarity with the Vincennes Revolters

On 22nd June 2008 the detention centre at Vincennes, the biggest in France, burned. Preceding the fire, there had been hunger strikes, arson, refusal to be counted and other disturbances inside the centre. Outside, demos and actions supporting the revolts took place. On 21st June 2008, Salem Souli died in his room after having tried in vain to get medical attention. The next morning, a march organised by the detainees in his memory was violently repressed. A collective revolt started and the detention centre was set on fire. Between June 2008 and June 2009, a dozen of the detainees were arrested and incarcerated - for the most part for almost a year - in preventative detention.

On 25th January a group of Vincennes detainees go on trial accused of damaging and destroying the detention centre and/or violence against the police. A week of solidarity has been called on 16th to 24th January. Contact: liberte-sans-retenued@riseup.net



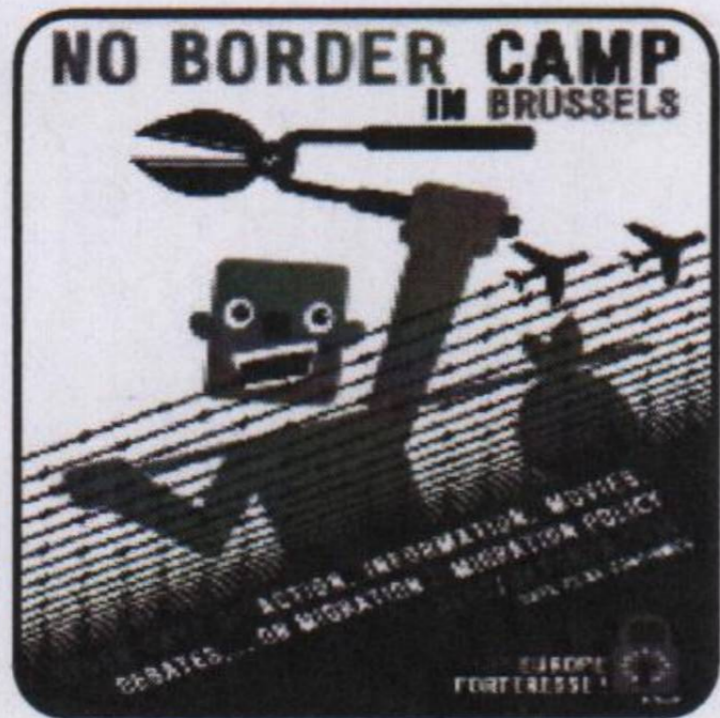
Challenging the Heart of the EU - Brussels No Border Camp

A No Border Camp in Brussels, hosting workshops, debates, (direct) actions and trainings has been proposed.

The camp will take place in September - October 2010 (exact date to be determined) and would last for 7 days. We would build up on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The camp would take place from Monday until Friday, finishing with a big demo on Saturday and the cleaning up/evaluation on Sunday.

Brussels has an important role in European migration politics, the European Parliament is based over there and Belgium will be the chairman, starting on July 2010. The No Border Camp would question the European Migration Policy and work towards a radical change.

With the No Border Camp we want to make stronger links between the activists with and without papers. If you wish to co-organise the camp, have any ideas or wish to contribute in anyway contact: nobordercamp@vluchteling.be



End Child Detention? End Immigration Controls!

Every year around 2,000 children in the UK are locked up in detention centres.

The Outcry! campaign, led by Bail for Immigration Detainees and the Children's Society, is currently calling for the end to immigration detention of children, whilst there seems to be growing public interest and support for this. The British government is not wholeheartedly against this, and the Home Office has recently piloted various schemes as alternatives to detention, all of which nonetheless have the aim of facilitating removal of adults and children. Will the anti-detention campaigns go as far as championing open borders? Freedom from immigration control is the only way to put a stop to the impossible hurdles placed in front of desperate parents seeking freedom to move to a better place with their children and would stop the daily, systematic horror of forced deportations. Full article: tinyurl.com/openborders



Conditions at G4S Detention Prison 'Worse and Worse'

With 426 bed spaces for single male detainees, Brook House is the biggest detention centre in the UK. The purpose-built, category B prison is run on behalf of UKBA by private security giant Group 4 Securicor (G4S).

A number of formal complaints have been made by detainees and visitors to the UK Border Agency against the management. Most of them seem to centre around detainees' missing medical or court appointments due to alleged lack of escorts or transport.

Interestingly, G4S, employer of around 40,000 people around the world, was advertising in local papers for 'detainee custody officers' vacancies at Brook House. Call 0844 891 3333 to discuss the nature of the company's work.... Bear in mind, though, that some G4S security guards at Brook House are apparently working up to 15-hour shifts, from 6am to 9pm.

Full article: corporatewatch.org.uk/?lid=3471



No Borders Network is made up of autonomous groups, to get involved contact your nearest group. Contact the South Wales group for the newsletter editorial collective.

→ Local Groups

Brighton: nobordersbrighton.blogspot.com
Bristol: bristolnoborders.wordpress.com
Calais: calaisnoborder.eu.org
Leeds: leedsnoborders@riseup.net
London: london.noborders.org.uk
Manchester: manchesternoborders.org.uk

North East: nobordersnortheast.org
Nottingham: nobordersnottingham.org.uk
Oxford: oxfordnoborders@lists.riseup.net
Scotland: nobordersscotland.org.uk
Sheffield: sheffieldnoborders.wordpress.com
South Wales: noborderswales.org.uk

→ Friends & Relations

Barbed Wire Britain: barbedwirebritain.org
Calais Migrant Solidarity: calaismigrantsolidarity.wordpress.com
Campaign Against Immigration Controls: caic.org.uk
Close Campsfield: closecampsfield.org.uk
Indymedia UK - Migration: indymedia.org.uk/en/topics/migration
National Coalition of Anti-Deportation Campaigns: ncadc.org.uk
No One is Illegal: noii.org.uk
Stop Deportation Network: stopdeportation.net
Unity Centre Glasgow: unitycentreglasgow.org

→ Other Print

Corporate Watch: corporatewatch.org.uk
SchNEWS: schnews.org.uk
Shift Magazine: shifmag.co.uk

Upcoming Events

January

16-24th - Week of solidarity action with the Vincennes detainees.

19th - Anti-Deportation Training Oxford.

23rd - Life's too short to be controlled.

Part I: St. Pancras. Part II: Piccadilly Circus.

london.noborders.org.uk/lifestooshort

30th - Close Campsfield. 12-2pm at main gates.

30th - Anti-Deportation Training Newcastle.

February

2nd - Close Communications House Old Street, London EC1. 12-2pm.

27/28th - No Borders Network gathering. Sumac Centre, Nottingham.

No Borders is a transnational network of autonomous groups and individuals advocating freedom of movement and equality for all. The network operates on a non-hierarchical, anti-authoritarian basis and uses consensus decision making. We struggle in solidarity with migrants to work towards a world without borders, capitalism or the state. noborders.org.uk