

INSIDE INFORMATION

What do anarchists think about prison?

PRISONS DO NOT work. That is unless you want to improve your burglary skills or want a ready access to class A drugs. It is undeniable that locking people up and giving them nothing to do for years at a time only encourages prisoners to think about the next big job and develop ways to make it work. Prisons are universities of crime, with board and lodgings thrown in.

Prisons turn bad lads (mainly) into professional criminals. They mix and identify with already hardened gangsters and pass out of their criminal courses with diplomas.

Prisons are also dumping grounds for the mentally ill, the illiterates and the social misfits. Prisoners become brutalised and brutal in their confinement. And so do the prison officers.

And all the time, the prison population is increasing and more and more prisons

are being built. Instead of this, what is needed is the ending of a sick society that breeds crime and prisons in the first place.

Greek conscientious objector sentenced to 3 years and 4 months

Greek Conscientious objector Giorgos Monastiriotes was arrested on 13 September, and immediately tried and sentenced. In May 2003 Giorgos refused to embark with the crew of the battleship "Navarino" on a mission to the Persian Gulf. He declared his immediate resignation from the Navy instead. Giorgos gave the following statement prior to his refusal :

"Acting on the basis of my conscience, I refuse to take part or contribute by any means in the relentless slaughter of the Iraqi people. I refuse to take part in a war that is not ended, as even now after its official end people and among them many children are being killed. Even if this war is officially finished, many more are to come, as war is necessary for the expansion of the dominance of the ruling powers. I declare my immediate resignation from the Hellenic Navy, which is a mechanism that promotes inhuman practices

through orders and hierarchy and acts as a means of extortion and repression of the movement and the uprisings of the people. My refusal is also the minimal act of solidarity due to the Iraqi people and to the peaceful sentiments of the Greek people."

Although Greece recognises the right to conscientious objection in principle this does not apply to professional soldiers, who cannot claim their right to conscientious objection.

War Resisters' International calls for letters of protest to the Greek authorities, and Greek embassies abroad. A list of Greek embassies can be found at www.mfa.gr/english/the_ministry/mis-sions/. You can send a protest email to Mr. Kostas Karamanlis, Prime Minister of Greece, at wri-irg.org/co/alerts/20040915a.html.

Contact for protest letters:
Mr. Kostas Karamanlis, Prime Minister of Greece Maximos Mansion ('Megaro Maximou') 19, Herodou Attikou str GR-106 74 Athens, Email: info@primeminister.gr
Info from: www.brightonabc.org.uk ★

resistance

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The politics of Terror

POLITICS AND WARFARE have always gone together. When governments could not get their own way through persuasion or pressure, they have used violence to achieve their ends.

War then, is an extension of politics, and given the risks involved, it is usually a measure of the last resort. War involves destroying the enemy's ability to resist and necessarily requires the use of violence- the killing and wounding of soldiers, sailors, etc. A part of this process involves terrorising the combatants in the opposing side to achieve surrender by breaking their will to needlessly sacrifice their own lives and preserve the strength of your own side.

When this took place using professionally hired troops who formed a relatively small armed force, or through the use of mercenaries, warfare remained a bloody game of the few. However, in the 20th century, volunteer armies were replaced by forced enrolment-conscription.

So, as in World Wars One and Two, people were forced against their will by States to terrorise and destroy each other. Ordinary citizen soldiers became the victims of State terror - from their own governments, intent on total war and from enemy states, who were just as determined. The victims of terror are overwhelmingly ordinary working people, the poor bloody infantry.



Hiroshima after state terror

Destruction

Not content with the destruction of soldiers, States in the 20th century decided to apply terror to non-combatants - the elderly, mothers, children. The clearest example of this, perhaps, was the nuclear destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

In Iraq, the US forces have been indiscriminate in their use of firepower. It is mainly non-combatants who have been killed, wounded and disfigured - over 13,000 so far. The US airforce bombed and continue to bomb residential areas.

State terror breeds terror. Again in Iraq, the armed opposition to the USA and its allies has led to the creation of terrorist groups opposed to them. The sick joke in all of this was that Saddam supposedly possessed weapons of mass destruction, i.e. terror. So in the name of combating terror, Bush, Blair and their enemies have unleashed an ongoing cycle of terror.

Similarly in Chechnya, the Russian government used terroristic methods to defeat Chechen nationalism. Tens of thousands of ordinary citizens were killed

and cities were bombed into rubble. This led the Chechen militias to respond in kind - the massacre of non-combatants in an ongoing spiral. The massacre of theatre goers and schoolchildren will not aid their cause.

Terroristic warfare, however, achieves little beyond a cranking up of the means of mutual destruction. Terror is a blind alley. Those who want a more just world must renounce terror. States will never do it but people who want freedom and equality have no choice. Justice cannot spring from terroristic violence.

We need is movement that will bring real change to the world through the self organisation of ordinary working class men and women. Only then will we have the basis for a better world. ★

ONLY DOING THEIR JOB

WHAT HAVE THE striking miners of 1984 and the posh toffs of 2004 got in common? Answer: they were both attacked by the police.

As anyone who has ever been involved in violence on the picket line or in demonstrations know, it is the police that start the trouble. During the miners strike, the pickets were attacked and beaten by the police...and the media couldn't have cared less. In September in the pro-hunting demo outside of parliament, the rich, fox butchering set became the victims of police assaults. And the poor dears and most of the media were outraged. At **resistance** we never support police violence - but we do hope the hunt protesters had some sense knocked into them! ★



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.

- ### OCTOBER
- 3 Demo at USAF Lakenheath military base. 12 till 3ish Gate 1, USAF Lakenheath. Tel: 07760 161 755 Visit: www.lakenheathaction.org
 - 3 Protest against internment at Belmarsh prison from 12 noon. Belmarsh prison is on Western Way, London, SE28, just north of Plumstead station. Trains leave every half-hour (e.g. 11.01am, 11.31am) from Charring Cross to Plumstead station Contact: CAMPACC, Estella on 020 7586 58! 92, estella24@tiscali.co.uk or Stop Political Terror on 07951 159 257 or Email: spt622@yahoo.co.uk
 - 15-17 European Social Forum, London. www.esf2004.net. For a critical view of the ESF www.enrager.net/forums/viewtopic.php?t=1783 and for an alternative to the Trotskyist-GLC bureaucrat sponsored events
 - 19 International Day of Action Against McDonald's, to mark World Food Day. 020 7713 1269 www.mcsopotlight.org Adopt your local store - for ready-made leaflets Tel: 0845 458 9595 Email: mclibel@veggies.org.uk
- ### NOVEMBER
- 27 Anarchist Bookfair, University of London, Malet Street 020 7242 8032 Loads of stalls, events and meeting. Including meetings organised by the Anarchist Federation. Contact: mail@anarchistbookfair.org, Visit: www.anarchistbookfair.org

Subscribe to resistance

- 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

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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

Our regular look at workplace struggles:

WE'LL START ANOTHER busy month at Heathrow and Gatwick airports where two separate industrial disputes look set to effectively close down a large number of flights.

Baggage handlers at Gatwick plan to stage 24 hour walkouts on Thursday 30th Sept. and on the following Saturday, whilst re-fullers at Heathrow intend to strike on the same Saturday. The first dispute concerns a shop steward sacked for raising health and safety issues, and about those H&S issues themselves. The second is about pay, overtime, pensions and cuts in sickness benefits that the company is trying to impose to boost profits (and their own wages, pensions and bonuses).

It seems that working conditions in the transport industry are approaching the appalling levels that worker experience in the Post Office - both deliberate attempts to destroy workers conditions or to drive them away and not replace them, increasing the work burden on others.

Sticking with the air industry, engineers, sales, marketing, ground and cargo staff at Lufthansa are currently voting on whether to take strike action after rejecting a pay raise of 2.6% (a pay cut in reality given inflation, despite the company making £149 million in the last quarter alone) by 92% - if, as expected, the strike vote wins, the entire airline is expected to be shut down by the action.

Workers at the Jaguar plant in Coventry - scheduled to be shut down with the loss of around 1500 jobs - have also agreed (by 86%) to ballot for strike action in order to halt the planned closure - and crucially, workers at other Jaguar plants have voted to join any strike action agreed at Coventry, and on top of this workers at Ford's other factories including Land Rover, Aston Martin, Ford Blue Oval factories and other Ford research facilities, are also planning meetings to decide whether to join any strike. Could be a big one this in an industry with a long history of industrial militancy with a company that doesn't give a shit and workers with nothing to lose.

The weeks long wildcat at Wembley is now over, and it appears that the strikers have got pretty much all they were demanding - the re-instatement of 240 workers sacked in the most underhanded manner and compensation for time lost whilst out.

Well done to all involved for showing how to get things done! ★

COURIERS STRIKE AT SMS IN LONDON

ONE HUNDRED CYCLE and motorbike couriers at SMS have been on strike since went on strike on 17th September after representatives chosen to speak to management regarding pay and conditions were sacked. There is a large presence by strikers outside the company's London offices on Bayliss St. London SE1.



Two of the sacked organisers, Pedro and one who wished not to be named, explained that on Tuesday 14/9 when they attempted to explain workers' grievances to the London managers they were told that nothing would change and to go back to work. The London manager Deborah shouted at them to get back to work. When the representatives were invited back for further discussion on Friday the four men were told they had been sacked. The workforce walked out.

Management then offered to meet workers individually and declared that the reps had been sacked for "intimidation", which is strongly denied by them. This offer was rejected by the couriers and some 100 out of a work force of 150 are striking.

Pedro, a cycle courier, complained that SMS pays half the market rate for delivering passports and credit cards. He said he did 200 drops a day in NW1 and

worked 12-15 hours to do this. Other courier companies paid up to double the rate. He also said that if the consignee was not home or if it was not possible to gain access, couriers received only 50-75% of the going rate of 48p (68p for motorbikes) for a credit card or 70p for a passport.

SMS, according to workers, is the UK's largest courier company. It has a £55 million pound contract with the Home Office to deliver passports. Workers complained that passports were now at risk of theft and of being carelessly delivered, as in the rush to find scabs SMS was not ensuring the necessary care that its workers have to display.

Workers also accused SMS of not being organised and of having offered to organise things for them. They were paid late or wrongly and would have to complain to receive their money. The London office of SMS pays less than other branches, where in Croydon for example a drop is worth 65p.

Since the strike began SMS has been farming out work to other companies and is able to pay them far more than it pays its own workers. It has been telling customers that its computer systems are down, not that it is in dispute with its workforce. ★

'WE DON'T TRUST YOU'

TRUST IN MINISTERS and MP's has fallen since the war in Iraq, a detailed survey on public attitudes revealed in early September.

Unsurprisingly only 24% have any faith in ministers and only 27% trust in MPs.

The fact that around only 25% of people have any faith in the men and women that are

elected to make decisions on behalf of everyone else is certainly not good news for the government.

It must leave ministers and other bureaucrats wondering why, if only 24% trust in them, they have not been swept out from their positions of power by a tide of angry people. When the Yugoslavs, in 1996 lost faith in their government they gathered in the streets, in their hundreds of thousands, and laid siege to the parliament building, kicking out both leader and government. Anarchists across the UK are hoping that similar things will happen here soon.

One member of the Anarchist



Federation said: "The fact that millions of UK citizens can remain this docile and obedient to their government, despite their obvious contempt and distrust of politicians, is astounding.

"Across the decades and centuries, the world over, people have overthrown government and other leaders and managed

whole regions themselves, in the interests of people's welfare. We don't seem to do that in Britain. It seems like we'd rather just forget about it, not to make too much of a fuss and just to be content with what we've got.

"It's time we changed all of this and forgot our tradition of ignorance. We should be kicking out this government, and all government for that matter. It's our obligation as human beings to confront such tyranny."

Journalists on the tabloids The Sun, Mirror and Daily Star were the least trusted, with 89% hardly believing a word they read. ★

RESIDENTS STOP PHONE MASTS

IN SEPTEMBER DIGGERS seeking to put phone masts up on London Fields in Hackney, London were seen off by local residents. They explain why they object below:



Why We Object:

Health: - The emissions for 3G phones, which receive and send moving pictures as well as voice calls, are different to standard mobile phones. They are set at a higher frequency, about 2,400 megahertz (MHz) as opposed to 900MHz and 1,800MHz used for most standard mobile phones. Scientists working for the Dutch government have concluded they can be bad for our health. The Dutch scientists found that volunteers exposed to 3G emissions suffered headaches and nausea which they did not get when exposed to standard mobile phone emissions. Children in Hackney have very few open spaces within which to play. London Fields therefore acts as a key social space both for children and parents with

young babies. The siting of the mast immediately above the picnic area, close to the children's play park, on the main route to Gayhurst primary school, and immediately in front of the Wayman Court tower block which contains a high density of residents will cause great fear and concern to many of those who use and live in these spaces.

The appearance of London Fields is important to Hackney residents and the proposed 40ft (11.7m) high tower with 3 antenna and 300mm diameter dish will not be in keeping with the appearance of the rest of London Fields. The Mast will be higher than the neighbouring trees and it would detract from the view of the park.

Obstruction to pavement. The two metres high, two metres long ancillary cabinet will take up a third of the footpath. The footpath is not very wide at this point and this could force parents with double buggies on to a very busy and dangerous road. ★

FIGHTING FASCISM

Oct 7 election in Dagenham:

AT THE RECENT Landon ward council election in Basildon (23/09), David King, a former British National Party (BNP), treasurer was standing for a seat.

Unite Against Fascism held a meeting a week prior to the election, with fifty people present, but no picket of the election count was organised. On the night it was announced that King had come third, and the twenty BNP members and supporters left the town hall unopposed.

Two minutes down the road, were seven anti-fascists who just happened to be drinking in town. When the two groups met (despite being outnumbered three to one), a "full and frank discussion" with King and other BNP members ended with them on the floor, and later receiving treatment from an ambulance crew. One of the BNP "security" entourage panicked and managed to spray two anti-fascists with mace, as well as half his mates. No arrests were made.

Meanwhile...

A little known Nazi organisation has chosen Essex as a jumping off point to



bring Hitler's ideas into local politics. The November 9th Society has all the usual rubbish we associate with the extreme right (but which similar groups like the BNP keep quiet about to gain respectability). They believe in white racial supremacy, dictatorship, deportation of all immigrants and suppression of gay identity.

The group aims to stand in the coming local and national elections. They claim to have gained support in the Borough of Havering and are aiming to contest seats in the town of Romford.

Anyone with any sense knows just what a set of barbaric thugs Nazis are, and true to form the November 9th Society, in order to attract support, deny that Hitler and his followers destroyed millions of Jews in the war.

Surprisingly, the Nazi group has publicly named and released photos of their fuehrer, Kevin Quinn. They will be stopped. Abort this monster - before it crawls out of its hole.

For more information about fighting fascism, contact Antifa at:

www.antifa.org.uk ★



The Great Leeds Gas Riot 1890

THE GASWORKERS IN Leeds had won the 8-hour day in November 1889, but they knew the Liberal-controlled council would want revenge. They were ready for strike action. In June 1890 they received notices abolishing some of the gains they had made and demanding a 25% productivity increase. A strike was called. The council brought in hundreds of scabs and locked out the workers and fortified the gasworks.

The gasworkers, backed up by other sections of workers, marched through the city to the marketplace. The next day (1st July) 200 police escorted scabs from the station. The gasworkers used their long stoking poles and rushed the police, but were beaten back. As the scabs stormed into the Meadow Lane works, workers climbed on adjoining walls and roofs and called on them to defect. 80 did so, and the 50 left cowered inside. The police baton-charged the crowd.

The scabs for the New Wortley gasworks were being feted by the council that day. The Liberal chairman of the gas committee narrowly avoided being beaten up by a crowd outside the Town Hall. Now the streets filled with workers coming out of work and 10,000 assembled.

The cavalry and police escorting the scabs were pelted with stones and lumps of coal. They charged the crowd. Meanwhile 130 scabs went over to the strike. The next day these paraded four abreast with the strikers. That night the windows of New Wortley police station were put in and gasworkers attempted to enter the works. The cavalry drew their swords and the Riot Act was read. By night Army and Police had cleared the streets and occupied the works.

Three days of riots and mass public support had led to defeat on the streets for the gasworkers.

BUT the gas committee gave in and withdrew their attacks, (although the union conceded holiday rights against a reduction in work loads and the end of fixed term contracts). ★

RESISTANCE IN US MILITARY

A WEB PAGE dedicated to those US military people who have at one point refused orders in this war in Iraq. You may see it here: www.tomjoad.org/WarHeroes.htm It includes a short summary of each case of every publicly known resister, with links to their websites, if available. ★