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# COUNTER INFORMATION

Summer 1994

## Kill the Bill

Over 20,000 people demonstrated through London on 1st May in protest at the Government's flagship Criminal Justice and Public Order Bill which seeks to seriously limit, amongst other things, the rights of squatters, travellers and hunt sabs.

Some sections of the Bill will criminalise unauthorised camping, squatting, assemblies of more than 20 people and amplified music at night while repealing the Caravan Sites Act which provides Britain's gypsy population with its only secure sites. Other aspects of the Bill are also very worrying: increased detention for young "offenders"; electronic tagging to enforce curfew orders; weakening of right to silence; denial of bail for people rearrested on bail (allowing police to act as judge and jury); new stop and search powers for police; a new offence of disrupting a legal activity (aimed at hunt sabs). Prison officers will also be banned from taking industrial action and, while screws are hardly deserving of sympathy, the ban may have implications for other public sector workers like fire fighters and health workers.

Info: Organise!; ContraFlow; Advance Party Network, POB 3290, London NW2 3UJ; Campaign Against CJB, POB DIY, 15 Goosegate, Nottingham

## Fighting Fascism *begins with* resisting racism

In the wake of fascists (National Alliance) becoming coalition partners in Italy with Berlusconi's media creation Forza Italia & the Northern Leagues led by Bossi, the prospect of the far right in Government is no longer a fantasy.

Continued 'shake out' of workers from industry, State policies to hound immigrants and a succession of corruption scandals affecting centrist and parliamentary socialist Parties, have boosted support for fascists, both in terms of electoral support and heightened racist attacks throughout Europe.

### Fascists fail

In Britain, the fascists failed to win seats on May 5th in the local elections. However, the B.N.P. attracted considerable support in pockets of east London. By-election victor Beackon & his 2 running mates were defeated by Labour in the Isle of Dogs but polled 28% in an unprecedented 65% turnout. With similar votes in docklands wards in Tower Hamlets and Newham, the B.N.P. are well placed to challenge for the new Docklands parliamentary constituency. The Newham Monitoring Group was active countering racist support for fascists and overtly racist Tory candidates. Elsewhere in Britain, fascist support was patchy, with National Front candidates getting up to 10% in isolated wards in the west Midlands.

Outside courting respectability, the fascists are still launching cowardly attacks on targets. 32 fascists from ex-coalfields in Notts/Derby were arrested after causing damage and assault (including on a disabled woman) in Nottingham's 'Mushroom Books' on 15th January. A large local

anti-fascist march was mobilised in solidarity. In retaliation, a North London BNP leader was visited by "council workmen" and given a severe beating.

The fascist menace posed by Column 18 etc is still much less significant than State harassment. In January, the Tahir family in Blyth, Northumberland received local working class support to resist deportation. An attack by police on 21st January with dogs and truncheons against blacks leaving the 'Check point Charlie' nightclub in Manchester led to serious injuries. On 5th February, a lively demo was held outside Hackney Town Hall to protest against Stoke Newington police's campaign of terror against Turkish and Kurdish families. On 8th February, Bangladeshi Maktar Ahmed was attacked by 20 white youths in Bethnal Green, 5 of whom were arrested and bailed. 400 demonstrated their anger 3 days later. 130,000 racist attacks were recorded by the Government's own records for 1993.

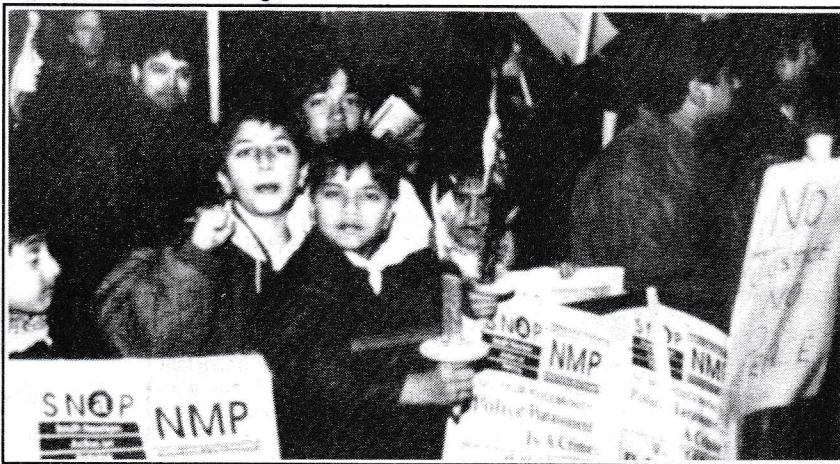
### Here to stay

Pickets continue surrounding deportations. In Birmingham, on 21st March, a picket was held of 'Immigration Adjudicators' in support of Prakash and Prem Chavrianookoo. 5 days later, a vigil outside Oxford's Campfield Detention Centre highlighted the plight of 200 detained in squalid conditions. In Pentonville Prison, London, 13 detainees went on hunger strike in February.

Throughout Europe State racism

is being resisted. In France on 31st January a black teenager was shot while joyriding. 1000 police attacked a 2000 strong anti-fascist picket of an election rally in Hanover, Germany by the Republican Party fuhrer, Schonhuber. In Italy, half a million people in Milan joined the 50th anniversary march commemorating the resistance's role in defeating Mussolini's fascism.

A huge 'black bloc' of 50,000 squatters, autonomists and anarchists tried to storm the National Alliance HQ, while police also stepped in to defend 200 Lombardy League members trying to join the march. *We appeal for reports of resistance, worldwide against fascism and racism. Plus info from: Newham Monitoring Project, 382 Katherine Rd., London E7 8NW. Tel. 081 555 8151.*



Newham Monitoring Project and friends picket Plaistow police station, London

## Beast besieges cowering Councillors

THE DRUMMING built to a crescendo, his dancing grew ever more frenzied, then suddenly the grotesquely-garbed *Beast of Broughton* flew across Edinburgh's historic Parliament Square and hurled himself at the doors of Lothian Regional Council Chambers.

Councillors peered nervously from windows as street theatre performers, speakers and musicians all declared - Edinburgh Unemployed Workers Centre stays open! The 25 May demo was the latest shot in the battle to save this vital self-managed centre.

As we went to press the Centre was preparing to resist a Council eviction notice. This was due to

take effect on 14 June - unless last minute negotiations, which aimed at a new lease being granted to first the local Community Council and then to a new charitable body, were successful. The Centre voluntary workers are backing this plan, which if agreed should enable all the Centre's activities to continue.

The Centre provides a cheap vegan cafe, creche, bookstall, darkroom, advice on benefits, space for meetings and social events, and is a base for claimants and others to organise resistance against social injustice.

Help save the Centre! Contact : EUWC, 103 Broughton St., Edinburgh. 031 557 0718.



## 50 Years of Slaughter for PROFIT

The obnoxious D-Day commemorations, happening only 3 days before the Euro-Voters' Big Day on 9 June, are emphasising British uniqueness in the European partnership, and all that rubbish. But even if Vera Lynn's disgusting crocodile tears start to flow once again, knowledge of the past remains important. We should remember how the British authorities had forewarning of the blitz of Coventry but allowed it to happen. Remember the blood baths when Allied aircraft bombed Devon, with heavy loss of life, in practice runs for Normandy — and the slaughter once British and American forces arrived on the coast of France. Remember the German Jews who were locked up by the British authorities. Remember how strikers in northern Italy were bombed by both sides, and how millions were shipped from German camps straight into Soviet ones. Remember the hypocrisy of the statesmen who portrayed the German concentration camps as justification of their own rule and then went on to set up their own camps in Kenya and Algeria. In short, remember that the ruling scumbags in one place always have more in common with ruling scumbags elsewhere than they do with the poor. War is always brilliant for business.

### RESISTANCE - LEST WE FORGET

But above all remember the **resistance** to the various oppressions. In Britain, for example, many men managed to avoid military service, and many women avoided being forced into war work as cheap labour. Women at Rolls Royce and elsewhere on Clydeside struck for equal pay, often supported by men. In Glasgow engineering apprentices and bus conductresses also struck. When bakers in Dundee refused to work night shifts, their work was taken over by soldiers, who were obviously subject to a much stricter regime. A strike by trolleybus workers in Stamford Hill in London was similarly broken by the military. Strikes occurred in mining, engineering, and the docks. Air raids were commonly used as an excuse for absenteeism: some people were willing to stay at their workplaces if sirens went off during tea-breaks, but not if they sounded during worktime.

Remember too, that this was a time when strikes were not only opposed in every instance by the unions — but since July 1940 they were also illegal. In 1941, when miners at Betteshanger in Kent struck anyway, 1000 of them were fined, and three jailed. An all-out strike forced their release, and only 9 miners paid their fines. After this, the strike ban, technically in force until 1951, was a dead letter, smashed by wildcat action. **In 1944, the year of D-Day, 716 000 workers were on strike, more than any year since 1926.**

The national unity which the authorities are trying to whip up with D-Day 'celebrations' wasn't totally successful even then. So don't be conned. It's always been the rich against the poor. It was us they slaughtered in Iraq, us they're killing in Bosnia, us they killed in all the wars since 1945 'east of Suez' and in Africa. World War 2 was no different. Our rulers are mass-murdering monsters, and nations are just vile myths they use to oppress us.

### REMEMBER 1944 — GO ON STRIKE!!

#### "To the Runways!"

**THE STRIKE** by Air France ground staff last October against 4,000 redundancies, a wage freeze and the abolition of bonuses holds important lessons. On 20 October transport minister Bosson declared this plan "irrevocable". On 24 October the French government withdrew the plan. Why? Because for 5 days up to 3,000 workers invaded the Roissy, Orly and Toulouse runways and stopped all freight and passenger traffic.

Riot police were driven off. "The lads drove into the cops with runway vehicles and the cops ran away," explained a striker. Solidarity was exemplary — on 25 October 3,000 Orly strikers went to the police and successfully demanded that all charges against strikers be dropped. To the Union Bureaucrats' dismay the Union-called assemblies were quickly terminated by cries of "To the runways!" But there were weaknesses. The workers did not co-ordinate between sectors and sites outside of the Unions. And the Unions were able to negotiate a return to work without a signed agreement withdrawing the redundancies. The movement needed to spread more to other industries.

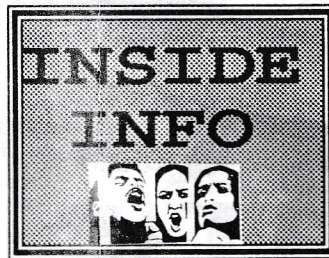
Nevertheless the Air France strikers have shown all workers the formidable power of mass workers' direct action. See *Contra Flow* 3/94 for extensive report.

### The Cape of False Hope

"We will vote for Mandela, but if he doesn't give us what we want we will fight against him" (Black school student activist)

The South African Election witnessed huge popular enthusiasm for change. The queues of patient voters have already been used by political rulers everywhere to remind us 'voters' how grateful we should be. Yet new policies in housing and education are unlikely to meet expectations.

Workers with demands for wage rises and improved conditions at work will pose a challenge. Unrest will threaten in townships, and opposition groups within and outside the ANC will attempt to manipulate the frustration for their own ends. Even the 'majesty' of Mandela, and the ANC compromise with the National Party and the economic rulers, will not protect South African capitalism from this explosion of expectation.



### Remember Winston Silcott

**REMEMBER Winston Silcott?** Winston was one of the Tottenham 3, brutally framed for the murder of PC Blakelock in the 1985 Broadwater Farm uprising. The convictions were quashed after an intense mass campaign.

But Winston remains in prison. Why?

Winston was a vocal black rights activist, a role which brought him into open conflict with the racist police who repeatedly vowed that they'd "get him". When he rescued a black youth from a beating by a local gang, they also vowed to get him.

One of the gang, Tony Smith, attacked Winston in a club, and was killed with his own knife. It was obviously self-defence and the pigs were furious that the murder charge would not stick. So they stitched Winston up for the PC Blakelock murder. While doing time for the Blakelock killing, and labelled an "evil murderer" by the press, Winston was tried for the Smith affair, and found guilty.

He is now desperately trying to have that conviction overturned. **Remember Winston Silcott.**

Info & speakers Winston Silcott Defence Campaign, c/o The Selby Centre, Selby Rd., London N17. 081 365 0448.

### Edinburghrocked

Edinburgh. Athens of the North, Festival City, Europe's third finance capital. "Auld Reekie", where tourists swarm and the hoteliers and restaurateurs wax rich.

Edinburgh. The working class increasingly marginalised and ghettoised into bleak peripheral housing estates where poverty is the name of the game.

In the large Craigmillar estate on 13/14 May 200 alienated youths rioted and attacked police. The local Labour councillor, Paul "the Godfather" Nolan called an emergency council meeting.

Youngsters involved told the local press that they were consistently harassed and assaulted by the police. "There's nothing to do and nowhere to go. We've had enough", declared one. "You can't even get a job in Craigmillar unless you're related

## Tearing down the walls

LAST issue we reported how Gary Hayes, after years of police persecution, retaliated by taking an armoured personnel carrier and using it to smash into the local police HQ and law courts.

Gary has since been sentenced to four and a half years. Like Winston Silcott, another activist has been taken off the streets.

Letters of support to : Gary Hayes, Casaurina Prison, Locked Bag 1, PO Kwinana WA 6167, Australia.

### Support John Perotti

**IWW activist, John is on hunger strike after a forced move back to Lucasville prison. Protest letters to Hon.S. Arthur Spiegel, Judge Chambers U.S. District Court, 838 Post Office Boulevard, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202, USA.**

### Carrying the torch

WHEN an anti racist demo at the University of Minnesota last October was attacked by Nazi skins the demonstrators defended themselves. Kieron Frazier Knutson was charged at by a bonehead wearing brass knuckles. Kieron decked him with a flashlight.

The police set the bonehead free. Months later, Kieron was charged with 2 counts of felony assault and faces 3 -10 years in prison.

His trial is set for 20 June, and his Defence Committee is asking anti fascists everywhere to phone-bomb his prosecutor, Attorney Mike Freeman, on (USA) 612-348-5505. Anti Fascist Defence Committee, c/o Minneapolis ABC, PO Box 7075, Minneapolis, MN 55407, USA

### Nightcrawlers

IN the face of increasing repression and mass imprisonment of the poor and disenfranchised, the Anarchist Black Cross is growing in the USA, and is holding a national conference in New York, August 19 - 21. Komboa Ervin's pamphlet *A Draft Proposal for an Anarchist Black Cross Network* and conference details from: Nightcrawlers ABC, PO Box 20181, Tompkins Square Station, New York, NY 10009, USA (send donation to cover post/printing)



Komboa Ervin

to Paul Nolan" said another local. Councillor Nolan is one of those who are trying so hard to shut down the Edinburgh Unemployed Workers Centre.





## The McLibel 2 Sue

AFTER McDonalds launched a national leaflet at all their stores attacking their critics for being "liars" the McLibel 2 - two London Greenpeace supporters being sued by McDonalds - launched a "counter claim". This puts the onus on McDonalds to prove their allegations at the trial.

The non-jury trial now starts on 27 June and is expected to last 3-4 months. It is thought that McDonalds are withholding masses of relevant documents.

Protests are called for 25 June and 16 October (World anti McDonalds Day). It's time to wipe Ronald's silly grin from his face!

Leaflets from 0602 585 666 (£12 per 1,000) McLibel Support Campaign c/o London Greenpeace, 5 Caledonian Rd., London N1 9DX. tel.071 837 7557.

# Seeds of revolt

## In India a grassroots movement has formed to protect the future of seed.

The power of multinationals to control the genetic information of life itself has been greatly extended under GATT (General Agreement on tariffs and Trade) and companies have placed patents on animals, micro-organisms, the brain coding of human beings etc.. Western multinationals are trying to steal indigenous plants and knowledge from Third World people and turn what should be a common human resource into a trade commodity. The seed trader company Cargill even claims to own pollen and speaks

of bees as "usurping the pollen."

In the autumn of 1993 more than half a million people gathered together in Bangalore, South India, to protest the freedom of seed. In defiance local seed banks are being set up at village level in order to keep seed, regarded as sacred, free from big business control.

In Britain too grassroots resistance to the rape of the planet is growing. There has been a spate of Earth First! actions, mainly against the Tories' crazed roadbuilding program, and more are to come! There seems to be an increasing success rate with road schemes cancelled under Earth First! pressure

including the M1-M62 link in Yorkshire, the Leadenham bypass near Lincoln and a link road development in Leicester. Earth First! direct action is on the increase especially since the high profile coverage given to Twyford Down and the brief but glorious establishment of the autonomous republic of Wanstonia - in the path of the M11 - which was viciously smashed by our police state.

### Violent response

The violent response of the state and its unheeding destruction of irreplaceable environment has convinced many that it's more than just the transport system we need to change. Earth First! has no centralised structure; no offices, leaders or official spokespeople so anyone who wants can form an Earth First! group or do Earth First! actions. There are constant undercover actions such as the two attacks on an ARC office (a roadbuilding company) where nearly £50,000 worth of damage was done ...or brazen ones like Glasgow EF!'s occupation of Glasgow Council's roads department building in protest at the proposal to run a road through and develop Pollok Estate. There is mass local opposition to the proposed destruction.

In America there is ever increasing co-operation between indigenous people whose land is being torn from them and eco-activists. There is need for more solidarity between the class struggle and the environmental struggle. Everywhere it is poor people who are the most immediate victims of environmental destruction: exposed to toxins at work and in poor quality housing, pushed aside by business development and deprived of the right to land. Resist Much: Obey Little!

*Earth First Action Update from Manchester EF!, Dept. 29, 1 Newton St., Manchester M1 1HW (061 248 9224) Auto-Struggles analysed in Aufheben £2: Prior House, Tilbury Place, Brighton.*

### ECUADOR

100,000 teachers, on strike since 4 Oct, returned to work in Jan with a 50% pay rise..

### USA

December, 18 *Kindercare* childcare workers in Raleigh, North Carolina strike for higher pay, in one of the first strikes by childcare workers in the US.

## Act Local

### Magnificent Seven

SEVEN workers from Harvest Printers in Macclesfield, sacked in July 1993 for refusing to sign contracts which would have forced them to disown their union and work overtime whenever the company demanded, have set up a picket in the town's Park Street. Enquiries / donations to: Sacked Seven, 39 Bond St., Macclesfield, Cheshire SK10 2D7.

### Homes for All

ON THE 28th February, over 50 members of the Freedom Network of squatters and travellers occupied 411 flats in Central London with the aim of repairing them (including re-connecting water and electricity supplies) to provide accommodation for London's homeless. Local residents have donated food and clothing. The occupation also highlights opposition to the Criminal Justice Bill. Squall, 2 St. Paul's Rd, London N1 2QN.

### Weans' World

THE OCCUPATION of the Springdale nursery in Islington, north London, had entered its ten month in February, as the council had made no preparations for its the reopening despite a vote to keep it open being won at the joint Local Government Committee and Labour group mtg.

### Whitehall Blocked

ON 18 MAY, disabled people demonstrated their disgust at the Government's treatment of the Bill which is supposed to guarantee their civil rights. Protestors threw themselves onto the road and handcuffed themselves to buses, blocking Whitehall in central London.

### Poll Tax Occupation

TWO Sheriff Officers' premises in Glasgow were occupied on 14th February by protestors demanding an amnesty for all Poll Tax non-payers in Strathclyde, causing severe disruption. Several people were arrested. And on 1 March 27 arrests were made at a demo outside the Regional Council's Glasgow offices.

### Vigil Ends

A 486 DAY vigil at ex-Parkside Colliery in Lancashire ended when 18 Bailiffs evicted the Women Against Pit Closures pit camp on 18th May. A 7ft wire-mesh fence mounted on concrete blocks was placed across the entrance with a permanent steel fence behind it. The women vowed to prevent the shaft being filled.

### Outrage!

FURIOUS lesbian and gay protestors attempted to storm Parliament on March 14th following MPs' failure to lower the gay age of consent to 16, the same as for heterosexuals. 5,000 had held a vigil outside the House of Commons. When news of the vote was received, protestors broke through barricades, charging the main entrance. After police blocked the doors, demonstrators sat down in Downing St. and stopped traffic around Trafalgar Square.

### Blockade!

17 were arrested as 50 people delayed a nuclear convoy for nearly 2 hours on March 21 outside Faslane Peace Camp: Shandon, Helensburgh, Dunbartonshire, Scotland. (Faslane Focus) Tel: 0436 820901. In May sea going protestors defied a nuclear sub.

### A Flight of Condoms

Glasgow Women Anarchists and anarcho-feminists from Edinburgh caused a stir at a SPUC meeting at Edinburgh University in February, when they threw condoms at the bigots, with Glasgow Univ. a week later.



POSTMAN PAT WON'T PAY VAT!: picket of Scottish Power in Edinburgh on 2 April

## VAT - Don't pay it!

THE GOVERNMENT added 8% Value Added Tax to fuel bills from 1 April - signing the death warrants of the extra 10,000 people who will die every year from the cold, because of the higher bills.

But—there is resistance. Pit camp supporters repossessed coal from Parkside Colliery, Merseyside on 1 April in a direct action against both VAT on Fuel and mine closures. Next day 50 people from Lothian Communities Against VAT on Fuel occupied British Gas showrooms and picketed Scottish Power in central Edinburgh. Hornsey and Wood Green Solidarity Group have picketed the Wood Green gas showrooms 3 times. In Glasgow hundreds of demonstrators invaded the St. Enoch shopping centre after the anti VAT demo on 26 March.

"The best way to defeat VAT on Fuel is to do it the poll tax way - to cause a huge amount of disruption by refusing to pay the VAT portion of our fuel bills," a Stockbridge New Town Solidarity Network leaflet. "1) When you get your first blue electricity or gas bill—ignore it. 2) When you get the red reminder—only pay the main part of the bill. Don't pay the VAT part. 3) Don't let the meter reader in... 4) If threatened... ring your local group." Resistance so far is patchy. Community self-organisation must spread.

CONTACT: Lothian - 031 557 0718. (Postman Pat won't pay VAT! posters available). Wales - North : 0978 843401. South : 0222 830029. London - Hornsey & WGSG, PO Box 2401, N8 9LR. Lambeth Unemployed Action Group : 071 733 5135.



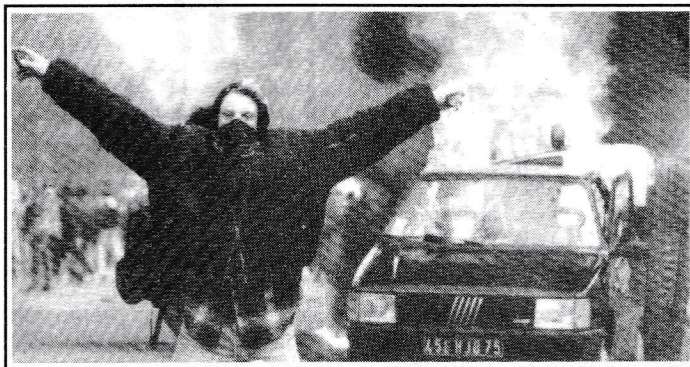
# Smashing way to change

40,000 young people and students held a victory parade on 31st March in Paris after the French Government caved in to their demands. Casseurs ('smashers' - disaffected youth) left a trail of destruction during the celebration attracting tear gas from the riot police. The march also called for the release of demonstrators detained in earlier actions and the return of two Algerians deported after the Lyons disturbances.

Throughout France, notably in Lyons, quarter of a million students had demonstrated throughout France against plans of the conservative Government to reduce the minimum wage for people under 26 by 20%. This scheme only applied to young people with less than two years higher education. This attempt to increase divisions based on qualifications was resisted by school-students, students and the unemployed. With 23% unemployment amongst under 25s, anger was widespread against a system of poverty, little training and exploitation.

Faced with falling profit rates, the Prime Minister, Balladur, tried to implement capital's aim to drive wage levels downwards in a climate of insecurity. In the last few years, under Socialists and conservative coalition Governments, 50% of French workers are employed with no job security leading to an attack on wages and conditions.

Following the example of Air France strikers, and peasants, the protests limited the power of left parties and unions whose aim is to defuse discontent and contain unrest. Instead, a climate of confrontation and direct action forced the Government to capitulate. The repressive power of the State was unable to counter spontaneous demos, sit-ins, rail and road blocks & other tactics. Loose 'coordinations' bypassed official channels. Although not revolutionary in aims (unlike the rhetoric of 1968), they prevented protest from being stifled. Worldwide, such self-organisation is essential to inflict more defeats on the ruling class.



Paris, 31st March - the French Government's wage cut plans for youth shot down in flames.

## Spanish General Strike

The Spanish general strike on 27th January, in response to the Socialist Government's labour reforms, brought major cities to a standstill. Hundreds of thousands joined pickets and demos, often clashing with police. In Granada, 400 pickets were attacked with rubber bullets and gas, injuring 9, and 40 people were arrested in Barcelona following running battles.

As well as massive demos in Madrid and Barcelona, there were large demos all over Spain: 40,000 in Seville; 25,000 in Gijón; 90,000 in Oviedo; 20,000 in Córdoba. There were numerous reports of people breaking away from the Socialist (UGT) and Communist (CCOO) unions' official demos in favour of direct action tactics.

The reforms constitute massive attacks on workers' rights, allowing companies to replace people on permanent contracts with a cheap and temporary workforce. The new apprenticeship contract for under-25s runs for up to 3 years, with pay at 55% to 75% of the minimum and no unemployment benefit rights at the end. Part-time workers will lose the right to unemployment benefit, pensions and protection when sick. With 3.5 million unemployed and 1 million families without a wage, the reforms will force people into low-paid jobs with almost no protection. (Javier, Barcelona; ANA, CNT)

### GET INVOLVED !

We invite you to write to us, and also to the other groups listed below

- **Active Distribution**, BM Active, London WC1N 3XX, (catalogue 29p+SAE)
- **AK Distribution**, 22 Lutton Place, Edinburgh (write for catalogue)
- **Anarchist Black Cross** National Secretary, c/o PO Box 3241, Saltley, Birmingham B83 DP (prisoner solidarity).
- **Anarchist Communist Federation**, c/o 84b Whitechapel High St., London E1 7QX (contacts Britain-wide)
- **Anarchists in London** Fax 071 326 0353 (24 hours) to contact Contraflow, 56a Infoshop, Anarchist Black Cross, 121 Centre, and Bad Attitude.
- **Angry People**, PO Box 183, Waterloo, NSW 2017 Australia.
- **Bad Attitude**, 121 Ralston Road, London, SE24 0L, UK. Tel: 071-978 9057
- **The Centre**, 103 Broughton St., Edinburgh EH1. Tel: 031-557 0718
- **Class War**: PO Box 1021, Edinburgh EH8 9PW PO Box 772, Bristol BS99 1EL (groups Britain-wide & international): PO Box 4297, DUBLIN 1, IRELAND
- **Contraflow**, c/o 56a Infoshop, 56 Crampton St., London SE17 (European Counter Network, London)
- **DS4A**, Box 8, 82 Colston St., Bristol (mail order distribution)
- **Glasgow Anarchists + GARview (soon)**: Box 1008 Glasgow G42 8AA.
- **London Greenpeace**, 5 Caledonian Rd., London N1
- **Norwich Solidarity Centre and Norwich Solidarity Federation** both at: PO Box 73, Norwich NR3 1QD
- **Stockbridge New Town Solidarity Network**, c/o Peace & Justice Resource Centre, St. Johns Church, Princes St., Edinburgh.
- **Tottenham Solidarity Network**, c/o 72 West Green Rd., London N15
- **Wind Chill Factor**, PO Box 81961, Chicago, IL 60681, USA.

(If your group would like to be considered for listing, write to CI.)

## Zapata Worldwide

### MEXICO

On 10 April, tens of thousands of indigenous people and peasants rallied throughout Mexico to commemorate Zapata. Much support was pledged for the January uprising which seems to have united peasant organisations more. 70 groups have set up camps in Mexico City where they'll negotiate for better living standards and civil rights. In Paris, 18 Jan, an EZLN (Zapatistas) support group occupied the Mexican embassy for 4 hours. An EZLN spokesperson says "we are not structured to take power, and we do not want it" and insists their only ideology is "either we die or we live with dignity"

### INDIA

**Calcutta**: After being locked out for demanding unpaid wages, workers occupied a jute mill on 18 Jan. Production was restarted and workers' committees set up with a communal kitchen. Jute workers throughout the region sent support messages but the courts, ordering the occupation illegal, closed the mill. A worker, unpaid for six months, died of starvation at the mill on Jan 1st. Reginald Brealey, owner of Sheffield United F.C., also owns the mill.

**Assam State**: Police killed 4 tea plantation workers who demanded unpaid wages

**Delhi**: 10,000s protested at the Indian govt. signing the GATT deal in April.

### SERBIA

A 10 week strike by Radio Pancero against Serbian government censorship ended in January. The end of '93 saw several other strikes: 12,000 hospital workers in Kraljevo struck for a week against low pay & bad conditions; 15,000 railworkers struck against "a bad union under state control"; a strike by 60,000 miners and power workers caused 2 days of power cuts.

### PAKISTAN

On 27 May, hundreds of children marched to demand the end of child labour. 19 million children work; 8 million in carpet & other factories.

### GREECE

Jan: 100 people threw eggs and paint at the police station in Moshato, Piraeus in protest at the murder of Giakus, a musician killed by a cop who was himself attacked by furious crowds when released from court

### INDONESIA

40,000 workers on strike in Medan, Sumatra demanding pay rises and an public enquiry into the death of a spokesman. Independent unions throughout Indonesia grow as militancy challenges State run unions.

### ISRAEL / PALESTINE

Peace activists defied arrest to distribute leaflets on Jerusalem-Bethlehem road against emigre settler occupation in Palestine. Info: The Other Israel POB 2542, Holon 58125.

## Broken Spectacles

"They're brainwashing us", says a member of UNPLUG, "and we're not taking it any more." Members of UNPLUG have been smashing and stealing TVs and videos in their US high schools.

The equipment is supplied free by Channel One to 12,000 schools in deprived inner-city areas. The catch? Schools must sign a contract agreeing that the TVs will be switched on to Channel One's cable student news service for 90% of the academic day and that 90% of the students must watch the "news" each day.

Each 10-minute "news" broadcast has a 2-minute commercial break typically advertising Coke, Reebok and Pizza Hut. The underground UNPLUG organistaion is rapidly growing amongst inner-city schoolstudents and claims many direct action successes against the force-feeding of corporate mind rot.

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