

WHO ARE SOUTH WALES ANARCHISTS?

South Wales Anarchists are a network of autonomous collectives who are against all forms of exploitation & bigotry. We engage in direct action against capitalism & government, spread information, & build resistance to create a world based on justice & freedom.



• *Government & capitalism is chaos, pitting person against person, encouraging domination & exploitation to preserve inequality & privilege. Anarchism is order, delivering individual liberty & social equality through a system of voluntary cooperation without political, economic or social hierarchies.*

Government & capitalism are not only undesirable, but also unnecessary. As anarchists we operate without hierarchy, co-operating on a basis of mutual aid & solidarity.

• *The ruling class control & dominate all economic & political systems, through government & capitalism they use violence, & poverty to amass wealth & coerce everyone else into obedience.*

Our enemy is the ruling class, embodied in institutions like the G8, WTO, states & corporations. We aim to confront their activities & defend personal freedoms.

• *Parliaments cannot be reformed because representative systems are inherently undemocratic. Voting is not an expression of power, but an admission of powerlessness, since it just reaffirms the government's supposed legitimacy.*

Whenever people resist, practice solidarity & organise without leaders, anarchism lives. We aim to strengthen these libertarian tendencies & help them however we can.

Check out: southwalesanarchists.org. Come to our fortnightly open meetings if you'd like to get involved. Contact: cardiffanarchists@riseup.net or gwentanarchists@yahoo.co.uk

Anarchism is a very diverse political theory with many different tendencies. Check out: anarchismfaq.org

Circulation: 8,000 - 4 times a year. **Distribution:** Willing to help? Get 15 copies delivered anywhere in south Wales to handout to friends & strangers. Totally free. **Funding:** We could really do with some! Please come to our benefit gigs, remember us in your will, or just give us some cash. Cheers.

Come across any corrupt politicians or councillors? Know of any bent coppers? Dodgy businessmen? Loan sharks? Any news of demonstrations or direct action you've taken part in? If you think Gagged would be interested, send the details to: cardiffanarchists@riseup.net Confidentiality assured.

For more news: indymedia.org.uk, indymedia.org.libcom.org, ainfos.ca, anarkismo.net, schnews.org.uk, earthfirst.org.uk, wombles.org.uk



No Borders South Wales organise for freedom of movement and equality for all. We work on a non-hierarchical, anti-authoritarian basis, using consensus decision making. Weekly meetings are on Thursdays at the Wyndham Street Centre, Cardiff at 7pm. noborderswales.org.uk



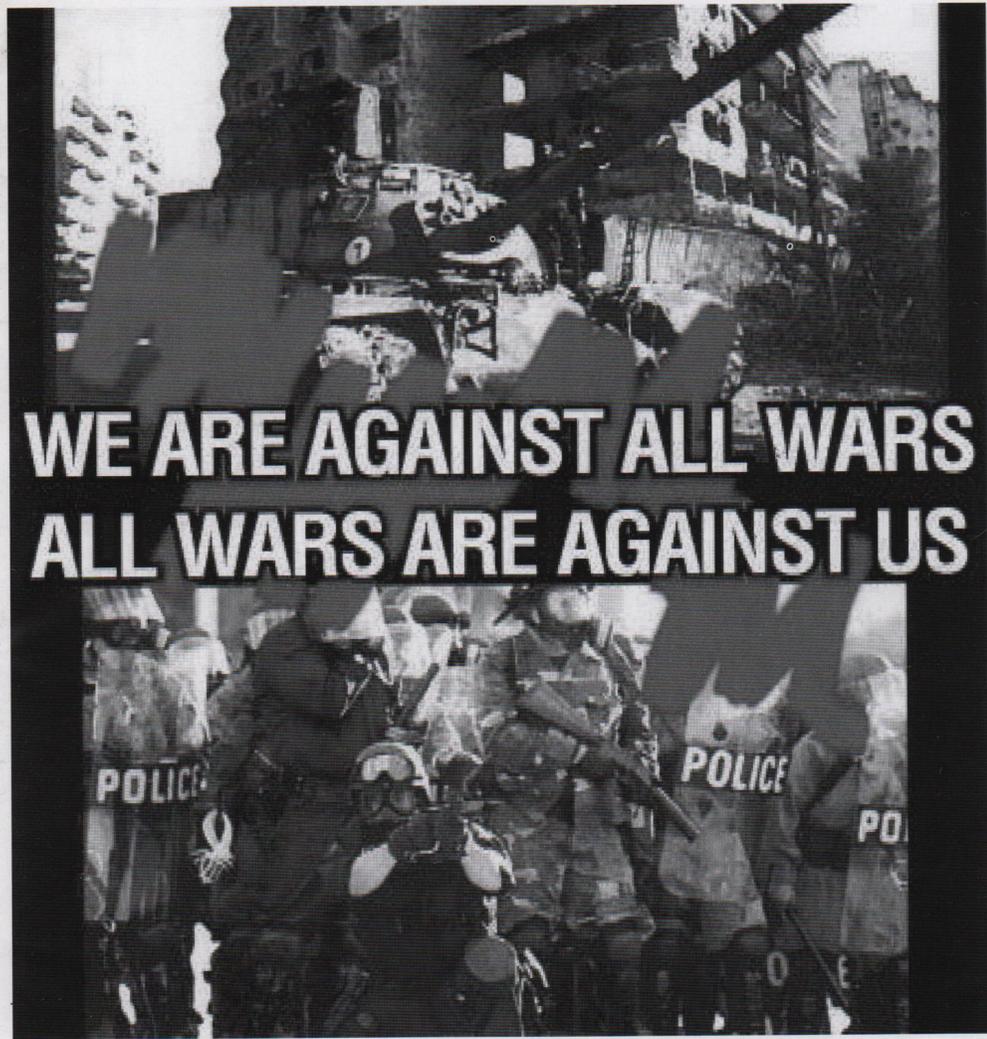
Cardiff Anarchist Black Cross is part of an international movement supporting the struggles of prisoners, & of anarchist & class struggle prisoners in particular. We believe in the total abolition of the prison system, not its reform. We are driven by solidarity not charity. cardiffprisonersupport.tk



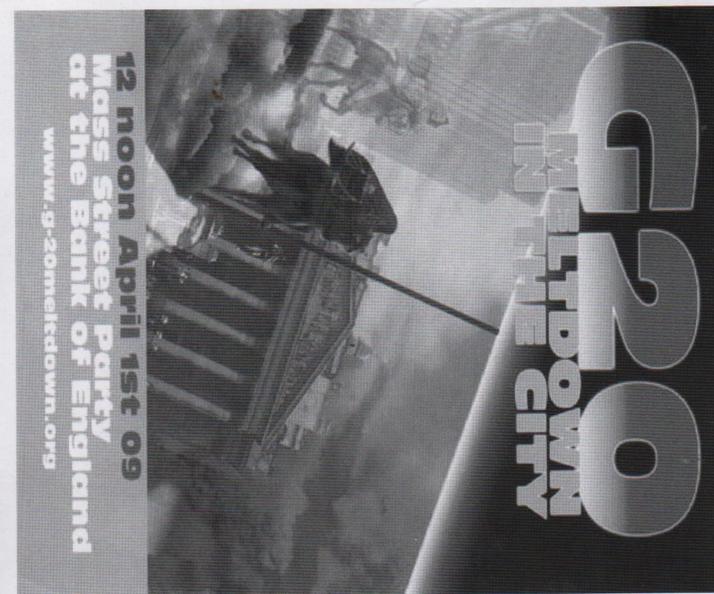
Westside Climate Action are a motley crew of anarchists & activists from Bristol, Bath & South Wales who organise a neighbourhood at the Camp for Climate Action as well as taking action all year round against the root causes of climate change. westsideclimateaction.wordpress.com



FITwatch are a fluid group of people who have come together to resist and oppose the tactics of the forward intelligence teams (FIT) who harass protestors. We aim to act in solidarity with each other to make it harder for the police to film and gather intelligence. fitwatch.blogspot.com



THIS ISSUE: Welsh Assembly War Crimes, Death in Gaza, Protests, Cardiff University Occupation, G20 Meltdown, Police Repression, Deportations & an Anarchist Book Fair! SOUTHWALESANARCHISTS.ORG



GLASCOED TO GAZA

As Palestinian survivors of the Israeli onslaught in Gaza huddle in the ruins of their devastated communities, it will be cold comfort to them to know that the weapons used against them have been developed - in part - in a country proud to be committed to a sustainable future: Wales.



While the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) talks of having "a real part to play in influencing change at home and on the international stage", the truth is that Welsh taxpayers' money is being used to subsidize the arms industry in Wales - an arms industry that is deeply implicated in Israeli war crimes in Gaza.

The Israeli military employ UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles) to target Palestinian homes, schools and hospitals. These are the Hermes 450, made by the Israeli firm Elbit Systems, using engines built in Birmingham. The pilotless drones are then brought to Parc Aberporth in west Wales for testing. This facility has been supported by £8.7m in grants from the WAG. Once the "targets" have been identified, next come the bombs. The Israeli military use Apache attack helicopters, which Palestinian human rights activists have described as "a symbol of indiscriminate military violence." The Apaches rely on transformers made by Penny & Giles Controls of Cwmfelinfach, Gwent. Then there are the F-16 fighter jets, using components made by BAE Systems, which operates a munitions factory in Glascoed and runs a military training school in Cwmbran. These same jets bombed the Shi'a Family Health Care Centre in Gaza, which runs a mobile dental clinic wholly funded by the people of Wales through the Near East Council of Churches. Incredibly, the health care centre was telephoned 15 minutes in advance by the Israelis to warn them that they would be attacked - no case of "collateral damage" there then.

HERE COMES THE SUMMER OF RAGE!

Following years of highly irresponsible and potentially criminal acts by bankers such as Fred 'should be dead' Goodwin, the Royal Bank of Scotland's disgraced former boss, people have suddenly woken up to the fact that they've had enough of them and the politicians who encouraged the abuses to go on for so long. And who is now paying the price? Not Mr Goodwin, who's been allowed to walk away with a multi-million pound pension pot, that's for sure. And not Gordon Brown, who hasn't even got the guts to apologise for his shameful negligence whilst chancellor of the exchequer. As usual, it's people like you and me who are bearing the brunt, losing our homes, our jobs and our savings.

But all is not lost. We can and we must fight back. And we have the perfect opportunity to show the crooks in the City of London that we mean business. The Group of Twenty (G20) finance ministers and central bank governors acts as a forum for cooperation and consultation on international finance. Its members are drawn from 19 of the world's 25 largest national economies plus the European Union (EU). These economies comprise 90% of gross global production, 80% of global trade and two-thirds of the world's population.

CARDIFF UNIVERSITY OCCUPIED

In the wake of Israel's attack on Gaza, Cardiff university became the 28th university across the UK to be occupied by students who, following a large and noisy street demonstration, took and held the Shandon lecture theatre for three days, causing considerable but justified grief for the university authorities.



Despite intimidation from university security guards who made every attempt to make life difficult for the students by trying (but failing) to stop food and drink from reaching them, the thirty or so occupiers held firm, buoyed by support from a wide range of political groupings and concerned individuals. They even received a message of solidarity from Naom Chomsky!

The occupation lead by students under the banner of Cardiff Students against War ended on 27 February after they secured a major victory when David Grant, vice-chancellor, agreed with the students' key aim that Cardiff university divest from the arms trade. On receiving written confirmation that the university had sold its £209,00 worth of shares in both BAE and General Electric and had given instructions to fund managers not to reinvest in the arms trade at any point, the students involved in the occupation decided to leave on a high.

Perhaps students across Wales might now want to turn their attention to the millions of pounds worth of military research carried out at Cardiff, Swansea, Aberystwyth and Bangor universities which help the likes of BAE and General Electric to kill even more people!

News roundup...

South Wales anarchists have forced tory twat Alun 'greasy wops' Cairns (right) to resign from the chair of trustees of the Welsh assembly pension fund after we revealed that the £10 million fund is invested in some of the world's top polluters. Yet inspite of the revelations it seems that our assembly members are still refusing to divest the funds, managed by Edinburgh-based investment manager Baillie Gifford Life Ltd. Perhaps they need further prompting...



Peace activists around Wales have been showing their anger at the Israeli massacre of innocent Palestinians. In Wrecsam activists organised a 'supermarket sweep' of Israeli goods. Tesco, Asda and Sainsbury were all targeted, giving them food for thought over the recent atrocities.

16 February 2009 marked yet another potential victory for police repression. While the cops continue to harass protestors, it is now illegal under new counter-terrorism legislation to take pictures of a police officer 'likely to be useful to a person committing or preparing an act of terrorism'. In other words, the cops will arrest anyone they don't like with a camera (probably even without a camera) and then use the blanket excuse of 'terrorism' to muzzle them.

Merthyr-based company, Compound Security Systems Ltd (CSS), is in the news once more for all the wrong reasons.

CSS's claim to infamy is the Mosquito, a nasty device that emits a very high-pitched noise designed to deter children and young people from congregating. Howard Stapleton, the anti-social inventor of the Mosquito, has now come up with the 'Mini-Mosquito', a cheaper version for child-hating homeowners.



Leading south Wales charity, Ty Hafan, which runs a hospice for terminally ill children, is planning to attend the Aerolink Wales 2009 arms fair. Clearly Ty Hafan has no qualms about taking money from companies who spend billions of pounds developing ways to kill innocent civilians, including, of course, children.

Hats off to the Fitwatch folk whose campaign against protestor intimidation by the cops of the sinister FIT (Forward Intelligence Teams) notched up a significant victory when the police were forced to admit to holding a potentially illegal database of political activists and to apologise for their actions. Victory has come at a price: Fitwatch activists have endured around thirty arrests, eight days in prison, numerous strip searches, untold bruises, damaged wrists, elbows, shoulders and hands, over two hundred hours of sitting in police cells, ridiculous fitted up charges, weeks in court, thousands of pounds in fines and continuing aggression, harassment and victimisation. For more information on how you can help the campaign go to: fitwatch.blogspot.com

PROTEST ASSAULT CHARGE

Three people are fighting accusations that they assaulted police following a protest last year against the visit by Israeli Ambassador, Ron Proser (right), to the Welsh Assembly. The assaults were alleged to have happened as the three were pushed to the ground by police, desperate to keep protestors away from the visiting dignitary.



Ron Proser's visit to the Senedd in June 2008 sparked controversy when a number of Assembly Members refused to meet him. The presiding officer, Dafydd Elis-Thomas, pointed to the extent to which Israel had 'failed to meet its international obligations to the Palestinian people'. Protests were called to coincide with Proser's arrival at the assembly building.

However, the ambassador's arrival was carefully planned to keep him well away from any protest. A decoy convoy of diplomatic cars was used to draw the protestors' attention to the main public entrance of the assembly, while Proser himself arrived at the Pierhead Street entrance in a much less ostentatious vehicle.

Anticipating such a tactic, a group of protestors had gathered in Pierhead street, determined that Proser should witness some of the protest against him. However, just as he was arriving, the police moved in, apparently to prevent a 'breach of the peace'. Three people were thrown to the ground and arrested for assault. One police officer alleges that he was kned in the groin, a second that he sustained scratches to his wrist and a third that he was pulled to the floor.

The defendants have described these charges as pure fabrication, intended only to deter people from making any sort of effective protest at the assembly. 'I think we upset their plans to keep Proser away from the protests and because of that we were pushed, shoved, thrown to the floor and arrested for things we have not done', said Val Swain, one of the people charged. 'But this is a man who has sanctioned war crimes against Palestine. It doesn't seem so unreasonable to me that he should be confronted with protests against the murderous regime he represents.'

The case will be tried at Cardiff magistrates court from the 20th April. The trial is expected to last for four days. At least one of the defendants potentially faces a custodial sentence due to the seriousness of the allegations, and it is possible that all three will be sent to prison if convicted.

Please send messages of support to val.swain@yahoo.co.uk. Anyone able to spare a few hours to support the defendants in court during the trial would be very welcome.

SHUT DOWN AEROLINK

On 7 April 2009, weapons manufacturers are coming to South Wales to do their dirty business. Aerolink Wales 2009 is a Welsh government sponsored arms and aerospace trade fair held at the Vale Hotel and Spa, Hensol, just south of junction 34 of the M4.

Here's a small sample of the companies attending and how they've been helping the Israeli armed forces kill Palestinians:

Magellan Aerospace makes the CRV7 rocket weapon system (RVS) for both the F-16 jet fighter and the Apache helicopter (right) both of which were used extensively by the Israeli airforce during its recent aggression against the people of Gaza



General Electric (GE) makes the F110 and T700 engines for the F-16 and Apache helicopter respectively. GE has been supporting the Israeli armed forces since 1950. In collaboration with Israeli company Elbit Systems, **Thales** manufactures the Watchkeeper UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle). Production of the Watchkeeper system takes place at U-TacS (UAV Tactical Systems Ltd), the Thales UK and Elbit Systems joint company, based in Leicester. Israel uses UAVs to identify targets prior to bombardment.

Rolls Royce is the world's second largest defence engine supplier, powering 25% of the world's military fleet. The company makes all short take off and vertical landing components for the Joint Strike Fighter (a.k.a. F-35 Lightning II). Israel bought 100 of the strike fighter planes in 2006 and a further 25 in 2008.

Gardner Aerospace, part of the Carlyle Group, helps build war planes, including the C-130 Hercules, the military transport plane used by the Israeli airforce operating from its Nevatim Airbase.

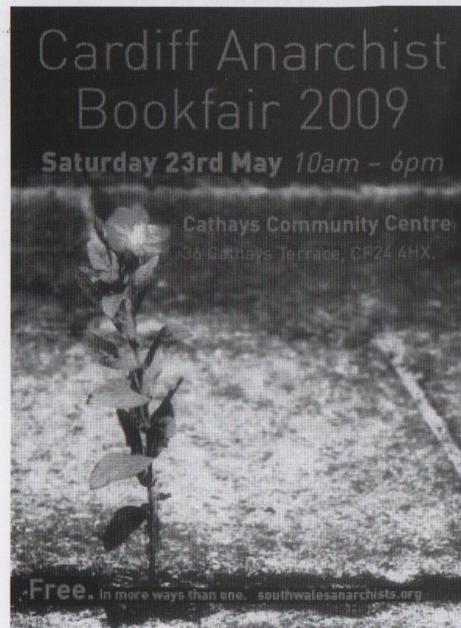
Encouraged by politicians from all parties, Wales is fast becoming a safe haven for arms manufacturers. The organisers of Aerolink are promising the biggest and best show ever. Let's do our best to ruin it for them and make it crystal clear that we don't want to be part of a militarised Wales. Put 7 April in your diaries and join us for a day of action. cardiffanarchists@riseup.net

A DAY OF FREEDOM, EQUALITY AND INSPIRATION

Since the first London Anarchist Bookfair in 1983, these events have been held around the world, spreading the vibrancy, history and diversity of the anarchist movement.

The first Cardiff Anarchist Bookfair will feature talks, discussions and a space to network as well as stalls with books, magazines, newspapers, DVDs, CDs, t-shirts, badges and more, with contributions from local, national and international organisations, distributors, publishers, campaigns, activist groups and other anarchist collectives. After experiencing the movement we've got, the day will close with a panel discussion on 'the kind of Anarchist movement we want'. Everyone with an interest is invited to contribute.

Free. In more ways than one.



YAHYA AL-FAIFI MUST STAY

Yahya Al-Faifi is a trade unionist from Saudi Arabia, a country with a horrific human rights record and where trade unions are illegal. After he was threatened "the safety of his family could not be guaranteed" due to his union organising, he fled the country in 2004. He and his family settled in South Wales, claiming asylum whilst he has continued his trade union work with the Communication Workers Union, and National Union of Mineworkers.



The family's asylum application was refused by the UK Border Agency, despite the publicly acknowledged suppression of workers' rights in Saudi and high profile of Yahya himself. The refusal to grant asylum appears to be nothing more than yet another cynical attempt to keep the UKBA deportation figures high.

On Thursday 19th February there was an international day of action to defend Yahya and his family with a rally outside the Home Secretary's office in Whitehall, a solidarity demo outside the UK Border Agency on Newport Road in Cardiff and a protest outside the British Embassy in Brussels.

While we of course believe in the freedom to stay for all migrants, it is imperative that someone who has spent so much of his life showing solidarity with fellow working class people must not be left short of support, Yahya must stay! Check out noborderswales.org.uk

PALESTINE SUPPORTERS ARRESTED

On 11 March cops raided three houses in Swansea and arrested two people on suspicion of 'conspiring to commit racially aggravated criminal damage'. The third person was not at home. Police seized three computers and papers relating to Palestine and Israel. The three are naturally outraged not only by the actions of the police, but at the racist slur implied by the charge.



The police, in several vans and cars, were from Bridgend. The charge was related to a minor incursion at the Bridgend Sainsburys last week, during which a couple of boxes of Israeli peppers were sprayed with red paint and a 'Boycott Israel' slogan spray-stencilled on the floor. The police assumed that the Bridgend and Swansea actions were co-ordinated, or conspired, by some sort of organisation or command...they just don't get it, do they?

Greg Wilkinson had already been arrested in relation to the Tesco Protest in Swansea a few weeks ago, though not charged. D Murphy, who was charged also had her house raided, but happened to be out. The two arrested have been bailed until June 4th.

Mr Wilkinson said: 'The use of the words 'Israel' and 'Israeli' is no more racist than the use of, say, British, in relation to the invasion of Iraq or Afghanistan. No conspiracy exists or is needed to explain the use of red paint in boycott gestures here and there in South Wales - especially since the Swansea action was so widely publicised in local press and online. Raids and searches involving at least 20 police on that one day alone were a gross waste of police time and public money, not to mention another abuse of civil liberties.'

COPWATCH

Watch out there's a Gwent cop about...

Details of cops playing with their guns were released by the home office on 3rd March 2009 and testify to some astonishing facts about the Gwent rozzers.



According to the figures cops all over the UK have been getting their hands on their pistols much more often than they should be. Last year the number of operations in which firearms were authorised leapt by nearly 20%. And over the 7-year period from 2001 to 2008, authorisations rose by nearly 50%.

But if that sounds bad enough, in 2001-02 coppers in Gwent were authorised to carry a gun on 20 occasions. By 2007-08 that number had risen to a staggering 334! A percentage increase of Zimbabwean proportions!!

And it's the same story when it comes to operations involving armed response teams. Gwent deployed 16 of them in 2001-2 and 7 years later there were 257 teams knocking about - doing exactly what, we'd like to know?

We're wondering when those guns are going to be turned on strikers and protestors and the like. At the rate that the gun-toting Gwent police are going, it won't be very long!

No confidence in Welsh Police

A total of 1,601 complaints were levelled against South Wales, Gwent, North Wales and Dyfed-Powys Police; that's a rise of 77% over the past five years! And the biggest culprit? None other than the South Wales cops, of course, Wales' biggest force, which recorded the most complaints, 682 in 2007-08, compared with 242 in 2003-04 - a rise of 61%. South Wales chief cop, Barbara Wilding (above), has a lot to answer for



According to the near-useless Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC), six out of ten complaints alleged neglect of duty, rudeness and intolerance and common assault.

In response to the piss-poor performance, a South Wales Police spokeswoman said: "We expect the highest standards of professional conduct from all officers and staff. The public can be assured that, if and when those standards are not met positively and complaints are received, they are recorded, assessed and any action needed is taken." And if you believe that...

Meanwhile, 'Babs' has been stamping her feet, threatening to reduce policing services if she doesn't get more dosh from the Welsh assembly government. Minister Brian Gibbons has resisted Wilding's blackmail attempts and given the south Wales force only half what she wanted. We think he should go further and sack Wilding for presiding over probably one of the UK's most corrupt and inefficient police services.