



WAKE UP!! IT'S YER STILL ON ITS PODIUM...

# SchNEWS

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Team GB in with "a real chance" of bronze in Clay Pigeon Shoot



## GUNNING FOR GOLD

OLYMPIC RINGS OF STEEL AS UK PREPARES FOR MILITARY LOCKDOWN

Urban deployment of up to 13,500 military personnel, two of the navy's largest warships, unspecified numbers of military attack helicopters staffed by snipers, typhoon fighter jets, surface to air missiles, support from the SAS and Navy Marines1, 12,000 police officers2, 300 MI5 agents, 20,000 private security guards3 and up to 1,000 US agents including 500 FBI4. The extension of Section 44 of the Terrorism Act across the whole of Britain. All costing in the region of £6million.

So the invasion of Iran? The military contingent sent to join Arab Spring rebel groups? The recent deployment in Libya? No - it's a just a few folk running fast and seeing who can throw something the furthest. In the capital city of a country that, according to the Country Risk Index5 is one of the most stable in the world. East London is set to resemble a warzone (again) as the Olympic Games 2012 rolls into town.

Despite constant assurances from Home Secretary Philip Hammond that Olympic Security is a 'civilian lead' ('lead' hopefully not as in Cast Lead) force6 the number of military personnel now involved has escalated from it's original commitment of 3,000 troops to 13,500. This is 4,000 more soldiers than in Afghanistan, and will be Britain's biggest peace time mobilisation on home soil.7 The army on the ground will be assisting police to search people entering the stadiums and provide 'venue security'. There is also a team to help with logistics and planning, as well as contingency teams for bomb disposal, military working dogs and maritime support.

### Ship hits the fans?

HMS Bulwark and HMS Ocean will be berthed on the Thames, equipped with a whole host of military bells and whistles. HMS Ocean is an amphibious assault ship and is the largest ship in the Royal Navy. She is staffed by up to 830 Royal Marines, 40 vehicles, 285 officers and crew and 180 Fleet Air Arm staff for the 18 helicopters and 15 Typhoon fighter jets she carries. Also on board are 7 radar guided missile launchers and four landing craft capable of carrying troops and vehicles.

HMS Bulwark is the flagship of the Royal Navy and is fresh back from the Libyan conflict. She can house 256 Royal Marines with their vehicles and combat supplies, as well as up to 405 troops. Armaments include two automatic radar guided cannons, four 7.62mm machine guns and two w20mm cannons. Both ships are designed to launch missiles to take down aircraft flying in 'Olympic airspace' (hopefully not merely for activist camera drones) and provide logistics support, accommodation, helicopter landing sites, maritime command'n'control and small boat basing.

In addition to the sea faring killing machines,

an SAS military base is under construction at the main Olympic site in Stratford, and helicopters will be patrolling London's airspace. The Lynx and Puma aircraft will be staffed with snipers able to shoot 'enemies' from 1,000 yards using night light and infra red laser technology, and had their last outing in Iraq.

And that's just the military forces. Police from from over 20 constabularies and external organisations will also be roaming around. Those organisations range from the Fire and Ambulance Emergency Services, UKBA, Ministry of Defence and a special team to represent the twelve Police Golds running their operations in the venue forces. See - Britain's got 12 Golds before the Olympics have even started, who could possibly complain?

And what will all those officers being doing with their time? They'll be stopping and searching whoever the hell they like: Section 44 of the Terrorism Act will be enforced over the whole of Britain. Yes, all of it. They'll also be storming on to private property and tearing down 'advertising' of any kind. The London Olympic Games and Paralympic Games Act 2006 specifies that police have the right to use force to enter any property, including people's homes and places of work, to remove unsanctioned advertising in the vicinity of the Olympic sites. However, their description of advertising is decidedly vague.

### Record Breakers

The official definition includes: "announcements or notices of any kind; advertising of a non-commercial nature; the distribution or provision of documents or articles; the display or projection of words, images, lights or sounds; things done with or in relation to material which has or may have purposes or uses other than as an advertisement". So basically, if you live in East London or any other of the Olympic locations and have an anti-cuts poster in your window or possibly even playing Rage Against the Machine slightly too loud, the coppers can storm yer humble abode, rough you up a bit, then grab your leaflets and boombox. These regulations, and the imposition of Section 44 are both for indefinite periods of time, making you wonder whether this is just another excuse to push through yet more draconian laws which continue to limit freedom of speech and expression. The Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games are looming and there seems to be no sign of stopping until at least then.

In addition to the more officious forces of repression, 20,000 lovable private security agents, trained by companies such G4S will also be putting the boot in. Despite a track record which includes the death of deportee Jimmy Mubenga whilst being restrained by G4S staff (see SchNEWS 763), the organisation won a £100mil-

### CRAP HUMAN RIGHTS OBSERVER OF THE WEEK

For Syria'sly questionable judgement...

After 9 months of rebellion and savage repression in Syria, where the UN reckon thousands have been killed by the security forces, the Arab League (itself one of the world's crappiest international organisations) decided to send in a team of human rights observers to check that hereditary president Bashar Assad and his Ba'ath Party hadn't been violating any human rights whilst they bomb city centres.

To head this fact-finding mission they chose one General Mustafa al-Dabi. Sudanese General al-Dabi knows a few things about human rights violations - not only is he staunchly loyal to Sudanese president and wanted war criminal Omar al Bashir, but the General is alleged to have founded the Janjaweed - the feared militia accused of the worst atrocities during the Darfur Massacres that left approximately 200,000 dead.

Nice one Arab League - as soon as their human rights mission is over we'll no doubt know exactly what's going on in Syria. No doubt it'll turn out its all a storm in a teacup, just like Darfur was...

lion contract to provide 10,000 thugs to help police the games - including the main Olympics site which is currently surrounded by 17 kilometres of electrified fencing, with up to 900 cameras. New software has integrated the entire CCTV network, enabling an individual to be followed across the whole of London.

Various countries who are involved will be bringing their own security teams, and there has been recent controversy over the number of FBI agents the US wants to send and whether they'll be allowed to carry weapons. The national security coordinator for the games has stated there will be no foreign armed personnel at the Olympics, but with rumours circulating of massive pressure from the US to direct the whole security effort, it's probably not worth believing. And don't think that just cos the FBI won't have them that there won't be any guns. The British Transport Police are to start regular armed patrols on the London Underground network soon, in preparation for their operations during the games, which will see over 100 officers with submachine guns going round the circle line.8

As if that's not enough for ya, the Olympics are also fast turning out to be an excuse for the corporate elite to show exactly what they're made of. Each corporate brand that is an official sponsor for the games (Coca-Cola, McDonald's and others) will be bringing their own security teams - no doubt to help protect their advertising rights by prohibiting the expression of any other opinion apart from "I'm lovin' it" in a two hundred mile exclusion zone around the games.

The Olympic authority is shipping in 4,000 brand-new luxury BMW 3 and 5 series vehicles from Germany to ferry the officials and 'dignitaries' around in style. These state-of-the-art limos will be equipped with special traffic sensors, so as they are cruising round the hundreds of miles of public roads that will be shut off exclusively for their use, traffic lights will turn to green on their approach and red on as they drive off.

Canary Wharf and the Royal Docks are being cleared to make way for dozens of billionaires' super yachts to sail in, with a speedboat service complete with Michelin star chefs to transport them directly to Olympic sites. And in these austerity-gripped times, not even the aristoparasites in Buckingham Palace can afford to miss out on earning a quick buck, as private rooms in the royal reptile residence are being hired out for £30,000 a day.

All of this set to the background of a city crippled by the economic insanity of the last few decades. With the lottery fiasco of Olympic ticket allocation that has seen, predictably, wealthy and influential applicants cream the best of the seats and over a million ordinary families missing out on even the most obscure of events, this complete suspension of civil liberties and obscenely gross spending of millions of pounds is the final insult. The unprecedented security measures being put in place make a mockery of even the draconian Beijing Olympics in 2008 hosted by the Chinese Communist Party. These are the actions of a government that is very, very scared - not only of the 'threat of international terrorism' but also of its own people.

\* We deserve a medal for providing actual real proper SchFootnotes(!):

- (1) <http://www.army.mod.uk/news/23762.aspx>
- (2) <http://www.acpo.police.uk/ACPOBusinessAreas/OLYMPICS/ResourcingtheGames.aspx>
- (3) <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/11/23/uk-britain-olympics-security-idUSLNE7AM00P20111123>
- (4) <http://www.guardian.co.uk/sport/2011/nov/13/us-worried-london-olympics-security-2012>
- (5) <http://www.euromoneycountryrisk.com/Default.aspx>
- (6) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=izvog9P-k04>
- (7) [http://english.ndtv.com/ndtv\\_en/news\\_europe/2011-12-16/uk-to-provide-13-500-troops-to-guard-2012-olympics.html](http://english.ndtv.com/ndtv_en/news_europe/2011-12-16/uk-to-provide-13-500-troops-to-guard-2012-olympics.html)
- (8) <http://www.thisislondon.co.uk/standard/article-23951931-gun-police-to-patrol-the-underground-to-counter-terror-threat.do>

# TURNED UP TO 11.. 2011

Blimey. After the relative doldrums of the naughties, the world of protest transformed this year from occupying the cynical sidelines to a slap in the face to the global elite. From the messy toppling of Arab dictators to camping in New York with rain and batons beating down, Twitbook and Facehole were somewhat unduly thanked for awakening the global populace.

When images of fire, riots and violent struggle filled the news, a surprising hiatus from global turmoil occurred in the summer when rioters in the UK's major cities let the authorities know that its not OK to stop'n'search whenever you like - and unemployment and disempowerment are enough to make you wanna take a few bits and pieces without asking (See SchNEWS 783). From the sentencing of the student protesters of last year to the rioters, the state wanted us to get the picture that disobedience = getting locked up for a long, long time (and if you're not doing anything that they can nail you with in a court of law they'll just hammer you with water cannons and tasers).

2011 really was the year that the lid came off the whole financial crisis. The cosy, contented neoliberal set up that some called 'The End of History' now seems a distant memory. Back in 2008 we stated "Blimey... you spend 15 years struggling against global capitalism and then the bloody thing collapses of its own accord." The credit crunch led to a desperate scabble as the leaders of global capitalism adopted a 'stick it back together with sellotape and see what happens' approach to fend off impending doom. In the absence of any coherently articulated alternative the majority of the population in the developed west decided to sit tight and pretend it had never happened - this was not a realistic option.

The year's major upheaval (see SchNEWS 758, the Arab Spring was welcomed by the mainstream media as a case of middle-class folk demanding what we already had - capitalism with a democratic face. However the only reason that those in Tahrir Square were able to resist was the rising level of economic discontent that led to a wave of strikes and walk-outs. It was economic necessity that led to a questioning of the whole set-up. What was meant to be the feelgood end to the saga - the departure of dictators from the scene - was in fact only the pre-cursor to the real struggle - between those with and those without.

In Europe, austerity packages have failed, whole economies have nearly defaulted and double dipped all over the place, people got angry, and the police beat them up. Whole new governments in Italy and Greece were installed without any popular mandate - these weren't coups of course, that would just be

too twentieth century and Latin American - nope these were coalitions in the national interest headed up by utterly apolitical 'technocrats'. These paragons of virtue have predictably made the pleasuring of international finance their first prerogative.

For a while the whole nature of what is occurring has been deliberately obscured, buried under a blizzard of economic jargon. But put simply what is at stake is what has always been at stake - power and wealth. While the 'free' market kept the elite in the style to which they were accustomed the free market itself was an unassailable idea - a basic fact of nature. The minute the markets turned on their makers the tune suddenly changed to one of 'regulation' with a farcical attempt to pin the blame on a few rogue traders and convince a sceptical populace that 'We're all in it together'. That is all wearing a bit thin.

That crisis is now unfolding across the Western world - and in many ways for us lot (the radical left) this is a golden opportunity. The impoverishment of a whole sector of the population in order to maintain the rich lifestyles of a few (the cuts agenda) is an obvious morality tale that requires zero grounding in Marxist dogma to understand. The Occupy movement has made some bold strides in this direction - and there are encouraging signs of linking up with other struggles, notably the autonomous and rowdy electricians movement - the Sparks. Whether it's sleeping on the concrete outside St Pauls, wildcat strikes, chucking a molotov or taking a beating at the hands of a corrupt cop, we are all in this together. The only real alternative is the radical alternative. Take back the future!

Meanwhile...the crisis, aka 'the global financial crisis' isn't really all that global at all. It's not a crisis of the whole world, it's a crisis of the historically rich and overprivileged world. Europe and North Americas' economies have flatlined, meanwhile, the rest of the world enjoys a surge of economic growth the likes of which they've never experienced before. Not only the BRICs (Brazil, Russia, India & China), but a whole host of other middle income countries. This week's news is that Brazil just overtook the UK in world economic rank, pushing our little island 7th place. It's reckoned that by 2028 the average Brazilian will be as well or better off than the average UK citizen.

Maybe what we're seeing is not so much a crisis as a rebalancing of power. It's a shock to us in the UK and Europe because we're getting poorer. But then we've had some 500 years of being global top dog. We're witnessing a strange phenomena - the rest of the world is getting richer and we're getting poorer. Our governments are resorting to more repression instead of bribery to keep us quiet. Meanwhile, thanks to the Arab Spring, large parts of the rest of the world, are getting more democratic. When the US police crushed the Occupy Oakland site, Egyptians held solidarity demos. Give it a few more years and maybe we'll all meet in the middle.

One way or another as a species we'll survive (if not exactly thrive in) the economic crisis. But the problem is that the world can't handle the consumer habits of a billion people, and, if the BRICS 'make it' to a western lifestyle then the world's resources will burn up and take the climate with it.

Climate change (remember that issue from 2007-8?) is still the biggest problem facing the world. A raising of the earth's temperature by a few degrees (now reckoned to be all but inevitable by leading climate scientists) will spell destruction to entire peoples and ecosystems. There wont be any quantitative easing or Keynesian macroeconomics to sort this one out - we'll all be fucked. Happy New Year!

## ONE NIGHT ONLY: THE END IS NYE

Occupy Wall Street didn't take time off from agitating to get messy on New Year's Eve. Instead they temporarily re-occupied Zuccotti Park in what they called a New Year's Revolution, despite a massive riot cop turn-out. It was the biggest mobilisation of the group since their mid-November eviction (see SchNEWS 797). Unfortunately the cops didn't take any time off from being arseholes: After bringing out the batons, pepper spray and horses, 68 of the several hundred protesters had been nicked by the first morning of 2012 for offences ranging from trespass, disorderly conduct and one case of assaulting police.

After a General Assembly meeting at Zuccotti at around 8pm, the cops clamped down by using a child's toy tent as evidence of rule violations. At the same time a well-attended noise demo took place outside a Manhattan prison, using a 'people's mike' to talk to prisoners inside, which then

headed down to the park. The later night antics centred on pulling down the barricades around the park, piling them up in the middle and defiantly dancing on them.

NYPD tactics were aimed at mass arrest and indiscriminate violence in the clashes with the occupiers. Reports from the night include a protester being hit in the face with a barricade and pepper spraying into the air above the crowds. After a dispersal order was issued in the small hours of the morning protesters began to disperse, some continuing to march on Broadway to meet cops blocking off the streets. As before, there appeared to be deliberate targeting of journalists, livestreamers and photographers, but one group of nicked tweeters and livestreaming cameramen refused to be silenced, and were still on in the back of the police van.

\* See <http://occupywallst.org/> for more from OWS.



## BEAR NECESSITIES

*As (No Dis') Putin attempts to silence groundswell of dissent in Russia*

*From SchNews' own Moscow correspondent...*

The Russian authorities are desperately trying to clamp down in the current climate of political awakening surrounding the elections. Over 100,000 people turned out on Christmas Eve in Moscow to protest Putin's seizure of the election. (see SchNEWS 800 ).

There have been large demonstrations in other cities across the country. Pre-emptive arrests of activists is currently the state's chosen tactic. On the 4th of December the leader of the "Vanguard of Red Youth" movement and a co-ordinator of the "Left Front", Sergej Udaltsov was arrested for "ignoring the ruling of courts in relation to his crimes" and held for five days. After this he was re-arrested for fifteen days, for "taking part in unsanctioned demonstrations against the fraudulent elections". After the first decision of the court, Sergej had started a dry hunger strike. On the 14th of December, his lawyer described his situation "extremely bad". On the same day he needed to be hospitalised but was turned down by the authorities. Technically he was to be released on Christmas Day (conveniently a day after the big rallies).

People across Russia are voicing their support for the arrested Udaltsov. On the eve of 25th of December, one of the activists for the defence of Khimki forest (an active protest mass-movement against the building of the Saint-Petersburg – Moscow motorway), Yaroslav Nikitenko, was detained as he stood outside of the Judicial Precinct No. 370 in Moscow's Tverskoy District, where he had come to support Udaltsov. Yaroslav was then charged under the same article of the Administrative Code (Article 19.3, "Failure to obey the lawful command of a police officer") as Udaltsov. Yaroslav was allegedly shouting the slogan "Judge Borovkova should be put on trial!"

Philipp Kostenko is an activist from the "Memorial" human rights organisation, known in Saint-Petersburg for giving out food on the streets to the needy. He's also an active antifascist and general agitator. He's been under arrest since the 6th of December for taking part in demonstrations against the fraudulent elections. As a sign of protest he started a hunger strike demanding the freeing of all political prisoners arrested during mass protests. The hunger strike lasted all fifteen days of arrest. On the 21st of December at 19:30 his time in prison was over - but the authorities gave him another fifteen days for an alleged "act of minor hooliganism" which happened two months ago!

On December 22nd civic activist Gennady Stroganov and Oborona activist Fyodor Khodkov also charged with Article 19.3 were sentenced to six days in jail by Judge Borovkova for their involvement in the protest action "Deputies Turn in Your Mandates!" near the Parliament. "Other Russia" activist Sergej Aksonov was also sentenced to five days in jail at this same time. All of their trials were conducted without the presence of their lawyers.

Meanwhile the protest movement is gearing up for the next round of big demos on February 4th – initial discontent with the election results for the State Duma has crystallised into a wider movement fed up with the corruption and undemocratic nature of the Putin regime.

## BOLLOCKS TO BORAT

*Its no time for lame comedy as Kazakhstan kicks off*

The state of emergency in Zhanaozen, Kazakhstan has been extended by its president Nursultan Nazarbaev to January 31st following recent riots over oil-workers' struggle for better pay and employment rights.

On December 16th (Kazakhstan's Independence Day) more than 3,000 people met up for a demonstration at the main square of Zhanaozen, a town situated in the oil-rich Mangystau Province in the west of the country.

The people who took part in action were the ex-workers of local oil companies, fired after a bitter seven month strike. Their main demands were the payment of all outstanding salaries and improvement of work conditions.

As expected the oil workers and other town folk announced their intentions to hold a peaceful protest to the authorities of Kazakhstan. However, during the demo, a police Jeep was deliberately driven into the crowd of protesters and 'peaceful' went out of fashion from there on in. Angry people turned a police car upside down and set it on fire. A nearby police bus and a yurt (placed on the square "for the celebrations") were also torched. Following this, the people, armed with sticks, pipes and molotov cocktails occupied the office of the local gas company and burned rooms on the ground floor of its office building. The local council building and a hotel were also burned. The oil workers surrounded the building and would not let the firemen get to the building. As an encore, they looted the houses of the rich in the exclusive, private area of town.

The state's answer was to send army divisions, armoured transport and more police. The town's population defended the strikers and, as a result of the attempt to bring it to 'order' more than ninety people (civilians and security) are said to have been killed, with eight hundred injured (these numbers are constantly growing).

Unsurprisingly, official media channels tell of much lower numbers. Many workers across the region have stopped work in support of the demonstrators. First oil workers of Mangystau Province started a sympathy strike, then workers of non-oil industries in the region also stopped their work in solidarity. The protests have become a general strike.

Some workers are talking of the abolishing the current corrupt system. In the town of Shepte, demonstrators were met with the usual violence, resulting in twelve people being admitted to hospital with gunshot wounds - one of whom consequently died.

In what will probably become a 21st century standard 'state-under-threat' response, mobile phones in affected areas cannot be accessed, landlines do not work, Internet social networks and media are being blocked.

The government of Kazakhstan had promised to deal with the labour protest which has so far lasted more than seven months. But many say that it's too late for talks, when during all this time the government has supported the management of "KazMunajGas" (the state-owned oil company) in the conflict with the striking oil-workers all the way.

Spin aside, the state's real position can be inferred from the president of the country, Nursultan Nazarbaev. He's started up a special commission, for "punishing the guilty

of protesting against the state". Commission members have flown into Zhanaozen to investigate the events / conduct witch-hunts. Of course, no mention has been made of punishing any police officers for firing on unarmed and peaceful people.

A huge country (the size of Western Europe), Kazakhstan has vast mineral resources and enormous economic potential. The varied landscape stretches from the mountainous, heavily populated regions of the east to the sparsely populated, energy-rich lowlands in the west, and from the industrialised north, with its Siberian climate and terrain, through the arid, empty steppes of the centre, to the fertile south. For twenty years, ever since the break up of Soviet Union, president Nazarbaev has held a firm grip on power, and his government has long restricted fundamental freedoms, including freedom of religion and expression. Public assembly is tightly controlled, and any politically motivated public meeting is likely to be denied a permit, broken up by police, or both.

Kazakhstan and Russia have maintained close ties ever since the two countries split during the break up of the Soviet Union, and Russia is still active in the oil and gas sector there. However, Russia now has to contend with China for its share of Kazakh wealth. According to Kazakh customs data, Russia and China are neck-and-neck in terms of bilateral trade with Kazakhstan. China had been acquiring oil assets in Kazakhstan since the late 1990s in order to secure a new source of energy - on it's doorstep - to fuel economic growth and reduce dependence on Middle East supplies. Chinese companies now have ownership of about a quarter of oil produced in the country and their investments do not end there; Kazakhstan's agricultural sector has been the latest target as China knows it has a lot of hungry mouths to feed in the coming years.

The vast majority of the profits from the sale of the country's resources are not shared with the nation's poor, and the Kazakh government has a terrible human rights record. Time and time again members of the security forces, torture, beat, and mistreat detainees. The government continues to use arbitrary arrest and detention, and selectively prosecutes political opponents, often detaining them for long periods.

One might say that the spirit of the Arab spring has been taken up by Central Asians, but with the current low media interest (apart from a few newspapers here and there), there isn't the same pressure on president Nazarbayev that there has been on Middle-Eastern leaders this past year (and they weren't exactly exactly keen to fold up that pressure in any event). However, Kazakhs don't need to look as far away as the Arab world for inspiration. Another ex-Soviet Central Asian country, Kyrgyzstan, chucked out their despotic president Bakiyev in April 2010, following riots and demonstrations that led to Bakiyev's ousting and the formation of a transitional government, headed by former philosophy lecturer Roza Otunbayeva.

And what country did Bakiyev flee to? Kazakhstan. No doubt president Nazarbaev has double checked his private jets are full of fuel and that his Swiss bank cashcard is still valid. Just in case.

## IT NEVER GETS OLD

A squatted courthouse, a group calling itself 'Occupy Justice' - all of this sounds eerily familiar to old time SchNEWS hacks. But enough dwelling in the past - Occupy London have branched out again and taken over Old Street magistrates at 335-337 Old Street. The building itself feels as if it's just been abandoned and squatters have the run of the place - most of us have probably seen the cells once or twice but if you ever wondered what the view from the bench was like then now's yer chance.

New Year's Eve was apparently a blast - according to one happy party goer still in residence 'the place was full of rappers, musicians, girls on stilts ..everything really'.

Despite the fact that taking the building actually involved the use of a tank, Occupy have now reached a gentleman's agreement with developers Mastcraft Limited to stay until 23rd January. Given that breathing space Occupy Justice are now going to put on trials of the 1%. One Occupier told SchNews "Given the failure of the CPS to bring war criminals and bankers to trial we're going to do it ourselves".

Meanwhile the Bank of Ideas closed a few days to 're-focus' after a Christmas and New Year that was perhaps a wee bit too hedonistic. However the doors will be opened to the public again this

Saturday: Following a convoluted legal battle (UBS employed a top level legal firm to get a back-door eviction via injunction rather than use the conventional eviction procedure) Occupy look to be in possession of the building 'til the beginning of February. Saturday sees the launch of Occupy's own Criminal Investigations Unit a crime fighting unit dedicated to the pursuit of the 1% (and of course those pen-pushers up at City Hall will just have to lump it)

And of course there's still the abiding presence outside St Pauls - slightly tattered round the edges thanks to the recent storms but busy and welcoming. See <http://occupylsx.org>

## EDL: FASH MOBBED

Stephen Yaxley Lennon (aka Tommy Robinson, self appointed leader of the EDL) was allegedly attacked by "a group of Pakistani youths" on Wednesday 21st December.

He was left with a few cuts to his face and a black-eye, sadly no broken bones but he does claim to have "bruising of the brain", which we've suspected for a while now. He has since attempted to play up the attack in an effort to enhance the (already fairly odd) cult of personality built up around 'Tommy'.

The official account of the incident is so blatantly bollocks we thought we reproduce it ourselves: "He was out driving, when he saw a car similar to his wife's, driven by a blond white girl. The other car flashed its lights so Tommy pulled over. A group of Pakistani youths wearing knuckle dusters poured out. Tommy was knocked out pretty quickly, and they gave him a good kicking.

"He looks pretty beaten up, but no bones were broken, and no eyes or teeth are missing. He had a brain scan this morning. We don't know the results yet. He has spoken to The Sun, who asked whether he had called the police. Tommy said there was no point, as a racial attack on a white guy was of no interest to them."

So... Stephen's out dogging and thinks he sees his wife; he approaches the car and - failing to see the hordes of "Pakistani youths" in the back - he is ambushed as they pour out wearing knuckle dusters. He decided not to call the police because it would be "of no interest to them" and not because

## PLANE SAILING

Sea Shepherd have taken to the skies. Well kinda.. taking a leaf out of the US military manual the anti-whaling activists have gotten themselves a drone!

The battery powered, remote-controlled aircraft has a range of 300km, and feeds back GPS co-ordinates, live video and still images to the activist ships to pinpoint the Japanese whaling fleet. It's already clocked up one victorious mission, with one sortie for the drone allowing the ship Steve Irwin to track a whaler over 28 nautical miles away.

The three ships belonging to the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society are all equipped with drones, donated by Bayshore Recycling, a New Jersey-based, environmentally-minded recycling company.

Once only used in high-tech military operations by the US air force and Israeli spies, drones are now becoming more and more commonplace, and affordable! You can pick one up for as little as £300 (google it if you don't believe us), control it with yer smartphone and use for whatever you wish. Now available to the general public, the mind boggles as to what new and inventive (and potentially terrifying) applications this technology could now have once dastardly people start customising and modifying them.

Meanwhile after the drones found the whalers, Sea Shepherd engaged in a six hour stand off with one of the Japanese Yushin Maru 3. See [www.seashepherd.org](http://www.seashepherd.org)

\* Sky cams are already all the rage and 2012 could well turn out to be the year of the drone (or mistaken UFO sightings). November saw a drone sent up by activists in Warsaw to keep an eye on the Polski Police during protests, while Moscow's largest demo in December was also monitored from above.

\* The battle for air supremacy is on! Footage and more at <http://forums.whyweprotest.net/threads/poland-warsaw-protester-launches-drone-to-spy-on-police.96570>

## SONIC SCREW LOOSE

When the gap between haves and have-nots becomes so glaringly obvious that even water cannons, tear gas and baton charges aren't enough to hold back the tide of change - just how are the poor disenfranchised global elite going to hold the line?

Well Raytheon have potentially plugged the gap by filing a patent for a Man-Portable Non-Lethal Pressure Shield. Charmingly the device is intended to suppress the huddled masses by emitting sound waves capable of causing temporary paralysis.

Looking re-assuringly like a traditional bobby-on-the-beat riot shield, it would in fact have integrated into it a 'sonic pulse generator'. Fired at a low frequency, the sound waves could either be released as a single burst or as a stream.

As a result, those on the receiving end of the sonic weapon would have their upper respiratory tracts activated to the extent that breathing becomes difficult. The effect would be more powerful in instances where these shields are deployed en masse, producing a more focused and further-reaching wave form as a result of, essentially, being networked up together.

Obviously realising that a global recession is going to make crowd suppression technology a very big dollar indeed every garden shed tinkerer is trying to get in on the act with their Heath Robinson anti-insurgency-o-matic devices. Check out Photonic Security Systems as they gleefully blind troublemakers with a three metre high wall of laser light.

\* For more on the sinister world of security see [www.security-technologynews.com](http://www.security-technologynews.com)

## ...and finally...

**Copy Righteous?** According to the impeccable news source that is [TorrentFreak.com](http://TorrentFreak.com), The Missionary Church of Kopimism is Sweden's latest official religion. Kopimists believe that information is sacred, and that the flow and reproduction of information is ethical and right. Their sacred symbols are CTRL C and CTRL V. Yes, filesharing is now a religion.

The Kopimi ("Copy Me" in Swedish) have been pushing for religious status for some time now, but the notoriously intolerant Scandinavians had refused their application back in 2010 with the flimsy excuse that their prayers and meditations were not sufficiently formalised. It looks like since then the authorities have changed their minds and decided that spending hours hunched in front of a screen uploading and downloading the latest X-Men films is dedication equal to the most devout Benedictine monk in his cell.

Kopimism was founded by 19 year old philosophy student and (literally) religious downloader Isak Gerson. "I think that more people will have the courage to step out as Kopimists. Maybe not in the public, but at least to their close ones," Isak told [TorrentFreak.com](http://TorrentFreak.com) "There's still a legal stigma around copying for many. A lot of people still worry about going to jail when copying and remixing. I hope in the name of Kopimi that this will change."

He and his co-religionists see themselves as a religious minority- the jail sentences handed out to The Pirate Bay founders are evidence of the oppression of a heretic sect in their eyes. Instead of making the sign of a cross when they greet, do they splay their fingers out as if hitting the Control and C keys simultaneously?

SchNEWS doesn't normally promote religious cults, but we'll make an exception in this case - there (holy) site is [www.kopimistsamfundet.se](http://www.kopimistsamfundet.se)

### Disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers, you'll have to run a lot further than 26.5 miles in 2 hours to outrun the Olypmic crackdown. Honest.

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