



WAKE UP!! IT'S YER FULL BRAZILIAN...

SchNEWS

www.schnews.org.uk

Friday 25th May 2012

Free/Donation

Issue 816

DO US A FAVELA

AESTHETIC CLEANSING IN THE RUN-UP TO BRAZIL'S OLYMPICS

Before the whole corporate sponsored running and jumping over things fandango known as The Olympics has even started here the next one is already causing problems. Last month U.N Representative Raquel Roinik accused the Brazilian government of outright human rights violations – adding her voice to organisations such as International Amnesty and Action Aid. Their accusations focus on the unlawful and inhuman treatment of Brazil's poor for the sake of the 2016 Olympics and the World Cup 2014.

What was supposed to be two mega-events uniting people of all nations is being stained by relentless corporate control and oppression. Naturally, events this big require intensive infrastructure projects. Construction started in 2011 in twelve Brazilian cities – Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Fortaleza, Recife, Natal, Salvador, Manaus, Cuiabá, Curitiba, Belo Horizonte, Brasília & Porto Alegre, aiming at the expansion and modernization of the public transport network, road building and the renovation or construction of new stadiums.

It has been estimated that this construction boom will displace 170,000 people, mostly from poor favelas, often through illegitimate and even criminal means. The government is forcing families to leave without adequate notice and previous consultation. Their options are to move to the outskirts of the city, which in Rio de Janeiro means 60km away from their original home, or to accept a tiny amount of compensation that is worth nothing compared to the market value of their homes, and risk even deeper poverty.

Some of the evictions look like Israeli operations in the West Bank. On 22nd October 2010, Edilson, a Restinga community resident, described the operation: "At 10am there were machines, police officers, riot forces with large weapons and they started emptying out the houses. If someone refused to leave they would take the bulldozer and start breaking down the door. The officers would come into your house, take you out by force and then demolish it." One favela 'da Mare' has been literally isolated through the construction of a surrounding 'acoustic' wall in 2010.

The wall and the evictions are part of a long process to give the favelas sites a major makeover to attract tourism and foreign investment: effectively a form of aesthetic cleansing. This suspicion was confirmed when the Brazilian government spent R\$ 377 million (£117 million) to change a major infrastructure project in order for a residents of a wealthy area in Ipanema (Rio de Janeiro) to stay where they were.

However, the Brazilian government might not be the ultimate baddy, according to Brian Mier from Action Aid: "The government suffers true blackmail from FIFA. Any proposal that is not in line with FIFA's interests leads them to

threaten cancellation of the World Cup. Therefore, to confront the government is to confront FIFA and the media".

Just as with the London games – it's corporate interests that come first. FIFA has managed last month to get the Brazilian authorities to pass the World Cup Law completely dedicated to ensuring the exclusivity of corporate profit. This law will allow the selling of alcohol in the matches despite a 2003 drinks ban introduced to stop violence, of course the fact that the World Cup's main sponsor is Budweiser therefore comes as no great surprise. The law also stingily bans cut-price tickets for welfare recipients, students and pensioners. In a country full of poverty stricken soccer fans they want to enforce copyright laws on bars that intend to transmit the games live. As a final touch the law also guarantees corporate exclusivity on the selling of food and drinks in the areas surrounding the stadiums.

So next time we are being internationally entertained it's wise to remember that there is only one winner.

Keep informed on: <http://rioonwatch.org/>

QUEEN MUTINY

Get yer bunting out!!! It's time for the Great British Street Party. (No – not that one, although we've got to hand it to the old bag, sixty years is a long stretch in the whole handwaving, greeting foreign dignitaries and living in a castle racket.) This one's been called by UK Uncut, the anti-austerity rabble-rousers.

Under the slogan "The future's not what it used to be" they're asking folk to party like it's 1948. (whatever that means) On Saturday 26th May join UK Uncut's Great British Street Party to demand that we keep our public services, our rights and our welfare system and to celebrate a new future that isn't dictated to us by a handful of millionaires but decided by us all – together.

So far events have been planned in Boumemouth, Crawley, West Sussex, Derby, Leeds, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham, Sheffield and York However it looks like the big one is going to be in Central London

Meeting at 11 a.m the demo will start off somewhat de-centralized. Choose your bloc and your meeting place and get stuck in. In no particular order the blocs are Women – meeting at London Bridge, the NHS meeting at University College Hospital, Euston Road, the Welfare State meeting at Waterloo Station Concourse and Real Democracy meeting at Parliament Square.

Organisers suggest you get a travel card and have pointed out that the Welfare and Women's blocs will be the most accessible for people with push-chairs or mobility issues. See you at the Party!

Meanwhile, Brighton Uncut are doing things their own way- they're holding their own street party on the 2nd of June

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CROP ARREST OF THE WEEK

For being early...

One man at least wasn't waiting for the public protest against genetically modified wheat in Rothamsted. According to mainstream news sources Hector Christie scaled the fence on Sunday morning and caused 'significant random damage'. He was arrested, charged with criminal damage and bailed until July 13th.

Take the Flour back, the main pressure group opposing the trial denied having any warning of Hector's solo mission but said "we are relieved that the quantity of GM pollen released by the wheat has been reduced" The group still intends do go ahead with Sunday's decontamination.

Meanwhile for light relief, National Farmers Union president, Peter Kendall, took the opportunity to invoke Godwin's Law and compared Hector's actions to those of the Third Reich, because of course a bit of premature wheat harvesting can only lead directly to a mechanized war of racial annihilation.

I CAN SEA CLEARLY NOW

Paul Watson, the founder of Sea Shepherd Marine Wildlife Conservation Society has been released. He was bailed from a Frankfurt jail pending a decision on whether he will be extradited to Costa Rica, where he is wanted for supposedly endangering a Costa Rican fishing vessel whilst filming a documentary back in 2002.

On Friday (18th) a Frankfurt court ruled that he could be released on bail for around £200,000. A mystery donor stepped in and he was released on Monday (20th). The Captain was relieved to be out, "I didn't expect something that happened 10 years ago to sneak up on me in Germany."

Watson must remain in Germany while the extradition case gets haggled over.

Luckily for Paul the Costa Rican President Laura Chinchilla was in Germany on an official visit trying to drum up more foreign investment from Chancellor Angela Merkel. By the time she had arrived in Berlin more than 400 Sea Shepherd supporters had shown up to greet her.

Sea Shepherd called for a global day of action on Wednesday (23rd) asking people to go and stand outside German Embassies and protest. Demonstrations took place outside the German embassies and consulates of Hong Kong, Australia, Canada, US, South Africa, Brazil, Spain, Costa Rica and many other countries.

QUEBEC'S AGAINST THE WALL

Students across Quebec have been protesting for a solid four months, with over 166,000 students striking from classes, barricading college doors shut, nude demos and more lively police clashes, which put the UK attempts to shame. The cabinet is increasing tuition fees in the province by 75% over the next five years to \$3,793 a year. Fees vary across the country and there have been contested austerity-related fee increases all over, but Quebec has a strong tradition of valuing affordable higher education. In response, the education minister and premier have enacted 'Bill 78' which called for the end of winter semester at universities where students were still striking, meaning an early summer break, alongside a whole heap of repressive bullshit which has plunged the province into an angry defence of the right to protest.

See what Bill 78 involves and it looks like Canada's law makers have a first-class degree in repression. The legislation or 'loi speciale' makes it illegal to hold a protest without requesting police permission in advance and providing details of route, time and duration – and having to alter these plans at the police's whim or else the protest is deemed illegal (if you got the permission in the first place). "Illegal" demonstrators risk fines of between \$1,000-\$5,000 for individuals, \$7,000-\$35,000 for protest leaders and up to \$125,000 for unions, and the fines double for repeat offenders. It's also a crime to encourage someone else to protest, including a harmless tweet, and to stage any sort of protest within 50 metres of an educational establishment. Embarrassingly, they passed the law the same day as anti-protest laws were being read in Russia which included substantial raising of fines for unsanctioned protests.

If the law was supposed to act as a protest clamp-down, allowing peaceful subservience to return to the streets, it failed miserably. Instead, there's been a furious and sustained backlash against the laws, dragging in people who hadn't had much to do with the preceding student protests.

After the bills implementation on Saturday 19th May police got straight down to work, arresting 69 people that night and 308 on the Sunday. Protesters got up to all manner of antics, chucking molotov cocktails, lighting bonfires, making barricades and pulling bits of concrete off the roads. People also wore masks in rebellion of a recent by-law criminalising their use in protests, something the Harper government want to make punishable by up to 10 years behind bars.

On Tuesday 22nd May around 200,000 demonstrators took to the streets of Montreal in what has been described as the 'biggest act of civil disobedience in Canadian history'. Dual-organised, one group led by Quebec university, school student federations and labour movements informed the authorities of their plans. The other, led by an umbrella of student associations CLASSE, declined to – although they did give the police a 'fuck you' map with a route drawn out like an extended middle finger. As protesters gathered in their tens of thousands, most wearing red, people living in the area came out onto their balconies and porches banging pots and pans. The Montreal transport union got involved by telling members to refuse to let cops on the buses – bizarrely, Canadian riot cops use public buses as their preferred method of travel between protest hotspots and as a place to detain prisoners.

Having that many people must help with avoiding protest fatigue: there have been nightly protests against the fee increases for over a month and each has had a good turn-out. Pot'n'pan noise demos against the 'loi speciale'

– some lasting up to an hour – are also happening flashmob style on street corners around Quebec, organised through social media. The majority of arrests happened on the 24th, when the nightly demonstration in Montreal ended with a whopping 518 arrests following a huge police kettle formed when cops accused people of throwing rocks. The same night in Quebec city 170 people were nicked, facing fines before they'd even begun, purely because their gathering wasn't state-sanctioned.

The protests continue...

CHAFF SCUM

Take the Flour Back callout...

Meet Rothamsted Park, Harpenden, Herts (30 mins from London by train) 12 noon on 27th May. At 1.30pm a walk will be taken to the field.

The wheat being trialled by the Rothamsted agricultural research establishment incorporates two chemically synthesised genes and is designed to put off aphids by emitting pheromones. The two genes that will pull off this wizardry are apparently a) "similar to that found in peppermint..." and more bizarrely b) have "most similarity to [one] from a cow...". This is the first synthetic copy of an animal gene to be used in such a way and as such represents a very wild stab in the dark. Open air trials carry massive risks of cross contamination and hybridization.

The trial itself is being funded by the government's Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, to the tune of £1m – they've said they're determined to "complete the field trial successfully."

PARTY & PROTEST

For events listings updated weekly see
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BEAT HOME CHICAGO

As NATO's top-brass met in Chicago to debate a way out of the mess they created in Afghanistan, the freedoms they claim to uphold overseas were being eroded on their doorstep.

The city's Mayor, Rahm Emanuel, who rules Chicago's notoriously corrupt City Hall like a personal fiefdom, brought in a raft of draconian measures designed to suppress protest against the military coalition currently bringing death and destruction to central Asia. Meanwhile, inside the NATO summit, the US leadership has finally bowed to the inevitable- Obama announced that US forces will begin to withdraw from mid 2013.

Some of the city's policies were outright pedantic, rivalling the UK's SOCPA in their pettiness. All banners and placards to be held by more than one person had to be registered, and all authorised protests could only go ahead with a \$1 million insurance policy. Whilst Emanuel claimed they would be temporary, he has since announced they will remain in place for the foreseeable future. Activists in the UK should heed this warning considering the so-called temporary laws brought in for the Olympics.

Even before the summit, the authorities signalled their intent to crush dissent. On May 16th, three Occupy activists were arrested on 'terrorism charges' after a police raid allegedly caught them in the act of making molotov cocktails. The defendants' lawyer claims the material was actually a home-made beer kit and rumours abound that under-cover cops from the Chicago Police Department (CDP) worked alongside the FBI to entrap them.

Unfortunately for the three young men, they had

filmed CPD officers searching their car and intimidating them as they entered the city. The video has been a hit on YouTube, and no doubt irked the boys in blue. Whatever the motive, a variety of commentators claim the case is fishy. Even more images have emerged since the summit, showing the bloody heads of protesters who found themselves on the wrong end of a baton or two.

FASH POLISHED OFF

Rozbrat is a squatted social centre in Poznan (West Poland) occupied by anarchists for over 15 years, it is home to many initiatives and projects. On 13th May there was a DIY Art Festival taking place there. Since Rozbrat is pretty popular place in Poznan (not only amongst activists, but also amongst more mainstream population looking for something different) the event was attended by many families. On the same day in the centre of city local fascists from Autonomous Nationalists (fascists who dress like anarchists) and other right wing groups of idiots were taking part in some sort of celebration of one of the national heroes, as usual trying to hi-jack events for their own ends.

As if this was not enough our brave Polish 'patriots' decided to go to Rozbrat and attack the festival taking place there, even though it wasn't particularly political and there were a lot of kids in attendance. Around 30 arrived outside the building, tried to set the gate on fire and began chucking rocks and flares inside squatted area. Leaders of the master race however didn't expect the squatters to react so robustly to their 'patriotic' action. Fascists were chased away from the squat and in the resulting scuffle many of them sustained injuries, including their leader Maciej Witzberg who was hospitalised with stitches and fractures.

Shortly after activists began a boycott of two pubs Witzberg is co-owner of. In Poznan the far right is not very strong when it comes to numbers, but clearly has money behind it and those two pubs definitely contribute to that. A Facebook profile of the action quickly got hundreds of 'likes' and local media also wrote about it. The boycott obviously had significant impact upon nazi business already, as Maciej Witzberg began issuing legal threats to everybody sharing it on their Facebook pages or distributing information about it publicly. That seemed to increase the numbers of people liking and sharing the profile even more! Obviously not content with bad publicity and possibly already facing pressure from business partners, Mr "I am only a Polish patriot" went to the local liberal newspaper (think *The Grauniad* with less typos) to tell "his side of the story". In the interview he complained about "being persecuted for his beliefs", compared boycott to actions of communist secret police and said he was at Rozbrat to protest their anti-patriotic activities and was assaulted for absolutely no reason. Clearly throwing bricks and flares at kids and their families had nothing to do with it!

The boycott action continues and Poznan anti-fascists said they are not going to leave our poor "patriot" in peace.

SEE SCHNEWS.ORG.UK FOR... VIOLENCE IS GOLDEN

Greek fascist organisation Golden Dawn celebrate gaining electoral seats with violence against immigrants.

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