



WAKE UP!! WAKE UP!! IT'S YER ANTI-SEMANTIC...

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Twattish Tory Trolls - Mike Weatherley & Robert Nemeth

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CREEPING IN CRAWLEY

ACTIVISTS EVADE G4S SECURITY TO OCCUPY CRAWLEY HQ'S ROOF

In what must have been an embarrassing security breach for the world's biggest security company two activists scaled the roof of their UK HQ in Crawley today (Monday 2nd).

The two used ladders to access a fire escape and scaled the roof at 6a.m, hanging banners, as a group of around a dozen supported them on the ground. They swiftly secured themselves in position with D-locks. One banner read "G4S - Profiting from: Israeli Apartheid, Prison Slavery, Deadly Deportations". They were arrested as they voluntarily descended and are currently (17.30PM) being held in Crawley police station.

The anti-G4S group issued a statement in protest at the security multinational's "illegal and immoral activities" in both the UK and Palestine/Israel.

G4S provides equipment to prisons inside Israel to which Palestinian political prisoners from occupied territory are transferred in violation of the Geneva Conventions, tortured and subjected to arbitrary detention.

In the UK, G4S runs six private prisons at which 400 prisoners are forced to work 40 hours a week for as little as £2 a day.

The company also runs three immigration detention centres, where detainees have made repeated claims of abuse and assault.

Last year the company lost a multi-million contract with the UK Border Agency to deport refused migrants after 773 complaints of abuse

were made against it and following the death of Jimmy Mubenga, an Angolan asylum seeker who died as a result of G4S security guards applying illegal restraint techniques.

Despite all this, G4S is being awarded a wide range of public service contracts, from taking over police forces and providing controversial workfare schemes and asylum accommodation on behalf of the government to providing all security at the London Olympics.

Today's protest is the latest in a new, international campaign against the controversial company. On 7th June, more than 70 people demonstrated outside the G4S Annual General Meeting and handed shareholders an "Alternative Annual Report" detailing the company's alleged violations of human rights and international law.

One of the rooftop protesters, Tom Hayes from the Boycott Israel Network, said: "UK businesses should not be profiting from the detention and mistreatment of children."

"Brutal systems of discrimination such as Israeli Apartheid are maintained because companies like G4S are willing to do business with them, in total disregard of the human consequences and of international law. G4S is an example of a business that cynically views the practices of such regimes as good for business."

"Action much be taken to prevent corporate complicity with Israeli violations of international law."

The other protester, Sean Flint from No Borders UK, said: "I wonder how many Jimmy Mubengas it will take to realise that companies like G4S don't care about people placed in their care, but are only concerned with maximising their profits, no matter what the human cost. Awarding control of the police, justice and prison systems to a company with such a blatant disregard for basic human rights, as the government has shown its willingness to do, is truly frightening."

Activists will picket the 12 July meeting of the West Midlands Police Authority. G4S is bidding for a £1.5bn contract to run Police services in the West Midlands and Surrey.

For more on G4S <http://www.corporatewatch.org/?lid=4343>

CRAP TRIAL OF THE WEEK

As a no show from a fuelish prosecution acquits biofuels protesters...

Three activists were in court last Tuesday (2nd July) following an anti-biofuels action in central London back on the 23rd of October last year. Two of them had scaled Buckingham Palace Mall and strung a banner across it, closing the strip down for half the day. They had been protesting against the inclusion of biomass (burnable rubbish) under UK plc's Renewable Obligation Certificates (ROCs) scheme (the method by which green tech is subsidised).

The activists weren't charged over the banner drop per se, they were charged under one of the more obscure ordinances that govern the quasi-fuedal city state that is the City, namely- "being in breach of the royal parks and open spaces regulations 1997; assembling in a royal park without permission of the secretary of state."

This odd bit of selectively applied legislation prevents more than twenty people from getting together in one of Her Maj's personal green spaces. Funnily enough barbecues and birthday parties don't generally merit the attention of the authorities, yet the possibility that two eco-activists and their mates had gathered in a park beforehand justified the full force of the law.

The defendants had been denied legal aid and so were prepared to fight their legal battle alone. However, when the defendants tried to cross examine their arresting officers, it turned out that the prosecution hadn't actually bothered to ask them to turn up. With the trial already in full swing, they couldn't show up in court on time so the judge threw the case out there and then.

As we always say at SchNEWS Towers, "Don't accept the caution, just spin the wheel of Justice, watch the bastard turn".

LEVELLER PLAYING FIELD

DIGGER GROUP SEIZE ECO-VILLAGE SITE IN SURREY

"We: peaceful people, declare our intention to go and cultivate the disused land of this island; to build dwellings and live together in common by the sweat of our brows. We have one call: every person in this country and the world should have the right to live on the disused land, to grow food and to build a shelter. This right should apply whether you have money or not. We say that no country can be considered free, until this right is available to all." - the Windsor Diggers

Nearly 800 years after the last event of any note to happen Runnymede* three weeks ago a group of activists began a project of land reclamation. Invoking the spirit of radical Civil War proto-anarchists the Diggers (themselves a mere 400 years adrift in history) the group aims to seize land and spark a debate on land ownership.

This Saturday marks a month since the group left their community allotment to, in the words of Digger ideologue Gerrard Winstanley, 'make the waste lands grow'. After a cat and mouse game with Thames Valley Police they settled on a piece of land owned by Brunel University, just outside the bounds of the M25 near Runnymede, Surrey,

that has been empty for six years- the Leveller-headed bunch pitched up and raised their true standard, planting beans and starting the construction of a wattle and daub hut.

The development company who own one part of the land have gained an injunction against the Digger group. However the other half is owned by the National Trust, who don't as yet seem to be in any hurry to get rid of the group. So work continues.

On Saturday 7th July they're hosting an open day on the site - From 1pm-2pm we will be holding a 'land rights and civil liberties' open discussion and picnic at the Magna Carta memorial, Runnymede.

From 2.30pm-5.30pm we will be holding a series of workshops at the Runnymede eco-village (10 minutes walk from the Magna Carta monument). Workshops will include: wattle and daub wall making for our timber frame long house, cob oven making, wild food identification and more.

For a map of the eco-village please go to: www.diggers2012.wordpress.com

*The signing of the Magna Carta

INFORMATION FOR ACTION

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TAKING THE PIZARRO

Long a source of conflict in Peru, gold-lust has reared it's ugly head again. Protests against the country's largest gold-mining project are being repeatedly met with violent police repression. Four activists have been killed in the past three days - along with over twenty people injured and prominent organisers arrested - after the government declared a state of emergency in three northern provinces.

The \$4.8 billion (£2.5 billion) mine, located in the state of Cajamarca, is majority owned by US company Newton Mining. Work on the project was suspended in late 2011 after indigenous communities pointed out to the dimwits running Peru that it threatened their water supply. Whilst the mine was momentarily stalled, president Ollanta Humala gave the green light again in June stating Newton had agreed to stricter environmental measures.

The protests come hot on the heels of opposition to Xstrata's copper mine in the province of Espinar, which resulted in at least four fatalities and the arrest of mayor Oscar Mollohuanca for allegedly leading a group of protesters into clashes with police. Mollohuanca - who told a Peruvian radio station that police were shooting from point blank at protesters - is being held without charge for five months in 'preventative custody'.

All the death has been a bit embarrassing for the Peruvian government, prompting them to try and appear sympathetic to another indigenous community in the Pastaza River basin. The residents there have staged several peaceful protests recently against foreign oil companies which operate in the Amazonian region, playing fast and

loose in terms of spills and contamination.

PM Oscar Valdes leapt into action when the threat of more direct actions emerged, promising a high-level investigation into the country's biggest oil producer PlusPetrol. A local lawyer said, "They (government officials) were finally there to see how serious it is. They could see that the people were prepared to take the river, to take the airfields, to take over the company's operations." How far the government will be prepared to scrutinize PlusPetrol, referred to as a 'political sacred cow', is questionable.

The death toll parallels a recent report from Global Witness, which found that environmental campaigners have been killed at a rate of one per week over the past three years. In keeping with its bloody history, South and Central America feature prominently amongst the worst offenders, with Brazil - the hosts of last month's farcical Rio+20 summit - at the top.

Since the election of left-leaning President Humala last year there has been a widespread crackdown on any type of dissent. Critics are accusing him of authoritarianism as he struggles to repress a wave of anti-mining protests. For example George Santos, regional president in Cajamarca, is under criminal investigation for 'incitement to rebellion'. His crime? Accusing Humala of going back on his election promises of access to clean water, which apparently constitutes an "attempted coup" (according to Peru's chief prosecutor Jose Pelaez...).

PARTY & PROTEST

For events listings updated weekly see www.schnews.org.uk/pap

ANTI-FRA HOOLIGANS

Three frack rig occupiers are in court on Tuesday (10th) following their daring ascent of the drill in Banks, Lancashire, last November (see SchNEWS 795). The action, which coincided with the 'Shale Gas Environmental Summit', succeeded in shutting down the well.

Charged with aggravated trespass, this promises to be an interesting case. The defendants are pleading not guilty and are arguing that it should be the frackers in the dock. Saying their actions were 'necessary' to stop disaster being sucked up n' spewed out across nature, water tables and local communities, they'll challenge the court that the shale gas process itself should not be considered 'lawful'.

The trial is expected to run for four days at Preston Magistrates Court, around 10am - 4pm. Backing them up in the witness corner are UK and US experts who are willing to reel off the damage fracking is likely to do, in terms of pollution, earthquakes and human health risks.

DE-ACTA-VATED

On Wednesday, ACTA, the anti-piracy agreement, was comprehensively defeated in the European Parliament with 478 votes against, 39 in favour, and 165 abstentions. In a symbolic gesture several members of the Green Party held banners reading: "Hello Democracy, Goodbye ACTA".

Despite the 22 members states in favour, including UK, other members decided to not back up the agreement due to the civil whistle-blowing on the infringement of internet freedom by ACTA.

Initially sparked by massive protests in Poland last January, the anti-ACTA movement led to protests throughout several European cities. In addition petitions were made, with 2.8 million signatures gathered by the Avaaz group alone. Alex Wilks, anti-ACTA campaigner for Avaaz, said the agreement would have permitted private companies to spy on the Internet users' activities and allowed users to be disconnected without due process.

Call us cynical, but we doubt this will be the end of Babylon's attempts to nose through our browser history. New attempts for a tighter control of the web will follow, with legislation such as the "Snoopers' Charter" just around the corner. To access more information on your digital rights go to <http://www.openrightsgroup.org/>

...and finally...

Occupation, ethnic cleansing, land theft and killing with impunity. If you thought Israel couldn't sink any lower on the moral plumbline, then think again. This week Israeli scientists announced that they have just developed a strain of "high-less marijuana" named Avidekel. The scientists, based in northern Israel, claim that the new strain will be effective in treating certain medical conditions without getting the patients high. Cannabis is used in the treatment of, amongst other things, cancer, MS and Parkinsons, which beggars the question- if you suffer from any of these illnesses, why wouldn't you want to get high?

However, SchNEWS' team of Ziono-hempology researchers have seen through this one straight away- it's clearly a plot by Israel's socially conservative establishment to stop the young from having fun while at the same time improving the combat readiness of the IDF, whose mostly young and dumb conscripted grunts are pretty infamous for smoking a jazz cigarette or three to forget about the daily stresses of policing the oppression of the Palestinians.

Disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers, G4S is an equal opportunity oppressor- soon they'll be running their UK operations to the same exacting standards as their Israeli prisons. Honest!

FIRED HYDRANT

DODGY GOINGS ON AT A PREVIOUSLY REGULAR SCHNEWS HAUNT

The Hydrant, a Brighton pub which serves primarily as a gig venue, has committed a rather bemusing act of hari-kiri. New management took over a few weeks ago and they've wasted no time in successfully alienating staff and punters alike.

With all the warmth and charm of a turd in a fridge the new licensee has treated promoters, bands and customers with contempt, sacked bar staff because she "hates gays", pulled gigs without telling the people actually putting them on and declared that "all musicians are idiots". As a result almost all the gigs booked at the Hydrant have now been cancelled or relocated. Even if some promoters were willing to overlook the decidedly dodgy views of the new regime, both sound engineers have quit and taken their gear with them.

ACIDIC JAS

About two months ago the new owners (AJ Trade House Ltd - a suspicious looking front company, apparently operating out of Middlesex) arrived promising to invest money into improving the equipment and décor of the venue. However within weeks things went south as there was continually change and confusion as to what the overall plan was, at the same time relations with their new employees soured considerably - with all the pre-existing staff getting "treated like shit". Shortly after this both the general manager and bar manager were sacked on the vague pretence of "lying" and "missing stock". Unsurprisingly evidence of the alleged theft of between £5,000-25,000 worth of stock is pretty thin on the ground.

The real reasons for the women's dismissal

might be a tad more sinister, an applicant for one of the recently vacated positions was asked by Jasspal 'Jas' Singh (owner/director/manager of AJ Trade) "are you gay?" because "we don't want any more of them working here". While numerous punters and ex-staff have heard homophobic remarks from Louise (one of the new managers, described as "Jas's Terminator") including the classic "I don't like those lesbians". Whatever justification Jas & Louise come up with for the sacking, both were let go without notice, are still owed wages and one was also made homeless from the flat above the Hydrant.

SATURDAY NIGHT FURORE

On Saturday 23rd June things came to a head for the few staff who did remain. Equipment for a gig upstairs was due to be loaded in at 3pm, but by 5pm there was no bar staff and the venue still hadn't been cleaned. Although the event eventually went ahead an hour late, the promoter was left out of pocket as a result and refused to pay the hire fee at the end of the night. In response Louise locked the doors, refused to let bands take their gear and turned into a "shouting, swearing, nutter". Unimpressed by this approach to negotiation most promoters have now pulled their gives from the venue and the sound men - who were both working that night - walked out.

SchNEWS has attempted to talk to contact the current owners, but to little avail. Recently pints were flogged off at £2 each and they're now closed with building work ongoing. Whether anyone will want to visit when they reopen seems unlikely.

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