



INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION SQUATTERS RECYCLE A RECYCLING PLANT IN CALAIS

This week, migrants and supporters marched in Calais, France, where police persecution of undocumented migrants reached a climax earlier this month with violent mass arrests and evictions of living spaces.

Around 500 people – Including migrants, solidarity activists, humanitarian associations, lefties, antifa and more – assembled in the town square and then made their way through the main streets, following a samba band and chanting in support of refugees and exiles.

The cops took a rather laissez-faire approach to the unregistered demo, with only one car front and rear making half-hearted attempts to redirect traffic. The local fascists, Sauvons Calais, failed to appear in force after bigging themselves up on social media and the few stragglers that appeared on a side street were easily seen off by the antifa.

So far, so predictable. The march, however, didn't eventually disperse. Taking an unexpected turn into a side street, it stopped in front of an old metal recycling plant.

With hundreds of people blocking the road and no police in sight, activists took to the microphone to explain that the plant was being squatted and that those who wished to enter could do so. Materials sufficient for maintaining up to two hundred people for days inside the squat were swiftly unloaded from a waiting van.

Inside, the marchers marvelled at the size of the place: 12000 square metres to be exact. Outside, nearly enough space to make a football pitch and surrounded by cop-proof ten metre high walls of rusty metal, an apocalyptic sight described by one as "an industrial wet dream".

People then set to work creating barricades for a small patch of low fence and arranging cooking and washing areas, temporary toilets and sleeping spaces. After two days, the immediate threat of eviction had passed and some 300 new residents of many nationalities settled in.

POST-RAFLITE BROTHERHOOD

The march and action came one week after the horrific 'rafle' of the 2nd of July: the systematic rounding up and arrests of over 600 people and the destruction of their living spaces. Previous evictions had left hundreds of people sleeping in the open air of a food distribution yard near the port.

The morning of the raids, tear gas was used to prevent anyone escaping arrest, while European supporters were violently removed. At the same time, two other squats were raided and evicted. Space in detention centres across France had been cleared in preparation, although days later people were gradually freed and returned. As with other attempts by the authorities to harass and persecute refugees, the whole charade was both brutal and utterly pointless.

As well as repressing migrants on the ground, the municipality has issued new 'anti-vagrant' and 'anti-gathering' decrees aimed purely at the repression of migrants and those organising in their support.

The action was not just a No Borders stunt – various associations and groups came together:

IRON FROM THE LION TO ZION

"We know UK-produced military equipment has been used by Israel in its previous actions. An embargo on all military exports to, and military collaboration with, Israel is essential to send a strong message to the Israeli government that the UK does not support its military action against the Palestinians" Anne Feltham – Campaign Against the Arms Trade

It's often argued that the Israel-Palestine conflict gets a disproportionate amount of attention from U.K based activists. The Zionist lobby cast dark aspersions of institutional anti-semitism, asking why the deaths of Palestinians provoke nationwide demonstrations in the streets but the deaths of even larger numbers just over the border in Syria do not? The answer is that Israel is a crucial link in the western military alliances – our government sponsors UK arms companies to do business with Israel and purchases "battle tested" Israeli equipment. What is happening in Gaza is being done in our name, with our money.

Opening today (14th July), even as the bombs rain down on Gaza, is Britain's contribution to a world filled with hi-tech mayhem. The Farnborough airshow, despite it's public image as a family day out is in fact five days of arms dealing followed by just two days of candy floss and Red Arrows. The Campaign against the Arms Trade have likened it to "a Glastonbury for the international arms trade". It's very much a government sponsored affair, in fact David Cameron was there glad handing this morning.

Despite the onslaught in Gaza and public appeals from our government to "end the violence" a number of Israeli companies, including its largest arms exporter, Israel Aerospace Industries, which manufactures aircraft, electronics and missiles and drone manufacturer Elbit Systems are exhibiting at Farnborough. Eighteen U.K companies that do business with Israel are also present. The blood on their hands is being refreshed by the minute.

Many of the companies involved e.g Raytheon and Thales are multi-headed beasts that have a variety of subsidiaries in the U.K, U.S and Israel. Different companies form partnerships for specific projects and manufacture components

A communiqué was released with around 35 signatories stating the squat's objective as a practical response to the humanitarian emergency, and as a political statement to denounce the violence and call for the authorities to respect people's dignity and their obligations to refugees.

So far there has been no official response to the occupation. Activists are urgently needed on the ground to help run and defend the space, as the threat of illegal eviction by the police remains.

For more check:

<http://calaismigrantsolidarity.wordpress.com/>

for each others weapons systems meaning the military technology of these states is firmly intertwined. For a full list of U.K companies doing business with Israel's military

Although some co-operation with Israel is at the relatively low-tech end, e.g Land Rover whose Defender model forms the basis of the David Light Armoured Vehicle, it is in the sphere of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles UAVs or drones that Israel leads the field.

ONE CAREFUL DRONER

Drones, together with F-16s are the primary weapon being used in the bombardment of Gaza right now. They are the perfect weapon for a hi-tech militarized state to use against an impoverished neighbour. "Entire houses are being targeted and entire families are being murdered. Early Thursday morning the entire al-Haj family was wiped out — the father Mahmoud, mother Bassema and five children. No warning, a family targeted and removed from life. Thursday night, the same again, no warning, five more dead including four from the Ghannam family, a woman and a seven year old child amongst them." - Electronic Intifada

The U.K government is keen to buy into the expertise that produces results like that. "In October 2005 the UK government awarded a \$500m contract to UAVTactical Systems Ltd. (U-Tacs) a joint venture company formed by Thales UK and Israeli company Elbit Systems, based in Leicester, to build up to 100 Watchkeeper UAVs. Watchkeeper is a derivative of the Israeli Hermes 450 drone but differs in having an automatic landing capability and multiple payload configuration" - Drone Wars . The U.K, Israel and the U.S are the only nations to employ armed drones. SchNEWS has been told that British troops have trained in the use of drones in Israel.

U.K complicity and profiteering in the ongoing degradation of life in the West Bank and the siege of Gaza has been exposed by Corporate Watch. At the moment the Palestine Solidarity movement is concentrating it's efforts on getting numbers out on the streets to show the disgust at the latest round of indiscriminate killing. SchNEWS will be outside the Israeli embassy on Saturday, but we can't help wondering if we'd be better off at Farnborough..

SOCPA SOLIDARITY

Wednesday 30th July has been announced as a day of solidarity with the SOCPA 7, animal rights activists in the UK awaiting trial for protesting against vivisection laboratories. The case is an interesting, and pretty outrageous, one. The 7 people are charged with conspiracy to commit the peculiar law SOCPA section 145. All they are accused of doing is taking part in protests, but could face 5 years in prison if convicted. If this case had been brought against activists in another movement the liberal mainstream media would probably have been giving it some publicity.

This section of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act makes it extra illegal to protest specifically at an animal research establishment, more than any other place. Framed as 'interfering with a contractual relationship', minor offences such as swearing or obstructing a highway become SOCPA 145 with a penalty of up to 5 years in prison, only when at animal research establishments or companies related to them. Combined with all the other laws that make it so hard not to do anything illegal while protesting (or is that just us?) it makes for a relatively easy way for the state to repress those who threaten the financial interests of the powerful.

The cops have engaged their full creative energies to construct the case as a conspiracy, which makes it easier for a large group to be convicted without all the tiresome business of proving they each did anything illegal. For a conspiracy they only have to show that there was an agreement that an offence should be committed. It doesn't have to be

the accused who were going to act themselves and it doesn't need to be a detailed plan.

So in this case, the evidence is based on 23 protests and two incidents of criminal damage. Some of the defendants were only at a couple of the protests and there is no evidence any of them were involved in the criminal damage. Like the Protection from Harassment injunctions, the case is based more around involvement in a movement than individuals committing specific crimes. There is a lot of intrusive evidence such as recordings of phone calls but little evidence of the defendants having done anything normally considered illegal.

SchNEWS spoke to one of the defendants who told us about another important aspect to the case: "With anything else you would be arrested immediately if committing a crime. If the police were really interested in 'protecting victims of crime' they could have had a word at the time to tell people they were doing something illegal, but instead they've sat and waited for a year building up this case to repress people by trying to make it look like there's lots of incidents and victims. Even if you agree with how the legal system works this isn't how it is supposed to work."

The support group for the SOCPA 7 are calling for solidarity actions on 30th July, when there's a pre-trial hearing. There have already been solidarity actions internationally, with many recognising the impact this case could have on the right to protest for all.

GRAP (NON) ARREST OF THE WEEK

For for standing up to cultural Marxism and sharia law....

Britain First lead singer Paul Golding isn't afraid to throw himself into the front line – whether it's hassling the caretaker at a mosque on a Wednesday lunch-time, asking for your money to save a dog he's never even seen or even ..gasp...getting arrested.

In the words of our favourite native son "In this game... in this line of business.. quite frankly, I am going to get arrested and face danger, I accept that, I accept that burden and I'm quite proud that I'm doing what I'm doing, standing up for our country, fighting militant Islam in this country."

So is Paul under lock and key in Belmarsh as the pinko Marxist British police bend the law to protect their radical Muslim friends?...err, no. In fact he didn't even get nicked and there wasn't even a warrant out for him.

Not that that stopped him from getting online and saying "This latest outrage at the hands of the police should inspire every true patriot to join the ranks of the Britain First movement immediately!"

If you want to support Paul's campaign for sensible raingear then please send all donations to:

Britain First c/o S Claus, The North Pole, Glasgow, BF1 FU2

GRAPES OF RATHLIN FRACK ATTACK IN EAST YORKSHIRE

On Wednesday 2nd July convoys of trucks carrying equipment descended on West Newton, where Rathlin Energy are commencing their exploratory fracking drilling. As the first major activity at the East Yorkshire site kicked off, a handful of protesters and many more anxious locals could only watch in horror as the fracking trucks made their way along the long single track lane towards the well.

The convoys were protected by hundreds of police and riot vans, while local residents were blocked from accessing their own homes and one elderly resident burst into tears at the scale of what was happening.

West Newton is one of two locations in East Yorkshire that Rathlin are attempting to frack. At both West Newton and Crawberry Hill, Rathlin have had planning permission for exploratory drilling since 2012. Earlier this year they also got Environment Agency permits that last until September, in the case of Crawberry Hill, and longer in the case of West Newton. "We knew they were due to do the tests at either site at any time", says our source from campaign group HEY Frack Off.

Small protests camps were set up at both locations in May. Crawberry was the larger, with number averaging at 20: Not only was it looking likelier that Rathlin would hit there first as the permits ran out sooner, but it's nearer urban centres like Beverley and Hull. Crucially, it is in the area of the massive underground aquifer that is relied on for drinking water for much of the population of Hull and East Yorkshire: "If that were to be contaminated it would be an absolute

catastrophe". So far, Crawberry Hill has yet to see any significant activity.

Over at West Newton, the protection camp has been tiny but doggedly persistent. The villagers in the very rural area have been slow on the uptake but now seem to be waking up to what's about to happen on their doorsteps. At first, they'd been bizarrely anxious about the camp and upset about the protesters' presence, rather than their villages surrounding a hellmouth of the environmental armageddon.

"It's an unbelievably conservative area. Some people didn't even want to contact HEY Frack Off because of our 'controversial' name!", says our contact. "Most of the local residents have swallowed Rathlin's line and their PR hook, line and sinker."

But recent well-attended public meetings, and individual conversations, have shown awareness is slowly starting to sink in. Maybe the locals are slowly starting to organise?

Police have even admitted to campaigners that it's a "game of numbers", and that if there were as many protesters as police they'd have to re-view their tactics.

The location of the West Newton site is so rural that keeping up communications – from simple phone calls to live streaming – is difficult. The campaign is encouraging any potential protectors to get in touch. The camp phone number is 07773739937.

See <http://notofracking.blogspot.co.uk/>

BROADWAY SHOWDOWN

What do numbskull EDL tribute group the South East Alliance think that they're going to get out of heading to Cricklewood the second time around?

The first time around they claimed that they were there to protest about the Muslim Brotherhood. Quite who or what the SEA think the Muslim Brotherhood are is open to question, but the one time holders of Egypt's presidency following elections are now apparently reduced to holding court in a flat above a disused kebab shop in North London. Facing horrific repression from the military in Egypt, with thousands detained and hundreds executed it's unlikely that they're particularly bothered about a knock on the door from the rotund stormtroopers of the EDL splinter groups.

On that occasion (14th June) anti-fascists blocked the road and simply prevented the fash from going any further. To read a full account of that glorious day see SchNEWS 859

Full of sulk, South East Alliance headman Paul "English as the day is long" Pitt (nee Prodromou) rung all his friends in the loonier fringes of the UK's far-right and has managed to scrape together another outing to the unfortunate North London suburb this Saturday. Expect to see everyone from the English Golden Dawn downwards.

Anti-fascists are of course not going to let an opportunity like this go to waste and under the banner of North West London United are encouraging everyone who wants to make a stand to get to 113 Cricklewood Broadway at midday on Saturday 19th.

Follow @NWLONDONUnited on Twitter for updates.

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