



WAKE UP!! IT'S YER COQUELLES WARMING...

# SchNEWS

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## FROM CALAIS TO KHARTOUM

### AS SchNEWS CHANNEL HOPS IN SEARCH OF IMMIGRANT TALES

Since 3rd February, arrests of Sudanese migrants have steadily increased in Calais, and a high proportion of those now imprisoned in Coquelles (the Calais detention centre) are from Sudan. Last Thursday (16th) one person who was arrested in Calais was taken to Frankfurt to be deported back to Khartoum, and on the same day, three people who had been arrested in Paris were also sent back.

A fifth man was also due to be deported, but refused to get on the flight in Frankfurt, so was returned to Calais. A second deportation attempt was made in the early hours of Tuesday (21st), but the flight from Paris to Frankfurt was cancelled, and again he was returned to Calais. A third deportation attempt is expected in the next few days.

Three other Sudanese detainees have been given deportation orders in Coquelles. People who are arrested have only five days to put in their claim for asylum, but this information is not being made known to the migrants by the French authorities. One man who was not told of the time limit made a claim on his sixth day of incarceration, so has had it automatically refused.

Until last week there has never been a deportation to Sudan from Coquelles, mainly due to the European Court of Human Rights ruling that allowed a person to appeal against the decision to deport, even if they had not put in a claim for asylum. This case law appears now to be being ignored, so now if you don't claim asylum when arrested, then there is no way to stop deportation. The only possible way to evade getting sent back is if the Sudanese embassy refuses to give travel documents. This situation is especially worrying for the Sudanese refugee community in Calais, and the rest of Europe, as once deported back to Khartoum, there are horrific reports of the treatment people face; those who have come from Sudan state that if they are deported back they are certain they will be persecuted, tortured, or killed.

If the threat of deportation wasn't enough, the situation for those arrested and taken to Coquelles detention centre in Calais is particularly grim at the moment. People inside are reporting the institution to be at double its maximum capacity, with rooms so overcrowded people are sleeping in the corridors. Detainees have also complained that they are not getting enough food. As well as the limited portions, the meals that are served are often not Halal, so Muslim prisoners are able to eat little else than white rice. The detainees are also being denied access to the outside yard and visitors have been refused access inside several times for no legitimate reason.

To show solidarity with those inside, and also to co-ordinate with the No Borders Carnival in London (see over), a noise demonstration was

held at Coquelles on Saturday (18th). People made their way around the back of the detention centre with pots and pans, whistles, megaphones and a massive bass drum. The back fence of Coquelles is around 2m away from the building, with windows of detainees' rooms along the side. When the group approached the fence and started to chant and make noise, many people incarcerated inside started waving and shouting back out of the open (but barred) windows.

### PAF-LOGICAL ACTIONS

The border police, Police Aux Frontières (PAF), immediately removed detainees from the nearest prison wing and shut them into the rooms furthest away. This just made chants louder between people inside and out. The demonstrators chanted slogans in French, English and Arabic and banners written by friends saying 'Stay strong. We are with you.' in different languages were hung on the fence. The border police didn't approach the demonstrators, but stayed to take photos and film people from the other side of the fence.

The protest was the second successful noise demo recently held at Coquelles. The first took place on Tuesday 7th February, in the snow. More noise was made and food and cigarettes thrown to the inmates. As the protesters were leaving the detention centre, several police vans drove in, obviously having been called in as a result of the demonstration. The activists were then tailed for the half an hour bus journey back to Calais, with police vans following the bus until the demonstrators got off.

For those not being imprisoned and deported, homelessness looks inevitable. Over 60 migrants and refugees, both with and without papers, currently face eviction onto the streets of Calais. A complex of derelict university buildings which has been home to groups of people from Eritrea, Sudan, Chad, Somalia, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq and others, for over a year is due to be evicted at any moment.

The half-demolished ruins, nicknamed Africa House, are owned by the Office Public de l'Habitat de Calais (OPH) which is, ironically, a social housing organisation, and responsible for providing the majority of social housing in Calais. On the 30th January 2012 a court order was obtained by the OPH, giving them the right to evict people from the derelict university building anytime from that date onwards. In a prime example of the backwards thinking of capitalism, people who have absolutely nothing are being made homeless and turned out onto the streets to make way for a new housing development designed for those with low incomes.

A demonstration was held last Wednesday (15th) outside the offices of the OPH to voice three

### R.I.P NIKITA KALIN

The price of anti-fascist and anarchist activism can sometimes be very high as we were painfully reminded a few days ago with the news that twenty year old Moscow anti-fascist Nikita Kalin (Никита Калин) had been found dead

He had been viciously attacked, there were 61 stab wounds on the body together with injuries to ribs and head, making it clear that he had been attacked by a group. Police quickly arrested a suspect that had the dead man's blood on his clothes. Unsurprisingly he belongs to a local fascist group.

Nikita was from working class family and never hid his political beliefs, taking part in local anarchist and Anti-fascist activity. His family fears that this will be yet another case of cover-up with the police ignoring a potential political motive for the crime and classing it as common hooliganism. One human rights organization has provided a lawyer to assist Nikita's family but in the meantime his friends and family need to raise money for funeral costs.

If you wish to help you can pass money through Moscow Anarchist Black Cross using the page:

<http://wiki.avtonom.org/en/index.php/Donate>

demands: that the OPH do not evict people who have nowhere to live onto the street, especially when it is winter and freezing outside; that they do not demolish shelters where many people without homes live, it is inhumane; and that they do not give authorization to police, or instructions to bailiffs, to enter the site at ANY time.

A group of activists, made up of some of the occupants of Africa House and those standing in solidarity with them, arrived at the offices at around 3pm with banners, whistles and megaphones. While one group stayed outside to hang banners and hand out flyers to passers-by, a few demonstrators entered the building to give the list of demands to the director. He refused to take the letter or enter into dialogue on camera, and confirmed that Africa House would be demolished as soon as possible. This from the director of an organisation that has recently built an apartment complex of 67 homes, just 5 minutes walk from Africa House, named Droits de l'Homme, or Residence 'Human Rights'. You couldn't make it up.

After the rest of the protesters entered the building, the whole group were violently removed by police. One person said "We are humans we are not animals, we must have somewhere to sleep, we are asking for some humanity. People are treated like they are not human. This is the situation. There is no solution yet."

The eviction of Africa House will be the fifth big squat eviction in seven months (see SchNEWS 777), alongside the many evictions and destruction of camps in the jungles, in town, in the parks or under bridges as well as several evictions of the food distribution area – a concrete yard surrounded by barbed wire where people have resorted to sleeping. One of the few remaining jungles close to Calais was destroyed last week when police raided in the middle of the night, arresting two people and taking away the tents and blankets people had been using to keep warm and dry.

With the largest migrant squat on eviction alert and the worsening prospects for those who are caught and detained, the situation in Calais remains desperate. If you would like to support those currently in Calais, visit [www.calaismigrantsolidarity.wordpress.com](http://www.calaismigrantsolidarity.wordpress.com) for information on how you can help.

**INFORMATION FOR ACTION**

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## EDL: IN FOR A HYDING?

Tomorrow (Saturday 25th) will see another day of fash-lite bullshit from our friends in the English Defence League (EDL).

In Hyde, Manchester a coalition of EDLers, BNP members and BFP splitters will drag their knuckles through the streets in 'defence' of Daniel Stringer-Prince, who was allegedly attacked by an Asian gang earlier this month. This is despite his family telling the EDL they want nothing to do with them and they're against the march. Cue lots of angry EDLers claiming they care so much more than Daniel's family that they are gonna march anyway.

In Glasgow the Scottish Defence League (SDL) are holding a static demonstration in the city centre from midday, a variety of groups have called for a counter mobilisation. While down in London Unite Against Fascism (UAF) will be holding their national conference at Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, WC1R 4RL.

These demos come on the back of a couple of perceived victories for the far right -

On Saturday 18th in Liverpool, around 150 fascists led by members of the openly Nazi Brit-

ish Peoples Party successfully disrupted a march by the Liverpool Irish Republican Flute Band in honour of, Irish republican fighter, Sean Phelan.

On Thursday 23rd, as SchNEWS went to print, 'disturbances' were kicking off in Heywood, Rochdale. Seemingly intent on getting the trial of an alleged 'paedophile ring' (see SchNEWS 806) thrown out of court; members of the EDL and North West Infidels (NWI) roamed the streets targeting Asian owned businesses.

Far right keyboard warriors are claiming that at least one takeaway burnt down and "300 whites blocking the roads". Greater Manchester Police confirmed that "a group of youths... attacked a local business and clashed with police officers". The NWI are bigging up the racial aspect of the actions and alleged chants of "National Front Please Protect Us".

While the far right is not as strong as it was 20+ years ago, neither is the left. A strong militant antifascist network needs to be built now that can put numbers on the streets and travel to where it's needed, before it's too late.

\*For more info see <http://brightonantifascists.wordpress.com> and <http://liveraf.wordpress.com/>.

## JUSTICE FOR ZENON

Back in November Zenon Mitchell-Kotsakis, a University of Sussex student, was sentenced to 15 months for his part in the who was sentenced to 15 months for his part in the demonstration at Millbank Tower, Tory HQ (see SchNEWS 794). His crime? Throwing a placard stick - hitting and harming nobody

On 16th February 'Defend The Right To Protest' held a meeting discussing 'Justice for Zenon' on Sussex Uni campus. Prior to the meeting Sussex Students' Union and Sussex UCU issued a statement highlighting Zenon's plight and the "disproportionate and harsh sentences" dished out to protesters in general.

Letters of support for Zenon are always welcomed. Write to him at:

A6970CH  
HMYOI Portland  
104 Grove Road, Portland  
Dorset  
DT5 1DL

## WHEN PIGS CRY

The vache (that's the French cops to you and me) scored a hilarious own goal last week at la ZAD protest site near Nantes: They tear-gassed themselves.

Around 100-150 cops had turned up to police a protest on Tuesday (14th) of around 40 ZAD occupiers and some local farmers whose fields were being valued. As the state and corporation Vinci press ahead with the long-awaited, and much-opposed, plan for a new international airport to be built on over 6km2 of the southern France countryside, the valuing of land for compensation agreements is one of the last remaining steps before imminent destruction.

Deciding the presence of the site riff raff (who may or may not have been planning on blocking the land valuers access to the fields...) justified riot control policing, one butterfingerted cop pulled out a tear gas canister which, seconds later, inexplicably exploded behind the police line. Activists proceeded to piss themselves laughing at the sight of floundering, crying robocops while the bosses behind hogged the eye-drops. Their faces were even redder later as they struggled through muddy fields as nimble protesters gave them the run around.

The episode was the latest in the saga of the Notre-Dame des Landes airport. The airport is just one part of the meglomaniac 'Grand Ouest' project incorporating a new road system and the expansion of the Saint Nazaire port ("What's climate change?"). Most land-owners have already sold their land to the government but a handful still resist, either wholeheartedly rejecting the devastating plans or just holding out for more dolla: the current offers stand at a meagre 16cents per square meter, while Vinci stands to siphon millions in public money to concrete the lot.

Some of the land expropriated by the state, meanwhile, has been re-appropriated by squatters occupying empty farm buildings and treehouses. Although a couple of squats, including the hub Les Planchettes, have been on eviction alert for several weeks ZAD inhabitants are busy with a timetable of workshops, building, riding the airwaves with the ZAD's Radio Klaxton and planning for the upcoming True Substances week of demonstration, skill shares and action (5th - 10th March).

\*See [zad.nadir.org](http://zad.nadir.org) or get yer ass down to France for March 5th.

### Disclaimer

SchNEWS reassures all readers, while things may look bad with the rise of the far right, civil war in Syria, an impending war with Iran, migrants suffering more than ever and the constant fucking of our planet. It will all be fine soon, after all it is 2012. Honest.

## NO BORDERS PLEASE, WE'RE BRITISH

### As No Borders Convergence targets immigration regime

A six day No Borders Convergence last week (13-18th Feb) saw activists causing a ruckus at various border regime targets around London. The five day event was a heady mix of workshops and actions, and a chance for different groups of people to make links and network.

The week kicked off with three days of discussions and workshops about all things border-related.

Thursday and Friday were scheduled days of action, but over forty eager activists, unwilling to wait til the end of the week blockaded Harmondsworth and Colnbrook detention centres on Tuesday (14th) Feb.

A tripod was erected outside the gates and eleven people used concrete and locks to cement themselves to the gates, obstructing the entrance to the two centres. It took several hours for police to remove the blockaders, who caused severe delays to a planned charter flight to Ghana, set to forcibly remove an estimated 50-60 people detained inside the prison. The bus with the detainees was unable to leave for several hours and some last minute legal work from lawyers got a number of people who would have been deported - 22 according to The Independent - removed from the flight. However, it's common for replacements to be put on flights when such things happen and the exact number of people on the flight is still unconfirmed.

There were eleven arrests, mostly under Section 14 of the Public Order Act, including 'Serious disruption to the life of the community' although as one activist told SchNEWS "one does have to question exactly whose life, and which community, they are referring to here". Arrestees were held in custody for 36 hours, then taken straight to Uxbridge Magistrates Court, where they were greeted by a round of applause by supporters on entering the courtroom. Their hearing has been adjourned until 8th March at 9:30am. All arrestees were released on bail.

Activists supporting the arrestees were stopped and searched by police before entering the court. Section 1 of PACE was invoked and reasons written on search forms included such gems as 'Female part of a group known to be targeting the court to damage it and aid the escape of those

within the court of high concern' and 'Subject approached in company with a female who has a large bag and protest badges.'

Friday (17th) saw a noise demonstration outside Barnardos HQ in Barkingside, North-East London. Barnardos, the cheery children's charity, have been involved in providing 'welfare' at the new 'family removal centre' at Pease Pottage, South of Gatwick (see SchNEWS 760, 763). Several people entered the offices in an attempt to get a formal response from the CEO about Barnardo's involvement in child detention. This was refused. The demo continued for around three hours, with a samba band playing on the lawns outside the offices and activists giving out leaflets and talking to workers and passers-by; the majority of whom were highly supportive. Finally three people were granted permission for an interview, provided the others leave. However, Barnardo's quickly changed their tune and had police drag the three out of the building as soon as the others left. Barnardo's staff then left the building by a back exit and the demonstration was called to a close.

The final action of the convergence week was the No Borders Carnival on Saturday (18th). At midday around 200 people had congregated at the steps of St Paul's Cathedral. After listening to speeches, people made their way with banners and a samba band through central London before arriving at Piccadilly Circus at 3pm. There was positive atmosphere with lots of dancing, chanting and singing, and despite five police vans tailing the protesters, there was no official interference in the march.

One activist based in Calais commented on the actions in London and the solidarity demo in France: "These actions are against the violent system of immigration regimes, detention centres and prisons across Europe. The number of centres and border controls incarcerating and deporting people without papers is increasing. While at the same time persecution of people based on where they are from and how much money they have has become normalised and institutionalised. Strengthening borders strengthens systems of segregation and builds bigger and higher walls and barriers between people."

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