



Queen begins Northern Ireland visit

TORY STORY

AS WEATHERLEY'S MINIONS FAIL THE SchNEWS SMEAR TEST

In this, our fair city, Conservative opposition to long-running anti-arms trade campaign Smash EDO is something of a given. They support the dealing of weapons to human-rights abusing regimes and we oppose them. Recent tactics from their side have included tabling motions condemning Smash EDO's (non-existent) plans to target Jubilee celebrations or Olympic Torch ceremonies. Nothing outside the usual hurly-burly of local politics.

But something nastier has bubbled up from inside the Tory cauldron. Back on April 30th Robert Nemeth, Deputy Chairman (political) of B&H Tories (and co-incidentally manager of the office of Mike Weatherley, Tory MP for Hove) posted a claim that Smash EDO had put anti-semitic graffiti on the inside of a squatted building (since evicted). The date of the 'revelation' was well chosen – the evening before a major demonstration outside EDO MBM's factory.

In the event the accusation boiled down to the fact the in the same building where there was a Smash EDO banner, the word 'Jew' had been enigmatically scrawled on a door. Below it somebody had sinisterly (or not) added a cross in a different colour. The fact that the building has been empty for years and has been squatted numerous

times didn't stop Robert from penetrating to the dark heart of the Protocols of the Elders of Smash EDO. Fearlessly ripping off the campaign's mask of liberal hippy tolerance he denounced them as 'anti-Jew to the extreme'.

Having misrepresented these pictures to label the group as anti-Semitic, Nemeth then spent the month of May denouncing SMASH EDO via his twitter account, "@Smash_EDO followers are often anti-Jew, no doubt about it". By 2nd May Nemeth was claiming Smash EDO had an "anti-Semitic [sic] stance". By 27th May he was referring to Smash EDO's "militant anti-Jew stance". On 7th June Nemeth dubbed the Summer of Resistance campaign a "Summer of anti-Semitism". Energetically re-tweeting Rob's insights was one Graham Cox, former head of Sussex CID and now Tory Councillor.

UNDER THE WEATHERLEY?

Adding her own bile was Rachael Bates, Mike Weatherley's P.A. Choice comments include "smash edo are anti-semitic and absolutely vile" and that they were "the equivalent to Nick Griffin". Is this all going on with Mike Weatherley's approval? We think we should be told.

The June issue of Latest Homes, an estate agent's rag that clutters up Brighton, ran a column by Ne-

meth where he repeated the allegations. Smash EDO wrote to them – and as soon as Latest Homes had a chance to check out the facts, the comments about the campaign were removed and an "unreserved apology" was given. Mike Weatherley MP, however, has refused to distance himself from Nemeth's smear campaign.

Funnily enough almost as soon as Nemeth received this very public rebuke articles started to appear on Indymedia denouncing SMASH EDO for expelling its Jewish members. Needless to say this story is complete bullshit but it appears and re-appears on various open publishing websites. Even we've been drawn into the fray with one troll claiming that the truth about the exodus of Jews from the campaign was detailed in an 'excellent SchNEWS article'. Excellent it might be – but it doesn't exist.

Now it's almost certain that this whole smear is actually aimed at the local Greens, the Tories main rivals for control of the local council. According to Andrew Beckett, Smash EDO spokesman "Mike Weatherley seems to think that the Greens are vulnerable to accusations of running too closely with the black block. Well that's politics we guess, but to drag the spectre of anti-semitism, responsible for so much horror historically and still a real evil today, to try and grab a few votes underlines the morality of the Tory Party"

PS Nemeth got a minor come-uppance this week when he was covered in glitter by an outraged squatter at a talk he was giving on the "Housing Crisis".

THE UNGOVERNABLE FORCE?

3 members of Russian riot grrrl band Pussy Riot are still behind bars in Moscow as last week a judge authorised their continued detention. This means they will have spent 5 months inside without trial. About 20 people were arrested outside the court as supporters were once again attacked by police and Orthodox Russians.

The women – Nadezhda Tolokonnikova, Maria Alekhina and Yekaterina Samutsevich – were nicked in March and held on remand for 'hooliganism' after performing a guerilla gig at Moscow's Christ the Saviour Cathedral. Their song 'Holy Mother, Throw Putin Out!' earned them the wrath of many Orthodox Christians and, more importantly, Putin himself.

Church spokesman Vsevolod Chaplin said recently that God told him that He "condemns what they've done". However thousands of Orthodox Russians, evidently more forgiving than the big man, have signed a petition to Patriarch Kirill (head of the Russian Orthodox Church) to support the band – unfortunately he continues to describe them as "blasphemous" (he has also described Putin's rule a "miracle of God").

Amnesty, Union of Solidarity with Political Prisoners, European Women's Lobby and assorted punks have been supporting the inmates – their call to free Pussy Riot has been echoed by much of Russia's more liberal populace as well as many others around the world, though Russia

shows little sign of listening to these pleas.

Pittsburgh punk rockers Anti-Flag have released a cover of Pussy Riot's infamous song in solidarity with their plight.

SLAM PUNK

Meanwhile the punk crackdown continues in Aceh, Indonesia – following on from the 10-day boot camp that 64 'punks' were forced to endure, a young 'punk' couple were publicly caned in April for premarital sex and on Wednesday 13th June a party was attacked by a mob "upset with those strongly believed to be engaging in sordid activities". Though according to police Chief Insp. Ibrahim Prades, those attending (including hospitalised 16 year old Arif) were not necessarily punks "they're just trying to be punks." It's unlikely Indonesian police will put much effort into identifying their armed attackers, preferring to spend most of their time raiding venues and parks to detain youths contributing to the "social disease" that is punk.

In the words of Anti-Flag "Punk rock is much more than a t-shirt, a sound, a record, or a band, and it knows no borders or nationality." So support your fellow punk wherever they may be.

For more info on Pussy Riot and to donate to their defence fund – freepussyriot.org

Punk Aid have released 'Aceh Calling' – a compilation album with all profits going to Indonesian punks.

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT?

The UK Border Agency (UKBA) have got another group of victims in their sights. Not content with locking up innocent people in inhumane conditions and then forcefully deporting them outside the EEA to face torture and worse, now Europeans are also featuring on their hit list.

In West Sussex, reports are emerging that increasing numbers Eastern Europeans are being reported to the police if they are without a job or home. In scenes reminiscent of the brutality common in Europe's migration hotspots, the cops have even destroyed the shelters of destitute migrants in Bognor Regis.

The UKBA are 'allowed' to forcibly remove people they claim are not 'self-sufficient', and with the dire economic situation more and more are temporarily home- or job-less. The scheme had previously been piloted in 2010 in Peterborough, Reading, London and Oxford.

The justification for Inspector Nick Bowman, of Sussex Police's Arun District, "We have seen an increase in homelessness with people from Eastern Europe. We say to them, go and be homeless in your own country, because it is a drain on resources." Nice.

PARTY & PROTEST

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