



WAKE UP!! IT'S YER WELL FRACKED OFF ...

SchNEWS

www.schnews.org.uk

Friday 31st January 2014

Free/Donation

Issue 855

MOSS DEF

FRONT LINE REPORT FROM BARTON MOSS ANTI-FRACKING CAMP

The poor folk at Barton Moss anti-frack camp, valiantly obstructing iGas's frack attack in a rainy Manchester site for over three months, have been subject to a propaganda campaign by the media and brutal policing. Not only have shady silhouetted characters popped up on the local news claiming to be 'neighbours' and spouting slurs about the camp of violence and anti-social behaviour, the press are intent on painting the crew as a rent-a-mob of outsiders.

SchNEWS caught up with a rent-a-mob outsider on their return from Barton Moss, to find out how grim it really is up north. Starting on a positive, the third weekly 'Solidarity Sunday' march and rally last weekend was the most well attended so far with over 1000 people making the trip. The diverse crowd included many locals and local groups, as well as anti-fracking protesters from as far away as Blackpool and Brighton. Gratifyingly the marches are snowballing, the first hit around 200 attendees and the second swelling to 700. The hope is they'll keep growing, and prove that the critics - who claim the only people opposing the project are unrepresentative eco-extremists - are talking out of their boreholes.

TO POLICE OR NOT TO POLICE

Interestingly, the mass marches are police-free zones. Why? "Because they don't need to police the march. The actual site itself is ridiculously well-secured," explains our source. "There's an air-lock gate system for vehicles going in and out and two layers of heavy duty fencing topped with razor wire, with large numbers of private security goons constantly on site. The cops aren't needed to protect the site itself. It's ironic because the police claim the massive numbers of police who escort the truck convoys in and out are there to 'facilitate peaceful protest'."

When the bus loads of daytrippers left, and only the few dozen campers remained, the police immediately returned to form: "Attitudes soured later in the evening when the pigs aggressively nicked one camper for blocking the road, leaving her bleeding from the mouth and throwing

up blood."

Outside of the big demos, the police have been not just being aggressive but are punching well below the belt, not least when they're fabricating stories of protestor violence (alleging assault of a security officer and even claiming that campers tried to down a police helicopter with a distress flare). Particular meatheads are the famously rough Tactical Aid Unit (TAU) who are the Manc version of the TSG, but with less manners.

"First thing in the Monday morning, two coppers threatened to burn a camper's tent down - of course when they were challenged they claimed it had just been a joke"

CONVOY IT

The frackers and their uniformed, tax-funded escorts appear to have learnt some tricks from Balcombe, explains our correspondent "It's a major tactical change - all the delivery trucks for the day arrive in one mass convoy at around 9am rather than one by one, as they did in Sussex. When they turn up between 75 and 100 police, including local bobbies, Evidence Gatherers, PLOs and the TAU, arrive on site."

Protesters are using the same tactic from Balcombe of a go-slow foot procession in front of the trucks to hinder their progress. On Monday, around fifteen people met the convoy at the top of the lane and marched it down to the site. The TAU protected the convoy and nicked three people for not walking fast enough. Later in the day, the convoy was escorted back out again, leading to four more arrests.

BAILED OUT

The following day, three people were arrested for breaching bail conditions before the first convoy had even arrived. Bail conditions restricting people's access to the road and relegating them to the verges have become a common response from the authorities, as have dodgy as hell arrests for breaching them. This occasion was no exception: "Police stormed into the camp kitchen, dragging them onto the road,



image stolen from groovy green politics blog 'The Greenman' at thesnuffkin.blogspot.co.uk

CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

....literally

Anyone think that the cops at Barton Moss anti-fracking camp might be taking their job a little too seriously? Depending on who you listen to, Greater Manchester Police either just disrupted the most sophisticated tunnelling operation since the Great Escape or just stopped campaigners taking a dump.

On the 19th of January 2014 police cops patrolling the Barton Moss anti-fracking seized the long-drop toilets. Of a familiar design to anyone who's ever endured a Glastonbury they were basically big holes in the ground and were in no way code named Tom, Dick or Harry. Not taking any chances of anti-frackers tunnelling their way onto site, the camp guards ..sorry police officers, cordoned them off and concreted them in.

You can't make this shit up!

thereby forcing them to breach their bail, and then nicking them!"

The morning continued in dramatic fashion: "When the convoy finally arrived, it became clear that GMP (Greater Manchester Police) had decided on a show of force. The city's entire contingent of TAU, turned up, 14 van loads in total, along with two evidence gathering teams, two CCTV vans and six PLOs. They escorted the trucks in and out in eerie silence, eventually nicking three more people, bringing the total number arrested during my visit to fourteen - and there were under thirty of us there!"

Many people have been arrested multiple times and court cases are multiplying like rabbits on Viagra (the last count nudged just over 100). The police are arguing that the lane the camp is on is a Public Highway, whereas the camp's solicitors are arguing it is in fact a footpath. Legal wrangling is ongoing.

As you've probably worked out, activists are desperately needed on site, where there are plenty of free tents, a full camp kitchen and a lot of wintry perseverance. See <http://northerngasgala.org.uk/>

and <http://frack-off.org.uk/barton-moss-latest-news/>

PARTY & PROTEST

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

INFORMATION FOR ACTION

Copyright
Published in Brighton since 1994

SILENT NO MORE: AFRICAN REFUGEES IN ISRAEL

An International Solidarity Day of Action for African asylum seekers in Israel took place yesterday. Along with a massive demo outside the Israeli parliament buildings in Tel Aviv, Israeli embassies across the globe were targeted with protests.

Refugees are protesting against Israel's policies, which includes indefinite detention without claims being heard, and the racist rhetoric of the government who refer to refugees as 'infiltrators' and 'cancer'. Street violence against black Africans is on the rise, while tens of thousands of people were rounded up and detained in the last weeks of December. Despite hailing from some of the most brutal, dangerous and repressive states in the world, Israel has granted refugee status to only a few of the hundreds of cases it has bothered to review. The rest have had no chance to be heard.

The International Solidarity Day came after a month of mass rallies and strikes by refugees in Israel, who are mainly from Eritrea and Sudan, which saw many hospitality businesses close up without their staff for three days. On the first day of the strike, over 20,000 refugees marched to Tel Aviv's Rabin Square. Hundreds of detained refugees are on hunger strike in detention.

Israel has been building a wall on its border with Egypt to attempt to stop refugees from entering. The border had been porous with around 60,000 Africans travelling into Israel since 2006. The government hoped the wall would bring the number of undocumented people entering from Egypt down to zero, but it hasn't yet. Ten kilometres remain to be built of a total 240 km, in a construction which has so far used 50,000 tonnes

of iron. Who needs humanity and/or diplomacy when you can just build a massive f*ck-off wall.

Those who scale the fence are arrested by Israeli Defence Forces and face at least three years locked up in a detention centre due to Israel's draconian laws on illegal entry. For those already in the country, last month's Prevention of Infiltration Law allows for indefinite detention of foreigners, many of whom will be sent to the new detention facility built in the Negev desert.

The news isn't all bad though: SchNEWS caught up with a NoBorders activist in London who described the UK demo as 'f**king brilliant'. Why? 'The thing was that so many groups who don't normally do things together all came together to protest against the racism. There were representatives from the Black African Womens' Group, Palestine solidarity groups, the Eritrean community, NoBorders, and loads more.' The protests had been organised online, which proved an effective way for groups to link and communicate.

The protest kicked off outside the Israeli Embassy at about 4pm and for the next couple of hours the 100-strong crowd made a racket playing music, chanting and taking turns on the megaphone where speeches were made by demonstrators from an array of countries and backgrounds.

Check out the page on Facebook for pics of protests worldwide, and their 'About' page for background on their demands: 'Freedom4Refugees in Israel- International Solidarity'

For an idea of the Israeli government's racism, search YouTube for the David Sheen film, 'Israel's New Racism: the Persecution of African Migrants in the Holy Land':

C'MON IF YOU THINK YOU'RE PLACARD ENOUGH

UKIP leader Farage might live to regret shaking that huntsman's hand. Surely the trick to being an outsider politician is to be all things to all men. but Nigel's Boxing Day photo-opportunity has put him in the sights of the animal rights brigade.

Nigel was due to speak to local supporters in Thanet, Kent yesterday afternoon and such is his popularity that not one but two counter-demos were organised. One by the local Socialist Workers Party and the other a rag-tag coalition of hunt sabs and animal rights activists.

SchNEWS spoke to an observer/participant "Around forty people had gathered in front of the hotel, it was just people who hate UKIP really – a pretty broad church. It was actually Farage's security who kicked it off though, trying to force their way through the crowd by punching people. We just responded, we'd been hanging around for what felt like hours and it was all over in five minutes. There were only two cops there at the start – and about fifty by the end!"

Twatted over the bonce with a placard and harried with cries of "animal abuser" and "racist scum" Nasty Nige eventually managed to barricade himself inside the hotel.

...and finally...

It's back to chokey for SchNEWS old mucker Tommy Robinson (or Steven Yaxley-Lennon as he's known to close friends and family). Now luckily he won't be alone in there, as a good part the rest of the EDL is currently getting heavily sentenced for the kind of drunkem racist mayhem Tommy used to think was such a good idea.

Of course our pint-sized Fuhrer turned his back, shortly before he was forced to plead guilty to a large scale mortgage fraud back in November Sentenced today, lil ol' Tommy he copped 18 months for defrauding two banks into paying out for loans towards a house that he already owned (oh you silly bugger!).

The Judge referred to him as a "fixer" and explained that he's someone who manages a well organized ring of fraudulent criminals. Together with his co-defendants he knocked up fake pay slips in order to get bent mortgages from dodgy broker Deborah Rothschild. One of his mates also plead guilty to possession with intent to supply 3.5 grammes of cocaine – surely a tiny fraction of what must have been required to keep them thinking they were going to get away with it.

Hilariously Tommy's brief tried to get him out of a custodial sentence by pointing out quite how many people hate him now. It's not just anti-fascists and Choudary's crowd he's got to worry about now, Tommy's footsoldiers are getting locked up at alarming rate and a lot of them ain't gonna be to happy about how they've been hung out to dry. His fame's also gone global and from his humble origins in Luton he's managed to get himself onto Somali militia group Al-Shabab's death list.

Happy Days...

Disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers, drill deeper into the fracking debate and all you get is hot air. Honest!

WATCH MY SHAC DEFEND THE BLACKMAIL THREE

"The strength of our movement depends on all of us and I hope that you can support us. Most of all keep fighting and be proud to be a compassionate person!" Debbie, Blackmail 3 defendant

The state-sponsored crackdown on animal rights activists continues next month, with the opening of the third 'conspiracy to blackmail' trial relating to vivisection giants Huntingdon Life Sciences in Winchester. Although there are three defendants, two are awaiting extradition from Holland, so the the third, Debbie, will stand trial alone.

This case is the most recent in the ongoing history of state repression against the incredibly successful anti-vivisection campaign SHAC (Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty), the campaign to close down Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS) which started in 1999. HLS is a notorious contract animal testing laboratory in Cambridgeshire, which has 70,000 animals languishing within its walls at any one time. Companies outsource their vivisection to HLS to carry out pointless experiments, testing things such as printer ink, petrol and Splenda. Not surprisingly, the company has been exposed several times for gross animal cruelty (e.g. cutting monkeys open while they're still conscious, we'll spare you more of the details...).

So far a total of ten UK activists have been locked up for up to six years for campaigning against HLS. The militant animal rights movement has nearly shut the company down more than once. However the UK and US governments - under pressure from the powerful pharmaceutical and agri-business lobbies - not only bailed out the company to the tune of millions but have

ruthlessly targeted activists.

Tactics have included enacting special legislation to protect the vivisection industry, civil injunctions with criminal penalties, ASBOs, draconian bail conditions, infiltration and lengthy prison sentences. A whole national sub-division of the police, the National Extremism Tactical Co-ordinating Unit (NETCU), was almost entirely pre-occupied with the disruption of the animal rights movement.

The "conspiracy to blackmail" trials are clever: the catch-all charge means a whole host of otherwise legal actions are bracketed with an unrepresentative sample of law-breaking. Most of those convicted and sent down have actually been found guilty of little more than using a megaphone or distributing leaflets.

The charge has a high rate of conviction and can land you up to 14 years in the nick. It is a tailored charge used in an effort to crush a highly successful campaign which would have closed the laboratory down if it wasn't for the government bail-out. (SHAC has an international reputation, targeting customers, suppliers and financiers – as the campaigners say, 'Deal with them, deal with us!')

All three defendants have endured strict bail conditions since they were arrested in June 2012. Those conditions restrict their movement, who they can talk to and what campaigning activity they can be involved in.

To find out more about the case and to support those on trial, visit the website Blackmail 3. To find out more about SHAC, HLS and what you can do, visit <http://www.shac.net/>.

Subscribe! Get SchNEWS free every week by email in pdf or text file - visit our site, or send us stamps and we'll post it to you. Copy and distribute! Keep SchNEWS free with donations (via website or cheques payable to Justice?). Posted free to all prisoners. SchNEWS, c/o Community Base, 113 Queens Rd, Brighton, BN1 3XG - (01273) 685913 - mail@schnews.org.uk - www.schnews.org.uk - find us on Facebook & Twitter (whatever they are)