

# ArA-Mach

Eagran/No. 3

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resisting capitalism in scotland ... Saor/Free



# No war but the class war!

THE BUILD UP to a war against Iraq intensifies every day, regardless of the debate around UN resolutions and the stalling tactics of the Iraqi regime. American imperialist interests demand "decapitation" of the Iraqi ruling clique in their terroristic 'War on Terror', regardless of evidence. But the question is why?

First of all, let's get one thing straight. Saddam Hussain, has been 'Our Man' in the middle east for a long time. In the years prior to the 1991 Gulf War Saddam and his Baathist Party enjoyed the full support of the US, regardless of their human rights record. In 1980 the US encouraged (and armed!) Iraq to attack it's neighbour Iran, at that time in the grip of a disruptive Islamic 'revolution'.

Saddam had been promised the Shatt Al Arab waterway and the Khuzestan oil-fields in a strategy to weaken Iran and its Islamic rulers. But the puppet of Imperialist forces had imperialist plans of his own and when Iraq invaded Kuwait (having actually been given a green light by the US) his former masters were handed the opportunity to strengthen further their influence in the region by permanently stationing their military forces. Even after the victory of Desert Storm the US understood that Saddam remained the best bet for short term stability and stood by as the regime butchered it's internal enemies and, indeed, got actively involved by slaughtering thousands of deserting Iraqi conscripts on the road to Basra. Since then the US has employed a policy of containment. This containment, through sanctions and bombings has resulted in countless Iraqi civilian deaths. A war by other means,

and as in all wars, it is the poor who have suffered most.



## September 11<sup>th</sup>

The murderous attacks in New York and the subsequent crusade have given the US and its British ally the pretext for declaring war on Iraq but these events have been a long time coming. Saddam has for some time been trying to sell himself to the US's rivals, including co-operation with Russia regarding oil extraction. Syria reopened it's oil pipe line with Iraq and oil is being exported to Turkey, Jordan and even the old enemy, Iran. US Imperialist interests are not being served well and a reassertion of it's political-military power is a warning shot to its rivals such as the EU and Russia. The present imperialist adventure, despite all the talk of human rights, has no interest in 'liberating' Iraqis from Saddam, but of liberating itself from a non-compliant former employee. Any US sponsored regime change would have to retain the oppressive apparatus, which it helped build, in order to maintain stability. The 'decapitation' would in fact be the first

stage of a head transplant, the new head nodding better for the US!

## War against War!

So what of the opposition to this potential bloodbath? How can we practically stop the war machine?

Given the level of passive opposition to a war against Iraq, the active opponents are in a good position to start with. The massive demonstration against the war in London at the end of September was a start, but marches alone, even giant ones, don't stop wars. Our weapons in the war against war are:

1) Our ability to undermine support through counter-information stressing the real motivations behind the militarists and the fact that the mass murder of Iraqi civilians and conscripts is part of a larger war against the working class internationally

2) Our commitment to actively sabotaging the war through direct action

3) Our creation of a crisis for the state here through a class war on the 'home front'.

The key will be to keep one step ahead of the state using methods of getting our message across to people in imaginative ways and of using direct action which actually stops 'business as usual'. This sort of activity is beginning to be discussed and acted upon internationally and we need to do the same here in Scotland. The militarists are preparing to blow up, burn and bury alive thousands of Iraqis in their search for profit and power. Let's get together and start to find ways to stop the bastards. ★

## ON THE FRONTLINE

ANOTHER BUSY MONTH of industrial disputes – official figures show that this year has seen the highest number of strikes since 1989 – and we still have a national fire-fighters strike yet to come...



Wildcat strikes returned to the postal services with 30 workers at the Filton (Bristol) Royal Mail Cashco depot walking out unannounced – to be joined later by 90 members of the morning shift. The walkout was over the planned selling off of part of the business to Securicor – who were also the inspiration for a wildcat in Scotland where stoppages at Broxburn, West Lothian and Glasgow took place after they were sold part of Consignias cash-handling services.

More strikes on the London Underground – a 24-hour strike on the 25th is to be followed by another on 3rd October. Drivers are demanding a 5.7% pay rise and moves towards implementing a promised 35-hour week. All twelve lines were fully shut down – at a cost of £60 million – London Underground itself loses about £3 million every strike day and so cannot hold out indefinitely without damaging itself and making it a worse investment option for PFI/PPP funds.

24-hour strikes also took place on Arriva Trains Northern, where conductors are fighting a long running (19 days of action) and increasingly bitter battle with bosses. They've now been joined by Station and retail staff who are involved in a separate pay dispute. Arriva has been in dispute with workers in almost every corner of the country, and have seen their operating earnings drop by 4% as a result.

### International news:

In **Ireland** there is to be a national work-stoppage on October 4 in Support of "Irish Glass Bottle" and Peerless Rug Workers, who are both fighting for full payment of their redundancy payments. A General strike has been called in **South Africa** to protest the current wave of ANC imposed privatisations and resulting redundancies. General strikes are also in the pipeline in **Italy** and **Venezuela**. In **France** Air France pilots are planning to strike against partial privatisation on 3 October, and **Italian** air traffic controllers have also been striking. A Europe wide co-ordination of these stoppages looks likely in the coming months – as happened earlier this year. ★

## MENTAL HEALTH POLICY: THE DOMESTIC FASCISM

WITH THE ADVENT of the new mental health legislation in Scotland, psychiatrists will get the right to enter people's homes when they have come off their medication, and with nurses in tow, forcibly medicate them. In practice this will probably mean the patient will be assaulted and given an injection in the arse, by force. That this policy is a negation of human rights would require comment, were it not for the fact that mental health patients at present have the least rights of any sector of society, excepting prisoners.

Where else would you be given mind altering drugs, confined on a whim, usually for refusing the aforesaid drugs or trying to leave your confinement, ignored, vilified and then at the end of it all forced into suicide because the drugs you take have removed your will to live. Were this all, the crimes of psychiatry would be great, but in addition, certain neuroleptics can actually kill, if taken in high enough doses, or over a long time, or in cocktail. No wonder that so many ex-patients can't lead a full life, destroyed as they are in spirit, and all for perceiving reality in a different way from the rest of the population. This situation, is however, unique.



In most Third World countries patients recover and up to five years later can be showing no symptoms. It is only in the West that a history of confining the mad and then attempting to negate their madness has led to the present system of legislated murder.

What can be done? Well in the rest of the world 65% of people with schizophrenia recover, due to unknown factors, perhaps diet, perhaps physical environment, perhaps their method of care. The first thing to do is find this out, what we can learn from these poorer countries, not, as in the usual scheme of things, what ways we can use to exploit them. The next thing would be to organise in the mental hospitals, to refuse medication collectively, hence outnumbering the goons who care for/persecute us. Only in this way can we overthrow the oppression of the innocent. Admittedly, this might be difficult as no doubt the mentally ill would be difficult to organise, but as thousands of people are exposed to the mental health system, which is already a police state, thousands of people would benefit.

**Mad Pride! Fuck Psychiatry! ★**

## UNIONS AGAINST THE WORKERS

THE RECENT INDUSTRIAL dispute between Edinburgh bus drivers and Lothian buses has taken a very acrimonious turn of late – and interestingly, a great deal of that acrimony has been directed not only at the fat-cat bosses, but also at the drivers union *by the drivers themselves*.

The facts behind the current dispute are the Lothians plans to tie wage increases to an increase in the maximum shift length – and their rejection of an unconditional 12% pay rise. They offered a deal of 5% this year and 10% next – an offer rejected by 94% of drivers. The upshot of this was plans for an indefinite strike from Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September.

There is another story here though, one that demonstrates what most workers already know – the Unions (the TGWU here) will do all they can to police disputes like this to keep them on the bosses terrain, and work against any activity that threatens their control. The *original* plan was for an all out strike to begin on 18<sup>th</sup> September after a drivers mass meeting and a ballot – but in a bureaucrats stitch-up, the union, behind its members backs, agreed to fresh talks and came back with a pathetic offer, which they then had the cheek to recommend the drivers accept!

When the drivers got wind of this, they reacted furiously and forced the union to re-instate the strike. One driver said "We

are not happy that the Union appeared to have caved in and accepted an offer that the drivers think is too low... and we will walk out on strike *with or without the backing of the trade union*." Incredibly, the union pulled *exactly the same trick* on the eve of the second proposed strike! The strike was cancelled and the union again recommended acceptance of the bosses offer – union officials then worked hand in hand with the company through the night trying to contact drivers – unsurprisingly many were 'not in' and so an unofficial stoppage may still take place. The latest news is the union has called the strike off again at the last minute.

If we dig a little deeper we find that Lothian Buses is in fact, the former Edinburgh Corporation bus company with a majority shareholding held by...a Labour council ! Is this the union officials doing a favour for their cronies on the Council – bureaucrat's solidarity against the workers – it wouldn't be the first time!

All of this begs the question: what use is a workers organisation if it refuses to fight? Or if it actively tries to sabotage the workers demands? This type of behaviour has happened too many times to be accidental. Surely it's now time to reclaim our struggles from the control of time-serving bureaucrats of all stripes, especially those posing as friends of the workers? ★

## COGADH ÙR ANN AN IRAQ?

Chan e, Sean Chogadh

Cha bhi an cogadh ùr neo-laghail ann an Iraq a tha Bush agus Blàrach a' brodadh càil ùr ann an eachdraidh na dùthchannan an iar anns an linne ùr seo neo anns an linne a dh'fhalbh. Nì an dà Bh lèirsgrìos air daoine agus eaconomaidh Iraq airson aon rud a-mhàin, beairteas.

Direach mar a thug iad ionnsaigh air Afghanistan airson stòrais ola a' mhuir Chaspian a cheangail ri dhùthchannan a tha a' toirt taic do Aimearagaidh air chor's gun toir na h-Aimearaganaich brìogh às. Direach mar a thug iad ionnsaigh air Iraq dà bhliadhna deug air ais airson ola Kuwait a ghleidheal airson an rìoghachd seo agus a chompanach mhòr taobh thall an cuain. Sin mar a nì na co-chòmhragaichean an turas seo. Ged a tha Iraq na' dheachdaireachd, chan e Saddam Hussein a dh'fhulangas ri linn chogadh

sam bi. Se daoine obrach a-mhàin a bhios a' fulang as dèidh làimh, daoine obrach coltach ruinn fhèin. Air gach taobh se an luchd obrach a bhios a' sabaid agus a' bàsachadh. Bhàsaich 1.8 millean Iraqis mar tha ri linn caisgean-mhalairt an Iar agus mar sin, chì sinn dè tha romhainn. Chan eil cogadh gu feum do dhuine mur eil e an cogadh seòrsach, a chuireas às do chalpachas agus an seòrsa riaghailidh a tha a' toirt taic dha.

Ceannard=Ceannarcach

Na creid breugan an Iar. Siad a bhios a' cur dhaoine gu bàs ri linn a' bhochdainn a tha iad a' cruthachadh. Agus, gun teagamh, thèid ionnsaighean a dhèanamh oirnn gus am bi èolas againn air an t-seòrsa saoghail a tha sin.

Caidreachas Ain-Riaghailteach ★

## PEADAR KROPOTKIN

Pairt a trì de roimh-ràdh gu Ceannsachadh an arain le Peadar Kropotkin



B'è rè a'ghluasaid sònraichte a tha seo, nach air a'chith rannsaichte gu coileanta fhathast, a rugadh soisealachd ùr – Fouriereachd le l'Ange aig Lyon, agus co-mhaoineas ùghdarrasach le Buonaroti, Babeuf agus an companaich. Agus b'è gun dàil as dèidh an ar-a-mach mòr gun tàinig na trìuir fir-stèidheachaidh – Fourier, Saint Simon agus Raibeart Owen, comhla ri Godwin (an soisealachd as aonais staid) – air adhairt; nuair a thug na commain co-mhaoineach falaichte, tàrmaichte bho iad a bh'aig Buonaroti agus Babeuf, an comharradh aca gu co-mhaoineas ùghdarrasach, cathach airson an t-ath lethcheud bliadhna.

A bhith ceart, an uair sin, feumaidh sinn a ràdh nach eil soisealachd ùr ceud bliadhna a dh'aois, agus, airson a'chiad leth dhen na ceud bliadhnaichean seo, ghabh dà rìoghachd a-mhàin, a sheas aig ceann a'ghluasaid tionnsgalach m.e., Breatainn agus an Fhraing, pàirt anns an saothrachadh aige. An dà chuid – a'call fala aig an àm sin bho na lotan uabhasach a chaidh a shàrachadh orra le coig bliadhnaichean deug de chogadh Napoleonach agus an dà chuid còmhdaichte anns an fhrith-ghluasaid mhòr Eorpach a bha air tighinn bhon an Ear.

Ann am firinn, cha robh e ach as dèidh ar-a-mach an t-Iuchair, 1830, anns an Fhraing, agus an gluasad leasachadh anns an dùthaich seo, a thòisich a chathachadh dheth an fhrith-ghluasaid

uabhasach, gun do dh'fhàs cnuasachadh mu soisealachd comasach airson ghrunn bhliadhnaichean ro ar-a-mach 1848. Agus b'è rè na bliadhnaichean sin a ghabh dèidhean Fourier, Saint Simon, agus Raibeart Owen, air a dh'obraich a-mach leis an luchd leantainn aca, cruth deimhinne, agus chaidh na sgoiltean eadar-dhealaichte a' shoisealachd an sonnrachadh.

Ann am Breatainn, dh'obraich a-mach Raibeart Owen agus an luchd-leantainn aige an innleachdan aca air bailtean beaga co-mhaoineach, àiteachail agus tionnsgalach aig an aon àm; thòisich comainn co-oibreachadh an-mhòra a chruthachadh leis na h-earraichean aca barrachd tìr-imrichean co-mhaoineach; agus chaidh an aonaidh mòr ceardan daingichte a chuir air bhonn – an roimh-teachdaire dhen an dà chuid am partaidh Làbarach ar laithean-ne agus comainn eadar-nàiseanta na daoine obrach ★

### Scottish Anarchist Day School

Saturday, 9th November, in Glasgow. Kinning Park Centre – nearest underground Kinning Park. 10 am – 5 pm. Admission £3/£1 concs.

Workshops on anarchist alternatives to capitalism, Anarchists organising in the community, Getting the message across- libertarian media, The libertarian movement today- Scotland and beyond. Refreshments available.

## TIME BOMB



### St. Petersburg Soviet 1905

*"ONE EVENING WHEN there were several workers at my house, as usual Nossar was there too, -we had the idea of forming a permanent workers' organisation: something like a committee, or a council..."*

### Voline: The Unknown Revolution

The meeting above took place in mid-January 1905. A decision was made to inform workers in all large factories about the idea of the Soviet, and to proceed next to the election of officers which would name a council (soviet) of workers' delegates. The petition, in January 1905, to Tsar Nicholas II was an example of the overwhelming faith the working class had in their "little father", but betrayed a similar naivety in its faith in the system that exploited them. Among the measures demanded were complete freedom of the press, freedom of speech, the right to organise, the right to strike, the right to join unions, agrarian laws which would lead to the expropriation of large landowners, and the immediate convocation of a Constituent Assembly that would greatly reduce the power of the Tsar himself.

On Sunday January 9, the march which carried this petition to the Tsar was gunned down by government troops. The day after the massacre, the factories and shipyards throughout the capital were silent. The strike itself was spontaneous, not directed by any union apparatus, political party or strike committee, simply a mass demonstration of resistance. Meanwhile, the soviets spread like a virus, representing most of the labour force of St. Petersburg, and 80,000 workers in Moscow. Overall, 50 soviets of workers and peasants were formed. The Tsar needed to bide his time before bringing his full force to bear against the people. In August, the monarchy pretended to recognise the gains the people had already taken for themselves. Before long bakers and printers called for another general strike – a call that was soon heard by the rest of their class. The general strike in October began on the railroads but soon spread, suspending the life of the country.

Finally, the government gave way, and issued the famous "Manifesto of October 17th" which promised the setting up of a state Duma (parliament) with the right to proclaim laws, along with greater civil liberties, and extension of the franchise. The workers were suspicious, but the strike was called off, and the Tsar bought himself the time he needed. By the end of the year, the freedoms granted a few months before were rescinded. The revolutionary press was censored, major uprisings were put down, all workers' organisations including the soviets were suppressed. ★

## INSIDE INFORMATION

### Mayday Appeal for Witnesses

WE ARE PASSING on this appeal from a solicitor about a person arrested on Mayday in Wardour St at 8.50 pm: I represent Philip Paden who is accused of affray in Wardour St. on 1st May 2002 at 8.50 pm. He is accused of using a plastic dustbin lid to hit police officers shields. Philip denies the charges and it is very important that I contact any eye witnesses who may have seen his arrest and the events leading up to it. Philip was wearing a white paper suit, a white arm guard and was holding a pink plastic dustbin lid. If anybody can help please contact me :

Andrew Katzen Moss & Co. Solicitors,  
17 Lower Clapton Rd, London, E5 ONS.  
Tel: 0208 986 8336 Email:  
andrew@mossllaw.co.uk

### Cypriot Anarchist imprisoned

On September 4, 2002, anarchist George Karakasian was sentenced to seven

months in prison for "assaulting a police officer" at a demonstration outside the Israeli ambassador's home. For more info email: [exegersi2002@yahoo.com](mailto:exegersi2002@yahoo.com) or: [anarchy@vip.gr](mailto:anarchy@vip.gr)

### New Defence Network for Free

In June 2000, two US anarchists, Free and Critter, were stopped by police in June 2000 and ended up charged with Criminal Mischief and Arson. They had been followed by undercover agents after setting fires to vehicles at a car showroom. Critter was sentenced to five years and five months, Free was convicted and sentenced to an outrageous 22 years and five months, with no possibility of parole. Friends of Free's have recently formed a new defence network to co-ordinate support.

Check out the websites to see how you can support Free: [www.freefreenow.org](http://www.freefreenow.org) or [www.spiritoffreedom.org.uk/prisoners/fc/free.html](http://www.spiritoffreedom.org.uk/prisoners/fc/free.html)

Brighton Anarchist Black Cross will be the UK contact, for information (please send an SAE) and for donations toward Free's costly appeal process, and/or his college education in prison.

Contributions however small are welcome and will be passed on regularly (please make cheques payable to ABC) Brighton ABC, PO Box 74, Brighton, BN1 4ZQ

Contact Free and Critter directly at: Jeffrey Luers (Free), #13797671, OSP, 2605 State Street, Salem OR 97310, USA and Craig Marshall (Crittter), #13797662, SRCI, Stanton Boulevard, Ontario OR, USA

### Support the prisoners on dirty protest at HMP Frankland.

Tony Daniels, Greg Newland, Keith Pringle and Tony Woods are on a dirty protest against their shit treatment.

For more info & copy of a protest letter contact: Miscarriages of Justice UK (MOJUK) Tel: 0121 554 6947 Fax: 0121 554 7891 Email: [mojuk@mojouk.org.uk](mailto:mojuk@mojouk.org.uk) Website: <http://www.mojuk.org.uk/>

### Online information

Much of the information for this column came from the excellent Brighton ABC website. Visit it at: [www.brightonabc.org.uk](http://www.brightonabc.org.uk)



## Subvert and resist

Take precautions when going on demonstrations and don't take cameras, booze or drugs. If you're nicked give your name and address then say 'no comment' to any other questions.

**OCTOBER: 16:** Worldwide anti-McDonalds day of action. Adopt Your Local Store - leaflets from Veggies Tel: 0845 458 9595 Visit: [www.veggies.org.uk](http://www.veggies.org.uk) This will also be worker led mobilisation by the McDonalds workforce. Email: [info@mwr.org.uk](mailto:info@mwr.org.uk) Visit: <http://mwr.org.uk/proposal.htm>

**19:** Scottish march against the war. Glasgow George's Square. 11a.m.

**19:** Anarchist Bookfair, Camden Centre, Euston Rd., London WC1 (Kings Cross tube) Visit: [www.anarchistbookfair.org](http://www.anarchistbookfair.org) Remember to visit the AF stall.

**25:** Anarchist Federation and Hereford Anarchists benefit gig. 9pm at Karlo's, Widemarsh Street, Hereford.

**26:** Stirling Campaign for Justice Not War. War - What is it good for? Conference, Cowane Centre, Cowane St, Stirling 12-4 (register from 11.30). For free registration Tel: 07941 769 809. Creche available if requested.

**NOVEMBER: 9:** Scottish Anarchist Day School in Glasgow. Kinning Park Centre - nearest underground Kinning Park. 10 am - 5 pm. Admission £3/£1 concs. Workshops on anarchist alternatives to capitalism, Anarchists organising in the community, Getting the message across- libertarian media, The libertarian movement today- Scotland and beyond. Refreshments available.

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- I enclose £4 for a year's subscription to **Organise!** the magazine of the **AF**.
- I am interested in the **Anarchist Federation** and would like more informa-

Name .....

Address .....

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## Join the resistance

The **Anarchist Federation** is an organisation of **class struggle** anarchists aiming to abolish capitalism and all oppression to create a free and equal society. This is **Anarchist Communism**.

We see today's society as being divided into two main opposing classes: the **ruling class** which controls all the power and wealth, and the **working class** which the rulers exploit to maintain this. By racism, sexism and other forms of oppression, as well as war and environmental destruction the rulers weaken and divide us. Only the **direct action** of working class people can defeat these attacks and ultimately overthrow capitalism.

As the capitalist system rules the whole world, its destruction must be complete and world wide. We reject attempts to reform it, such as working through parliament and national liberation movements, as they fail to challenge capitalism itself. Unions also work as a part of the capitalist system, so although workers struggle within them they will be unable to bring about capitalism's destruction unless they go beyond these limits.

**Organisation** is vital if we're to beat the bosses, so we work for a united anarchist movement and are affiliated to the International of Anarchist Federations.

The Anarchist Federation has members across Britain and Ireland fighting for the kind of world outlined above. Contact us at:

**Anarchist Federation (Alba),**  
PO Box 248, Aberdeen, AB25 1JE  
Tel: 07946 214 590

Visit: <http://flag.blackened.net/af/alba>  
Email: [af-alba@hushmail.com](mailto:af-alba@hushmail.com)