

# REVOLUTION

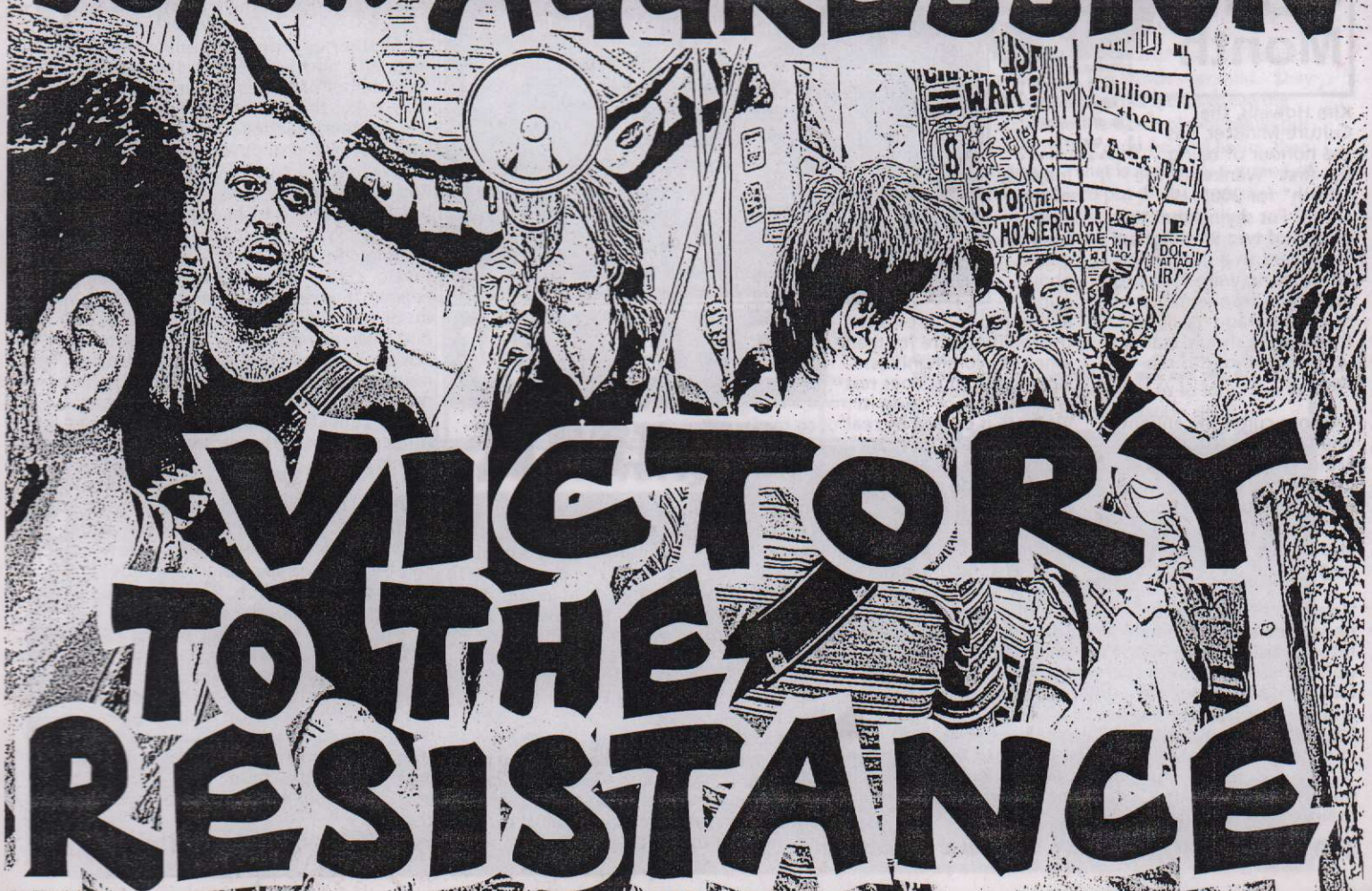
socialist youth movement • 30p

ISSUE 56

phone 07951 493 232



## DOWN WITH US/UK AGGRESSION!



## VICTORY TO THE RESISTANCE

there are many different left groups out there, so...

# WHY JOIN

# REVOLUTION

socialist youth movement



by dan in south london

We live in world where more people die from curable diseases and poverty every three years than WWII killed in five; a world where in many countries the average life expectancy is only 30 years. A world where 19,000 children die of poverty every day. A world where worker's rights are being attacked and corroded, and where healthcare, education, and the welfare state are being dismantled and privatised. A world where the tiny few own nearly all the world's resources, and the worker's and unemployed languish in poverty and the day-to-day grind.

But people are fighting back. Across the world worker's movements and anti-capitalists are challenging this system and saying no to capitalism and all the horrors that come with it. From the Intifada in Palestine, to anti-privatisation strikes in South Africa, from 1 million on the streets in Rome for a general strike to public sector workers, like the firefighters, in Britain fighting back against New Labour and a 'modernisation' that means job cuts, insecurity, low pay and run down public services.

Revo is at the centre of this fight back. We're an independent revolutionary youth organisation and see socialism as the way forward and young people, as they've always been through history, as the beating heart of the movement. Held down by all the prejudices of capitalism (racism, sexism, homo-

phobia, etc), we are also oppressed by the police, the education system, parents, low pay and insecure employment. Because of this we need our own organisation and our own voice.

Revo fights for a society of equality that will be run by the majority of people who produce the wealth, the workers, rather than by the few and for the rich. A world where there is solidarity, no wars and conflict. We've been involved in the anti-capitalist movement (J18, Maydays, Genoa, the European Social Forum and many more); campaigns against sweatshop labour; unionisation drives; strikes; campaigns against privatisation; the anti-war movement; anti-racist/fascist campaigns; and many more both locally, nationally and internationally, including sending activists to Palestine to show active solidarity with the Palestinian struggle for freedom. There are Revo groups across Europe, from Britain to the Ukraine, in the US, Australia and links to youth groups across South America. There are also members across the globe from Canada to Indonesia. We are an international organisation with no borders.

Revo is a democratic organisation run by all its members. There are no obligations, just a determination to fight back against capitalist oppression through revolutionary socialist ideas and action. At a time when US and British imperialism threatens war against the world and George Bush says, "You're either with us or against us", there could be no better time to get involved and voice your opposition to this madman and mad system. The biggest anti-war movement Britain has ever seen is on the streets. Occupations, strikes and direct action are taking place all over the country from the Stop the War demo of half a million people in September to the international day of demonstration against the war on February 15th.

If you like what you read in Revo and want to fight back against exploitation, racism, sexism, homophobia, war and all the other oppressions that capitalism creates, get in touch and come to a local meeting to see what's going on. As Marx said, we have nothing to lose but our chains and a world to win.



## One Solution, Revolution!

## ANKER of the Month



Kim Howells, the Culture Minister, has the honour of being the first "Wanker of the Month" for 2003. His crime? For saying that the deaths of two Birmingham teenagers, in a gang related shooting were "symptomatic" of developments in rap and garage music and that people should stand up to "idiot macho rappers".

Previous culturally enlightened comments from Minister Howells have included referring to finalists in the Turner art prize as "conceptual bullshit" and "three Somerset folk singers sound like hell".

Howells and the racist newspapers and commentators were quick to jump up on their soap-boxes and blame black people and black popular music for the rise in gun culture in Britain.

But anyone with half a brain knows that the

majority of rap and garage music about guns and gun culture reflects the reality of life for many inner city communities. Singing about it does not encourage it or cause it. Violence is caused by real social problems that are the result of racism, unemployment and poverty, not by music.

Under New Labour, unemployment, racism and poverty continue to grow as a direct result of their policies. For example, 40% of black men under the age of 25 in London are unemployed.

What we need to do is to stand up to bigoted politicians like Kim Howells - let the rappers rap in peace.

by sean in c london

### On Board Camera

By Justin

Another village is decimated by laser guided death  
Millions of people watch on TV screens  
Satellite photos show body parts indistinguishable from rubble and dust  
Laying strewn across 100s of meters of  
Scorched earth  
I often wonder that if you replay the footage in Super slow motion  
Whether you could see the people whose lives are about to be destroyed  
Look up  
Realising their fate  
Or if there was sound could you hear their last  
Word  
or  
Scream  
If only for a nano-second.

## GUN CRIME

The tragic deaths of Charlene Ellis and Latisha Shakespeare has unfortunately sparked a reactionary campaign launched by the media and the police that is causing a hysteria about 'gun crime' in the UK. This has opened up a debate. Should we ban all guns? And is there really some sort of gun epidemic in the UK? Who has these weapons of destruction?

Guns kill!!!!  
Allowing the state to pass repressive laws that ban firearms and weapons is not a good thing. We, as revolutionaries, do not support laws that disarm us, the people, leaving the state as the only armed

force in society. Banning guns will not take them out of society. In fact, most firearms in the UK were banned after the Dunblane massacre in 1996, yet people will still be able to get hold of them and use them - if they have the money.

Weapons should be made available to the workers movement, accessed and regulated through the trade unions.

As for the 'epidemic of gun crime', the facts and figures speak for themselves. The number of crimes that involve guns is only 0.4%; the hysteria around guns is just another reactionary media backlash that we have to oppose.

Rap music kills!!!  
But is rap music to blame for peoples' deaths? Well, newsflash, people were getting shot with guns way before rap music came about. Rap music only reflects the trends in society that affect a lot of youth living in the UK today. Black and Asian communities that are systematically discriminated against in terms of housing and jobs mean that lots of communities in the UK are living in poverty. This is reflected in the music and ideas that come out of these communities and ethnic areas.

Whilst I do not agree with Charlton Heston that 'guns don't kill people, people kill people', I believe that nearly all causes of crime are related to poverty and social dysfunction. Guns can make it worse, but are not the cause of it.

It is hypocritical of the New Labour government to propose new reactionary laws against guns with out dealing with the 'causes of crime' (as Blair so famously put it). And if people think that the state should have guns then tell me what they are doing with all their guns right now in the Gulf? Aiming them at innocent civilians.

by simon in sheffield

# PALESTINE

During the holidays, I went to Rafah with several other ISM volunteers. Rafah is a tiny, overcrowded and impoverished town in the Gaza Strip on the border with Egypt – an open-air prison camp within a prison camp.

We stayed with Palestinian families whose homes were at risk of demolition. The army is trying to create a buffer zone along the border where tanks can move freely, and is now blowing up houses in the small hours of the morning when people are least likely to fight back. People whose crime is living somewhere that's 'inconvenient' for the tanks. Where they are expected to go when their homes and belongings disappear in a cloud of smoke is evidently of no concern to the Israeli state.

Close to Rafah there is a village called Mawasi, cut off from the coast by an illegal Israeli settlement and surrounded on the other side by a military base. The only way out of the village is through a checkpoint,

opened two or three times a day only to Palestinians who work on the settlement. The Mawasi villagers find it a nightmare to get out and impossible to get back in again, so they cannot go to visit their friends and family in other towns within the Gaza Strip or get food and supplies into the village. We tried to get some much-needed medical supplies for the villagers through the checkpoint, only to see them confiscated by a white jeep of the Shabak (Israeli secret police).

The army blew up 10 homes on my second day in Rafah, and another 5 the day I left. The month I was in the country, around 50 Palestinians were killed – the majority unarmed civilians – with almost no Israeli casualties. The intense daily pressure of the occupation, the day to day grind, the loss of loved ones, the despondency and the despair leads to desperate acts of retaliation. It

came two days after I left Rafah, the same day that I arrived in Tel Aviv.

A double suicide-bombing in the central bus station killed 22 people – many of them impoverished foreign guest workers. The world media took notice of the sudden deaths of Israelis, but very little notice of the daily trickle of Palestinian deaths that preceded it. The revulsion at this act of revenge was such that the group that claimed it – Islamic Jihad – denied all responsibility shortly afterwards. Many – following the media lies and distortions about this conflict – will have drawn their own conclusions about Palestinian "terrorism" and Israel's acts of "self-defence". But the message wasn't lost on me. As long as Israel occupies Palestinian land and keeps squeezing out its inhabitants, there will continue to be blood shed on both sides.

BY MARCUS AT THE OVAL OFFICE



LONDON ACTION WITH THE ISM

On an international day of action in support of the Palestinian struggle for freedom, about

20 International Solidarity Movement activists 'bulldozed' their way into four stores selling CATERpillar shoes. Serving a Notice of Demolition to Barrett's, River Island, Shelley's and Dolci's, the activists took their big yellow bulldozer onto Oxford Street drawing a lot of attention and a few cops. They were making apparent the direct link between the fashion accessories sold in this country and the bulldozers sold to the Israeli Army, highlighting the role the company plays in the demolition of Palestinian homes, schools, roads and the destruction of Palestinian lives.

CATERpillar has become the target of an international boycott because of its role as Israel's primary supplier of military bulldozers – one of the most destructive weapons in the arsenal of the illegal Israeli occupation. The machinery is being used to construct the Apartheid Wall, physically separating the West Bank from Israel, which will enforce racial segregation on the Palestinians. The Apartheid Wall – along with fortified Israeli settlements, military checkpoints, control of all borders, and Jewish-only roads that carve up the West Bank – will confine the Palestinians to concentrated ghettos and Bantustans.

for more info on the ISM look at [www.ism-london.org](http://www.ism-london.org), [www.palestinianboycott.org](http://www.palestinianboycott.org) or [www.free-palestine-campaign.org](http://www.free-palestine-campaign.org)

university. This is a lie. He doesn't seem to be counting the pennies when it comes to helping Bush seize Iraq's oil.

So what is the way forward? The FBU called another strike on 21 Jan which was solid. They are now talking of guerrilla tactics of having two hour strikes so the Government has to put 19,000 soldiers on fire duty for two hours, then send them home. What is needed is a period of all out strike action to put pressure on the Government. Public support is still high as people see through the lies of the media. How can you help? Join your local firefighters support group, contribute to the hardship fund.



newsflash: govt stepping in to force fbu to accept modernisation deal!

## WHERE NOW FOR THE FIRE FIGHTERS?

by yuen in lewisham



FAT CAT PRESCOTT

The FBU suspended its

planned strikes before Xmas to the anger of many ordinary firefighters. Again the Government took this as a sign of weakness and declared that the FBU had to agree to accept the main recommendations of the Bain Review before negotiations began again. The Bain Report is portrayed as an agenda for modernisation. So what does this mean? It says that there should be reductions in the number of firefighters, less cover at night, reforms to the pensions system. In reality it means severe cutbacks which will put the public at risk. It means less firefighters on duty at night (when more people die in fires), cuts in pensions, firefighters working longer hours which means

less time to spend with their families. So much for the family-friendly policies that Bain claims to promote! The Government also plans to change the law so that they can close local fire stations without having to consult the people who live in the area. This is because communities are always against closures of local firestations and they know they will have a fight on their hands.

The mainstream media have continued the propaganda war against the same people who were hailed as heroes after September 11th. The Express declared that firefighters were putting soldiers' lives at risk because they were having to provide fire cover instead preparing to attack Iraq. The Sun revealed that the FBU leader Andy Gilchrist wasn't to be trusted because he once had extra-marital sex. Tory MP Bernard Jenkin called the firefighters "idiots" and demanded that the Government take legal action to ban the strike.

Blair continues to say he has no money to pay the firefighters a decent wage, and there is no money to pay for young people to go to

## Closing off the road to university



bankruptcy

When Education Secretary Charles Clarke went to uni, in the 60s, there were no student loans, fees

were paid in full by local education authorities and there was a grant to cover living costs. In addition, students could claim housing and unemployment benefit in the holidays. All this was done away with gradually over the next 3 decades. In 1997, Labour abolished grants and introduced loans and up-front fees.

The Government has now announced that it will allow universities to charge top-up fees of up to £3000 in a move condemned by teaching unions and the NUS. This could mean students

leaving university with debts of up to £30,000. In the case of a medical degree which takes 6 years, a graduate could end up paying back £50,000.

Blair claims that fees will encourage fairer access to education for all despite countless reports that linked student hardship and debt with the desire not to go to university! As a sop to critics, Labour will reintroduce grants of up to £1,000 for students whose parents earn less than £10,000. (Who can raise a family on £10,000 a year? They would be homeless!) This won't achieve the objective of getting students from poorer backgrounds to university. After all, how far will £1000 go over a whole year? Under the new proposals, different universities will be able to set different fees which the NUS believes will result in a multi-tiered education system where

rich people will get to pick and choose any course at any institution, while the less well-off have to pick a degree based on budget, not on aptitude. This will reinforce the class-based nature of higher education.

As in the US, the best universities will be able to set high fees secure in the knowledge that they will always be able to attract (rich) students. Other institutions will be left behind. Already universities like Nottingham, Imperial and Birmingham have said they will start charging the full £3000 a-year fees as soon as they can.

A fair education system would ensure free access to all, paid for out of a progressive taxation system. Why is the government taxing people for being educated instead of taxing those who are rich? Like the owner of the Sun?

by yuen

# INTERNATIONAL

## THE F WORD



Feminism. Feminist. Butch, bra-burning, man-hating, dungaree-wearing freak. Yes, the stereotypical feminist is everything our "modern woman", like Eva above, does not want to be. Instead of celebrating our womanhood, the mythical "feminist" (brought to you by men in suits and women who should know better) rejects femininity, and she wants YOU to do the same.

With this image floating in mind whenever the concept of feminism is considered, it's hardly surprising to hear so many young women begin their sentences with "I'm not a feminist, but..." whenever they point out any one of the glaring injustices still facing women all over the world today.

Feminism has been turned into a dirty word, irrelevant and unfashionable. But have we women won our goals?

The truth is the ideas of feminism is still very relevant. The struggles of our sisters over the years have won us rights and respect that women are worthy of -

not just as women, but as human beings. But there are rights still remaining to be won. The fact that words like "slag", "bitch" and "slut" are commonly used insults to deride aspects of women which are celebrated in men - such as assertiveness and sexual expression - is testimony to the continuing need to fight for the liberation of women.

Change is within our reach, and we have already come a long way. But how are we to further this progress? In the UK, we have legislation in place to protect women from discrimination and violence, yet despite this "official" equality, we are far from equal. Women still earn only 66% of what men earn. What is the right to financial independence and the right to vote, if we still aren't safe to walk home after dark? So what if we're allowed to divorce our husbands, if us women who enjoy sex are labelled "slags"?

The battle for female equality can no longer be fought through legislation, for it just puts plasters on the cracks - it doesn't address the roots of women's oppression. This lies in

the home and the work women do reproducing the next generation of workers FOR FREE. This is the biggest scam of the capitalist system for this social work is pushed into the private home and becomes the responsibility of each individual woman.

It is the material situation that need to be changed for both male and female to really be free. When we're no longer fighting for the table scraps left to us by the capitalists, then we can be truly equal.

Women need to find their voice once again - our glossy magazines telling us to work out more, buy the latest designer clothes, do our hair like this and our make-up like that to be able to catch a man who will 'fulfil our empty lives' is NOT the sound of liberated women. Men need to realise that they can be 'feminists' too, that equality for women does not amount to discrimination against men. We are at a time now where we need to start the conversation again, get everyone involved and fight together, if equality is ever going to arise.

by ZOE  
in guildford



International Women's Day was born at a time of social upheaval and political activism. We can see the parallels today, as women take to the streets across the world to fight for their rights, whether it be in the sweatshops of Indonesia or in the barrios of Brazil. We want to bring that tradition here to the Western world and make it an international day of ACTION, not just another day in the UN calendar.

The first Women's Days were initiated in America by socialist women working in the garment industry, who took strike action to force management to listen to their demands for an 8 hour day. In 1910, at the second International Conference of Socialist Women in Copenhagen, it was proposed that Women's Day become an international event to press demands for equality for women. The first IWDs fought for issues facing women at the time, such as the right to vote, to work, and to get access to training, but in 1917 the militant Russian women's activism sparked a strike that brought down the Tsarist regime in Russia.

Two million Russian soldiers

had been killed in the war, and the Russian women again chose the day to strike for "bread and peace". By mid-morning ten factories were shut and the women had brought 27,000 workers out on strike. They did this by 'flying pickets' - going from factory to factory calling the workers out. By the end of the day this had risen to 59,800. Political leaders had opposed the timing of the strike, but the women went ahead, with dramatic results - four days later the Tsar was forced to abdicate and the provisional Government immediately granted women the right to vote. Talking of the heroism of the women activists in the Russian Revolution and afterwards, Trotsky said:

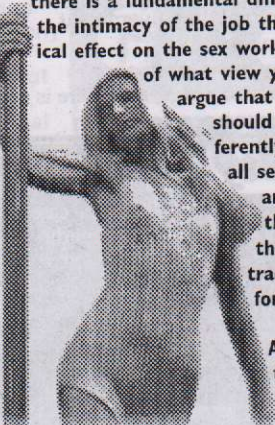
"They go up to the cordons more boldly than men, take hold of the rifles, beseech, almost command: 'Put down your bayonets - join us!' The soldiers are excited, ashamed, exchange anxious glances, waver; someone makes up his mind first, and the bayonets rise guiltily above the shoulders of the advancing crowd. The barrier is opened, a joyous 'Hurrah!' shakes the air."

## SPEARMINT RHINO debate

A Spearmint Rhino strip club has opened up in Sheffield in December last year. The reaction to it has been mixed with people debating everything from the location to the question of the place that sex work has in society, if any. Some on the left want it shut down because it is sexist and degrading to women, but Sheffield Revo has taken a different stance to it.

As Socialists (with a big S) we are on the side of the workers, because it is only the workers that can truly change things in society. Are people who work in the sex industry workers or not? I think that they are, though the job they do may have unusual kinds of criteria and conditions. Ultimately they sell their bodies for a wage. This is in a way similar to bosses of a retail shop or a factory buy our bodies, our hands or minds in

return for a wage. Other people argue that there is a fundamental difference located in the intimacy of the job that has a psychological effect on the sex worker. But regardless of what view you hold, we would argue that these workers should not be treated differently. We demand that all sex work be legalised and regulated, and that all women have the right to join a trade union and fight for better conditions.



A few have argued that the presence of a strip club in the centre of town is

going to be dangerous to women in the city; that attacks on women will increase and that the advertising around Sheffield is going to add to women's oppression in a dramatic way. But it has never been proved that men look at porn or see women strip and then become sex-crazed

attackers. And is the advertising for a strip club any worse than the advertising for clothes, cars or anything else that uses women's bodies to sell products?

Everyone in Revo takes women's oppression seriously. It is important to always fight against it and it is up to us to create a young women's movement to help liberate women all over the globe. But is shutting down Spearmint Rhino in Sheffield and putting those young women on the dole really going to help anyone? A member of the International Union of Sex Workers (IUSW) gave a talk in Sheffield and explained how many young women and men go into the profession because they can more money than flipping burgers for minimum wage. A lot of people do it as a way out of debt (in Yorkshire 1 in 4 strippers is a student!).

Sheffield Revo says unionise the workers, equal rights for all workers and that we support the demands of the IUSW! [www.iusw.org](http://www.iusw.org)

by nomis in Sheffield

# WOMEN'S DAY MARCH 8TH

## DAY OF ACTION AGAINST SWEATSHOP LABOUR



The revolutionary impact of International Women's day has decreased since then... The day has been made a focus for token efforts to promote equality, such as United Nations women's conferences, or attempts to involve women in development projects or procedural democracy, which are reformist at best and do not take on the real issues of women's oppression.

Last year REVOLUTION did a Tour of Shame of high street shops that use sweatshop labour to make clothes and toys. Complete with samba band, we sashayed our way down Oxford Street and while there weren't 59,800 of us, we were scary enough to make the Disney shop pull down its shutters and put a big cardboard Monsters Inc. cut out behind them. Join us and union activists, No Sweat campaigners, women's groups, when we take to the streets this year - bring 59,700 friends and we'll start another revolution...

by racehel in camden

Sweatshop labour has a special significance for women around the world since it is mostly women that are forced to work in these harsh factory conditions. Besides the forced overtime and starvation pay that all workers face, women workers are further oppressed specifically due to their sex.

Many face forced pregnancy tests, receive no maternity pay, or even get sacked if they are found to be pregnant. Sexual harassment is rampant and humiliating practices are still common, such as the 'menstruation test' in Indonesian factories where women workers are still forced to pull down their underwear to prove they are menstruating if they want to leave work. In Mexico and other countries women organisers in the sweatshops are 'disappeared', raped and murdered.

Sweatshop exploitation isn't just hidden away overseas in the developing countries but is also on the map of Europe - in hundreds of invisible workshops in the poor immigrant districts of our cities. Our countries are the major markets for these sweat-

shop brands, yet the endless advertisements and trendy shops in the shopping districts are all that we see. We want to make the workers that produced the shoes and clothes - the chains behind the chain stores - visible too.

Moreover, globalisation has meant a stagnation and outright decline in the employment rights and work conditions for millions across Europe. Long hours of overtime, 'flexible hours', and poverty pay are the experience of more and more workers across Europe. Women make up more of the workforce than ever, yet everywhere are paid less and experience discrimination. In Britain women workers make up are nearly half of trade union membership, yet the gap between women and men's earnings has grown under New Labour, with women's earnings falling from 81.6 per cent of male earnings in 2000 to 74.6 per cent to day. Sexist abuse, inadequate maternity provision and job discrimination are still rampant.

We want to reclaim International Women's Day as a

day of struggle in the labour movement across the continents.

Therefore we appeal to all anti-sweatshop and workers' rights organisations, women's organisations, trade unions, NGO's, human rights campaigns, and other interested campaigns to support the call, create action committees and come together to plan protests and events to mark this day. The aim is for actions or events in every city and country across Europe, to create a prominent wave of worldwide protest.

IF YOUR ORGANISATION WOULD LIKE TO TAKE PART IN ORGANISING THIS INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ACTION, PASS THE RESOLUTION AND GET IN TOUCH.

### No Sweat UK

Sweatshops in the area? Just Do Them with No Sweat!

www.nosweat-uk.org  
0044 7951 493 232  
BCM Box 7750, London WC1N 3XX

by joy from no sweat!

Please ask your organisation/trade union to pass this resolution:

This ... notes the rise in the use of sweatshop labour, particularly in the Third World, but also in the west, by many of the major global corporations, especially in clothes' production.

This ... further notes that women and children are frequently the main victims of sweatshop exploitation and suffer low pay, terrible conditions and management harassment, bullying and intimidation as a result.

This ... welcomes the call, made by the European Social Movements conference in Florence last

make cheques out to "March 8th Action Fund" and send to: March 8th, BCM Box 7750, London WC1N 3XX

November, for a European-wide day of action on International Women's Day 2003, 8 March, against sweatshop labour.

This ... resolves to support any such actions called by encouraging members to attend and by publicising such actions as widely as possible, by taking branch/regional/national banners to such actions and by making a donation to the costs of such protests.

This ... resolves to circulate this resolution to other branches, regional organisations and the national bodies of our union. We urge all labour movement bodies to take up and reclaim International Women's Day as an annual event for women workers.

## RACIST FILTH

by NEW LABOUR AND MEDIA SCUM

So the BNP have won their fifth council seat in Halifax. David Blunkett, job title 'hypocrite extraordinaire', calls their policies 'dangerous' and warns against 'scapegoating', whilst the tabloid press express repulsion at their victory. Unsurprisingly, however, they have linked the rise of the fascists with New Labour's 'failure to deal with the asylum issue', demanding the country seals up its borders, bring in even more stringent asylum laws and place all asylum seekers in Australian style 'detention camps' until they can be 'processed'.

If the press and New Labour want to know the real cause of the rise of the BNP, they need only look in the mirror.

The recent hysterical scapegoating of asylum seekers has been utterly disgusting. The gutter press have run scare story after scare story talking about how refugees are coming

over, taking British jobs and housing, hanging around in gangs, and causing an upsurge in crime and terrorism. The tactic appears to be to portray asylum seekers as alien from the British, creating an atmosphere of fear and resentment. They are making a direct link between 'asylum seekers' and 'terrorists', like they are the same thing. This is highly convenient for them as the country is looking to encroach even more on our civil liberties and embark on a racist war on an Arab nation.

The reality over the asylum issue is that billions of people either live under oppressive regimes or in horrendous poverty, caused by capitalism's consistent neo-liberal agenda. To attempt to escape this, people have to abandon their place of birth, leaving family and friends behind, often paying a huge amount of money they cannot afford to smuggling rings in the hope that they will find their way to Britain. Once here, they find that they are refused the right to work, given sub-standard housing in run-down areas, and being victimised by the press and the government to be blamed for all society's ills.

The vast majority of asylum seekers have

come from massive poverty or under brutal rule. The buzz-term at the moment is 'economic migrants', but based on the massive inequality of wealth distribution between the rich nations and the poor, economic refugees would be a better term. Economic oppression is equally as bad as political oppression. Either way, you may end up dead whether by torture or starvation.

Blaming asylum seekers for everything from terrorism to gun crime to unemployment, as the Sun and the rest of the tabloid filth is doing, can only result in racist backlashes, and encourage reactionary racism within the working class and divided communities. We need to recognise the reality of the plight of many refugees, and welcome them as valuable additions to our communities.

All asylum seekers deserve our support, whatever the reasons for coming here. The working class has no country. Smash immigration controls and free up our borders!

by bud in sheffield

REVOLUTION 5

# REVOLUTIONARY IDEAS

# is war inherent

What are the underlying reasons for the war? Is it just because we have an "oil man" in the White House, or a bunch of power-hungry politicians hell bent on ruling the world? Or is it something more fundamental about how the world is run?

**A**s the war on Iraq moves closer and closer, the real reasons behind the war - the US's attempts to increase its world domination and get its hands on Iraq's oil - are being revealed to millions around the world.

How much clearer can it get? We have been told for the past 8 months that the aim of the US and Britain was to "disarm Iraq" and "destroy Saddam's weapons of mass destruction". But not one shred of evidence has been found to support the idea that Saddam has "illegal weapons programmes" or any "weapons of mass destruction". Nor will it be. The UN resolutions, the weapons inspectors and the record of Saddam's regime were only smokescreens to hide the real aims of the war.

What are the underlying reasons for the war? Is it just because we have an "oil man" in the White House, or a bunch of power-hungry politicians hell bent on ruling the world? Or is it something more fundamental about how the world is run?

If it were just because we had bad leaders like Bush and Blair, the solution would be very easy. Let's kick them out of office and replace them with leaders who won't wage war. If we were to look only at the last few years of history, that might be a reasonable assumption to make. After all, Blair led the charge to declare war on Serbia in 1998 and was quick to join Bush in waging war on Afghanistan. Both are obviously warmongers.

## A permanent feature?

But if we look at the past one hundred years, we've seen an unprecedented growth in technology and economic development. At the same time we've also seen the biggest ever growth in inequality between rich and poor. We've also seen wars become an almost permanent feature of human society. There has not been a war-free decade in the last 100 years. More people died in wars in the 20th century than all the rest of human history put together

The system we live under, capitalism, is the root cause of most of the world's problems, and war is an inherent feature of it.

Under capitalism, the resources, the products of the world, and the means to produce them are

controlled by a small number of capitalists. The other 5 billion of us are forced to work for this tiny elite either in factories, offices or on the land. In return for this "privilege" we get a wage at the end of the week. For the billions who live outside the rich Western countries, this wage, if you're lucky enough to have a job, is barely enough to live on.

It is a system that runs on competition, and decisions are made on the basis of profit. Different companies all compete for market share. They come up with different products not to meet human needs but so they can carve out a bigger market share and make a bigger profit. Nike competes with Adidas and Reebok to sell us different coloured trainers and track suits. Music companies compete to sell us more bland manufactured music like Gareth Gates, Will Young, Britney Spears or Pink. The music is secondary; all that matters is what can be sold and how much profit can be made.

Competition is so important to capitalism that it tries to introduce it in to every part of society. So hospitals compete for patients, universities and schools must compete for students. Public utilities like water companies and train services are privatised and broken up into smaller companies so they can compete for customers. The end result of this is higher bills, a declining standard of services and lower wages for those who work in the industry. It makes us compete for jobs, housing and food even though there is more than enough to go around. It is a system that puts the profits and the interest of the big corporations before the needs and interests of billions of people.

## Imperialism

A result of all this competition is that weaker firms either go bankrupt or get taken over by bigger ones. As companies grow (in many cases into monopolies) they not only compete in their own countries but they start to compete with companies all over the world for access to markets, access to cheaper sources of labour and resources like oil. For example not only does Sainsbury compete with Tesco, but both compete with the US supermarket giant Wal-Mart which owns Asda.

The end result of this competition on a global scale is that nation states start to compete for the right to exploit the world's resources and people, and this is what leads to war. In 1916 the Russian revolutionary Lenin described this period, where capital and wealth are concentrated into a few hands leading to competition between a few nation states for the control of the world, as imperialism. It was the attempt to re-divide the world for exploitation between the imperialist powers that caused the First and Second World Wars. Using the theory of imperialism as a guide Lenin illustrated the imperialist nature of the first world war with example of "a slave owner who owned 100 slaves warring against a slave owner who owned 200 slaves for a more 'just' distribution of slaves".

## Logic of the world

This has been the logic behind the pattern of wars in the last century. A few rich countries dominate and control the resources of the rest of the world. They no longer do this through having formal colonial empires, like those once possessed by Britain and France, but through the more informal means of chaining entire nations through debt-slavery and swallowing up the economy by the First World's multinationals. Occasionally, the imperialists quarrel amongst themselves over their share of the loot - leading to wars like the two World Wars of the last century. Occasionally, the slaves rebel against their masters and fight for their independence, leading to wars like Vietnam's long war against French and US imperialism. And occasionally, the imperialists wage wars of conquest against countries whose leaders don't know their place or refuse to play their game - like the first Gulf War or in Nicaragua.

The reason countries like China, France and Germany seem opposed to the war on Iraq, is not because they want peace, but because they're in competition with the US and don't want to see the US in control of the Middle East.

In mid January, a US commercial intelligence agency with close connections to state intelligence sources published an interesting report about the present negotiations between the US, the European powers, the Arab governments and Iraq



# to capitalism?

and the interests of the competing powers.

It said, "The motives of the anti-war nations are far from humanitarian. Many of the same countries that were agitating for war against Yugoslav President Milosevic suddenly find war with Iraq intolerable. Their real motivation is fear that the United States, once it occupies Iraq, not only will dominate the region, but use Iraq as a base from which to extend its control throughout the Arabian Peninsula, with inevitable political and economic consequences."

Many people said that sanctions on Iraq after the last Gulf War in 1991 - which have killed at least 1.5 million Iraqis, half of them children - was just war carried out "by economic means". And the flip side of this argument is also true. War serves the "normal" interests of economic aggression by another means.

## US domination

For over 20 years the US has been on a political and economic offensive. It has used institutions like the World Bank and the IMF to batter down trade barriers and force third world companies to open up their economies to exploitation by US and other western multinationals.

Corporations like Nike, Gap, MacDonaldis and Starbucks are open for business across the Third World, and their products are often produced in disgusting sweatshops where workers - including children - work long hours for a pittance.

In return for so called "loans" or "aid" Third World countries are forced to pay billions back in interest to the major western banks and institutions like the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. India spends more on servicing its debt than on schools and hospitals.

Countries like the US use the control of this debt to pressure Third World countries in to accepting what ever the west wants. Not only do they maintain control by having all the money, but the US also backs its economic control with the threat of military intervention. After the war on Iraq the US will continue to use its unrivalled military force to pursue its own economic and political interests at the expense of its rivals like the EU, Japan, Russia and China.

## More wars to come

This is why we can expect more, not fewer wars to come. The major European and Japanese corporations will not sit idly by and let US corporations dominate the world. They will pressure their governments to take on the US and



the fight for their interests. This will only increase the rivalries that already exist and will further the likelihood of war between the imperialist powers.

But as global capitalism and the threat of war has spread across the world, so too has the resistance to it spread. In December 2001 the people of Argentina rose up and brought down their pro-IMF government. In Peru, plans to privatise the water supply were met with a massive general strike. The anti-capitalist protests in Seattle, Prague and Genoa brought hundreds of thousands of people on to the street to protest against the economic policies of the western imperialists. Millions have taken to the streets to protest against the war on Afghanistan and millions more will fight back against the war on Iraq.

More and more this movement of resistance is coming together across the world. 60,000 met at

the European Social Forum last November in Florence, to plan, co-ordinate and begin the fight back against the imperialists and their policies. It was at the ESF that the call was put out for an European wide demonstration against the war on Iraq.

Out of this growing anti-capitalist and anti-war movement must grow a movement of revolutionary workers and young people who understand and can convince others that the only way to stop war for ever is to get rid of the system that causes it - capitalism.

*by sean in c london*



# Can we stop the war by being pacifist?

by Luke in Reigate

**P**acifism is not a new idea. It has been around for some time and is simply a rejection of all forms of violence. Gandhi was one of the most prominent advocates of "non violent" resistance in the 1930s and 40s.

The fight against imperialism in India however was not won by non-violent resistance, but when Gandhi lost control of the movement and Indian workers started to actively confront the colonial state in their struggle. Police stations were burnt, barracks ransacked, the homes of the imperialists smashed. The British cut a deal with Gandhi when they realised the Indian workers were threatening much more than self-determination, they were threatening social upheaval that could threaten the interests of British capitalism. After a painful imperialist fight against Germany, the Brits were in no condition to take on the fight.

In the US, in the 1950s and early 60s, Martin Luther King led the black Civil Rights movement of the South in a struggle against the racist segregation laws. He, too, was a pacifist and surprisingly enough represented a section of the middle class opposed to segregation. The fight for minimum black civil rights was won but left the US as one of the most segregated nations on the planet. Once again pacifism had not led the movement to victory.

There was a different story in the western and northern ghettos where militants like the Black Panthers led the anti-racist struggle. They argued that capitalism was not a "white" system but a class system and should be fought by all workers. They created an organisational method to replace spontaneous riots and used the constitutional right to carry guns in self-defence (against cops and racists - often the same thing!). Their imagination and daring spawned a militant following of black youths which shook the American state. They were crushed by the long arm of the state but have rightly earned the respect of generations for their heroic struggle.

It is easy to get goopy-eyed when considering these questions. I don't consider myself a violent person and I detest the violence and terrorism of the capitalist

system. Peace? Who doesn't want it? It is part of the social utopia; it is the socialism that we as revolutionaries strive for. But how to achieve it? That is the question that splits the anti war movement today. Our movement, which has seen thousands of people take to the streets of Britain, is an ideologically divided movement.

On one side stand the militants who stand in the tradition of the Black Panthers, who see the fight against imperialism as a battle against the British and American ruling class. On the other hand stand the pacifists



and the dreamers who refuse to say "defend Iraq", who want to hold hands and dance for peace!

As revolutionaries we know what side we're on! We recognise that huge peaceful demonstrations are important in bringing about the defeat of imperialism and getting more and more people active in the mobilisation against the war. The state may soon try to take away our right to demonstrate in its desperation to crush the movement. We must continue to demand our right to demonstrate peacefully.

Yet these demonstrations cannot be an end in themselves. If they are then we will not defeat the forces of imperialism. Our movement will be defeated and the international ruling class will be guzzling Iraq's oil by the barrel. This must not happen. We call for direct action in solidarity with the Iraqis defending their country. By direct action we mean actions that will have a genuine effect on hampering the war effort.

The pacifists of the anti-war movement (Arrow, CND etc) are calling for "non violent" direct action. By this they mean sit

downs outside Parliament, or "die ins" (lying rather than sitting!) and when the police move in to arrest them they will be happily carried to the local station. It is easy to belittle these tactics but they are perfectly legitimate symbolic actions against the war. REVOLUTION has taken part in many symbolic sit down protests of our own. They raise awareness of important issues and they help build movements. But we recognise that these symbolic protests will not bring about the defeat of imperialism and will not bring about the creation of the socialism we strive for.

We call for militancy. We stand in solidarity with the Motherwell train drivers who refused to move armaments that were bound for the war effort. We see their actions as the beginnings of wider anti-war actions by the working class. We call for the blockade of ports being used to ship supplies and reinforcements to the Gulf, both now and when the war comes. We need to mobilise for the workers at ports to walk out and erect picket lines. These picket lines must be defended from the inevitable persecution of the state.

As revolutionaries we call on workers to walk out when war starts. We call for a general strike that would make this anti-war movement a real force for social change. As revolutionaries we would defend this strike with our fists. Pacifists claim that actions like these bring discredit to our movement. We argue that active defence only emboldens us. This war must be fought by any means necessary. Any tactic that will see the defeat of imperialism we will support.

We don't just want to see imperialism beaten back by the Iraqi people. Ours is a wider call for justice. As youth we live in a world raped by capitalism and our future does not lie with this corrupt system. An end to the IMF, WTO and World Bank. No more Macdonaldisation of our planet! No more environmental destruction! No alienation! No poverty! No exploitation! We intend to walk away from the anti war movement having politicised a generation who are intent on change. Workers, the oppressed, the youth all over the world unite now and smash capitalism!



# In the war between the US/UK and Iraq we should be in favour of a **VICTORY TO IRAQ!**

by Richard in Hackney

Bush and Blair are set to kill hundreds of thousands more Iraqi people. Their crime? To live in a country with the second largest oil reserves in the world, reserves the billionaire oil bosses want to control. For this the Iraqis will be incinerated.

This is the most cowardly war ever. The strongest state in history is launching billions of dollars worth of hi-tech weaponry against a cruelly impoverished country, one it has systematically starved of food and medicine for over a decade.

58% of the British people oppose this war - as do millions of Americans. In London and Washington marches of 400,000 and over showed the depth of anger at what is being done in our name. Millions know this is not about 'weapons of mass destruction', 9/11 or 'war on terrorism' but about oil and global domination. Trade unions, students, Muslim youth are marching together on every continent. The anti-war movement is getting stronger by the day.

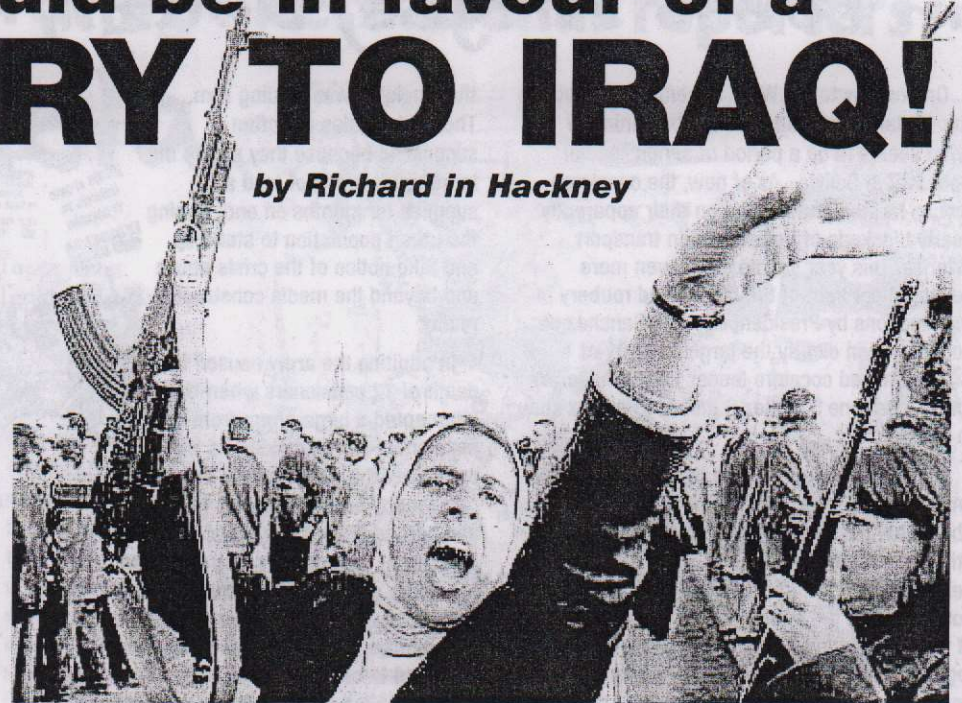
Bush and Blair are hypocrites and killers, but they are not stupid. They remember Vietnam, when protests on the streets played a big role in forcing the USA to back down. So they're not going to rely on persuading people through patient debate - their arguments are too weak, and they know it. Instead they will launch a campaign of vicious propaganda against the anti-war movement.

Over the coming weeks of bloodshed and massacre, we in the anti-war movement are going to be accused of aiding our nation's enemies. They will say we are putting British soldiers at risk. In essence they will accuse us of treason - of aiding the defeat of 'our own' country at the hands of a foreign power.

But the people putting young soldiers at risk are not the anti-war movement. It's not us that decided to send a quarter of the British Army to the Gulf. The people responsible for this war are in the White House and Whitehall - and they must take responsibility for every young life brought to a sudden and squalid end.

The ruling class in Britain and America are using patriotism to whip up support for their war. This is a simple idea: we should support our country. Even if we don't support the reasons for this war, when the shooting starts we are supposed to remember that we are British. Anyone who doesn't will be accused of letting down their friends, family and community. The patriotic slogan is "my country, right or wrong", or as Cartman put it in a recent episode of South Park, "If you don't support the team, get out of the stadium".

Patriotism is a gigantic fraud. It rests on a lie: that all British people have the same interests,



and that they are different from those of all Iraqi people. In fact, the interests of working class people and youth in Britain are the opposite of the billionaire British oil and arms companies. A striking firefighter in London has more in common with an exploited worker in an Iraqi factory than with Bush, Blair or the chairman of BP. Our true interests are based not on our nationality, but on our class.

That is why the forces that back the war most aggressively are those closest to millionaires and the elites - US owned newspapers like the Sun, the pro-business New Labour clique around Blair, the Tories and the City of London. And it's why organisations of working class people are mostly against the war: most trade unions, local Labour parties, students in schools and colleges all over Britain.

The war aims of British and US governments are unjust - theft and domination. If we oppose them, then we must also desire their defeat in this war. This is because we want them to fail: to fail to seize the oil wells, to fail to intimidate regimes across the third world, to fail to enforce the global system of debt and unfair trade rules, to fail to carve out a new order in the Middle East based on US, British and Israeli occupation of Arab land.

What about the Iraqis themselves? They are the ones facing death in their hundreds of thousands. Their government is not launching a war for domination of the world. They are not trying to steal anyone else's oil. Unlike the Americans, they are not spending more than all other nations put together on an arsenal of mass destruction. They are defending their country against open aggression and theft. And they have a right to!

Of course the warmongers will claim that we are supporting the dictator Saddam Hussein. What hypocrites. They helped him into power.

They blocked UN criticism of him when he gassed his own people. In 1991 they deliberately left him in power. Warmonger-in-chief Donald Rumsfeld (who sold Saddam weapons in the 80s) has offered him an amnesty and immunity from prosecution. If they win, the US will introduce not democracy but a government under their own strict control.

The Iraqis must decide on their own government. To do that they need to establish democracy themselves through their own mass action. And they will never be able to do that while their country is occupied by hundreds of thousands of US and British troops. To win democracy they need to stop US occupation. The Iraqi people know that. That's why even while they hate Saddam Hussein, they hate the US and its war even more.

We should support the Iraqis' defence of their country. We should do all we can to help them defeat the US and British attack

A victory for Iraq would encourage resistance to the global superpower and its capitalist culture all over the world. It will encourage working people and youth everywhere to demand our share. It would utterly discredit Blair and his slavish support for everything the White House wants. It would weaken not strengthen dictatorships everywhere by weakening their main sponsor in the world - America, which funds them, trains them, and arms them. Above all it would encourage revolution and the fight for global justice.

That's why the anti-war movement should carry on the fight and throw the warmongers' lies back in their faces.

- \* **Solidarity with the Iraqi People**
- \* **Defend Iraq**
- \* **Defeat imperialism**
- \* **Victory to Iraq!**

# On route to the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, Brazil, via Bolivia

By Fran

On our way to the WSF, we entered Bolivia on the 18 Jan, just in time for the beginning of what seems to be a period of serious social upheaval in Bolivia. As of now, the cocaleros (cocoa farmers) have gone on their apparently yearly blockade of Bolivia's main transport arteries. This year seems to be even more severe in the light of the US-backed robbery of the elections by President Gonzalo Sanchez de Losada, when clearly the large majority of Bolivia backed cocalero leader Evo Morales. We didn't meet one Sanchez Sanchez in all our stay in Bolivia!

Anyway, at the same time in La Paz we went on 2 marches: one by pensioners protesting about changes in pension payments and the other by inhabitants of the El Alto neighbourhood, La Paz's favela-like area where poverty levels are extreme. Unfortunately none of the 3 protesting blocks seem to be working together as yet, although we were told that the Central Obrera Boliviana (Bolivian TUC) is the main body that could co-ordinate any action...we'll see.

The main thing though has been the brutal and heavy-handed repression by the Bolivian state forces that resulted in 20 deaths and over 500 detainees in the first 72 HOURS!!! The army basically opens fire on the blockading cocaleros to disperse them...some cocaleros return fire and this has been used by the government as a green light for mass slaughter in the name of the global fight against terrorism.

The cocaleros return to their blockades after the army have made their charge and then the whole process is repeated again. At last count

the blockade was holding firm. These blockades are often successful because they starve the large urban areas of food and supplies for months on end, forcing the urban population to stand up and take notice of the crisis above and beyond the media constructed reality.

In addition the army caused the death of 12 pensioners when they intercepted a large group from the pensioners march making its way to La Paz. The police raided the pensioners' encampment at 1am and herded them all onto buses (owned by the Minister of the Interior's bus company). One pensioner died there and then, and the other 11 died when one of the buses collided head on with another on its way to La Paz. Some managed to run off into the hills surrounding the encampment and successfully completed the march on the 20th. We are keen to get back to Bolivia as soon as the WSF is finished and see how things develop.

## WORLD SOCIAL FORUM

We arrived for the WSF in Porto Alegre to be greeted by a London like grey, wet and windy day. The youth forum is a large Glastonbury-type campsite with some 15,000 youth all divided into workshops and discussion groups that follow the same daily themes:

- \* Sustainable and democratic development



- \* Values and morals, human rights and diversity
- \* Media, culture and counter-hegemony
- \* Political power, civil society and democracy
- \* democratic world order, fighting militarisation and promoting peace

The majority of the youth forum is comprised of Brazilians, with a good number of Argentineans and some Uruguayans. There are hordes of students from the Brazilian PT and PTSU, the Argentineans with CUT and other workers parties.

The energy is good and there was an anti-war demo today.

The WSF itself is a mix of social movements, greens, unions and political parties and there does seem to be an enormous international presence. If you want to see the programme go to [www.forumsocialmundial.org.br](http://www.forumsocialmundial.org.br).

ok, all for now...  
un beso y abrazo solidario

# Argentina anti-war march

By John

Yesterday after leaving the internet café (I spent about three hours writing the Brukman report) I walked to the Partido de Trabajadores por el Socialismo (PTS) headquarters to find out where the anti-war march would be. Outside there was a small canvas-roofed army truck with the motor running. Young people were standing inside and there were red banners sticking out the back.

"You guys from the PTS?"

"Yeah."

"Can I get in?"

"Sure, why not?"

So I got to take the official party truck to the anti-war march. I didn't even know they had a truck.

The ride was kind of fun, since I met a bunch of people from the PTS youth organisation, JIRCI (Juventud de Izquierda Revolucionaria por la Cuarta Internacional; Youth of the Revolutionary Left for the Fourth International). We talked about the whole Fourth International/Fifth International debate and I invited them to the REVOLUTION summer camp in Prague. They said it sounded good, but I don't think they'll be able to come, since no one in Argentina can afford that.

The JIRCI are currently working to build up a youth movement called "No Pasarán" ("They shall not pass", a cry made famous by Dolores the Passionate during the defense of Madrid in the Spanish Civil War.) Its goal is to defend the conquests of the last year, i.e. protect the occupied factories, maintain the popular assemblies, and defend people against police repression.

We arrived at a plaza near the American embassy and there were already quite a few communist groups: Convergencia Socialista, Liga Socialista Revolucionaria, Venceremos, Partido Revolucionario de la Liberación, Democracia Obrera, and a bunch of others no one has ever heard of. The PTS had by far the largest contingent, with about 200 militants and a giant red banner that said "PTS".

(There are larger communist groups in Argentina, most notably the Partido Obrero and the Maoist Partido Comunista Revolucionario. They are both heavily involved in the Piqueteros (unemployed) movement and were busy doing Piquetero stuff.)

The Madres de Plaza de Mayo organized the march. I talked to one of them and when I mentioned

I was an American she got really excited and said "Why aren't the mothers in the US protesting against the war? Their children are going to die. Why aren't the mothers protesting?"

You do know who the madres are, right? They're a group of women whose children "disappeared" during the US-backed military dictatorship from '76-'83. The madres group was formed to find answers about the disappearance of their children, but now they encompass a broad anti-imperialist struggle. It's easy to identify them because they all wear white kerchiefs on their heads.

No Pasarán had a pretty good contingent, with maybe a hundred young people, all of them really enthusiastic. Besides them there were popular assemblies, the Center of Professionals for Human Rights (the lawyers who support the occupied businesses), the above mentioned communist mini-groups, and even a few workers from Brukman along with the workers from the occupied bakery. (The bakery workers, incidentally, had used their first fifty pesos to make flyers about their cause.)

So the march began when the madres started off

# Reports from Latin America by REVOLUTION's roving international reporters

## Venezuela

By Paolo

Hi all. Just a quick message regarding events here in South America, in particular with regards to Venezuela which is often in the headlines these days.

As the world's media clamours for an end to the Chavez "dictatorship" and a "return to democracy," the reality within the borders of Venezuela is very different to that portrayed on our TV screens and splurged across the pages of our daily papers.

The so-called "General Strike" in Venezuela is nothing more than an elitist attempt at bringing down Chavez through an international media coup.

To even call it a General Strike is a vast overstatement. Some - limited - sectors are on strike but the vast majority of the population is carrying on as normal. Unfortunately, however, the crucial Oil Industry, puppeteered by Western multinationals and the Venezuelan oligarchy, is one of the affected sectors. Therefore, the militarisation of petrol stations has been leapt upon by the western press and South American media with vigour as they claim the "dictator" Chavez is brutally repressing opposition.

This is further enhanced by the super corrupt, CTV (Main Venezuelan workers union - Central de Trabajadores Venezuela) supporting this "strike" and the apparent anti-opposition violence supposedly perpetrated by pro-Chavistas...If there is one thing that you have to know in Latin American politics it is that the oligarchy here will stop at nothing to discredit its

down the avenue with their "no war against Iraq" banner. I am always inspired by these militant old women shouting radical slogans and leading massive demonstrations.

The American embassy was only a few hundred yards away. It was on a side street a ways back from the avenue, but the entrance to the street was cut off by a big steel fence with hundreds of police officers standing behind it. We all lined up opposite the fence to sing songs ("Die, Yanquis, Die!") and burn flags. One of the madres give a speech and people threw firecrackers. When a big firecracker exploded behind the police line I was sure they were going to attack. But they didn't.

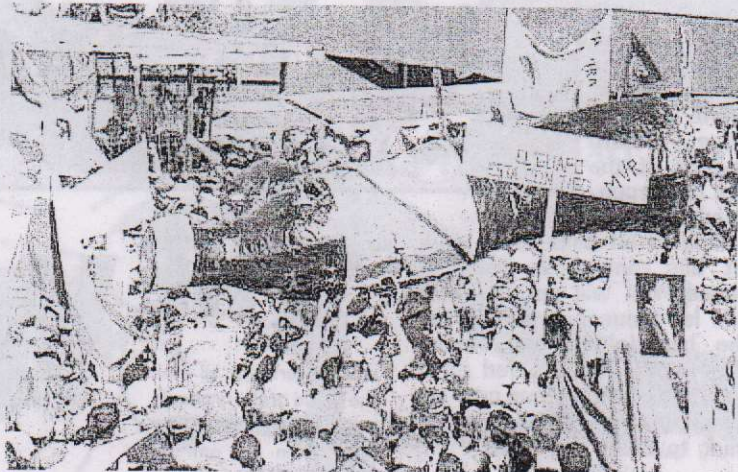
After a while we got bored, so we marched back down the avenue to the Plaza and dispersed. I think the Yanquis got the message. All in all there were about a thousand of us - I can just imagine some page bursting into the oval office: "Mr. President, a thousand Argentinians are opposed to your policy in Iraq!"

"Well I guess we can't go to war."

opposition, even going so far as carrying out terrorist attacks on its own population and blaming insurgent groups (Colombia is a classic example). It is no different with the Venezuelan upper class fixing and setting up attacks against their own supporters, blaming Chavez, and then going on about the outrageous dictatorship under which they are, undemocratically, forced to live. In reality they're just pissed off because Chavez is a bit of a Robin Hood and has 'scandalously' been giving to the poorer sectors of Venezuelan society.

We met up with some Venezuelan Bolivarianos in the recent ALCA (FTAA) counter-summit in Quito and although their populist politics leave a lot to be desired they did say that huge portions of the population supports Chavez, something backed up by his several electoral/referendum victories.

The US and the West are calling for elections or a referendum now so that in the name of "true democracy" they can carry out the same fix at the ballot boxes that they recently managed to secure in Bolivia and Nicaragua where undesirable opposition



An oversized Coca-Cola bottle with a sign that reads: "Don't drink Coca-Cola", is carried by supporters of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez during a rally in Caracas, Venezuela, Thursday, Jan. 23, 2003. Hundreds of thousands marched through Caracas on Thursday to pledge their loyalty to Chavez and protest a 53-day-old strike intended to unseat him. (AP Photo/Andres Leighton)  
ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOGRAPHS

candidates were dangerously close to victory.

Anyway, we'll see what happens but since the general strike is really non-existent and the masses seem to support Chavez, I can see this one being long and drawn out.

We should support Chavez in his battle against the Venezuelan oligarchy and oil-obsessed West but that we should also point out the large deficiencies in Chavez's Movimiento Revolucionario Bolivariano which, under the guise of making revolutionary changes, is nothing more than a reformist programme installed to slightly improve the lives of the masses and further lull them into an apathetic acceptance of their position in a class society.

Hope all is well back home....  
Un abrazo solidario  
Paolo.....



"Yankees leave Iraq - Anti-war demo in Argentina

Read more of John's reports on the revolution message board at:

<http://www.worldrevolution.org.uk/>

[cgi-local/messageboard/ikonboard.cgi](http://cgi-local/messageboard/ikonboard.cgi)

So you are upset about Bush and Blair's War drive. You have heard enough of the lies and propaganda. You are not willing to sit back and let this racist war go ahead! You will not stand by and let thousands die so that the imperialists can further their aims. You are fed up of shouting at the TV and now you wanna get active and do something to STOP THE WAR!



warmongers that all over the world ordinary people oppose their bloody plans! Join us on the streets on 15th February when we say youth to stop the war!"

# THE WAR!

There are thousands of people already involved in actively trying to stop the war but there are millions of others who don't know how their voice can be heard and how they can make a difference. Below is our guide on how YOU can help to STOP THE WAR!

**Demonstrate!**

- The European March against War on 15 February is taking place in every European capital city. It will be a historic event - the biggest anti-war march in history. Already last year 400,000 marched in London and one million marched in Florence, Italy against the war. This will be even bigger!
- Young people have been in the forefront of action against this slaughter. That's why on 15 February young people will be marching behind the banner Youth to Stop the War. So come and march with us and meet other young activists and show your opposition to the war.
- Bring a placard with a catchy slogan or come to our work day on Feb. 9th when we will be designing some eye catching placards and props that we will be taking to the demo.

Come on! Let's show Bush, Blair and the

**Get your friends and family involved!**

- Photocopy articles from this magazine and hand them to your friends, school, college or workmates to get them to get involved too and bring them on the march.
- Send your friends a text with a simple message "Stop the War demo Feb 15 meet me there and bring 3 others."
- End all your emails to friends and family with a message such as "Stop this bloody war - join me to demonstrate on Feb 15th."

**Build for the demonstration!**

- leaflet - use the articles from this magazine to create a leaflet or get one from [www.worldrevolution.org.uk](http://www.worldrevolution.org.uk) explaining why the war should be stopped. Get together with some friends and hand out leaflets at your local tube station, school, workplace. Talk to people about why we should stop the war.
- Run a "stop the war" stall in your local area. They are a great way to meet new people and get them involved. You can hand out leaflets and get people to sign petitions.

**REVOLUTION runs regular stalls**

in Camden every Sunday where we try and build for the demo. Come along with your mates and help us! Or let us know when you are gonna have a stall in your area and we will try and come along to help you!

- authorities!) people will have seen them while they where up!
- Display posters/stickers in your windows advertising the demo.
- Ask local shops to display your posters.
- Get creative! Design t-shirts with anti-war slogans and where them at every opportunity. They are a great way to get people into conversation.

**CONTINUED ACTION!**

- The demonstration on the 15 February is going to be a very important one in showing our opposition to the war but we must continue to keep up the pressure and take the campaign forward by using the ideas listed above and using them to...
- Build for further mass demonstrations
- Taking part in civil disobedience and planing actions to obstruct the "war effort"
- Boycotting of the state and corporate institutions of the perpetrators and supporters of this war
- Campaigning for strikes in workplaces, schools and colleges.

**And remember to walk out from your school, college, university, workplace on the day that any war effort starts and assemble at 6pm at Trafalgar square in London or at your City centre.**

Our aim is to prevent a war being launched. If we fail this, we will campaign by militant means to force its cessation and the withdrawal of the attackers. We hope our actions will encourage the resistance of the Iraqi, Palestinian and Arab peoples and help them to defeat the Imperialist attack!

If you want to help us to do this contact us on 07951 493 232 Or visit our website on [www.worldrevolution.org.uk](http://www.worldrevolution.org.uk). **Come on! Let's Stop the War!**

**Get your school/collage/university involved!**

- Propose a resolution against the war in your student union meetings or if you work, at your trade union meetings. Check out our anti-war resolution at [www.worldrevolution.org.uk](http://www.worldrevolution.org.uk)
- Organise meetings at lunchtime so people can come together and discuss ideas. Hand out leaflets and maybe do a presentation on why you think we should stop the war!
- again, photocopy the articles in this magazine and pass them around. Ask people what they think!
- Get them to sign up to pledge their support and come on the demonstration! (Call us for a copy of a pledge form)
- ...think of catchy chants and songs that will get your message across in a fun but informative way! And then bring them along on the demonstration!

**Get everyone thinking about it!**

- Hang anti-war banners from your bedroom window or from other prominent places e.g bridges that are safe to access
- even if they get taken down within a few hours (either by your parents or the

## WORLD REVOLUTION

sweden: <http://www.revolution.se>

germany: [worldrevolution@gmx.de](mailto:worldrevolution@gmx.de)

austria: [www.revolution-austria.at](http://www.revolution-austria.at)

czech republic and slovakia:

<http://revo-cz.webpark.cz>

australia: [ozrevo@bigpond.com](mailto:ozrevo@bigpond.com)

coming soon to a neighbourhood near you...

## JOIN REVOLUTION!

- I want to join Revo!
- I want to subscribe for 6 issues (£2)
- No thanks I'm going to be a stockbroker

Name: .....

Address: .....

Phone: .....

Email: .....

Send it in: REVO, BCM 7750, London WC1N 3XX

[www.worldrevolution.org.uk](http://www.worldrevolution.org.uk)  
[info@worldrevolution.org.uk](mailto:info@worldrevolution.org.uk)  
07951 493 232