

# REVOLUTION

THE FIGHTING PAPER FOR  
WORKING CLASS YOUTH  
ISSUE 13 • 10 PENCE

## Non-co-operation by workers and youth can...

**WE'VE GOT** to stop this racist law! The Tory government's new Asylum and Immigration Bill (and another change that won't even be voted on in parliament) will:

- Remove all benefits for asylum seekers who apply more than a week after arriving here. All money, including housing benefit for rent and legal aid, will be cut off. The children of refugees will be refused free school dinners! They will be thrown on the streets to starve!

- Bring in immigration checks at work. Bosses will have to check to see if workers are here "illegally". This will mean bosses demanding to see passports, and - surprise surprise - black people and workers from Third World countries will be the ones to suffer. Racist employers will have just another excuse not to take on black workers, who already suffer terrible discrimination in getting jobs and being promoted.

- Remove asylum rights. Appeals against deportations will not be dealt with at proper trials - a new "fast track" process will leave refugees no time to contact friends and supporters before being thrown out of the country. No legal aid means even fewer appeals will be granted.

- Bring in a "white list". Here even the name is a dead give-away. Some countries will be declared "safe" and no refugees will be allowed in. These include:

**Ghana**, where activists can be locked up for their views

**India**, where a bloody war is being waged by the army against majority populations who want to separate from India

**Pakistan**, where blasphemy is punishable by death, which affects people who do not support the official religion.

This is a blatant racist law. People who are already suffering terribly will suffer even more. The whole idea is to keep working people divided by whipping up racism against refugees, and to win the Tories more votes at the next election - from racist bigots. ★

TURN TO PAGES 2 & 3

# STOP THE RACIST ASYLUM BILL!



# 2. ASYLUM FIGHTBACK

# IMAGINE... ●●●

**I**MAGINE you live under a military dictatorship in Africa or Asia. There are no free newspapers, no rights to speak your mind. But you want justice and liberty. You speak out.

Suddenly the secret police are after you. Lists of missing dissidents are growing longer by the day. The opposition is being rounded up. Leading supporters of democracy are led away in chains never to be seen again.

Through courage and luck you manage to escape with your young daughter. You steal across the border and spend your life savings on a flight. You arrive hungry and exhausted in Britain. Why? Certainly not for the good weather! But Britain is an "advanced" country, a "civilised" country. After all, British companies run the biggest banks and factories in your homeland. Surely here you find some respite, get your life back together and live in peace?

As you arrive, uniformed immigration officials look you up and down. You have seen these expressions before - the grimace of contempt, the eyes fixed with cold cruelty. They bark out details of some bureaucratic procedure in their strange language. Eventually you understand - they want to know if you have already applied in your country of origin for refugee status. You think of your last few months on the run - the question is too stupid to answer. You tick the first box you see.

If you are unlucky you go straight to Campsfield - a squalid detention camp near Oxford where you are left to rot. But let's say you are "lucky": you get in on a technicality. You are put up in a miserable over-

crowded hostel in a run down part of town. You get an order book you can cash - £30 a week. Your rent is paid by the council. Your daughter is sent to a local school. It's not good, not good at all. But at least



you are alive, at least you are safe. A fellow refugee in the hostel tells you to apply for asylum.

Suddenly you get a letter. Your application was made too late - it should have been made in the first week you arrived. Ignorance of the law is no defence. Your money is to be cut off - all of it. No arguments. The hostel management write to you - they are very sorry, but you will have to leave.

Your daughter comes home with a letter: she is no longer entitled to free school dinners.

You decide to appeal. You go to see a solicitor - she would like to help, but you will have to pay. Your right to legal aid has been withdrawn, you see. There's nothing she can do. It is the law.

You are desperate. Your cousin

was due to arrive soon - perhaps he will help. But the law has been changed. No refugees at all will be allowed in from your country. The government say it is safe there. Images flood your mind of the secret

police, the army, the trials, the terror - the government are lying, lying. But why?

The newspapers say there is no room for you in Britain - "bogus" refugees are already taking all the space. Yet there are hundreds of empty flats in your area alone - you can see the boarded up premises. A mile down the road there are big houses, a mile further on they are even bigger. On the TV in the hostel you see the mansions and palaces of the millionaires, the vast open spaces and huge grounds in which they are set.

You go for a walk to get some air and clear your head. But there are so many questions. What has happened to you? Why is your homeland so poor? Why is it still paying vast debts to British banks? Why the constant oppression of ordinary working people?

**Above all - why are you being blamed for problems in Britain?**

A white man is walking towards you. He is not well dressed. His face is lined with stress and worry. He looks poor like you. Surely he would be the sort to understand - to hate inequality and oppression. In your country the elite survive through military dictatorship. But how do they get away with it in Britain - why don't the poor majority unite and change all this?

A dull thud to the side of the head snaps you out of your thoughts. The pavement rises suddenly to meet you. You can taste blood in your mouth - the numbness is giving way to raw pain. Through it all you can hear a voice, hard and bitter:

"Go home you black bastard".

**And suddenly you understand.★**

# KILL THE BILL!

By ADAM, South London

I WENT to a lobby of 10 Downing St called by the official Campaign against the Asylum and Immigration Bill on 8 January. I thought it ought to be good - the leaflet I read said the campaign has loads of backing from trade unions, refugee groups and the Labour Party, with its thousands of members.

But when I got there I was really disgusted.

The leaders of the campaign (CAIAB for short) seemed to be doing all they could to keep the protest as mild and pathetic as possible.

Everyone was supposed to stand quietly opposite Downing St. We weren't even supposed to chant slogans or anything! They even made us march along the pavement so we didn't cause a disturbance.

How the hell is this supposed to spread the message?????

Luckily the boring "meek and mild" Churchy types didn't have it all their own way. Supporters of **REVOLUTION** and the political movement **WORKERS POWER** (which **REVOLUTION** supports) were deter-

mined to make a noise. Asylum seekers, trade union members and youth gathered round our half of the picket. We chanted militant slogans against the Bill and the next day the TV pictures showed scores of angry people shouting against the Bill, not a few boring duffle-coat wearers turning the other cheek.

Mass non-co-operation by workers is the way to beat the Bill.

One teacher from the Hackney teachers' union told the protest on 8 January:

"If they try to cut off school dinners to refugees, then our union will take over the canteens and fed them ourselves."

This got a massive cheer from the refugees present.

She then went on to say that if anyone was sacked for doing this, the union would go on strike to defend them. This got an even bigger cheer!

That is the way to stop this evil law.

Begging MPs won't work. But if staff at dole offices refuse to cut off benefits, if

council workers refuse to throw refugees out of their homes, if airline staff refuse to fly imprisoned refugees home to be killed, if teachers, school students and dinner staff refuse to let refugees' children starve - then the law will be made unworkable.!

**REVOLUTION** can help you get a campaign started in your school, area or workplace against the nightmare of the Asylum Bill. Write to us now!

Come on the National March against the Bill on Saturday 24 February, Embankment, London, 11am. Join the **REVOLUTION** contingent!■

## ALL IMMIGRATION CONTROLS ARE RACIST

**ABDUL ONIBIYO** had lived in Britain since 1964. His wife and 5 children lived here too.

But on 26 October he was suddenly seized by police and thrown out of the country. He was sent back to Nigeria, a vicious military dictatorship, where he was born.

Abdul has not been heard of since. Now they want to deport his son Ade as well!

Last year there were massive strikes and marches against the Nigerian dictatorship. The dictator General Abacha had a leading dissi-

dent hanged - the famous writer Ken Saro-Wiwa.

*But in the same year the Tories did not grant asylum to a single refugee from Nigeria.*

All immigration controls and all deportations are completely racist. Big companies and investors are allowed to roam the world looking for areas and workers to exploit. But when their own countries are reduced to poverty by Western exploitation, black workers are not allowed to travel freely to look for work and security.



ADE ONIBIYO: THREATENED WITH DEPORTATION

Black people are treated as "aliens" and are blamed for unemployment and bad housing. But in fact they are the main victims of these evils. Meanwhile white immigrants from Australia and New Zealand are allowed in by the thousands with hardly any harassment.

**REVOLUTION** opposes all immigration controls and all deportations. We stand for a socialist world without borders, where all working people and youth can live together in solidarity and peace, instead of hatred, rivalry and fear.■

# 4 FRANCE

## The workers rise again!

**F**OR YEARS they've been telling us: "there's no such thing as the working class any more" and "the class struggle is a thing of the past".

Somebody forgot to tell the French workers!

In December over 2.5 million workers took to the streets in a series of one day general strikes. For three weeks the country was paralysed by an all out rail, bus and tube strike. Power workers and post office workers joined in.

The strike wave died down only when French Tory Prime Minister Juppé gave in to the demands of the transport workers.

But he is still pushing ahead with his main attack, the so-called Juppé Plan.

But the workers are not defeated. They have shown the entire world that the working class exists and that when it gets off its knees it can turn society upside down.

So what were the strikes about?

Juppé, and his political boss, President Chirac, have been forced to attack the whole working class.

To get France ready for the new single European currency all the countries of the European Union

have to cut the amount of money they spend on services for ordinary people, like hospitals, healthcare, schools and dole money.

Chirac and Juppé are trying to bring in:

- a new tax on workers' wages
- an extra 2.5 years that workers have to work before they can retire
- a freeze on child benefit
- a cut of £400 million from the health service
- an end to workers' trade unions having a say in the running of the welfare system.

For good measure he decided to attack the best organised group of French workers, the rail workers, by threatening to scrap a massive part of France's railway system.

The union leaders threatened action, but it was only supposed to be a tame one-day protest. One union leader even said she supported Juppé's plan. So did the leaders of the so-called Socialist Party, which is very moderate and against

taking action, just like the Labour Party in Britain.

But the workers had other ideas. A rail strike paralysed the country. Then across France other workers built up the biggest strike movement in Europe for decades. And they did it from below.

Every town held its own demonstration, sometimes two or three a week! In some cities up to one in three of the population people attended!

The majority were in the street, with only a small minority watching from the sidelines.

Like all mass strikes, this one raised the problem of how to hurt the government without hurting other workers. The workers solved the problem easily.

Postal workers opened the offices for two hours a day so that the unemployed could collect their Giro's. People who voted for Chirac last year can now see that all his promises were lies. So the strikes were really popular. They threat-

The mass strikes in France showed that workers' power is not adream, or a thing of the past, but a real possibility, in our lifetimes and in our countries.



**REVOLUTION SUPPORTERS** were contacted by our sister organisation in France who asked us for as much support as we could give. Here **KIRSTIE** reports on how she got on at the biggest workers' march she has ever seen:

"We arrived in Paris in the early hours, after driving non stop from London. We got some well needed kip in. When I woke up I could already hear the demo. The streets were seething with people. It seemed as if the whole of Paris was on the streets.

We wanted to get to the front of the demo, which had already set off, so we started walking, selling loads of our French organisation's paper which was calling for an all-out general strike and rank and file committees to control the action. It was massive.

Each trade union, student union and political group had their own contingent as well as a truck with a massive PA system. Some blasted out music, others led chants and one system played the socialist anthem - the *Internationale*.

It was a great feeling to see thousands of workers and youth singing "the International unites the human race".

We passed a prison where even prisoners were supporting the demo. One prisoner had stuck his foot through the bars and was waving a flag with his toes!

Further on we met up with some **REVOLUTION** supporters from Leicester. They had been sent by their trade union, UNISON. As they

After walking for hours we began to arrive at the section of the demo led by the *cheminots* (railworkers). It was dusk and it looked spectacular - it was a blaze of red smoke and sparks. They had brought thousands of flares and set them alight along the demo.

As we approached *Place de la Nation* we began to get a feel of the true size of the demo. It felt like entering a war zone. The square was immersed in red smoke and the sound of drums. Red flags hung from the statues, and fire eaters displayed their talents in front of a jubilant crowd. As we walked back against the flow of thousands of workers and youth we heard that 2.5

million people across France had demonstrated against the government.

French workers and youth had taken to the streets and shown that if you stand up and fight you can capture the imagination of millions.

We can do it here and we have got to do it here. That was the les-

# Solidarité

held up their union banner, one of our French comrades explained to the crowd that British workers were here in solidarity. We got rapturous cheers.

Young workers in one contingent were a lively bunch. They would all stop and line up until a gap emerged then they would charge forward shouting and chanting.

ened to bring down Juppé's Tory government altogether.

The government went out of its way to avoid the strike sparking off violent risings by the unemployed and youth. For weeks before they had unleashed the armed riot cops - the hated CRS - onto estates where black people live, terrorising anybody with a dark skin. But now, terrified of the black and Arab youth uniting with the strikers, they reined-in the CRS. They met the demands of some student occupations to stop the youth uniting with workers. On the mass marches the CRS kept out of the way. Only when the strike was over did they start breaking up workplace occupations with their usual vicious violence.

For now both sides are in a stand off. Juppe has pushed through his cuts, but he had to withdraw his attacks on the railworkers. But he will have to think twice before launching his next attack.

Most important of all, the workers have begun to sense their own power. You would have to be there to really take it in: all your school friends and all the adults in your area go on the streets, letting of flares and bangers, terrifying the police, marching in columns that never seem to end, on demos which take from 10am to 6pm because the streets won't hold everybody at once!

The working class is the majority. When we all act together the streets

and factories and offices and schools can be ours. That's what the French strikes showed. Next time, the rank and file workers need to set up their own action committees, to take control of the movement away from the sell-out union leaders and bring down Chirac and Juppe.

That is what revolutionary workers and youth in our French sister organisation *Pouvoir Ouvrier* stand for.

*Pouvoir Ouvrier* means **Workers Power**.

The mass strikes in France showed that workers' power is not adream, or a thing of the past, but a real possibility, in our lifetimes and in our countries.★

## Could it happen here?

**EVERYBODY SAID** the French workers would not fight back. That's what they say about the British workers too. Most of the time it's true. But sometimes the majority decide they've had enough.

The trade unions in Britain organise five times more workers than in France. Millions of youth are sick of

the future capitalism offers them.

There could have been a mass movement to kick the Tories out in Britain in 1992, when they tried to close down all the coal mines. But the Labour and trade union leaders turned the movement into a blind alley.

They relied on a few rebel Tories to vote against Major instead of

calling a general strike.

What we need most of all is a new revolutionary party, so that when the moment comes when millions say "We've had enough" in Britain, we can seize the opportunity to drive Major from office - or Tony Blair if he's in Number 10 - and replace them with a workers' government.★

# 6 SCHOOL STRIKE

## Revolution and counter-revolution in Pimlico...

**A**T THE end of last term the Head Teacher of Pimlico secondary school, central London, forced Mr Manyan, a teacher at the school, to resign. He was the only black head of year in the school. His "crime" was telling his Fifth year that he was being bullied by the school's management and that he had been a victim of racial discrimination.

The Fifth year walked out of their lessons in protest and did not return to classes. The next day there was a mass meeting of all Fifth year and other students from Pimlico. The meeting, held in a big playground, decided to stay out on strike.

The students were not going to let the Head get away with it. Revolution supporters in the school got involved straight away. We spoke to hundreds of the students from the playground wall, arguing for the strike.

The students stayed in the playground whilst a smaller group of people tried to get other classes out. All the top teachers tried to order people back in but they were just ignored. Revolution supporters and others made it clear that they were staying out and protesting.

The chair of governors, none other than the "honourable" Jack Straw, Labour's shadow Home Secretary, had to rush to the school to answer for the Head's unruly acts. All the strikers agreed to listen to what he

had to say and then kept him in the school's cram-packed hall until he had answered every single question they had.

After that most of the students returned to the playground. But, because a self-appointed group of Fifth years, not representing anybody but themselves, came up with three petty demands that the Head readily agreed to, most people returned to classes after lunch. All they did in the classrooms was sit and talk about the strike; no one had any proper lessons.

All the school's students returned on the Friday. They were met by **REVOLUTION** supporters at the gates handing out a leaflet. It called for a mass meeting of students and demanded a full inquiry under the control of students, parents and teachers. It called for anyone guilty of racism to be sacked:

Most students praised the leaflet and many helped hand it out.

But by lunch time things had changed. Management fought back.

They got a group of self-appointed Fifth years to write a leaflet. It was obviously produced by management

**REVOLUTION is continuing to fight racist undemocratic procedures in the school. They can lie all they like about us, but they will never silence us!**

and was printed in vast numbers on school equipment. They used the school's money and resources to block student activity and student independence!

The counter-Revolution group of Fifth years, secretly

helped by the 'Senior teachers', gave out their leaflet at lunch time and stuck them up around the school, taking down every Revolution poster. Their leaflet was called "STOP!". It said nothing

about students getting more information or there need for an inquiry. It didn't answer any of the points Revolution had raised. Instead it blamed us for trying to "disrupt" the school and attacked us for being "political".

**We are political.** The choice was between management's politics of keeping quiet and having no say, or the politics of democracy and student power.

Because of this witch-hunt, only 40 students turned up to the meeting. Management were there with sly grins on their faces.

At the meeting a few Revolution supporters argued against all the petty attacks from the "counter-revolution" group. They could only use insults and abuse to sustain their position. It was clear that **REVOLUTION** had the best arguments and the most logical politics.

The Head is now on "sick leave" for three months which means that it is unlikely that she will return.

But this does not mean that there will be no more bullying from the 'Senior staff', nor does it mean that the students have gained any more rights.

All that it means is that information affecting the lives of the students is being kept secret. The majority of the school - the students - have no rights and no say in the school.

**REVOLUTION** is continuing to fight racist undemocratic procedures in the school. They can lie all they like about us, but they will never silence us!★

### JOIN REVOLUTION!

I WANT TO JOIN REVOLUTION [ ]  
PLEASE SEND ME .... COPIES TO SELL AT 10p A COPY [ ]

NAME:  
ADDRESS:

TEL:

RETURN TO BCM BOX 7750 LONDON WC1N 3XX

# Big business and the Third World

**T**HE TORY government has shown its true colours by deporting Mohammed al-Mas'ari, a leading opponent of the Saudi regime. He has been sent away to the island of Dominica. His crime? Well, he hasn't committed one. But the deportation was loudly demanded by the bosses of some of Britain's biggest companies. They produce guns, bullets, aircraft and bombs. They make their billions selling them to the dictatorial regime of King Fahd in Saudi Arabia. And King Fahd doesn't like Mohammed al-Mas'ari. He is Saudi Arabia's leading dissident. He believes that the Saudi government should be elected for a start. And he thinks women should be allowed to drive cars, which is illegal there.

So just for being in favour of democratic rights, al-Mas'ari has been sent into exile by British bosses and the British government.

The deportation shows who really runs Britain. It is not the MPs (many also work for these big companies) but the billionaire bosses. Their huge companies are direct financial backers of the Conservative Party. The companies involved are British Aerospace, Vickers, and others who want to set up arms deals sales worth £3 billion in Saudi Arabia.

What this shows up is the involvement of major British and multi-national companies in backing military regimes. Free market capitalism likes to present itself as being 100% for democracy. But money comes first. To earn their billions in

profits they will back military oppression all over the world, even at the expense of hundreds and thousands of lives.

Take the case of Shell in Nigeria.

Shell requested the Mobile Police Force - nicknamed "kill and go" - to smash demonstrations by the people of Ogoniland in southern Nigeria. They were demanding compensation for horrific environmental damage caused by the oil trade. Of course the military dictatorship complied with Shell's requests, leading to the deaths of over 80 people in villages raided by the police.

This also led to the recent executions of the writer Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other Ogoni activists.

Shell bosses said they would only ask the dictatorship to save Saro-Wiwa if he called off the demonstrations! This shows the link between multi-national companies and the survival of military dictatorships, which protect the interests of these companies.

British, American and European big business controls the economies of Third World countries. They arm,



fund and back dictatorships, which in turn force the mass of the people to pay for the huge repayments of Third World debts to western banks. This is the global system of imperialism - the exploitation

of countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America which have been given some political "independence", but are completely reliant economically on the big powers and their business backers.

In Britain workers and youth should fight for direct action by workers to stop the arms trade to dictatorships in Nigeria and Saudi Arabia.

We should support movements like the Nigerian oil workers' unions that have opposed the dictatorship with mass strikes, and we should picket Shell stations and offices.

Above all, we should fight for the overthrow of the capitalist state at home, and for the nationalisation of the big corporations under the control of the workers themselves and the cancellation of the debts owed by Third World countries to Western banks. ■

## BRIXTON RISING: CONTINUED FROM BACK PAGE

are taking their anger out on the police with us and that's good. But the police only see black people in a riot, any way it was a white person who broke Morleys' window and he weren't no photographer either. The white people of Brixton see black people being harassed every day so they know and they understand what its like for us.

**What is the future for struggle against police violence against the black communities of Brixton?**

What we are up against is like the statement of Paul Condon, the Police Commissioner. He says all

black men are muggers - this gives the police a licence to kill black people with stop and search powers. So we as youth have to fight this image of black people from the police.

We also have to fight the BNP who also want to kill black people, 'cos the police won't stop them. We have to stop people being killed in Britain just because they are black, for every murder is a space in our families that can't be replaced.

We also have to fight against the laws that stop black people coming to Britain- we have to stop black people being thrown out of the

country.

Every day they try and make it harder and harder for black people to live in this world. We have to stop fighting each other and fight back.



**Justice MEETING  
THURS 8 FEB**

**7.30 Brixton Recreation Centre  
Speakers from Wayne Douglas  
Campaign and Brian Douglas  
Campaign.**



# BRIXTON REBELLION!

**“H**E kept screaming for them to stop, but they just carried on smacking him, then they handcuffed him, threw him up against the van and beat him some more.”

These are the words of a witness who looked from a window as the Metropolitan Police delivered their fatal blows to Wayne Douglas before Christmas.

Wayne was hunted down on the streets of Brixton for a burglary offence. He is South London's second victim of new U.S.- style police batons. In May last year Brian Douglas was killed after repeated blows to the head.

On 13 January 1995, 300 people stood outside Brixton police station to demand Justice. The following events set Brixton ablaze.

Below **REVOLUTION** talks to Laurraine Hall from Brixton, to find out how the Uprising of the 13th made international headlines.

**What did you think of the picket?**

It was for a good cause. The police killed Wayne Douglas. They just make people hate the police more. Just because people hate them the police think they have the right to kill black people. A black lawyer made some good speeches, he done his speech blatantly and he said what we the people of Brixton are thinking.

**How did the picket result in an uprising?**

You see the police, right, they were there winding people up and we were there to show that we care for each other and we are not going to stand for their racist actions any more. Its not just now that the police have been killing black people, it is only now that people are fighting



# INTERVIEW

against it, a lot of black people still

do not know what the police do to us.

The protest wanted to move from the station and walk through the main street to tell people what had happened to Wayne, but the police came out dressed in riot gear with weapons, vans and horses which came out of nowhere.

**How did the uprising break out?**

Wherever we marched the police started to follow us. It was like we could not even protest in our own area. By the time we reached the

middle of the shopping area people just exploded

**The media show the victims of the uprising to be the black businesses - what is your view?**

Black people are not benefiting from the black buisnesses anyway. Enough black people work there but nothing really belongs to the black people.

I mean the Brixton Challenge say that they are putting money into the community, but black people still can't get no jobs, most of the people I know are on the dole and I have lived in Brixton all my life. Most people have to find their own money. **The police talked more about looting that night than the murders of Wayne and Brian Douglas. How did this affect Brixton?**

I don't like the word looting - it sounds as if people were doing it for fun. No one was out there for fun, we were on the streets to tell the police that they

can not get away with murder. Even the papers showed that they were all concerned about the shops more than the reason for the riot. The front page of one paper showed the police guarding Top Shop but it never showed you people dragging posh cars out of show rooms and burning them in anger. Unless the police fix up then there is going to be more like that in the future.

**For the majority of people in Brixton, were the riots a black thing?**

The police affect white people as well, there was white people there the night of the riot. When we take out our anger, then the white people