

REVOLUTION

socialist youth movement • 20p

phone 07951 493 232



**Genoa:
tear gas
and terror
won't stop the
anti-capitalist
movement**

next stop: DSEi arms fair

**end the dealing
in death**

**Sept 11-14
London**



CALENDAR

Saturday, Sept 1

ANTI-RACIST ACTION ACROSS BRITAIN
In places like Burnley and Oldham, Asian youth have been on the streets defending their communities against the racial abuse and racist attacks that are everyday occurrences. The BNP have whipped up racist sentiment in the white areas and have gone on the offensive against the Asian population. The Sept 1 Burnley anti-racist festival has been banned by the government. There is a call out to all anti-racist activists to stage demonstrations around Britain to put an end to racist attacks and kick the BNP off our streets.

Tuesday, Sept. 11

DISARM THE ARMS FAIR • DOCKLANDS
The DSEI is the 'Defence Systems and Equipment' international arms sales exhibition. So much for the 'ethical foreign policy' spouted by the Labour government who sells arms to everyone from Sierra Leone to Macedonia. There's something special planned for this year: a fiesta for life against death. www.disarm-trade.org
Sept 28 and 29. Washington, DC

Friday September 14, 5 pm

FREE MARIO

Mario Bango is an 18 year old Roma youth from the Slovak Republic. He has been imprisoned for defending his family from racist attack and charged with murder by the Slovak government. He is facing a 15 year sentence. Faced with a rising tide of racist attacks from police and fascists (3 Roma have been murdered in the past 6 months and no one has been charged), Roma youth like Mario have no choice but to fight back. Self-defence is no offence!

Czech/Slovak Embassy (more info on Mario - see class war prisoner section) *phone 07951 493 232 for info*

THE ANNUAL SUMMIT FOR THE IMF AND THE WORLD BANK

The summit was scheduled to last 6 days until Oct. 4 but they've had to scale it back due to the threat of protesters flooding into the city. DC is building a 9 foot high wall that will surround the conference centre. Hmmm, sounds a bit familiar, doesn't it. There will be activists from all over the world, trade unionists, environmentalists, socialists, anarchists, the whole crew will be in Washington.

Sunday, Sept. 30 Brighton

STOP PRIVATISATION! anti-capitalist protest at the Labour Party Conference

Blair is taking his globalisation agenda overseas. Directly after the G8 summit in Genoa, Blair headed to South America to tell the people there how globalisation is going to help them. These are the countries hit hardest by the neo-liberal policies forced upon them by institutions like the IMF, World Bank and WTO. This is our chance to give Blair a bloody nose in his own back yard.

And something to look forward to: **WTO Meeting in Qatar, Nov 9.** Actions are being planned for all around the world (since most of us will not be travelling to Qatar!). Trade unions are calling for an international day of action.

SHUT THE SYSTEM DOWN!

REVOLUTION in action

Whilst our more adventurous comrades were busy dismantling the state in Genoa, a few of us were in the UK, protesting at the Nike 10 k Fun Run, at Kew gardens in London.

July is a Nike sweatshop worker.

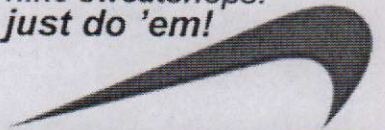
July won't have more than one toilet break a day.
July won't be allowed to join an independent union.
July won't have a family if she wants her job.
July won't run London - she's working that day...

BUT NOW NIKE'S ON THE RUN

But we made it clear that we were there to protest against Nikes treatment of its workers, not the runners. Our banner, "There is no finish line for Nike sweatshop workers," prompted a number of runners to come over and talk to us and some wanted to know more about NoSweat.

BBC News also came along to film our efforts, and we put on a suitably revolutionary show with a pair of giant inflatable lips (Nike pays Lip Service to human rights) and a GMB member dressed in a policeman's hat with a truncheon trying to sign up ten year old girls to work in the Nike sweatshops. Wonder what the suits in Broadcasting House made of it all!

*nike sweatshops:
just do 'em!*



by simon in Walthamstow No Sweat phone 07951 493 232

Who remembers Robin Cook's 'ethical foreign policy' pledge when New Labour came to power in 1997. They promised a change, putting ethics and social concerns before profits and power. This has proved, unsurprisingly, to be a joke. Just look at one area of arms sales, those to Indonesia, a country with one of the most appalling human rights records in the past thirty years. Indonesia has consistently used British manufactured military equipment such as Saladin APCs (made by Alvis) or Hawk trainer jets (made by BAe Systems) for internal repression and against the East Timorese. When Labour came to power there were 125 outstanding licences, granted by the Tories, for the sale of weapons to Indonesia. The New Labour government could have revoked these licences but instead bowed to the wishes of the powerful military-industrial lobby and allowed the sales to proceed. Between May 1997 and December 1999, Labour even granted a further 115 licences for arms to Indonesia.

Britain is the world's second biggest exporter of arms after the US. There are many vested interests in the business of death and huge sums of money involved too.

shut down the death dealers!



by yuen in Lewisham

Between 1994-96 the UK supplied US\$725m of arms to Indonesia. Arms sales to Indonesia under Labour (1997-99) were worth £287.81m despite the economic crisis that had ravaged the country. But the economics is not so straightforward as British firms earning foreign currency. The Government often offers an export guarantee credit which means that if Indonesia doesn't pay up, the company will be paid anyway out of our taxes.

The arms manufacturers, and their allies in the Government always promote certain lines to defend their unethical trade. You may have heard: 'British jobs depend on the arms trade'. Now I don't recall these people calling for Government money to be used to safeguard the jobs of the miners, the Corus steel workers, the Liverpool dockers or the Vauxhall workers. You may also have heard 'If we don't sell them weapons, someone else will (and gain the profit from it that should be ours)'. This is a shallow cop-out that could be used to justify anything.

Now the merchants of death are coming to town to show off their wares. The Defence Systems and Equipment International (DSEI) will be holding an arms fair at the Excel Centre in London's Docklands between 11-14 September - we'll be there to shut it down. Join us there!

Argentina: About to Blow!



the IMF says cut back, Argentinians say fight back...

Three days of protests held by unemployed workers and public sector workers throughout Argentina finished on August 16.

The "piqueteros," who are gaining widespread support, are planning a 10-day mobilisation next month in which seven columns of protesters will march across the country. Two days of protests saw 40,000 people pouring into the central square of Buenos Aires. The protests were sparked by when the government passed a "zero deficit" plan last month that limits state spending and planned to cut wages by 13%.



Intifada
 Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon is preparing for war. Since his election, he has relentlessly pursued a policy of repression and violence against the Palestinian people which threatens to bring the whole region into conflict. Israeli security forces now openly pursue a policy of assassination of Palestinian leaders and activists – directed as much against prominent moderates as against the extreme Islamic organisations – killing innocent civilians in the process. Israeli soldiers in the occupied territories have been given a green light to shoot first and ask questions later.

The killing of two Jewish settlers near Hebron in July was met with artillery shelling of civilian areas, invasion of the Palestinian "self-ruled" areas with tanks, seizure of Palestinian homes and the torching of Palestinian farmland. A drive-by shooting of three members of a Palestinian family in the same area, including a ten week-old baby, had a very different response. Although the illegal right-wing settler group Kach claimed responsibility for the attack within hours, when the army summoned two prominent Kach leaders in Hebron for questioning and they failed to turn up, neither was arrested.

This cycle of killings and counter-killings has become a daily reality in the occupied territories. Hebron, where Israeli troops are stationed to maintain 500 Jewish settlers against the will of the 240,000 strong Palestinian population, is one of the worst flashpoints.

This has gone alongside an economic siege against the Palestinians. Of the more than one million people bottled up in the Gaza Strip, more than half rely on emergency UN rations. Two-thirds of the workforce is idle, either because they cannot go to jobs in Israel, or because local businesses have closed for lack of supplies and markets. The West Bank is divided at gunpoint into 60 Palestinian islands, punctuated by settle-

Argentina was a model for neo-liberalism in Latin America and has done everything asked of it by the IMF in the last ten years. The government has been funding its spending through selling state companies and borrowing heavily abroad. Foreign firms have taken over key sectors of the economy and debt to foreign banks has reached about \$220bn. Argentina can not service this debt and has become one of the most expensive countries in the world in which to live. Thousands of companies have gone bankrupt, unemployment is 17% and over a third of the population is living below the poverty line.

The government is trying to persuade the IMF to pro-

the uprising heads towards all-out war

ments and roads built exclusively for the settlers.

Sharon wants to escalate the situation so that Israel has a pretext to re-occupy the Palestinian "self-ruled" areas. The suicide bombers of Hamas and Islamic Jihad are playing right into Sharon's hands. In order to justify the war and the sacrifices that come with it to his own people, Sharon has to persuade ordinary Israeli Jews that peace with the Palestinians is impossible – indeed that their own physical safety is at stake. Extreme Islamic organisations are only too keen to be seen as a serious threat, and there is no shortage of Palestinians whose experiences of occupation and apartheid leave them unable to see any way out other than to blow themselves up and kill ordinary Israelis in the process.



On 9 July, 23 year-old Azzadin al-Masri, a Hamas member from Jenin in the West Bank, blew himself up in a pizza parlour in Jerusalem, killing 14 people and wounding 130. Pictures of a Jewish family who suffered three deaths in the bombing appeared in newspapers across the world – pictures of the two Palestinian children killed earlier that week in an Israeli rocket attack on a Hamas political office did not. The government immediately blamed the PNA for failing to arrest the Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists who organise the suicide bombings, and sent F16 fighters to demolish a PNA police station in Ramallah to make the point. But the biggest blow was the seizure of Orient House in East Jerusalem, the unofficial

vide it with another bailout of \$8bn. Without this money the country could default on its debt. All the IMF cares about is whether or not allowing the Argentine economy to collapse will affect other debtor nations, particularly Brazil. They don't care about the millions who are sliding into poverty every day.

The unemployed, the youth and other workers should go to the factories and offices and spread rolling mass strike action across the country to bring this government down and replace it with a workers government that will make the bosses and the IMF pay for the crisis Argentina is facing.

by **simon in Walthamstow**



Palestinian headquarters in the city and the centre of Palestinian diplomatic efforts during the "peace process". Israeli forces even seized secret diplomatic papers outlining the Palestinian negotiating strategy and peace proposals.

The violence was used as an excuse to do something long planned by Sharon – destroy the Oslo peace process and claw back all the concessions made to the Palestinians since 1993. The message is: "forget any hopes of having East Jerusalem as the capital of a future Palestinian state. We are already knocking down your property and selling it – now we are taking away your political centre". It is a political blow more devastating than any number of bombed police stations in the West Bank.

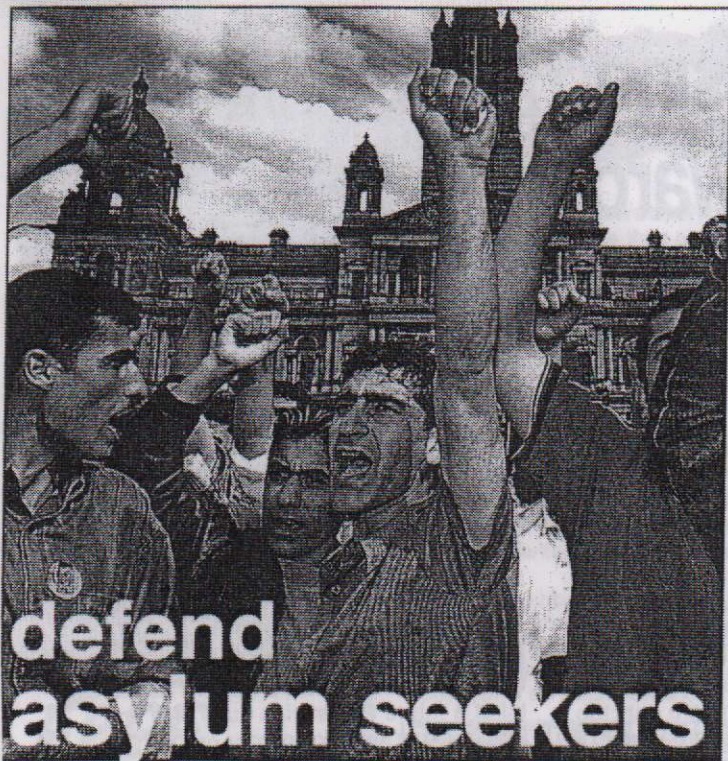
The anti-capitalist movement in the West must do all it can to prevent the all-out war planned by Sharon against the Palestinian people. While denouncing the actions of Hamas as a dead-end for both the Palestinians and the Israeli people, we must organise solidarity with the Palestinians. Progressive and anti-Zionist Jews have a particularly important role to play in this.

In the occupied territories and in Jordan, an immediate and indefinite General Strike is needed; the closure of all campuses and shops, mass demonstrations and a reaffirmation of the intifada. There must be an immediate end to the military occupation in all of the territories. The settlers – front line troops of Zionist expansionism – must leave; there can be no peace while they are there against the will of the Palestinian people. The borders between the territories and Israel should be opened, and all restrictions on movement removed.

In the event of the of an ethnic cleansing push by the Israeli's to clear more territories of Palestinians there must be mass demonstrations - in the West and in Israel itself, as well as in the Arab countries - to denounce the complicity of our own governments in this war of apartheid, racism and ethnic cleansing.

Marcus in Dulwich





defend asylum seekers

The racist barrage against asylum seekers that is spewed out in the media and reinforced by politicians and the policies of the Labour government is being played out in a physical reality. Asylum seekers are not just subject to verbal racist abuse, but live in fear of being physically assaulted or killed in racially motivated attacks on a daily basis.

At the beginning of August, a young Kurdish refugee, Firsat Yildiz, was stabbed and killed in Sighthill, a sink estate in Glasgow. Less than a week later, an Iranian refugee, Davoud Rasul Naseri, was slashed along his back as he took out his rubbish on the same estate. Fourteen asylum seekers fled to London after these attacks in fear of their lives. There have been 70 racial attacks, 7 serious, in Glasgow since January.

This is the direct product of Labour's dispersal program for asylum seekers. The story is well known. Shipping people against their will into deprived areas around the country, putting more stress on the meagre council resources. Sighthill is the poorest constituency in Scotland; the second most unhealthy in Britain; the highest male unemployment in Scotland; and a lung cancer rate twice the national average. 800 asylum seekers were moved into this area, effectively upping the population by a third, without any plans of integration or community support.

Asylum seekers are not just re-housed in the most deprived areas, but are also imprisoned. Over 500 refugees are being held in prisons across the country as part of a policy that began in December 2000. In a Cardiff prison, 30 out of 50 asylum seekers are on a hunger strike to protest against their treatment. They have committed no crime yet they are treated as criminals. Similar protests are reported in Liverpool and Rochester.

So what is Labour's answer to this? In the short term, enforced dispersal. Working on a 'one strike, you're out' basis, if asylum seekers refuse to move to where they are told, they will become homeless and their vouchers and any benefits will be cut off within 48 hours. The 14 refugees that fled Sighthill are being threatened with this action. There was a stand-off in Liverpool between 33 mainly Kurdish refugees and government officials when the Kurds refused to be relocated to Oldham.

In the long term, Labour looks to deport over 60,000 'failed' asylum seekers in the next year. That means over 2,500 per month. The government has invested over £2 billion extra into this scheme to ship people back to torturous regimes – maybe that money would've been better spent in providing decent housing for both asylum seekers and local residents (but that's just a bit too much common sense).

We must defend asylum seekers and stop deportations! Asylum seekers are welcome here!

JOY IN PECKHAM

photo: asylum seekers and anti-racists protest the Sighthill killings.

racism not just

Some people think racist ideas can be overcome just by educating people out of their prejudices. This is fine as far as it goes. REVOLUTION supports the maximum of anti-racist education and argument to counter the lies of racists who try to present 'other' cultures as 'strange', 'backward' or inferior.

But there is more to racism than this. It is not just 'a prejudice', it is deeply entrenched in our society – it runs through some of the most powerful institutions of the State. Over the last few years the police, the prison service, the Home Office and the Crown Prosecution Service have all been successfully shown to be guilty of institutional racism.

Black people still get on average lower pay than whites, worse jobs than whites, fewer prospects for promotion than whites, more police harassment than whites, worse housing than whites ... and the list goes on.

As discontent is rising with Blair's pro-capitalist agenda, the government is trying to divert people away from the real problems in society. They blame 'bogus asylum seekers' for problems, when in fact these people are society's biggest victims.

Then white youth take out their anger on asylum seekers and Asian shops, misinformed hatred fuelled by papers like the Daily Express and the Daily Mail, who whip up hysteria and a lynch mob mentality by telling refugees to 'run for their lives'. The result has been that racism is back on the rise, with the growth of the British National Party and violent clashes in towns like Bradford, Oldham and Leeds. Racism does not just die out because it is 'educated out' of people.

So where did this come from?

Racism is a centuries-old theory that is used to justify a global system of discrimination against black and Asian people. It stems from Britain's role as a global colonial power – seizing control of Africa and India and looting them in its own interests.

When capitalism started to take off in Britain in the 1600 and 1700s, British ships and British companies set off to foreign lands ... with missionaries and musketeers in tow. They wanted one simple thing – to convert these countries into their own possessions. They plundered the land for resources – they converted the population into their workforce.

In Africa, they forced 115 million black people into slavery – transporting them to cotton, tobacco and sugar plantations. They stripped them of their possessions and broke up families. Herded like cattle, 75 million died in transit or soon after arriving.

In India, a brutal colonial administration ran the whole country. The British suppressed with brutal violence huge rebellions of the Indian people – in 1857, 1919 and all through the 1920s and 30s. By 1942 India was aflame with rebellion.

The British (and other colonial powers like France, Spain, Portugal and Holland) claimed black and Asian people were inferior to 'whites'. They developed fake "scientific" theories that were supposed to prove that black people, Asians and Jews were inferior. The economic, social and political domination of the 'white race' was explained not as a result of colonial exploitation, but on the unproven claim that whites are somehow biologically superior. They even tried to use the evolutionary theories of Charles Darwin to create what they called 'Social-Darwinism'. This distortion of Darwin was used to claim – with appalling



st a bad idea

'pseudo-science', that whites are more highly evolved than blacks.

Since the end of the Second World War over 50 years ago, Britain has not ruled Africa or India directly. The 'official' line coming out of London, Paris and Washington has shifted slightly. The capitalists have left the ravings of social-Darwinism in the hands of fanatics like the neo-Nazis and the BNP. But 'official' racism is still alive and kicking.

Today the big advanced capitalist countries of the G8 do not rule colonies like India and Africa in the same way as their ancestors did in the 18th and 19th centuries. Instead, they own the Third World, though the Debt, the World Bank, the World Trade Organisation and the 'starve-to-pay-us-back-for-our-loans' programmes of the International Monetary Fund.

The western powers suggest that 'backward' countries are basically lazy, that African people can't be trusted not to just kill each other, that the Third World needs NATO bombers to sort it out. They treat refugees as dirty, money-grabbing freeloaders, rather than as the victims of the West's blast-and-ruin policies.

And they insist that people from other countries should 'integrate' into 'official' British culture ... even though that culture is just another version of the same old globalising Pepsi-Nike-Big Mac nightmare that capitalism is spreading all over the world.

It will take more than educating people against racist lies to beat racism.

- Root racism out of the workplace, the community and the institutions: win the power of the trade union movement to the antiracist struggle
- Organise self-defence against racist attacks - wherever they come from, racists or even the police themselves
- Tear down the borders and let refugees and asylum seekers in
- Smash the BNP and NF
- Cancel Third World Debt
- Unite all the peoples of the planet in the fight against global capitalism

Build a global communist commonwealth in which all people can be equal

WE WILL BE FREE! JOIN REVOLUTION

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should we rely on the government and police to stop the fascists?

After Asian youth fought back against racism and fascism this summer in cities across the north of England, the government and police have announced bans on demonstrations by the far right in several major towns and cities. Whilst many anti-racists, such as the Anti Nazi League, have welcomed these bans we should firstly ask ourselves why the state has stepped in now and what the implications are.

Throughout last year the far right National Front (NF) and British National Party (BNP) held several demonstrations to try to capitalise on the media and state scapegoating of refugees.

These went largely unnoticed by the mainstream press although they did contribute to an increased climate of fear and tension for refugee communities. After a demonstration in South London earlier this summer one person was stabbed after being caught walking home alone by a group of fascist thugs.

The real reason that the government has decided to step in now is because local Asian communities have gone on the offensive to protect and defend the areas in which they live from being terrorised by racists. It is this spontaneous fightback which the state fears. The last thing they want is for this resistance to become a catalyst for a wider struggle against racism and deprivation because it has been built on self organisation and correctly identified the racist police and state institutions as part of the problem and not the solution.

Reliance on the state to deal with the fascists also has serious repercussions for the left. The bans that have been implemented also outlaw demonstrations and rallies by anti-racists. The planned ANL Carnival in Burnley on September 1st has been cancelled by Home Secretary David Blunkett at the request of Burnley Borough Council and Lancashire Police.

Fear of "the potential to attract others opposed to it" was the reason stated by top cop John Knowles. It appears that the

police are determined to placate the fascists in the ridiculous hope that they will then crawl back under their stone and stop spreading their race hate filth.

Home Secretary David Blunkett has called for those who seek to combat fascism "to hold their hand carefully, to allow us to deal with public order and not to take it in any way into their own

hands" What Blunkett won't admit is that it is the racist policies of his own government against asylum seekers which allowed the racists to flourish.

The people who have stood up to racism in towns such as Oldham, Leeds and Bradford deserve our full support. We must call for the immediate

dropping of charges against all those arrested for rioting. We must implement the principal of no platform for fascists through the direct action of black and white workers and youth. We must call upon the labour movement to support organised com-



Bradford police defend the fascists, & arrest the anti-fascists defending their communities.

community self defence against fascist, racist and police attack. To really defeat the racists we will have to combine our fight with the struggle against desperate poverty, crumbling public services and unemployment. We can't win this battle without taking on the rich bosses and their representatives in government, and in this battle the state will be our enemy.

Kuldip in Vauxhall

Justin

Genoa for me was summed up on the Saturday watching 200,000+ people marching along the sea front, all there for the same purpose - to show their dissatisfaction for the way society has become, and although the people were of very different backgrounds and had many different viewpoints we were and ARE part of the same solution to the problem... Capitalism

RACHEL

Our experiences in Genoa made me think about what it might be like to face state persecution and repression everyday. One night in particular we moved from place to place trying to stay out of sight so as not to become a target for the carabinieri, not knowing what was happening and hearing reports of brutal violence against groups we had demonstrated with. For most of us it was the first time we had been in a situation like that, and it was a shock to experience the tactics the police were willing to use to try to demoralise and defeat us.

DAN

Genoa was an experience of inspiration, anger and sadness. Inspiration at the 300,000 people taking to the streets against the capitalist system and for the hope of a better world. Anger at the vicious brutality of the ruling elite and the police who serve them. And sadness for Carlo and his family and the billions who suffer the barbarity of capitalism on a daily basis through war, torture, starvation and disease.

JOY

When old women leaned out over their balconies and waved their underpants at us in defiance of the government ban (that said they couldn't hang out laundry while the G8 leaders were in town because it was unsightly) or sprinkled us with water in the hot sun, to me that was the spirit of Genoa. Defiance against the domination of the G8 nations over the rest of the world through economic policies that means poverty and misery for the majority of humanity. The anti-capitalist movement is an international movement, from Bangladeshi garment workers to Canadian posties, and that is our strength.

SEAN

The cops tried to isolate us, demoralise us and divide us. They tried to achieve this by beating us, throwing tear-gas at us, by arresting and torturing us, and they even murdered one of us. They failed. What they did was raise the profile of the anti-capitalist movement and gain us further support in the only class and movement that can really destroy the G8 and change the world for the better; the working class.

GENOA



300,000 thousand people were in Genoa to protest at the G8 meeting in July - the biggest anti-capitalist demonstration we've seen in years.

But our peaceful demonstrations were all attacked by the police, who tear-gassed us, arrested us, beat us, chased us and finally murdered one of us. We didn't take it lying down and fought back and defended ourselves as best we could. If the police thought that they were going to weaken us, demoralise us and isolate us, they were wrong.

Revo organised a coach load of people from Britain to go to Genoa - once there we hooked up with other Revo members from all over Europe. We were staying at a stadium called Stadio Carlini. A huge thunderstorm erupted as got to the stadium - but we didn't care. Nothing could dampen our spirits that night.

The stadium was abuzz. Thousands peopletaking politics, playing music, drinking and generally just kicking back. We were staying with Ya Basta - the Italian white overall - who were organising the biggest and most lively demo and we were going to be right in the middle of it.

We were all up early the next morning. There were people everywhere, making body armour out of cardboard, foam, empty plastic water bottles and loads of tape.

Everything was so well organised. There were people who were going to protect the demo - they looked the business - shields, motorbike helmets, gas masks, body armour and big steel capped boots was the uniform of choice. There were some teams who were to deal with the tear gas, and others who had supermarket trollies loaded with energy drinks and water, and lots of first-aid people. It made you feel fucking great to see all this and we knew this was going to be a day to remember.

We got together in front of the big stand. Everyone kept wanting our Revolution flags - lots were saying "yeah, revolution, that's how we'll deal with the G8 bastards".

The demo set off about 1:00pm. There must have been about 20,000 people on it, mostly young people.

Other demos had already started. There was a big trade union demo the other side of the city, and a pink block demo which was out to have a party, the French group ATTAC, & Globalise Resistance. There was also women's demo. There were probably about 40,000 people in different parts of the city. The other demos were big too, but we were on the largest, and most militant.

As we marched we were chanting "Libré Genova". The city was shut down, but all along the route people were out on their balconies waving. They gave us food, hosed us down with cold water, and clapped. It was great to have the local people supporting us.

As we marched down towards the red zone we could see smoke from the northern part of the city. We were approaching an intersection at the bottom of the hill where the road narrowed, when the police attacked.

They first dropped tear gas on us from the helicopters. Then they fired more gas at us. There was so much gas that even those with masks couldn't take it. Panic set in and people made a hastily retreat. We didn't panic and kept ourselves together. People regrouped quickly. Many moved into the side streets to try and get around the police. More gas was fired. People fought back throwing rocks and bottles. Cars were turned over, people made makeshift barricades out of bins, anything to stop the police from being able to charge the crowd.

The police would be pushed back a little, then they would fire more gas and charge again. It went on like this for a few hours.

In the end we were over powered by the police and had to retreat. Some of us were near the top of the hill when all of a sudden a load of police came up a side street and tried to take the intersection and split the demo and trap all those still retreating up the hill.

We stood our ground. Others joined us. We formed a line. A few rocks and bottles were thrown at the cops just to let them know that they were not going to take the intersection without a big fight. They didn't move an inch.

When everyone was back together a defensive line was formed at the back of demo to protect it. We could see two water cannon trucks screaming up the road. The police began to bang their shields with their batons. They were going to charge us.

Then they water cannoned us. We turned and ran. Volleys of tear gas started to land all around us. The cops were so close you could all most feel them breathing down your neck. If you fell or were caught you knew you were going to get beaten to a pulp. With eyes stinging and lungs in agony as they filled with tear gas thousands of us had to run about 800 metres to safety. The cops in the end were too slow and unfit to keep up.

Back at Carlini stadium all the Revo people from around Europe regrouped - no one was missing and no one was hurt. We all headed to the convergence centre to eat and drink.

At the convergence centre the mood was upbeat but angry. It was then that we heard that Carlo Giuliani had been murdered by the police - shot twice in the face at point blank range. Everyone was outraged. Stories began to be swapped about what had happened. It was soon clear that we had all been attacked that day.

Everyone was in shock about the death of a protester - none of us expected such a level of violence and repression from the police and lots were visibly shaken. But there was a bond starting to form

WAS GR8

between the thousands who were there that got stronger over the next two days.

The next day was even bigger. Tens of thousands of trade unionists from all over Italy and many from the rest of Europe marched through the streets. The papers said about 250,000 people marched. It was electric.

In the afternoon we heard that the G8 meeting closed early. We didn't know why but all along the demo people began cheer. It felt a hundred times better than when your football team scores a goal.

But the police were still attacking the demonstration. They blocked it from marching for an hour but then let it go. The Black Block were in operation in the areas around the demo and the police were using the excuse of chasing them to fire teargas at the demo on certain points. When the demo had reached the northern part of the city, the police repeatedly fired tear gas at it in an attempt to disperse it.

That Saturday night was to be the night of terror. The police were all over the city arresting anyone. They raided the pub we were drinking in and arrest two comrades from Germany. They were released two hours later without being charged but the police did kick and punch them while they were in the station. A school around the corner was raided and 90 people beaten up and 60 of them were hospitalised.

Many people were imprisoned for days without being charged. Some people have stated they were tortured by the police. Women were told they would be raped. Many were made to sing fascist songs.



We were later all forced to evacuate the Stadium we were staying in. Afraid of being targeted further by the police we hurriedly packed our things and marched through the night to a safer place. We were escorted by some media and by local people in cars giving us directions.

We'd stayed in another school but we had just

got to sleep when we were woken up and had to move once more. We felt like refugees - afraid, not knowing what was happening and being forced to move at a moments notice. We finally got to safety.

We got the fuck out of Genoa the next day, and headed down the coast to a campsite we had organised, where for the next few days we relaxed, talked about what had happened and about other political questions facing the movement and what we wanted to do in future. We lived communally and had some kick arse parties before we got back on our coach and headed home.

In the days after Genoa there was massive marches all over Italy and throughout Europe over the death of Carlo. The sense of outrage amongst ordinary people was amazing. The Italian trade unions had some of the biggest marches.

This was the best thing about Genoa: the solidarity afterwards. The police didn't succeed in isolating us. They just got the anti-capitalist movement more support amongst ordinary working class people. It also helped to unify the movement further.

All the state repression and violence is showing an increasing number of activists that the institutions of global capitalism, the G8, World Bank, IMF, etc. will not go quietly, and that the state is there to enforce and protect the privilege of a few.

We will be back at their next meeting - with bigger numbers, and hopefully even more determined. But the message we will bring - one that is gaining support all the time - is simple: one solution, revolution.

Carlo Giuliani will not be forgotten.

YA BASTA VS THE BLACK BLOCK

Genoa was to prove a testing ground for the practices, tactics and politics of both Ya Basta and the Black Block. Many who went to Genoa were looking forward to seeing Ya Basta in operation on their own soil. They had set themselves the goal of reaching the red zone and tearing down the fence - a goal that they failed to achieve.

There was also a large contingent of the Black Block in Genoa. They were accused of only being interested in smashing up property, and of endangering peaceful protesters through their actions.

What do we think of the tactics of the two most militant grouping of activists in Genoa that weekend?

For all of Ya Basta's organisation, protective body armour, shields and specialist defensive teams, they were not up to the task at hand - breaching the red zone. From the outset they announced that they were only going to take part in defensive actions, which in practice meant that they were expecting to meet resistance from a line of police and that they would have a bit of push and shove for a while - just like in Prague in September 2000 - before a symbolic retreat. They were not really prepared or willing to reach the red zone.

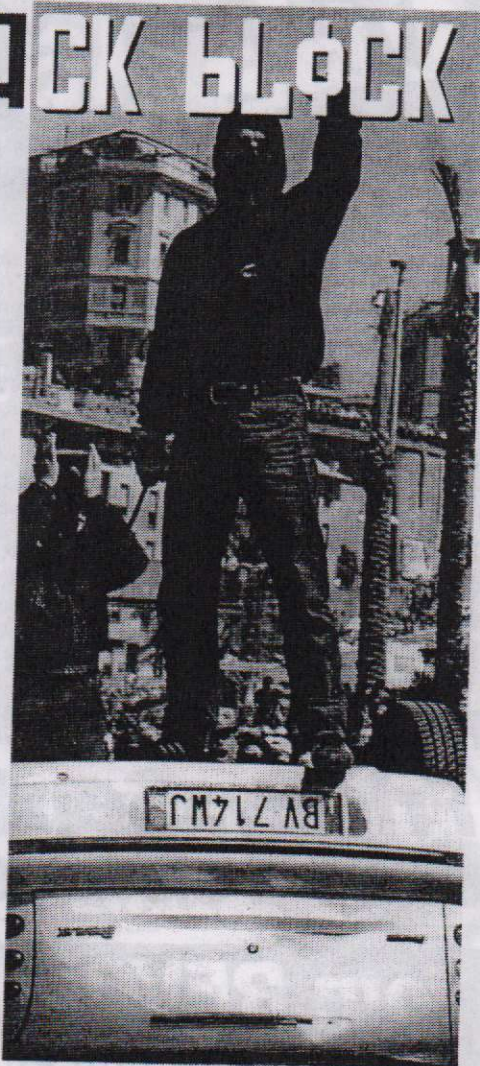
They were also caught off guard when the police did not stick to the expected script - i.e. block the demo and have bit of push and shove. The police planned to and did launch a pre-emptive attack on the demonstration before it reached the red zone. While we held our ground and hundreds did engage in fighting with the police, including lots of Ya Basta people, the majority of the demonstration, some 10,000 people, were dis-

couraged from taking an active role.

The Leadership of Ya Basta (a group of seven on the day) made the mistake of deciding that the active conflict and defence of the demonstration should be left to a small group of elite fighters, and that the role of the majority of demonstrators was to stand idly around and wait to be told that it was now safe to move forwards.

The Black Block shared a similar elitist tactical method to Ya Basta. Their preferred tactic was to attack the police lines in small groups and quickly move on to other areas. We take our hats off to their bravery, courage and willingness to take on the superior armed forces of the police. However, what was evident in Genoa was their isolation from the mass of demonstrators, and the fact that their covert method of organising is easily open to infiltration by police agents. There have been numerous reports in the Italian media of witnesses who saw so-called Black Block members moving in and out of police lines, and some people said they were arrested by people dressed as the Black Block. There were reports that fascists masquerading as Black Blockers went around trashing buildings and then moved through peaceful demonstrators, giving the police an excuse to attack.

What we need is a combination of the bravery of the Black Block with the mass organisation of Ya Basta. But both must be fused with the political idea that we need to engage the masses in struggle and that any 'elitist' contingents are there to play a supportive role, not to act a substitute for mass action. Only then we will be able to achieve our aims.



class war prisoners

free paul robinson

While a lot of us were in Genoa fighting the G8, Paul Robinson was fighting for his freedom in Gothenburg. Arrested during the protests at the EU Summit, Paul was held in isolation for almost a month. He has been convicted of violent rioting and sentenced to a year in prison plus a £30 fine (which goes to the Swedish Police Federation). Although the prosecution could not link him directly with the riot, the fact that he was wearing black clothes was enough to convict him. The police withheld evidence, in particular footage of the police beating him and standing on his back.

Paul has lodged an appeal, which will be heard in 8 weeks. The appeal courts are supposed to be less politically motivated than the lower courts. Paul, a Unison member

who worked in university library, has received great support from his trade union and fellow work mates, but needs as much support as possible.

Please support him by writing to him and sending books and news to:

Paul Robinson
Gotenborg Polis Headquarters (Haktet)
Gotenborg Remand Centre (Polis Huset)
Box 429 40126 Goteborg Sweden

About 50 people (mostly Swedes, some Danes, Germans, Brits and Italians) are still in jail. 29 have been prosecuted, while 19 still await sentencing. Sentences range from 6 months to 5 years. The police have a 90% conviction rate.



FREE MARIO

Mario Bango, an 18-yr old Roma in Slovakia, has been in prison since March and is now threatened with a sentence of up to 15 years. His 'crime' was to defend himself, his brother and his mother against a physical attack by a known Nazi. The Nazi later died.

A vicious racist campaign was started in the Slovak media against Mario and in praise of the Nazi skinhead. There was even a minute of silence for the 'patriotic and honourable citizen' in the Slovak parliament. Meanwhile Roma have to suffer physical attacks by the police and racists every day in Slovakia.

Roma people are an oppressed minority. They are denied education, employ-

ment, and in many countries, their existence as an ethnic minority was simply denied. The Roma are subject to systematic discrimination against their culture and language.

It is not only Roma people and members of other national minorities, but also trade unionists who are victims of fascist violence. Mario's self-defence has become a symbol for the fact that Roma are no longer simply victims but will defend themselves. Fascist violence must not be answered with passivity and submission but with organised and determined resistance.

How you can help:

Send protests to the Slovak authorities: by email: urad@government.gov.sk; by post Urad Vlady (Bureau of the Slovak government) Namestie Slobody 1 813 70, Bratislava, Slovak Republic

Send postcards to Mario with a few words of solidarity: Mario Bango, nar.8.6.1982 Ustav na vikon vazby priecinok 1077 Chorvatska 5 812 29 Bratislava, Slovakia

Protest against this injustice
Friday, Sept 14 • 5 pm
Czech & Slovak Embassies

BIRMINGHAM

West Midlands police are still pursuing their campaign against anti-capitalist activists.

Nine May Day protestors are charged with public order offences after last May 1st demonstration in Birmingham. The cops coralled in a totally peaceful protest, moved it on, then made the arrests!

You can help by:

Coming to the demo outside the court, 9.00am Monday 15th October

Collecting donations for the defence fund, make cheques payable to "BMDDC" and send to:

BMDDC, c/o PO Box 9417, BIRMINGHAM B13 9WA

Solidarity & MEDIA LIES

A report from Vancouver, Canada
By Kath in South London

I was in Vancouver, Canada, during the Genoa protests. The anti-globalisation protests and Carlo Giuliani's death made the Canadian and American headlines, but did not remain there for long. An emergency demonstration by socialists anarchists and independents was called following Carlo's death.

It took place outside the Italian embassy on Saturday 21st July and approximately 70 people turned up. We attracted a lot of local media attention and support from passers by. With a time difference of 9 hours, little did we know that as we demonstrated on Saturday early evening, the Carabinieri were preparing to attack some Genoa protesters while they were sleeping. People are at their most vulnerable when they are sleeping. How low can those bastards sink?

As someone who was very far from Genoa at the time of the protests, I think I got a very mixed account of what went on. On the one hand, I had the right-wing north American media playing down the whole event and the disgusting violence perpetrated by the State. On the other hand, I received eye-witness accounts from friends who were in Genoa. The stark contrast between the two sets of reports was striking and served to remind me of the extent that the news is manipulated to serve the interests of those in power and the capitalist system that we live in.

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