In the remnants of Yugoslavia, war has once again flared up with horrific results. Ethnic Albanians are trying to split from Serbia to form a breakaway republic in Kosovo. They have suffered severe repression from the Serbs, prompting NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) to use air strikes against Serbia, and threaten to send in ground troops. Whilst the Serbian armed forces are undoubtedly guilty of brutal atrocities we have to ask ourselves can air strikes really be used to bomb people to peace?

No to bombs
And the only answer to this question is a resounding “NO”. Despite the images usually portrayed on the news of “surgical strikes” and “smart bombs” it should not be forgotten that we are talking about dropping from the sky large amounts of high explosives. Pious talk of minimising civilian deaths will be of no comfort to the friends and families of those who have been killed. The NATO planes bombing Serbia will only drive people into supporting the unpopular dictator currently in power Slobodan Milosevic, making it even harder to get rid of him. There is opposition to the war in Serbia and thousands of conscripts are refusing to report for military service, but NATO bombs are destroying this movement and fueling the fires of patriotism.

And would the Kosovan nationalists demand for an independent Kosovo improve the lives of the people living there? We should not forget that this would only be a “normalisation” of capitalism - i.e. they would be living in the same shit system as the rest of us. This, of course, is why NATO is taking an interest in seeing peace enforced in Yugoslavia. There needs to be an end to Serb aggression as much as NATO aggression but we shouldn’t think that supporting Kosovan nationalism against Serb nationalism would be a step forward. We need to recognise that wars between all states or would be states are power struggles within capitalism and not about creating an alternative to it.

Worsening situation
It is now estimated that over a million people have been forced to flee Kosovo. NATO has given the Serbian army the perfect excuse to intensify their war, which they have done so with relish. So much for NATO protecting the Kosovars. The British government have reacted to the refugee problem they’ve helped create by generously offering to temporarily house a few thousand in prisons - which shows the true extent of their commitment to helping the Kosovars. Many political and much of the press are now calling for ground troops to be sent in to Yugoslavia, a sure way to cause more deaths. We should not be fooled into taking sides in wars between nations - the only war we support is the class war of the international working class against the bosses of all nations.

Celebrate May Day by coming to a benefit night the ACF and Solidarity Federation are holding for Czech prisoner Michal Patera, imprisoned for defending himself against fascist attackers
Sat 1st May, 8pm, Arsenal Tavern, Blackstock Road.

What You Can Do
Despite the best efforts of the media there is a lot of opposition to this war, Although the anti-war movement is still weak and disorganised attempts are being made to build effective opposition.
For the latest information contact:
London ACF, c/o 84b, Whitechapel High St, London, E1 7QX
Pager: 01523 786692 or email: acf@burn.ucsd.edu for the latest information on resistance to the war.