…must be Bush and Blair reason for dropping cluster bombs and food parcels in Afghanistan. But opposition to the war is growing on the home front:

**Anti-war movement**

The recent anti-war demonstrations in London have been the largest protests seen in the capital for years, with tens of thousands attending. There have also been many other demonstrations across Britain and around the world, all of which have shown the level of opposition to the war and, equally important, the fact that people are prepared to get out on to the street and voice their opposition.

For an anti-war movement to develop we have to understand the reasons for the large scale opposition.

**September 11th and the media**

After the attack on the World Trade Centre everyone had an opinion of some sort about it and what should be done as a result of it. The media, however, immediately started telling us all what we should be thinking and feeling. There was no subtlety whatsoever. We were all hit full on by a PR sledgehammer of the only ‘acceptable’ opinion. This, we reckon, got a lot of people’s backs up.

**The left diversion**

The media have been so one sided the left wing establishment figure heads (Tony Benn, Arthur Scargill, Ken Livingstone, etc) haven’t filled their usual role of providing a loyal opposition. This lack of space for any alternative, no matter how weak, could have been a big motivating factor for people to get out and speaking up for themselves.

Media friendly liberals and socialists of the CND and Leninist parties like the SWP have shown that their decline is sadly not yet terminal. Turning up at Hyde Park demonstrations is like entering a time warp and landing back in old leftie land. Tired old pacifist slogans have been dusted off and ludicrous nonsense about supporting the ‘anti-imperialist’ Taliban is on offer from the more deranged sects.

Although the marches are single issue demonstrations, there can be little doubt that a whole load of people there were motivated out of a reality that goes way beyond the “Stop the War” message of mass produced placards.

**Recession**

The recession is hurting a lot of people: layoffs, redundancies, wage cuts. The ruling class have used the September 11th attacks to justify an offensive against workers. Mass sackings in the airline industry that had long been planned have been rushed through. Capitalists are using the war to justify their re-structuring. An effective anti-war movement will be linked with workplace struggles.

**Anti-capitalists**

At the last demonstration the plod knew where the potential “troublemakers” were situated. The anarchists and other anti-capitalists marched together with a Samba band, which was escorted by a heavy police presence. At first it looked like the cops were going to attempt to separate off this block. This is something we need to be vigilant of, as well as that tried and tested tactic of the police provoking people in to kicking off in order to move in and isolate or arrest them.

As it turned out the splitting up of the anti-capitalist block was no bad thing. By mingling in with the rest of the march anarchists were able to spread the message of revolutionary opposition to the terror of capitalism, governments and religious bigotry to more people. Large demonstrations can be inspiring but we need to build against the war in all areas of life: at work, with friends and in our local areas.

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Get stuck in!

All wars are terrorist

BIN

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BUSH

BLAIR

Anarchist Federation

www.afed.org.uk
tel: 07946 214 590

Anarchist Federation

This anti-war sticker and more are available for a donation from: London Anarchist Federation, c/o 84b, Whitechapel High St, London, E1 7QX.
THE CURRENT military adventure by the White House and its allies in Afghanistan and the anti-Islamic outbursts here in Britain requires anarchists to clarify their views.

Revolutionary anarchism is atheistic. Anarchists have always rejected all authority, not least that of a mythical god. Islam in contrast is all about submission to such a nonentity. Muslims are essentially enslaved not to a god but to a set of bogus revelations found in the Koran. And, it is the task of Islam to ensure that all of the peoples in the world are similarly enslaved.

Modern, fundamentalist Islam seeks to destroy the gains of enlightened thought and replace them with the values of a religious leader from the seventh century. To the true Muslim, the words of the Koran are literal truth, valid for all peoples at all time.

Slavery is at least tolerated within Islam and half of humanity, women, are considered inferior to men. Women are subject to all sorts of disabilities, starting from the outrageously sexist assertion that men are their protectors and maintainers (Koran 4:34). Furthermore should wives be disloyal, husbands are ultimately instructed to beat them (ibid).

In legal cases women’s evidence is considered less than men’s, and in all social respects except for the family home, the women have inferior status.

Anarchists have always advocated sexual freedom. Not so in Islam where marriage is the only acceptable sexual relationship. For example, according to one Koranic verse, sex between unmarried people is punishable as follows: “Flog each of them with a hundred lashes” (sura 24:2). In Islam, homosexuality deserves even harsher punishment.

Islam enshrines inequality and promotes commerce (seventh century style that is). However, those with adequate means are required to give the needy 2.5% of their capital assets per year, hardly a massive wealth redistribution.

Given the Muslim view that the Koran contains the word of God, the severest punishment must be meted out either here on earth or in hell fire. There can be no tolerance for non-believers and a variety of other belief systems. To give up Islam is to renounce a nonentity. Muslims are essentially en-slaved not to a god but to a set of bogus religious leader from the seventh century. To the true Muslim, the words of the Koran are literal truth, valid for all peoples at all time.

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UNION ACTIONS

UK - Bristol

"IN RESPONSE to the terrorist war being waged on the innocent people of Afghanistan, anarchists in Bristol have taken action against state and corporate property...the windows of the armed forces recruitment offices in the centre were graffitied with glass etching fluid "War of Lies", accompanied by a paint bomb and glued locks...a McDonalds was attacked; most windows smashed, anti-capitalist war graffiti and locks glued. It was shut the next day. Let “collateral damage” mean more property damage. No more capitalist war and terror! Sabotage the machine! To be continued..."

UK - Nottingham

13th of Oct around 20 people picketed the Armed Forces Careers Centre in Nottingham forcing the centre to close for the day. For more info Email: nottingham_af@hotmail.com

UK - Brighton

2nd Nov about 20 people from Brighton Against the War occupied the Navy Unit at Sussex University. The occupiers barricaded themselves inside the building for several hours, hanging a banner from the window reading 'War IS State Terrorism'. One of the university’s daily demonstrations against the war moved to the outside of the building occupied to give the occupiers support. A crowd of around 150 people gathered outside, chanting and handing out leaflets.

To contact Brighton Against the War email: nbwtcw@yahoo.co.uk or write to Brighton Against the War c/o Brighton Peace and Environment Centre, 43 Gardner Street, Brighton.

UK - Hereford

"ON 10th Nov, there was an anti-war rally in Hereford. It drew 100-150 people. We drew a lot of attention from passing shoppers. Banners and placards were held saying things like “Food not bombs” and “Stop the war!” On the 24th October a small number of anarchists leafleted the public calling for no war but the class war. The reception was generally good, apart from the squaddie in the Armed Forces Careers place we stood outside who was close to punching us when we tried to give him a leaflet!" For more info Email: dodgydeals@tesco.net

ON THE FRONTLINE

Hastings drivers strike

40 Stagecoach bus drivers went on strike over pay during early November in Hastings. The drivers also picketed the Beaufort Road depot.

Aussie Wildcats

Australian air workers have shown the way to fight restructuring. 4,000 Sydney airport workers went out on a wildcat strike, rejecting Ansett bosses plans to layoff 16,000 fellow workers. Quantas workers refuelers and baggage handlers have shut down many flights by unannounced walkouts. Melbourne also saw fierce resistance, including the use of vehicles to blockade a plane that the New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark was travelling in. She was forced to use a helicopter to escape from angry workers.

General Strike in Serbia

Several thousand people across Serbia have taken part in demonstrations against a draft labour law that would freeze pay in state-owned companies. In Belgrade, up to 5,000 people attended a rally at the main government building. Demonstrations have also been organised in other cities. They are part of a general strike against the Governments plans to lower wages/conditions.

Russia

In the latest of a series of escalating disputes, including a wave of wildcat strikes, following the 1998 financial crash and ruble devaluation, workers at Ivanovo Mashzavod machine building factory went out on unofficial strike action.

Bypassing the Local and National Union Structures the workers won significant concessions, and are now facing the anger of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions (FNPR), who work hand in glove with the Kremlin. Many workers are rejecting the Unions and turning to forms of autonomous direct action such as armed occupation of workplaces, taking supplies from stores and refusing to pay for services such as gas and buses.

Mozambique strike back on

Aluminium plant workers at Mozal have gone back on strike after promises of no disciplinary measures for earlier strike action were not respected. Bosses and Unions hatched the deal to trick workers into returning without their demands being met, but as soon as workers realised what was happening a walkout developed.

Minnesota

More than 28,000 Minnesota state employees staged a walk out. With more than half the state workers on strike, government services shut down.
Eduardo Garcia

ANARCHIST prisoner Eduardo Garcia Marcias was released from Madrids Soto del Real prison recently. High court judges ruled there was no evidence to justify his continued detention. Eduardo sends thanks to all who voiced their support for his campaign over the last year.

Anti-war protesters imprisoned

IN 1999 during a demonstration in Rome against the NATO war in Serbia, a group tried to get to the headquarters of the ruling PDS party. The comrades were forced to stop at the beginning of the street as there was a security barricade there. The Rome special police falsely accused the three of using "violence consisting of an attack, also of throwing harmful objects, on the Forces of Order".

The accusation is false as the comrades stopped at the barricade without any offensive moves towards the police. On 6th Nov they were given sentences of 7 months imprisonment, plus 4 months for one who was wearing a motorcycle helmet while the police aimed tear gas canisters at the protesters heads in Piazza Venezia.

For more info email: meletta@aconet.it

American anarchist gets three years

ROBERT Middaugh was sentenced to three years in prison, charged with assaulting a police officers during the Mayday fiasco in Long Beach this year. The police rioted in reaction to an anarchist gathering. A “Re-claim the Streets” like action was planned with about 200 anarchists mostly dressed in black. During the demonstration a clash with the police took place which resulted in over 100 people being arrested.

Most of those who were arrested originally were all given basic charges of felony - “conspiracy to riot” and misdemeanor “failure to disperse.” A handful of anarchists arrested, such as Robert Middaugh, faced more severe charges.

Most of those arrested from Mayday have pleaded out with a years probation and at this point six are still being tried. As for Mr. Middaugh’s day in court, the Prosecutor threw everything they could at him with charges totalling 14 years and ten months. In addition, Middaugh was on probation relating to his arrest. During this incident he was charged with assault on a police officer and was given a ‘strike’ for this arrest. This added another 3 years to his prison sentence. Although some charges were to run concurrent, Middaugh was looking at 16-17 years in prison, plus another ‘strike’ against him.

The courts gave Middaugh a choice: either 17 years behind bars plus a strike or 3 years plus a strike. With no other option Middaugh took the plea bargain. When released if he is convicted of another strike, he is facing 25 years to life.

Please write to Rob Middaugh #6859467, PO Box 86164, Los Angeles, 90086-0164, USA. For more info contact: Los Angeles Anarchist Black Cross, PO BOX 3671, Anaheim, Ca, 92803 -3671, USA or email: LA_blackcross@hotmail.com or Blackcross@disinfo.net

New Address

BRIGHTON Anarchist Black Cross have moved their website, they are now at: www.brightonabc.org.uk

They also have a new postal address: Brighton ABC, P.O. Box 74, Brighton, BN1 4ZQ, UK.

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

December 1st: Essex demonstration against the war: 2pm Colchester War Memorial, Colchester High St. Email: peace@essex.ac.uk

5th: International strike of pupils and students against war. For more info Email: nonalaquerreille@altern.org

8th: Radical Bookfair in Manchester at MERCi, Bridge 5 Mill, 22a Beswick St., Ancoats, Manchester M4 7HS 12-7pm. Email: ludred@hotmail.com or Tel: 0161 273 1736

10th: Stop Star Wars. Menwith Hill US Spy Base Contact: Womenwith Hill Womens Peace campaign, P.O Box 105 Harrogate, HG3 2FE. Tel: 01943 468 593

10th: A mass action to disrupt the smooth running of the war machine is being planned for at Northwood, the British forces command and control centre. Email: d11northwood@gmx.net

12th: Brighton Screening of Injustice Film, about deaths in police custody which the cops tried to ban Cinematique, Middle Street, Brighton 8pm. Tel: 01273 384300

15th: National march and rally against the War, Glasgow. Tel: 0141 423 1222.

January 2002

26th – Prison Abolition Conference, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London. For more info or to help out send SAE to Prison Abolition Conference, BM Hurricane, London, WC1N 3XX

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☐ I enclose £4 for a year’s subscription to Organise! the magazine of the AF.

☐ I am interested in the Anarchist Federation and would like more information.

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