The New Year has brought an overdue return of large-scale class struggle that the bosses thought they’d seen the back of, both here and abroad. One thing to note is the increasing success militant direct action is having.

Class War on the Home Front...

RAILWAY workers from Arriva and South-West Trains and ScotRail staged a series of 24 and 48 hours strikes across the South and North in support of pay claims and to defend fellow workers who they felt were being harshly disciplined. South-West trains were hit hardest with barely 10% of trains running in the South – most of the lucrative commuter runs into London were cancelled - whilst nearly all of Arriva’s northern trains were halted for 48 hours, and are likely to be cancelled again as the dispute (which has already cost £14 million) spreads. In Scotland, drivers are operating an overtime ban which has cut services by 25%.

Other disputes in the UK include the usual Post Office/Consignia rumblings with threats of walkouts in the South-West over disciplinary measures, and the very real possibility of a nationwide stoppage over the plans to open the service up to competition, balloting is already underway.

Industrial action has also been taking place elsewhere: airport workers have voted to strike at Manchester and Derry, Portsmouth dockers are on the verge of striking and possible lockout, actors have been on strike for two months, Belfast aerospace workers are currently being balloted on strike action, radiographers are currently out, and a whole host of localised disputes are continuing.

... and abroad

HUGE strikes and demonstrations have taken place in Italy. The spark for this wave of militancy has been the Prime Minister’s attempts to steamroller through changes to the law which would reduce pensions and make workers easier to sack. A phenomenal 600,000 workers have taken to the streets - including 60,000 in Milan and 50,000 in Bologna. Workers in the following sectors have been on strike - tram, bus, metro workers, national railway, ferry, transport and airline.

Berlusconi’s last government in 1994 - which was also totally anti-working class, and also included neo-fascists - was mortally wounded by similar strikes. Some people never learn!

In Germany the traditionally militant metalworkers are gearing up for a fight with the government.

France has seen demonstrations and strikes by Doctors, Nurses and other sectors of the health service.

Once heralded as the golden child of economic liberalisation, the country has now plummeted into a state of poverty and chaos, saddled with US$155 Billion debt and unemployment levels of 18%. Instead of merely accepting the ruin wreaked by over a decade of IMF austerity measures and structural adjustment policies - policies that continue a centuries old system of profiteering and exploitation - people across Argentina have autonomously organised accountable self-governing assemblies to transform the country.

A positive development has been the spreading of the insurrection from Buenos Aires to many other parts of the country.

Violent clashes took place in Santiago del Estero and in the central city of Rio Cuarto. Protests also occurred in the capital as well as the provinces of Entre Rios, Formosa and Neuquen, where a march by 2,000 people went off peacefully.

Demonstrations in the capital are a regular occurrence. Recently, state workers in the government’s own Economy Ministry banged drums, demanding unpaid holiday bonuses from President Eduardo Duhalde.

SOLIDARITY IN LONDON

A GROUP of anarchists occupied the Argentinian Embassy in London in support of the peoples’ rejection of their “leaders”. The Argentinian flag was taken down and replaced with an anarchist red and black flag.

The occupation of the embassy was in solidarity with the insurrectionary events instigated by the majority of the Argentinian population (see resistance 33). We wholeheartedly support the rejection of the right of governments and corporations to rule them. The embassy was occupied to highlight the illegitimacy of the Argentinian government, and all governments.

To contact the occupiers Email: tpktpk@hotmail.com
A GENERAL strike in Nigeria has paralysed most of the country and brought commercial life to a standstill. Offices and banks have been shut down, petrol stations have closed and streets normally crammed with traffic were empty as workers protested at a rise in fuel prices. Strikers clashed with police in Lagos and in the district of Ikorodu youths burned tyres and blocked roads. The stoppage has also effectively shut down most provincial cities, including Ibadan, Kaduna, Kano, Makurdi and the oil city of Port Harcourt.

Meanwhile, attacks on the police continue unabated. A mob in Nigeria’s commercial capital Lagos lynched three policemen who killed a bus driver and conductor who had refused to pay extortion money. The policemen were attacked and killed after they shot dead the two men, who had refused to pay 20 naira (11 pence) at a checkpoint.

Police in Nigeria regularly demand money from motorists, particularly bus and truck drivers, at checkpoints set up around cities. A local resident Lateef Obatayo said the crowd torched the policemen’s car after killing them, enraged by the constant demands for money.

THE RESURGENCE of anarchy in South America has scared various governments into taking extreme measures against our comrades there.

In Mexico the government is attempting to crush all genuine resistance. In the last few months, the Ricardo Flores Magon Native People’s Council (CIPO-RFM) has been a regular target of the police. CIPO-RFM is rooted in the communities of Oaxaca State, since 1997 regrouping 4 Indian organisations of 2,000 people. It is openly anarchist and fights on several fronts, for better conditions (water, electricity, infrastructure, services) and for self-organisation of the communities. After having survived murder attempts, and continuing death threats, its activists are now subject to arbitrary arrests. This was particularly the case in the weeks before a big mobilisation in Oaxaca, on 18-20 November last, when all the CIPO communities were meeting on the question of native rights. One of the organisers, Raul Gatica, and his son Inti, were arrested and jailed for several days. International solidarity is essential. CIPO puts out a bulletin on the internet. It is now taking it to federal level.

Police in Nigeria regularly demand money from motorists, particularly bus and truck drivers, at checkpoints set up around cities. A local resident Lateef Obatayo said the crowd torched the policemen’s car after killing them, enraged by the constant demands for money.

Police in Nigeria regularly demand money from motorists, particularly bus and truck drivers, at checkpoints set up around cities. A local resident Lateef Obatayo said the crowd torched the policemen’s car after killing them, enraged by the constant demands for money.

Police in Nigeria regularly demand money from motorists, particularly bus and truck drivers, at checkpoints set up around cities. A local resident Lateef Obatayo said the crowd torched the policemen’s car after killing them, enraged by the constant demands for money.

Police in Nigeria regularly demand money from motorists, particularly bus and truck drivers, at checkpoints set up around cities. A local resident Lateef Obatayo said the crowd torched the policemen’s car after killing them, enraged by the constant demands for money.

Police in Nigeria regularly demand money from motorists, particularly bus and truck drivers, at checkpoints set up around cities. A local resident Lateef Obatayo said the crowd torched the policemen’s car after killing them, enraged by the constant demands for money.
IN RECENT months organised anarchism is showing healthy signs of growth. The Anarchist Federation now has a section in Ireland, already up to issue 8 of Irish resistance. Contact: AF (Ireland), PO Box 505, Belfast BT12 6BQ. Tel: 07951 079719 or Email: ireaf@yahoo.ie

For other areas see contact details on the back page. We have also strengthened our international links by attending the latest International of Anarchist Federations meeting in Paris, and will be hosting the next meeting in London in October.

A number of local, unaffiliated anarchist groups have also formed recently. If one of them is in your area, get in touch with them and get involved:

• Aberdeen Anarchist Resistance, Visit: http://geocities.com/resistanceab/ or Email: resistanceab@yahoo.co.uk
• Walthamstow Anarchist Group Tel: 07810 288 889
Visit: www.walthamstowanarchy.org.uk or Email: info@walthamstowanarchy.org.uk
• Surrey Activist Group, PO Box 375, Knaphill, Woking, Surrey, GU21 2XL. Visit: http://sag.antifa.net or Email: saggymail@hushmail.com
• South London Action Group, Visit: www.slagfest.org.uk

Mika Talvilahti 4th March 1974 - 28th December 2001

IT IS WITH great sadness that I write of the passing of London-based anarchist Mika Talvilahti, at the tragically young age of 27. He was born in the town of Saarijärvi, in the rural Jyväskylä region of Finland.

Like many young Finns, he was radicalised by the state’s presumption that he was its property, and that as such he should serve in its army. Mika rebelled against the call to military service, throwing his lot in with the ‘objectors’. His life would never be the same. The Finnish state has taken advantage of the country’s close proximity to the old USSR to generate a culture of contempt for those young men who refuse to ‘do their duty’ and defend their ‘country’. When you refuse military service in Finland, you are not just defying the state, but also public opinion. Mika fought both, his brave and defiant spirit moving him to involve himself more deeply in radical politics, adding anti-fascist work to his activities. At the age of 22, with work in short supply (particularly so for objectors), he packed up and made his way from Saarijärvi to London. A deep thinker, on his arrival he spent a long time mulling over his political experiences to date. Despite the social censure he had experienced in Finland, he hadn’t lost his faith in the revolutionary potential of working class people. In his usual unassuming and unaffected manner, he figured that if a self-educated man like himself could become an anarchist, anyone could! He decided he should move beyond activities emphasising a particular single issue, and work instead to spread revolutionary anarchist ideas and action in general.

He involved himself in the activities of the London group of the Anarchist Federation, and helped set up the Walthamstow Anarchist Group, into which he put a tremendous amount of time and energy. Though he died young, Mika filled his life with more meaning than many who live to 90, but who never question what they are taught, never question the status quo, never strive for freedom. He confronted the authority of the state head on, and came out on the other side still fighting. It is this kind of life, a life full of love for liberty and strength of will, that gives so much hope for the future.

On Sat 9 Feb, two events will be held for Mika. In the afternoon, his comrades will plant a tree dedicated to him in Walthamstow. From 8pm, there will be a gathering at Conway Hall. All are welcome. Tel: 07810 288 889 for more info.

Continuing our regular look at history...

The Russian Revolution, 1905.

NOTHING is settled or certain in life as the events of the 1905 Revolution in Russia showed. Against all socialist predictions, one of the then most economically backward countries of the world demonstrated a way forward for us all - the revolutionary workers council (in Russia, soviet).

One of the most firmly entrenched oppressive systems, that of Tsarism, was shaken to the core. So what were the events surrounding the 1905 Revolution? Well, firstly, the Russian state had just lost a war against Japan, and defeat in war is always deeply unsettling — many revolutions or would-be revolutions and unrest follow military defeat.

The apparently all-powerful state is revealed in all its impotence. Following the war, a demonstration of workers went to ask the Tsar to look into their downtrodden lives. This procession was fired upon by the Tsarist guards causing deaths and injury. This act of State butchery lit the flame of revolution. A spontaneous, grass roots general strike spread throughout the land. This was followed almost immediately by peasants revolts and the spirit of direct revolutionary action reached all corners of the Russian empire.

In the Polish city of Lodz there was a week-long armed uprising. The same occurred in the Polish capital, Warsaw and in the Black Sea city of Odessa. In the Odessa port, the sailors on the cruiser Potemkin mutinied against their harsh and cruel officers, whom they shot. The most significant feature of 1905 was the formation of soviets throughout the land. The soviets consisted of directly elected and directly accountable delegates from the workplaces. They represented a form of direct democracy which echoed the similar events of the Paris Commune of 1871 (this too came about as the result of a military defeat). Once again, working people were in control of their lives and the state was, temporarily at least, pushed to the sidelines. The St. Petersburg soviet, in particular, played an outstanding revolutionary role and acted as a beacon of hope. However, despite a year of spontaneous explosions of anger and violence, strikes and land seizures, the wave of revolution subsided, and the state was saved. Pity.

There will be demonstration in London against the continuing bombing of Afghanistan on Sat 2 Mar, 1pm, Hyde Park.

OBITUARY – MIKA TALVILAHTI

TIME

BOMB

Against all socialist predictions, one of the then most economically backward countries of the world demonstrated a way forward for us all - the revolutionary workers council (in Russia, soviet).
ON DECEMBER 1 2001, two anarchists were taken by the police in Usak (a city in Mid-West Anatolia, Turkey) with the claim of distributing illegal leaflets in a meeting organized by trade-unions. Later on, three other were taken, and all of five were arrested with the claim of “being members of an illegal terrorist organization” namely Usak Anarchist Autonom.

Although they did nothing more than distributing their own materials/leaflets, for this terrorist state it was enough to judge them with the claim of organizing in such a way “to destroy or to divide” it. They did not even find any (in their own words) “violent” or “terrorist” clues related with the group. The trial will be held in Izmir DGM (SSC-State Security Court) on 13 Feb. For this terrorist state it was enough to distributing their own materials/leaflets, organizing by trade-unions. Later on, three of distributing illegal leaflets in a meeting Mid-West Anatolia, Turkey) with the claim of “being members of an illegal organization” namely arrest with the claim of “being members of an illegal organization” and this trial will show the attitude of the state against anarchists and anarchist organizations. For more info Email: abcankara@yahoo.com

Here are the details of seven anarchist prisoners in Turkey. They’ll be released in 2224. Please send them a letter or postcard in simple English. It makes them feel that they are not left alone in prison.

Zamir Karağaç, E Tipi Kapali Cezaevi, B-5 K.Maras 46060/Turkey
Osman Ercan, Ozel Tip Kapali Cezaevi, C-2 Kogusu, Amasya 05100/Turkey
Ibrahim Demir, Ozel Tip Cezaevi, B/1-2 Gaziantep/Turkey
Bulent Kurt, E Tipi Kapali Cezaevi D/8 K.Maras 46060 /Turkey
Abbas Irmak, E Tipi Cezaevi, B-2 Kirsehir/Turkey
Ali Biter, E Tipi Cezaevi, B-2 Kirsehir/Turkey
Cafar Ozbek, E Tipi Kapali Cezaevi D/8, K.Maras 46060, Turkey

For more information contact: 5th May Group, P.O. Box 2474, London, N8.

Robert Middaugh. “Ruckus”, was transferred to the California State Prison in Delano. He was arrested for his involvement in the May Day action in Long Beach, California. He was given two concurrent three years sentences. He can be written to at the following address:

Robert Middaugh #6859467 P.O. Box 5000, Delano, CA 93216-5000, USA.

Prison activist Kathryn Cummins is being denied access to anarchist and other material sent to her. She needs funds for a court case against this harassment.

Kathryn Cummins #66584, Unit 1, P.O. Box 392005, Denver, CO 80239, USA.

A Bristol Prisoner Support / Anarchist Black Cross Group has been formed. They can be contacted c/o Kebele, 14 Robertson Road, Easton, Bristol, BS5 6JY, England. *