Social change not climate change!

An estimated 25 million people have been affected by food supply crises in sub-Saharan this year. The disastrous effects of global warming are already being felt worldwide—widespread, death, homelessness and destruction caused by rising sea levels, increasing “freak weather” typhoons, storms and tornadoes causing floods and landslides and substantial droughts and desertification. Global warming is caused by human made carbon dioxide which builds up in the earth’s atmosphere causing a dangerous acceleration of climate change and extremes of weather. The main causes are petrol-based road and air traffic, fossil-fuelled manufacturing and industrial agriculture (together 85%) and fossil-fuelled electricity production.

Corporations and governments are the twin vampires who are responsible for the mess we’re in—122 private and state corporations such as Shell, Exxon, BP etc., are responsible for 80% of the world’s carbon dioxide emissions.

False Solutions

Even the US government officially admits that climate change is a bigger threat to humanity than terrorism; the only people refuting this are professional deniers funded by the big oil companies. Yet politicians and their business sponsors admit that making any real change is “politically unrealistic”. This makes them keen on “technical fixes” that don’t tackle the causes. Nuclear power is a favourite, sold with the lie that it doesn’t produce carbon dioxide. It’s very dangerous, producing deadly waste with no safe storage solution, is vulnerable to terrorism and fuels the production of nuclear weapons. It is also so costly that it needs massive government subsidies and relies heavily on dwindling supplies of uranium. The industry has a long and infamous record of “accidents”, near disasters (Windscale, Three Mile Island, Chernobyl) and health risks. Emissions (literally pollution) trading and burying CO2 under the seabed are similarly ostrich-like. Neither tackles the production of CO2. Green taxes are likely to target “consumers” e.g. car drivers, rather than the big suppliers like oil companies and there is no guarantee that the revenue will be spent on alternatives.

Cars, lorries and planes are a massive cause of CO2 but the road and traffic lobby is hugely powerful, ensuring that alternatives are not developed. The government’s response to increased demand for transport is to build more roads that immediately become congested—an upward spiral—and to expand existing airports and build new ones. Meanwhile privatized buses and trains are run on the basis of profit rather than need making public transport often a more expensive and unstable option, forcing people to rely on cars. Schemes such as the congestion charge are about ensuring that traffic keeps flowing, rather than creating transport for human need. The idea of a green car however fuelled is as practical as a chocolate frying pan.

People power

Since companies and governments cannot make the necessary changes— and don’t even try, it is up to us. As individuals we should do what we can—minimize car and air travel, insulate our homes, minimize waste, maximize recycling. Ultimately however, we can only halt and indeed reverse global warming by challenging the system that has brought the planet to the brink of disaster. We need to organise against the government’s plans to resurrect the Frankenstein monster of nuclear power, defeat plans for yet more roads and new or bigger airports. We should oppose agribusiness with its use of unnecessary and dangerous chemical production, of GM crops and factory farming.

We can only do this by getting together with our neighbours and workmates, organizing and acting collectively, without politicians and leaders, and taking direct action. The Rossport Solidarity camp in western Ireland, which has worked with local people who have halted Shell’s construction of an oil refinery and pipeline is an inspiring current example. Organising in...Continued on back page
The last four weeks were pretty busy on the strike front, with action being taken all over the country (even internationally in one case) and a wide range of industries as well as a couple of very important victories. One very interesting action that could have wide ranging consequences is the North Sea divers indefinite strike, which is 100% solid 3 days in. The 1000 divers carry out essential maintenance work on the pipelines that pump oil and gas to the UK from the north sea energy fields, if the strike continues much longer then energy supplies are going to be threatened. The strength of the strike and the divers determination to win is demonstrated by their fellow workers striking as far away as Singapore and Egypt. They are in an absolutely great position to win their demands and give a boost to other workers to press forward their own. There was an important victory with possible wider ramifications for a group of Notts fire-fighters this month when the high court ruled that they should have their docked pay re-instated. They had refused to take on extra work as part of the management restructuring plans (i.e. more work for less pay and in worse conditions) and were consequently docked 10% of their pay for a year, which they will now receive backdated to the original date. This is a process that the fire service managers have been trying to use to get cut-backs via the backdoor, with this precedent it now appears that they’ll be unable to do so - a useful victory.

There’s trouble at yet another hospital - workers at Stamford and Peterborough Hospitals have decided to take strike action in protest at their being paid £3000 a year less than those doing the exact same job for other NHS trusts - this links up with recent strikes about contracted in workers being paid less than directly employed workers and is going to be a very important area over the next few years - especially if they can link up outside of the official unions structures.

BA is facing more industrial action as it’s managers continue to lie to the workers about their pensions whilst desperately trying to save their own (or even boost them). Talks on the issue broke down this week and an all out strike looks likely as the workforce is putting heavy pressure on the union to stop their back-pedalling and organise some real action to secure their money.

The Strangord Lough ferry in Northern Ireland was shut down for a day when the ships crew struck in protest at being paid less then other crews doing the same work.
On 8th August, police infiltrators poured sulphuric acid on that equipment, but by this time TV Caserolas had been running for 8 days. The state-owned Chanel 9 station was seized and re-named after the women who had marched on the station banging pots and pans. Before they were booted out on 21st August, TV Caserolas had paraded a host of Mexicans on the telly – each of whom gave a withering commentary on what neo-liberalism meant to them - the loss of land to developers and the ramshackle rural mountain schools without toilets; the thousands of communities without safe water or sewage systems; the rising cost of food and rent as subsidies are removed in the name of free trade; and, of course, the continuing falls in the value of those wages.

By July, 365 grassroots organisations movements had joined up to form the Popular Assembly of the Peoples of Oaxaca (APPO). NO APPO-LOGIES

Meanwhile under “Operation Iron,” Ruiz was busy renovating the prison in the city of Tlocolula. He’s overseen a development to double its capacity and keen to keep going military presence, but resistance continues and people’s spirit and determination seems unbroken.

Who let the dogs in?

An official ‘watchdog’ has deduced “we are waking up to a surveillance society all around us”. Richard Thomas, our Information Commissioner (whose office was set up to promote access to official information and at the same time protect personal information) also tells us that he was barking on about this two years ago. Give the man a bone! How about telling us something we don’t already know? Anarchists have been saying this for decades, even before 1984! The whimperings of these independent watchdogs make us sick with all their talk of needing ‘balance’. Watchdogs give the illusion of debate amongst the authorities, and make you think there is some accountability when there really isn’t. Same goes for industry watchdogs like ‘Energywatch’ that can do nothing about the gas companies buying cheap and selling dear, massively increasing domestic fuel prices whilst the gas companies and their global shareholders reap their profits.

The only response from governments and corporations is to create some media spin to convince us they are listening and lie that it’s not something we should worry about. So in reply to the Information Commissioner, we hear cops on the news saying, oh yes, there might be too any CCTV cameras in society, whilst at the same time they are trying to create a national digital camera network for motor vehicles, and photographing people on every anti-government demonstration. Again we hear a supposedly reasonable side of the state when the reality is waves of repressive laws and tracking systems that are coming in fully supported, and many initiated, by the police. Politicians are only concerned about losing ‘public trust’ (read votes). Too late! What is needed to beat repression and unwanted surveillance like ID databases, is mass direct action that refuses to accept what is happening to what little freedom exists against overpowering state and capitalist bodies. The UK Identity and Passport Service is building 69 interrogation centres that will be used for passport applications & ID cards, whereby you will be expected to agree to being questioned and fingerprinted. This is unacceptable and must be opposed. Anti-ID campaigners have already found the addresses of half of these centres, mostly by checking up on local planning applications. No2ID aims to oppose planning permission for as many as possible. The Defy-ID network will meet in Nottingham this month to work out how to widen the revolt by getting the entire pack out of the kennels. We certainly shouldn’t rely on an establishment ‘top dog’ to stop it for us. Defy-ID - www.defy-id.org.uk

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Anti-war round-up

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month gap between the arrest and our return to the police station. The first trial of people being convicted of this offence is in January 2007.

Conclusion

It has been very useful to take a wide range of actions; contacts are made and people gradually get more involved in political activity. Many of the people taking part on the Lakenheath and Faslane 365 actions had never taken part in direct action before but we had made contact with them through things such as Mildenhall Peace Camp and Stop the War marches. Despite the efforts of Special Branch who are desperately trying to cause splits between the peace movement and ‘violent’ anarchists this does not seem to be bearing fruit. Most of the actions have had non-violence guidelines but this does not mean that everyone taking part is a pacifist. Of course I am not naive enough to believe if we ‘ban the bomb’ everything would be alright, although some people I have taken action with are. However many people have taken direct action for the first time, have begun to question power, are learning new organisational skills and trying to take back control over what is being done in our name. As the slaughter in Iraq and elsewhere continues we will continue to take such action, for it is not the like of Bush, Blair or Bin Laden who suffer but people like you and me. Lakenheath8@dsl.pipex.com

When going on demonstrations stay sober, don’t talk to the police and if you’re arrested give only your name and address then say ‘no comment’ to any other questions. For more info visit: www.ldmg.org.uk

November

25th - Benefit for Leeds Anarchist Black Cross. Saturday 25th November at the Afro-Caribbean Centre, on Park Street, Hull. Gig starts at 6.30pm, and the night will include top techno from Andy Mailey, punk and hip-hop spun by Saoirse, and 80’s sounds played by Applemax. £5/£3.50 on the door. As always the proceeds of the benefit will be used for the direct support of Anarchist and class struggle prisoners.

Leeds ABC. e-mail: leedsabc@riseup.net; Homepage: www.myspace.com/leedsabc

28th - UK Rank and File Building Workers Committee 2012 Olympics organising meeting. 19:00-21:00 at the Cock Tavern, Chalton Street, Euston, London.

All building workers and rank and file trade unionists welcome. Contact 07749 517074.

28th - Leicestershire Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) is holding a Big Screen Film Night at the Secular Hall, 75 Humberstone Gate, Leicester LE1 1WB at 7.00pm on Tuesday 28 November.

The Wobbly’s: an excellent and informative documentary made in the 1970s about the IWW’s historic days, with interviews from a number of old time IWWers.

Together We Win: The Fight to Organise Starbucks - made this year, this short film follows the successes of the contemporary IWW Starbucks Workers’ Union in the US. There’ll be time for discussion and socialising too! Everybody welcome!

www.leicestershire-iww.org/

December

2nd - National anti-war demonstration at RAF Brize Norton - where British troops are flown to and from Iraq and Afghanistan, and from which Iraqi and Afghani asylum seekers are deported from. This demo seeks to draw attention to the massive array of military bases around us, & broader militarisation of the U.K. Demo supported by National Stop The War Coalition & National and CND. Assemble at 12 noon in Carterton, Oxfordshire. www.stopwar.org.uk For more email swindon_stopwar@yahoo.co.uk tel 07764563855. For more on the plight of the deportees see : www.ncadc.org.uk For map of Carterton see www.multimap.com/map/browse.cgi?lat=51.7598&lon=-1.5931&scale=2000

3rd - ‘Car Crash’ Protest against planned Newhaven Incinerator. The worlds first drive-thru protest? Meet in your car 12 noon at North Quay Road and travel in convoy around Newhaven arriving at the Hollingdean Depot, Brighton, 3pm, to be met by Anti-The Waste Local Plan demonstrators already set up outside the depot. Best dressed car wins. For more see www.dove2000.org The incinerator will release dangerous pollutants such as dioxins and mercury which accumulate up the food chain and pose a long term health threat see www.noburn.org.

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this way maximizes our power and avoids us being sold out as leaders always end up in bed with the powerful.

We want renewable energy, solar, wind, tidal and hydro-electric, geothermal, etc, different resources deployed as appropriate to the locality. It should be small scale, generating electricity for local needs rather than the waste and centralization of the National Grid, and genuinely community controlled. Human scale planning and free public transport would minimize the use of cars. We need to go further to question the whole twisted logic of capitalist growth that has chained us to work and consumption, producing increased quantities of goods while the quality of our lives deteriorates.

IT’S OUR WORLD, LET’S TAKE IT BACK!

The Anarchist Federation is an organisation of class struggle anarchists aiming to abolish capitalism and all oppression to create a free and equal society. This is Anarchist Communism.

We see today’s society as being divided into two main opposing classes: the ruling class which controls all the power and wealth, and the working class which the rulers exploit to maintain this. By racism, sexism and other forms of oppression, as well as war and environmental destruction the rulers weaken and divide us. Only the direct action of working class people can defeat these attacks and ultimately overthrow capitalism.

As the capitalist system rules the whole world, its destruction must be complete and world wide. We reject attempts to reform it, such as working through parliament and national liberation movements, as they fail to challenge capitalism itself. Unions also work as a part of the capitalist system, so although workers struggle within them they will be unable to bring about capitalism’s destruction unless they go beyond these limits.

Organisation is vital if we’re to beat the bosses, so we work for a united anarchist movement and are affiliated to the International of Anarchist Federations. The Anarchist Federation has members across Britain and Ireland fighting for the kind of world outlined above.

If you’re interested in joining contact us at:

Anarchist Federation,
BM ANARFED,
London, WC1N 3XJ.
Email: info@afed.org.uk
Also visit: www.ofed.org.uk and www.iaf-ifa.org

Subscriptions to resistance costs £4 from the address above for 12 issues. A two issue subscription to our magazine, Organisers for revolutionary anarchism, is also £4.

You can subscribe to resistance by email for free via the website above.