



The Madrid Bombings a brutal attack on every worker

By a Spanish member of the Anarchist Federation living in London

I can see the picture on the internet of a maimed corpse lying at a spot where I used to go for a walk with my dog. One of the train stations where the explosions took place is down the road where I used to live. I took the train there every morning and travel to uni at about the same time when the attacks happened. That was a few years ago. My friend is still working in the botanical garden, across the road from the main station, where most of the carnage took place. I couldn't speak with him until late at night. He's all right but very shocked. The local meeting place of the CNT (anarchist union) is nearby and we used to go to bars in this area for a drink after the meetings. Well, all these are painful memories now.

All this zone is the main working class area in Madrid, some of the most conscious and militant workers in Spain. It is obvious that those who did this have no regard for life, at all. Whether they were muslim extremists or Marxist Basquian separatists they have shown the conception of the human being that underlies their ideologies. They despise people, they simply don't care about suffering as they considered themselves devoted to a superior cause or abstract being. Something that transcends real persons, individuals, who can then be sacrificed by the dozen. For the muslim extremist, what counts is his selfish will of salvation, self-salvation, carried ahead in despite of the others, who are the instruments and victims of his holy war. Religion and carnage, that's pure fascism. For the Marxist nationalist the individual must be submit-



ted to ideology and the hierarchy, so as to achieve a supposed better world. Only that this is again carried ahead against the will of the individual members of that society, that are tools in the hands of the bureaucrat.

That is why I am an anarchist, as probably also were more than a few of those who died today. The difference is that we privilege the individual whose freedom and happiness are our real goals. We don't care about gods or heavens, as we believe only in this real world, that of people who work and laugh, suffer and struggle with courage. Real people, that's all we need, not superstitions and myths that justify death and hatred. We don't care either about economic abstractions according to which increased production means increased happiness. The real persons, individuals, are what we care about, people like those who died that day. That each one of these normal people is happy, or that at least has all the means to be, is our goal. And this must begin, obviously, for absolute respect to life.

There's been a lot of speculation about who did this, and we've seen the shameful show of politicians trying to take advantage of it, making this and that declaration. They don't care either about normal people, but we knew this already. Same as banks, big companies and corporations, none of which interests have been attacked now, but which have been consistently opposed by the very conscious working class population of the area affected by the blasts.

To all my CNT and anarchist comrades living in the area: Rodri, Juani, Hector, Quicar...I still don't know, at the time of writing this, if you are all right. Keep up the struggle for freedom and justice.

A statement from the CNT, the Spanish Anarchist Trade Union.

In Madrid, this 11 of March, we are killed again. We, the workers, the people, are again the victims, this time maimed and shattered in the most brutal way. We, the workers, the people, are always the victims of all terrorism. Those that are called so, and those other that are in disguise. We are the victims of unemployment, bad housing, misery, manipulation, exploitation, causalisation...we are used in every war, in every power struggle, by every fanatic, by every power. We are the victims of their decisions, of interests and wants of groups that use us to hide behind and bargain over.

In Madrid, in Iraq, in Palestine, in Afghanistan, in New York, in Chicago, in Bilbao, in Russia, in Chechnya...everywhere we are killed for causes that are not ours.

We must state clearly and loudly, that only we, the workers, those of us who don't have bodyguards or armoured cars, who don't decide on any one else's lives and futures, can mourn really our death. We can say clearly and loudly, with real pain, that we are one with the victims and their families, because they are us.

A wordless hug, from the heart, to all those affected. Their world destroys us, lets build up our one.

National Committee, CNT

Manchester Anarchist Group (MAG)

[Anarchist Federation members in Manchester are part of MAG. In response to the Madrid bombings, the Italian bombings and the increased repression by the state everywhere, we drew up the following statement on the use of violence.]

Position statement on the use of violence

Manchester Anarchist Group exists to promote the collective and autonomous activity of the working class outside of the control of the political parties and the Trade Unions, towards the creation of a society based on mutual aid and self help.

We are opposed to all forms of manipulation, deceit, coercion and violence towards this end, recognising that change is the product of collective self confidence, esteem and exercise of free will.

We recognise that we live in a world where violence on every scale is exercised daily at all levels, at all times and in all places in the defence of profit, privilege and minority power of the state and its corporate interests.

In this context, we do not berate those for the choices they make in defence of their homes, livelihoods, loved ones and lives.

However, we do not advocate for the organisation and exercise of violence. We are against all forms of violent aggression and actively agitate against terrorism, either of the State, as a form of repression or genocide, or of self appointed 'liberators' who we see merely as the 'state in exile.'

We believe that you cannot 'blow up' a social relationship, or 'force' people to be free, and seek above all a society and form of organisation centred around the primacy respect, mutual-ity, and the sovereignty of the individual.

MAG
March 2004

An Anarchist Song

(to the tune of 'Pack Up Your Troubles')

Fight all oppression with the Red and the Black
For li-ber-ty
No to the parties and the bureaucrats
Dis-arm the bour-gois-ie
While we live with prop-er-ty
We ne-ver shall be free
So sieze all the factories with the Red and the Black
And an-ar-chy

No cross nor bible with the Red and the Black
No hy-po-cra-cy
Clerics priests and mullahs spread the same old lies
Serving this so-cie-ty
There are no sins or s-i-nners
Just their mo-ral-ity
So burn down their churches with the Red and the Black
Hail blas-pha-my

End class divisions with the Red and the Black
For u-ni-ty
We're stronger to-gether then we are a-lone
Wherever we might be
No 'first' nor 'third' but o-ne world
Unequal and un free
So tear down their frontiers with the Red and the Black
For hu-man-i-ty

The whole world is our world with the Red and the Black
In har-mon-y
The last fight in history brings it home to us,
Our com-mon trea-sur-y
While thousands be-come to mil-li-ons
In struggle to be free
We raise the cry of ages proud-ly as our own
Land and Lib-erty!

Join the Resistance

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. Contact us at: Anarchist Federation, PO Box 127, Oldham O14 3FE Tel: 07946 214 59C

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