

offline



Bypass the corporate media - get your news direct from the streets - www.indymedia.org.uk

Protests Against Fallujah Attack

Protests against the attack on Fallujah have taken place all over the UK. Protests occurred during the much publicised build up to the assault with the 'Campaign for Justice for Gordon Gentle' Protest in Glasgow on 30th October, Manchester on Sat 6th Nov, and activists breaking into the US bomb store at Welford and chalking anti-war slogans onto the bombs on Thurs 4th.

In London several protests and action took place including road blocks and the scaling of the gates to Downing Street, as well as the Foreign Office being splattered with blood red paint. On Sunday 7th, there was a protest at Parliament Square, following which campaigners layed flowers at the Cenotaph, before locking on and blocking Whitehall.

On Monday 8th, the day the assault started, there were protests in over 30 towns and cities around the UK, including vigils and protests in Swindon, York and Brighton.

The weekend of the 12th to 14th Nov saw protests in Glasgow, Brixton, and outside the BBC building in London in response to their "one-sided and misleading" reporting of the attack. Four people were arrested when the US Consulate in Edinburgh was splattered with blood red paint and covered in anti-war slogans. In Cambridge, protestors staged a rush-hour demonstration, a rally in Market Square, as well as taking to the roof of the Guildhall with banners, and spraying anti-war graffiti. In London hundreds demonstrated outside Downing Street while others blocked roads and painted anti-war graffiti.



<http://www.indymedia.org.uk/en/2004/11/300761.html>

FBI SILENCE INDYMEDIA - BUT NOT FOR LONG

On 7 October, barely noticed by the mainstream media, Rackspace (a US company with offices in London) responded to an FBI federal order by handing over harddrives hosting around twenty Indymedia sites.

As well as taking offline IMC UK, Brazil, Prague, Uruguay, Belgium and many other countries, the servers had also been providing streaming services to several online radio stations, including one about to serve the European Social Forum.

There have been a number of attacks on Indymedia recently. IMC Holland is currently being hassled to hand over details of users to the authorities even though no logs exist. In the USA the Secret Service issued a subpoena disrupting NYC IMC just before the Republican National Convention. A few weeks before the servers were seized in London, the FBI had requested that Nantes IMC remove a post featuring a photo of undercover Swiss police officer. It seems likely that this incident is related to the seizure but it has proved difficult to obtain any explanation. A gagging order prevents Rackspace from giving any more information, although they have said that they were 'acting in compliance with a court order pursuant to a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT), which establishes procedures for countries to assist each other in investigations such as international terrorism, kidnapping and money laundering.'

Since the seizures more than 10,000 people have signed a solidarity statement and 26 MPs proposed to the House of Parliament to express "deep concern at the seizing of web servers belonging to the independent media organisation Indymedia; request that the Home Secretary explains under what authority their wholly independent news service was prevented from functioning; and expresses its disquiet at this attack on freedom of speech via the internet".

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indymedia london

- # FUN-DRA-MENTAL
- # RHYTHMIS OF RESISTANCE - FULL SAMIBA PROTEST BAND
- # THE RUB - REVOLUTIONARION
- # PENNY RIMBRAUD - CRASS AGENDA
- # THE UNPEOPLE
- # PLANETARIAN - AND THE INTERNATIONALIZ
- # ANGEL - POSITIVE UK HIP HOP
- # SPECIAL GUEST: THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

30 Nov 99: WTO protests in Seattle

F.B.I. PARTY!
Five Birthdays of Insurrection

Entry by donation; All proceeds to fund new IMC Servers
Sat 27th Nov 7pm til late
 St George's Church 49 Tufnell Park Rd N7
 Bus 397 from Euston; Northern Line Tube Tufnell Pk

for more info check: indymedia.org.uk
 live stream of event: RampartRadio.co.nr




Indymedia is an open network for information produced by grassroots groups challenging the bias of corporate media. To report your own actions, upload photos and video or see what else is happening locally near you - visit the IMC UK website at: www.indymedia.org.uk

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"You want our harddrives...?"

<http://www.indymedia.org.uk/en/2004/11/300886.html>

Lawyers in several countries are working on the case while some media activists have turned to more direct expressions of outrage. Houston Indymedia paid a visit to the Swiss Consulate and Indybay reports how internet activists planned to hand over hardware to the FBI (if they want our hardware so badly, they shall have it...) and documents the procedure. Delivering harddrives and other bits of equipment seemed to become quite fashionable. In Amsterdam, old hardware was delivered to the Italian consulate, and in Dijon, two harddrives were plainly nailed to the entrance door of the local Italian consulate [pictures]. A cheeky message was delivered with the harddrives: "You want our harddrives? We throw them in your face!"



Journalist Organisations Support Indymedia

Similarly concerned were professional journalist organisations, who published statements of support within the next week. The British National Union of Journalists stated it was a "direct question of media freedom" while the IFJ called for an investigation saying that the incident "smacks more of intimidation of legitimate journalistic inquiry than crime-busting". Reporters Without Borders demanded that Home Secretary David Blunkett provide an explanation and VVJ/AVBB called for "complete clarity" and for a maximum of freedom for information spreading online.

We will not be silenced again

This experience shows that more servers are needed. The ideal would be to have all data distributed on different servers all over the world (we are looking for mirror sites). If we can raise several thousand pounds, we can get a very fast machine on a fast connection. This will make the UK site work much better and enable us to help other Indymedia sites in different parts of the world.



Around the time the harddrives were seized in London, the Amsterdam-based group "ascii" were evicted from their free public internet space. Ascii analysed both events as a "signal of the current crackdown on freedom of speech". They added, "We will keep on struggling for the right to think differently, act differently and compute differently from the way corporations and fascist state governors are trying to impose us. And if necessary we will compile our last lines of sourcecode on the barricades."

ramRAIDED www.rampart.co.nr

Also silenced by the FBI raid was rampART radio, set up just before the attack with the aim of providing independent coverage of the ES.F. Thanks (ironically) to an Indymedia server in the USA, the station was back online within four hours of the raid and has continued to 'broadcast' 24/7 since the end of the ESF. They'll be covering the anarchist bookfair and providing a live stream of events at the Indymedia FBI party later in the evening. The rampART social centre itself will soon (17/18th December) be having a party of it's own to celebrate being open six months -

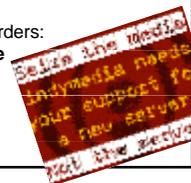
How to make a donation

If you are working, please consider setting up a regular donation of £10 a month, or whatever you can afford depending on your circumstances.. Just write down these details, take them to your bank and ask to set up a monthly or quarterly standing order.

Account: 03194700 Sort code: 16-58-10
Address: Triodos Bank NV, Brunel House
11 The Promenade, Bristol BS8 3NN

If using cheques, make them payable to:
The Independent Media Centre (IMC) UK
Cheques or cash can be paid in over the counter at all branches of the Royal Bank of Scotland at no charge. This is preferable to sending them to Triodos which costs us 50p per cheque.

Address for cheques or postal orders:
The Independent Media Centre
P.O. Box 587, London
SW2 4HA



F.B.I. PARTY.. 27th NOV

To raise funds for additional servers to secure the Indymedia network from future attacks and to celebrate the fact this month (the anniversary of the Anti-WTO protests in Seattle) marks five years since Indymedia was launched - Indymedia London are throwing a big party right after the Anarchist Bookfair.

Line-up: Fun-Da-Mental, Rhythms of Resistance, The Rub, Penny Rimbaud, The Unpeople, The Internationalz, Angel.

**7pm till late, St George's church,
49 Tufnell Park Rd, London N7;**

Entry by donation. Proceeds to server appeal.
<http://publish.indymedia.org.uk/en/2004/11/300412.html>

Bayer abandons all GM crops in UK and India

<http://www.indymedia.org.uk/en/2004/11/301574.html>
<http://www.indymedia.org.uk/en/2004/11/301359.html>

In an admission of immense significance to the entire genetic engineering industry, Bayer Crop Science has conceded that all of its projects on genetically engineered crops in India have been "discontinued".

This follows a massive victory of the anti-GM campaign in the UK this month as Bayer removed the last GM crop varieties still in the approval process for the UK National Seed List. This is the final nail in the coffin for the commercial growing of the first generation of GM crops in the UK. Since 1994 58 different GM crop varieties have begun the process to be included on the UK national seed list and so be available for commercial growing. All 58 applications have now been abandoned after years of direct action and campaigning around the country..

When Bayer CropScience backed out of commercialising GM fodder maize (Chardon LL) back in spring 2004 they were full of claims about how this wasn't the end of their plans for GM crops in the UK and that they would be commercialising

GM oilseed rape by 2008. This now seems to have been empty posturing to avoid losing face. In March they announced they were ceasing GE crop research in the UK and now the two varieties of GM oilseed rape that they still had in the commercialisation pipeline have now been abandoned.

For more information check out www.indymedia.org.uk/en/topics/bio-technology Biotech IMC <http://www.biotechimc.org/>

For regular news about anti-GM campaigns subscribe to the Genetix Update available from <http://www.geneticsaction.org.uk/>



International development campaigners, World Development Movement (WDM) - which was one of the founders of both the fair trade movement and Jubilee 2000, also condemned the lyrics as promoting a "negative and inaccurate picture of Africa and its problems." The organisation, drew attention to several lines in the song which it described as "patronising, false and out of date". Director of WDM, Mark Curtis said on Tuesday 14th: "African poverty is not an unfortunate accident of geography and climate. It is largely the result of damaging policies such as free trade forced on Africa by rich countries."

Several initiatives are now underway to re-write the lyrics - upload your own, or send lyrics or recorded mp3s to

doyouknowitscapitalism@yahoo.co.uk

<http://www.indymedia.org.uk/en/2004/11/301468.html>

Band Aid whitewashing poverty issues

On the 14th November outside the recording studios in Hampstead where "Do They Know It's Christmas" - Band AID, was being re-recorded, demonstrations took place by protesters arguing that Band Aid is a screen "whitewashing the real issues behind world poverty". Shouts of 'real aid, not band aid', 'don't whitewash Africa' and boo's were audible over the screams of fans and onlookers. One protester was arrested while handing out leaflets explaining the reasons for the protest. Protesters from the Dissent! Network, organising against the G8 summit next July, argue that the song is obnoxious, patronising and out of date with the real situation in Africa.



offline

THE INDYMEDIA NEWS SHEET

Offline brings back to the streets, highlights from IndyMedia news websites, part of a global network that encourage the public to report their own stories to the world uncensored. Offline is available online to download - you are encouraged to copy and distribute it far and wide.

Offline is just one of many Indymedia initiatives aimed at reclaiming the media. Check out Indymedia radio and cinema projects such as - the weekly Radio News Show every wednesday 1pm - 2pm on 104.4mhz FM and online from www.resonancefm.com - or the London Indymedia cinema (next event 19th Dec at rampART center - www.rampart.co.uk)

Ecological Direct Action

Roundup of recent actions and campaigns

Ministers are planning to give the go-ahead to strip clean a vitally important area of the English Channel by mining nearly 200 million tonnes of gravel from the seabed to satisfy the house-building boom in the Southeast. On 11th Nov, the latest in a series of actions against the dredging saw people using bicycle locks to close the Newhaven Swing Bridge, blocking the departure of a Hanson dredging ship.

Also in sussex, part of the Hastings Bypass route has been resurrected as the Bexhill Link Road. Anti-roads campaigners had thought they had seen off the bypass and are now preparing to stop this new scheme that retains some of the worst aspects of the original - cutting through ancient woodland and endangering wetland bird species.

Meanwhile, two directors of a company planning to build a bridge across one of Britain's last wildernesses, and most protected wildlife area, have resigned after local protests. On 4th November, local people with banners and drums stopped work at Renewables Northwest. General manager Julian Carter, a Director of the company behind the bridge project, resigned later that day as did Bill Davies after protests at the Lancaster Environment Centre.

In Yorkshire, on Oct 30th, hundreds demonstrated in Hebden Bridge against illegal tree felling that took place on 19th October - then many residents tried to obstruct the chainsaws - several were assaulted, and although they stopped the chainsaws, many of the trees had been cut down.

In Swindon, on Saturday 13 November, local campaigners surrounded the lake at Coate Water Country Park with a chain of over a thousand cardboard cut-out hands, each with someone's personal message of why Coate Water is special to them. The campaigners are trying to save the park (a Site of Special Scientific Interest) from the development plans of the local council.

Publish your own reports on the Indymedia UK

Go to www.indymedia.org.uk, click the 'PUBLISH' link at the top of the page and follow the instructions. It's easy.

Don't hate the media - become the media!

LEFT: Police surveillance outside autonomous spaces during ESF provides poetic photo opportunities for playful posing prankster posse.

Nuke Train Kills

A train carrying "Castors" of nuclear waste ran over a protestor severing one of his legs. He died before reaching hospital. The 23-year-old had chained himself to the track as the train passed near the town of Avricourt, eastern France. The train was carrying nuclear waste being sent back to Germany after reprocessing in northern France, and had already been delayed for two hours while police cut free two other protesters who had chained themselves to a section of track. Thousands of demonstrators had been gathering since the train set off from the La Hague reprocessing plant on its journey to the German town of Dannenberg where the 12 containers (holding 175 tons of nuclear waste) are due to be shipped to a nearby dump at Gorleben. The French protests followed a demonstration by 10,000 people in Germany.

<http://www.indymedia.org.uk/en/2004/11/300681.html>



The wall must fall

November 9th to 16th saw the 2nd International Week against the Apartheid Wall, with actions throughout the world, including a number of events in the UK. These included a blockade of the Hayes, Middlesex premises of Agrexco, Israel's national exporter of fresh produce. Activists erected a cage at the entrance to the factory, and a barrier at the exit, stopping all collections and deliveries for 8 hours, at an estimated cost of 30k - 40k to the company.

Seven activists were arrested and charged with Aggravated Trespass. They plan to use the court case to challenge the legality of trade with a company that deals in settlement goods, especially in light of the International Court of Justice Ruling which ruled that countries have an obligation not to render aid or assistance in maintaining the situation created by the construction of the wall.



'Now we're taking you to court!'

- Protestors insist on trial as government and 'plunder promoter' drop charges

In what is believed to be a politically motivated decision, the Crown Prosecution Service has dropped charges of 'Aggravated Trespass' against two female protesters who demonstrated inside an Iraq privatisation conference last April. The Crown stated that 'there is not enough evidence to provide a realistic prospect of conviction'.

Ewa and Pennie had been charged with intending to disrupt a "lawful activity" when they entered the Iraq Procurement Conference, unfurled banners, and addressed the delegates as collaborators in the daily massacres in Iraq. Their actions caused the conference venue to be evacuated and all activity to be suspended. Ewa and Pennie regard the prosecution's climb-down as a victory and a total vindication of the validity and necessity of their actions and legal argument.

Pennie and Ewa are now claiming their right to trial under Section 23 of the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985. This means they are in effect, taking the government and event organisers Windrush Communications to court. Prosecution witnesses from Windrush have refused to attend the trial. They will now be witnessed-summoned. Windrush have failed to disclose evidence, in violation of repeated court orders, to reveal invitations, attendees, order of business and contracts procured, relating to the event. They will now be ordered to submit again.

The defence will continue to argue that the meeting was not a lawful event as it was facilitating acts in breach of the Iraq constitution - illegal under the Hague Regulations of 1907 and Geneva Conventions 1949. Britain and the US are signatories to both the Hague Regulations and Geneva Conventions. This case will be the first time the legality of the pillage of Iraq is challenged in court. The defendants hope the court will rule that the conference was unlawful as occupying forces must comply with international law.

Naomi Klein, award-winning journalist and author of No Logo, had been scheduled to give evidence at the trial. She will take part in a press conference alongside the defendants and their lawyer at The National Union of Journalists, 308 Grays Inn Road, WC1, 4pm this Tuesday 24th November.

<http://www.indymedia.org.uk/en/2004/11/301483.html>

In the courts

Bublin Mayday Two

A few days before the Mayday protests in Dublin earlier this year, 2 protestors from the UK, Polly and Joe, were arrested on suspicion of trespass. They were initially denied bail and kept in jail for a full week. When finally granted bail, stringent conditions were attached, requiring them to surrender their passports, and sign on in a police station every week. After being forced to stay in Ireland for seven months, their court case took place on 10th November and all charges against them were thrown out by the Judge. Thirty people were arrested during Mayday, many of whom still have to sign on at police stations and many of whom are still being dragged through the courts. Supporters say they were made victims of media sensationalism and made scapegoats by the State in an attempt to justify draconian and military tactics deployed during Mayday.

<http://www.indymedia.org.uk/en/2004/11/301572.html>

ESF Arrests

One of the four people who were surrounded by police and arrested at Kings Cross station on Sunday Oct 17th on their way to the European Social Forum closing demo, walked free from court on Monday 17th Nov. The defendant returned from Greece to attend court, only to find the prosecution dropped the case, saying they would be providing no evidence to support the charges.



G8 Justifies Lethal Police Actions

The judge investigating the Aubonne Bridge case has concluded that any mistakes made by the police on the bridge were "understandable" because of the stress of the G8 summit taking place nearby, and that the activists shouldn't have put themselves in such a dangerous situation. The report states that it was the activists' fault that the police cut the rope from which two climbers were suspended, whilst blockading a delegation on their way to the G8 summit in Evian in May 2003. The judge's declaration, which took 18 months to produce, seems to have been written to give "carte blanche to the police to do whatever they want without fear for any legal consequences", the activist's Swiss lawyer said.

<http://www.indymedia.org.uk/en/2004/11/301328.html>