

ID Cards not Inevitable

The anti-ID campaign was boosted recently when groups from Liverpool, Nottingham, St Helens, Manchester, Preston and Oldham gathered to plan the next phase of resistance to state surveillance, intrusion and oppression. Local campaigns are going well, though inactivity at the national level and an air of reformism in No2ID concerned activists spoiling for action. The meeting was lively as people shared their experiences of lobbying MPs (pointless), awareness raising amongst the public (effective) and direct action. A North England network is being set up and a national gathering of activists is planned, plus a range of activities over the summer. They are build-

ing towards a mass campaign of defiance and non-registration. *from liverpooldefyID*

Meanwhile the government may be forced to release a secret report on the benefits and risks of ID cards. The Department of Works and Pensions made the report but refused to let people see it. The Freedom of Information laws may force its release though they can appeal. The ID card scheme will probably be delayed because the government has not started allocating contracts to private companies. The procurement process has been put back from now till september at the earliest. Said one company 'we still know nothing about what the Home Office requires of us'. *Info from the BBC & Sunday Telegraph.*

Free the Migrants

Over 120 people held at a removal centre near Oxford have gone on hunger strike in protest at their indefinite detention and the harsh conditions inside. Campsfield centre was recently taken over by the company GEO who are cutting costs at the expense of detainees and staff. People opposed to the detention of immigrants have been holding vigils outside. Says one hunger striker, 'there are people who have been detained for up to 2 years. We are cramped in here like animals...and moved around different detention centres like animals. The immigration service has taken husbands away from families and taken people who ran from persecution in their own countries'.

At the time of writing 57 people are still in police detention after a peaceful protest against Spain's newest and biggest Migrant Detention Centre in La Verneda. The people are packed in small cells and say they are experiencing police violence. Protests are planned to try and get them out and people are being asked to write to embassies.

Animal test update

On the 14th May Blair made potentially one of the biggest blunders of his political career. Finally pushed into breaking his silence by his puppet masters, Glaxo Smith Kline, he came out in favour of animal testing. With their shareholders being targeted by animal rights campaigners, GSK had obviously decided enough was enough. Clearly Blair puts corporate interests first. An analogous situation exists in the US where Bush has just scrapped the Technical Operations Assessment Board whose findings were not what big business wanted to hear. *The message is clear - when the scientific facts do not favour corporate interests, suppress and deny them.*

The TGN 1412 incident which put six men in hospital in march demonstrated that animal testing does not work. This was an antibody designed to target a human protein in a human white blood cell. Guess what? Animals do not have this human protein so they did not react to it as humans later did. The animal trials were misleading and pointless. Vioxx is now estimated to have killed 150,000 world wide. The US Food and Drugs Administration admits it has blood on it's hands. Vioxx was 'safety tested' on animals.

Blair says he is one of the 'silent majority' in favour of animal experiments. What majority? 83% of GPs are in favour of an independent evaluation of tests (TNS survey 2004). Over 200 MPs have signed the early day motion calling for this (visit www.vote4animals.org.uk). Animal and human toxic results agree about 15% of the time while an alternative - human cell cultures, are 85% accurate. Simcyp is a company that's developed software which models the human body and predicts the effects of drugs. It has contracts with 28 drug companies and is making a profit. Two Russian research groups have recently announced they will stop animal testing altogether.

By Claire of Merseyside Animal Rights group. Stats and facts provided by VIN. PO Box 223 Camberley, Surrey, GU16 5ZU. vivisectionkills@hotmail.com www.vivisection-absurd.org.uk

Cheeky Squaddies

reported in *Private Eye*
The new defence secretary Des Browne recently visited British troops in Basra. He didn't get much respect. One soldier described him as 'smug, sleek and fat, every inch the new labour apparatnik. Another asked him 'what do you know of the military?' He replied 'not much. What do you know about politics?' 'Well I know how to lie.'

Liverpool Social Forum is a regular meeting where people can share ideas and organise action on the issues they care about. We believe in people taking the initiative and not relying on mainstream press, politics or 'market forces'.

News not Profit needs YOUR STORIES. Send info, articles, pictures and events news to 'LSF, News from Nowhere, Bold St, L'pool L1. email to liverpoolsf@yahoo.co.uk. There is a discussion list at <http://lists.riseup.net/www/into/liverpoolsf>

Things to do...

2nd and 4th Thurs of the month - Liverpool Defy ID meeting. 6.15pm, News from Nowhere shop, Bold St.

Sat 8th July - Peace Picnic 'Liverpool School Students Against the War' 1pm behind ST Georges Hall.

Tuesday 11 July - Liverpool Social Forum 7.30pm the Casa, Hope St. Meetings every 2 weeks, all welcome.

Sat 15 July afternoon- Vegan Fair. Free food, film and info at Modo bar, Concert Sq.

Sun 16 July - International Day of Action Against Climate Change

Tues 18th July - LSF Presents a night of radical film and music to mark the anniversary of the Spanish civil war, Casa, Hope St, 7.30pm

Thurs 20th 8pm - Refugees Benefit gig, feat Santa Clare, Fayze Two, Alun Parry, Silent Partners. The Magnet, Hardman St.

Sat 22nd July - Animal Rights Fundraiser with local bands and DJs. The Casa, from 8pm.

Sat 5 August 3pm - Justice for the Shrewsbury Pickets, Remember Des Warren, - jailed after the national building workers strike, 1972. Join the campaign to end casualised labour. Also at the Casa.

Liverpool Social Forum presents
!No Pasaran!
A night of film, food and music in
the anniversary of the Spanish
Revolution and its heroic struggle
against fascism and militarism
organised by La Revolucion Espanola
and CNT. www.la-revolucion.es
The Venue at the Casa, 29 Hope St, Liverpool
18th July, 7.30pm. £2



'Power is about what you can control, freedom is about what you can unleash' - anon

