

# Indymedia London



# Offline

## & InfoUsurpa



April 17th - 1st May 2008

## **New Squatted Space In Shoreditch**

Coinciding with the Europe-wide days of action in defence of free spaces a new squat has been opened in Shoreditch and a series of events organised in autonomous spaces around London.

Friday 11th: The weekend started with a social meet-up and info night at the *RampART* social centre - a vegan cafe, films on squatting and free spaces, presentations and info stalls. There was also an event at the *NOID* gallery with acoustic bands and performances.

Saturday 12th: Art-space, films, workshops and discussions took place Saturday and Sunday daytime at the newly opened space in Shoreditch. The space also hosted a free shop and squatters estate agency. On Saturday evening, Hackney Social Centre on Lower Clapton Road hosted the *Advisory Service for Squatters* benefit gig with Headjam, Skints, Ras Simeon Judah, 52 Commercial Rd and Pinstickers. Another benefit took place at the *Wominspace*.

Events and actions were also taking place throughout the UK, Europe and beyond.

## **Squatters Estate Agents**

The squatters estate agents, based at the new squatted venue in Shoreditch, opened Saturday. A display shows a number of empty properties around London along with details of their location, history and suitability for squatting. The properties range from abandoned houses and flats, to pubs, shops and even government buildings. Some would suit small residential squats and others grand large scale housing communities, squat cafes, freeshops or social centres.

The display boards were also made available at other autonomous spaces over the weekend, and beyond.

[hackneysocialcentre.blogspot.com](http://hackneysocialcentre.blogspot.com)

[womynspace.blogspot.com](http://womynspace.blogspot.com)

[april2008.squat.net](http://april2008.squat.net)

[squatter.org.uk](http://squatter.org.uk)

[rampart.co.nr](http://rampart.co.nr)



## **Squat2008 Days of Action Follow-up**

After last weekends decentralised actions for squats and autonomous spaces there will be a follow-up event at the new Shoreditch space. It will be a chance to hear about what went on in other cities in the UK, and elsewhere in the world. There will be videos and slide shows of actions, and exhibitions of photos and artwork. The squatters estate agents will also be open for business again.

More importantly it will be a chance for people from different spaces to get together and further discuss some of the issues raised. Part of the aim of the days of action was to bring autonomous spaces together and create interconnections for better collaboration and mutual support in the future.

Of the various social centres in London, three are close to eviction within the coming weeks. How to move forward together in defending the autonomy we create? How to extend the links between existing social struggles and our autonomous spaces? What roles can and should these spaces be playing in producing radical social change?

*London-wide autonomous spaces network meeting* (and dinner): Saturday 19th April from 2pm at the Shoreditch squat off Plough Yard, off Shoreditch High Street.

[rampart@gmail.com](mailto:rampart@gmail.com)

## **Wominspace Eviction Successfully Resisted**

The first attempt to evict the Wominspace in North East London was successfully resisted Wednesday (16th). While women barricaded themselves inside, about 40 supporters guarded the barricades. No attempts were made to evict the space by the bailiffs or the few cops lurking around. They left after about an hour.

But a second attempt could come at anytime. If you can help out being in the space during the day or night, or if you would like to organise an event over the next few days, please contact:

[womenorganise@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:womenorganise@yahoo.co.uk)

Sunday 20th April there is a collective meeting from 7pm, and a film night from 9pm. The Wominspace is open to all women, and all trans and intersex people.

## **Harmondsworth Detainees Hunger Strike**

Riot police intervened to break the hunger strike.

On Saturday, 5th April, around 6am, around 50 police in riot gear stormed Harmondsworth detention centre to break the detainees hunger strike. They took 30 detainees away and most of them were put in solitary confinement or taken to normal prisons, effectively preventing them from communicating with each other and the outside world. One detainee, who managed to contact supporters, said he is bruised all over his body, had injuries from handcuffs and a damaged ankle. He also reported that he saw another detainee being violently 'manhandled' by police.

The detainees' peaceful protest had started at 9am on April 1st, with mass food refusal by almost all of the detainees in the so-called immigration removal centre. Later, they also occupied the courtyard and around 120 of them remained there all night. A petition with 116 signatures has been sent to the European Court of Human Rights, John McDonnell MP, and others.

Although many detainees have resumed eating following the repression, some are still on hunger strike. The repression continues, the detainees want us to demonstrate and make their voice heard.

The detainees are complaining that they are being deported without having their cases properly heard. The so-called *fast-track* system means that asylum seekers are not getting enough time to prepare their cases. Legal representation is often of very poor quality. They also say that they are being abused by detention staff.

Seven mothers in the family unit in Yarl's Wood immigration prison are also on hunger strike, including two breastfeeding mothers. A protest involving up to 15 families started last Thursday (10th) when a mother who was to be taken to the airport took refuge in the church with her baby and refused to leave.

[ncadc.org.uk](http://ncadc.org.uk)

[noborders.org.uk](http://noborders.org.uk)

[noborderslondon.blogspot.com](http://noborderslondon.blogspot.com)

[indymedia.org.uk/en/topics/migration](http://indymedia.org.uk/en/topics/migration)

## **Protest Against Forced Deportations**

Around 80 people, many Iraqi Kurds, demonstrated at the Home Office in London on Friday 11 April, demanding an end to forced deportations to Iraq. Several speakers addressed the demo in Kurdish and there was some spirited debate as well as a considerable amount of chanting.

Coalition to Stop Deportations to Iraq:

[csdiraq.com](http://csdiraq.com)

## **Hackney Hostel Residents March**

Residents from the Alexandra Court 'temporary' accommodation hostel in Stoke Newington, London, marched with members of the London Coalition Against Poverty to Hackney Town Hall on Saturday 12 April, 2008 to demand the council keep their promises to make temporary accommodation safe to live in.

As well as bed bugs, residents at the hostel also complain about mice and rats, and the filthy state of the corridors, often used by addicts and prostitutes, and littered with syringes, used condoms and blood. The hostel rooms only have flimsy locks, easily forced, and there is no lock at all on the outside gate to keep out intruders. Heating and hot water seldom work and residents are often kept awake for hours by fire alarms ringing through the middle of the night.

Many of those placed in the hostel are mothers with children, whose health and education is suffering from the lousy conditions. Despite high payments for rooms - up to £350 a week, the management has failed to meet its promises to make improvements, and the council has also failed to take action. The residents asked for support and the ICAP assisted them in organising Saturday's demonstration, with around 50 people marching from the hostel to Hackney Town Hall where they hoped to meet council representatives.

[icap.org.uk](http://icap.org.uk)

## **'On The Verge' extra London screening**

The Film They Tried to Ban: the Smash EDO campaign's story. Police have intervened across the country to censor *On the Verge*, an independent documentary about the Smash EDO campaign to shut down Brighton's weapons manufacturer EDO MBM. So far establishments in Southampton, Chichester, Bath and Oxford as well as Brighton have come under police pressure to cancel film showings.

7pm, April 21st - London Action Resource Centre.

[smashedo.org.uk](http://smashedo.org.uk) [schnews.org.uk](http://schnews.org.uk) [londonarc.org](http://londonarc.org)

## **Shut Down Guantánamo!**

London Guantánamo Campaign has held weekly demonstrations outside the US Embassy since February 2007. Taking its demonstrations around London from April 2008, the Campaign held a successful demonstration outside Starbucks Café in Oxford Street, and will be holding a stall outside Ladbroke Grove tube station, and McDonalds in Oxford Street.

[guantanamo.org.uk](http://guantanamo.org.uk)

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**Indymedia London welcomes your involvement:**

This is an open invitation to participate in Indymedia London - from the technical aspects, or helping to maintain the open newswire and producing features, to a variety of offline activities such as film screenings, stalls at events, reporting from the streets and whatever else you may come up with. The London collective has regular meetings, often at LARC. Please feel free to come and share your ideas, knowledge and skills.

[indymedia.org.uk/en/regions/london](http://indymedia.org.uk/en/regions/london)

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