

THE

ANARCHIST CRITIC.



Issue 77 July/August 2009.

We will try to produce this bulletin on a regular basis highlighting policies and events that influence our lives but are dictated by corporate institutions and governments beyond our control. If we, the ordinary people desire a world for all our children, we must resist, organise, and take control.

POINTLESS CARNAGE.

Recently the media has gorged itself on the death of one man, according to the entire media illusion creators, the most important recent event in the world was the death of a singer dancer. You would be hard pushed to find any mention of the hundreds of deaths in Afghanistan. There is of course some coverage given to the British deaths, 22 in as many days this July, but nothing of the Afghan civilian deaths that occur on a daily basis. Though we do have to suffer such crass headlines as the Mirror of June 23 "Triumph for Brits in Helmand" and the Star "Taliban crushed" The recent British deaths seem to belie this media trumpet blowing.

The UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan has estimated that there has been 800 Afghan civilian deaths between January and May 2009, this is an increase of 24% on the same period in 2008. It is of course a conservative estimate as the conditions in Afghanistan make it almost impossible to come up with an accurate figure.

Probably one of the most despicable features of this on going pointless slaughter is the unmanned drones. Since 2006 it is estimated that unmanned drones have probably killed 14 Al Qaeda leaders but no mention is made of the 700 Afghan civilian deaths from these same drones. That works out at a 50: 1 ratio of innocent deaths to targeted combatants. Is this justifiable? According to our democratic leaders in their plush and safe corridors of power, the answer is yes, it seems that Afghan lives are not worth as much as UK/US lives. Over and above the deaths, there is the £7 million a day that it is costing you and I the tax payer, that runs out at £2.5+ billion a year and rising. Where else would you like to see that sort of money being spent rather than the killing and maiming of young people?

Nobody seems to be able to come up with an understandable reason for our being in that country, yet our "leaders" tell us "we're in for the long haul." Translated that means that our working class youngster will continue to be sent to kill ordinary poverty stricken Afghan civilians for the foreseeable future. This ongoing carnage does not serve the British public nor does it in any way serve the Afghan civilian population. We must organise to end this bloodshed of ordinary innocent people at the behest of the states involved. A better world is possible, ordinary working class people killing ordinary working class people in another land doesn't benefit us.

Even the US's handpicked Afghanistan puppet President Hamid Karzai is complaining to the US/NATO military about the consequences of the continuing civilian deaths.

CHURCH AND STATE-WILLING PARTNERS!!



RAPE FOR PROFIT.

On July 1st. Peter Voser took up the reins of power. He will exercise control over the lives of 31 million people living in the Niger Delta, however they never elected him. He has the power to change their lives from abject poverty and foul pollution, but don't expect him to do so. You see Peter Voser is the new CEO of the giant oil company Shell, and to change those lives he would have to take a wee bit from his greedy shareholders and the didn't appoint him to do that.

The Niger Delta is listed as one of the 10 most important wetland and coastal marine ecosystems in the world. Over the last 50 or so years that these wetlands have been raped by the oil industry, Shell in particular, this rape and plunder has raised an estimated \$US 600 billion in revenue for these oil beasts. Yet despite these massive profits from this area, most of the 31 million people who live there, live in poverty and are dependent on contaminated land for their livelihoods. They have little or no access to clean water nor healthcare. Peter of course will find it hard to identify with the poverty of these people as a glance at his earnings for the year 2008, the year before he became CEO. Will give some hint at his lifestyle. His salary for that year was £1,010,000 with bonuses adding £1,423,125 plus other "compliments" of £22,621 giving him an annual payment of £2,455,746. As long as the Shell oil beast controls the area the people have no prospect of improving their situation. When profit and pollution lead to poverty it is a human rights issue, the Niger Delta is a human rights violation. The oil industry is unaccountable and the Nigerian government refuses to effectively regulate, if ever there was a case for the need for workers control then surely this is it.



THE CRIME OF HOMELESSNESS!!

With the recent economic crisis unemployment is rising rapidly and with this comes repossessions and an increase in homeless. Even before the present economic disaster the number of homeless in Scotland has been steadily increasing for the 7 consecutive years to 2007. During this period the number of homeless related cases handled by the Citizens Advice Bureau has double to 8,000 for 2007. In Scotland at this moment in time there are 40,000 listed officially as homeless, what will the total be by next year? Approximately 50% of the 40,000 official homeless are young people aged 16-24, and this figure does not include those who are not listed as they find a bed by moving around their friends. Add to this the fact that "social" housing is at its lowest level for ten years. While waiting lists for rented housing is rising steadily.

Glasgow is by far the worst in the homeless league with 7,310 officially listed, Edinburgh 2nd. with 4,912 and North Lanarshire 3rd. with 2,653. This with thousands of skilled building workers being paid off in the last 12 months.

What kind of society have we allowed to fester under our noses where the most basic necessity of civilised life, a home, is denied. Only by creating a society freed from the corporate greed for profit and based on the needs of the people will we see an end to this crime. The marriage of state and the corporate world is war and poverty for the many and luxury for the parasites.

FROM MATT TAIBBI'S

"The Great American Bubble Machine"

"The first thing you need to know about Goldman Sachs is that it's everywhere. The world's most powerful investment bank is a great vampire squid wrapped around the face of humanity, relentlessly jamming its blood funnel into anything that smells like money. In fact, the history of the recent financial crisis, which doubles as a history of the rapid decline and fall of the suddenly swindled dry American empire, reads like a Who's Who of Goldman Sachs graduates"

JOE BLOGGS, TENT CITY, GLASGOW??

Will we see them here in the UK, tent cities of the homeless?

On July 2, 2009, hundreds of homeless Californians marched on the Sacramento Town Hall to demand "safe ground". Three months earlier city officials shut down a large "tent city" occupied by Sacramento's homeless people. Now, some of the tent city's residents say they feel like refugees, with no place to go. On Wednesday the homeless staged a loud demonstration, in hopes of pressuring Sacramento officials to find them a new place to camp. Philip Grice joined about 250 other homeless people and their supporters for a march through the northern end of Sacramento. Their action coincided with the closure this week of a temporary shelter where many of the tent city residents had found a roof for the winter. Now these individuals say they need a year-round legal camp on what they call "safe ground."

Philip Grice, 45, one of the many homeless, who has been on the move ever since the tent city closed, stated;

"When we moved out, we moved over to a private area two fields over. They wanted us off of there too. Just like shuttling cattle, that's all it is," said Grice, a carpenter by trade, who wears a T-shirt that reads, "Where am I supposed to live?" "We're supposed to be the eyesore, but actually we're citizens and we're human beings. We're supposed to have rights like everybody else; it don't matter what we have in our pockets." Well it shouldn't, but this is capitalism and money is the entry ticket.

The march ended up in a hot and dusty city-owned lot next to a police station, where organizers set up a symbolic occupation. Val Jon Farris, founder of a group called iCare America, set up a tent on the lot. "There is no legal place for people to live unless they own, rent or lease a home. So if you're homeless it's illegal to exist. You can't even lay your head anywhere without getting arrested, prosecuted or criminalized," said Farris. "So this is a demonstration in order to create a civil liberty that ought to already exist, which is [that] people have the right to be, to live without the threat of being incarcerated in their own country."

With the rapidly rising unemployment in this country there is nothing to say that we will not be faced with the same problems and no doubt the authorities will be looking for a suitable carpet under which to sweep the homeless, of course prison will always be one of their options. Criminalizing them and so hoping to stigmatise them and isolate them from the rest of the community will make the authorities job easier. We must organise to make sure this doesn't happen, after all it could be you next, your home is probably as safe as your job!! Think about it.

WAKE-UP TO THE SURVEILLANCE STATE:

At this moment in time Great Britain has already gone further along the way towards a "total surveillance state" than any other western country, and, in many ways, the ability of the state to gather information on individuals in the UK has gone beyond the practices of most communist states during the worst of their Stalinist regimes. It certainly exceeds the practices of such present communist dictatorships as Cuba and China.

This spreading dictatorship is creeping through the fabric of our society like a cancer but is the natural progression of all states, they just do it at different speeds. All aspects of your personal data will stored and without your knowledge or consent, shunted around the various institutions, sometimes to private corporations for profit and certainly not your benefit, no doubt being distorted by errors of which you will be unaware of until you find yourself locked out of all manner of social services and financial transactions. The information would include not only official document numbers, your name, addresses and signature (more than enough to facilitate massive identity fraud) but your fingerprints and even - to the police, intelligence services, taxman, and *anyone else they authorise* - details of every time you had had your ID checked, e.g to register with a GP, open a bank account, travel abroad etc.. We can't expect the state to reverse this trend, it is up to the ordinary people to organise against the Orwellian nightmare that is engulfing us all. If you care about fundamental rights and freedoms, privacy and confidentiality, then the time to act is NOW. You wouldn't wait until your opponent ties your hands before you fight back, would you?? Well they almost have.



QUOTE:

"The liberty of man consists solely in this: that he obeys natural laws because he has himself recognized them as such, & not because they have been externally imposed upon him by any extrinsic will whatever, divine or human, collective or individual."

Mikhail Bakunin, *God & the State

Born 1814 died July 1st. 1876, Berne, Switzerland



WAR.

The death of Harry Patch, the last survivor from the 1914/18 trenches has given the state another opportunity to glorify war and call for blind patriotism. By state propaganda via its institutions and the media the "Great" war has become the Great lie, an illusion of the "Glorious Dead". Anything associated with it becomes a grandiose spectacle of empty pomp, another attempt to legitimise the brutality of war.

As long as we attach words like honour and glory to what is no more than state instigated cold-blooded organised brutality on a mammoth scale, then it will never end. Modern war is a place where your actions kill the elderly, the innocent, women and children, all in the name of the corporate world and state power, war is never glorious. To talk in terms of glory regards war only encourages another generation of youth to step forward and carry on that carnage, to the benefit of the power mongers with no gain to the ordinary people of either side. Perhaps we should listen to the words of someone who was there, Harry Patch, when he says, *"War is organised murder and nothing else."*

If we wish an end to war we must first "tell it like it is", in all its pointless savage, indiscriminate, brutal slaughter, lay bare all the anguish and misery heaped on the ordinary people of both sides. Then we must attack the root cause, state power and corporate greed, creating a society based on mutual aid, voluntary co-operation and free association. A society that sees to the needs of all our people on principles of sustainability, free ourselves from the grip of those parasites the shareholders and their lapdogs, the "political parties" with their state institutions.



Don't be shy,
ann arky would like to hear
your views, news, gripes and
opinions, so drop a note to;
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REMEMBER CARNEGIE---PHILANTHROPIST??

July 1892 -- US: Homestead Steel Mill strike begins in Pennsylvania, leading to large-scale battles between workers & anti-labour Pinkerton agents. Carnegie handed over the operation to Henry C. Frick, a brutal union-hater.

ANOTHER HOLOCAUST

I believe it is accurate to refer to the years of slaughter in Iraq as a Holocaust when we consider the numbers of Iraqis that have been killed since the first Gulf War, through the years of sanctions and the continuing carnage during and since the second Gulf War. According to the UN, the 12 years of sanctions killed 1,000,000 Iraqis, while former US attorney general Ramsey Clark put it at 1,500,000. However all agree that more than half of those killed were children. The deaths were due to lack of food, cancer and other diseases from depleted uranium and the escalation of the bombing in the late 1990's. A conservative estimate of the deaths in Iraq over the 18 years of bombing and sanctions can be put at 2,500,000. The sanctions was the final destruction of Iraqi society and the blame for this Holocaust can be put squarely at the feet of the US and the UK. After this carnage British troops have finally left Iraq and we are told by our "leaders" that we should feel proud of what we have "achieved". Of course the US will be there for the next 15-20 years.

FROM MATT TAIBBI'S;

"52 FUNNIEST THINGS WAITING FOR THE PREVIOUS POPE TO DIE."

7. According to ancient tradition, the slamming shut of the Bronze Door in St. Peter's Square announces the death of the Pope.
6. Normal Vatican schedule closes that door at 8 p.m. every night and reopens it in the morning.
5. According to numerous reports, if the Pope dies at night this time, no one will know what to do. (This is not a joke.)
4. In 1958, reporters paid off Pope Pius XII's physician to throw open the hospital room window when the Pope died.
3. When a Monsignor threw the window open to get some air, the Pope's death was erroneously reported all over the world.
2. This is what happens when weird old men in dresses communicate with the world with doors and chimneys.

FREEDOM

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www.freedompress.org -- info@freedompress.org
Page 4.



"Your loan application is rejected,
but here's a thank you card for the bail out."

ANARCHISM ONLINE.

www.glasgowanarchists.org.uk
Glasgow anarchist's website.

www.radicalglasgow.me.uk
Local resource home of the Anarchist Critic

www.iwwscotland.org
Revolutionary trade union run by its membership.

www.praxisglasgow.wordpress.com
Libertarian socialist organisation building strength in
communities and workplaces.

www.libcom.org
Anarchist/libertarian/communist news and resource site.

www.classwar.uk.org
Militant anarchist group, publishers of the
newspaper of the same name.

www.freedompress.org.uk
The oldest British anarchist newspaper, going strong
since 1886.

www.anarchistfaq.org
Infoshop.org's Anarchist FAQ, details what anar-
chism is and why you should help it come about.

www.solfed.org.uk
The Solidarity Federation, British section of the
International Workers' Association.

www.katesharpleylibrary.net
Library of Anarchist history.

www.citystrolls
Think of your City and make it happen.

www.redpepper.org.uk
A radical independent magazine.

www.akuk.com
Anarchist publications.

www.schnews.org.uk
Free alternative news site

Anarchy

Where do you want to go today?