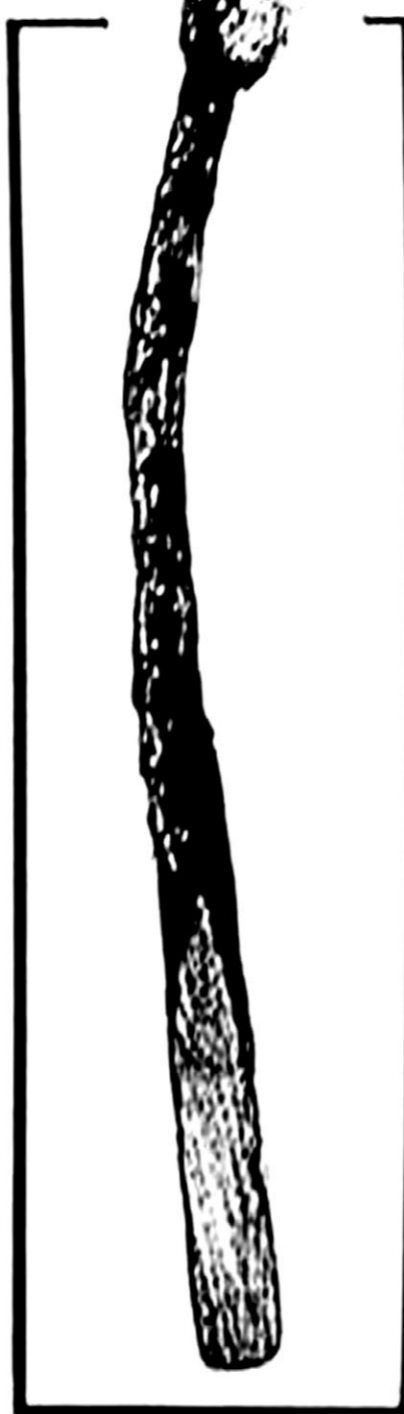


**BURN
YOUR
FLAG**



Bi-annual report on indigenous, ecological and anti-capitalist resistance in the occupied territory known as Australia



**FIRE TO THE
PRISONS**



MILITARISM

IS A

DEATH GUILT

Melbourne: Paint and sledgehammer attack against BAE Systems office



31 Dec – In the final hours of December 2015 we attacked the offices of the defense contractor BAE Systems on River Boulevard in Richmond with paint and sledge hammers.

BAE Systems make billions from war and their technology is responsible for countless civilian deaths worldwide.

This action was carried out as part of Black December, a month of anarchist direct action that was initiated by the anarchist prisoners Nikos Romanos and Panagiotis Argirou in Greece.

We also carried out this action in solidarity with anarchist prisoners held hostage by states worldwide and in solidarity with Indigenous prisoners held hostage by the colonist 'authorities' here in so-called 'Australia' – all of whom are political prisoners.

Black December is everywhere!

- Anarchist Office Refurbishment Cell

Melbourne: Two off-duty police bashed on NYE



31 Dec - Two off-duty police officers were seriously assaulted after they tried to stop a group of people letting off illegal fireworks in Melbourne on New Year's Eve.

The two officers approached the group in Brunswick just before midnight on New Year's Eve after they noticed them using illegal fireworks, a police spokesman said on Wednesday.

A fight then broke out in a nearby alley and one of the officers was knocked unconscious while the other suffered serious facial injuries.

Both were taken to the Royal Melbourne Hospital in a serious condition, but they have since been released.

Police are investigating the incident which is believed to have involved local residents.



FTP

VI.

FuckThePoliceFightThePowerFreeThePrisonersFireToPatriarchy

Welcome to the fifth issue of FTP zine, our biannual report on anti-colonial, anti-state resistance, compiled within occupied Cadigal territory.

Like previous issues we have chosen to highlight acts of resistance to the Australian state and its control of this territory, such as attacks on its police, its prisons, its monuments and its schools.

The entirety of the content in this publication was found as public information online, and later compiled for this zine. Nothing here is the original content of those who may be responsible for this project.

The contents include communiqués, media releases, photos, posters and leaflets which have been found on radical blogs. The remaining content has been culled from the websites of corporate newspapers and TV stations. Many texts have been condensed for reasons of space.

We make no claims to the intentions behind the unclaimed actions. We have simply chosen to highlight acts which open possibilities for a more libertarian, less polluted future. Actions which, if generalised, have the potential to fundamentally disrupt and weaken the Australian state and its ability to govern.

The actions and opinions expressed in this zine do not necessarily reflect the perspectives or attitudes of any other individual or group mentioned in this publication.

This report is only partial as most acts of resistance are not reported in the mainstream press, and most people who stand up to state authority don't write self aggrandising communiqués of their actions.

This magazine is in no way a for-profit publication. We encourage the printing, sharing, translating, and widespread distribution of this magazine by anyone with resources to do so.

- January 2016

ftpzine.wordpress.com



Sydney: Riot squad called to Kirribilli House Indigenous protest



6 July – Protesters were surrounded by the riot squad at Kirribilli House today outside a forum on indigenous recognition in the constitution hosted by Prime Minister Tony Abbott and Opposition leader Bill Shorten.

Riot squad officers made their presence felt with a ring of police encircling the protesters.

One man was arrested for allegedly spitting on Tony Abbott's vehicle. He was later moved on from the area after being issued with a fine for offensive behaviour.

The noisy protest started at 11am and attracted about 50 people including several children.

The Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council were part of the protest and chief executive Nathan Moran explained why he was there.

"Simply to show we have a grave issue with not being invited," he said.

"We represent more Aboriginal people than the entirety of all the other states but unfortunately we've been left out in the cold.

"It's a very sad reality check that government is choosing to ignore our system. They created the local land council systems and are bypassing all that to hand-pick what they would like."

He called for an end to Australia's status as the "last penal colony" on earth and called for a treaty with indigenous people.



Condingup: School admin building set alight as vandals leave \$300K damage bill

6 Jul - A community in southern WA is in shock after its only school was vandalised and extensively damaged in a deliberately lit fire.

Firefighters battled to put out the blaze that started in the administration building late on Saturday night.

The Arson Squad has deemed the blaze deliberate and estimates the damage at \$300,000.

Esperance Shire president Malcolm Heasman said he could not comprehend how anyone could carry out such an "horrendous act".

"Communities work so hard to get a certain standard of amenity or facilities and they treasure them and when you get just blatant acts of vandalism and total disregard of property, people don't understand it because there's no logic behind it," he said.

The Department of Education said authorities would need time to assess damage to the school.

A department spokesman said that in addition to the blaze, a number of rooms were also vandalised.

Katherine: Teens charged over blaze at High School

7 July - Two teenage boys have been charged over a suspicious fire at Katherine High School in the Northern Territory that caused more than \$100,000 damage.

The boys, aged 13 and 14, were arrested in Katherine on Monday afternoon and spent the night in the lock-up. They have each been charged with arson.

The fire began in a storage area on Sunday night and spread to the main building, while a shade cloth was also set alight.

Pilliga: Women lock on to mine gates at CSG protest

21 Dec – Anti-CSG activists from the northern rivers have joined a protest against coal-seam gas mining in the Pilliga Forest at which two Coonabarabran women locked their necks to the gates of two Santos mine sites near Narrabri.

Scores of supporters at each site have interrupted construction and prevented movements in and out of the operations centre containing company equipment.

Supporters of the women locked onto the Santos sites have unfurled banners near them declaring 'This Christmas we want a CSG free Pilliga forest' and 'This Christmas we want Santos free'.

Michelle Webb, a 52 year-old agricultural teacher and sixth generation farmer locked on to the gate of the Leewood wastewater treatment plant said 'We've already seen the impacts to our groundwater from Santos' exploration activities'.

'You cannot have the coal seam gas industry and respect our precious water resources – you just cannot have both. The risks of the coal seam gas industry are simply unacceptable,' Ms Webb said.

Nicole Hunter, a 44 year-old Coonabarabran mother said 'I'm determined to do all I can to protect the future of this region and our planet for my three young daughters'.

'The Narrabri Gas Project is proposed for the recharge area of the Great Artesian Basin. If we depressurize or contaminate this resource there's not turning back,' Mrs Hunter said.



Narrabri: Traditional custodians lock-on at CSG wastewater plant

22 Dec – While people in the northern rivers are still celebrating the region's new gasfield free status, two Gamilaraay traditional custodians from Moree are battling CSG company Santos using the same techniques that helped win the battle here.

The pair entered Santos' property about 25km south of Narrabri and halted construction at the Leewood CSG wastewater treatment plant by locking themselves with a metal pipe to excavating equipment.

Fifteen supporters risked arrest to accompany the men onto the Santos' property, while another 15 people demonstrated their support from outside the fence.

There has been a recent resurgence in protest activity against Santos' works in the Pilliga forest near Narrabri as the company begins construction at Leewood.

Fifty-four-year-old Paul Spearim, a respected Gamilaraay cultural authority, said in local language 'Our ancestors are always watching (Ngiyaningu maran yaliwunga ngarra-li).'

'We want Santos to get out of our sacred lands and protect our gali (water),' he added.

His lock-on partner Nathan Leslie, a 32 year-old Gamilaraay man, said he saw it has his responsibility to stop the project on his ancestral land.

'We're halting construction at Santos' Leewood coal seam gas wastewater treatment facility in the Pilliga as this operation is a major step forward for the risky CSG industry in NSW and as a Gamilaraay man it is my responsibility to oppose this threat to country.'

'This Leewood facility will result in 500 million tonnes of toxic waste after just five years of exploration activity.

'This toxic industry threatens our water, our country and our culture, and Gamilaraay people say "no" to Santos' coal seam gas,' Mr Leslie said.



Canberra: Climate change protesters dragged from Parliament House



3 Dec – About 200 climate change activists have been dragged from Parliament House after staging a sit-in.

As global talks in Paris continue, protesters occupied the Marble Foyer before being asked to leave.

When they refused, security officers dragged them out.

The protests were promoted on Twitter with the hashtag #peoplesparliament which has been trending across Australia on the social networking platform.

They chanted slogans and held signs such as saying “People ahead of polluters”.



Sydney: Antifa clash with police at Cronulla nationalist memorial



12 Dec – During the protests and counter-protests that marked the 10-year anniversary of the Cronulla race riot on Saturday, riot squad officers clashed with anti-racism protesters numbering in the hundreds, and managed to corral them at the southern end of Cronulla beach.

The Cronulla riot ‘memorial barbeque’ attracted about 50 people.

Many of the anti-racism protesters dressed in black, with their faces covered. Some who were carrying red and black flags emblazoned with the words ‘Antifaschistische Aktion’ clashed with anti-Islam protesters and abused police using megaphones.

Antifa, or anti-fascists, are a loose collection of socialists, anarchists and anti-racists.

Antifaschistische Aktion is the name of a paramilitary German communist organisation that was dissolved in 1933 by the Nazis and resurfaced in the 1980s in Europe as a response to resurgent right-wing groups.

Today Antifa groups are transnational, and part of the ultra-left common at the protests that often mark G20 and other global leader summits.

In Australia, masked Antifa have become an increasingly common sight at rallies organised to oppose the far-right protests held by groups like the United Patriots Front and Reclaim Australia.

Members of Antifa in Australia have deliberately remained anonymous.

Demonstrators clash as rival groups kick off nationwide rallies

18 July – Far right groups Reclaim Australia and the United Patriots Front (UPF) held rallies in several cities and towns on Saturday alongside anti-racist counter protesters.

There were chaotic scenes on Melbourne’s streets as anti-racists and nationalists engaged in violent scuffles.

Glass bottles were thrown and protesters from both sides were punched and kicked as the rival groups clashed.

Some masked protesters attempted to barge through the police blockade but were met with force as officers resisted.

About 400 police were on hand including officers mounted on horses who rammed through the crowds.

Officers used capsicum spray to subdue the crowds and protesters were seen on the ground having milk poured in their eyes.

Victoria Police Assistant Commissioner Stephen Leane claimed the use of capsicum spray was justified.

“The [police] were at significant threat of having their lines over run and it was a tool we had to use at the time,” he said.

Police said at least four people were arrested for violence-related offences including attacks on police horses. Assistant Commissioner Leane said he was disappointed hardline protesters from both sides were involved in the violence.

In Adelaide there were tense scenes as about 200 Reclaim Australia protesters faced off 400 or so anti-racists on the other side of a police barricade.

At least one person was arrested in Adelaide and several others cautioned for breaking through police lines.

In Perth two anti-racism protesters were handcuffed after a melee with police at the Reclaim Australia rally outside Parliament.

Some of the anti-racism activists, who were carrying banners and signs and heckling the right-wing group’s speeches, had gathered at close proximity behind the Reclaim Australia camp, chanting “Nazi scum off our streets”.

As the heckling grew police dragged a man from the crowd.

A group of about 50 other protesters rushed to the man’s aid and a number of police on horseback had to intervene between protesters and the police officers.

Another two men were then handcuffed and detained.



Meanwhile in Sydney, Five people were arrested as the Reclaim Australia and counter-protesters clashed violently in Martin Place.

About 150 members of the Reclaim Australia group gathered in the city, some wearing Spartan costumes and others with Australian flags draped across their shoulders.

Behind a heavy police cordon, the louder and larger counter-protesters waved banners saying "Stand With Multiculturalism Against Racism" and "No Racism, no Islamophobia."

Several men wearing Australian flags were chased by counter protesters at about 10.20am.

The anti-racist protesters shouted "Naziscum, off our streets," as they gave chase to the nationalists down Pitt Street.

Counter-protester Amy said the Reclaim Australia group could not go unanswered.

"We think that if they're allowed to get away with it, it could build confidence and lead to a rise in racist attacks."

Nepal: Anti-police graffiti on the Australian embassy in solidarity with antifa



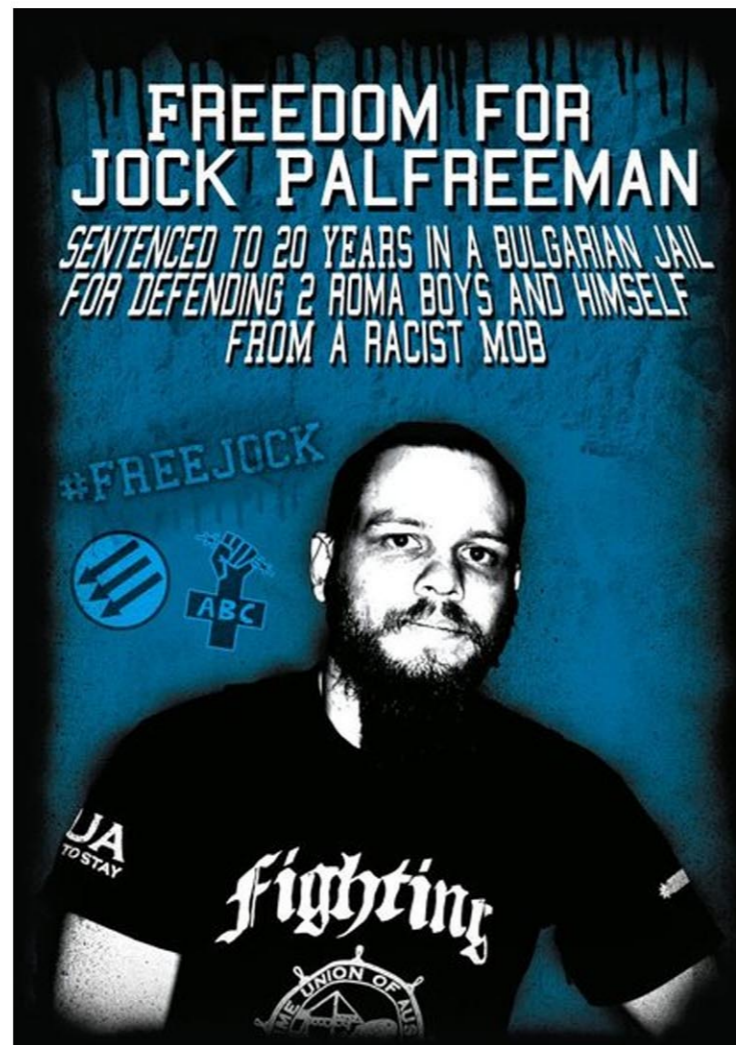
19 July – Anti-police graffiti action taken against the Australian embassy in Kathmandu, Nepal. The words 'Australian police protect racists' and 'Antifa' were spray-painted on the embassy wall in solidarity with antifascist activists in Melbourne who came under vicious attack by police for counter-protesting a rally organized by fascist organizations Reclaim Australia and United Patriots Front.

Sydney: Solidarity banners for Jock Palfreeman



25 July - Banner drop on the July 25 'International Day of Solidarity with Antifascist Prisoners' for Jock Palfreeman, a comrade from Sydney.

Jock is currently incarcerated in Bulgaria, serving a 20 year sentence for defending two young Roma boys from an attack by a gang of racist football hooligans in Sofia in 2007.



Mount Isa: Officer injured during youth crackdown

23 Nov – More than 50 youths have been arrested as part of a crackdown on juvenile crime in north-west Queensland.

Police said among those were eight children, aged between seven and 13, arrested for trespassing, break and enter and wilful damage in Mount Isa over the weekend.

Officers charged 54 people with 66 offences as part of Operation North Tearose.

A 29-year-old police officer was injured during the operation.

He was taken to hospital with cuts to his arms but later released.

Superintendent Russell Miller said the bad behaviour started for no apparent reason.

"There seems to be this element within the community at the moment that believes they can do whatever they like, they can act how they like, they can drink irresponsibly, involve themselves in fights and then when the police attend the jobs they turn on the police in a crowd," he said.

Australia: Open letter to the PM & Immigration Minister from the men incarcerated on Manus Island

1 Dec – Open letter to Malcolm Turnbull and Peter Dutton from the men incarcerated on Manus.

Six hundred men in Manus RPC, PNG, signed the following letter to Malcolm Turnbull, Prime Minister of Australia and Peter Dutton MP, Minister for Immigration and Border Protection. Embargoed for publication until 30 November 2015

Transcribed text of that letter follows:

30/11/15

Hello Dear Mr Malcolm Turnbull and Peter Dutton.

As the refugees and asylum seekers trapped in Manus Island detention we would like to request you something different this time.

As previously we wrote and asked for help and there was no respond to our request to be freed out of detention we realized that there are no differences between us and rubbish but a bunch of slaves that helped to stop the boats by living in hellish condition. The only difference is that we are very costly for the Australian tax payers and the Politicians as our job to "stop the boats" is done.

We would like to give you some recommendations to stop the waste of this huge amount of money ruining Australian's reputation and to keep the Australian boarders safe forever.

1. A navy ship that can put us all on board and dump us all in the ocean. (HMAS is always available)
2. A gas chamber (DECMIL will do it with a new contract)
3. Injection of a poison. (IHMS will help for this)

This is not a joke or a satire and please take it serious.

We are dying in Manus gradually, every single day we are literarly tortured and traumatized and there is no safe country to offer us protection as DIBP says.



Best regards

Merry Christmas in advance

Manus refugees and asylum seekers.

Arrests as violent clashes break out between anti-Islam and anti-racism protesters across Australia



22 Nov – Hundreds of Reclaim Australia protesters and their anti-racist opponents have held rallies in cities and towns across Australia, with riot police using capsicum spray to subdue violent members of both groups.

Rallies were held in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide, Canberra, Hobart and Alice Springs, as well as at Townsville and Cairns in north Queensland, Mildura in northwestern Victoria and Esperance in Western Australia.

At Melton in Melbourne's outer northwest, there were six -arrests as hundreds of police, -including members of the air-wing, mounted branch and dog squad, maintained a barrier -between about 1000 protesters.

A 29-year-old man who punched a police horse was subdued with capsicum spray and charged with animal cruelty, while three men were charged over possession of knives and another two with riotous behaviour.



Victoria Police Acting Commander Alan Byrnes said "It's always a bit disappointing to see people turn up with masks. You wonder what their motives are for doing that."

A coalition of socialist, anarchist and unionist groups calling themselves No Room for Racism chanted "Nazi scum off our streets", "Always was, always will be Aboriginal land".

On the other side of the police line, Australian flag-clad youths screamed "you are a fuckwit" at a Syrian woman addressing the No Room for Racism group.

In Sydney, police arrested two people as up to 1000 packed parts of Martin Place, with police lines again separating the demonstrations. About 300 anti-racist demonstrators clashed with police along Macquarie Street from Martin Place, knocking batons from police belts before officers forced them back after an attempt to breach the police line.

200 meters down Martin Place about 100 anti-islam demonstrators listened to speeches while surrounded by police.

A 36-year-old man was arrested for allegedly damaging a war memorial while a 16-year-old boy was issued a "move on" order for breaching the peace.



Aboriginal activist enters Australia without passport



25 Jul – Carrying a self-styled Aboriginal passport, Nganyaywana man Callum Clayton-Dixon has also recently entered and departed the Solomon Islands.

Mr Clayton-Dixon, chair of the Aboriginal Provision Government (APG), told journalists that he arrived in Brisbane from Honiara on June 30.

"They warned me if I made any false declaration that could involve some penalty under the law but I didn't make any false declaration," he said.

"I just kept on insisting I'm an Aboriginal person returning to my country on my Aboriginal passport, and this is the travel document I'm choosing to use."

In a statement to journalists, immigration said the Australian Government does not recognise the Aboriginal passport as a valid travel document.

"In certain circumstances where a traveller presents at the border and is seeking to enter Australia without a bona-fide travel document, authorities will take action as appropriate to determine the identity of the traveller," it read.

"If such a person is subsequently confirmed to be an Australian citizen, their entry is permissible; although conditions will apply."

The first country to officially accept the Aboriginal passport was Libya in 1988.

Tasmanian lawyer Michael Mansell led a group of Aboriginal activists on a visit to challenge Australian sovereignty in the bi-centennial year.

"If you think that you belong to an Aboriginal nation, then you have to fight for it," Mr Mansell told journalists at the time.



"There are ways of doing it without necessarily being violent, and stand up to the government and stand up to the white reaction in this country and you can get away with it."

The APG relaunched the passport in 2012, issuing them to Aboriginal people, asylum seekers, former Guantanamo Bay detainee Mamdouh Habib and WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange.

Canadian authorities refused to accept the Aboriginal passport last year, but this is the second time this year that an APG activist has entered the Solomons on one.

When Mr Clayton-Dixon departed for the Solomons from Brisbane his Aboriginal passport was rejected by immigration officials and an Australian passport was produced.

On arrival in the Solomon Islands, he was issued with a six week visitor's visa in his Aboriginal passport and then an exit stamp on departure.

Both times he was not challenged, despite the Aboriginal passport not being recognised in the country's Migration Act.

Presenting the Aboriginal passport at immigration in Brisbane, he was led away and detained.

About an hour later, he was admitted to the country through a side door at the international terminal without officials seeing his Australian passport.

Aboriginal Provisional Government activists say they will continue to use their passport.

Melbourne/Sydney: Solidarity actions with Suruç



27 July – Solidarity actions took place outside the Turkish consulates in Melbourne and Sydney on Monday in response to Turkish state complicity in the Suruç Massacre and in response to the international call out made by Anarşi İnisiyatifi (Anarchy Initiative) who lost four of their comrades in the attack.

Of the two large banners that were unfurled outside the consulate in Melbourne, one read: ‘Solidarity With Suruç From Melbourne! Stop Turkish State Sponsored Terror!’ while the other banner read: ‘In Memory Of Evrim Deniz Erol, Alper Sapan and Medali Barutçu – Solidarity Is Our Weapon!’

Speeches made called for solidarity with the people of Suruç, the Kurdish struggle in Rojava and elsewhere in Kurdistan, condemning the Turkish state for their recent airstrikes and repression of Kurdish forces and the brutal crackdown against the revolutionary left inside Turkish state controlled territories.

We stand with those fighting both the overt and covert state sponsored terrorism of the Turkish state, with Kurdish liberation fighters, and with all who are brave enough to resist in the face of such repression. We are inspired and strengthened here by the resistance over there.

Decolonisation now!- full sovereignty for Aboriginal communities! Kurdish liberation now!

Solidarity With The People of Suruç!

Long Live of all The Young Revolutionaries Who Died In The Suruç Massacre!



Melb: Man arrested after attempting to join Kurdish forces

28 July – A 28-year-old Melbourne man has been remanded in custody after being charged by the Melbourne Joint Counter Terrorism Team for attempting to travel to northern Iraq to fight with Kurdish forces against Islamic State.

Jamie Williams, of Epping, in Melbourne’s north was arrested last night and made a brief appearance in the Melbourne Magistrates Court.

He was remanded in custody until his next court appearance in October.

It will be alleged Williams “undertook preparations and attempted to depart Australia in December 2014”.

He was detained at Melbourne Airport at that time.

Various items of “military-style equipment and clothing” were allegedly found in his luggage.

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) executed a warrant on Williams’ house in March and seized his mobile phone and a computer.

The warrant allowed the police to seize anything relating to the Lions of Rojava Facebook page used by Kurdish sympathisers to promote their cause and recruit Western fighters.

Williams has been charged with one count of preparing for incursions into foreign countries for the purpose of engaging in hostile activities.

The maximum penalty for the offence is life in prison.

Sydney: TWU activists arrested at sit-in



13 Nov – The Transport Workers’ Union has said it is planning further rallies and store sit-ins after 10 truck drivers and union activists were arrested during a demonstration at a Coles store in Parramatta. The protest was one of several rallies held around Australia ahead of the annual general meeting (AGM) of Coles’ parent company Wesfarmers. Protesters highlighted the 330 deaths in truck-related crashes each year because of pressure by wealthy retailers.

Coles’ low cost contracts force truck drivers to speed, drive long hours with over-loaded vehicles.

Relatives of people killed in truck-crashes and TWU activists confronted Coles’ bosses during the AGM in Perth yesterday over the company’s stance on safety. When pressed on whether the company would sign up to a safety charter, Wesfarmers chairman Bob Every replied: “Short answer is no.”

The TWU said this response showed the company was insisting on putting profits above people.

“Coles is a multi-billion company making money off the backs of devastated families caught up in the deadly squeeze on transport,” said TWU National Secretary Tony Sheldon.

Wesfarmers reported profits of \$2.44 billion this year while Coles’ revenues are \$38 billion. But while the company’s growth and sales are up, its annual accounts show it has cut freight costs by \$13 million.

Coles denies there is a problem with safety in their supply chain. However an audit this year of three transport operators at the Coles Distribution Centre at Eastern Creek in NSW found 126 breaches of National Heavy Vehicle Regulations. These included drivers forced to mark loading and unloading time as rest time and drivers denied their rest time during more than 11 hours driving.



Brisbane: high school teachers plan stop-work over students’ rights

16 Nov – Brisbane teachers will take industrial action on a human rights issue for the first time, continuing their campaign in protest against the Government’s detention of an asylum-seeker high school student.

Mojgan Shamsalipoor, 21, was months away from graduating at Yeronga State High School when she was forcibly removed from the Brisbane Immigration Transit Accommodation Centre in August and taken to a Darwin detention centre after a failed visa application.

Teachers at the school will hold a stop work meeting at 1:40pm on Tuesday as part of an ongoing campaign regarding the fight for the rights of Ms Shamsalipoor and other students on bridging visas, or no visas.

Students also will refuse to go to class, holding a sit-in to coincide with the industrial action, according to the school’s Queensland Teachers Union representative Jessica Walker.

Ms Walker said it would be the first time industrial action would be taken in relation to a human rights issue.

“We have grave concerns for Mojgan’s emotional wellbeing, and that of other students who are experiencing increased distress and a sense of hopelessness,” she said.

Ms Shamsalipoor fears returning to Iran, having arrived in Australia by boat in 2012 after fleeing sexual abuse and an arranged marriage to a man in his 60s.

Her asylum claim was rejected last year after she had lived in Australia for two years on a bridging visa.

Sydney: Solidarity Actions Against the North Wales Mega Prison



10 Nov – In response to a call for a week of actions against the North Wales mega prison, some anarchists in Sydney made some small actions.

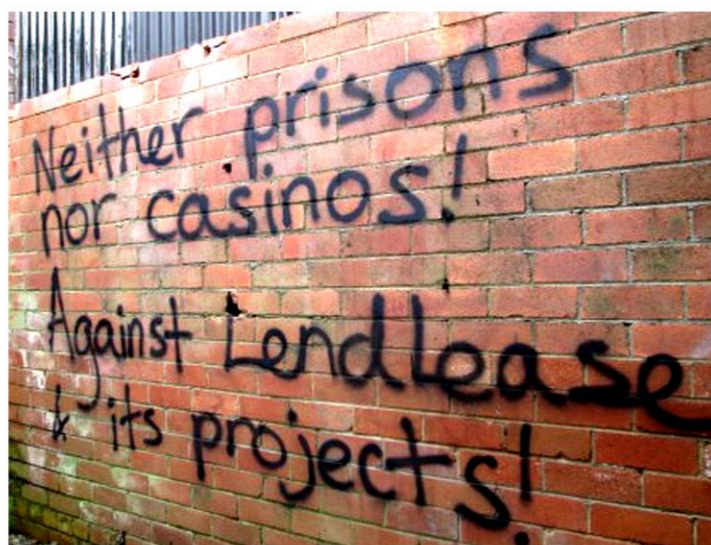
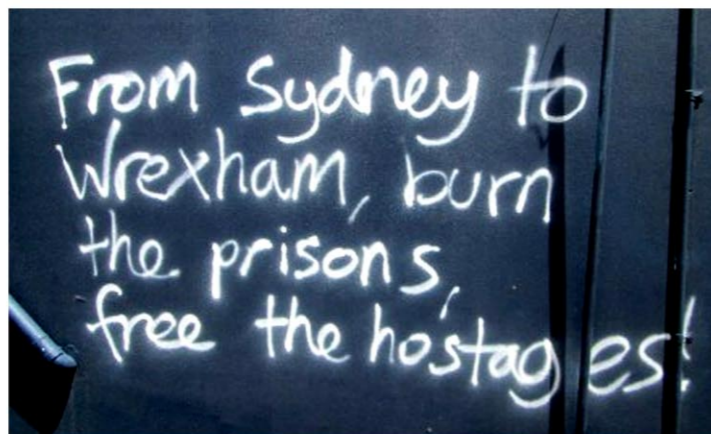
The primary contractor involved in the Wrexham Prison Project is Lendlease, an Australian based construction company. In Sydney Lendlease is currently involved in a huge casino project called Barangaroo. The project has major state government backing and is responsible for the social cleansing of Millers Point, the last working class district in inner Sydney.

Over the past two years there has been consistent resistance to the project and to the eviction and sell-off of the remaining social housing in the area. Numerous buildings in the area have been squatted, and the struggle continues.

In the first week of November, dozens of slogans against Lendlease and its projects were painted on walls across Sydney. Lendlease banners were torn from their construction sites, repainted and hung from highway bridges.

We extend solidarity to our comrades in Wales and all those fighting for a world without cages.

Neither prisons nor casinos.
For revolution.



Melbourne: Protesters disrupt Pyne's Vic book launch



31 July – Student protesters smashed a glass door panel in an attempt to storm a building where federal Education Minister Christopher Pyne was launching his new book.

They also blockaded the doors of the Docklands building, stopping some from entering the event, which was delayed for about 30 minutes until police regained control.

A beatbox blared music throughout the scuffle as the group of about 100 demonstrators, who were protesting against cuts to higher education funding, chanted slogans such as “no ifs, no buts, no education cuts”.

“I’d like to welcome those who made it through,” Mr Pyne told the audience on Friday night.

“We’re about two-thirds the number that RSVP-ed, so sadly I think about a third of the people who wanted to come couldn’t get through.

The National Union of Students organised the protest to express its opposition to the deregulation of university fees.

Members shouted “No cuts, no fees, no corporate universities” and jostled with police.

One female protester was arrested and charged with assaulting police, while three police officers were treated for minor injuries.



Perth: Fire destroys luxury car in Mount Lawley



31 July - A fire that destroyed a luxury car at a home in the wealthy inner city Perth suburb of Mt Lawley is being investigated by police.

The Mercedes, valued at \$110,000, burst into flames at a home in Clotilde Street just after 4:00am.

Firefighters were quickly on the scene and managed to prevent the blaze from spreading from the carport to the house.

The owner of the car, Callum McKenzie, said he was woken by noises outside his house just before the fire.

“My neighbour and I both heard voices” he said.

“I was half asleep and the next thing I heard there was a thud, and the next thing I heard some unusual noises, which I guess was the fire.

“I looked out my windows and I could see flames, and my neighbour’s already called the fireies.”

Mr McKenzie said he thought it was an arson attack, but he was thankful the vehicle was insured.

“The guys [firefighters and police] don’t know, they are going to investigate and come back to me.

“It’s a little concerning, the fact that someone may have done it.”

Police have stationed a guard outside the home pending an investigation by the arson squad later today.

Brisbane: Workers blockade port and refuse to unload boats



10 Aug – Protesting workers refuse to unload the first cargo ship to arrive at Hutchison Port operations since the company sacked 97 workers in Brisbane and Sydney via email and text message last week.

The ship Capitaine Tasman arrived at Port Botany in Sydney about 9:30am on Monday, but went back out to sea about an hour later still fully laden.

Staff at the Port of Brisbane are blocking the road to Berth 11, where a ship was due to dock Monday morning but failed to arrive.

Picket lines were drawn at ports in both cities after Hutchison Ports Australia axed staff in messages about 11:30pm last Thursday, citing substantial financial losses.

Chanting demonstrators in Brisbane said the late night dismissals were disgraceful and have vowed to continue the protest until the decision is reversed.

At both sites, trucks turned around and left as soon as they saw the rallies, while protestors in Brisbane prevented cars from entering the area.

The Fair Work Commission ordered striking workers back to work last Friday.

Federal Employment Minister Eric Abetz told the Senate that workers should abide by that decision to prevent further disruption.

“If you have an independent umpire, you have to accept their decisions, right, wrong or indifferent,” he said.

The Maritime Union of Australia is fighting the sackings through Fair Work Australia and the courts.

Bob Carnegie from the Maritime Union Australia (MUA) said his members were ready for a fight over the “horrific treatment of a group of average Australian workers”.

“We will win this dispute because our resolve is stronger” he said.

“Hutchison have all the wealth in the world, Lee Karshing the major shareholder of HPH, is worth \$46 billion, he’s the richest man in Asia.

“Well all of his billions of dollars can’t defeat us.”

The workers are defying a Fair Work Commission order, issued on Friday evening, to return to work.

But Mr Carnegie said they were acting on workplace safety concerns.

“The members who are rostered on have gone to work ... as a collective they have made the decision that when they walk into the terminal, that they would only work if they were offered a safe working environment, which it isn’t,” he said.

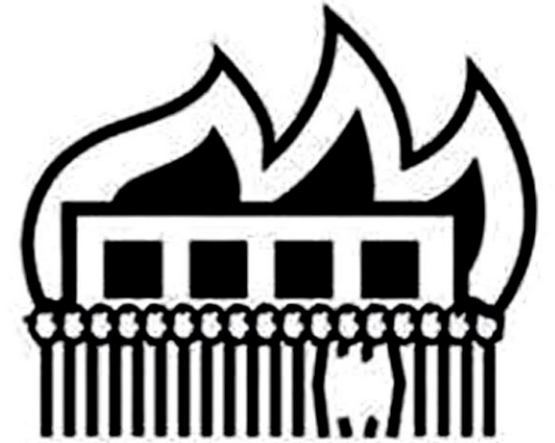
“The company has hired security guards on 457 visas that they brought in late at night over the water, not through the terminal ... and they have no maritime industry security clearance cards.

“It’s extraordinary ... these people are allowed by Hutchison and the Federal Government to just break all those rules and regulations for the idea that they can somehow break the back of the trade union organisation on the Australian docks.

“And to see that in this country the so-called security laws are being completely flouted by a major trans-national company”

SOLIDARITY WITH THE CHRISTMAS ISLAND RIOTERS

BURN THE DETENTION CENTRES.



DEPORT THE GOVERNMENT.



WELCOME THE REFUGEES.



**REFUGEE SUPPORT MILITIA
LET THEM IN YOU BASTARDS**



Last week, human teeth were found in a meal served to an asylum seeker in the Manus Island detention centre, just a few days after almost 100 asylum seekers reportedly suffered from food poisoning.

Speaking to Al Jazeera over phone on Saturday, Ian Rintoul, an Australian refugee advocate who is in touch with asylum-seekers on the island, said asylum seekers managed to call activists and inform them human teeth were found in a lunch meal served to a refugee.

The Australian government's Department of Immigration announced on Twitter that it is investigating the reports.

"A few days ago over 100 asylum-seekers and staff members were poisoned from the food at the Manus detention centre," Rintoul said.

"There has been constant problems with the food there. Refugees have complained about the quality of the food such as the smell from the meat provided.

"Refugees have also found flies and insects in their food several times.

"There are constant problems in these detention centres. Water is one of them. The sewage goes out to the bay and, if it rains, it washes up on the compound.

"The toilets are mostly non-functional too."

Rintoul said asylum-seekers find ways to contact refugee advocates and inform them of these issues, but of late attacks and raids on the centres have been mounted to confiscate the refugees' phones.

"Nothing will change. The problems are created by the detention centres themselves," he told Al Jazeera.

"Tensions have not been resolved since Reza Barati was killed in 2014. The Australian government has embarked on a brutal system."



Dutton confirms \$10m damage bill as more detainees moved



12 Nov – Immigration Minister Peter Dutton has confirmed the Federal Government is facing a \$10 million damage bill in the wake of this week's riot at the Christmas Island detention centre, with centre operator Serco suspending three staff.

Another 10 detainees were transferred from the island today, after seven detainees suspected of being involved in the riot were yesterday flown to a maximum security prison in Perth.

Just how many of the detainees were involved in the riots is not clear, as communication with people inside the compound has been limited since Tuesday.

Mr Dutton said on Wednesday people "need to understand what we're dealing with here" as he described the population at Christmas Island as "serious criminals" who had access to fuel and a chainsaw during the unrest.

But Refugee Action Coalition spokesman Ian Rintoul said the government was "overstating" its depiction of the centre as a place dominated by hardened criminals.

The department said on Wednesday afternoon: "Repairs are under way on accommodation compounds in the centre as a priority, with detainees accommodated overnight in temporary but secure parts of the centre. Reports of detainees sleeping in 'cages' are false."

The Department of Immigration and Border Protection has released footage and images showing extensive damage to the Christmas Island detention centre following rioting there.

Melbourne: Strike at Woolworth's liquor warehouse



17 Aug - Workers at Woolworths Melbourne Liquor Distribution Centre (MLDC) launched unprotected unlawful strike action in the early hours of Monday morning last week as a response to broken promises by management. It had been announced the week before that all new hires at the Laverton site would be through a labour-hire agency despite promises to the contrary made in EBA negotiations less than a year earlier.

The MLDC strike was organised and executed by rank and file union militants, to the genuine surprise of NUW union organisers and officials.

On day four of the strike, industrial action spread to other Woolworth's distribution centres in Hume and Barnawatha. The Hume DC afternoon shift joined the strike and the Barnawatha DC imposed an overtime ban whilst planning to join the strike.

This strike action continued in defiance of an order by the Fair Work Commission on Tuesday. When ordered back to work, strikers at MLDC burnt copies of the FWC order and announced they would not return to work until Woolworths agreed "no labour hire and no repercussions [for striking]".

Anarchist Affinity NUW members headed down to MLDC and joined the picket as part of a larger community support contingent. From here we watched NUW hierarchy sell the workers at MLDC short. By late Wednesday union leadership had decided to intervene and end the strike.

At a mass meeting on Thursday morning, NUW officials advised workers that a federal court injunction was coming that could not be defied. It would result in fines of up to \$10,000 and potentially jail time for the strikers. Union leaders claimed only way out was to authorise the leadership to negotiate a deal.

At the final mass meeting held at the picket on Thursday evening, union leadership presented the deal they had cut, arguing there was no alternative and that workers should endorse it. The militants who had called the strike fought for a continuation, but ultimately lost in a vote split roughly 70-30.

The compromise will in broad terms see labour-hire on the site during 'peak periods', subject to certain restrictions. They will be paid site rates and covered by the site EBA.

More concerningly, workers will face retribution for striking. All of the strikers will be subjected to 'counseling' and a six month written warning for unprotected action.

The MLDC strike was nonetheless amazing. Workers without significant support from their union took militant industrial action for four days, defying one of Australia's largest retailers and the misnamed Fair Work Commission. For a brief moment they held the profitability of one of Australia's largest corporations to ransom.

The MLDC strike may have accepted a compromise that in the end conceded labour-hire and disciplinary action for striking workers, but it also showed what is possible. The strike was one small but potent demonstration of the power that still exists on a picket line, and what even a small group of militants can achieve when they organise.

Our solidarity, support and love go out to everyone we met on the picket line.

Tennant Creek: Ten cars burned in suspicious fires



17 Aug - At least 10 cars have been burned and a historic building damaged after two separate fires that are being treated as suspicious at Tennant Creek in the Northern Territory.

Police Duty Superintendent Louise Jorgensen said the fires began about 1:00am in the main street of the town, with emergency services initially called to a car yard.

"At least 10 vehicles have been destroyed. Six are actually unidentifiable at this point," Ms Jorgensen said.

Authorities then discovered there was a grass fire in nearby Haddock Street.

"That has caused some serious damage to a vacant building, one of the historically significant ones in Tennant Creek," she said.

Ms Jorgensen said the two fires were considered suspicious.

"We are looking at links between the two," she said.

"The initial evidence is that the fires are suspicious.

Mount Isa: 10 year old boy to face court after fire destroys Pioneer Police Beat



23 Aug - A 10-year old boy accused of burning down a Mount Isa police post will appear in a children's court this week charged with arson.

The Police Beat in Short Street, Pioneer was destroyed just before 2am on Saturday.

Multiple explosions were heard as flames engulfed the timber and fibro Police Beat in the suburb of Pioneer just before 2am.

Everything inside the building, including ammunition, was destroyed, along with a police car.

It took firefighters an hour and a half to control the fire.

A 13-year-old girl and 10-year-old boy were taken into custody yesterday morning.

The boy was charged with arson and will be dealt with under the Youth Justices Act.

"About 30 people started a fight with the emergency response team in front of the medical [clinic] where officers left their stations and put the place in lockdown."

"They are setting fires everywhere," Mr Cuperka added.

"They started [on Sunday night]. They have broken into the canteen, into the property area, they started fires over there and now they starting in the compound.

"There are cars full of officers driving around the complex. They are just having a look through the window."

Another detainee, who stressed that he had not been involved in the riots, said "most of the compounds have actually been broken into, including the medical [compound]"

"The canteen, I can see from where I'm standing now, has been completely ransacked and is burning as I speak to you," he said. "It's a complete disaster zone.

"The compound that I'm in ... there's a lot of spot fires in there, all the cameras have been smashed up, all the kitchen has been smashed up, the offices have been breached and all the computers and everything has been broken up."

The Immigration Department said the camp's perimeter had not been breached and "the department and its service providers [were] working together to resolve the situation".

Mr Dutton said there had been an initial response by Serco officers and there would be "further responses from the appropriate authorities either negotiating or dealing with those people who have caused disturbances there".

The Christmas Island camp also houses New Zealand citizens being deported from Australia, as well as asylum seekers.

New Zealand Labour MP Kelvin Davis said he had been told detainees had "taken over the detention centre".

"I'm hearing that the guards have exited the detention centre, that fences have been torn down and that detainees in the segregated area are mixing with the mainstream detainees," he told the ABC.

"Some of them have been on that island for four, five years and, quite frankly, everyone's sick of being treated like animals and right now they're turning around and biting."

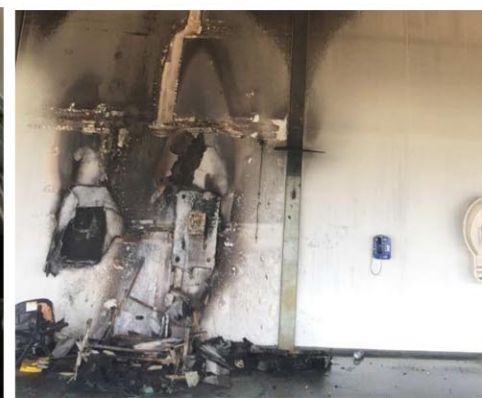
Mr Davis said he had been told at least one detainee had overdosed and the Emergency Response Team had taken 20 minutes to reach him.

"He told me about an asylum seeker who had taken an overdose of drugs. They were trying to get medical help for this guy, 20 minutes, and finally the Emergency Response Team managed to drag this guy out.

"I would like to think the authorities would take a step back and look to negotiate because I don't think these guys really want to riot... they would like a peaceful resolution of the situation, they certainly don't want to end up getting beaten up by the riot squad.

"A number of people have gone back to their individual cells and they are barricading themselves in."

Mr Davis said detainees on the island had told him they were angry about what they believed was a "cover-up" of the truth about how the man died.



Christmas Island: Massive riot at Australian detention camp after refugee's death



10 Nov – A riot has erupted at a controversial offshore refugee-detention facility in Australia following the death of an asylum seeker.

Immigration officers and refugees confirmed on Monday a standoff between detainees and officers at the detention camp on Christmas Island, located more than 2,000km northwest of Perth in the Indian Ocean, after the death of a Kurdish Iranian refugee.

Fazel Chegeni, in his 30s, was reportedly found at the bottom of a cliff.

“On Saturday morning [November 7] the department was advised of the escape of an illegal maritime arrival from Christmas Island Immigration Detention Centre [CI IDC] by service provider staff.

“The matter was referred to the Australian Federal Police who commenced a search and discovered a deceased person today [November 8],” the Australian government said in a news release.

The Department of Immigration said staff and security have been withdrawn for security purposes and denied a large scale riot was taking place.

“The protest action began when a small group of Iranian detainees took part in a peaceful protest following the escape from, and death outside the centre, of a detainee on Sunday,” its news release said.

Currently, there are about 285 asylum-seekers at the Christmas Island camp. Section 501 of Australia’s Migration Act permits the deportation of a non-Australian citizen who fails the “character test”, the portal for which includes any prison sentence longer than 12 months.

A member of RISE, a rights group campaigning for refugee rights in Melbourne, said refugees heard the Iranian man screaming for help, then later saw him in a body bag.

“The detention centre detains asylum-seekers under administrative detention methods, just like Guantanamo and just like Palestinian prisoners in Israel,” she told Al Jazeera over the phone.

“These cases cannot be taken to court and the refugee him or herself sometimes does not know what they are doing there. They could claim they are investigating the asylum seeker, but in the end it is punishment.

“Those who arrive by boat are not allowed to have mobile phones with them, but those who arrive by plane are. And if they manage to sneak in mobile phones, security does random checks where they take them away.”

“Between 2010 and 2011, there were five deaths in eight months in a detention centre in the suburbs of Sydney. Two detention centres were destroyed following that, the government does not learn from its past experiences.”

Twenty-five-year-old detainee Matej Cuperka told the ABC that ex-convicts who had their Australian visas cancelled after serving time in jail started the riot.

“The death [of the Iranian man] is very, very suspicious,” he said.

“They [the inmates who are rioting] believe Serco [private security] officers did something to him.

“I clearly heard him in the morning screaming for help, and the next thing I see they be bringing him in a body bag, and after that the whole place went into lockdown.

Goulburn: Prison escapee arrested following bed sheet escape



19 Aug – An inmate who used a sheet to scale a wall and break out of a New South Wales prison has appeared in court charged with escaping police custody and stealing a car.

Up to 20 police and the dog squad were involved overnight in the search for 28-year-old Stephen Jamieson, who is serving time in the maximum security facility in Goulburn for armed robbery.

Police said he was spotted driving a stolen ute on the Hume Highway east of Goulburn. Attempts to pull over the car were unsuccessful, and police pursued.

Road spikes were used to stop the ute at Pheasants Nest, to the north-east.

Jamieson allegedly tried to flee, but was arrested nearby, police said.

His escape has prompted Corrective Services NSW to order a review of security arrangements in the prison’s maximum security section.

Jamieson had been in segregation after being identified as a suspect over the discovery of a man-made hole in the floor which was found in the prison earlier this month.

Mr Severin said Jamieson escaped after cutting through a metal gate at the back of a small secure exercise yard that is attached to each segregation cell.

“He was able to get out of that exercise yard and then he had a range of bed sheets that he tied together and was able to swing them over the wall to then effect his escape by scaling that wall,” he said.

“It appears that he also had a pillow [that was] put around his waist and enabled him to make good his escape over the razor wire.”

Jamieson had been in custody since 2013 and was serving 12 years in prison for armed robbery.

Melbourne: Police officer run over after waking sleeping man in car

27 Aug - A police officer has been run over after apparently waking a man who was slumped over the wheel of his ute outside a fast food outlet in Melbourne’s south.

When officers alerted the driver to their presence he first reversed into a police car before driving forward over a male constable.

The ute, without number plates, then sped off down Warrigal Road in Heatherton, police said.

The officer was later taken to the Alfred hospital.

Melbourne: Banner in Solidarity with Anarchist Prisoners



31 Aug - In the early hours of Sunday, August 30th we attached a banner to a fence outside the Richmond railway station in inner-city Melbourne as a minimum expression of our participation in this year’s International Week of Solidarity with Anarchist Prisoners.

INSURGENT SOLIDARITY
WITH ANARCHIST PRISONERS!
FIRE TO THE PRISONS AND
THE SOCIETY THAT KEEPS
BUILDING THEM!

– some anarchists

Melbourne: Border Force operation cancelled as protest shuts down city streets

28 August- A controversial operation in Melbourne by the Australian Border Force (ABF) against people overstaying their visas has been abruptly cancelled following protests and chaotic scenes.

On Friday afternoon, just hours before Operation Fortitude was set to commence in central Melbourne, Chief Commissioner Graham Ashton called off the plans for a wide-scale police initiative.

Operation Fortitude was first announced by the Department of Immigration on Friday morning. A press release said officers from the federal government's new Australian Border Force agency would be stationed around Melbourne's city checking "any individual we cross paths with".

The press release sparked a fierce backlash on social media and later in protests that shut down one of the city's busiest intersections, over concerns that police and Border Force officers would use racial profiling to stop and search people for possible immigration fraud.

Human rights advocates said the operation raised fears of police using racial profiling to justify stopping people and that it risked a "militarisation" of the immigration system.

"If you commit visa fraud you should know it's only a matter of time before you're caught out," the initial Border Force statement said.

Around the same time, Victoria Police issued a statement expressing its support for the operation, which was also set to involve transport inspectors, the Sheriff's office and the Taxi Directorate.

Officers from the ABF and Victoria police had planned a press conference at 2pm Friday outside Flinders Street train station to talk about Operation Fortitude but the area was quickly overrun by a few hundred people protesting against the operation.

About 300 protesters gathered at Flinders Street Station shortly before 2pm and the arriving Border Force officers were forced to lock themselves in a station office. The protesters then took over the middle of the Flinders St intersection, banking up trams and causing chaos among the traffic. The protesters held up placards and chanted "border force off our streets"

The press conference was cancelled due to 'security concerns' and the entire operation cancelled just half an hour later.

The Border Force was established in July 2015 and reflects the federal government's tougher line on national security. It combined Customs and Immigration functions into one unit. This week the agency rolled out its new branding, including uniforms, which reportedly cost \$10 million.

Border Force officers have more powers than former department officials, including the power to detain offenders, carry guns, and gather intelligence. They can enforce migration laws, including the power to compel a person to produce documents such as visas and tax file numbers to check whether they are an unlawful non-citizen.

Lennox Head: Vandals destroy 4WD kiosk



6 Nov - A new four-wheel-drive kiosk has been destroyed by vandals a day after it was installed.

The kiosk was installed on Wednesday afternoon and the vandals smashed it with an axe on Thursday night.

A Ballina Shire Council spokesman said the vandals may be opposed to four-wheeled drives using the beach. Orr they may just have thought it was a paid parking machine.

The kiosk was meant to act as a permit dispenser so four-wheel-drivers could gain access to Seven Mile Beach.

The council's Public and Environmental Health Manager, Kerri Watts, said investigations are continuing.

"It's to assist the community being able to access their four-wheel-drive permits on the way to the access point."

It will cost \$12,000 to replace the kiosk which was meant to go live next week.

Ms Watts said the council won't give up on the permit-dispensing machine because it is in an ideal spot for access to the beach.

She said surveillance will be improved to deter further vandalism.

"What we will do, is we will go back and reassess the situation," she said.

Melbourne: Train stolen and derailed



11 Nov – Vandals have broken into a railway station in Melbourne, started a train and then derailed it.

Victoria Police believe the offenders broke into the train at the Hurstbridge Railway Station about 1:50am.

They managed to start the train and drive it forward, before running into carriages, fencing and security boxes. Metro Trains chief executive Andrew Lezala said the incident had caused about \$3 million in damage and a key would have been needed to start the train.

"Somebody has gained access to one of our trains and managed to motor it up," he said.

Keys for Metro trains are not kept in the carriage but are looked after by drivers and key staff.

The train was an X-Trapolis model, which operates on a universal key system – meaning any train of that model can be started with the same key.

Mr Lezala said they were "occasionally stolen" and those involved may have obtained one through the black market.

"This is a severe act of vandalism. I am very concerned that somebody has been able to do this and we will work with the police to apprehend these people.

"This is a situation that we just cannot tolerate."

Sergeant Mark Chetcuti from Victoria Police said police were investigating the circumstances around the incident.

"They've used a rock to force the lever and put the train in motion, causing that to drive for 40 to 50 metres and basically just destroying everything in its path," he said.

Services on the Hurstbridge line will be suspended for a number of days while the clean up continues.

Leah Waymark from Metro said major delays could be expected. "It's going to take us a long time to recover this, we're not sure exactly how long," she said.

She said a crane would be needed to repair the damage.

"There's quite extensive works, there's damage to the overhead, there's damage to the trains – three of the four cars are fully off the tracks here, so the extent of the damage is quite extreme," she said.



Yidindji: Murrumu Walubara Yidindji renounces citizenship to reclaim sovereignty

2 Nov – A small Aboriginal tribal group that has established its own government and renounced legal ties with Australia aims to make history by entering into the first Indigenous treaty with the Commonwealth.

The Sovereign Yidindji Government, whose lands stretch south of Port Douglas, through Cairns, inland across the Atherton Tablelands and 80km out to sea, says it wants to help Australia overcome the legal conundrum of operating on Yidindji territory without consent.

“The Commonwealth of Australia does not have consent or a treaty to enter Yidindji territory.”

Murrumu Walubara Yidindji, the foreign affairs minister, said his government was similar to the Vatican City State – with its own laws, language and institutions.

To the Yidindji people, Australia is a “foreign entity”.

“The Commonwealth of Australia does not have consent or a treaty to enter Yidindji territory, so we had to show the leadership to create our own institutions of government,” Murrumu told Fairfax Media on a visit to Sydney.

“It doesn’t have any validity in law.”

Formerly a journalist known as Jeremy Geia, Murrumu has renounced his Australian citizenship, relinquished his passport and bank accounts, and eschews Australian currency.

“Australia, we can see the injury you’ve got,” he said.

“We can cure it and we’re not going to send you a bill for it. It’s a hearts and minds game and all we’re saying is we have our own jurisdiction.”

Since early last year, around 40 people have taken the citizenship pledge to join the Yidindji tribal people, who also have their own driver licensing system.



Murrumu was pulled over by Queensland police on Sorry Day in May this year and charged over allegedly driving an unregistered vehicle without a licence, he said.

He did not show up to court to defend the charges and said he had no idea how the case against him had progressed through the state’s legal system.

“It’s got nothing to do with me,” he said.

He is unsure how he will achieve international travel on a Yidindji passport, but is reaching out to countries like Russia and Venezuela to establish diplomatic relations.

The Yidindji government has also sought meetings with the Australian government, but is yet to get a response.

“What we’re saying to the Commonwealth of Australia is: come and sit down with us, have a cup of tea and let’s talk about entering a memorandum of understanding to grant you consent to enter our territory,” Murrumu said.

“This could be a blueprint for true reconciliation.”

Professor Megan Davis, a constitutional law expert and chair of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples, said there was nothing stopping the Commonwealth from today entering into a treaty with the Yidindji government.

“People might think it seems a little bit out of the box, but it’s not. It’s quite a conventional way to do it,” she said.

“It’s a ‘Field of Dreams’ principle: build it and they will come.”

The impediments to treaties, like those in Canada and New Zealand, were political, not legal, the University of NSW academic said.

Bendigo: Anti-muslim and anti-fascist protesters clash

30 August – The centre of the Victorian city of Bendigo was shut down as several hundred people gathered to protest against anti-Islamic groups and show their support for a planned mosque.

Victoria’s planning tribunal approved a permit for the city’s first mosque earlier this month.

On Saturday anti-fascist groups held rallies in opposition to a protest by the anti-Islam group United Patriots Front (UPF), which opposes the mosque.

The anti-racism demonstrators chanted: “Muslims are welcome, racists are not” and “Nazi scum off our streets”.

Large numbers of police officers were on the scene to keep the two sides apart.

Several clashes broke out but were contained by police.

The different groups continued to try and circle around police lines to have a head-on confrontation, but were kept apart.

Some protesters from both sides wore masks to hide their identity and some residents said they were afraid of what was going on.

One angry resident said it was “absolutely ridiculous” the protests had shut down the centre of town.

Another called it a hindrance to people going about their normal daily business, while a visitor called the protests “confrontational”.

At one point, protesters clashed after an Australian flag was burned by the anti-racist demonstrators. Police used capsicum spray on the anti-Islam protesters who were trying to push through the police line.

Following the rally a 26-year-old North Melbourne woman was detained and issued two infringement notices after she was accused of burning a flag.

The infringements, \$607 dollars each, were issued for ‘behaving in a riotous manner’ and ‘depositing burning litter’.



Lithgow: 'Calm restored' after prison unrest

3 Sept – Prison authorities say they have regained control following unrest at a maximum-security prison in NSW.

About 35 male inmates refused orders to return to their cells from a day room at the Lithgow Correctional Centre about 3.15pm, Correction Services NSW says.

The prisoners jammed open the door to the day centre, set a small fire and threw a television and garbage.

The segregation of a prisoner on Wednesday was the source of the unrest, Corrective Services NSW Assistant Commissioner Kevin Corcoran said in a statement.

The inmates were forced back to their cells shortly before 4pm as prison guards used tear gas to quell the unrest, he said.

"The unit where the disturbance occurred will be locked down for the next few days while disciplinary action and possible charges are considered.

Seacombe Gardens: Stolen car hits South Australian police officer

2 Sept – A South Australian police officer has been hit by a stolen car at Seacombe Gardens.

The car hit the officer as he tried to stop it being stolen.

The officer was taken to hospital with hip injuries.

Officers found the white sedan, which was involved in the incident, abandoned near a bank at Colonnades, Noarlunga Centre, at 3:30pm.

They are still looking for the driver and his passenger.

Bassendean: Parents stage blockade to halt destruction of oval



8 Sep – Parents at Bassendean Primary School, in Perth's east, have stepped up their protest to stop a car park being built on a section of the school's oval by mounting a blockade to prevent work going ahead.

A \$1.3 million administration block is being built on the school's existing car park, and the Education Department said planning regulations meant 15 per cent of the school's playing field must be removed to create 22 new car bays.

Parents of children at the school argue there was insufficient consultation before the building plans went ahead and that the car park will rob students of outdoor green space.

The contractor had already begun work on the car park, but around 20 protesters arrived at 6am Tuesday and successfully prevented construction workers from entering the building site.

Parent Kylie Turner told journalists that the group felt they had no other option.

"We have sent letters, we've sent emails, we've had meetings with the school and meetings with the department and so far our protests have fallen on deaf ears," Ms Turner said.

"We are here today because nothing we do seems to get their attention.

"Unfortunately we have to have a knit-in to get them to have a conversation."

Despite building work already being underway, Ms Turner said the protestors believed it was still possible to get plans changed.

"I think we can be successful," she said.

Uluru: Unknown man sabotages climbing chains at sacred site



28 Oct - Senior Aboriginal people in Central Australia are praising the actions of a man who cut a climbing chain on Uluru to stop tourists going up the rock, with one saying it could be an opportunity to stop the practice for good.

A man who wished to be known only as "John" claimed responsibility for cutting the climbing chains and said he felt a close connection to the site and wanted to stop people climbing on it.

The man called up ABC radio and said he visited Uluru for the 30th anniversary of the handback of the site to the Anangu people, held over the weekend.

He said he wanted to meet with the Anangu people while he was there but did not seek permission from the traditional owners of Uluru before he went up the rock late on Sunday night and cut the climbing chains.

However, he said, since cutting the chains he had spoken to Anangu elders and they were in full support of his actions.

On Wednesday, Central Land Council chairman David Ross praised John's actions. "Whoever John is, God knows, but God bless him," Mr Ross said.

"He has done something to I think bring attention and in order to get people to listen properly. I imagine this is something that has got people's attention and we can start dealing with things I think, well hopefully, much more seriously," he said.

Mr Ross said it may be a chance for the joint management committee of Anangu people and Parks Australia to have the chain completely removed from Uluru.

"It is an opportunity here and now to remove it completely" he said.

In a statement to journalists, Parks Australia, who co-manage the park with traditional owners, said due to safety considerations the climbing track would remain closed for the time being.

Parks Australia also said the damage was being assessed, and options were being reviewed.

"We'll discuss the way forward with the park's board of management... We're investigating the incident. There are potential breaches of Commonwealth law and a range of penalties could apply."

Keith Aitken, who is an Aboriginal elder from the Mutijulu community that is located at the base of Uluru, also welcomed the actions of John.

"He is actually a hero if you ask me. He is a hero. I wanted to do it myself but it meant that I would have to climb something that is sacred to Anangu people, and Anangu people are my people," he said.

John said he took bolt cutters to Uluru intending to cut the chain, and hid in bush for about four hours on Sunday evening after crowds had left.

"Once it hit about 11 o'clock at night I had all my equipment there with me and up I went. I started from the 10th pole and worked my way down. I only got four done, but it wasn't about how many I was trying to cut.

"It was just about raising awareness about it for Aboriginal people, as it [climbing Uluru] breaks many of their laws."

Local Aboriginal elder Vince Forrester said traditional owners were aware the chains had been cut. He said any repairs to the safety chain would require approval by Uluru's Board of Management, who could decide against it, and potentially halt the climbing for good.

Sydney: Protestors occupy Australia PM's office

15 Oct – A group of about 20 protesters occupied the Sydney office of Australia's Prime Minister today, demanding an end to the long-term detention of asylum seekers in the Pacific.

Malcolm Turnbull, who ousted former PM Tony Abbott in a party coup last month, was not in his office at the time.

Pressure is mounting on him to act on conditions at detention centres in Nauru and Papua New Guinea, after reports of systemic abuse and sexual assault and criticism by the United Nations and human rights groups.

Australia receives nowhere near the number of asylum seekers that try to reach Europe, yet successive governments have vowed to stop asylum seekers reaching the mainland by boat.

Perth: Fire destroys high school classrooms



17 Oct - A transportable classroom has been destroyed by fire at a Perth high school, with two other classrooms badly damaged.

Fire crews were called to Lakeland Senior High School in South Lake just after 1:00am on Saturday.

One classroom was destroyed and two others damaged.

Police said the classrooms were surrounded by a fence, which did not appear to be tampered with.

The damage is estimated at \$200,000.

The police arson squad are investigate the fire, which they are treating as suspicious.

Hobart: Police arrest University of Tasmania rooftop protester



21 Oct – Police have arrested an environmental protester perched on the roof of the University of Tasmania's Sandy Bay campus.

Student group Fossil Free UTAS said the university has refused to meet to discuss its demands that the uni divest investing from coal.

The group unfurled three banners and protester Brodie Jeavons refused police requests to come down.

Police were eventually sent up to arrest him and charged him with trespass.



Charleville: Police charge man with vandalism of War Memorial

26 Oct - Police in south-west Queensland have charged a man over the vandalism of the Charleville War Memorial.

The 19-year-old man is due to face at least one count of wilful damage allegedly committed in the early hours of Saturday.

Senior Sergeant Rieck said thanks to closed-circuit TV, police were able to act quickly.

"Obviously the police used a number of methodologies to investigate this matter, however, one of them, namely CCTV, is vital."

Cairns: Former Army nurse planned to blow up HMAS Cairns after rape claims ignored, court hears

23 Sept - A far north Queensland court has heard a former Army dental nurse planned an attack on Cairns naval base after she was allegedly raped by a fellow soldier.

Kalisa Winn, 32, appeared at the Magistrates Court in Cairns yesterday, charged with possession of petroleum fuel with the intent to commit a crime, mainly arson.

Police Prosecutor Sergeant Matt Rose told the court Winn sent several text messages to her mother which said she was planning to blow up HMAS Cairns.

"She sent a series of text messages to her mother, saying she was tired of being treated like shit... and that she was handy with fuel" Sergeant Rose said.

"Overall, her intent was to blow her car up under the gas main of HMAS Cairns.

The court heard Winn's mother alerted police and she was arrested in January.

Police found her car loaded with jerry cans of fuel and more fuel was found at her apartment in Cairns, totally more than 40 litres.

They also searched her phone, where they found photos of the fuel in her car and at her apartment.

They also found Google searches of the HMAS base.

Her lawyer, Roger Griffith, said his client was raped in her room at Randwick Army barracks while a corporal in 2011.

It was reported to the Australian Defence Force and New South Wales Police, but Mr Griffith said the information was never acted on.

"It came to nothing," he said.

"She was ostracised by others and she sought discharge from the ADF."

Goulburn: Inmates isolated after NSW jail riot

23 Sept - Seven inmates have been isolated after a riot at Goulburn jail in which guards used tear gas to subdue prisoners.

The riot erupted on Saturday afternoon after indigenous inmates lost 'a good behaviour privilege' (a monthly barbeque) for verbally abusing NSW correctional staff.

The prisoners reportedly armed themselves with homemade weapons, threatened guards and smashed through an internal fence.

"Inmates caused damage to yard fencing and equipment which will undergo repairs," a corrective services spokesman said on Monday.

Guards and specialist officers used tear gas to break up the rioting prisoners and segregated seven inmates.

Four prisoners sustained minor injuries.

No corrective services staff were hurt.

Authorities are investigating the incident and will take further disciplinary action against those involved.

Sydney: Prison escapee on the run for more than two months found in kitchen cupboard

4 Oct – A prisoner who escaped a minimum security jail in New South Wales more than two months ago has been arrested after being found hiding in a kitchen cupboard.

Myles Fergus Wilson, 58, was reported missing on July 24 after a check of inmates at St Heliers Correctional Centre in Muswellbrook, north-west of Newcastle.

After a search turned up no sign of Wilson, he was reported as an escapee to local police and extensive investigations commenced, police said.

On Sunday night, officers found the man hiding in the kitchen cupboard of a home at Alford's Point, in south Sydney.

He was arrested and taken to Sutherland Police Station, where he was charged with escaping lawful custody.

Melbourne: Transfield offices redecorated



11 Sept – The Melbourne offices of Transfield/Broadspectrum underwent a much-needed redecoration on Friday with the words “Torturers, child abusers, murderers and rapists’ sprayed over their entrance.

Melbourne: Meter vandals steal CCTV cameras

14 Sept – A Melbourne council installed CCTV cameras to stop parking meters being vandalised – but vandals have stolen the cameras.

The Maribyrnong City Council put in the five CCTV cameras after local traders refused to give up footage of new parking meters being vandalised. But on Saturday the cameras, which were installed to monitor the vandalism, were stolen from the street, community group Yarraville Village Says No to Paid Parking says.

The group say they are not behind the vandalism or camera thefts.

Parking meters were installed by the council last month, which has angered local traders who say paid parking will kill the shopping strip.

The meters have been smashed up three times and slugged rate payers more than \$20,000 in repair costs.

ACT: Court hears that man with molotov cocktails set cop alight



21 Sept - A man who allegedly set a police officer on fire near the Canberra Airport last year was carrying three Molotov cocktails, the ACT Supreme Court has heard.

David Percival Burnett, 44, has pleaded not guilty to four charges including setting a police officer alight, leaving him with burns to his legs.

Prosecutors allege Burnett had three Molotov cocktails with fabric wicks when he crashed his car into bollards outside a building at Brindabella Business Park in September last year.

The court heard the officer's clothing was set on fire when Burnett ignited one of the cocktails and threw it at him.

The incident ended in dramatic circumstances when Burnett was hit by a taser and arrested.

The officer was taken to hospital for treatment but escaped serious injury.

WA: Escapees from Greenough prison caught by police

22 Sept – Sadly two prisoners have been recaptured after escaping from a prison in Western Australia’s Mid West region and spending two days on the run.

Bryan Patric Symes, Robert James Flanagan and Lyle Brandon Ryan escaped from Greenough Regional prison about 9.30pm on Monday by scaling barbed wire fences, but Symes, 31, was recaptured hours later.

Flanagan, 25, and 20-year-old Ryan were recaptured on Wednesday, police said.

Sydney: Eleven arrested at Immigration Office



7 Oct – Eleven people were arrested today occupying the Department of Immigration and Border Protection’s Lee Street office in Sydney.

Around 20 protesters entered the building around midday demanding a Somali woman’s plea for access to abortion services in Australia be met, after she was allegedly raped while being held in immigration detention on Nauru. The protesters occupied the Department of Immigration and Border Protection building for around 90 minutes, before police moved in and made arrests, as 11 people failed to comply with directions to leave the building.

Pressure has been mounting on Immigration Minister Peter Dutton to allow the woman to receive medical care in Australia. The concern expressed over the woman seeking an abortion, who has been identified by media as ‘Abyan’ (not her real name), follows significant movement this week around the conditions of asylum seekers held on Nauru.

On Sunday the Nauruan government announced that the detention facility would become an “open centre” the following day, meaning the people held there will be free to roam the island. Then on Monday, it announced it will process the 600 asylum seekers still held at the centre by the end of this week.

But protester Erima Dall maintains that “offshore processing and so-called ‘re-settlement’ on Nauru will never be safe”.

“The constant rapes and attacks we have seen are not an accident – offshore processing is designed to be a horrible deterrent,” she said.

While details are still emerging about the exact changes to detention on Nauru, safety of asylum seekers in the community has been a major issue since people started to be released from closed detention.

Those found to be refugees and allowed into the community are not eligible to stay in Nauru permanently. Cambodia, which has agreed to take a number of refugees from Nauru, has facilitated the settlement of just four people since signing a Memorandum of Understanding — at a price of \$55 million — with Australia in September 2014.

“As long as the Australian government continues to dump vulnerable people beyond the reach of justice, they will continue to be preyed upon,” Dall said.

Melb: Activists disrupt Turkish government sponsored event

13 Oct – Rojava Solidarity activists disrupted the opening of a cultural event at the Melbourne Town Hall sponsored by the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the Turkish Embassy in Canberra.

Mid-way through a speech by a representative of the Turkish government, two activists made their way to the front of the stage and unfurled a banner that read: “STOP TURKISH STATE TERROR”, shouted slogans that included “Turkey is at war with it’s own people”, threw leaflets into the crowd before being roughly ejected by security.

While the majority of the audience were hostile towards the action there was a smattering of applause from people who obviously approved of the action.

Stop the Turkish state’s war against it’s own population!

Solidarity with the Kurdish and socialist movement in Turkey!

