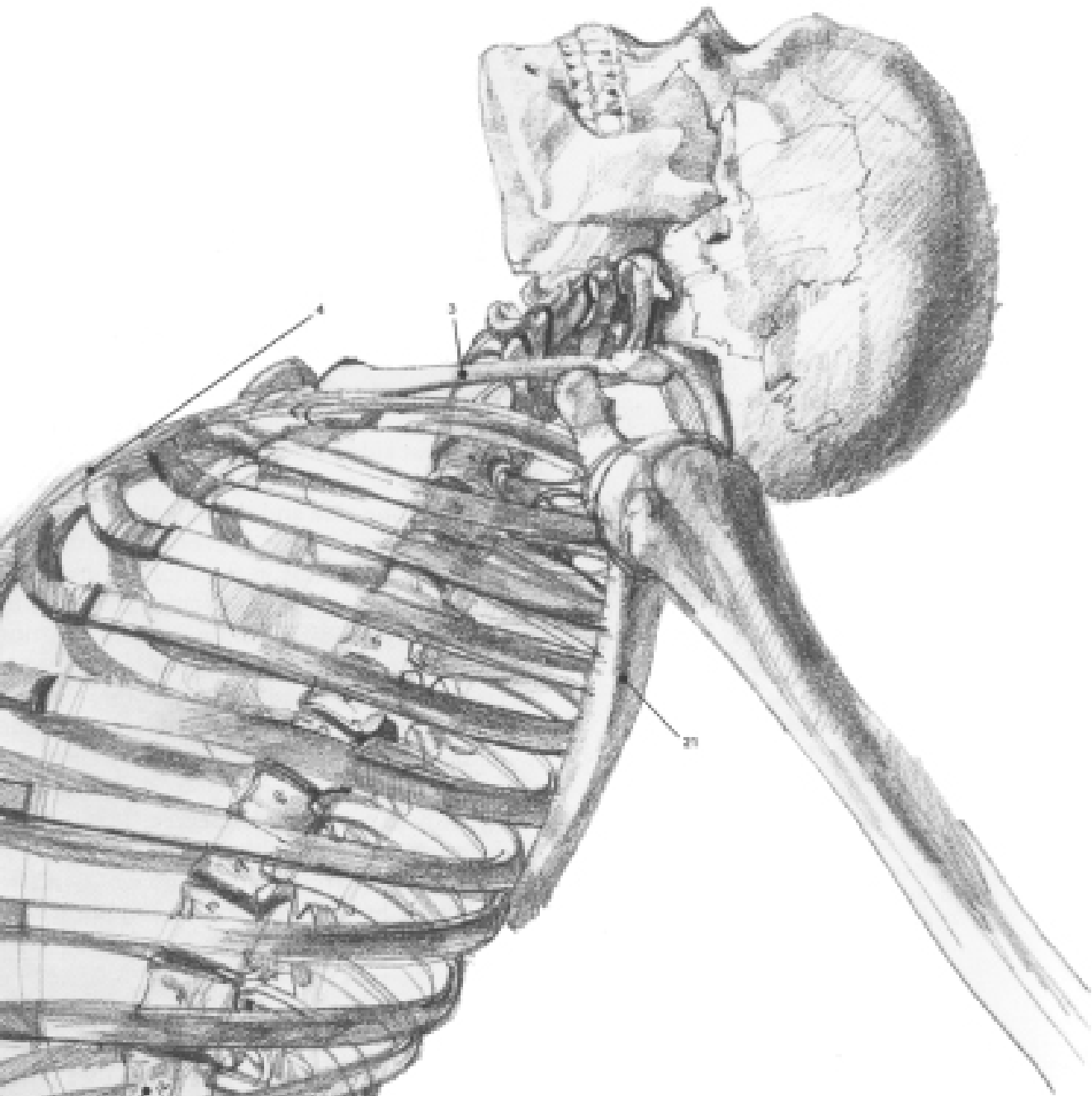


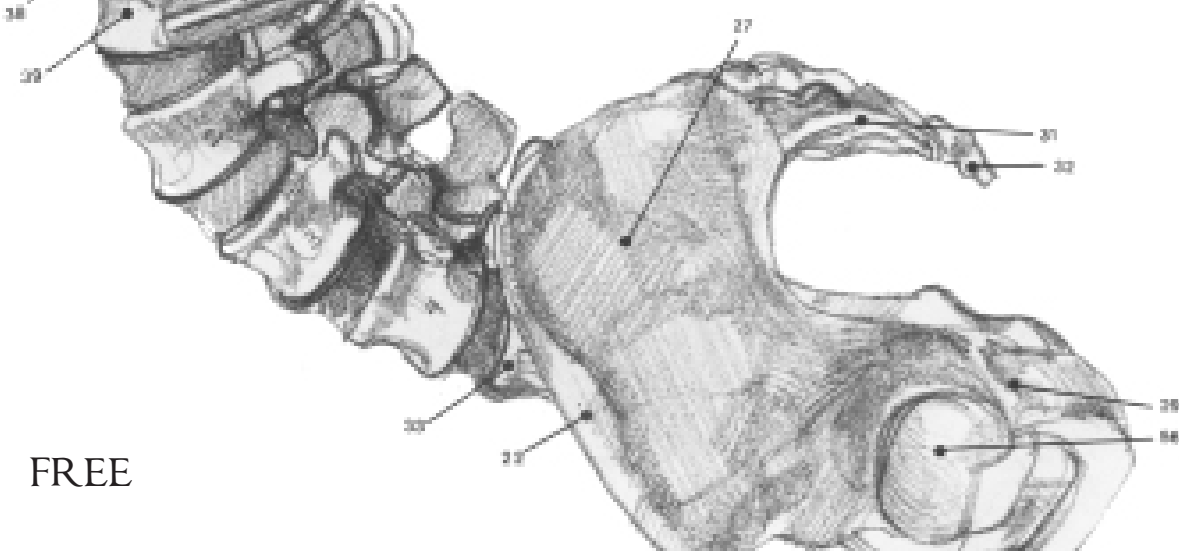
# FROM HERE ON IN

BRISTOL

SEPTEMBER 2012



A COLLECTION OF TEXTS & IDEAS TO  
PROVOKE & AGITATE



FREE

# Editorial

The writing of this brief introduction to the first edition of *From Here On In* has not been easy, in fact we discarded the previous two in their entirety. When trying to explain one's reason for undertaking an action it is very easy to dance with words; glorifying an intention rather than addressing the practical necessity of the act in question, however this does nothing but divert from the reality of the situation we find ourselves in.

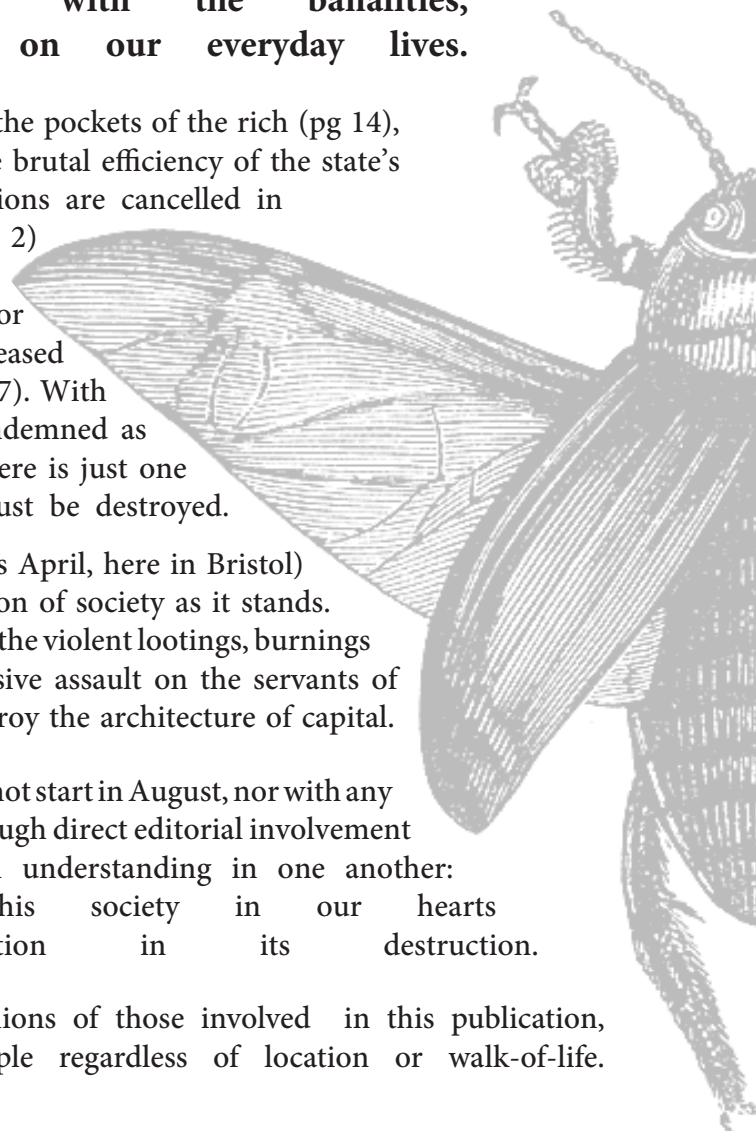
**We want a complete break with the banalities, brutalities and outright assaults on our everyday lives.**

Society demands that we work everyday to line the pockets of the rich (pg 14), while hired thugs are brought in to increase the brutal efficiency of the state's murderous servants (pg 11). Cultural celebrations are cancelled in favour of neighbourhood gentrification (pg 2) as the working class are constantly forced further from their homes to pave the way for an Olympic spectacle (pg 5), justifying increased surveillance of an already Orwellian society (pg 7). With any rebellion against this oppression openly condemned as the immorality of a 'feral underclass' (pg 9), there is just one conclusion we can draw: Capitalist society must be destroyed.

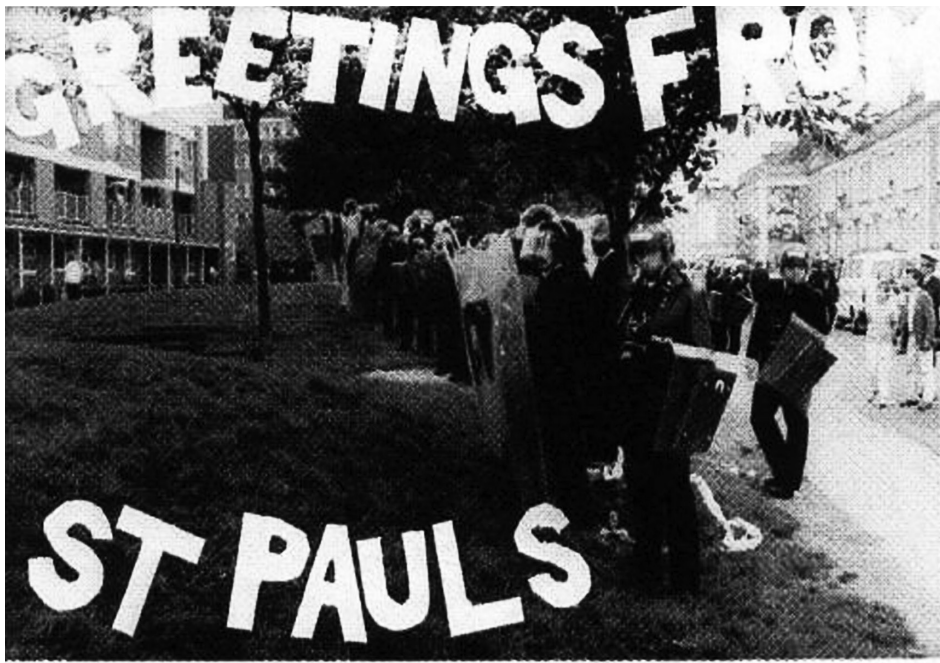
The social explosions of August, 2011 (as well as April, here in Bristol) presented something to us: a generalised rejection of society as it stands. Without putting words into the mouths of others, the violent lootings, burnings and property damage, combined with an offensive assault on the servants of state demonstrated the passionate desire to destroy the architecture of capital.

But the motive for producing this publication did not start in August, nor with any other 'event'. Every individual involved, be it through direct editorial involvement or anonymous contribution, found a mutual understanding in one another: that to hold a rejection of this society in our hearts demands the active participation in its destruction.

The contents of these few pages are the opinions of those involved in this publication, but the issues affect the majority of people regardless of location or walk-of-life.



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Tension in St Pauls is nothing new, but the issues causing it are constantly developing. These developments often result from new forms of harassment by the police and council regarding what they view as an undesirable area or problem within 'their' city. To actively counter their oppressive actions and reclaim some autonomy, it is important to understand what is going on in the neighborhood of St Pauls.

In April this year, after meetings with the police and Bristol City Council, the St Pauls Carnival Committee (SPCC) announced that the annual Afro-Caribbean street party would be cancelled. The cause of the decision was publicised as a funding shortage; supposedly the result of a lack of donations received from carnival attendees in previous years. However this was largely scapegoating, since the festival draws in well over £150,000 each year even before donations and private funding.

On the carnival website the SPCC released a statement concerning the cancellation, within which they disclose motivations other than funding: "7th July, presented health and safety risks, which would be extremely difficult to anticipate".

This concern was likely due to the outsourcing of 404 officers of the Avon and Somerset constabulary to London for Olympic events over this period. Lack of policing jeopardised many local events during the course of the Olympics. Security culture evidently makes it ever more difficult to simply have fun without state control.

The fallacy of the excuses became fully apparent when the policing of the fascist EDL march held in July in Bristol (an event that was as much a concern for health and safety), received the national contribution of 1000 officers, and a budget of £500,000.

If policing and funding are such an issue why is it that fascist marches are authorised whilst celebrations in St Pauls are cancelled?

St Pauls is an area perceived as problematic by the council as it has a tradition of high crime rates and anti-police undercurrents, whilst also positioned geographically at the city centre's north-eastern gateway between Bristol's newly developed centre of commerce, Cabot circus; the middle class area, Montpelier, and its up and coming bohemian 'cultural quarter', Stokes Croft.

The fear of a return to last summers riots (demonstrated by media headline's such as "Why looters can't wait for the Olympics to begin" - Daily Mail) adds to council concerns about St Pauls. St Pauls is renowned for its inner city rioting, particularly in protest against police prejudice, as in the 1980's and again in response to police repression after the Tesco and August riots of 2011. Racially biased Police 'stop and searches' have plagued minority ethnic communities in St Pauls for decades, and so the anti-police reputation of St Pauls is founded not just as ephemeral (short-term) reactions to the riots.

Considering past altercations with authority in the area, the criminal reputation of St Pauls, as well as the intensified redevelopment of the area, it is more than likely that motivations to cancel the carnival are actually attributed to **the wish to enforce a long- term social and cultural transformation of St Pauls.**

Over the years, the SPCC has become dramatically less representative of the St Pauls community and more of the wishes of local government. Currently the SPCC board has only six members, one of which is Carl Saunders, a Community Liason Officer for the Avon and Somerset Police. It is the second time in six years that the festival has been cancelled, and earlier this year the Evening Post reported that proposals had been made to move the festival from the St. Paul's area altogether. Clearly **these are not the decisions of the St Pauls community but of representatives of economic and state control.**

It is the protection of commercial interests that requires the dissemination of the current prevailing culture toward a more marketable and economically viable



culture. Hence motivations to inhibit the festivals occurrence lie beyond the current conditions of the summer of 2012, and reside in a long term process of the councils interest in the 'redevelopment' of St Pauls.

***"It cant be seen simply as a racial issue, it is about a certain police authority, it is about developing a style and technique of public order that is quasi military and that is not prepared to accept a degree of community autonomy, that is not prepared to accept community lifestyle, that is about quashing dissent"* - On the riots of the 1980's St Pauls. From the documentary 'Culture Clash- on the Front Line.'**

A CLASS AND CULTURAL DISPLACEMENT OF ST PAULS IS ALREADY UNDERWAY. It materializes in forms such as St. Paul's carnival being cancelled, but also in other initiatives such as the 'Neighborhood Renewal Program', which is already at work in St. Pauls and is a guise for gentrification - a practice of enticing wealth to an area, and in turn displacing the poorer classes.

The premise of the St Pauls Neighborhood Renewal Program is to tackle socio-economic deprivation by the introduction of a variety of housing types, with a wider variety of occupants, in order to create market confidence and encourage reinvestment. Bristol City Council planning favors larger family homes and high

quality design in order to "address the negative perception of St Pauls" - a council planning document. A prime example of the direction of this program and its impact on St Pauls is the Dove Lane Development.

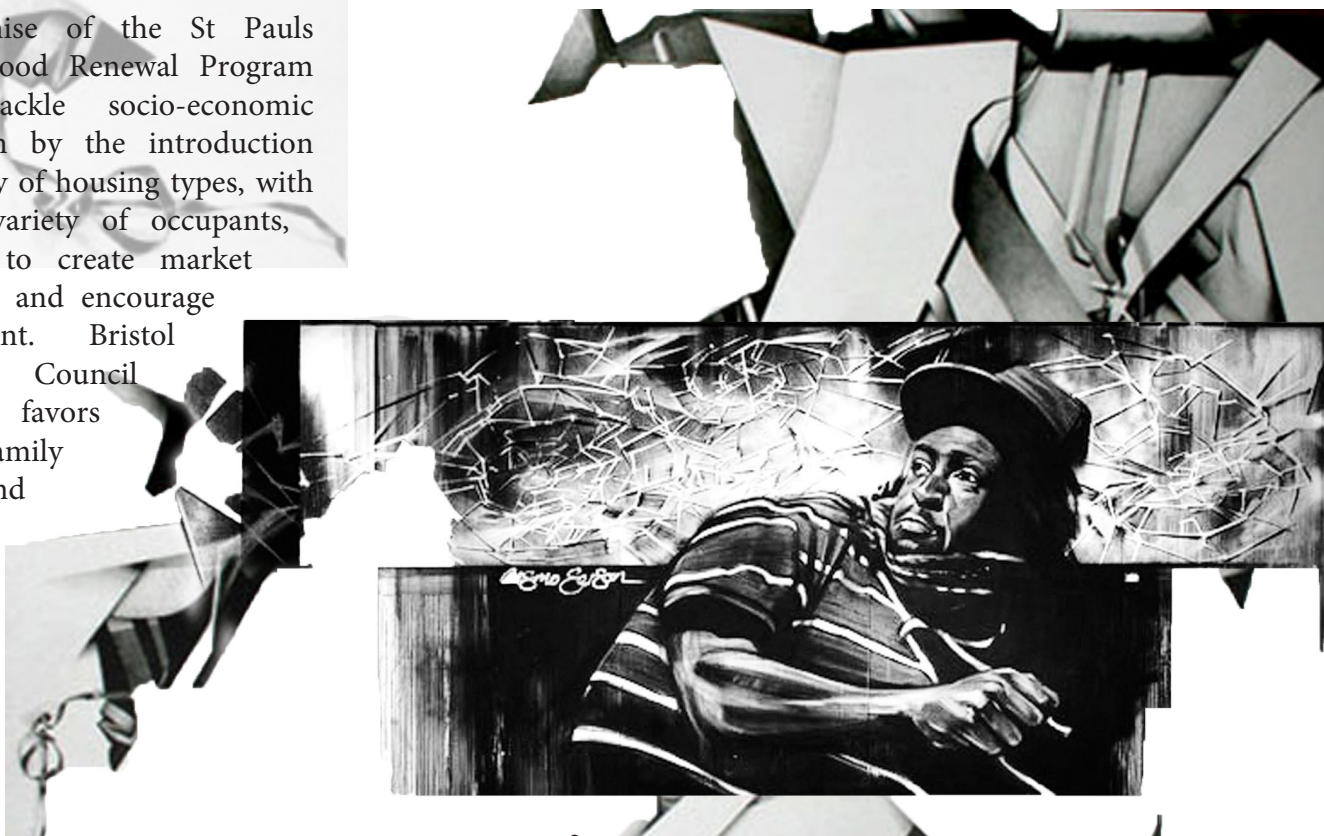
Bristol City Council employed architectural design consultants to produce a land use and development strategy for the Dove Lane area as for the purpose of "attracting and sustaining appropriate investment". The intention is to build a skyscraper 'Gherkin' style building encompassing luxury flats, alongside affordable homes, offices, shops and a school to replace the deteriorating Cabot Primary School. It would be placed at the gateway to Bristol, and compliment the commercial Cabot Circus development.

The actual final agreement with the developers (the PG Group) reduced the mandatory 40% of affordable homes stipulated by the neighborhood renewal program to 10%, and repealed the 5 million pound contribution to community schemes that the

council had guaranteed in development contracts.

The promises made to the Cabot Primary school were not kept, students are still waiting in a building that is currently "filled with asbestos, classrooms that smell of urine due to a lack of ventilation from the toilets, and a kitchen closed by the health authority" - Maryan Kampf - St Pauls Unlimited chair. All elements of the development that could have benefited the immediate community of St Pauls were dropped.

These realities again demonstrate the Councils 'commitment' to community involvement in decision making, and regeneration that would be genuinely beneficial to the current residents of St Pauls. It demonstrates a lack of care in providing a place for the poor in centres of commerce (other than as a cargo of workers to be transported in and out as capital requires). It makes clear their interest is not in sustaining the culture of St Pauls as it exists, but in stimulating commercial investment and middle class consumerism - nothing more.



The regeneration process and transformation of St Pauls is likely to accelerate as local housing allowance, awarded to private tenants, is soon to be cut, whilst landlords remain entitled to charge whatever they choose. In addition to this there is soon to be a 10% cut in housing benefit implemented for those unemployed for one year. It is a punitive policy that implies unemployment is due to laziness not a poor employment market, disability, mental health or simply a choice not to submit to an insulting routine of daily exploitation. Ultimately the poor will struggle harder and find residence in the city less plausible.

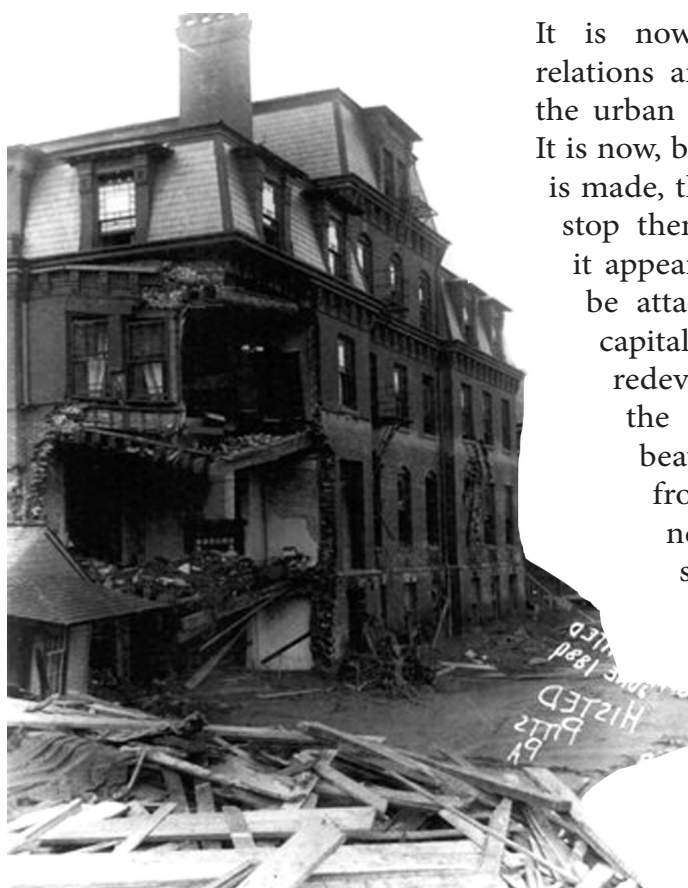
Class transformation and cultural erosion, married with harsh austerity cuts and high unemployment provides the necessary conditions to displace working class individuals living in St Pauls today. Displacement is more than the misfortune of not having trendy wine bars

at your doorstep. It causes a longer working day as travel time increases, higher travel costs, detachment from communities, and ultimately robs those it affects of quality of life. It is obvious through the governance of St Pauls that these effects are of little concern to the authorities as they are in fact facilitating them. We should be aware there are no benign decisions made, they all further the cause of their 'regeneration'.

Whether it be the cancellation of the carnival, policing of St Pauls, regeneration, evictions, or benefit cuts, **THESE REPRESSIVE MEASURES ARE ALL PARTS OF A COMPLEX NEXUS OF CAPITALIST DICTATORSHIP THAT WE EXPERIENCE IN BRISTOL. THEY MUST BE FOUGHT AND DESTROYED.**

It is now that these power relations are being etched onto the urban and social landscape. It is now, before further progress is made, that it will be easier to stop them. In whatever form it appears gentrification must be attacked as a project of capital. Under the guise of redevelopment the fists of the powerful continually beat us -the excluded- from our homes, neighborhoods and social communities whilst repressing any attempt to defend our lives as we choose to live them - without intrusion or external control.

**WE HAVE NO INTEREST IN PROTECTING ST PAULS OR THIS CITY AS IT EXISTS, FOR A CITY IS THE MANIFESTATION OF DAILY SLAVERY AND ITS REWARDS FOR THE RICH. INSTEAD WE DESIRE A STRUGGLE AGAINST GENTRIFICATION AS ONE FACET OF A TOTAL STRUGGLE AGAINST STATE, CAPITAL, AND THE SOCIETY BUILT ON THEIR PRINCIPLES.**



**THE FACTORY SOCIAL CENTRE IS A SQUATTED AUTONOMOUS SPACE IN ST. PAULS, BRISTOL, UK. IT HAS BEEN OCCUPIED SINCE MARCH 2010.**

**IT CURRENTLY PROVIDES HOUSING FOR A LARGE GROUP OF PEOPLE AS WELL AS A NUMBER OF PROJECTS. A COMPANY CALLED THE PG GROUP WANTS TO DEVELOP THE BUILDING.**

**WE DON'T WANT TO BE MOVED ON AND WE DON'T WANT THIS BUILDING TO BE DEVELOPED. WE ARE ASKING FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

**DEFEND THE FACTORY!**

**MARCH AND DEMONSTRATION WEDNESDAY 26TH OCTOBER ASSEMBLE PORTLAND SQUARE 12PM**

**AGAINST EVICTION & GENTRIFICATION! IN DEFENCE OF AUTONOMOUS SPACES!**

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: [HTTP://THEFACTORYINDIRECT.COM](http://thefactoryindirect.com)

The same PG group who won the Dove Lane contract with the council, are the same developers that in November 2011 evicted the residents of The Factory on Portland square, St. Pauls, an autonomous social centre intended to provide "a space for free activities, creativity and political discussion". They had promised the eviction would be in order to provide homes, offices, a cafe, art space and health centre. One year later the building remains empty. The only conversion the PG Group have completed in St Pauls is a flat on Portland Square that has been converted to a luxury flat, clearly unattainable to the lower income earners of St Pauls- the apartment has an estimated property value of £200,000.



**Post-script:** Unfortunately we were unable to get this publication out in time for the Olympics. However, we felt that to change the text to the past tense would mean a loss in its original flow.

# Bread &

Bread and circus was a political strategy created by the Roman Empire to prevent the population from revolting against those in power. The emperor would supply games and free bread to pacify the people. Being fed and having fun would ease their reasons to revolt....

Times have changed but not the rulers policies. This year, London is the stage of another social experiment under the facade of the Olympics; a distraction to placate as well as an operation to control and repress.

Spectacular events like the Olympics cannot be isolated. They exist beyond their physical spheres and time frame. They are used as a social experiment in which infrastructure and equipment are developed, knowledge built upon and personnel trained.

So far the budget for the games has quadrupled from the initial estimate of £2.4 billion. It now stands at £10 billion and there is money in reserve in case this amount is exceeded. This package includes £6bn from the government, nearly £2 billion from the Mayor of London and around £2 billion from the National Lottery<sup>1</sup>. Alongside the things to which one might expect The Olympic Committee to designate these funds, such as building and renovating Olympic related infrastructures, the Mayor has added that the money will go towards "the legacy that will follow the games". From this package more than £1 billion is to enforce security<sup>2</sup>.

The UK's leaders want to show the world that the riots from last year were just a smear on their country's history. By doing so, they openly undermine their carefully orchestrated and managed

'crisis'<sup>3</sup> by spending billions of pounds at a time while we are convinced to work more for less.

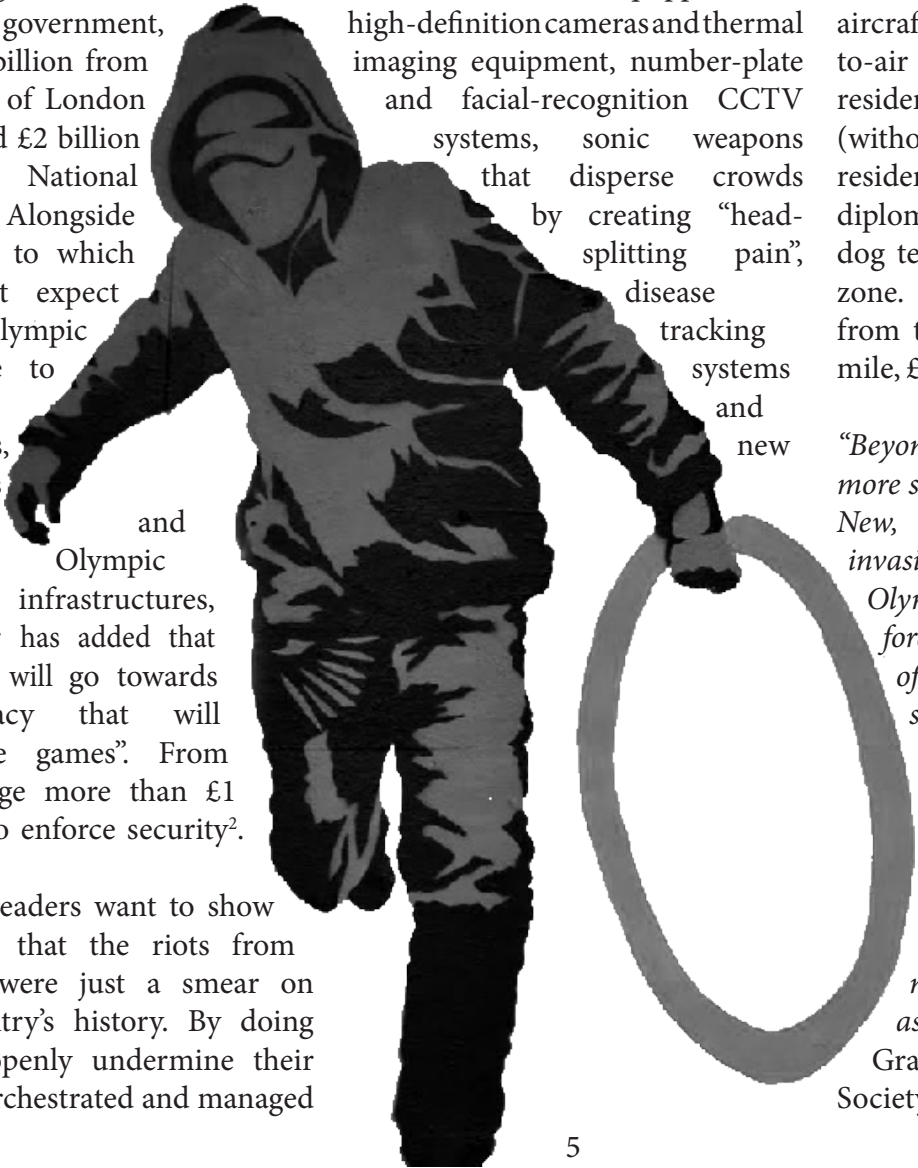
As the security measures indicate, dissent will be repressed by force, backed up by an apparatus of new legal measures and physical mechanisms promoted to us as: 'for your own protection'.

These mechanisms include: a new range of scanners, biometric ID cards (for workers and staff), unmanned drones equipped with high-definition cameras and thermal imaging equipment, number-plate and facial-recognition CCTV systems, sonic weapons that disperse crowds by creating "head-splitting pain", disease tracking systems and new

police checkpoints. The aim of this social experiment is to spread these technologies honed in places such as Gaza, Kabul and Baghdad during wars and moments of counterinsurgency.

This is also the UK's largest and most expensive military operation since World War II. As well as 10,000 police, and 23,700 security members, 13,500 troops<sup>4</sup> will be on the streets. An aircraft carrier will dock on the Thames, a Boeing surveillance and communications aircraft will patrol the skies, surface-to-air missiles stationed on top of residential apartment buildings (without permission of the residents<sup>5</sup>), a thousand armed US diplomatic and FBI agents and 55 dog teams will patrol the Olympic zone. This zone will be separated from the rest of the city by an 11 mile, £80m, 5,000 volt electric fence.

*"Beyond these security spectacles, more stealthy changes are underway. New, punitive and potentially invasive laws such as the London Olympic Games Act 2006 are in force. These legitimise the use of force, potentially by private security companies, to proscribe Occupy-style protests. They also allow Olympic security personnel to deal forcibly with the display of any commercial material that is deemed to challenge the complete management of London as a clean city..."* - Stephen Graham - Professor of Cities and Society at Newcastle University.



# Circus

## *The Olympic dream*



The Crown Prosecution Service has said that it has learnt from last year's riots. Offenders are set to be categorised administratively under a specially defined "Olympic offense" depending on where they commit a crime, if the 'victim' is related in any way to the Olympics and if the offense happens between May 1st and September 30th. Courts will sit for longer and "live-link" hearings will be used, justified by the potential for traffic disruption slowing the court system.

After the riots and now during the Olympics, new terminology has been attributed to offenses that already existed. State prosecution has used the method of creating categories, such as 'Olympic offenses', to justify extraordinary punishments. Offenses are no longer treated as individual incidents but as part of a spectacular moment. The mass media has reinforced this concept, directing public opinion towards the support of these measures. The result of this process is twofold; the sentences become justified by the title of the offense, and, the state of exception (extraordinary punishments, military personnel and equipment on the streets, increased private security, etc.) becomes normalised.

So it is clear that the least important aspect of the Olympics is what goes on inside the arena. They are an important opportunity to further the security boom.

The Olympics are the ultimate global security shop window through which corporations can advertise their latest hi-tech wares

to burgeoning global markets while making massive profits.<sup>6</sup>

Under the flag of "peace, friendship and respect", the sponsors, partners and suppliers make all the repressive security measures possible. It is not by coincidence that everywhere the flame of the Olympics goes there are people who fight against it.

They fight against the irreversible destruction made to their areas. They fight against enormous expenses at their cost. They fight for air, space and freedom. They fight for the end of Bread and Circuses.

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Notes:

<sup>1</sup>[http://www.metro.co.uk/news/41194-](http://www.metro.co.uk/news/41194-lottery-raided-to-fund-olympics#ixzz1xn5cGN4k)

[lottery-raided-to-fund-olympics#ixzz1xn5cGN4k](http://www.metro.co.uk/news/41194-lottery-raided-to-fund-olympics#ixzz1xn5cGN4k)

<sup>2</sup><http://www.guardian.co.uk/sport/2012/mar/09/olympics-security-bill-how-it-soared>

<sup>3</sup> The rationale of such an 'economic crisis' is foreign to us. We understand the concept of crisis, as used by politicians, to be a strategy or a tool that maintains the capitalist system: "*It is necessary to realise that capitalism thrives on crisis. Its order is an order of crisis management. For the rulers of the social order this is not a problem. They are well protected from the consequences of the crisis that they sometimes quite intentionally induce. Those at the bottom, those who have been excluded from any real control over the circumstances in which they live, suffer the consequences of this system.*" - Wolfi Landstreicher

<sup>4</sup><http://www.army-technology.com/>

<sup>5</sup><http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-17884897>

<sup>6</sup> [www.guardian.co.uk/sport/2012/mar/12/london-olympics-security-lockdown-london](http://www.guardian.co.uk/sport/2012/mar/12/london-olympics-security-lockdown-london)

### *Shattering the dream...*

The travel arrangements will be made by Thomas Cook. They will fly with British Airways into Heathrow Airport and sleep in a Holiday Inn. The V.I.P. will be driven in BMWs that are running on BP diesel. In their spare time they will drink Coca-Cola and eat McDonalds together with a Cadbury chocolate that they bought at Sainsbury's. They'll contact their families through BT on a Samsung phone or an Acer PC and will buy some Adidas souvenirs with a VISA card that UPS will deliver. To access their money Lloyds TSB will be there for them. The lights of their victories will be powered by EDF, their times will be measured by Omega and transmitted by Panasonic. They will do all of this under the eyes of the cameras supplied by CISCO and by the hand of some G4S member...



# RECOGNISING, EXPOSING AND CONFRONTING SURVEILLANCE

Surveillance is a vast topic to try and consider in a short text. From the extensive databases of personal information to the complex, ever-changing technologies, CCTV (closed circuit television) is a fragment in this state surveyed culture, yet it is the visual side of spying on our lives that is encountered daily on the streets of Bristol. This will be the first in many texts looking at surveillance, from the drones during the Olympics to the relevance of surveillance during the Stokes Croft convictions.

Bristol is currently part of a surveillance culture in Britain that is out of control. Figures suggest that Britain is home to 20% of the world's

population of CCTV cameras, despite being home to just 1% of the world's population: that's 4.2 million cameras one for every 14 citizens.

CCTV spies on all that moves in its terrain. On every major road that enters Bristol and nearly every street corner, over 700 cameras trace and track us. They are a mechanism in a system of state control entwined with the police, media and the establishment they protect in order to create vast databases of suspects.

CCTV has become an unwanted normality on our streets. In London, studies suggest that you are caught on camera on average at least 300 times a day. However, surveillance by no means stops with the visual

part of dignity or privacy is left un-scrutinized. From your emails, phone calls, txt messages and social networking to the shops you spend money in, your bank accounts and where you draw money from, everything is watched, monitored and stored. From the collecting of this private information to the storage of it, it is a multi-billion pound industry that is rapidly developing.

This year transport for London (tfl) released figures that clearly show how much CCTV is used for convictions. TfL operates 82,826 CCTV cameras, yet only 8.4% of footage from these were used by police in the last twelve months. The metropolitan polices' own research that showed less than one conviction occurred for every 1000 cameras in the capital, even though in numerous cases hundreds of hours are presented as evidence.

(Usually the quality of the



Surveillance, in the interest of the state, profit & control is, and continues to be imposed over the entire social landscape.



cameras is not even good enough to identify the individual).

The industry of surveillance is a clear way of showing that what is imposed on society is only in the interests of the corporations and their behind-closed-doors relationships with the police. **It reinforces a divide between the rich and the poor, the accused and the protected.** It creates a nation of suspects integral to the role of policing, spreading the idea that security is imperative because everything is a threat.

The spread of surveillance will always be based on state interests; the interests of profit and control.

THE FRAMEWORK OF SURVEILLANCE CANNOT BE REFORMED OR CHANGED TO SERVE THE DISPOSSESSED OR THEIR ENVIRONMENTS, IT IS INHERENTLY REPRESSIVE AND ANY ATTEMPT TO DO SO WILL ALWAYS REINFORCE CAPITALISM AND THE STATE.

Every year new ways of spying and tracking are invented and sold. Fines incurred from criminal convictions based on CCTV evidence must amount to more than the surveillance's operational costs, reproducing the capitalist logic of profit.

Private insurance is also a key driver in the intensification of surveillance, insofar as insurance companies increasingly demand that businesses install the most up to date surveillance equipment to even become insured. From one company to the next, from the police to government policies, various authorities merge into one. They indirectly control and shape individuals by directly controlling and shaping the environment in which they exist.

What is needed is a clear language of response and critique of these infrastructures that are integral to keeping people silent towards the rich minority who control prisons, run banks, police borders and decide laws. CCTV surveillance will become more complex and ubiquitous and the data banks will  
b e s h a r e d

more widely, creating less and less gaps between the public and private framework, creating one huge database. Alongside the ever advancing quality and extent of surveillance, privacy and dignity is set to become even more of a distant dream.

DOWN WITH THE SYSTEM OF SOCIAL CONTROL!  
DOWN WITH THIS SURVEILLANCE STATE!

After last summer's riots the opinions of judges and juries were heavily influenced by social surveillance methods. An array of CCTV footage was used in conjunction with a distorted community obligation as a tool to pressurise people into snitching on others and to influence their decision to plead guilty to crimes for which CCTV could not be used as primary evidence. In this case it was in relation to a social uprising, but this tool is consistently used against those who face state prosecution because they do not fit within the demands of this society.





# "REBELS WITHOUT A CAUSE"

In April 2011, Bristol witnessed two significant riots triggered by the eviction of a squat and influenced by a local No Tesco campaign (evident after the destruction of the new Tesco's in Stokes Croft). In August of the same year, another riot occurred in Bristol alongside the nationwide riots that spread out from London after the police murdered Mark Duggan. Both events exploded into chaos that went well beyond the reasons that sparked them. The lack of articulate demands from rioters during those days was portrayed by the mainstream press as irrational, and by the radical left as politically immature. There was instant nationwide condemnation by politicians based on morality (the idea that there exists an objective 'right' or 'wrong') at the most symbolic moment when such morality had clearly been rejected.

To begin to comprehend the situation, one must first understand the context. The political system is purposefully set up to exclude the exploited and poor from any debate that could improve the quality of their lives. We see this physically in the inherent violence of the justice system, and socially in the mental conditioning of the population. Political systems are designed to ignore peoples grievances in favor of universal ideologies that serve only to maintain the status quo. ("...the perpetrators of the violence we have seen on our streets are not in any way representative of our country," said PM David Cameron on the August riots).

After the riots society's apologists set in motion their strategy of recuperation, centred around the allocation of guilt, a symptom of morality used for millennia as a pacifier against unruly populations.



So after the riots our increasingly impoverished and complicit media became saturated with manipulative moral condemnation. Reproducing damning pictures/videos and easy to repeat slogans and generalisations, morality was used to turn as many people against the rioters as possible.

The generalised condemnation and grouping together of all actions under the category of 'rioting' was a tactic used to delegitimise peoples anger as well as the more organised actions of some rioters that were clearly different in content. ("I wasn't there for the robbing, I was there for the revenge", said an anonymous youth in the Guardian's LSE report). For example, despite the common medium of fire, it's plain to see how the act of burning of a house had different characteristics than the coordinated firebombing of police stations that occurred in Nottingham. One can also see the difference between someone pushing a trolley full of nappies and food out of a shop without paying and a group mugging an injured youth. This tactic of categorisation proved so effective that it was used as a repressive tactic during the Olympics under the banner of 'Olympics Offenses'.

This constant moral condemnation can feel like a kind of unavoidable white noise that makes it difficult to focus on a more rational way of thinking. Many must have felt guilty which could have only

served to make them more susceptible to ideological exploitation (brain washing). During the second Stokes Croft riot in April 2011 we saw evidence of this; the affect of a weeks worth of guilt tripping media and loud mouthed liberals, when

people were shouting their judgement and trying to intervene with those who were fighting the police. This behavior is essentially assuming the role of the police and abandoning critical thought.

**PEOPLE WERE CONVINCED TO SNITCH ON THEIR NEIGHBOURS, TO "KEEP QUIET AND CARRY ON," LOSING A NEW FOUND SENSE OF COMMUNITY UNTIL THE NEXT MOMENT CONNECTIONS ARE MADE DURING CIVIL UNREST.**

Evidence for these connections is in the words of those who were out on the streets: "It was people from all backgrounds, young, old. I was actually talking to people I would never have talked to in my life... Everyone was helping each other..." - Anon

The national media's complicity in this attempt at social recuperation was twofold. It was as much about what content was missing as what they actually published. Mainstream press tried desperately to avoid any possible comprehension of why these events unfolded. For example, when asked on Newsnight if we should try to understand why the riots happened, Kelvin McKenzie, media executive and former editor of The Sun responded: "To try and politicise this is absolute nonsense... all we hear about is these scumbags on the





street...we should shoot them... there was nothing to understand.” The attempts of liberals to explain the riots (and by doing so recuperate the social struggle into reformist cries for fewer cuts or more jobs) were largely drowned out. By the time anyone tried to offer an anti-political analysis of these events the damage was done, we had been told we were wrong and too many believed it.

Along with this kind of censorship, unofficial forms of expression have also been subdued. In Bristol the No Tesco campaign was ignored, St Paul’s carnival was cancelled and squatting has become illegalised. Without these kinds of hubs the potential for organised action becomes very limited.

Fortunately, all is not lost. Exclusion from political discourse has resulted in the emergence of a different and historical form of communication, one that cannot be ignored: **conflict**. Like the strategy of the press, it also depends on a lack of content, in this case, a lack of morality and demands. In this way the meaning and justification of people’s actions are intrinsic to their presentation. Such actions are not simply symbolic; they pertain to the quality of all those things which alienate people from their own lives: commodities, property, police, money, and labour. Following this logic, the chaos of the riots no longer seems like an irrational or inarticulate form of critique.

This active critique of society served as an opposing force against normality. In the case of looters it was a weapon

steal from the same shops that exploit them for labour, shops that price things so high their own workers cannot afford them. In the case of the rock throwers it served as a weapon against the ingrained idea that it’s wrong to fight back against the police that hassle, bully, and stop/search them, the same police that defend a system responsible for people’s daily hardships (and lets not forget they murder people).

“...its not even just the police, it’s the whole government, everything they do, they make things harder for us. They’re the reason why we are the way we are.” - Anon

When I see these acts I do not see them as lacking something, but rather as clear acts of rebellion with their own particular force, meaning, and history. To take seriously the content of struggles without demands, one must see them not as isolated events, but as moments within a history of developing forms of struggle adequate to the conditions of misery at their particular time.

**IT SEEMS TO ME THAT IT IS NOT THE “SCUMBAGS ON THE STREET” WHO HAVE THE MOST TO ANSWER FOR, BUT THOSE WHO CONDEMNED THE RIOTS. THEIR STANCE NEEDS JUSTIFICATION BECAUSE IT IS BASED ON AN IRRATIONAL SELF-SACRIFICING FAITH IN A DOMINANT MORALITY.**

against the ingrained idea that it is wrong to

The riots were a form of articulation that most clearly expressed the relation between those who are excluded and the rest of society.

*“It was war, and for the first time we was in control. I’ll always remember the day we had the police and the government scared. For once they were living on the edge, they felt how we felt, they felt threatened by us. That was the best three days of my life.” - Anon*

**REFERENCES AND SUGGESTED READING:**

Newsnight debate with Kelvin McKenzie: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5kRQhCipz18>

*On Behalf of the Barbarians* by Bleu Marin: [http://theanarchistlibrary.org/HTML/Bleu\\_Marin\\_\\_On\\_Behalf\\_of\\_the\\_Barbarians.html](http://theanarchistlibrary.org/HTML/Bleu_Marin__On_Behalf_of_the_Barbarians.html)

*The right to be greedy* (Chapter 10) by For Ourselves: [http://theanarchistlibrary.org/HTML/For\\_Ourselves\\_\\_The\\_Right\\_To\\_Be\\_Greedy\\_\\_Theses\\_On\\_The\\_Practical\\_Necessity\\_Of\\_Demanding\\_Everything.html](http://theanarchistlibrary.org/HTML/For_Ourselves__The_Right_To_Be_Greedy__Theses_On_The_Practical_Necessity_Of_Demanding_Everything.html)

*We demand nothing* by Johann Kaspar: [http://theanarchistlibrary.org/HTML/Johann\\_Kaspar\\_\\_We\\_Demand\\_Nothing.html](http://theanarchistlibrary.org/HTML/Johann_Kaspar__We_Demand_Nothing.html)

Newsnight’s December 2011 film in which rioters from ‘the Guardian-LSE Reading the Riots study’ explain their motivations: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-18653530>

# POLICE PRIVATISATION



Recent announcements over the increased privatisation of Britain's police forces come as no surprise. Across the board, the public and private sector have always worked hand in hand (of course not always in harmony), and the police are by no means exempt from this relationship. But regardless of who will wear the uniform in years to come, the police will continue to be what they always have been: the violent enforcers, to the point of murder, of this imposed Capitalist society that serves only to protect the ruling class.

Stories began to hit the headlines in March when West Midlands and Surrey police made open to those interested a £1.5 billion contract to run a wide range of roles within the police force, including investigating crimes, detaining suspects and managing "high-risk offenders". Delegates from sixty-four private security companies attended the "bidders conference" in a supposed attempt to cut-back on the expenditure in security services by shifting significant costs into the private sector. Whilst these plans are now being put on hold until after the Olympics, due to the forces required for London's military occupation, West Midlands and Surrey forces will continue their engagement with private firms in the autumn.

Steps into privatisation are by no means a recent advancement. Private security firms have been taking an active role in policing for quite some time. Five years ago Lancashire Constabulary embarked on the process of introducing "Civilian Detention Officers", provided by G4 Security (G4S), into their custody sites, and in April 2010 the two parties signed an eight-year contract for G4S to manage and maintain the entirety of their custody sites. G4S also have



contracts with South Wales and Staffordshire police, providing services such as “Street to Suite”, in which they transport arrested individuals to custody; searching, fingerprinting and photographing of detainees; drug-testing and forensic sampling; as well as visual identification of suspects.

As “the world’s leading international security solutions group”, G4S have been plagued with scandal on a number of occasions. In autumn 2010 they came under criminal investigation over the death of an Angolan man suffocated by three of their employees during a deportation flight, and public outcry raged when an Aboriginal man died in similar circumstances the following year in Australia. None the less, the company was still awarded a \$70 million (£45 million) five-year prisoner transport contract in Victoria, Australia. In September 2011 they had over £650 million in government contracts in Britain, £82 million of which came from the immigration authority.

Of course G4S are not the only company involved in this and similar security relationships between the public and private sector. Other significant names including Serco provide a variety of repressive services such as electronic tagging devices, managing young offender’s institutes, as well as lucrative contracts with the government for military systems with the Royal Air Force and British Navy. In a world where life is deemed as trivial in comparison with money, imprisonment and murder are nothing but whispers on the breeze.

As to be expected, the government claims these steps into increased privatisation are due to the necessary austerity measures they are having to impose, albeit thanks to a deified ‘global crisis’ of the economic system they enforce and protect. Every day the media demands that we tighten our belts; that we must accept the further intrusions into our lives as a necessary sacrifice in protection of ‘our’ economy. But of course these are nothing but statements of distraction, for austerity measures are nothing but the protection of Capitalist wealth.

The transferal of some police roles to the private sector come with obvious economic advantages for the government. The nature of commerce

is that interested companies make competitive offers combining quality of services with the cost of providing them. Whilst currently, in most parts of Britain, funding for police forces relies mainly on Council Tax contributions and grants from the Home Office, a shift in control to a private company (or group of) would have years of financial accumulation behind it. With greater capital available to them, a private company can offer more efficient services for a lower price. But a shift to the private sector also comes with strategic advantages for the police, in that a private company is in no way accountable to public grievances (but of course the police never have been in reality).

As highlighted above, companies such as G4S are notorious for their ruthless brutality, and the already violent treatment of arrested individuals will only worsen under their control. But this is all by the by, for we have no interest in protecting the

Rather than having a critique of police privatisation, it is important to push forward with an assault on the state-sanctioned violence of the police.

police as they stand, in fact the opposite is our intention. Regardless of whether the enforcers of state power come from the private or public sector, they will always be those walking our streets, raiding our houses, harassing and assaulting our loved ones, and, along with their colleagues in the law courts and prisons, threatening and ensuring

the incarceration of all those who refuse to accept society’s standards.

Rather than having a critique of the increased privatisation of the police, it is essential to push forward with a coherent assault on the police as the street-level arm of daily state-sanctioned violence. Their role is to protect the property owners, bosses and corporate interests that ensure and maintain a luxurious life for the ruling minority. They are our social-class enemy, and the violent eruptions against them in the last years (and throughout history) are beautiful steps that must be learnt from in order to move towards the total destruction of them and the society they protect.

## AN INTRODUCTION TO THE FOUR MAIN COMPANIES BIDDING FOR THE £1.5 BILLION WEST MIDLANDS AND SURREY POLICE CONTRACT:

### **G4S**

An organisation with 6 subsidiaries in the US, a joint venture in South Africa running Bloomfontein correctional centre and over 40 subsidiaries operating across the rest of the world.

- Provided entire security system of the Ktziot Prison and the central control room that monitors all of the security systems of the Megido Prison. Both institutions are incarceration facilities designated for Palestinian political prisoners. These prisons are both located inside Israel.
- Provided security systems for the Kishon and Jerusalem detention and interrogation facilities. Human rights organisations have collected evidence showing that Palestinian prisoners are regularly subjected to torture in these facilities.
- Provided equipment to the West Bank Israeli Police headquarters, located in the highly contested E-1 area next to the Ma'ale Edomim settlement.
- They are bidding to take over asylum housing across Yorkshire with plans to evict 900 asylum seekers families as part of the package.
- There has been particular criticism of the treatment of detainees held at Brook House Immigration Removal Centre near Heathrow.

### **Reliance**

Now a private company wholly owned by Brian Kingham. Mr Kingham was a serious Tory donor between 2002 and 2005. He contributed £121,050 over this period. British privatisation deals are almost exclusively done through Reliance Secure Task Management Ltd, a private company through Reliance Security Group which in turn is owned by the Reliance Trust.

Reliance employ over 420 custody officers operating in 30 custody centres with over 470 cells across Cleveland, Sussex, Thames Valley, Warwickshire, Gloucestershire and West Mercia police forces. They 'look after' over 230,000 detainees annually, including taking DNA samples.

### **KBR (formerly Kellogg Brown & Root)**

US construction and defence, logistics and gas company which built Guantanamo Bay and was close to Dick Cheney, the neo-con vice president under George Bush. The Texas based company employs approximately 35,000 people worldwide. KBR and its predecessors have received many contracts with the United States military including during World War II, the Vietnam War, and 'Operation Iraqi Freedom'.

- In 2002 KBR was awarded a \$100 million contract to build a new U.S. embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan.
- KBR has also been awarded 15 Logistics Civil Augmentation Program (LOGCAP) task orders worth more than \$216 million for work under Operation Enduring Freedom, the military name for operations in Afghanistan. These include establishing base camps at Kandahar and Bagram Air Base and training foreign troops from the Republic of Georgia.
- KBR employs more American private contractors and holds a larger contract with the U.S. government than does any other firm in Iraq. The company's roughly 14,000 U.S. employees in Iraq provide logistical support to the U.S. armed forces.
- On February 6, 2009, the Justice Department announced KBR had been charged with paying "tens of millions of dollars" in bribes to Nigerian officials in order to win government contracts.

### **Blue Star**

They have no experience of police work. They have one contract with the London Fire Brigade, mainly used to provide equipment, event security, and specialist dog handling. The contract with the LFB involved working with Reliance and AssetCo to provide help for auxiliary fire-fighters in strike breaking actions. AssetCo is now nearly bust, its director and chief executive have been dismissed, and it has lost its contract with Lincolnshire Fire Brigade.



# REFUSE TO WORK



May 1st is predominantly known as a bank holiday - a day on which, for most, you don't have to reluctantly drag your body to another day of work. Little does the media relay that May 1st is synonymous internationally with the workers struggle against the proprietors of industry for rights, health and dignity. It is the date that commemorates Chicago's Haymarket massacre of 1886, and the resulting death of four men blamed for the incident by the US government, killed for speaking against the exploitative nature of work innate in the system of capital. May 1st remains a threat to right wing fascistic governments, as demonstrated by its abolition at one time or another in Spain, Portugal, Germany and Italy, and also by the British government proposing

plans in 2011 to cancel the May day bank holiday in favor of an alternative nationalist celebration. Their recommendation was to exchange May Day for St Georges day in April or a move to an October holiday called 'Britain Day' which would mark military victories under the guise of a lengthened tourist season.

The fight for the eight hour day was not the end goal of those that fought in Chicago, but part of the ultimate aim - to destroy the cause of enslavement, the system of capital and state.

OUR BIRTH UNDER  
C A P I T A L I S M  
CONSTITUTES TO OUR  
BEING COMBATANTS, ON  
ONE SIDE OR ANOTHER,  
OF THIS CONTINUING  
SOCIAL WAR TODAY.

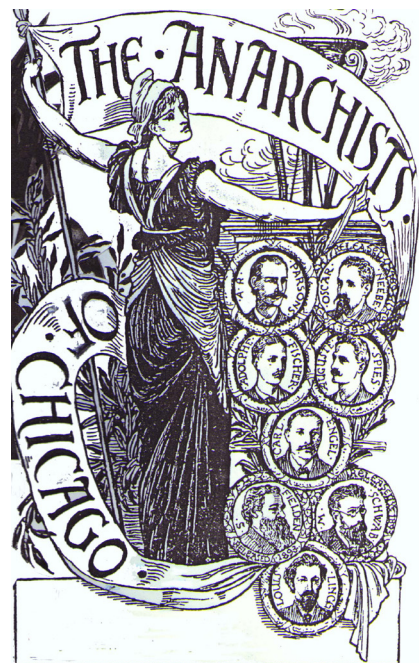
At a time when recent council figures show there are nearly 20,000 people unemployed in Bristol, the states solution to its self-induced financial and employment crisis is to make the welfare system ever more redundant for those that suffer the consequence.

The Department of Work and Pensions 'Jobless Work Experience Scheme' saw 34,000 people in 2011 employed by a plethora of corporations for between 25 and 30 hours a week, unpaid, in order to continue receiving a benefit of less than £60 per week. Another extension to the benefit system, 'The Mandatory Work Activity Scheme', states that anyone on Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) for over three months can now at any point expect to work 30 hours a week UNPAID for six to eight weeks. Job centres are now entitled to refer individuals to the 'Community Activity

## "TWELVE POLICEMEN DEAD OR DYING"

In 1884 America, a federation of organised trades and labor unions unanimously set May 1st 1886 as the date which the 8 hour work day would be implemented. Labor unions called for a general strike in support of the demand and prepared to rally at various hubs of industry. On the day hundreds of thousands took to the streets. On may 3rd, three dates later, a rally outside a machine plant in Chicago where workers had been on strike since the 1st escalated and an altercation broke out between the strikers and the strike breakers. In response, the Police - in an attempt to gain control - fired indiscriminately into the crowd and murdered between two and six workers.

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In immediate response, local anarchists printed fliers calling for a rally at Haymarket square, a centre of industry and commerce in Chicago, to respond to the murderous action of the Police on behalf of business interests.

The rally was approached en masse by police after a series of anarchist and labour activists gave speeches. The radicals were ordered to disperse. A home made bomb was thrown at Police lines leading to the death of seven officers. The police response, again, was to fire into the crowds. The radicals shot back and injured many officers in the crossfire. Exact figures are unknown, yet some estimates are as high as fifty to seventy wounded officers and three times as many dead and wounded protesters.

During the ensuing weeks the police made hundreds of arrests, ransacked homes and harassed anarchists and labor activists only tenuously linked to the Haymarket massacre. Eventually eight known anarchists; Spies, Fischer, Engel, Lingg, Schwab, Neebe, Parsons and Fielden, were charged.

On June 4th 1886, the eight suspects were indicted by a grand jury and stood trial for the Murder of an officer of the state. Of these seven, only two had been present at the rally, and they had been stepping down from the speakers wagon in compliance with police orders when the bomb had been thrown.

The eight were awarded a bias

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Program' which stipulates any individual unemployed for over a period of two years can be assigned to 30 hours work a week, UNPAID, for SIX MONTHS. It is a mandatory scheme. Failure to participate in this scheme leads to a sanction on benefit payments for up to 26 weeks.

THE PROMISE OF HEALTH, RETIREMENT AND BENEFIT SECURITY IS DISINTEGRATING AS A RESULT OF TAXES SPENT ON RESUSCITATING THE BANKS THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN LEFT TO DROWN IN THEIR AVARICE.

Instead the welfare state is dying, and with it, the illusion of a state that cares for its people. This is not a lament for a lack of jobs, or benefits that act as temporary opiate and disguise a truth. The unemployment statistics and introduction of work programmes reveal the reality that the intention of the authority is not to create paid employment, but to create a free work force. A new insidious form of slavery.

WE SURRENDER THE HOURS OF OUR LIVES, OUR MENTAL, CREATIVE AND PHYSICAL ENERGY IN ORDER THAT SOMEONE ELSE REAPS THE REWARDS.

We fill the pockets of the oligarchs (dominant class) with monetary values we cannot fathom. We receive nominal compensation,

that barely provides a means to exist in an ever more financially demanding climate. We are allowed no indulgence into the luxury items flaunted on billboards promised as the rewards for our labour. We will never afford these items and we will become indebted in order to attain them. We are obliged to pay for our shelter and denied the right to land and resources that would allow us to sustain our own lives without waged work.

**We are slaves by another name. We are employees, forced to give up our time in order to pay rent to the landlords, buy food from the corporations, and pay taxes to the councils and state. We are exhausted through work so that the dominant order may maintain that our movements be restricted, opportunities stolen, dreams forgotten, and freedom denied, all to ensure a workforce for capital. All enabled because WE capitulate to the rule of capital.**

IF YOU QUESTION THE PURPOSE OF YOUR LIFE AT WORK, THE ANSWER IS TO CONSERVE THE COMFORT AND CONTROL OF THE RICH.



## CREATING A FREE WORKFORCE

At 11pm Saturday 2nd of June 2012, a coachload of people on Job Seekers Allowance and other work experience programs left Bristol by coach to act as security staff in London for the Queens Jubilee. At around 2:40am they were dropped off by the side of a road with their baggage and tents and left for more than an hour along with 80 other people. Having had no sleep, at 4:15am these people were told that at 5am they would be starting an UNPAID 16 hour shift.

The staff were provided by Tomorrow's People ("transforming lives through work"), a charity paid by the government under the Work Programme of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), who are responsible for getting unemployed people back to work. In their statement about these events Tomorrow's People said: "it is not in their interest to be paid for short term work." They placed young claimants on an SIA (Security Industry Authority) style course with Close Protection UK, (a security company founded in 2005 as a result of government legislation introduced to regulate the security sector), who broke DWP rules and regulations on working hours, travel

distance, training and equipment.

A campsite was provided just off the M11 where workers were found "stood in a field soaking wet, shivering with cold and close to exhaustion. One was dressed only in Shirt and slacks as she had not been provided with any waterproof coat, save for a lightweight poncho and a hi-viz vest for the jubilee event."

The personal accounts of terrible conditions, physical and emotional trauma goes on and on. Close Protection UK clearly wanted free labour and Tomorrows People were paid by the government, who have installed appropriate legislation to fully exploit the most desperate in this society, to make it happen. This was the nature of some peoples first ever job experience... welcome to the world of work.

Writing these people angry letters will change nothing.

**Tomorrow's People Address:**  
**Norfolk House, Norfolk Avenue**  
**Bristol, BS2 8RQ**  
**Close Protection UK address:**  
**Close Protection UK Ltd**  
**15 King Street, Hindley**  
**Wigan WN2 3AW**

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jury whose members admitted prior to the trial, prejudice toward the anarchists. The prosecution used evidence that fragments from the bomb were similar to bombs made by one of the defendants, even this was inconclusive and eventually it was presented that because the defendants had not actively discouraged the person who threw the bomb, they were to be held equally responsible.

Seven of them were sentenced to death by hanging, and one to fifteen years incarceration.

After a series of failed appeals, a governor commuted two of the sentences to life imprisonment. On the eve of his scheduled execution the bomb expert, Lingg, committed suicide in his cell. Spies, Parsons, Fischer and Engel were hung the following day, November 1st 1887.

The identity of a bomber was never discovered. There had never been sufficient evidence to prove the involvement of any of the eight defendants. It was a means for the police to claim context to arrest the leaders of the anti-capitalist movement of Chicago.



This fly poster appeared on the streets of Bristol and later in London after last years riots. Although its creation was motivated by a series of specific events, we feel that much of the content can still be a benefit to many people, even outside of comparable moments. The principle of not cooperating with the police and the media, under any circumstances is a message we choose to put forward with the upmost importance.

# DON'T PANIC :: DON'T TALK



## **If you think you might be identified from the photos police released of recent events in Stokes Croft / St Pauls:**

**DON'T** panic. The photos released are not necessarily evidence. Just because the police have a blurry photo that might be of you doesn't mean they know who you are.

**DON'T** hand yourself in. The police often use the psychological pressure of knowing they have your picture to persuade you to 'come forward' when they don't know who you are or have evidence against you.

**DONT** assume that because you can identify yourself in a video, a judge will be able to as well. 'That isn't me' has got many a person off before now.

**DO** get rid of your clothes. There is no chance of suggesting the person in the video is not you if the clothes they are wearing have been found in your wardrobe. Get rid of ALL clothes you were wearing at the demo, including YOUR SHOES, your bag, and any distinctive jewellery you were wearing at the time.

**DO** keep a low profile for a while. The police will be on the look-out at other demos for people they have put on their 'wanted' list.

**DO** think about changing your appearance. Perhaps now is a good time for a make-over. Get a haircut and colour, grow a beard, wear glasses.

**DO** keep your house clean. Get rid of spray cans, demo related stuff, and dodgy texts / photos on your phone. Don't make life easy for them by having drugs, weapons or anything else illegal in the house.

**DO** be careful who you speak about this to. Admit your involvement ONLY to people you really trust. Be very careful what you say on the internet.

**DO** try and control the nerves and panic. Waiting for a knock on the door is stressful in the extreme, but you need to find a way to get on with life as normal. Otherwise you'll be serving the sentence before you are even arrested.

## **“NO COMMENT”**

**If you're nicked, use your right to REMAIN SILENT. Answer “no comment” to ALL questions before & after arrest & during interviews.**

**DO NOT SAY ANYTHING TO THE POLICE** even if they say “it is in your best interests”. Cops can never be trusted. From the moment you are stopped, everything you say is evidence - there is no such thing as a friendly chat. They will try to get evidence against you & against other people. It is easier to say nothing at all than selectively answer questions. Say nothing & sign no statements without legal advice.

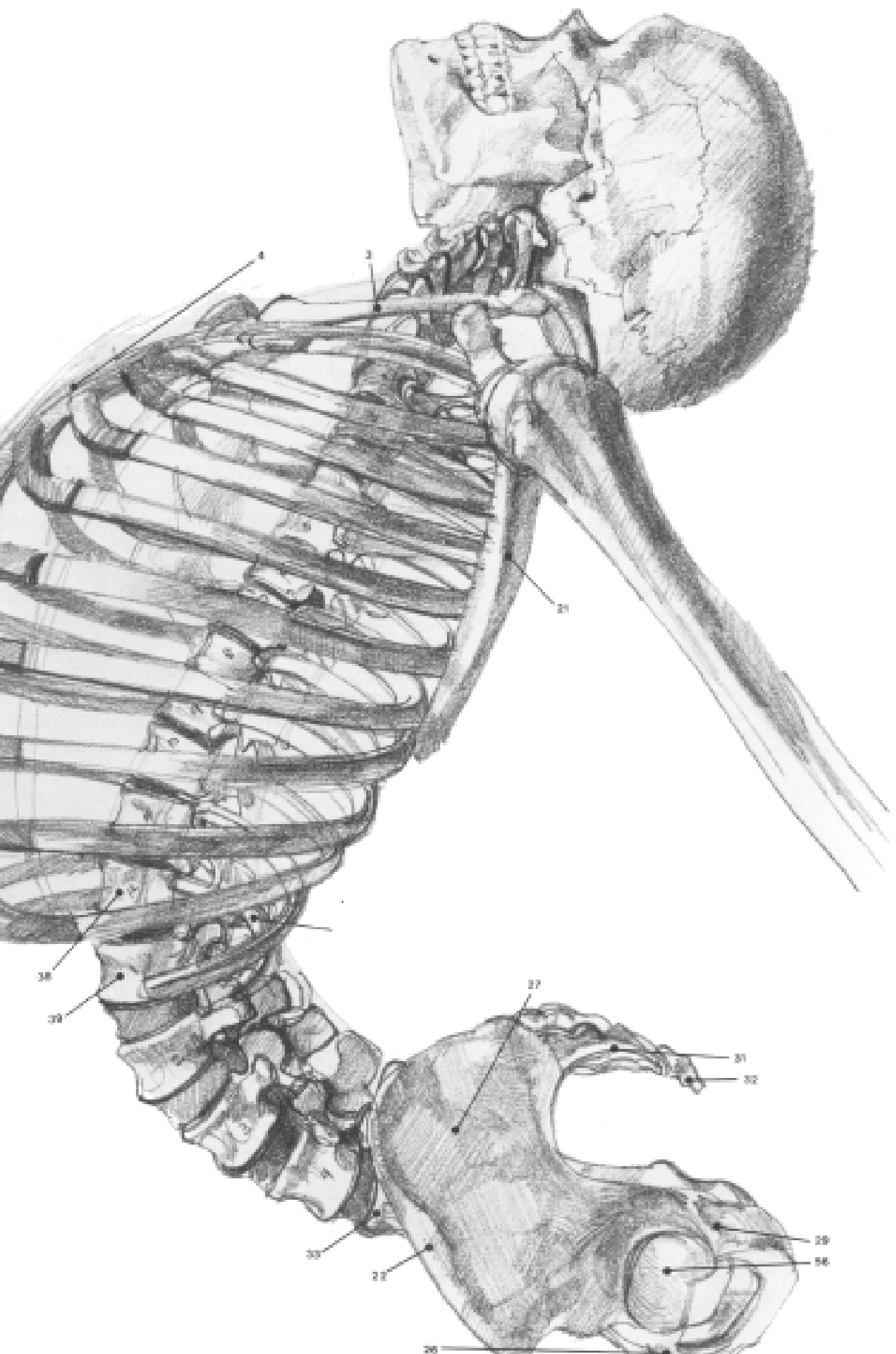
If you were anywhere near any recent events, keep a solicitor's number handy just in case.

Bindmans have agreed to represent anyone arrested. They are specialists in public order legal work. The number is 0207 833 4433. Nile Arnall are local and have been good in the past. Call them on 0117 909 8898.

Email [bristolarresteesupport@riseup.net](mailto:bristolarresteesupport@riseup.net) to help organise against police repression.

# **DON'T BRAG :: DON'T SNITCH DON'T GOSSIP :: KEEP SAFE**

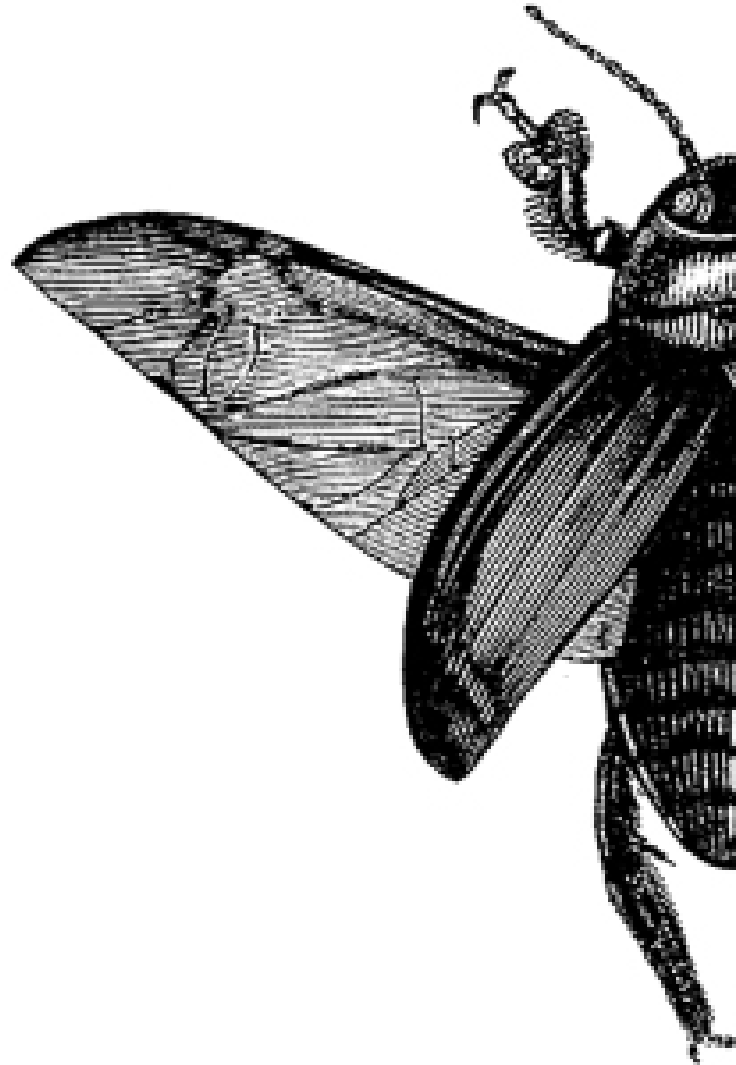




# FROM HERE ON IN

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