

## In this month's Mutiny Zine

Brief News from Newtown, Palestine, Greece, France, Afghanistan, England, India, Bangladesh and Russia.

In the second of our 2 part series on the US Social Forum, Scout discusses workshops on transformative justice and healing and their importance to movements based on care and love.

Huck reports back from the Convergence for Aboriginal Rights in the Northern Territory, where the effects of the Intervention were discussed as well as strategies to fight against it.

Members of the Black Rose Library and Bookshop Collective write about changes to the space and the reasons for them.

The Melbourne Anarchist Communist Group write about the federal election & why no matter who wins, we lose.

Jonathon Collerson reviews Norman Finkelstein's account of Israel's Operation Cast Lead in Gaza, and the prospects for justice in Palestine.



**Black Rose:** Skillsshare on the revolt in Greece, including the screening of the Potentiality of Storming Heaven - **August 27 & 28, 6pm;** 22 Enmore Rd, Newtown

## UPCOMING EVENTS

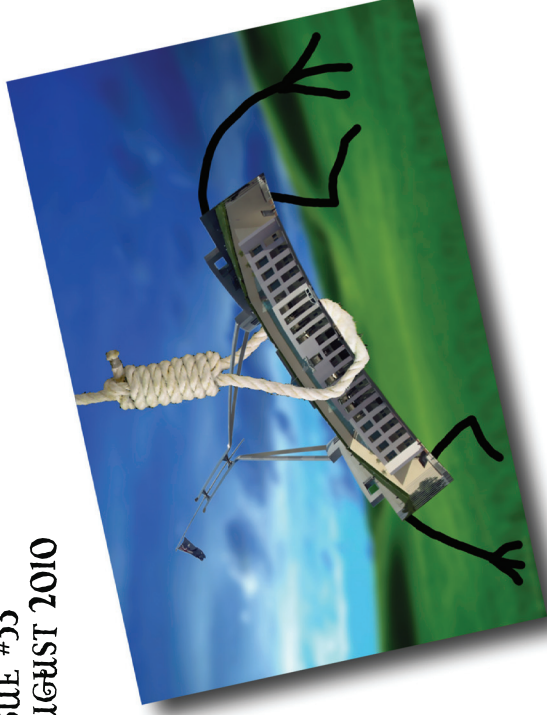
**Anti-Deportation Alliance** open meeting at SUPRA, Raglan Street Building G10, Sydney Uni Camperdown Campus (accessed by Abercrombie Street). **August 29th, 1pm**

**Black Rose:** Hurricane Katrina Film- When the Levees Broke, **August 29th, 4.30pm:** 22 Enmore Road, Newtown.

**Forum:** Where to for the refugee movement after the election. Organised by the Refugee Action Coalition. **September 11th, 2pm,** Sydney Uni Law Building Room 100

# MUTINY

A PAPER OF ANARCHISTIC IDEAS & ACTIONS  
ISSUE #53  
AUGUST 2010



> A Message from the Black Rose collective

> The Intervention is Racist:  
Report-back from the convergence  
in Alice Springs

> Nobody to Vote for but  
Plenty to Vote Against

> Transformative &  
Healing Justice  
+ News and a review!

# FREE ZINE

**M**utiny is an anarchist collective based in Sydney. We started this zine to explore different avenues of disobedience & resistance, & to encourage people to write about their ideas, actions & experiences.

We meet regularly, please contact us on the address below:  
 mail: c/- PO Box 4, Enmore, NSW 2042, Australia  
 email: mutineers at graffiti.net  
 web: back issues at: www.jura.org.au/mutiny

Editors for this month: Mamburu Mzwa, Dumpstered Twin, Cynical Smurf, Szeggy, Brassy f Anoll, Max Solidarity, Graf Cat, L Dog

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# Review

Norman G. Finkelstein, 'This Time We Went Too Far': Truth and Consequences of the Gaza Invasion (2010)



Norman Finkelstein is optimistic about the situation in Israel-Palestine. A resolution is on the table and the tide is turning against those within and outside Israel who reject a just resolution of the conflict. The wanton murder of nine peace activists on the Gaza Freedom Flotilla on 30 May 2010 only confirmed suspicions that something is indeed rotten in the state of Israel.

The massacre that took place in the Gaza Strip between 27 December 2008 and 21 January 2009 also confirmed the rot. For Finkelstein, this attack on Gaza has the historical significance of the Sharpeville Massacre, which turned world opinion abruptly against apartheid South Africa in the 1960s. 'This Time We Went too Far' tells the story by drawing evidence from the reports of human rights advocates like Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, B'Tselem and others. His mastery of this record is one of the most compelling aspects of his intervention.

Finkelstein carefully refutes the pretence that Israel acted in self-defence, or with any proximity to international law, in Gaza. He shows that the use of force was deliberately disproportionate and that the massacre that ensued was the aim, and not an unfortunate outcome, of Operation Cast Lead.

Finkelstein shows the lengths to which Israelis apologists – Ellie Wiesel, Alan Dershowitz, Anthony Cordesman, George Gilder, Robin Shepherd and others – will go to distract from or simply lie about the everyday practices of the Israeli Defence Forces.

He notes that "historians have dispelled many of the myths Israel propagated to justify its dispossession and displacement of Palestine's indigenous population: human rights organisations have exposed Israel's mistreatment of Palestinians living under occupation; and a consensus has crystallised in the legal-diplomatic arena around a settlement of the conflict that upholds the basic rights of Palestinians". He hopes to move the debate toward the material and political consequences that follow from this record and what can be done to put these consequences in motion.

Finkelstein is interested in the conditions that are actually on the table, not speculation about the future of the Israeli state or the nature of a future Palestinian state. The conditions on the table show that the international public and juridical consensus for resolving the conflict is an Israeli withdrawal to its 1967 borders, a resolution to the refugee question based on the right of return and the right of Palestinians to determine their own future as a nation. This is the main stream, uncontroversial consensus.

In the closing lines of This Time Finkelstein says that supporters of Palestine must 'keep their eyes on the prize' and avoid being drawn into side issues. The prize is an end to the occupation of land that Israel seized during the Six Day War.

Finkelstein believes that if Palestine's supporters can avoid diversions and divisive questions; highlight the historical, humanitarian and legal-diplomatic record; and narrow their focus to ending the occupation; then the prospects for resolving this very long and very bloody conflict are good.

- Jonathon Collinson

# From the *Black Rose Collective*

(at 22 Enmore Rd, Newtown)

Exciting changes are afoot at Black Rose! After a lot of thinking time and some lively discussion, the collective has changed the entire model of Black Rose in the hope that our space can really become a base/ hub for the anarchist movement in Sydney, and for those who are interested.

The most significant part of this change in direction is that we will no longer be running as a bookshop, needing to fill lonely and alienating shifts because we were relying on those sales to cover the rent. The focus will be on events that people are excited to put on and that will hopefully bring different layers of folk into the space, making it all a more vibrant place. Rent will now be covered by contributions from collective members and donations from the events that we hold.

There had been a general sense of malaise, in that Black Rose was not an inspiring or engaging space for those of us involved in the collective, let alone for anyone who walked in off the street. People explained that their initial desire to be involved came out of wanting to engage with the politics of the space and not just run a bookshop.

We want the space to become one that is politically engaging for people, whether through serious political discussions or more social, hanging-out events. We hope it can play a role in building and maintaining a sense of solidarity and mutual aid between anarchists, and those inclined that way, around this part of Sydney.

We will be opening for a variety of events and are open to people from outside the collective talking to us about using the space for events they want to put on. Already there are some new ideas and things going on: anarchist assembly meetings; a cafe / drop-in evenings; political discussion nights; film nights; a pamphlet / zine publishing house; a free shop and computer & internet facilities.

The Black Rose collective has also more directly taken on Little Fish art gallery (in the front of the space) and they can now be seen as one and the same. Expect to see more political art at 22 (and on the streets) and bigger events that can utilise the more space available to us. Again, we'd love for people to bring their ideas for exhibitions and use of the space to us. Amongst all of this the library will still be functioning! Collective members will be available at the events to facilitate borrowing and returning of our amazing collection of radical literature. We will also be working to make it the best library of our imaginations: more organised, more comprehensive, and more practical. A more up-to-date pamphlet and zine library is one project under way; and we also hope to be adding a tool library to our list of facilities.

So check out our website for all of our events, you can also add yourself to our email list for events from there. If you want to get involved or have an idea for an event,

then send us an email or come talk to us at an event.

[www.blackrosebook.org](http://www.blackrosebook.org)  
blackrosebooks at yahoo.com.au

## Brief News

### France

President Sarkozy will order squatters' camps be shut down in a crackdown on French migrants and Roma immigrants. The decision comes after a riot on July 18 in which people destroyed a police station, in response to the death of a 22-year old shot by police. Half the illegal squats of the migrants- around 300- will be shut down in the next 3 months, and Roma who have been convicted of crimes will be deported. Civil rights advocates have criticised this attempt at "ethnically targeted deportations".

### War in Afghanistan

Over 90,000 incident records and intelligence reports from the war in Afghanistan have been leaked to WikiLeaks in one of the biggest leaks in US military history. The 'war logs' reveal civilian killings by coalition forces (at least 195 killed and 174 wounded). These incidents have resulted from air strikes, but also from troops shooting unarmed drivers and motorcyclists, and questionable shootings by UK troops. The leaks also reveal the existence of a secret unit of special forces used to hunt down Taliban leaders for "kill or capture" without trial, and the use of deadly Reaper drones to hunt and kill Taliban targets by remote control from a US base. The leaks bring to light what's been a consistent trend for US and NATO forces in Afghanistan- the concealment of civilian casualties.

### Greece

Lorry drivers have ended a six-day strike

in Greece after the PASOK government issued a civil conscription order to striking workers. Hand-delivered letters containing the order were issued after the fourth day of the strike, and workers who refused to accept would face arrest, trial and potential imprisonment. The order also allowed the army to intervene and replace lorry drivers in their duties, delivering petrol to gas stations.



A general assembly of the union representing drivers voted by a narrow margin to end the strike, in the expectation that civil conscription would be lifted. The strike was called in response to a special "reform", part of a wider package of austerity measures facing Greece, that would see individual ownership abolished and replaced by large firms.

Elsewhere in Greece, a mass grave has been discovered containing the bodies of some of those who have died trying to cross the Turkish-Greek border and thus enter the EU. It is believed that between 150 to 200 dead have been buried in the grave, which lies outside the village of Sidero. 28 people died in the first 7 months of the year trying to cross the Turkish-Greek border, and 19 drowned in the river Evros/Meric on the 25th of June (with 14 bodies washing up on the Greek shore). The bodies were taken to a university clinic for identification and the local government ordered their ablation

and burial according to Muslim rites. The burial in mass graves, a practice suspected to have been going on for years, shows a fundamental lack of respect for the dead and reflects the systematic humiliating and degrading treatment to which refugees are subjected.

#### **Al-Araqib, Palestine**

At 5:30am on 27th July, 2010 at 5:30 AM (0230 GMT), approximately 1500 Israeli police descended on the village of al-Araqib, in the Negev desert with 20 bulldozers to destroy the Bedouin village. The village, which is situated between the cities of Rahat and Beersheba, is home to some 300 people. Over a period of 3 hours, bulldozers destroyed not only houses but all trees and agriculture, as well as any belongings of the villagers.

The villagers of al-Araqib have been fighting for legal recognition of their village since the construction of the state of Israel in 1948. The village was demolished despite the fact that the case for recognition of the village is still in the courts. Villagers attempted to re-establish some makeshift structures, but police and bulldozers returned to the village on 10th August, and again flattened everything, trucking away all of the debris.

More than 110,000 Palestinian Bedouin live in dozens of "unrecognized villages" throughout the State of Israel, and nearly 80 percent live in the Negev. As unrecognized villages, Bedouins have no right to build on their land or access basic services such as water, electricity, roads or schools.

#### **London, England**

The cop who murdered 47 year old Ian Tomlinson during G20 protests in April 2009 will not face trial, because the first

autopsy performed after Ian's death concluded that he had died of a heart attack. Despite two following autopsies citing internal abdominal bleeding, due to being struck with a blunt object, as the cause of death, prosecutors will not proceed with charges against riot squad officer Simon Harwood.

Suspicion has been cast over the choice of the first forensic pathologist, Freddy Patel, who claimed Ian's death was caused by a heart attack. A BBC report has found he should not have been on the register when he was appointed to conduct the autopsy; and that the London police approved his selection, paying £2500 towards his fee.

#### **Dhaka, Bangladesh**

More than 20 000 garment workers took to the streets of Dhaka after the Bangladeshi government refused to accept worker wage rise demands. Workers blockaded the main highways of the city with burning tyres. As well as attacking garment factories, 200 other businesses were targeted. The wealthy Gulshan Avenue neighbourhood was invaded by 5,000 workers who smashed up offices, banks and shops. Media and TV offices were also attacked.



The riots continued for four days, after the government announced the minimum wage for garment workers would rise from Taka 1662 (\$27)/month to Taka 3000 (\$48)/month, despite 70% inflation since the

to recognize, understand, and change their behavior using a transformative justice framework. See <http://phillystandsup.wordpress.com/>

#### **Incite!**

INCITE! is a national activist organization of radical feminists of color advancing a movement to end violence against women of color and their communities through direct action, critical dialogue, and grassroots organizing. See <http://www.incite-national.org/>

#### **generationFIVE**

The mission of generationFIVE is to end the sexual abuse of children within five generations. Through survivor and bystander leadership development; community prevention and intervention; public action; and cross-movement building, generationFIVE works to interrupt and mend the intergenerational impact of child sexual abuse on individuals, families, and communities. See <http://www.generationfive.org>

While there are too many groups to name, I also heard about grassroots self-organized prison birth projects; supporting survivor collectives; community accountability groups; AIDS/HIV prevention groups; rape counseling services; safer neighborhood projects; hospital and emergency contraception support; and military sexual assault trauma support.

*For comments, questions or to build an Australian grassroots network of groups responding to sexual assault contact [nissalee@gmail.com](mailto:nissalee@gmail.com)*

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**OCTOBER 15, 16, 17**  
**Victoria Trades Hall, Melbourne - Australia**

**MORE INFO, CALL:**  
Marisol 0413 597 315  
Michael 0438 496 433  
Rebecca 0439 503 839  
Tilly 0410 388 187

capacity to “transform the histories of violence and oppression as they play out in our relationships and cultures”. It is these practices that offer the vision of immediate safety and transformation over time.

Transformative Justice was developed by generationFIVE as a means to respond to child sexual abuse & other types of violence. For more information including the ‘Toward Transformative Justice’ document see generationFIVE at- [www.generationfive.com](http://www.generationfive.com)

**Healing justice-** a political framework that brings an anti-oppression analysis to the role of healing inside of liberation; which seeks to transform trauma in our movements and communities; and regenerate traditions as liberatory and resiliency practices

**Social justice healer-** a healer that is committed to an anti-oppression framework and community based practices that seek to integrate individual/collective healing and resiliency to transform and heal both our communities and our conditions

#### **Healing justice**

Healing justice as a concept politicises the role of sustainable wellness and healing inside our movements and communities. To be an effective and sustainable social change movement that transforms oppressive practices, we need to heal the parts of ourselves that have been hurt, as well as organizing to shift the conditions that cause ongoing hurt/trauma. Healing justice within an anti-oppression framework recognizes the ongoing trauma that racism, sexual abuse and other experiences of oppression have on both individuals as well as collective societies. Deep healing must then have an integrated approach: heal the people alongside working to shift the social conditions that cause harm.

Healing justice as a practice can provide: affordable healing practices from various cultural traditions; sliding scale payment schemes; tailored healing workshops for specific groups (eg. those healing from sexual assault, violence or torture); community workshops on nutrition and health care; catering for people with various levels of ability; yoga workshops for queer and trans\* folk etc; free/affordable self defence classes; or other practices that encourage transformative healing.

#### **Movement & alliance building to end sexual assault**

Within the US social forum there was a ‘call out’ meeting to create a national network of groups organizing to end sexual assault within a transformative justice model. It is important to spread the word of some incredible radical groups that have been organizing community responses to sexual assault for months, years or decades. The long-term commitment of these groups was astounding, some having decade-long collective strategic goals. It was interesting that the groups who had been organizing for decades were also the same people emphasizing self-care, healing justice and sustainable wellness.

#### **Philly Stands Up!**

Based in Philadelphia, this semi-closed collective organizes perpetrator accountability mediations to both support the needs of the survivor as well as work with the perpetrator

wage was last increased in 2006. Workers are demanding Taka 5000 (\$81)/month. Thousands of workers have fought police, blocked roads, attacked and looted many garment factories and forced hundreds to suspend operations; as well as attacked hundreds of businesses, shopping centres and banks. Massive numbers of armed police and the para-military Rapid Action Battalion have occupied the garment areas, but even when prevented from taking to the streets, workers have stopped work in the factories or not turned up for work.

84 heads of unions have denounced the protests, some even going so far as to try to claim that there were no workers involved in them.

#### **Newtown, Australia**

A group of fascists and neo Nazis were found in Newtown on August 14th, gathered provocatively at the “I have a dream” mural wall on King Street. A hundred or so people of the Newtown community spontaneously gathered and overwhelmed them with their powerful presence and voices. The people chanted “Nazis out of Newtown, Nazis off the planet”. The group were physically confronted and forced to flee with their tails between their legs, escorted by cops. The cops, the dogs of the bosses, of course attempted to protect them from the rage of the people, trying to arrest only those who have come to kick out racism, nationalism, and fascism. We will not let the fascists and racists exist in our neighbourhoods. We will not let fascists or racists exist anywhere. (from Indymedia and Slackbastard)

#### **Barpeta, Assam - India**

Four people were killed and over 50 injured when the police opened fire to disperse a demonstration organised by the All Assam

Minority Students’ Union (AAMSU) that turned violent in Barpeta, a town in lower Assam on Wednesday morning 21st July. Official sources said that while three people died on the spot, a fourth succumbed to his injuries after being shifted to the Guwahati Medical College Hospital.

The AAMSU had rallied to demand a halt to a pilot project aimed at updating the National Register of Citizens.

While over a thousand people under the banner of AAMSU marched towards the Deputy Commissioner’s (DC’s) office in Barpeta to submit a memorandum, the crowd suddenly started pelting stones at roadside shops and damaged vehicles inside the DC’s office compound.

#### **Moscow, Russia**

Five hundred Russian anti- government activists attacked the office of a Moscow suburb’s mayor to protest the construction of a highway through a forest. The protesters gathered in central Moscow yesterday and took a commuter train to the northern suburb of Khimki, armed with air guns and baseball bats. Police fled after being pelted with rocks and bottles and nobody was arrested. The anarchist youths set off flares and tried to chop down the main door of the mayor’s office with an axe. They spray-painted “Save the Russian Forests” on the walls of the building in the five-minute flash protest.

An environmentalist camp in the Khimki forest was attacked by a group of masked men. Mikhail Beketov, the editor of a local newspaper, was almost beaten to death in 2008 after campaigning to stop construction of a highway through the Khimki.

Young is nonsense



**Whoever Wins  
Lets be UNGOVERNABLE**  
ANOTHER WORLD IS POSSIBLE

**Ballot  
Box**



insurrection  
**2010**

# Transformative & Healing Justice

by **Scout**

The following text reflects personal learning & inspirations gathered from the 2010 US social forum.

**Safety**- liberation from violence, exploitation & the threats of further acts of violence

**Personal boundaries**- your individual limit for what you are OK with happening to you (your physical body) or influencing you within your personal space (inappropriate language, intimidation, manipulation etc.)

**Survivor**- someone who has experienced a boundary crossing

**Sexual assault**- a boundary crossing defined by the person experiencing it

**Perpetrator**- someone who has crossed another person's boundaries

## Transformative justice

Transformative justice (TJ) is a community-based liberatory means to respond to sexual abuse and other forms of violence and harm. TJ is a unique community intervention model in that the process of responding to sexual assault or violence seeks to transform the root causes of the violence/assault. Individual acts of violence/assault are seen in the context of a broader historical, social and political context. People who have committed acts of violence are not born that way; they are shaped by their histories and given direct or indirect permission (through silence, inaction & passive acceptance) to assault in the society within which they live.

TJ seeks to secure justice for the person who has experienced the violence/assault, while transforming the structures of community and social injustice that perpetuate such abuse. The goals of TJ are:

- Survivor safety, support and agency
- Offender accountability and transformation
- Community response and accountability
- Collective action towards addressing larger issues of injustice and oppression
- Transformation of the community and social conditions that create and perpetuate violence/assault i.e. systems of oppression, exploitation, domination and state violence

Central to the goals of TJ are: liberation from intergenerational legacies of intimate, community and state violence; as well as a shifting of power. TJ challenges definitions of power based on domination and control, and instead seeks to build shared power based on equity, cooperation and self-determination. In a TJ model this could involve survivor- centred responses to sexual assault/violence; perpetrator accountability practices; addressing the underlying causes that promote violence/assault; as well as community controlled alternatives to state prison/penalisation responses.

A TJ approach builds the capacity of communities, organisations and intimate networks to respond to the support needs of individuals and relationships while also building

**CULTURE:** is being stolen from Aboriginal people in schools. The kids are only allowed to learn their own language for one hour a day, and that is the very last hour of the day, when kids are tired. "We had programmes created by the community for the community. We wanted more support for them. Community programmes have been taken away. They've taken away our night patrol, community bus, and women's centres." "The government is denying Aboriginal people our identity and culture through the Bi-lingual education ban."

**Some resolutions from the Convergence**

*We the people in attendance at the NT Anti Intervention convergence held at Alice Springs 6-9 July 2010 stand in solidarity with the Aboriginal Peoples, Traditional Owners of Northern Territory to condemn the NT Intervention and call on all political parties to call for abolishment of NT Emergency Response and return rights of self-determination control over their traditional lands, including homelands, outstations and town camps.*

*We call for a national, independent inquiry into where/how intervention funds have been spent.*

*We call on the Australian Education Union to pledge support for any teachers who refuse to follow the policy of assimilation being enforced on NT communities – the restrictions on teaching in Aboriginal languages.*

in. At the bottle shop, your ID card must be scanned in to check how much alcohol you bought. All of this was really intense, and action must be taken.

On the way home in the car, we saw an Aboriginal family pulled over with a flat tyre, so we pulled over to help. We took the father of the family to the mechanic to get a new tyre. The mechanic looked him up and down I could tell he didn't want to help the man. But then the mechanic looked at us, and he was like, well if you guys wanna help him then I'll do it for you (basically because we're white). So we got the tyre back to their car, but we didn't have the right tool, so we signalled for someone driving past to help us. These two dudes helped us fix the tyre (again because we're white). They made racist remarks at the Aboriginal family while fixing the tyre. We stayed silent, wanting the family to get their tyre fixed with no trouble. When the dudes left we apologised about the dudes, and said goodbye and good luck.



There is much more going on than this. If you want to get involved with this struggle, a good place to start is

The Stop the Intervention Collective Sydney (STICS)  
<http://stoptheintervention.org/>  
 or help raise funds, because fighting this racism can be expensive. Also you can ask STICS for DVDs made by affected communities if you wish to learn more.

It was very powerful to hear, first hand, what is going on in the NT. The conference was well organised and informative. I witnessed the racism Aboriginal people are subjected to - being told to move from out the front of shopping malls when they are just resting; Aboriginal people stuck in the queue at the mall. Separate parts of the pub for Aboriginal people to drink

# NOBODY TO VOTE FOR BUT PLENTY TO VOTE AGAINST

*The following statement was written by the Melbourne Anarchist-Communist Group before the general election on August 21.*

On 21 August, a general election is being held in Australia. The Labor Government is being challenged by the Liberals, but neither party is interested in solving severe problems of inequality, environmental destruction and social alienation. In fact, they will make them worse. To start with, the Liberals are the party of big business, the party of capital, and are sworn enemies of the working class. Under the leadership of Tony Abbott, they have openly embraced social reaction, stirring up every backward prejudice they can get away with. Everybody knows they are championing at the bit to bring back Work Choices and if they hesitate to say so openly, it is only because they fear the vehemence of the working class response.

The Labor Party, historically the electoral representative of the working class, is little better than the Liberals. Caught between its own servitude to capital and its craven capitulation to the bosses' media, it has time and again reneged on even its timid progressive reforms. In the name of "managing Australia's borders", refugees are to be denied entry. In the name of "creating a consensus on climate change", they will permit the greenhouse denial industry to veto any action. And in the name of nothing but naked fear, private schools will continue to be given preferential funding over public schools. Even on industrial relations, Labor is a disgrace. Its Fair Work Act made relatively minor reforms to Work

Choices and Labor has continued to fund the Australian Building and Construction Commission, a secret industrial police force which treats solidarity as a more dangerous crime than murder.

The Liberals want to kill the unions. Labor's alternative is to keep them chained and malnourished, unable to resist any determined employer.

Are the Greens a progressive alternative? Certainly their rhetoric is a refreshing change from the Libs and the "me-too" ALP. Their fatal flaw is exposed, however, by their commitment to capitalism. This is clearest to see in the most important issue for them, climate change. They understand the threat of global warming and want to tackle it, but their proposals would put the cost of doing so largely on the working class. This would drive workers into the arms of the greenhouse denial industry and destroy any hope of effective action on climate change. The Greens, therefore, have no answers.

Finally (the assorted right-wing nutters are not even worthy of consideration), in some electorates a socialist might be found on the ballot paper. They rightly name capitalism as the problem and a (vaguely defined) socialism as the solution. They pose, however, no credible strategy for getting there. Only the working class can solve the burning issues of our time, and we can only do it through organisation in the workplace and the community. We will build a society of liberty, equality and solidarity, but we will do it without Parliaments and other top-down bodies. We will do it through a worldwide workers' revolution.

At this election, therefore, there is no shortage of people to vote against. But there is definitely nobody to vote FOR.

they need. The Town Hub idea is killing communities.

Under the new Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) scheme designed by the Federal Labor government, Aboriginal people no longer receive wages. They are being forced to work providing vital services such as rubbish collection, school bus runs, sewerage maintenance, construction, and aged care in exchange for quarantined Centrelink payments.

There are cases of people working between 25-40 hours a week for a base rate of approximately \$120 cash and \$110 on the Basics Card – that is \$4 an hour, plus rations. Centrelink is threatening to cut off payment entirely if people do not participate in CDEP.

**End compulsory income management  
End current CDEP arrangements forcing  
people to work for the BasicsCard  
Turn all CDEP positions into fulltime  
waged jobs**

**HOUSING:** It has been three years since the intervention was announced. There has not been one new house built despite the hundreds of millions of dollars put aside for this purpose. Instead, the money has gone to intervention staff. It has been volunteers, some with building skills who have gone out to communities and shared their skills with Aboriginal people to help build their own houses with donated materials and funds.

**TOWN HUBS:** There are over 70 communities in the NT. The intervention is forcing people out of their own communities in many ways. A Town Hub is where 20 communities are selected for funding. This means people are supposed to move to Hub towns. The towns that are not Hub towns are suffering because their local shops are taken away, the people are not paid for their community jobs any more. They are replaced by intervention jobs that do nothing. Their community buses are taken away, and in one case there was such poor maintenance that raw sewage was being poured down the main street. This is not fair. People can't make it to funerals because there is no cheap bus. People can't make it to the hospital in time to get the help

## **THE INTERVENTION IS RACIST: Report back from the convergence in Alice Springs. 6th – 9th July 2010**

The Aboriginal Rights Conference calls upon the Federal Minister for Communication to investigate the ABC's Lateline program for reporting false, misleading statements on Aboriginal communities in its program about alleged sexual abuse in Mutitjulu. Participants of the conference condemn the ABC for this program and call for an on-air apology for casting all Aboriginal communities in a derogatory light. Particularly the male participants at this conference condemn child/sexual abuse and agree that those matters should be properly investigated without racist targeting of all Aboriginal communities.

### **ABORIGINAL VOICES:**

What people said about the intervention at the convergence 2010.

### **THE EFFECTS OF THE INTERVENTION**

The basics cards are racist cards (the basics cards are cards that Aboriginal people in the NT now have to use since the intervention). Half of your Centrelink welfare payment goes on this card which you can use for groceries in limited shops, eg. Woolworths or Coles. It means people from communities have to travel very far to shop. It means people can't afford petrol. It is also humiliating because you have to queue up in the shopping line, pull out all your cards and hope that you remember how much is left on your card. People are also restricted to what they may buy - no cigarettes, no soft drink, no confectionary, no choice. It means embarrassment. "For old people the intervention is bringing up bad memories of the past, the old days, the ration days, the dog tag days and the mission days." Worse than Workchoices.

## **The intervention has to be stopped!**

Before going to the Alice Springs convergence 2010, I thought the intervention was wrong, then I went to the convergence and was terrified to hear just how bad it is. What we hear in the media is nothing compared to how Aboriginal people are being treated in the NT. I learnt first hand the horrors of the intervention from powerful Aboriginal speakers and thinkers, and experienced the racism of just being in the NT.

### **The intervention was built on lies!**

At the convergence July 2010 a media reporter, Chris Graham, showed us the LATELINE ABC TV show that aired in August 2006 - the report which kick-started the intervention. LATELINE showed an Aboriginal man whose face was blurred claiming that he had lived in the community of Mutitjulu for nine months as a child social worker and saw, with his own eyes, child sex rings and cried while telling the story. They also showed footage which LATELINE said was from the community of Mutitjulu. At the convergence, Chris Graham then played the footage again, but this time paused the programme to tell us what lies he had uncovered in his in-depth research. First of all, the crying man who told the story with his face blurred out had never even been to the community of Mutitjulu. He was actually working for Mal Brough. Secondly, the footage shown of "Mutitjulu" was not of the Mutitjulu community. The footage was from another community, and was very old footage that depicted Aboriginal people sniffing petrol.

The LATELINE story caused a national outrage, with media hype demanding a solution. On the 15th of June 2007 the commission released its report, called 'Little Children are Sacred'. This report was the catalyst for the "EMERGENCY RESPONSE" that Brough launched. **THE INTERVENTION STARTED.**

## **THE RACIAL DISCRIMINATION ACT**

Fact: The suspension of the Racial Discrimination Act has been necessary for the introduction of policies which have seen a massive level of Federal Government control over the Aboriginal communities in the NT. The Racial Discrimination Act would make it illegal for the Federal Government to:

- force communities to sign over control of Aboriginal land in 5 year leases,
- prohibit alcohol consumption, and
- control spending patterns through income management and store cards
- take-over Aboriginal service-providers.

"They took everything away from 78 communities in the Northern Territory, and also took away our human rights through legislation. Wow. I never thought any government would stoop that low. I really didn't, not in my lifetime." - BOB RANDALL

## **THE RACIAL DISCRIMINATION ACT IS BACK BUT THE POLICIES AND PRACTICES IN THE NT ARE STILL RACIST ONES!**

**LEASES:** Aboriginal people are being forced to sign 5 year leases on their land. Often people are tricked into signing them because they don't understand the legal system or the leases are done non-consensually.

### **ABORIGINAL PEOPLE IN CUSTODY:**

At the conference people talked a lot about their people being locked up in jail for two year for offences such as driving on their land with no license, and not being able to pay the fine, for having a gun on their property with out a gun license.