

"FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT FOR ALL AND AN END TO ALL MIGRATION CONTROLS"

NEWCASTLE GATHERING NOV 2008: REPORT



In November, a gathering of No Borders activists was held in Newcastle with groups and individuals from Brighton, Bristol, South Wales, London, Oxford, Manchester, Leeds, Newcastle, Edinburgh and Glasgow taking part. Altogether, about 50-60 people attended. We began with report backs from local groups, giving us an impression wide range of the activity of the No Borders network. Opposition against ID cards and the IOM, and actions against deportation airlines and immigration snatch squads, are as much part of the No Borders agenda as is

solidarity with detainees, deportees and migrant workers. The need to develop No Borders politics was also stressed in a discussion on 'Who are our allies?'. Whilst tactically, and on a local level, coalitions with reformist and traditional left groups could be useful, the network was described as firmly anti-capitalist and anti-authoritarian. A working group was formed to make these ideas available in an easily accessible guide to No Borders politics.

Next Gathering: 21-22 February 2009 in Bristol: bristolnoborders.wordpress.com

RESISTING RACIST I.D. CARDS



On 25th November, the British state began its rollout of biometric ID cards by imposing them first on migrants. From this date foreign spouses and nationals from outside Fortress Europe who apply for, or renew, study visas will be required to attend a UK Border Agency Centre for interrogation and fingerprinting. They will then be issued with cards which will hold their name, photograph, nationality and immigration status, along with a biometric chip that will hold their fingerprints and digital image. The details will be held indefinitely on the UK Identity Service database. Over the next three years, other groups of non-EU nationals will be forced to undergo the process. On 23rd Nov evening, NO2ID activists in Leeds expressed their resistance to the scheme with a public burning of a mock ID card. A Liverpool action followed on the 24th, with a picket, leafletting and a samba band. A No Borders banner drop on one of Newcastle's busiest inner motorways, also on the 24th, alerted commuters to the rollout, whilst Lunar house in Croydon was picketed by No Borders London. Meanwhile in Birmingham a picket of the UK Border

Agency in Solihull was met by a disproportionate police presence and in Cardiff, 60 people responded to the No Borders call out (pictured above). No Borders Manchester joined forces with Merseyside activists to protest outside Reliance House in Liverpool. Later, on Dec 1st, Anti-ID card activists from the Anarchist Federation blockaded "Sheffield Border Agency Interrogation Centre" at Vulcan House using bicycle locks and superglue to attach themselves to both entrances, the date that it was due to start issuing the cards.

"CONSERVING WHAT FOR WHOM?"

Over 1000 leaflets were handed out by No Borders activists at the Climate March in London on Dec 5th. The leaflet entitled; "Conserving What for Whom?", made the links between climate change and forced migration. It argued that the freedom of movement and social equality must be at the centre of the climate movement. A copy is available on <http://london.noborders.org.uk/>

AMEY ACTIONS

In September 2008, five Colombian cleaners working for Amey Plc at the National Physical Laboratory were suspended for daring to criticise Amey for putting an excessive workload onto ever fewer staff, for unilaterally changing terms and conditions and for disrespecting grievance procedures. The five have since been sacked. Previous to this, workers invited for retraining by Amey had been in fact locked in a room and detained and then deported by our friends from the Borders Agency. A campaign initiated by the sacked workers themselves has been assisted by the Campaign Against Immigration Controls and No Borders. On Monday 8th December, we went to pay a visit to Amey's shiny Corporate HQ, armed with a number of musical instruments. About 20 people from Oxford, Bristol and South Wales No Borders made a horrible noise with drums, olive oil tins, a symbol and two megaphones. The megaphones were particularly effective - especially the siren function, and we got some proper nasty feedback when we placed one next to the other. Dialogue was not forthcoming from within the glass and steel building, but we

did hear from one of the sacked workers first hand: he thanked us for supporting him and his fellow workers, but it was their fighting spirit which inspired us all to be there. On the same day, Amey's offices were picketed in Newcastle by North East No Borders. On the previous Friday, more than twenty protesters entered the offices of Amey Plc in High Holborn, London. The protesters entered the office building to give a petition letter to an Amey representative but were blocked by security in the lobby and were told Amey did not want to see them. After the occupation Julio, one of the sacked cleaners, stayed behind to give the letter but Amey still refused to see him. Mel Ewell, Chief Executive of Amey plc arrived at Kingston University on 2 December to be awarded a place on the Wall of Fame. A protest picket of 80 students and staff turned out in support of the 5 Colombian cleaners. Days before, Kingston's UCU lecturers branch wrote to Ewell urging him to reinstate the cleaners. Actions are planned for the beginning of 2009. Check www.caic.org.uk.

ARMS DEALERS CREATE REFUGEES



On 29th November, a lively and well attended demonstration and die in in the centre of Nottingham brought two successful local campaigns together. Shut Down Heckler & Koch, against Nottingham's arms dealers joined hands with No Borders Nottingham, to come 'full circle'. The demonstration emphasised the links between guns sold in the UK, armed conflicts abroad and the refugees that flee these wars to come to Britain looking for asylum. The demonstrators gave out 2000 fliers to Christmas shoppers making them aware of Heckler & Koch

**SHUT DOWN BMI:
THE 20TH OF EVERY MONTH**
www.noborderswales.wordpress.com



FOR AN END TO IMMIGRATION DETENTION: DEMO SAT 21ST MARCH 12-2PM YARLS WOOD DETENTION CENTRE.
<http://london.noborders.org.uk>



cross-border news in brief

According to the blog Fortress Europe at least 13,341 people have died since 1988 along the European frontiers. / On 19th of December 2008, around 150 Sans-Papiers, immigrants and refugees without residence authorisation and Swiss activists occupied the Prediger Church in Zurich / Following the uprising after the assassination of Alexis Grigoropoulos, some of Greece's migrant community issued a statement: "...For us, the politically organised migrants, this is a second French November of 2005. Despite the struggles we have taken on during all these years we never managed to achieve such a mass response like this one. Now is time for the street to talk: The deafening scream heard is for the 18 years of violence, repression, exploitation and humiliation."