



NoBorders Network

Freedom Of Movement And Equal Rights For All

www.noborders.org.uk

Newsletter Spring 09

CALAIS NO BORDER CAMP 23-29 JUNE



The Calais border is an important focal point for the struggle between those who would see an end to all migration into the EU and those trying to break down the barriers between peoples, the borders that prevent the freedom of movement for all, not just the privileged few. The Calais No Border camp is an exciting joint venture between French activists and migrant support groups and the UK No Borders Network. It aims to highlight the realities of the situation in Calais and Northern France; to build links with the migrant communities; to help build links between migrants support groups; and lastly, but not least, to challenge the authorities on the ground, to protest against increased repression of migrants and local activists alike. This camp is not just about Calais: we are calling for the freedom of movement for all, an end to borders and to all migration controls. We call for a radical movement against the systems of control which divide us into citizens and non-citizens, into the documented and the undocumented. **For more information see:**

www.calaisnoborder.eu.org/www.london.noborders.org.uk/calais2009/
www.noborders.org.uk or contact calais@riseup.net

ABOLISH ALL IMMIGRATION PRISONS! : REPORTS

National Day of Action March 21st: YarlsWood

Gathering in the busy town centre, participants gave out leaflets inviting people to join the march and held placards and banners aloft. After listening to a compelling speaker or two, the demonstrators set off on a march. Upon arriving at the outside gates of Yarls Wood IDC, demonstrators found themselves between the prison, a row of police vans and 40 police officers, above buzzed a watching helicopter. The detainees could not be seen or heard as they were being kept inside due to the demo. Once the helicopter and its noise had gone, we (and the police) were able to hear the accounts from speakers including people who had been detained there in the past and (via a mobile phone and megaphone) directly from people inside. The powerful and very moving testimonies of people whose lives have nearly been destroyed by the brutality of the border regime were met with revulsion at the horrific tactics of the state and must act as a catalyst to take action until all are free!

Manchester

After a protest outside Manchester Town Hall, the protesters took a train to the airport. At Terminal 2 they highlighted the existence of Pennine House, where 32 immigration detainees are held captive.

Edinburgh

A picket was held outside the G4S run Brand Street Reporting Centre in Glasgow, where there are weekly protests against the criminalisation of refugees in Scotland. As well as having contracts from the Home Office to transport immigration detainees in the UK, they run holding prisons in Coquelles and Calais.



Julie Rebouillat's (Contre-Fair Collectif) photo exhibition about migrants who sleep rough in the area of Calais is touring the UK to promote the Calais Camp - see back...

Tinsley House Blockaded

March 17th: The blockade, by a coalition of activists, including some from No Borders, lasted for over 6 hours and managed to prevent a WH Tours coach and G4S vans from leaving the detention centre. Soon after the 20 or so protesters were removed by police, however, the coach left for Stanstead, carrying between 8 and 12 Iraqi refugees due for deportation. Others detainees were taken from Campsfield, Colnbrook and Dover detention centres, even though some had outstanding appeals and judicial reviews. At least two men won last-minute High Court injunctions and were taken off the flight. Over 400 people have been deported by charter flights to Iraqi Kurdistan in the last eight months. Campaigners argue that deportation charter flights amount to 'collective expulsion', which is prohibited under Protocol 4 to the European Convention on Human Rights.



BRISTOL GATHERING: LOCAL GROUPS UPDATES

Many of things we discussed at the gathering in Feb have articles of their own, and coz of all those things (and others) we have very little space to discuss what happened, but a summary of what the groups are up to would be more relevant: **Glasgow:** Unity Centre, going well: opening a Charity Shop!, **London:** Open Spaces Project going well **South Wales** BMI Campaign and Pickets outside UKBA continue, **Leeds:** History project about resistance to detention, **Bristol:** Amey Noise demo, Picket outside police station, **Newcastle:** Started North East Group, Voucher exchange scheme, **Manchester:** ID cards, anti-deportation campaigns... and that's just a sample.

GAZA : CALL OUT 27TH APRIL

No Borders calls for a day of action on 27th April. Targeting those profiting from the siege (BAE, G4S, Caterpillar, EDO, Raytheon etc.) We demand the end of the border regime for everyone to enable us to live another way, without fear, racism and nationalism. We support groups in resistance on both sides of the border, from Anarchists Against the Wall in Israel, to the Free Gaza movement. Solidarity with the victims of war does not mean solidarity with capitalist factions in a war from which they seek to benefit, nor does it mean supporting a cross-class, abstract national collective and its ethnic "rights" to lands. **STOP PRESS: 27TH APRIL:** activists from Break the Siege! blockaded BAE systems factory in Middleton, Manchester. Using motorbike chains and D-locks they obstructed the plant by sealing off several entrance points. This direct action was a response to a call for a day of action by the No Borders network.



"We want to live in harmony, but we'll defend our homes and our human rights if necessary." - Dale Farm spokesperson

Bristol and South Wales No Borders have been working with the Dale Farm traveller community to build support to resist the proposed eviction of 100 families from the Dale Farm site by Basildon Council. Should Dale Farm residents be refused permission to appeal the eviction at the House of Lords it is likely to happen at the end of May 2009. For more information about Dale Farm see <http://bristolnoborders.wordpress.com>

VIVA EL MIGRANT RESISTENCIA!

Just in case you were in any doubt to where the most radical resistance to the global border and migration regime, take a look at this lot:

January: "Reeves County Detention Facility ,Texas, the detainees began a spontaneous protest, then a melee ensued: fire broke out during the protest and guards left the premises, locking in the prisoners behind. 700 migrants broke through the gates of the prison where they were being held on the Italian island of Lampedusa, and demonstrated in the city streets. **March:** Hunger strike started in Tinsley House on the opening of Brook House immigration prison.

Ongoing Migrant Worker Campaigns: Amey Workers still refusing to accept offer of money to shut them up..Willis Cleaners carrying on campaign without support of union...Tube Cleaners still struggling for living wage...Sex Workers hold demo against criminalisation of their trade...see the Migration topic Page on UK Indymedia for more.....

WOOLAS DETAINED



Two dozen residents of Oldham and Manchester occupied the constituency office of Phil Woolas, immigration minister and MP for Oldham and Saddleworth..They included migrant rights advocates and members of left-wing and anarchist groups such as Manchester No Borders, Manchester Committee to Defend Asylum Seekers, No One Is Illegal, and the Anarchist Federation. At the end of his local surgery they entered his office and refused to leave. They say they "detained the immigration minister in a protest against immigration detention". Their demanded the abolition of all immigration prisons, specifically Pennine House at Manchester airport.

No Borders Info Tour Continues: 28th April to 6th May @Star and Shadow, Newcastle.

Scotland 7th - 16th May Starting at The Forest Cafe, Edinburgh on 7th May



Steve Cohen, writer and political activist who fought against the border regime for decades, died on 8th of March 2009. Being involved in "No One is Illegal" from the beginning, he had inspired many people with his writings about the injustice caused by the UK Border Regime. Steve, we will miss you!

**STEPHEN WILLIAM COHEN
16 JULY 1945 - 8 MARCH 2009**