

CAMPAIGN AGAINST
carf
RACISM & FASCISM

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1999 80p

FROM
SCHENGEN
TO LA LINEA
BREAKING
DOWN
BORDERS

PLUS SPECIAL FEATURE: UNITING AGAINST GLOBALISATION

SCHOOLS AGAINST DEPORTATION

The Institute of Race Relations is launching a new project on its website (www.homebeats.co.uk). Schools Against Deportation will be reporting the stories of refugee students whose schools have been central in supporting campaigns against their deportation. The project will be used to provide examples for teachers and students running anti-deportation campaigns in their own schools, and as a forum where information, advice and support can be exchanged. Anyone interested in contributing to the project should contact Arun Kundnani or Asha Goveas on 0171 833 2010 or by e-mail on info@homebeats.co.uk ■

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We – anti-racists and those of us engaged in refugee support work in the UK – are being taken to task. And the challenge is coming from two directions: from German activists, who used to look to the UK for a lead in the fight against racism, and from new battalions in our own ranks, those schoolchildren and teachers who are refusing to compromise with New Labour's continuation of the Conservatives' policy on asylum.

In drawing our attention to several cases of people imprisoned here for helping refugees enter Britain from Germany, the Antirassismus-Büro in Bremen asks why there is no organisation in the UK that these prisoners can turn to for legal help. Furthermore, ARBB points out that while there is the sans-papiers movement in France, the No one is Illegal network in Germany and the Solidariteits Netwerk voor Illegalen in the Netherlands, no comparable social movement exists in the UK.

The failure ARBB identifies is all the more pertinent given the acquittal in June of Bridget Seisay on charges of human trafficking, which provided us with the opportunity to take the fight against aiding illegal entry laws forward. And yet another opportunity to illuminate the inhuman effect of asylum laws is provided by schoolchildren, now at the forefront of the anti-deportation movement in this country. From Haggerston school in Hackney, to Claremont in Manchester's Moss Side, schoolchildren and teachers have fought valiant campaigns to protect their students from deportation. In the process, a whole new generation of young people is being schooled in anti-racism as the problems of asylum-seekers fleeing authoritarian regimes in the Third World become part of the daily classroom curriculum.

Inevitably, as the Immigration and Asylum Bill is pushed through parliament it has been necessary for anti-racists to engage in lobbying to temper its worst excesses. But there is a danger that in the process of speaking to government, we will forget to take up concrete cases of rejected asylum-seekers; and that, in concentrating on the legal fight for refugee rights, our rage against the effect that the denial of rights has on the rejected and marginalised will be blunted. The anti-racist culture that movements in the rest of Europe looked to was one of confronting state power and was grounded in the experiences of the most dispossessed in the community. In the final analysis we will betray that culture if we get out of the tradition of campaigning and into the habit of lobbying, eschewing the politics of principle in favour of that of compromise. ■

DEATHS IN CUSTODY

STOP THE SECRECY

Christopher Alder: On 23 July, the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) announced that five officers are to be charged in relation to the death of Christopher Alder who died while in the custody of Hull police (see *CARF* 47). The DPP took 15 months to reach a decision despite video evidence showing Christopher lying on the floor of Queen Street (Hull) police station having obvious difficulty breathing. PS Dunn and PCs Barr, Dawson, Blackley and Ellerington are all to be charged with 'misconduct in public office'. ■

Justice for Christopher Alder,
c/o Red Triangle Cafe, St James Street, Burnley,
Lancashire. Tel: 01282 832 319

Parliamentary questions:

In recent months, members of parliament have shown their support for the

families of those who have died in custody, and those campaigning on their behalf, by submitting a series of early day motions on: the control and restraint techniques in mental health hospitals (43 signatures), legal aid and deaths in custody (37 signatures) restraint methods and deaths in police custody (12 signatures). ■

For further information contact Inquest, Alexandra National House, 330 Seven Sisters Road, London. N4 2PJ. Tel: 0181 802 7430

FOI Award: Congratulations to Inquest for winning a Freedom of Information Award from the Campaign for Freedom of Information. Inquest was awarded the honour for its campaign to end the secrecy surrounding deaths in police and prison custody. ■

Inquest, contact details as above

FAMILIES' FIGHT FOR JUSTICE CONTINUES

As we go to press, details of the suspected racially-motivated murder of Joseph Alcendor in Kilburn, north London, are being released by police. And in yet another brutal racist incident, Liban Ali, a 20-year-old Somali, was left in a coma after being attacked on 15 June in Leicester city centre. Despite senior police officers declaring that the police will now be taking racial murders seriously, the families of Ricky Reel, Michael Menson, Farhan Mire, Surjit Singh Chhokar and James Tossell, must still battle for justice.



Joseph Alcendor, 62, was punched in the head while dancing outside a private party in Kilburn on 24 July. Police believe the attacker, who was drunk, was refused entry to the party and assaulted Mr Alcendor as he left the house. After the attack he also punched a minicab driver. A white man, in his 30s, Leo Kearney, has been arrested in connection with the assault.

Liban Abdi Mohammed Ali: On 15 June, Liban received serious head injuries after being attacked by up to four white men in Leicester city centre. Despite three separate operations to treat the severe head injuries he sustained, the young Somali remains in a coma. One man has been arrested.

James Tossell, 16, died in 1998 in an arson attack in Kenfig Hill, near Bridgend. Yet thanks to a bungled investigation by South Wales police, no one has been brought to trial for his murder. The fire broke out in the flat of James' friend, Steven Gibbs. Earlier, the two young friends had been forced to barricade themselves into the flat as a number of youths shouted racist taunts and hurled bricks at the windows. It seems that the police were called and their lack of action has been the subject of a complaint by a relative of James Tossell. The CPS, however, has ruled that there is insufficient evidence to bring charges against any officer. Meanwhile, charges brought against two youths have been dropped due to insufficient evidence.

Ricky Reel: The mother of Ricky Reel, the Asian teenager who died in October 1997 in a suspected racist attack (see CARF 42), met

Jack Straw earlier this month to demand that her family be allowed to see the Police Complaints Authority report into the investigation of his death, which she has been shown on condition of strict confidentiality. The report criticised officers for not logging the racially motivated attack and for not filling out a missing person log immediately. By withholding the report, the Met ignored one of the major recommendations of the Macpherson Report – that police should not withhold reports resulting from public complaints unless there is a risk of causing 'substantial harm'.

Mr Straw agreed to meet Sukhdev Reel only after her constituency MP John McDonnell threatened to invoke parliamentary privilege to make the PCA report public.

Michael Menson: On 24 June, two men stood before the Old Bailey accused of murdering Michael Menson and obstructing the police investigation into his death.

Mr Menson, a 30-year-old musician, died in February 1997, after being set alight on the North Circular road, north London. Before he died he told police he had been attacked by a white gang but detectives assumed he had set himself on fire in a suicide attempt. The Met later admitted that serious mistakes had been made by senior officers and an inquest jury returned a verdict of unlawful killing.

Mario Pereira, a 26-year-old student, and an unemployed man named Constatinou, 26, denied murder and, with a third man, conspiracy to pervert the course of justice. Their trial begins on 8 November. A further suspect was arrested in Northern Cyprus in July.

NATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT EVENTS

17/9/99 @ 7pm, Irish Centre, Brunswick Road, Sheffield. Sheffield NCRM meeting with Janet Alder, Paddy Hill, Hillsborough Campaign, and M25 Three Campaign. Further info contact: Ruggie Johnson 0114 231 6960

19/9/99 @ 7pm, Hackney Empire. An evening of music, comedy and other acts. All proceeds to NCRM. Organised by Hackney Teachers Association.

9/10/99 Public meeting to launch Plymouth and South West NCRM: Mike Mansfield, Kwesi Menson, Sukhdev Reel, Suresh Grover. Further info contact: National Office or Plymouth NCRM – John McKenzie 01752 264 848

Farhan Mire: Police investigating the murder of Farhan Mire, a Somali student kicked to death in December of last year, had to release a man charged with his killing when the CPS ruled there was not enough evidence against him. The ruling came as a second blow to the investigation after a key witness disappeared. The case has been referred to Scotland Yard's racial and violent crimes task force which will review any murder case opened since 1 April and left unsolved within 28 days, to be reviewed again every six months thereafter.

Surjit Singh Chhokar: Andrew Coulter, 18, and David Montgomery, 22, are to stand trial in August for the killing of Surjit Singh Chhokar, who died after being attacked outside the home of his girlfriend Liz Bryce in Overtown, Lanarkshire in November 1998. In March, Ronnie Coulter, 30, who had lived in the same block as Mr Chhokar, was convicted of assault in connection with the murder. Aamer Anwar, spokesman for the Chhokar Family Justice Campaign, said that delays in bringing further charges had prolonged the suffering of the family, who are demanding a public inquiry. ■



Surjit Singh Chhokar

From Schengen to La Linea

Breaking down

Anti-racists in Poland, Denmark and Germany are linking up to fight the human rights abuses and popular racist culture that are growing up at Schengen's eastern border. But what lessons can be learnt from US activists engaged in cross border work at La Linea – the name Mexicans give to the 2,000 mile southwestern boundary of the US, defined by the Rio Grande, and stretching from San Diego, California to Brownsville, Texas.

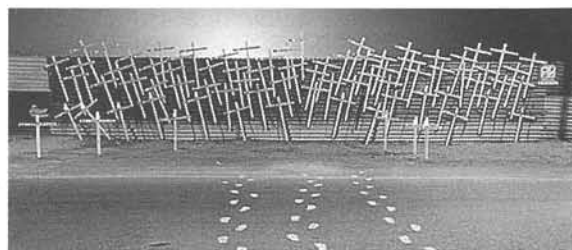
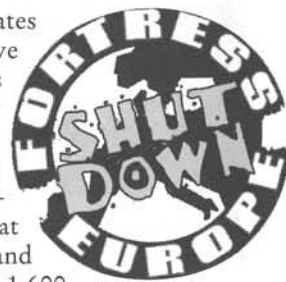


As we go to press, the German campaign No one is Illegal is preparing to mount a week of action against Fortress Europe, organising camps at the EU frontier between Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic. Dutch activists have also organised a border camp and in Poland anti-fascists will demonstrate at the central border police station and at the border with Ukraine, highlighting the 'shifting border to the East'. Activists will draw attention to the human cost of Europe's cruel and deadly border policy and the fact that the highest density of border guards in the world patrol the Polish and Czech borders, pushing more and more asylum-seekers into the hands of traffickers and dangerous methods of travel.

Deaths at the border

UNITED, which keeps a list of all deaths caused by Europe's 'fortress

policy', estimates that there have been 1,021 deaths of migrants and asylum-seekers since 1993. US human rights activists believe that between 1993 and 1997, at least 1,600 migrants died at the US's southwest border. 'Every day I expect deaths to go up not by one but by three,' says Leticia Jimenez of the Pasadena branch of the American Friends Service Committee, which has used its links with Mexican migrant groups to stage the Exhibition of the Crosses (see picture story below). Claudia Smith, director of the Borders Project at the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation, is calling on the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to launch an immediate investigation into over 400 deaths attributed to



It was a dramatic and poignant sight: a single, mile-long line of white, wooden, four-foot high crosses with stark, black lettering. The crosses stood, wind-blown and sun-baked on the Mexican side of the arid scrub land along the US-Mexico border. And at the end of the line was a sign that read 'Cuantos Mas?' (How many more?). The display, the brainchild of a coalition of migrants' rights groups in Mexico and the United States, was designed to commemorate the migrants who have died and to protest Operation Gatekeeper. Many of the crosses bore the names, dates of death and states of Mexico from which the migrants came. However, as if in testament to the loneliness of death along the border, more than 120 crosses read only 'no identificado' (identity unknown). In all, there were 340 crosses, some of which were put on the border fence itself.

orders

the government's border control strategy for the San Diego sector.

Launched by president Clinton in 1994, Operation Gatekeeper doubled the number of border patrol agents along a 14-mile stretch of the US-Mexico border heavily used by undocumented immigrants. According to Leticia Jimenez 'Operation Gatekeeper has done absolutely nothing to counter "illegal immigration" but has served instead to speed up the rate of deaths,' by pushing migrants away from a relatively safe coastal corridor towards the mountains and deserts that straddle the border east of San Diego, and are characterised by deep canyons filled with rocky scrub, virtually no water and peaks that rise over 6,000 feet. Over the Easter weekend this year, 16 migrants died at the California border. 'While eight migrants were freezing to death in the mountains, the others were dying of heat stroke in the desert,' Claudia Smith told CARF. 'Crossing the border illegally in search of work should not carry a death sentence.'

Fighting popular racism

Deaths, though, will not be the only issue European activists will draw attention to during their week of action. Hagen from the Hanau branch of No one is Illegal warns of the popular racism, fuelled by the media and an 'atmosphere of denunciation' which is growing up in German border towns. 'The BGS [border police] is now the biggest employer in many border areas. It has a special telephone number where people can phone in with information about illegals. The result is that all black people are suspected, so they are constantly stopped.'

From the Austrian province of Carinthia (bordering Slovenia) where Haider's Freedom Party has notched up its biggest ever success, to Karst in Italy (also bordering Slovenia), where the Northern League has set up border

continued on next page



Jeffrey Scott

People climbing over the wall at Nogales, Arizona on the US-Mexico border

REFUGEE VOICES

KARIBU magazine is one of the most expressive and powerful vehicles of popular writing to be found in London. Yet you won't find it in WHSmith's or on the shelves of other chain newsagents in stations or shopping centres in the city.

It is a democratic journal of human truth produced by those whose writing it contains – asylum-seekers and refugees who regularly attend writers' workshops organised through the Workers' Education Association (WEA) in Brixton.

From its home-made pages real lives leap out. Its authors tell of their experiences in many lands – the oppression they have faced and the poverty, homelessness and discrimination they meet every day in Britain.

In prose and poetry – sometimes translated from a host of languages, sometimes published bilingually – men, women and children write about their reactions to the 1996 Asylum and Immigration Act and its denial to them of benefits, housing, education, health care – as well as the 'dispersal' policies kindly added by New Labour, which could find them alone and unsupported in any part of the UK.

Some of the creative writing in KARIBU is deeply moving and powerful.

An Algerian tells of his arrival in London in the back of a lorry; an Ecuadorean writes of being hung upside down over a bridge in Quito by police hounding him for documents of an opposition party. Sohrab from Iran presents a simple yet profound poem of few words yet universal relevance:

*How difficult is the road.
Sometimes an abrupt rise,
other times, a slope in town;
as far as there is hope
you can climb the mountainous road.*

*Woe, if you run out of hope
then, missing everything
do stop getting bored
again, get on the road.
How difficult is the road.*

Yet there are poems too of optimism and affirmation – love for a village, a people and a homeland to which, one day, the writer will return – as with Hamid:

*My good and kind village is the end
of unknown ways.
The story of smiling stars is the story
of looks and beckons...*

Chris Searle

KARIBU is available through WEA Looking Glass Writers, 4 Luke Street, London EC2A 4XA



patrols to search for illegals, the far Right is benefitting from the racist culture of border towns. And this is one of the reasons why the organisers of the summer camps have printed 20,000 newsletters, written in both German and Polish, to be distributed to locals during the week of action.

New alliances

Many anarchists and anti-fascists from eastern Europe have registered to take part in the summer camps and Hagen, while recognising that eastern and western perspectives will not be the same, anticipates an interesting exchange. For this meeting of anti-fascist activists across Europe's eastern divide is an important initiative. 'Cross border organising strengthens links, but the obstacles to cross border organising are great', warns the US magazine *Corporate Watch*, in an editorial on justice on the US-Mexico border. 'Activists must bridge the gap in unequal resources, cultural and linguistic differences and face the slow pace of change.'

And what about Europeans, both east and west, linking up with activists from the USA and Mexico? 'The initial idea for simultaneous camps to take place in the USA and Mexico wasn't realised', comments Hagen ruefully. Next year, perhaps. ■

Kein Mensch ist illegal:
website <http://www.contrast.org/borders>

American Friends Service Committee:
<http://www.afsc.org>

California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation:
Tel: 00 1 760 433 4085

Solidarity across

In a substantial blow to laws against aiding illegal entry, an appeal court in Belgium has quashed the conviction against Bridget Seisay. Yet her case, taken up by ARA and Fair Trials Abroad, is only one of many and we must build on it if we are to galvanise support for other innocent people languishing in jail in Britain and Europe after falling foul of laws designed to criminalise solidarity.

In June, the Antirassismus-Büro in Bremen (ARBB) wrote to CARF detailing the cases of several people serving time in British jails after attempting to help asylum-seekers threatened with deportation from Germany enter the UK (see box). While appreciating CARF's focus on the criminalisation of innocent people through the aiding illegal entry laws, ARBB criticises us, and the refugee support movement in general, for failing to provide practical solidarity with these prisoners who have no-one to turn to in the UK, who are all desperate about their circumstances, frequently do not speak English, do not understand the British legal system and are completely isolated from families, friends or any support network. ARBB wonders why it has proved impossible to build a campaign for these prisoners here and why, more

generally, there seems to be such a reluctance amongst anti-racists in the UK to take up the cause of 'irregular immigrants' and those who help them.

Call for support network

ARBB is right to be disappointed and right to point out that there are many more people, in cells in Canterbury, Elmley and Dover, who need support. And it is right too to plead for a 'change in culture' amongst those of us engaged in refugee support work here. For the new Immigration and Asylum Bill will penalise many more innocent people, and many more acting from humanitarian reasons. The Bill will increase the maximum sentence for aiding illegal entry from seven to ten years. It also imposes penalties on inadvertent carriers of clandestine entrants,



Bridget Seisay freed

A Belgian appeal court released Bridget Seisay on 23 June, after she had served seven months of a three-year sentence on charges of human trafficking. Bridget was arrested at Eurostar in Brussels in November when the woman she was travelling with was found to have a false passport, although there was no evidence that Bridget had known about the deception, let alone participated in it. Quashing her conviction, the appeal court judges said that no proper investigation had been carried out and that the authorities had failed to provide substantial evidence against her. Bridget's partner Habib, who had to give up his job to care for the couple's three-year-old son while she was in prison, pointed out that the mainstream white press in Britain mostly ignored Bridget's case. 'Bridget feels she has lost all her integrity and has been criminalised unnecessarily,' he said. 'It's so sad to presume that if you are black you must be a criminal.' London ARA and Fair Trials Abroad, which had campaigned for Bridget's release, called for an inquiry into the Belgian judicial system.

London ARA, PO box 307, Middlesex HA2 0YD, tel 0181 422 4849.
Fair Trials Abroad, Bench House, Ham, London TW10 8HR, tel 0181 332 2800

borders

including confiscation of vehicles if financial penalties are not paid. To escape penalty the lorry-drivers will have to show either that they were forced by violence and threats to carry their passengers or that they have an effective system in place for detecting anyone hiding in their lorries, which they used on the occasion they were apprehended. In addition, carrier sanctions are to be applied comprehensively to all passenger vehicles: planes, boats, trains and buses. The burden of policing immigration is thus passed to carriers of passengers and freight, with penalties attached to failure.

Addressing the issues

There can no longer be any pretence that these laws are designed to prevent criminal racketeers profiteering from the plight of refugees. Their aim is far simpler: to keep asylum-seekers out, by deterring anyone contemplating helping them. Britain's immigration minister Mike O'Brien made no bones about it: 'The Refugee Convention does not oblige us to facilitate the entry of refugees', he said.

And it is not only those who aid

The Antirassismus-Büro in Bremen writes:

About a year ago we received a letter from a desperate German in prison in the UK for facilitating illegal entry. As word spread that there was an organisation willing to help prisoners from Germany in the UK, we received a flood of letters from people in a similar position. Most of the people who wrote to us had believed that they were only committing a minor offence by helping people get into the UK and were stunned by the severe sentences they received. Their stories include that of a 60-year-old pensioner and his workmate who rented a van to get a family of Kosovan Albanians threatened with deportation from Germany to safety in Britain and, after being caught at the port of entry, were sentenced to five years, reduced on appeal to three years. In another case, a Nigerian father of two sought to help a pregnant asylum-seeker threatened with deportation from Germany by bringing her to Britain. He was sentenced to 15 months. And a Vietnamese refugee gave three Vietnamese who he did not know a lift to Britain after falling into debt and being blackmailed by his creditors. He was sentenced to 27 months.

illegal entry, by smuggling or providing false documents, who have been criminalised, but also, in Britain at least, the asylum-seekers themselves. On 29 July, the High Court condemned as illegal the prosecution and jailing of thousands of asylum-seekers for travelling on false documents. The Geneva Convention on refugees says that refugees using illegal means to get to safety should not be penalised, yet refugees with absolutely no other way to get to safety, including Kosovan Albanians and Iraqi Kurds, have been prosecuted and imprisoned for using false documents over the past five years. But there has been little interest in the issue; unlike in France and Germany, where 'sans-papiers' have been massively supported, there is no infrastructure of support for such a movement in the UK. Similarly, although the Road Hauliers' Association did a lot of lobbying as the

new Bill went through the Commons, the issue of penalising those who, in ignorance, for humanitarian reasons or even for a living, help others find refuge, once more went unaddressed by the anti-racist movement and went by the board.

But it is too important an issue to ignore. When taxi-drivers in Germany began to be criminalised for picking up fares who turned out to be undocumented migrants, anti-racist campaigners in Berlin organised actions and meetings and prison visits in solidarity with the taxi-drivers, and forced their criminalisation onto the national agenda. It is perhaps no coincidence that, with the experience of 30 years of the Berlin Wall, Berliners are far more understanding and approving of those who help people across borders, even those who do it for a living, so long as they are not exploiting those they help. ■

EXTENDING THE BORDERS OF FORTRESS EUROPE

Steve Cohen and Dave Landau went on a recent fact-finding visit to Lithuania and ask anti-racists to support campaigners in Lithuania opposing the detention of Third World refugees and the extension of the EU's immigration controls to the Baltic states.

'Thirteen Somalis had spent three months in the dark, three metres underground in horrifying conditions. They never saw the light of day except during the daily exercise hour. They suffered from eye problems. It was terribly hot. The air was heavy, unbreathable. The place made you claustrophobic. The Somalis were in the midst of their second hunger-strike.'

This is taken from a 1995 report by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees. About Campsfield? Harmondsworth? Or some local English prison? The answer is that it is about none of these. It is about Yanaua detention centre in Lithuania.

So what are Somalian refugees doing in a detention centre in Lithuania on the Baltic Sea? First, they were double-crossed by criminal racketeers who, for a fortune, promised to get them into Europe. Second, the countries of the European Union are intent on creating a ring or buffer of client states which will operate

as a first line of exclusion from Fortress Europe. The Nordic countries, particularly Sweden, Denmark and Norway, are acting as financiers for the erection of immigration controls around the three Baltic states of Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia.

All refugees awaiting deportation from Lithuania are now kept in Pabrade prison camp. In fact the only black people in Lithuania seem to be in this camp. The local Red Cross has established an excellent project – the Legal Assistance Project for Refugees – to support them. In 1998 it documented the possible use of handcuffs and gas as forms of disciplinary punishment. It also found that a Sri Lankan refugee had been beaten in front of his family because he refused an order to remove garbage from the camp. Another Sri Lankan was beaten by several guards because he had asked to use the phone.

We are asking everyone opposed to racism and immigration controls to join our demand to **release the prisoners, close the camp!** ■

For more information or to offer help: write to The Legal Assistance Project for Refugees, Gedimino Avenue, 2600 Vilnius, Lithuania (email at redcross@undp.lt)

The Campaign to close down Pabrade c/o GMIAU, 400 Cheetham Hill Road, Manchester M8 9LE





Behind the charges at Wormwood Scrubs

As the future of Wormwood Scrubs prison hangs in the balance, with a second unannounced inspection by Chief Inspector of Prisons Sir David Ramsbotham finding a deterioration in prisoners' treatment, 25 prison officers go to trial on charges of assaulting prisoners. CARF interviews Daniel Machover, the solicitor whose work with prisoners at the Scrubs led to the charges.

CARF: There have been allegations of abuse and racism in prisons for years. How did you manage to prise the whole issue open?

Daniel Machover: We were approached by someone working in the prison who said that there were some officers out of control, mainly within the segregation unit. When we started to investigate we were picking up stories about other prisoners and following them up. We began to discern a pattern and, talking to the Prison Reform Trust, we established that there was something going on in Wormwood Scrubs that had not come to the attention of the people at the top. Realising the seriousness of the allegations we decided not to take them through the individual complaints systems. We made a strategic decision to meet with lawyers of other prisoners and act as a group. And then we just went straight to the Chief Inspector of Prisons with the report that we had compiled. [see extracts, left]

When you interviewed prisoners could they speak freely?

We had legal visits with them and these are run by officers. Some of the conditions of 'private' interviews in prisons are not very satisfactory. On some occasions they put you in a room directly opposite the officer running the visits who can see in (because you are supposed to be in the sight of a prison officer). But you can also be 'in hearing' as well, which you are not supposed to be; sometimes you have to sit next to each other and whisper.

What's the most worrying aspect of what you've found?

The most worrying aspect about the case is that something wasn't done earlier. The whole system has failed a remarkable number of prisoners who allege that they've been assaulted during the 1990s. The allegations show a pattern of abuse going back many years. The reputation of Wormwood Scrubs was widely known within the prison

'They try to break you down physically and mentally'

'I noticed the officers usually beat up black inmates and they beat me up when I was alone or with a black inmate'

'All in all over a year I complained to about five different governors both in person and in writing. I never received a response'

'I was assaulted several times every day whilst I was in the segregation unit'

'An officer said 'We'll hang you and make it look like an accident or make it look as if you done it yourself'''

Statements included in report sent to Chief Inspector of Prisons

system – solicitors, prison reformers. The Prisons' Ombudsman had a letter about one case, the Chief Inspector had a letter about a couple of other cases, the Board of Visitors knew about individual cases, internal area managers, doctors, the grassroots and watchdog bodies knew. Some of them were in a position to do something and didn't.

Were the allegations of assault and abuse limited to the segregation unit?

C wing, which is the remand wing, and the segregation units are the areas where most of the allegations come from. Because of a lack of independent witnesses owing to the way segregation units are run, it makes it very difficult to gather independent evidence for a criminal case.

What proportion of victims were black?

Something close to 50 per cent overall of the victims were either black or from an ethnic minority. There were quite a few people of Irish origin, a Romany Gypsy and people were allegedly beaten because they were Scottish.

In your view what percentage of officers are involved?

Over the years dozens and dozens of officers have had allegations made against them and when you've got a prison that's got 260+ staff working at it, that's a very very disturbing number. There are allegations that go back several years against over 10 per cent of staff at any one time.

Was there any evidence that the grounds for segregation had been abused?

Yes, there all kinds of ways you can end up in segregation. You can end up there because it is said that you are a danger to good order and discipline, you don't necessarily have to be put on a charge of breaching prison rules. I've got a number of cases where the allegation is that the client was first assaulted on C wing. Prison officers would allege, for example, they had been assaulted by the prisoner so as to explain away the injuries a prisoner had apparently sustained at their hands. They would then put him on a charge of assaulting a prison officer, resulting in the prisoner ending up in the segregation unit,

where they allegedly got another beating but this time by the segregation unit officers. I've also received allegations of drugs having been planted in order to have a prisoner sent to the segregation unit. If a prison officer on the wing didn't like a prisoner, the allegation is that they would make sure he was sent to the segregation unit where rumour had it he would get a beating.

Do you expect any more charges to be brought?

I'm hoping that there will be more charges brought against some of the same and some other prison officers, against whom I've got something like 20 cases relating to allegations from '91-'96. We also gathered some evidence related to a death in the segregation unit, which occurred in December 1994, of John Boyle, an Irish man. The inquest in 1995 was not satisfied that he committed suicide or that it was an accidental death and it recorded an open verdict. We've asked the police to open a murder inquiry and they are going to fully review the initial investigation into the death of John Boyle.

Do you think what you've found out is being replicated in other prisons?

I would hope that the kind of allegations, the length of time over which they ranged, and their seriousness and number is unique. I am worried, though, that the systems are not in place to ensure that it's not happening elsewhere, or that it won't happen in the future in another prison, if you get a particular combination of forces.

Is the combination of forces to do with particular personalities or structures?

It's a whole sequence of events to do with a particular group of officers, particular type of management, the strength of the Prison Officers' Association, the weakness of other agencies such as the board of visitors and a medical staff whose commitment to their patients as patients has sometimes appeared questionable, to say the least.

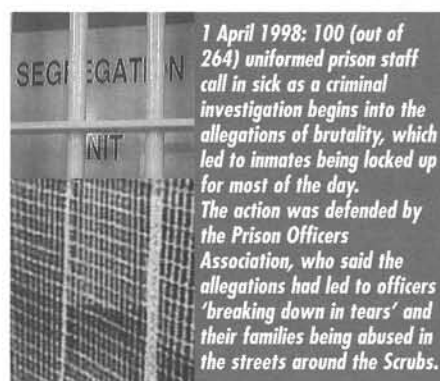
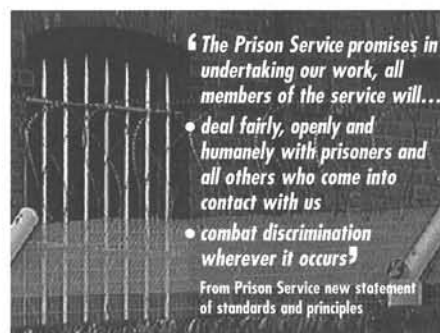
What has been the prison officers' response to your work?

It can be characterised by the immediate response of the local POA national executive

committee member Ron Adams who appeared on TV the night following the charging saying, 'We have to deal with the scum of the earth here'. Given that the prison service is currently doing a whole PR number relaunching its 'standards and principles' – the first being about treating prisoners with humanity, dignity and respect – I think it's scandalous that the Director General of Prisons, Martin Narey, has not publicly rebuked Ron Adams.

Where do you situate racism within the allegations of brutality?

It's difficult to disentangle the issues but it was clear that there were racial motives for some of what was allegedly going on. Some of it was about 'attitude'. I've seen cases where prisoners were allegedly picked on



because they had a mouth on them, they wouldn't do what the officer asked or told them to 'fuck off'. That would lead to alleged retribution. Then there was the type of offence – this apparently affected remand prisoners and those charged with sexual offences particularly. Then race and sometimes a combination of all three. A black sex offender who was not knuckling under was, by all accounts, a powerful cocktail for officers. It's clear that racism is deeply embedded in the prison system. In all prisons you see this big statement about race relations, but I am far from convinced that there is a real push on this like that, for example, over drugs. If you put the same kind of resources and energy into anti-racism as you do into anti-drugs, then you may get somewhere. ■

Black Prisoners' Support Scheme, 4th floor, Fenchurch House, 12 King Street, Nottingham NG1 2AS

NOT JUST THE SCRUBS!

- **WANDSWORTH PRISON** – In July 1998 a Board of Visitors report revealed intimidation and allegations of racism against prison officers. The report alleged that a particular wing on the prison was 'ruled by intimidation by a hard-core rogue element of staff'. Another worrying factor highlighted by the report was the rising number of racial incidents.
- **PARC PRISON** (run by Securicor) – criticised in September 1998 by probation officers who claimed the jail had major racism problems. Rhondda Valley Skins, a right-wing group based in the youth wing, was said to be responsible for the incidents.
- **STAFFORD PRISON** – In May 1998 two separate police inquiries were set up to investigate allegations of sexual and physical abuse. The lawyer representing the inmates said the prison was 'ruled by fear and brutality'.

UNITING AGAINST GLOBALISATION

Four page special report

www.carf.demon.co.uk/global/

IN June, the leaders of the world's wealthiest nations met at the G8 summit in Cologne. For a few days the city was swamped with government officials, press teams and camera crews. But in the shadows of the media spotlight different voices were struggling to be heard – the voice of the Inter-Continental Caravan, a group of farmers, mainly from India, visiting Europe to protest against economic globalisation; the voice of the German refugee group *Die Karawane* who were on a human rights hunger strike; the voice of campaigners against structural adjustment policies which are imposed on Third World debtor nations. Across the world, people's movements are springing up to oppose the economic policies – 'free trade', neo-liberalism and globalisation – which have been forced on them by Washington-based institutions. And many of these movements were present in Cologne along with CARF, to attend an alternative economic summit and an anti-G8 demonstration. With hordes of extra riot police drafted into the city to ensure the G8 summit went undisrupted, anti-racists, anti-imperialists and environmentalists attempted to give voice to a different agenda.

These voices also need to be listened to by anti-racists in Britain. Those struggling against a 'Fortress Europe' system of forced deportations and militarised borders need to understand how, in the Third World, economic globalisation causes instability and, in turn, increased migration. We need to understand how British corporations support foreign regimes from which political refugees are fleeing. And we need to understand that globalisation is now creating a xenophobic backlash which far-right parties in Europe are cashing in on. ■



'Silently, relentlessly, and away from the glare of the world's media, "free trade" is displacing communities and destroying their livelihoods with all the ruthless efficiency of a civil war.'

Kevin Watkins,
Oxfam

PEOPLE vs CORPORATIONS

The Inter-Continental Caravan in Britain

Decisions made in Western boardrooms impact on the lives of thousands of people in the Third World. In response, campaigners are crossing continents to take their protests to the centres of global power

On 21 May, at 'People vs Corporations', a public hearing at Euston, London, activists from the Inter-Continental Caravan (ICC) and from other people's movements from India and Nepal came together with campaigners in Britain. The Punjabi and Gujarati Farmers' Unions and two representatives of INHURED (International Institute for Human Rights, Environment and Development) from Nepal, joined forces with British grassroots groups such as the Hillingdon hospital strikers, the South Asian Solidarity Forum, Corporate Watch and Friends of the Earth.

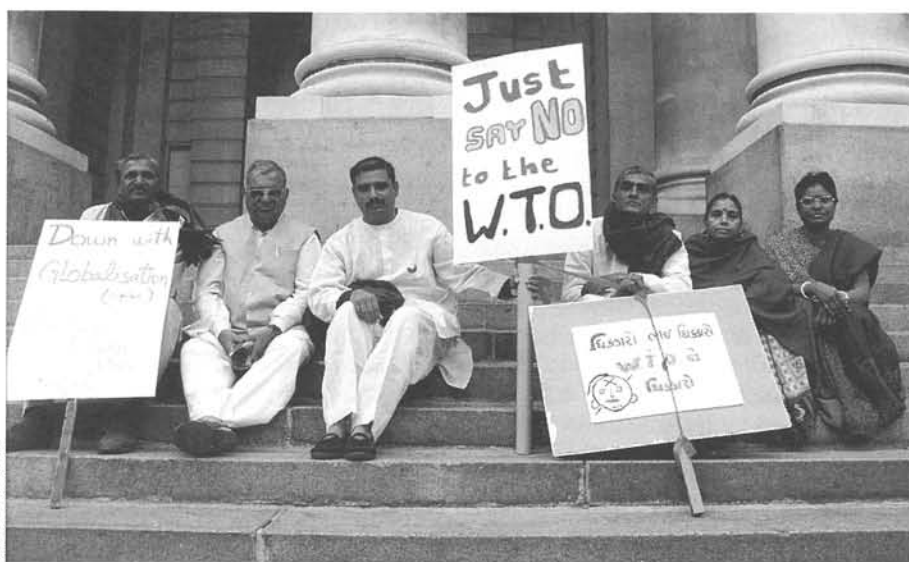
The message from the Third World groups was clear. Global capital and the commodification of seeds and crops (see 'Designs for a corporate world' below) are destroying their livelihoods. The fightback must come from peoples' action co-ordinated internationally. 'We know that it is not easy to fight the nations that rule the world,' says Jorge, a Brazilian activist. 'But we also know that the only alternative is to mobilise those peoples of the world who still show resistance to imperialism and who will not surrender. We, peoples from different continents, who are all part of this caravan, have started a fight. We have understood that there are no borders for capital.'

Gopal Siwakoti 'Chintan' from INHURED spoke on the disastrous effect the water company ENRON and other corporations have on Nepal's water reserves, the treatment of workers and the destruction of the environment. His colleague Neeru Shrestha highlighted the exploitation of women and their flight from poverty into prostitution, with an increasing number of young girls being sold to India and the risk of HIV infection rising. Common to all talks was the

CARAVAN MOVEMENTS RESTRICTED: The ICC's entry into Britain was not without difficulties. Many farmers were refused clearance at the UK High Commission in Madras despite having fulfilled all the relevant criteria. The ICC believes this may be connected to 'Operation Cremate Monsanto', in which farmers in Karnataka had burned down fields of genetically-modified cotton being used as trial crops by Monsanto earlier this year. The ICC also had its freedom of movement restricted in Germany when some of its members were prevented from entering Cologne on 19 June. ■

fundamental rejection of 'development projects', structural adjustment programmes and genetically modified crops, as well as the surprise to find support from European activists. Speakers from Britain made parallels between struggles on both continents, especially concerning the exploitation of black workers in Britain, as the reorganisation of industry relies on institutionalised racism in the labour market to discard redundant workers.

Caravan for Solidarity and Resistance originated from Indian grassroots movements and was developed further at a meeting in Geneva in August 1998, discussing joint actions against the World Trade Organisation (WTO), 'free trade' and corporate rule. 500 activists from India and other countries from the South arrived in Europe as part of the ICC, travelling through Belgium, the Netherlands, France, Germany and the UK. Apart from the Indian



Daniele Lamarche

Addressing corporate rule

After the public hearing, the desire for common action and solidarity was put into effect in the form of a spontaneous demonstration at the Nuffield Council for Bioethics, which had, with the blessing of the prime minister, published a report on the same day claiming that GM foods were not only harmless but that the West had a 'compelling moral imperative' to research and produce them as it was the only way to feed the world's poorest. At the Nuffield offices, five representatives of the Indian farming unions held a 45-minute meeting with the director and assistant director, explaining to them that it is not failures in the production of food, but its distribution which causes Third World hunger.

The idea for the Inter-Continental

farmers' movements and INHURED, the ICC includes Bangladeshi and Brazilian (Movimiento Sem Terra) landless movements, Mexican Zapatista supporters, the Colombian Black Community Movement, and several other people's movements from all around the world.

Now, the ICC is preparing for the WTO Millennium Round. It is important to seize the time and opportunity to build on these newly emerging forms of protest. The realisation that capital knows no limits or borders should inform the nature of the struggle for justice and against global capitalism. International solidarity belongs back on the agenda. ■

For an overview of June 18 actions all over the world see the ICC news bulletin: <http://stad.dsl.nl/~caravan>.

For more information on the PGA: <http://www.agp.org/>

PAKISTANI J18 ACTIVISTS FACE DEATH PENALTY:

Several organisers of the June 18 march in Gujrat, Pakistan, are facing the death penalty after the procession broke through police cordons. The organisers, who are officials from various unions, have been charged with high treason. ■

Offers of solidarity can be sent to: APFUTU, Union House, Rang Para, Sargodha Road, Gujrat - 50700 Pakistan. Fax: +92 4331 525302. E-mail: union@grt.space.net.pk

FREE TRADE BUT UNFREE BORDERS

The German refugee group *Die Karawane* makes connections between anti-globalisation and anti-racism

The economic order established by the WTO, the IMF and the World Bank has given corporations increasing freedom to invest, produce and trade across the globe. At the same time the freedom of movement of people across borders has been curtailed. This contradiction is most apparent at the US-Mexico border or at the eastern frontiers of the EU, where the military clampdown on illegal migration ensures that reserve pools of cheap labour are preserved on the edges of the affluent US and Europe. But wherever globalisation has been forced on developing economies, the result has been destabilisation, conflict and devastation, and, in turn, forced migration – from rural areas to cities, and from poor regions to wealthier ones. And as the media in the West play on fears of huge numbers of migrants arriving on our doorstep, racism and xenophobia leads to the criminalisation of even those refugees who would traditionally have been regarded as genuine political exiles.

The struggle for refugee rights is therefore intimately linked with anti-racist struggles and the struggles against corporate power, although these links are often complex and difficult to highlight. Still, too often in the UK these links are ignored. Not so in Germany, where *Die Karawane*, a grouping of refugees from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East, has been on hunger strike since 4 June. With the recent rightward shift in the Schröder administration – for example, watering down the commitment to reforms of the citizenship laws – the refugees argue that they occupy a uniquely isolated political position, caught between repressive regimes at home and state racism in Germany.

But, as Viraj Mendis, one of the organisers who is also a veteran of anti-deportation struggles in the UK, points out, this isolated position gives them a unique political perspective. *Die Karawane* activists are drawn from all over the world, and each brings with them experience of political struggle, whether it be in Sri Lanka, Nigeria or Turkey. Mendis speaks of a 'new internationalism' forged through the refugee struggle. 'The movement in Germany is still young because refugees are completely ghettoised, literally living in the forest in camps. But because the refugees are political people, the potential to make connections between the Third World and anti-racism in the West is much higher.' ■

For more information contact: *Die Karawane*, International Human Rights Centre – Bremen, Kornstr. 51, 28201 Bremen, Germany. Tel: +49 (0)421 5577093 or visit www.humanrights.de

DESIGNS FOR A CORPORATE WORLD



Danielle Larnache

OVER the last thirty years, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), both based in Washington, have imposed structural adjustment programmes on Third World countries designed to 'open up' their economies to international competition. The result has been indirect colonisation by transnational corporations, supported by teams of US economic advisers who have effectively dictated economic policy to debt-ridden Third World governments. While this process has developed in an ad hoc fashion, recent years have seen the attempt to codify free market rules of trade, investment and production into a single worldwide system, which would give corporations complete freedom of movement around the world, and restrict the ability of individual nation-states to pursue alternative paths. The Geneva-based World Trade Organisation (WTO), formed in 1994, represents the coming of age of globalisation. Its trade rules are the supports on which the global expansion of corporations rests, guaranteeing them the freedom to make a profit out of any area of life in any country, without fear of government regulation.

In November this year, a new round of WTO negotiations begins in Seattle, designed to strengthen and deepen the existing trade rules. New rules may be introduced in investment, environmental regulation, capital flows and foreign

A new 'millennium' round of negotiations of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) is set to begin in November at Seattle. The result could be further moves towards a world economic system designed entirely for the benefit of corporations and an increasing gap between rich and poor.

investment, food safety, broadcasting and telecommunications, health and education. But the area which many campaigners are now focusing on is the patenting of living material, Article 27.3(b) of the trade-related intellectual property rules (or TRIPs), which is due for review this year. Although seemingly obscure, these trade rules have deep implications for Third World farming communities, the poorest third of the world's population.

Corporate bio-piracy

What is being proposed is that a single patenting system applies worldwide to living materials, especially seeds. As we approach what is expected to be the 'biotechnology century', trans-national corporations are realising that seeds, cultivated and developed by generations of farmers all over the world, represent the genetic raw material of future technological breakthroughs. They also know that traditional systems of shared seed ownership could prevent them from making profits in this area. On the other hand a WTO-backed patenting system would allow corporations such as Monsanto and the British company Zeneca to effectively monopolise distribution of, and impose royalties on, seeds which have been freely available until now. Furthermore it would also remove decision-making about agriculture from the purview of national governments, so that, for example, they may be prevented from banning genetically-modified organisms.

'The WTO is killing off the small producers, and accelerating greater inequality between the rich and poor within and between countries. How can Indian farmers compete when for every dollar of incentives it gives its farmers, the US gives \$100,000?'

Professor MS Swaminathan,
leading agricultural scientist, India

■ In 1994 500,000 farmers held a rally against living materials patenting in Karnataka state, India

■ Last year hundreds of thousands of farmers, labourers, tribal people and industrial workers gathered at Hyderabad to demand India's withdrawal from the WTO

■ Over the last two years, Indian and Brazilian farmers have taken direct action against genetically-modified crops by setting fire to fields

With these developments, agricultural production in countries such as India could become entirely dependent on trans-national corporations. Decisions would be made in the corridors of the WTO's Geneva head office, where behind-the-scenes corporate lobbying, rather than public interest, determines the outcome. Whereas in the West, agricultural production is protected and subsidised, and in any case is a small proportion of the total economic life of the nation, in the Third World, hundreds of millions of people depend for their existence on farming.

No wonder, then, that people's movements such as the Inter-Continental Caravan have sprung up to take on the WTO with new forms of protest. There is a growing awareness that resistance to globalisation must itself be globally co-ordinated to be effective. Last year saw the culmination of a successful international campaign against the multilateral agreement on investment (MAI), another attempt to shore up a globalised economic order, which was abandoned in the autumn of 1998. That campaign managed, largely by effective use of the internet, to build enough support to pressurise the 'weak links' in the chain of world governments to opt out. Now a new campaign must be waged against the WTO, which could itself force through many of the MAI proposals. ■

For more information contact: Ronnie Hall, Friends of the Earth, 26-28 Underwood Street, London N17 9JQ. Tel: 0171 490 2665 or visit www.foe.co.uk/foei/tradeweb

STOP SAPPING THE POOR

While the Jubilee 2000 campaign has highlighted the effects of Third World debt, there is less awareness about the conditionalities being attached to debt relief by the G8 leaders.

Structural adjustment programmes (SAPs) are IMF-devised economic policies that poor countries are forced to implement before they get debt relief. Intended to restructure a country's economy and restore growth, the evidence suggests that SAPs are hurting, not working. 'Many of the world's poorest people do not have access to schools or hospitals, jobs or adequate food because of SAPs,' says Jessica Woodroffe, of the World Development Movement (WDM). 'SAPs have forced debtor governments to slash social spending, cut government-funded employment, force farmers to grow cash crops and liberalise every section of the economy.'

Judy Kamanyi, Director of Ugandan women's NGO ACFODE and a long-time campaigner against misguided SAPs, says: 'Uganda has been held to ransom by SAPs. The rich countries promise debt relief if the government slashes spending. As a result 350,000 workers have been

laid off from government-backed industries. What we need is debt relief with no chains attached. SAPs must be reformed.'

The G8 leaders announced in June that they would increase the amount of debt relief on offer, but ignored SAPs. In fact, in return for this higher level of relief, SAPs will be imposed on Third World countries with even greater vigour. Debt therefore becomes a lever by which economic policies designed by Washington can be forced on Third World nations. WDM is calling on the government to propose fundamental reform of SAPs at the annual meetings of the IMF and World Bank in October. ■

For more information contact: World Development Movement, 25 Beehive Place, London SW9 7QR. Tel: 0171 737 6215 or visit www.oneworld.org/wdm/



Heldur Nelson/Panos Pictures

SAPs have led to the introduction of school fees in many African countries, where most families can no longer afford to send their children to school.

ARMING THE DICTATORS

Campaign Against Arms Trade is planning protests at the forthcoming government-sponsored 'arms supermarket'

What do Turkey and Indonesia have in common? They are both human rights abusing states, criticised worldwide for the repression of their native people, immigrants and ethnic minorities within the country and surrounding states. The fiercely right-wing government in Turkey has been carrying out a systematic repression of the Kurdish people living in the South East for fifteen years. Indonesia invaded East Timor in 1975, and has killed over half the native population there during its 25 years of occupation. A part referendum on independence has now been granted, but Indonesian paramilitaries continue to bully and kill the East Timorese people.

What else do Turkey and Indonesia have in common? The UK has been

supplying small arms, tanks, military electronics and fighter aircraft to both governments throughout their reign of terror. A contract to license the production of 500,000 assault rifles to Turkey has just been secured by British Aerospace Royal Ordnance. In the main it is rifles and armoured Land Rovers that the Turks have used to repress the Kurds. At least two out of a consignment of sixteen ground attack Hawk fighters have been delivered to Indonesia from the UK.

The UK is the world's second largest arms exporter, an industry supported by billions of pounds of government subsidy. From 14-17 September, the Defence Systems Equipment International exhibition is taking place in Chertsey in Surrey, and at London Docklands. It will be the largest ever arms exhibition to take place in the UK, will cost the UK over one million pounds to stage and will be opened by

defence minister George Robertson. The show is being sponsored by DERA, the research arm of the Ministry of Defence. Over 600 arms companies, consultants, armies and warfare specialist firms will be present selling their wares to delegates from over 60 countries.

Close down the UK arms supermarket

Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT) will be protesting throughout the exhibition to try to close down the UK arms supermarket. On 14 September CAAT will meet at Waterloo Station from where they will proceed to the gates of the exhibition. On 15 September there will be a meeting in London to protest at the Docklands site. ■

For more information contact: Campaign Against Arms Trade, 11 Goodwin Street, Finsbury Park, London N4 3HQ. Tel: 0171 281 0297 or visit www.caat.demon.co.uk for full details of the protest.

THE STATE OF PLAY IN THE EURO PARLIAMENT



BY GLYN FORD, MEP

June's European elections saw a setback for the Left across the European Union as the Christian Democrats, with a semi-detached Tory block, replaced the Socialists as the largest group for the

first time in fifteen years, having a majority in the Parliament with their right-wing allies. The trend of the last few European elections continued with the traditional parties of the post-war consensus losing votes and seats to the left and right, to regional parties, environmentalists and Euro-scepticism.

The extreme-Right results were, for them, disappointing. The civil war in France between Le Pen and Bruno Mégret led to the former losing nearly half the seats held before the election and Mégret's party disappearing altogether. The 'post-fascist' Alleanza Nazionale in Italy – with whom the British Tories were flirting before the election – lost seats as well as 'Fascist light' proved less attractive than Berlusconi. Elsewhere however the Austrian Freedom Party boss Jörg Haider held more than a quarter of the Austrian electorate and in Belgium, while the Front Nationale Belge lost its only seat, the Vlaams Blok did extraordinarily well, particularly in the simultaneous national elections, making it very tempting for the less fastidious parties on the right to include them in coalition building at local and regional level. Finally in Denmark the extreme Right gained its first European seat.

Yet the situation is far from bleak. Article 13 in the Amsterdam Treaty means that a Race Relations Directive will be introduced into the Parliament within months, and there will be a majority with the softer side of Christian Democracy for its implementation. This will certainly be helped by the arrival of some reinforcements from the German former-Communists, the PDS, and the French Trotskyists as well as the arrival of two well-known anti-racists – Harlem Desir, the former head of SOS Racisme, in the Socialist Group and one of his successors, Fode Sylla, amongst the French Communist MEPs. So watch this space: it may be more interesting than originally anticipated. ■

Glyn Ford is Labour MEP for the South West region

M25 THREE REFUSED BAIL

In March the European Commission of Human Rights (ECHR) unanimously decided that the M25 Three did not have a fair trial in 1990 or a fair appeal in 1993. The Commission heard how Norman Duncan, a key prosecution witness, was paid £10,000 by *The Express* and £300 by the police. Evidence from a prisoner was also thrown into doubt when he said he lied about a confession from one of the three.

A month after the ECHR decisions

the UK's Criminal Cases Review Commission referred the case back to the Court of Appeal. In July, despite the ECHR's observations on the injustices already meted out, the men were denied bail after private hearings at the Court of Appeal. The M25 Three – Raphael Rowe, Michael Davis and Randolph Johnson – jailed for life in 1990 must now await a date for a full hearing of their appeal. ■

M25 Three Campaign, 28 Grimsel Path, London SE5 0TB. Tel/fax: 0171 735 2985

THE SAGA CONTINUES



The morning after it was announced that officers were to be charged at Wormwood Scrubs, Satpal Ram complains that the governor of Franklands prison (to which he has been moved, in his 57th prison move) took away legal papers relating to Wormwood Scrubs and his personal stereo. A week later, Satpal exercised his legal right not to

have photographs taken of him on the grounds that the prison had many photos of him already and that neither his legal papers nor his stereo had been returned. He claims that, without being provided with any explanation or being put on any charge, he was then dragged from his cell to the segregation unit, where he was stripped naked and left without toiletries or reading and writing materials. While in segregation, he was taken to meals by up to 12 prison guards and, in his own words, forced to 'run a gauntlet of abuse' each time. After a week he was returned to his cell for only one day before being removed again to the segregation unit, where he remains at the time of writing. ■

Free Satpal Ram Campaign, 101 Villa Road, Handsworth, Birmingham B19 1NH



HAVE YOU GOT ANYTHING A BIT LESS JEWISH?...

WALTER TULL REMEMBERED

Peter Norton



As part of Northampton's anti-racism campaign for the Millennium, a memorial dedicated to one of England's first black footballers, Walter Tull, was commissioned by the council and local football club where Tull played. 'Walter Tull battled against a lot of prejudices in his time and helped to break down barriers', said the chairman of Northampton Town FC at the unveiling on 11 July. ■

CRICKET

RACISM, ENGLAND'S DOWNFALL?

Smash cricketing apartheid

As England fared pretty disastrously in the recent cricket World Cup, there were the inevitable post mortems. Leading figures like sports minister Tony Banks and former Pakistan captain Imran Khan found the cause in racism – a cricketing apartheid in fact – which kept young (and working class) African-Caribbeans and Asians out of the national side. The Hit Racism for Six campaign, which began exposing racism in English cricket some two years ago, would certainly agree. In its well-argued submission to the England Cricket Board's forum on racism it suggests the need for nationwide research on racism and access to facilities in cricket at all levels; a development plan for cricket in the inner cities; the earmarking of funds to develop the game among the most disadvantaged sections of the population (following the lead of South Africa); a reversal of the ban on flags, musical instruments etc at international matches;



a review of ticket pricing; an adoption of an anti-racist charter; the banning of racist abuse from all grounds and the discouraging of media stereotyping and inflammatory language. ■

Hit Racism for Six, c/o Centre for Sport Development Research, Roehampton Institute, London SW15 3SN.

REVIEWS

WE CAN'T ALL BE WHITE

In the post-Lawrence climate of complacency and denial, this book performs the essential task of monitoring the level, intensity and impact of racist abuse in Britain, dispelling the notion that racially motivated incidents are one-off acts of violence, isolated and unrepresentative of the majority of experiences of black people. This long overdue research focuses on both the harassment itself and the far-reaching but often hidden effects it has on people's daily lives, extensively quoting from the 74 victims of racist abuse interviewed. Constant verbal abuse is seen as part of life by the interviewees as is the refusal by police and housing agencies to take racist motivation seriously.

The high level of failure to tackle the misery of routine racism is due to the authorities' policies and procedures being geared to investigating single incidents. Experiences of racism prior to the event – often the context in which the incident has occurred – are deemed irrelevant. *We Can't All Be White* is direct, comprehensive and representative; straightforward enough in its language for schoolchildren to read; and is not only essential reading for practitioners and policy-makers involved in social exclusion, but for anyone interested in acquiring an authoritative understanding of the reality of racism in Britain today. ■

'We can't all be white!' Racist victimisation in the UK
Kusminder Chahal and Louis Julienne, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, York Publishing Services, Tel: 01904 430044, £12.95.

BEWARE 'ACCEPTANCE YOUTH WORK'

For those CARF readers who read German, this critique of the practice of acceptance youth work amongst social workers is an absolute must. Following the Lawrence inquiry, the issue of how to deal with racism among white working-class youth is top of the agenda. But will new-fangled strategies advance or set back the anti-racist cause? Already there are signs that counter-productive measures adopted in Germany, where neo-Nazis have actually been singled out for psychological support and granted funds to set up their own youth centres, will be imported to the UK.

The Norddeutsche Antifagruppen have, in editing this pamphlet, brought together six case-studies (exemplified by the case of Michael Kühnen and the Actionfront National Socialists) in which state-funded 'acceptance youth work' resulted in the strengthening of neo-Nazi youth structures. From the documentation of concrete case-studies, Norddeutsche Antifagruppen move on to critique the theories of the social and political scientists which underpin acceptance youth work. Common to both Wilhelm Heitmeyer and Claus Leggewie is an inherent dislike of anti-fascist groups which are not only branded as 'ideological' (failing to understand that every political position is necessarily ideological) but are also portrayed as the very cause of neo-Nazi violence because of their 'deliberate provocation'. ■

'Roses in their path'. Norddeutsche Antifagruppen (eds), rat-reihe antifaschistische texte, c/o Schwarzmarkt, Kleiner Schäferkamp 46, 20357 Hamburg

RACISM

JUN 10 Leicester police figures reveal 55 per cent increase in racial crimes reported in 1998-99 **JUN 14** Preston police report 40 per cent rise in number of recorded racial incidents... John Sentamu, Bishop of Stepney, accuses church of institutional racism **JUN 15** *20-year-old Liban Ali racially abused and attacked in Leicester city centre, leaving him in a coma* **JUN 23** Met reports increase in racial violent crime in London, with recorded incidents rising from 1,149 to 7,790 in one year **JUN 30** *89-year-old retired GP Ghulam Rabbani beaten with iron bar and robbed after leaving Glasgow mosque. Despite severe injuries he is sent home unaided on the bus by Strathclyde police* **JUL 5** Police arrest a man in his early 30s in Cyprus in connection with the murder of Michael Menson **JUL 6** *Northern General hospital, Sheffield accepts organs for transplant with a 'bar' on their use for any black patients* **JUL 12** 100 taxi drivers stage protest in Reading about police handling of racist attack on 27-year-old Iftikhar Khan **JUL 18** Norwich police report rise in reported racial incidents, with more incidents in the first six months of 1999 than in the whole of 1997 **JUL 21** Avon and Somerset police record a rise of 32 per cent in number of racist incidents reported **JUL 27** *62-year-old man dies after unprovoked racist attack in Kilburn, London*

POLICING

JUN 6 Met Police encourage use of term 'visibly minority ethnic groups' to refer to black people **JUN 7** Scotland Yard to give victims of racist attacks and domestic violence mobile phones with direct line to the Yard **JUN 13** Scotland Yard announces use of undercover officers to randomly test other officers for racist behaviour **JUL 5** M25 three refused bail pending their appeal in the Court of Appeal **JUL 7** Racial and violent crimes task force to investigate attacks on gay community **JUL 9** PCA report reveals that one person a week dies in police custody, rise of 41 percent in four years... Police to introduce compulsory DNA testing for people accused of racially motivated crimes **JUL 19** HM Inspector of Constabulary Dan Crompton to investigate Met's use of stop and search **JUL 21** Colin Tomlinson, who received six figure damages for an incident in 1994, lodges complaint of mistreatment against Met after arrest in June 1999 **JUL 22** Police apologise 'unreservedly' to Mal Hussein for their eight-year failure to investigate sustained racist attacks on him and his wife **JUL 23** *Five police officers to face charges of 'misconduct in public office' after death of Christopher Alder* **JUL 26** 37-year-old Andrew Wilson convicted of racially aggravated harassment and fined £50 after calling two policemen questioning him on the street 'white trash' **JUL 29** *Three met police officers acquitted of manslaughter charges at Old Bailey in connection with the death of Richard O'Brien, who died in police custody in April 1994*

LAWRENCE INQUIRY

JUL 2 Jack Straw asks Law Commission to review double jeopardy rule in wake of Macpherson's recommendation **JUL 4** Jack Straw announces recruit-

ment targets for immigration, probation, prison and fire services **JUL 4** Duwayne Brooks arrested for possession of an offensive weapon after being stopped and searched by Peckham police, who found him carrying his work tools **JUL 19** 20-year-old John Walsh appears before magistrates charged with racially aggravated criminal damage after spitting and urinating on memorial to Stephen Lawrence **JUL 22** *Detective Inspector Ben Bullock receives a caution for his part in the mishandling of the Stephen Lawrence investigation and he retires with a full pension* **JUL 25** Detective Inspector Ben Bullock criticises Lawrence family and their solicitor saying 'they muddled the waters' and accuses them of 'publicity seeking'

IMMIGRATION

MAY 25 Kiki Gil, Nigerian woman living in UK for 16 years and married to British man, is deported **JUN 17** *Aldington Prison, Kent to be converted into detention centre for asylum-seekers* **JUN 23** *Bridget Seisay, jailed for three years on charge of trying to smuggle another woman on a false passport into Belgium, walks free on appeal after spending eight months in jail* **JUN 25** *A Russian and a Kosovan asylum-seeker scale 18 foot fence topped with barbed wire to escape from Campsfield Detention Centre. Group 4 comment 'We are not f*****g amused'* **JUL 19** Shadow Home Office minister, David Lidington, calls for visitors from the Caribbean to be banned from entering the UK without visas **JUL 23** *Appeal Court rules that home secretary Jack Straw acted unlawfully when ordering three asylum-seekers to be returned to France and Germany, affecting hundreds of cases...* Jack Straw maintains ban on Louis Farrakhan entering the UK... **JUL 29** *High Court rules Britain's jailing of asylum-seekers with false passports unlawful*

FASCISM

JUN 24 39-year-old Del O'Connor (alleged leader of White Wolves), arrested at Gatwick airport in continuing Scotland Yard investigation into far-right groups, later released on bail **JUL 5** 23-year-old David Copeland, accused of murdering three in Soho nail-bomb attack and carrying out the Brixton and Brick Lane bombings, committed for trial at Old Bailey **JUL 10** C18 attend rally in Portadown to honour murdered Loyalist Volunteer Force leader Billy Wright

RESEARCH

JUN 9 CRE reports that complaints against private sector service employers increased by 60 per cent **JUN 13** CRE reveals that complaints about the legal and financial sectors have doubled during the past two years **JUN 18** First large-scale investigation into discrimination in higher education published by Policy Studies Institute (PSI), shows discrimination against ethnic minority staff within academia **JUL 12** Report by NACRO reveals widespread racism in the criminal justice system

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