



THE crime OF solidarity

The new anti-terrorism law will put refugee communities
at risk and stifle criticism of dictatorships abroad



Remembering Nancy White

1938 – 1998

On 14 September – for the first time in its history – the South African High Commission threw open its doors to celebrate the life not of one of the generals but of a foot soldier in the struggle against apartheid. It was an extraordinary occasion. In the salubrious surroundings of the Commission's reading room, over a hundred people – whose previous encounter with Trafalgar House was as

protesters facing riot police outside – crowded to remember Nancy White.

For over thirty years, Nancy, who was a member of the CARF collective, had been a stalwart of the anti-apartheid movement. By profession a typesetter and designer, Nancy put her expertise completely at the service of movements such as the International Defence and Aid Fund. George Johannes, the representative of the South African High Commission, reminded those gathered that there had been three key aspects to the struggle against apartheid – mass insurrection, armed struggle and the international solidarity campaign – and that Nancy embodied all that was noble and selfless of the third. How much Nancy was loved was demonstrated by the powerful addresses of those who spoke at a memorial which quickly transformed itself into a political rally: her longtime friend, Ethel de Keyser from the Canon Collins Educational Trust for Southern Africa, Mike Terry, general secretary of the anti-apartheid movement, Graham Bloch, husband of the South African High Commissioner Cheryl Carolus (who, as Nancy would have appreciated, could not attend because she was at the Trades Union Congress annual conference with Neville Lawrence), Selma James (at one time Nancy had been CLR's secretary) and representatives from the Institute of Race Relations, CARF, the Child Poverty Action Group, the Jewish Socialist Group as well as friends and family.

Nancy's contribution to CARF in the seven years that she was a member of the collective was massive. When we decided to relaunch CARF in 1991, Nancy, alongside Hilary Arnott who died in 1994 and others comprised a team of professional designers who came to print through politics and were prepared to put their expertise to the service of the anti-racist movement. We will miss her calm and her competence, not to mention her cats who would stroll across the keyboards at odd moments. Nancy only worked for causes she believed in and always for a pittance. She was no technician, she was a craftsperson, an artisan with a high degree of skill. All of us who have worked with her, know what we have lost. She was irreplaceable.

What was unique about Nancy was her capacity to lift the burden from others. She was always there to design a leaflet, bring out a publication, proof-read, typeset, and would work night and day if necessary. Hers was the gift of generosity. It is fitting that the Canon Collins Educational Trust have announced that one of its scholarships will be named after her. ■

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EDITORIAL

AT THE SAME TIME as the police are being told in the Lawrence inquiry to stop stereotyping black people as criminal, a new set of stereotypes is in the process of implementation: black people as illegal immigrants and terrorists.

The government's new anti-terror laws have the potential to criminalise whole refugee communities by making mere support for

The only way to counter the European hounding of refugees and undocumented workers is through direct action.

French Socialists are deporting more undocumented workers than the Gaullists. A new immigration law in Italy renders 200,000 at risk of immediate expulsion. And in Belgium, a young female asylum-seeker has died in a brutal deportation attempt. The fightback includes hunger strikes, church occupations and air and seaport protests.

Belgium's shame

Belgian interior minister Louis Tobback has been forced to resign after the death of the 20-year-old Nigerian asylum-seeker, Semira Adamu. Eleven police officers attempted to bundle Semira, handcuffed and in leg irons, onto a Sabena flight bound for Togo. Horrified passengers remonstrated with the captain. The police response was to silence Semira's screams by placing a cushion over her face. She went into a coma and died several hours later having suffered a cerebral haemorrhage and cardiac arrest. Three days of protests throughout Belgium, including a candle-lit vigil outside Tobback's home and demonstrations in schools and universities, followed the young woman's tragic death which also sparked protests in France, Holland and Germany. Combined European protests on 4 October drew attention to the Collectif Contre les Expulsions (CCE) demand for an independent autopsy into the cause of Semira Adamu death which the authorities describe as an 'accident'.

The case of Semira Adamu had become a rallying point for Belgium's fast-growing grassroots movement against deportations. Just three days before her death she featured in a TV documentary broadcast nationally. There had been five previous aborted

liberation groups abroad a criminal offence. Meanwhile its white paper on immigration and asylum proposes to give immigration officers new powers to search for and arrest suspected illegal immigrants, and registrars powers to detect and report suspect marriages. Already, local authorities have been drawn in to immigration policing; over 200 have registered with the Home Office to receive details of the immigration status of applicants for housing,

social services or other assistance. And policing operations such as Operation Elliot and Operation Mermaid (see page 13) bring multi-agency policing to the streets and the underground, where suspected illegal immigrants, dole cheats and truants – all favourite black stereotypes – are targeted for stop and search.

A paper prepared by the Austrian government for the EU Council of Ministers calls for

immigration spot checks 'unprompted by suspicion' in 'the hinterland' – in other words, random immigration checks in Europe in which any and all black or foreign-looking people will be targets. Black people are already eight times more likely to be stopped and searched than white, according to Home Office statistics. How are police to improve their practice, in the face of such demands and policies from government in Britain and Europe? ■

Solidarity across frontiers

attempts to deport Adamu, who feared a forced marriage to a 65-year-old polygamist if returned to Nigeria. On 14 July, protesters from CCE gathered at 127 bis detention centre, near Zaventem after the fifth failed attempt to deport her. In the charged atmosphere, some managed to cut through the wire fence surrounding the compound.

Twenty-nine detainees escaped in the disturbances that followed. CCE rejects the accusation that they are to blame. 'Prison warders over-reacted and went on the rampage, beating up detainees, including women and children. Prisoners weren't going to be intimidated and fought back, blocking the doors to their cells,' says CCE. 'They smashed a

window and some dozens of refugees managed to jump through.'

French target ports

One tactic of the French sans-papiers movement has been to protest at airports persuading passengers not to board flights which include deportees. The campaign took one step forward when Air France and Air Afrique announced a 'total embargo' on the use of its airlines to carry out expulsions to Mali. But the Belgian airline Sabena, which did not hesitate to offer its services for the deportation of Semira Adamu – offered to carry out the expulsions instead.

Another advance for campaigners

came when the government agreed to set up an inter-ministry commission on double jeopardy after a 50-day hunger strike in Lyon by eight young north Africans threatened with deportation after serving prison sentences. In solidarity, over 100 people occupied the office of the Corse Méditerranée company, whose ships are used to deport north Africans. In Marseilles, too, anti-deportation campaigners have protested at seaports as former cruiseliners are used for deportations to Algeria.

Resistance and criminalisation

Other examples of direct action and solidarity measures reported to CARF include: ■ a hunger strike at Austria's Bludenz detention centre ■ church occupations in Paris, Nanterre, Créteil, Argenteuil ■ the Caravan for the rights of refugees presently touring German cities ■ protests in Sweden against the deportation of Bosnian Croats and Somalis.

European governments are responding by attacking those who uphold human rights. Seven CCE members were charged after the 127 bis break-out with 'aiding illegals'. Bremen's interior minister has described members of the Caravan for the Rights of Refugees and Migrants as 'hooligans hostile to the system'. After other politicians attacked the Caravan as a 'violent movement' its members were harassed by the police in Hanover. And in France, campaigners were furious when the Socialists introduced a 'crime of solidarity' into the latest immigration law which allows for the prosecution of those – including sans-papiers organisations – who aid illegals. ■

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'What has just happened in Belgium could happen at any time in any other country of Fortress Europe...Men, women and children are being harassed, tracked down like beasts and deported against a background of almost universal indifference.' Sans-Papiers Collective Paris



The new anti-terrorism law will put refugee communities at risk and stifle criticism of dictatorships abroad

Terror Act: a charter for repression

In November 1997, Scotland Yard's anti-terrorism unit staged simultaneous raids on the Kurdistan Workers Association in Haringey and the Halkevi Turkish and Kurdish Community Centre in Stoke Newington. Police spent seven hours at the KWA photographing and searching each room – seizing the centre's financial records, bank statements, chequebooks, grant application information, training records, National Lottery Charities Board correspondence and other materials. The search warrant cited schedule 7 para 2 of the Prevention of Terrorism Act authorising a search for 'evidence of contributions towards acts of terrorism'.

Nearly a year later, no charges have been brought, but the work of the KWA in providing welfare and support for Kurdish refugees in Britain has been paralysed. Funding has been frozen after police visited funders in the course of investigations – funders are understandably reluctant to be seen to fund groups suspected of funding terrorism. The centre was firebombed in August 1998; it is hard to dismiss the possibility that the suggestion of support for terrorism was behind the firebombing.

MPs debating the Criminal Justice (Terrorism and Conspiracy) Bill in its two-day passage through parliament in early September appeared to have no idea that the PTA already contained provisions criminalising assistance to terror groups anywhere in the world. But even while voting for the Act, many expressed widespread alarm at the way the provisions criminalising conspiracy to commit offences abroad were rushed through, the breadth of the new law, its overtly political character, and the damage and destruction it is capable of wreaking on struggles against tyranny.

Northern Ireland lessons

The first part of the Act, passed on the wave of revulsion after the Omagh massacre of August, was designed to mop up the still operative rump terror groups such as Continuity IRA and Real IRA by allowing those suspected of membership to be convicted of membership of a banned organisation on the word of a senior police officer corroborated by the silence of the suspect. That part of the Act relates only

to terrorism in northern Ireland, since the only organisations to be banned under the parent Prevention of Terrorism Acts operated there. But just as other provisions of the PTA – for arrest, search and seizure – have been used against 'international terrorism' suspects, so too could the definition of banned organisations be extended by future legislation to cover groups such as the Algerian FIS or the Kurdish PKK, which are banned in other European countries.

Many nationalists were imprisoned on evidence of membership of a proscribed organisation under the PTA, which requires no evidence of actual commission of terrorist offences. The effect of the new Terrorism Act is to substitute the opinion of a police officer for evidence of membership. As solicitor Gareth Peirce points out, 'The clearest possible temptation and opportunity will exist for police to inflate unprovable suspicion into confirmed and convincing opinions.' In fact the Act allows the possibility of a return to internment (detention without charge or trial) in all but name.

'We will be at risk with this new Act. Our prime minister gave the British authorities a list of dissidents, claiming they were terrorist. The British know we're not terrorists but if we put out material supporting the FIS we risk being arrested and deported.' *Algerian Refugee Council*

Refugees and the new Act

The provisions relating to international terrorism are responses to complaints by the Israeli, Turkish, Algerian, Tunisian, Egyptian, Saudi Arabian and Bahrain governments, among others, that British asylum laws shield apologists and spokesmen for terrorist groups. A private members' bill died for lack of a quorum at second reading in 1997. Then, Labour MP Donald Anderson, unsupported by his front bench, said the Bill was trying to restore the divine right of kings in supporting all regimes, however tyrannical. What about the right to revolt against a tyrannical government? he asked. 'Are we to say that someone who has fled to this country from that tyranny is estopped thereby from seeking to overthrow by word or action that tyrannical government?'

This time round, the wording of the Act is wide enough to convict anyone agreeing in this country to an act or event abroad which is a criminal offence in both countries. Leaflets calling for the overthrow of Saddam Hussein would presumably be covered, as would an agreement to spray neo-nazi meeting-places in Germany with graffiti. The wording is not confined to acts of terrorism, but is broad enough to cover all 'offences'.

It is broad in other ways, too; the 'agreement' can be proved by evidence as tenuous as possession of phone numbers or leaflets, or by messages of support or solidarity to liberation movements abroad. The government claims that the consent of the Attorney-General, which is required for prosecutions under the Act, will be a safeguard against abusive prosecutions. The reverse is true: the involvement of a minister appointed by the government makes the measure political – a decision to prosecute could be influenced by foreign governments.

Even assuming good faith in the operation of the Act, the precedent of the Gulf war suggests that many could be wrongly held and convicted. In the period between September 1990 and January 1991, around 180 Arabs were detained on the basis of intelligence from the security services and over 80 deported. After the deportations and after the war, it was discovered that virtually all of the intelligence was faulty.

But we cannot assume good faith. For we have the precedent of the al-Masari

case, when ministers attempted to deport the Saudi dissident on national security grounds and admitted that they were doing so at the behest of the Saudi authorities, so as not to risk losing a multi-billion pound contract for the supply of arms.

Police are already liaising with repressive regimes in the hunt for 'terrorist' suspects. In the summer, there was a Europe-wide wave of arrests of Algerians who were suspected, it was said, of launching a terror campaign during the World Cup in France. Gareth Peirce represented some of those arrested in England. They were not asked a single word about the World Cup, she said, and most were subsequently released. But their details were provided to the Algerian authorities, the junta which seized power in 1992 after elections won by the FIS were annulled. Similarly, arrests and detentions of Turkish and Kurdish people here have

resulted in information going to the Turkish authorities. The result of such liaison has been the detention and torture of suspects' families in those countries.

The new law could make it much easier to deport 'undesirable' dissidents such as al-Masari, by withholding or withdrawing refugee status from anyone convicted under the Act. The refugee Convention currently protects anyone at risk of persecution except those convicted of crimes against humanity, war crimes, genocide or serious non-political offences. The previous government tried for years to widen this definition so as to withhold refugee status from those guilty of political (terrorist) offences. It had some success in this. Now the current government hopes to exclude from refugee status those convicted of supporting terrorism in the nebulous ways covered by the Act, clearing the way for deportation. ■



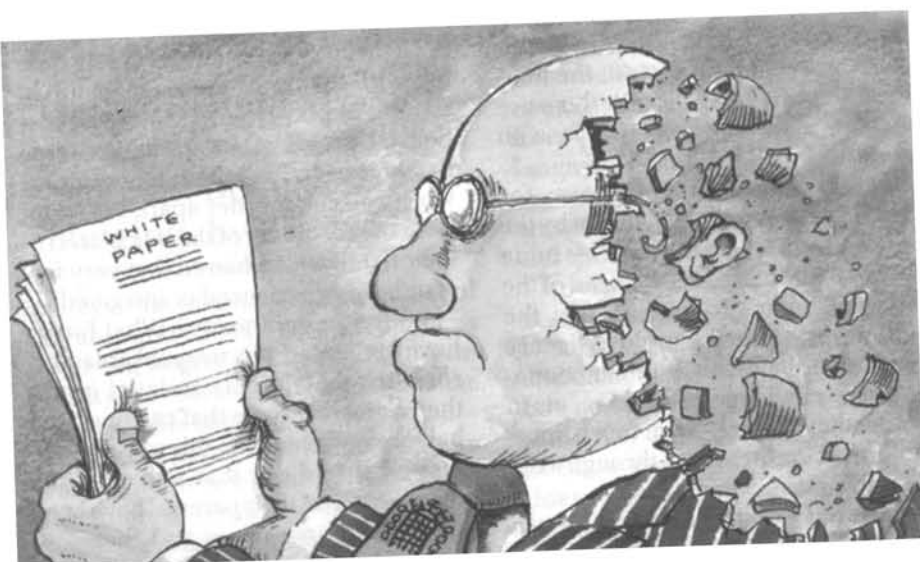
French lawyers have denounced the trial which started in September of 138 men and women accused of aiding and abetting terrorism as an assembly-line 'political show trial worthy of China or the Soviet Union'. And civil rights campaigners have warned their British counterparts that similar show trials could follow the introduction of the UK terrorist law.

Under the UK Criminal Justice (Terrorism and Conspiracy) Act, judges will be given the power to intern suspected terrorists on the word of a senior police officer alone. This is precisely what happened in France to the 138 accused – 27 of whom have been detained without trial for over four years under the catch-all accusation of criminal association with a terrorist movement. They were denounced by the head of France's terrorist service for belonging to networks hostile to the Algerian government. In fact, the only established link between them seems to be the Muslim religion. Dozens of defendants have done nothing more than lodge Algerian relatives and friends or help them with travel arrangements.

At least £1 million has been spent converting a gymnasium adjoining a prison in the south of Paris into a temporary court protected by 300 gendarmes for the two-month trial. ■

Reviewing the reviews

How will the black community be affected by government policy reviews?
CARF asked three experts for their views



■ White paper on asylum and immigration

Frances Webber, immigration barrister

Despite the lip service paid to the 'enormous contribution' made to British society by immigrants, the government's 'modern approach' to immigration and asylum, set out in the White Paper published on 27 July 1998, is neither modern nor positive. Its treatment of asylum-seekers is deterrent, not welcoming. Although several thousands of asylum-seekers who have been in limbo since before 1993 will be allowed to stay, in order to clear the backlog of undecided claims, procedures for new claimants sacrifice thoroughness and care for speed, impose degrading conditions of reception and will result in casualties in terms both of more suicides and more genuine refugees returned to death or torture.

Someone fleeing their own country and trying to come to the UK will, if the proposals are implemented, first find their way barred by an airline liaison officer at the airport of their country of origin. The ALO will detect forged documents and will ensure that passengers with no passport or visa or with false ones cannot get on to the plane. Carrier sanctions and visa controls have been in place for years, of course, but the government proposes to ensure that they work properly by putting more ALOs in place across the world's refugee-producing countries, since each one prevents the embarkation of hundreds of inadequately documented passengers.

Since no British embassy or high commission issues visas to refugees, the only way an asylum-seeker can board the plane is by lying and obtaining a visit visa, or paying enough for an undetectable forgery or false passport. The

alternative is to pay smugglers for a dangerous, possibly fatal voyage in a sealed container lorry or on a small boat. Far from dismantling the legislation brought in by the Tories to deter asylum-seekers, whose only result has been the creation of criminal gangs trading in misery, the Labour government will reinforce it.

Those asylum-seekers who manage to arrive in the UK via a 'safe' transit country will be immediately detained for speedy return. The rest will be interviewed immediately, with no legal representative or advice to ensure that they give a full, clear account of themselves.

If they have no means of support or accommodation, they will be allocated accommodation on a no-choice basis, probably hundreds of miles away in 'hard-to-let' accommodation. There they will subsist using vouchers to obtain basic necessities. In those conditions of isolation and penury they will be given five days to find and submit evidence in support of their claim. (Currently, the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture, whose evidence is important in establishing that torture has taken place, has a two-month waiting list to see asylum-seekers and prepare reports on them.)

Once a claim is refused, the Home Office will immediately contact the embassy of undocumented asylum claimants to get them documented for return. This tips off embassies of the imminent deportation of opponents, putting them and their families at risk. Appellants and their witnesses will be expected to travel to any hearing centre

in the country so that appeals can be heard speedily. There is no suggestion that legal aid should be available for asylum appeals. (The Refugee Legal Centre and the Immigration Advisory Service, which provide free legal assistance and representation on refugee appeals, have closed their books because their workload is too great. There is no promise of extra funds for them in the white paper.)

On an appeal being dismissed, there is a presumption of detention for deportation. More detention places will be created. There will be opportunities to apply for bail, but once again, there is no provision for legal aid for bail hearings. Those who are not detained will find themselves out on the street with nothing at all, since support and accommodation will cease immediately an appeal is rejected.

The other aspect of the white paper worth drawing attention to is the increase in internal controls. Registrars will be given more powers to detect and report 'bogus marriages'; employer sanctions, which the government promised to repeal, are to be used to crack down on illegal working. Immigration officers' powers of arrest, entry, search and seizure will be increased. Fingerprinting, currently done on asylum-seekers, will be extended to illegal entrants.

The proposal to reinstate family visit appeals but to make appellants pay the costs makes fundamental rights conditional on the means to enjoy them. This is a mockery of the universalism which once informed Labour policy. The white paper is thus a bitter disappointment for those who hoped Labour's opposition to the 1993 and 1996 Acts would be reflected in an ethical asylum and immigration policy in government. ■

■ Abolition of the right to jury trial

Professor Lee Bridges

For the third time in five years the Home Office is trying to abolish the right of defendants to 'elect' to be tried in the crown court before a jury and to force them to accept inferior trial before magistrates instead.

This proposal was first made by the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice in 1993. It was put forward again in a 1997 Home Office report on reducing delays in criminal justice. Home Secretary Jack Straw – then in opposition – spoke out against it.

The Home Office admits that those tried in crown court have a better chance of acquittal. Often this has nothing to do with jury trial itself. A large number of cases are actually thrown out by judges, because the prosecution evidence is so weak. But juries are also likely to be more critical of the prosecution and police evidence than magistrates.

A number of other factors make trial in the crown court fairer. Defendants obtain fuller disclosure of the prosecution evidence. Cases are heard by legally-qualified judges who apply stricter rules of evidence.

The Home Office claims that many defendants who elect to have their cases heard in the crown court actually end up pleading guilty. The implication is that these defendants are manipulating the system. But it is the Home Office that is manipulating the research evidence. Their argument is based on a 1992 study which covered only *convicted* defendants. In other words, those who elected jury trial, pleaded not guilty, and were acquitted were simply not counted.

The main reason why defendants change their pleas at crown court is because the *prosecution* decides to reduce the charges. It is the police, who bring

more serious charges than can be justified, who cause the problem in the first place.

The Home Office has brought forward this proposal without a thought for its impact on race relations – and this at a time when the Lawrence Inquiry has yet again exposed the extent of police racism. Even Home Office research has now confirmed that black people are stopped and searched, arrested and charged with serious offences much more often than white people.

The right to demand jury trial is one of the few remaining legal protections against such unfair treatment. Without it, more black people will be railroaded straight from the police station and into court to face trial – and conviction – by magistrates. This may be quicker, cheaper and more efficient – but will it be fair? And does Jack Straw care if racism is further institutionalised in the criminal justice system?

Lee Bridges is director of the Legal Research Institute, University of Warwick



■ Black people and the mental health system

Suman Fernando, psychiatrist

Government plans for changes in mental health services were announced by Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, on 29 July 1998. Although wrapped up in populist language (e.g. 'failure of community care') plans for crisis teams, expansion of hostels etc. suggest a welcome increase in the range of community care. But the flip side is that Dobson plans to introduce legislation giving doctors greater powers to enforce medication than they currently have.

The background to this is significant: black people have been protesting against abuses in mental health care for a long time. Two facts stand out – the very high rates of compulsory detention ('sectioning') that black people are subjected to and the relatively high rates at which 'schizophrenia' is diagnosed (and medication enforced) among black people. That these are merely signs of racism institutionalised within psychiatric practice is well established and almost certainly well known to ministers, especially the present junior minister for mental health, Paul Boateng.

In 1993, an inquiry into deaths of black patients at Broadmoor highlighted 'the problem of racism in the forensic

system as a whole...' but authorities in charge did nothing to address problems of racism in mental health services. Meanwhile right-wing forces within the psychiatric establishment have been asking for the extension of powers given to doctors to force people diagnosed as 'mentally ill' to have medication, notwithstanding the problems involved in applying western classifications of 'mental illness' in a multicultural society.

The Tory government had rejected these pleas because of its human rights implications and, I dare say, its appreciation that black people would suffer disproportionately from such a change. Now it seems that a Labour government may decide to go ahead. That is unless the voice of black people and users of psychiatric services are heeded. The Government promises a Green paper on changes in the Mental Health Act. Now is the time to lobby Paul Boateng.

Suman Fernando is senior lecturer in mental health, Tizard Centre, University of Kent and Canterbury and is an honorary consultant psychiatrist

Further reading: *Mental Health, Race and Culture* by Suman Fernando (Macmillan/MIND, 1991) and *Forensic Psychiatry, Race and Culture* by Fernando, Ndegwa and Wilson (Routledge, 1998)

Why Labour should spurn



Should the Labour Party have rejected an annual conference sponsorship fee from the US power corporation Enron?

In September, the *Observer* reported on a 'New donor row' hitting Labour. The Houston-based multinational engineering giant Enron, accused by Amnesty International (AI) of colluding with the beating of women and children protesting against pollution in India, had paid £15,000 to sponsor the Labour party conference. But what exactly is the case against Enron?

The people's indictment

In 1995, the *Multinational Monitor* ranked Enron fifth in its list of multinationals accused of having committed the most serious of corporate wrongs. It is an accusation shared by thousands of villagers, united across caste and communal divides to oppose the creation of India's first wholly private power project in the Ratnagiri coastal district of Maharashtra. Although the power plant is officially known as the 'Enron project', it is actually a joint venture between three US multinationals known as the Dabhol Power Company (DPC) in which Enron owns an 80 per cent share.

'It is time the West realised India is not a banana republic which has to dance to the tune of the multinationals'

Hindustan Times - New Delhi

Since 30 January 1997, when police armed with *lathis* charged over 3,000 demonstrators, arresting 450 people, the case against Enron has become something of a cause célèbre in India. The All India People's Resistance Forum (AIPRF) sent a fact-finding mission headed by a retired Bombay high court

judge to investigate the impact of the 'Enron project' on local villages. Protesters throughout India, describing themselves as *satyagrahis* (literally 'those who insist on truth') and including trade unionists and campaigners from NGOs, have joined the Gandhi-style non-violent campaign of civil disobedience which includes marches, sit-ins, road-blocks and hunger-strikes. AI now argues that many of those arrested qualify as 'prisoners of conscience, imprisoned solely for exercising their right to freedom of expression'.

Why no to the power plant

Protests initially focused on

■ The destruction of the environment.

Villagers argue that the effluent from the power plant will destroy local fisheries, kill coconut and mango trees and destroy the 'eco-socio cultural context' in which the villagers have hitherto lived. AI says there was no adequate environmental impact assessment before the project began and land acquisition is leading to displacement of local people.

■ **Political controversy.** According to Global Futures Network in Bombay, the project is an 'inappropriate, expensive, massive, centralised foreign controlled enterprise'. AI points to the high cost of the power which under a 1993 agreement will be purchased by the Maharashtra State Electricity Board. It also points to allegations of corruption surrounding the setting up of the project.

State violence

But since the mass arrests in January 1997, the authoritarian response to

protesters by the local state has gone up a gear. DPC's case may well be that it has no responsibility for the violence of state-controlled police forces. Prior to January 1997, DPC subcontracted security to private local security companies.

But since then, security guards have been directly employed by DPC, which also requested police protection from the state government. A battalion of 100 State Reserve Police (SRP) is actually stationed at the site of the power plant. AIPRF points out that 'Significantly, there isn't even an attempt to cloak this close collaboration.'

According to AI, women, at the forefront of local action, appear to have been particularly targeted for police harassment. Police raids on villages tend to take place when men are out fishing. Women and young girls are then dragged from their homes and beaten with sticks. In one such attack a 23-year-old heavily-pregnant woman was beaten as 135 police and SRP personnel descended on her village. There have also been attempts to silence prominent activists. On 27 February, four *goondas* came to the house of Adinath Kalijunkar and threatened to murder him if he continued his opposition to the project because their bosses did not want to lose their site contracts.

A test case for Labour

The *Observer* points out that Enron needs the government to approve its contentious takeover of Wessex Water. Labour's decision to accept its sponsorship is in line with its pro-business, pro-multinational approach. Labour MPs - mainly unidentified - were quoted in the *Observer* as 'revolted' by their party's ties to big business. But silent rumblings of disapproval are not enough.

An ethical approach to foreign policy is about standing up to multinationals accused of collusion with human rights abuses in the Third World. It is up to us to turn this into a test case against questionable political donations - no matter to which party they are made. Labour Party activists and trade unionists should also support AI's call for a full and impartial investigation into all human rights violations at the Enron project. ■



Villagers protesting last year at the main gate of the projected Dabhol Power Project site

Negative media images of black people in Britain draw well-deserved criticism from anti-racists. So why is there silence when the black people stereotyped are living in the Third World? John Hilary reports on the stereotypes that go unchallenged.

A bad press

The images called up by the phrase 'Third World' are of drought, famine, floods, earthquakes, war or disease. Sudan, Somalia, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Papua New Guinea – to anyone dependent on the mainstream British media, the names read like a catalogue of disasters. This is because almost every mention of the Third World in the British media now comes in the context of disaster, whether 'natural' or man-made. Starving or distressed children form the central focus of most reporting on Africa. The underlying message is that people of the Third World are unable to provide for themselves, and their only help of salvation lies in Western intervention and the charity of good people like you and me.

The negative images thus created seep into public consciousness and condition the way black people in Britain are viewed too. Whether it be attitudes towards asylum-seekers or towards established black communities, a diet of negative images creates a culture of prejudice – and makes the issue of media representation crucial to anti-racist campaigns.

Falling coverage

Over the past decade, media coverage of international issues has fallen dramatically. According to the 1998 report *World Out of Focus*, TV programming on international subjects, already meagre, has fallen by 25 per cent since 1990. Less than one per cent of TV broadcast time is given to programmes on the Third World – including cookery and holiday slots – while BBC1 managed only three hours of Third World current affairs in a year. Increasingly, the TV programmes you are most likely to see from the Third World will not be about people at all: wildlife programming has more than doubled in the last three years alone, and is now easily the largest category of all programmes filmed outside Europe and north America.

This situation is duplicated on the radio and in the press, where the *Guardian*, for example, long ago dropped its regular page 'Inside the Third World'. However, television remains the most important medium here, as over 80 per cent of British people rely on TV as their main



Pictures of the 1984–85 Ethiopian famine contributed to the image of the Third World as disaster-stricken

source of information about countries of the Third World.

Proper background coverage of life in the Third World is important for two reasons. Firstly, it enables people to put into perspective the disaster stories they hear in the news. British people knew the 1996 E-coli outbreak in Scotland was local and not a plague sweeping through Britain because of their background knowledge. With overseas news, people have little experience of their own to put the events into context and judge their importance – are the disaster stories typical (as the reports suggest), or just a tiny part of a far more complex picture?

Making sense of the news

Secondly, background coverage enables people to make sense of the news. It is here that the British media is most guilty of failing in its duty to the public. Although some reports describe the immediate causes of a disaster (eg the war behind the famine in southern Sudan), almost none mention the underlying factors keeping so much of the Third

World in poverty and insecurity. True, some of these factors are complex – the international trade system, the link between the debt crisis and IMF structural adjustment programmes, the impact of globalisation on local democracy and people's rights. Yet without any explanation of these factors viewers can only conclude that the people of the Third World are somehow incapable of fending for themselves.

In conflict situations, the failure to explain is even worse. Faced with the horrific genocide in Rwanda in 1994, 'tribal' hatred, the immediate symptom of the tragedy, was branded as the cause of the barbaric acts. The deep social divisions created and exacerbated by Belgian colonial rule (only a generation away) were ignored. So was the mass poverty caused by the IMF's restructuring of agriculture following the collapse in the international price of Rwanda's chief export, coffee.

By casting the genocide in the stereotype of ethnic hatred and tribal or

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religious warfare – whether it be in Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo, Algeria or Angola – the media recreate the image of the dangerous, irrational African savage, and rekindle the colonial myth of Africa as ‘the dark continent’.

Feeding prejudice

Studies in the past decade have shown how these images of barbarity or helplessness condition British attitudes towards black people in the Third World. UNICEF's Peter Adamson ends talks with 16- or 17-year-olds in British schools by distributing a questionnaire. To the question, ‘What percentage of the world's children do you think are starving (ie, visibly malnourished)?’, the answer given by the students is usually 50 to 75 per cent, while the true figure is one to two per cent. To the question, ‘What percentage of the world's 6- to 12-



year-olds start school?’, the average answer is usually 10 to 20 per cent; the true figure is almost 90 per cent.

As Adamson concludes, the Third World is seen as ‘a theatre of tragedy in which poverty and human misery figure prominently in almost every scene’. One

primary school pupil put it even more graphically, in a 1997 survey of children's perceptions of the Third World: ‘Some people just go and lie down in the desert and wait for the Red Cross to come and bury them.’ If this is the common perception of black people in the Third

The internet: new media or old values?

‘One European is worth 28 Chinese, or perhaps 2 Welsh miners worth 1000 Pakistanis.’ That was the unwritten rule used by BBC news in the 1970s to rate a story's importance, according to the inside account by Philip Schlesinger in his book *Putting ‘Reality’ Together*. In the intervening years we may have seen some guidelines brought in to ensure fairer reporting of certain racial issues at home, but the basic process of selecting what news from around the world is important, and deciding how it is portrayed, remains riddled with racism. When Malaysians were rioting in Kuala Lumpur we heard more on the TV news about how the Queen might be distressed rather than what might be motivating the riots. Even when British



citizens are involved in foreign stories, the story might be ignored if those citizens are not white. One example is the case of Noel Martin, a black British construction worker who was racially attacked while working in Germany in 1996 and left paralysed from the neck down. And earlier this year the popular tabloids and television news showed little interest in the story of Edgar Fernandes, an Asian man who was murdered for his British passport while on holiday in Turkey.

In recent years many people have been looking to the internet to provide an alternative news agenda – perhaps one that could shatter the racist bias of the mainstream. Where television and print news are produced with centralised editorial control for large mass audiences, the internet allows for infinite differentiation with specialised services catering for every ‘interest group’. Each of the millions of websites out there can have its own news values, so there can be one to suit everyone. That, at least, is the theory. The reality is, at present, a little different.

Rather than compete directly with television as a popular mainstream medium, the internet is finding a niche for itself as a place where news, which would otherwise not make it onto the mainstream, can reach an initial audience and be tried out, with the hope of becoming a mainstream

**Does the internet offer
an alternative news
agenda for covering
the Third World?**



World, it is less surprising that racist prejudices remain strong towards black people in Britain too. A recent European survey found that one in three young British people do not agree that 'all races are equal', and 29 per cent admitted to having committed an act of racism.

Good practice

Several groups have long campaigned for better coverage of the Third World in the British media, whether through serious analysis of the real causes of poverty and conflict, or – equally important – just simple portrayals of everyday life to challenge the negative images seen in disaster footage. A consortium of 70 different organisations set up the International Broadcasting Trust in 1982 to raise public awareness of the Third World, both by encouraging good practice in the work of others and also producing their own work as examples of what we should and could be watching. The One

World Broadcasting Trust does the same through the Internet, offering comprehensive reports on the Third World on a daily basis – all the news, in fact, that isn't covered in the mainstream British media.

There is growing evidence that people do want more and better information about the Third World. The report *World Out of Focus* found that the average audience for factual programmes filmed in Third World countries has continued to rise throughout the 1990s, while in a MORI poll earlier this year 70 per cent of school children said young people needed to learn more about global issues. Similarly, the growing market for music and literature from Africa, Asia and Latin America indicates that people are increasingly interested in more positive, meaningful contact with the people and cultures of the Third World.

Journalists across the media should take note of this interest and start re-

building coverage at least to its level at the beginning of the decade. There are already examples of good journalism providing more thoughtful analysis of the challenges facing people in the Third World. Yet as long as those analyses remain the exception, negative stereotypes of black people in the Third World will remain a source of racist prejudice in Britain. ■

John Hilary is a freelance writer who coordinated this year's One World International Media Conference and Awards.

The *International Broadcasting Trust* publishes a catalogue of audio-visual resources on the Third World, as well as a regular newsletter. Contact them at: 2 Ferdinand Place, London NW1 8EE
Tel: 0171 482 2847
on the web at: www.oneworld.org/ibt/

Reading International Solidarity Centre (RISC) also has an extensive catalogue of resources for all ages, plus many specifically anti-racist materials for hire. Contact them at: 35-39 London Street, Reading RG1 4PS
Tel: 0118 958 669
on the web at: www.gn.apc.org/risc/

The *One World Broadcasting Trust's* Internet site, *OneWorld Online*, is at www.oneworld.org.

story at a later date. The biggest mainstream news story of the year – Clinton and Lewinsky – first appeared on a website called the 'Drudge Report'. The internet gave the story its initial momentum and the story was later picked up on television and in the press.

A campaigning tool?

Political groups have found that they can sometimes use the same method to plug their own stories. When activists in the US began campaigning against Nike's exploitation of Third World labour they were ignored and Nike's PR message went unchallenged. But having built up their story through reports published on the internet, the mainstream media began to take notice and include them in their own pieces (see www.corpwatch.org). Similar techniques are being used by groups in countries whose own media are subject to direct state control. For them, the internet becomes a way of promoting their own struggles in the hope of gaining coverage on mainstream media in Europe or the US. Often it is refugees who are best placed to set up internet coverage of struggles back home – Nigerian activists resident in the US use the internet to highlight the political struggle in Nigeria (for example www.freenigeria.org). Casa Alianza, a group fighting police violence against street children in Latin America, run a website from New York to publicise their campaign



(www.casa-alianza.org). Likewise, in 1996 the Zapatista movement in Mexico was able to supply its own account of its struggle to the US media via websites. Dissidents in China and Serbia have followed a similar strategy.

Rather than ushering in a new era of news reporting, this approach of using the internet as a stepping stone onto mainstream television or press coverage reflects the power of the traditional mass media, which continues to be the definer of what is front page news and what is only worth a few lines on page seven. In trying to make the leap onto a mainstream television news programme, the same biased agenda comes into play. Foreign stories will be treated with distrust unless there are charismatic dissidents speaking

of 'human rights abuses'. But this way of presenting the story often takes away from the fact that entire communities are being systematically ravaged, not just by governments but by multinational corporations.

Bypassing the mainstream

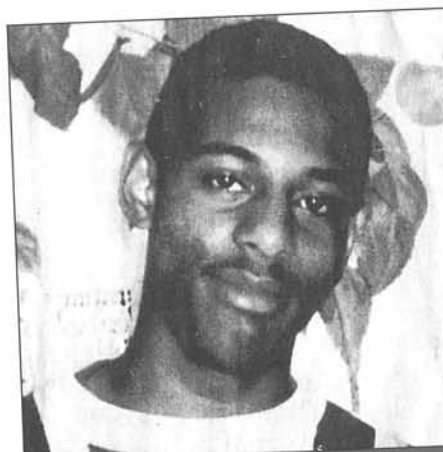
A potentially more radical approach is to use the internet as an alternative to the mainstream media. Even in the US, the internet is still in its infancy as a popular medium in its own right. But the internet is still useful for campaign groups to co-ordinate with other campaigners around the world, many of whom now have access.

With the growing need to internationalise political activism, a campaigning website is the best way of letting other campaign groups around the world have access to your press releases, photographs and political agenda. Often this material can then be republished in the local alternative press to reach an audience beyond the internet. Through organisations like One World (www.oneworld.org), political movements in the Third World can increasingly publish their own material onto the internet rather than having to rely on sympathetic activists in the West. Activists like Vandana Shiva, who campaigns against biopiracy in India (www.indiaserver.com/betas/vshiva), have managed to generate global followings for global issues in this way. ■



CAMPAIGNS & REPORTS

News from the Stephen Lawrence inquiry



After a summer break, the inquiry into the death of Stephen Lawrence resumed in September.

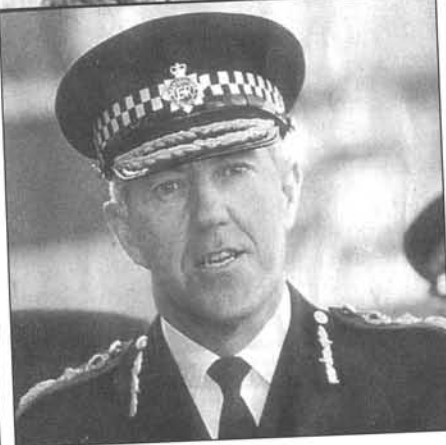
As the second stage of the inquiry began, which will attempt to identify the 'lessons to be learned', inquiry chair Sir William Macpherson revealed his frustration at the police's constant denials of institutionalised racism and indicated that his central findings would include a 'collective failure' to tackle racism in the Met, 'not one individual police constable that has to be hauled over the coals'. Macpherson also acknowledged the huge gulf between the police and the black community. Addressing the head of the Home Office operational policing policy unit, he said 'It might be good for the Home Office and everybody else involved to take on the perceptions of the black community and assume they

are right rather than make excuses and assume they are wrong.'

Macpherson's remarks came after listening to summaries of 56 days of evidence from the police and the Lawrence family. Analysing 10,000 pages of evidence, Michael Mansfield, QC for the Lawrence family, accused several police officers of lying, saying that their errors were so substantial and obvious that 'they knew what they were doing and never intended effective arrests leading to conviction to be achieved'. Listing the links between police officers and gangster Clifford Norris (father of one of the murderers), Mansfield claimed that 'there is a matrix of quite exceptional coincidences and connections here which weave such a tight web around this investigation that only an ability to suspend disbelief can provide an innocent explanation.'

In response, the Met continued its assault on the Lawrence family and its legal representatives, again accusing them of responsibility for the breakdown in police-family relations and pursuing an anti-police agenda from the start. Addressing the three main allegations of incompetence, racism and corruption within the force, the Met representative concluded that there was no evidence of corruption nor evidence of overt racism, while accepting that at times there was insensitivity which could have been perceived as racism, and that 'in certain critical areas the investigation was inadequate'. After hearing the Met's submissions, Neville

ANOTHER RACIST MURDER? Kent police are considering the possibility that racism may have been the motive for the fatal stabbing of 56-year-old Remi Suraage in Orpington on 29 September. Suraage, who walked with a severe stoop after suffering a stroke, was stabbed in the back by two white men in the town centre. ■



Met Commissioner Paul Condon finally made an appearance at the Lawrence inquiry on 1 October. He was jeered and his resignation demanded as he acknowledged both unconscious and deliberate racism in the police force, but denied that this amounted to institutionalised racism.

Lawrence commented that it was as if the police had not been present during the previous 56 days of evidence.

Police response

The police are now looking to John Grieve, one of the Met's most senior officers, to resolve the issues thrown up by the inquiry. His appointment to head the Met's new Racial and Violent Crime Taskforce has angered the Lawrence family and its supporters. 'The fact is that Grieve was appointed mid-way through the first session of the inquiry without any consultation with the Lawrences, the black community or Sir William Macpherson. The Met have begun the window dressing without even hearing all the evidence, let alone waiting for the recommendations,' said Suresh Grover, spokesperson for the Lawrences.

Grieve himself seems unclear about what he is tackling within the police force. In a major interview in *Police Review* he said 'We are outraged by suggestions that we are racist,' and cited as an example of police sensitivity an off-duty officer who, on coming across the black victim of an attack, 'got out of his car and put a blanket over him'. Despite his outrage, Grieve states that he is prepared to 'acknowledge the possibility of institutionalised racism'

Menson family fight for justice

Alongside this confusion is a plan to form American style 'crisis-intervention teams', possibly including community leaders and psychologists working alongside detectives, to help solve crimes.

The recommendations submitted to the inquiry by the Met itself focus on the (much discredited) multi-agency approach to policing, suggesting that change can be brought about by the monitoring of service delivery and by ensuring that racist crimes are dealt with by senior officers with appropriate training. The submission does not acknowledge racial violence as a social or political phenomenon, treating it as just another performance indicator.

Similarly, the Met makes no reference to improving the accountability of the police to those they are actually policing. Thus the Lawrences will be looking to Sir William to take up the radical recommendations made by lobbying and monitoring groups in his final report. But they are disappointed that the inquiry's second stage will be dominated by professional organisations, and will provide no forum for families such as those of Ricky Reel and Michael Menson to relate their experiences. It is they, as well as the Lawrences, who will be best placed to judge whether the Met fulfills its promise of responding to the inquiry with 'openness, integrity and resolve'. ■

If the police response so far to the Lawrence inquiry suggested that they had learnt nothing, their actions after the death of Michael Menson proved it. After over a year of campaigning, the Menson family were relieved when an inquest jury delivered a verdict of unlawful killing in September. Menson, who was set alight by a gang of white racists in Edmonton, north London in January 1997, sustained massive burns all over his body and died after two weeks in hospital. Although he told police officers at the scene what had happened, they decided that he was responsible for his own injuries, which they did not regard as life-threatening. As a result, in the crucial hours after the attack, police took no action and did not treat the area as a crime scene. Although Michael gave some details of the attack to his brother, police failed to take a statement from Michael before he died.

The day before the inquest opened, Deputy Commissioner John Townsend wrote to the Menson family admitting that 'police action at the scene and for the first 12 hours was not as thorough as



Michael Menson's brother Kwesi and sister Sam

I would have wished. It appears that assumptions were made by the officers who initially attended the scene. As a consequence the scene was not forensically preserved until some twelve hours later.' Menson's family are angry at their treatment by the police, saying that their faith in the system made them initially reluctant to turn this case into a cause. Now, having made contact with the family of Stephen Lawrence, the Menson family are determined to join the campaign for justice. ■

POLICING

Family campaigns denied hearing

Press notices on a one-day conference on deaths in custody, to be held in October, give 'advance notice to everybody concerned with deaths in police custody', police officers, doctors, police authorities, lawyers, coroners, action groups, charities and government. One glaring omission: the friends and families of those who had the misfortune to die in police stations.

The PCA is refusing to allow the families of those who have died in police custody to attend, saying that they might get too emotional.

The United Families and Friends Campaign will be holding a protest outside the conference on Friday 16th October, at Church House, Westminster, London SW1.

Meanwhile, the friends and family of Ibrahima Sey, the Gambian asylum-seeker who died after being sprayed with CS, have slammed the CPS's decision not to prosecute the police officers involved. Ibrahima's widow Amie, described herself as 'saddened to see that truth has again been unheard and those responsible continue to go unpunished'. ■

United Families and Friends Campaign, PO Box 9501, London, N17 6EG.
Tel: 0370 432439

Police state - 1984 in 1998

Police forces throughout the country are preparing major stop and search initiatives aimed at catching so-called illegal immigrants, dole cheats, muggers and burglars.

In September, British Transport police launched an initiative ostensibly aimed at catching fare dodgers. But the month-long Operation Elliot, in west and south London, will involve not only ticket inspectors but Metropolitan police, British Transport police, immigration officers and truancy officers as well. Even people with valid tickets could face questions if they arouse the suspicion of any one of the agencies involved.

A similar operation in February, Operation Ness, conducted on a smaller scale in west London, resulted in 88 arrests.

A one-day operation in September, touted under the guise of road safety to reduce the number of unsafe cars on the road, involved 52 police forces in the UK. The one-day road block, imaginatively called Mermaid, was not a new rave event but another mass stop and search 'operation'. Again, immigration officials, benefits officers, customs and excise officers worked with police, searching and questioning individuals stopped at simultaneous road blocks all over the UK.

According to civil rights group Liberty, you cannot be made to answer questions from other authorities if you are stopped by ticket inspectors, so BEWARE of strange men in uniforms acting suspiciously. ■

White Ireland?

The Irish Council for Civil Liberties has accused Irish immigration officials of operating a 'white Ireland' policy at ports and airports. The popular racism engendered by the government's implementation of strict immigration controls has led to the launch of an anti-immigration group in January to demand even stricter controls on immigrants and asylum-seekers. The group, the Immigration Control Platform, was launched in Ennis, Co. Clare, by teacher Aine Ni Chonaill, who won 293 votes in south-west Cork in the June 1997 general election on an anti-immigration ticket. The inaugural meeting of her organisation was attended by about 20 supporters. Around 50 people from the Irish Refugee Council, Amnesty Inter-

national, anti-racist and refugee groups went in to protest. A member of the audience told them to 'go back to the jungle'.

The group's formation has caused outrage in a country whose diaspora is spread world-wide. In a familiar vicious spiral, the launch of the group has been followed by proposals for even harsher measures by the justice minister to curb the numbers of asylum-seekers, which have risen from a few hundred to over 4,000 a year in the past three years. Part of the reason for the increase in numbers was a progressive Refugee Act, passed in 1996, which campaigners in the UK and elsewhere have used as a model of humanitarian concern. Of 516 claims decided in 1997, 208 were granted and

another 102 applicants were given temporary protection.

But proposals now coming from the government include a ban on work, stiffer penalties for traffickers of illegal immigrants, speedier deportations and even a change to nationality law which currently bestows Irish citizenship to all born on Irish soil. The minister proposes that all providers of publicly-funded services such as social welfare, health, education, employment training and accommodation should notify his department of undocumented applicants. And the arrival of 250 Romanian stowaways in French ships to Wexford resulted in urgent discussions with French authorities on stopping the traffic. ■

Lübeck outrage: Defend Safwan Eid

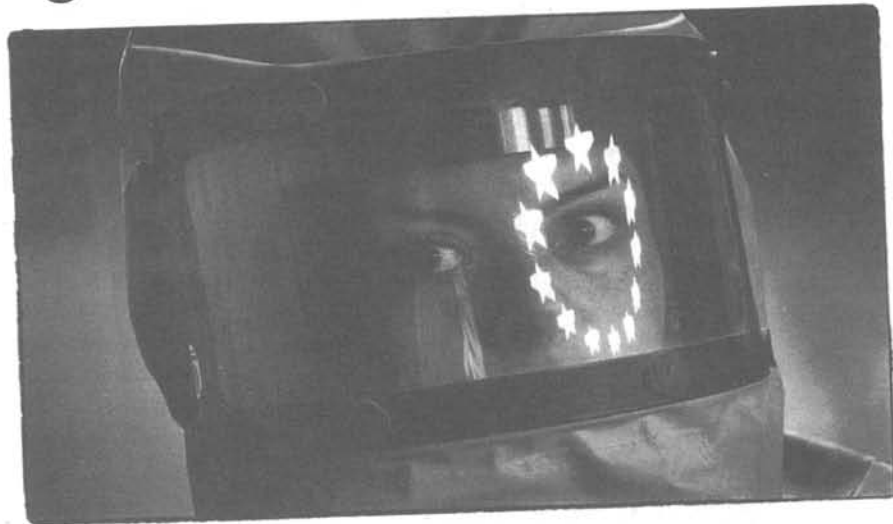
In an extraordinary and perverse decision, the Federal Supreme Court has ruled that Safwan Eid must stand trial for the second time for the Lübeck arson in which ten asylum-seekers died in January '96. During detention prior to trial in 1996, Safwan Eid's cell was bugged. But transcripts of taped conversations between Eid and his relatives were ruled inadmissible in court. The decision to send Safwan Eid for retrial, is based on a reversal of this decision.

Lawyers who have seen the transcripts are baffled. No new evidence against Eid are provided by these transcripts. Not surprisingly, campaigners fear that the retrial is part of a cover-up. Only recently, one of the neo-nazis originally arrested on the night of the murderous arson made a detailed confession which he later retracted. According to the Lübeck Alliance Against Racism 'The decision by the Federal Supreme Court will deliver the Lübeck public prosecutor's office the welcome excuse to slowly let go of the investigations against the strongly suspected skinheads from Grevesmühlen.' ■



Safwan Eid

Against Corporate Europe



Europe Inc., the first publication of the Amsterdam-based Corporate Europe Observatory (CEO), is simply one of the most important documents on the EU ever to be produced. While groups like Statewatch are drawing attention to the lack of democracy within the EU and the secrecy of its decision-making, the CEO reveals that it is transnational corporations which are really pulling the strings. Did you know, for instance, that the motor behind European harmonisation has been the European Roundtable of Industrialists, consisting of the chairs of 45 European TNC's? Or that the European employers' confederation, UNICE, which dissects every proposal, regulation, dir-

ective and article that emerges from Europe, has unhampered access to EU institutions, while the European Trade Union Conference, with 57 million members, is virtually locked out of industrial decision-making? Or that the main beneficiaries of the EU's aid programmes to central and eastern Europe are western corporations? *Europe Inc* documents a whole web of corporate connections and, in the process, reveals the real power behind the throne. ■

Europe, Inc.: Dangerous liaisons between EU institutions and industry. Corporate Europe Observatory, c/o A SEED Europe Office, PO Box 92066, 1090 Amsterdam, Netherlands. Email: ceo@xs4all.nl World Wide Web: <http://www.xs4all.nl/~ceo/>

Asian Workers' Struggle for Justice in the Diaspora



Asian Workers' Struggle for Justice in the Diaspora



An educational pack from the London Development Education Centre:

This new resource on Asian workers does not just recite the strikes of Grunwicks, Burnsalls and the Hillingdon hospital workers, but goes deeper. Suitable for Key Stage 3, GCSE and A level students, the 68-page pack identifies three main phases of Asian migrant labour: under colonialism, as lascars (seamen) on British ships and as indentured labour in the Caribbean; as migrants in post-war Britain, recruited to do the jobs that white workers would not do; and as victims of multinational corporations, both as workers in India and as refugees forced to flee the effects of globalisation on their land.

There is plenty of information on Asian workers' resistance to the indentured labour system in the Caribbean, including little-known rebellions. Other material on the impact of immigration laws and resistance to them is also included. Imaginative exercises at the end of each section make this a useful resource for teachers. ■

Available from Londec, Instrument House, 205-217 Kings Cross Road, London WC1X 9DB. Tel 0171 713 7907.

Anti-racist animation

Leeds Animation Workshop is a women's collective set up in 1976 to produce and distribute animated films on social issues. Their latest film *A World of Difference*, narrated by Meera Syal, is an excellent film for young people on a difficult subject.

The film tells the story of a young girl transported to a school on the planet Helicon where she has to deal with the problem of bullying and harassment of the 'purple' students by the 'green' students. The animation in the film provides an interesting format for a complex subject, thus making it easier for young people to understand. Solutions to the problems that occur in the school environment are presented in the film; for example, tell a teacher, get everyone involved to find a solution or draw up a racial harassment policy.

The video is thought-provoking with lots of scope for classroom discussions and activities. The video comes with an excellent resource pack that explains the concepts introduced in the film, and gives suggestions on how to develop them, eg, through role playing, creative writing and drawing.

Two other videos complete a series produced by the Collective. One, *Crops and Robbers*, deals with the relationship between famine and surplus, showing a journey across the world through different foods and how the west has exploited

CROPS AND ROBBERS



A FILM BY
**LEEDS
ANIMATION
WORKSHOP**
A Women's Collective

Third World countries. The other, *No Offence*, which deals with the subjects of racial and sexual harassment in the work place is told like a fairy story in cartoon format. The videos are excellent anti-racist resources for teachers, which explain difficult issues in interesting formats. ■

A World of Difference, *Crops and Robbers* and *No Offence* are available to buy or hire from Leeds Animation Workshop, 45 Bayswater Row, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS8 5LF. Tel: 0113 248 4997. E-mail: law@leedsanimation.demon.co.uk. <http://www.leedsanimation.demon.co.uk>

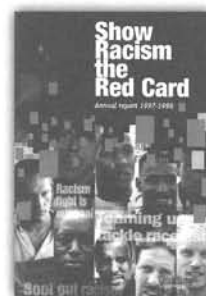
Kicking out racism

The second annual report from the Newcastle-based 'Show Racism the Red Card' campaign makes impressive reading. Since 1996 the campaign has gone from strength to strength. It has gained the backing of the Professional Footballers' Association, sports minister Tony Banks and the European Commission as well as numerous trade unions. The campaign has spread its influence, holding events all around the country, and recently launched a campaign at Bradford City FC. Starting with a small magazine distributed in the north-east, campaign activities have expanded to produce an educational pack and video featuring international football stars, which has been translated into French, Italian and German.

The material contained in both the video and the pack is equally useful for both formal and informal educational settings and can be used to provoke discussions on wider issues of racism, as well as within football.

However welcome the worthy statements from the Football Task Force, the work of 'Show Racism the Red Card' shows us that there is no real substitute for anti-racist work by football supporters. ■

Copies of their annual report and various posters are available by sending 60p in stamps to Show Racism the Red Card, 1 Drury Lane, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE1 1EA. Tel/Fax 0191 291 0160.



AUG 1 Charlton Athletic Football Club bans the five men accused of murdering Stephen Lawrence from its football ground

AUG 3 Two men jailed for total of 18 months for attacking black students Marcus Walters and Francisco Borg in Cardiff... Police arrest and deport 11 Polish immigrants found working at Babington House, an expensive retreat for Londoners in Somerset

AUG 7 Number of people arrested for offensive and racist chanting at football last season increased from 10 to 33 in 1997-98 season

AUG 8 36-year-old Andrew Luwum, son of the former Archbishop of Uganda who was murdered by Idi Amin, ordered to leave country by 11 September

AUG 13 John Orr Chief Constable of Strathclyde apologises to Lawrence Ramadas who won case of racial discrimination against the force... Civil rights group Liberty criticises Operation Mermaid, proposed road blocks and searches to be carried out simultaneously by 52 police forces and other agencies, including immigration, benefits and customs

AUG 14 Chairman of PCA Peter Moorhouse blames 'culture of racism' within Met for failure of inquiry into murder of Stephen Lawrence, and officers' racist attitudes for breakdown in relationship between family and Met... Racial and Violent Crime Task Force is to re-examine unsolved racist murders including cases like those of Ricky Reel and Michael Menson... Football Task Force announces measures to reduce racism at football grounds including the sending-off of fans or players who use racist language

AUG 17 Housing charity Shelter reveals that black people are more likely to end up homeless or badly housed than white people

AUG 20 Home Office research reveals that black people are more likely to be arrested on weak evidence than their white counterparts and also much more likely to be taken into custody after being stopped and searched

AUG 21 Brent council opens emergency reception centre for Kosovan refugees arriving in the capital

AUG 22 Thirty-one suspected Romanian illegal immigrants are found by motorway police in Hampshire after being dropped off by a lorry

AUG 24 Ministers order Home Office to adopt 12-month race equality action plan after research reveals that 'racism is deeply entrenched in the Home Office'... Army called to guard 70 Kosovan and Albanian illegal immigrants found on lorries in Dover

AUG 25 Government announces plans to strengthen anti-terrorist legislation... Monitoring group SARI reports more than 800 incidents of racial violence in Bristol last year

AUG 26 Report published by NHS Centre for Reviews and Dissemination reveals that black heart attack victims are often overlooked in cardiac rehabilitation programmes because care is focused on middle-aged white men

AUG 28 Government issues new guidelines on adoption to ease restrictions on grounds of race or age

AUG 30 Home office reveals that around 50 refugees arrive daily at Heathrow airport

SEP 1 Brother of Edgar Fernandes and MP Keith Vaz travel to Turkey to urge police and authorities to extradite man accused of his murder after stealing his passport and identity

SEP 3 Anti-fascist magazine *Searchlight* reveals link between Gary Dobson, one of the men

accused of murdering Stephen Lawrence, and C18

SEP 4 Criminal Justice (Terrorism and Conspiracy) Bill receives royal assent, 48 hours after being published... Men accused of murdering Stephen Lawrence are approached by the BBC and LWT to tell their story

SEP 7 Inquest into death of Michael Menson, set alight in a racist attack, hears that he told a police officer the name of his attacker but was not taken seriously

SEP 8 Anti-corruption officers from Scotland Yard raid home of John Davidson, ex-detective sergeant who investigated murder of Stephen Lawrence

SEP 9 Research from Warwick University reveals that youngsters are pessimistic about the state of race relations in the UK

SEP 10 Medical journal the *Lancet* reports on 'scintigraphy' a new scanning technique developed by Austrian scientists to detect signs of torture in asylum-seekers

SEP 11 Parents of Stephen Lawrence launch educational trust aimed at helping black students pursue careers in architecture... 17-year-old youth found guilty of manslaughter of Manish Patel sentenced to three and a half years in detention centre; second youth convicted of assault, sentenced to 80 hours community service

SEP 14 Jack Straw promises National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS) will play key role in bringing internet racists to justice... Police use dogs and helicopters to arrest 18 suspected illegal immigrants from Kosovo at service station on M40, Oxfordshire

SEP 16 Inquest finds that Michael Menson was unlawfully killed and did not commit suicide as police suggested

SEP 18 At final day of Part I of Lawrence inquiry, Neville Lawrence warns of people turning to violence if policing of black communities does not change

SEP 19 Home Office promises to spend an extra £100 million to reduce number of refugees entering the UK

SEP 20 32-year-old Iftkhar Mirza, who alleged he was beaten up by fellow soldiers dressed in KKK gear, loses race discrimination case... Survey by Forum of Private Businesses reveals that black bank customers often receive smaller overdrafts and find it harder to obtain loans

SEP 21 CRE defends new advertising campaign, saying, 'it wanted to provoke debate... and the end justified the means'... Refugee Council reports that refugees are being forced to turn to smuggling rings because of restrictions to entry in Fortress Europe

SEP 23 Jack Straw announces plans to increase number of 'airline liaison officers' in Kosovo to reduce the number of passengers boarding planes without proper papers... Asian community groups launch Social Task Force in Glasgow (STING) to protect the community from rising racist attacks... Police from the Met's anti-terrorist unit arrest seven men from Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Syria thought to be connected to Saudi dissident Osama bin Laden... **SEP 24** Government orders two independent teams of scientists to investigate long term health problems caused by CS spray... **SEP 25** Two inspectors from Black Police Officers' Association tell Lawrence Inquiry of ingrained racist canteen culture in the force... **SEP 28** Police say they are considering the possibility that the fatal stabbing of 56-year-old Remi Surage in Orpington, Kent, was racially motivated.

1998

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