



WAKE UP!! IT'S YER ..FESTIVE ROUND UP.

# SchNEWS

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## RED FLOWER POWER

Activists attacked by riot cops during the Rote Flora Squat demonstration

Riot police clashed with 8,000 protesters in Hamburg over the eviction of a social centre in Hamburg on Saturday (21st). Barricades were built and petrol bombs hurled as locals took a stand against gentrification.

This was the culmination of a long running state campaign to shut down the Rote Flora (Red Flower) social centre. Originally one of the few undamaged buildings after the Second World War, The Rote Flora centre was squatted on the 1st November 1989. Over the years it became an alternative cultural centre and a hub for political and artistic endeavours. It was used as a convergence space during the anti-G8 protests in Germany in 2007. The centre hosts flea markets, parties and other events on a regular basis. It also holds meetings for leftist and anarcho movements. It stands for immigrant rights, anti-nationalism and the resistance of the privatisation of public spaces.

A demonstration had been called for the 21st of December "in solidarity with the Rote Flora squat, the Esso houses initiative, and for refugees' right to stay." Last week the Esso social houses, home to a hundred people in Hamburg's district of St. Pauli, had already been evicted as part of Hamburg's rapid process of gentrification. The demo also highlighted the ongoing struggles for refugees in the city of Hamburg. Since the winter of 2012, more than three hundred African refugees have arrived in the city. They managed to escape from the conflict of the Libyan Revolution, made their way through Italy and eventually reached the German border. Hamburg was the epicentre on Saturday for defending social housing and refugees rights across Germany but demonstrations occurred in many other cities across the country.

The police operation kicked off with the arrival of a helicopter above, followed by a legion of riot cops who unprovoked and armed with water cannons, batons, tear gas and guns attacked the demonstrators. Defending the violence, policespokesman, Mirko Streiber said "There was a mood of aggression from the outset," Not surprising perhaps - SchNEWS wonders how peace-

ably most readers would react to water canons, batons, tear gas and guns, surely testy and perhaps even a little edgy. There is footage showing the cops swarming the crowd of demonstrators and attacking them. According to activist reports the cops justified their attack by saying the "demonstration started too early." "There was a massive use of teargas and water canons. A journalist from DPA got treated with a punch in the face by a cop when he showed him his press identification. People responded in kind with flying bricks, stones, bottles and a handful of petrol bombs. Many anarchists had travelled to Hamburg for the demo and were re-inforced by fans of the well-known anti-fascist football team St Pauli.

Demonstrators moved onto the defensive, building barricades. They managed to build barricades in several neighborhoods. Police tried to block the roads to kettle protesters but demonstrators resisted and the then rallied up crowd attacked a police station and dozens of banks thrown in for good measure. According to German activist Ewige Blumenkraft - "Momentum continued to build as running battles ensued between protesters and riot cops across the city that lasted well into the night. There was damage to police cars and windows were smashed in surrounding properties"

According to DW.DE, Germany's mainstream international broadcaster more than 100 police officers were "injured" with an unspecified number of protesters also "hurt". A statement by the organisers put the unspecified number closer to several hundred activists injured and 120 arrested plus 19 arrested so far suspected of breach of the peace; with 82 officers wounded and 15 of those taken to a hospital. Between 2,000 and 3,000 armed riot cops attacked the 8,000 demonstrators (including St Pauli fans as well as activists from all over Germany and further afield) who, in solidarity with refugees, had gathered to conserve the Rote Flora

Rote Flora activists began a campaign known as "Flora bleibt unverträglich". For updates on the recent events in Hamburg keep checking Enough is Enough. You can follow twitter feeds at: @florableibt



### GIVE IT SOME BROOM-STICK!

Having tried planning objections, national campaigning and an occupation of the site to no avail, campaigners against EDFs new nuclear power station in Hinkley Point, Somerset have turned to the higher powers of the occult.

The monthly Witch Watch event is a 24hour vigil held on the night of the Full Moon "when she is still waxing". As they say "Witch Watch evolved to defend Mother Earth as part of the Stop Hinkley C campaign and the proposed new build of nuclear power stations in Britain."

After the last event, on Monday night, the witches were woken next day by Police Liaison Officer PC Krago who demanded that the witches undo their nights work. What had the sorceresses done? For some no doubt powerfully symbolic reason they'd wrapped the fence of the construction site in wool and left and eerie woollen pentangle facing the gate.

### WEAVING A SPELL

No longer being allowed to burn people at the stake, Officer Krago was forced threaten the entire coven with arrest for anti-social behaviour and littering, stating that the matter was very serious indeed and could even lead to an injunction.

Meanwhile of course our pointy-hatted friends were left to wonder how they might boil up some toil and trouble for EDF by looking into how carefully the company deal with waste a thousand times more dangerous than magical wool.

Interested in a bit of pentacle/athame action up at Hinkley? For more info ring 07874 819608 or click here to email. (you'll need to bring yer own familiar).

For more down to earth efforts against the radioactive giant <http://stophinkley.org/>

### PARTY & PROTEST

For events listings updated weekly see [www.schnews.org.uk/pap](http://www.schnews.org.uk/pap)

INFORMATION FOR ACTION

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# TANGIERS MIGRANT CLASHES

*The brutal reality of EU's externalised border regime*

Last week spontaneous protesting rocked the north Moroccan town of Tangier, after the fifth death of a sub-Saharan migrant during a police raid this year. The 30-year-old appeared to have fallen from a window. Hundreds of Tangier's undocumented black African migrants marched the streets - behind his friends carrying his dead body - chanting against police racism. Eventually, the police blocked their path. See a fuller report and video (warning: graphic) from European solidarity activists on the ground here: <http://beatingborders.wordpress.com/>.

'Irregular' migrants in Tangier say violence experienced from the Moroccan police is increasing, despite Morocco's new 'Migration and Asylum Policy', which makes the fashionable nods towards human rights. They've also strengthened their 'mobility partnership' with the EU. Mobility partnerships mean anything but for migrants deemed 'undesirable', and as the EU seeks to externalise its border regime into neighbouring countries. They're starting one in Tunisia next.

While a few sugar pills are offered in the form of more temporary visas for Moroccan nationals, the partnership also forces Morocco to take a tough stance against illegal immigration, effectively becoming the EU's gendarme - and for the EU, outsourcing migration policing to countries willing to beat, kill and harass on their behalf.

More brutal still is the situation in the regions near the border fences between Moroccan land and the Spanish enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla. In 2005, Moroccan security guards opened fire on unarmed men and women trying to cross the high, barbed wire fences that separate the territories, killing 11 and injuring dozens more. Recent reports state the level of violence in the region, where many sub-Saharans live in temporary camps, has reached a crisis point and has surpassed that that led up to the 2005 tragedy.

SchNEWS was in Morocco last month and spoke to a Gambian migrant about what goes on in Nador, the nearest Moroccan town to the Melilla border.

Can you tell me about Nador/Melilla?

I went in 2010, 2012, 2013. Nador is a place... A lot of crazy things happen there. People live in the mountains, the jungle land, in the big forest. Some people lost their lives... the living conditions. Police came there every day at six in the morning, five in the morning and it's mountain so a man can be running and just fall down.

(Clarification: The terrain in Melilla is mountainous, with vertical drops along the hillsides, rugged ground and trees blocking your way. People fall down the drops and can fall a long way, landing on rocks. Lots of injuries

falling on rocks.)

Were people dying there because of the living standards in the camp, or was it because of what the police did?

Because of what the police did. Because it's the police who chase them away. They try to save themselves, to run away from the police. And the accidents happen. Some of them have been beat by the Guardias, the Moroccan Guardias, trying to strike and jump the fence. Being tortured, beaten, anyhow they beat them. And they torture you, they over-beat you and you get internal bleeding. That internal bleeding will kill you, you know.

Was there anywhere you could go when you were injured in Nador?

Sometimes they take you to the hospital. Sometimes they just take you to the mountain. They just dump you somewhere where if people come down looking for food they are able to see you.

Is it common that people are able to cross over the fence?

It's not common. Sometimes. From time to time. Sometimes if people are many in the forest, they force to cross because in this situation it's not good in the forest. The living condition is getting worse and worse. A lot of disturbance like police coming every day, so people just decide just to (try).

So when the police come what do they do?

When the police come they try to catch people are to burn their plastic houses, the ones they build in the forest. They burn them, and take people, and burn all your blankets.

Do people often get deported from Nador to Oujda?

Yes, they will be deported to Oujda. And you have to strike back again to come back to Nador. It's a hard life, a hard life there. It's a risk, being there everyday you can die, you can survive. Being there, in Nador. Because any day police can come and you try and escape and you fall down and die. So being there is a risk. And any day you can go to jump the fence you could get murdered, you know. It's a big risk.

What other risks are there, I heard about gangs?

The local gangs. Moroccans?

Moroccans. They rob people. Because they know that we are not free, you know? From the authorities, so they can do anything, we will never go and report. That's why they take advantage of us.

So it's a place where there is no-one to stop them doing that?

No there is no-one to stop them. There is nowhere you can complain. Even for the police to get that information it's going to be difficult sometimes. Because we are the people supposed to complain and we can't complain.

# HSBC DIRTY? YOU CAN BANK ON IT

**WDM SANTAS ON A DIRTY MISSION AS BANK MAKES IT ON THE NAUGHTY LIST.**

Twenty five Santas took time out on Monday (17th) morning from gift wrapping and descended on the doorstep of HSBC at Moor-gate London with a tonne of coal to draw attention to the bank's mountainous financing of fossil fuels and to demand for it to cease its filthy business. The demonstrators were from the World Development Movement. Dressed up as Santa Claus they sung festive ditties including timeless classics such as 'Frosty the Banker' and 'Deck the Halls with Dirty Money'.

SchNEWS spoke to Miriam Ross from the WDM. "It started at 11.30am. HSBC shut their doors to the public and refused to receive what we'd brought them. We had to move on after half hour, so we headed to other HSBC branches." This is one in a series of protests demanding the end of dirty investments.

Between 2010 and 2012 HSBC endorsed more fossil fuel bonds and shares than any other UK bank, helping companies raise £75 billion. UK and American banks are in front of the competition compared to the rest of the world when it comes to coal lending. Included on the list of companies the bank finances are mining behemoths Anglo American, Glencore-Xstrata and BHP Billiton. HSBC has invested more than £3 billion into these companies who are behind the Cerrejón coal mine in Colombia. Cerrejón is Latin America's largest coal mine, it has ruined people's livelihoods and destroyed entire villages. HSBC also finances oil and gas extraction worldwide.

Nick Dearden, director of the World Development Movement, said in a statement: "HSBC has been a very naughty bank this year, pouring billions into dirty fossil fuels, and ignoring the fact that if we want to avoid runaway climate change, we have to keep fossil fuels in the ground. So we thought a tonne of coal would be the best Christmas present we could give the bank. Maybe it will be better behaved next year and start phasing out its financing of fossil fuels."

## AND FINALLY...

Failbook Fascists Plan to Seige Cable Street  
Following the implosion of the EDL, there's a new, old far right group in town. The New British Union of Fascists are a hilarious mock-up of Mosleyite mannequins. In fact they love nothing better than dressing up in a blackshirt and a Sam Browne belt and pushing Britain forward into the brave new world of the 1940s.

In a tip of the hat to Oswald's finest hour the New British Union are planning a march on Cable St. No date or time has yet been arranged but you can rest assured that there will be no shortage of anti-fascists willing to don flat caps, tweed waistcoats and half bricks to give their re-enactment a truly authentic touch.

Unfortunately the white heat of 1930s technology proved no match for 21st Century cyber-hackers. The names, locations, emails and contact numbers of all their "leaders" have been distributed over the internet. Their Facebook page has also been mercilessly hacked down.

## Disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers, to be wary of festive, bloated, drunk, ole men dressed in red that you only see once a year.

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