Polish ABC and Antifa News

In Warsaw on Sunday, a year after the conflicts and previous body harm charges filed an appeal which was denied. The police, however, arrested the suspects.

This has already gone on for three years and it is clear that the police are not determined to prove these charges. It is clear that a suspension of action was made.

Szaj, an activist from Bialystok, had his trial opened again. Charges are "violently resisting arrest" and two counts of "insulting a police officer". Charges are related to police raid on DeCentrum squat in Bialystok three years ago. Process was stopped due to inability to interrogate all witnesses, but the police finished the investigation in a convoy of diplomatic cars.

Five people who took part in anarchist action against the visit of Russian diplomat in Warsaw, were sentenced to two years in prison.

Prisoner in Poland needs support

Sebastian Kiszak is serving a six year sentence for alleged armed robbery of a shop (seems that shop belonged to a policeman) and stealing ammo and surveillance equipment from there.

He is interested in any anarchist and punk literature and can understand pretty well English and Russian.

Recently he has been having some problems with the prison authorities for receiving some anarchist magazines (after the last visit of Akjia Berosprednia, kind of Polish Class War equivalent, he was accused of trying to organize sabotage in prison, however ridiculous it sounds ... but he is good in his possibilities. So that he will be moved to another hospital in next few months, but its not sure yet.

Address: Sebastian Kiszak, Nowosolok 40, 61-171 Poznan, Poland

Solidarity needed in Russia

Recently Russia has been shaken by huge protests against the US intervention in Iraq. Little surprise, that in some cities anarchists and their friends organizing and participating to these protests have been targeted with a fierce repression.

They need your help now! To stay updated, read: www.avionor.org (this has an English section) and www.russia.indymedia.org

More info from: Brighton Anarchist Black Cross: www.brightonabc.org.uk

The Anarchist Federation is an organisation of class struggle anarchists aiming to abolish all oppressions and create a free and equal society. This is Anarchist Communism.

We have our say as being divided into two main opposing classes: the ruling class which controls all the power and wealth, and the working class which the rulers exploit to maintain this. By racist, sexist and other forms of oppression, as well as war and environmental destruction the rulers weaken and divide us. Only the direct action of working class people can defend our rights and ultimately overthrow capitalism.

As the capitalist system rules the world, its reaction must be directed towards world-wide resistance. We reject attempts to reform it, such as working through parliament and international organisations, as they fail to challenge capitalism itself. Unions also work as a part of the capitalist system, so although workers struggle within them they will be unable to bring about capitalism's destruction unless they go beyond these limits.

Organisation is vital if we're to be effective in the struggle. Our work is an important part of the anarchist movement and are affiliated to the International Anarchist Federations. The Anarchist Federation has members across Britain and Ireland fighting for the kind of world outlined above. Contact us at: Anarchist Federation, 84B, Whitechapel High Street, London, E1 7QX Tel: 07946 214 590 Visit: anfed.co.uk Email: info@anfed.org.uk

Join the resistance

ONE OF THE most encouraging things about the aftermath of the tsunami disaster was the way ordinary people all around the world gave money in a general gesture of solidarity. This was in sharp contrast with politicians like Bush and Blair who at first failed to even respond to the disaster and then promised derisory amounts of aid.

The initial sum promised by the US was the equivalent of a day of trial of new cars at auction, and the equivalent of five and a half days. When this was exposed the US and UK governments were forced to up their aid.

Even the aid promised by countries and institutions proved to be a mirage. One example among many is when the International Monetary Fund promised $500 million in aid after the Iran earthquake. A year later, only £9 million had been received!

Likewise, the banks charge a transaction fee, usually between one and 2.5 per cent, each time a credit card is used for charity. The fee is paid by the charity or anyone who accepts electronic payment — to a company known as a "bank acquirer" to cover costs such as processing the payment and guaranteeing the funds. Under widespread pressure, the banks were forced to waive this way of making profit.

The government system for tsunamis was possible, but was rejected by governments in the region as "too costly". They don't think twice about spending far more on their military, like in Sri Lanka and Indonesia, busy fighting internal wars with ethnic minorities.

Finally, however, how much of the money so generously given by ordinary people will actually get to those who need it? A lot will be creamed off by the bureaucracies of charities. What does arrive may well be carved up by the State structures and then local and regional and local administrators. Some of this may well disappear into officials' pockets, whilst the aid that is distributed will be given to favourites and any 'troublemakers' may be discriminated against.

Local groups of workers and peasants will have to make sure that aid is distributed fairly.

RESERVIST REVOLTS

ON THE SAME day that the Ministry of Defence released figures citing 790 UK troops as having suffered "serious injuries" as a result of hostile actions in Iraq, Lance Corporal George Solomon called for other Territorial Army reserves to follow his lead and refuse to obey orders to deploy there.

Citing his objections he said: "I believe the occupation of Iraq to be illegal - the weapons of mass destruction, the connection to al-Qaeda is none of it was true. This war is a turning point in history and is about America setting itself on a course to control the world's petroleum".

He followed this up with a press conference the following day, where he gave his reasons for war resistance in detail.

The Russian example

Vladimir Putin, the Russian president, was forced to withdraw pensions after widespread protests across Russia by pensioners. He stated that pensions should go up by 200 roubles. Demonstrations had taken place from Vladivostok in the Pacific coast to Moscow. These days demonstrations and other shows of mass discontent are rare and the Putin administration was obviously taken by surprise that the old pensions system was given out mainly in subsidies, from free travel on public transport to low prices on medicines. The new scheme would be replaced by cash payments. Pensioners were not convinced.
**WATER WAR TWO VICTORY!**

**AFTER THE WORLD Bank promoted privatisation of the water supply in 1997, Bolivia has suffered a 35% price rise by up to 35%. This provoked a revolt in the city of Cochabamba, which is known as the "Water War" when community direct action and mass street mobilisations resulted in the water supply being taken out of the hands of the US Bechtel corporation.**

In early January, in what has been described as "Water War Two", neighbourhood organisations in El Alto (pop. 800,000) launched an indefinite general strike to defend the local primary school sanitation supplier, forntment, and Aguas del Illamani whose prices have left tens of thousands of the poorest without access to clean water. The government, fearful of a repeat of the oil price protests of 2000 which swept the country and saw Cochabamba protesters close their city, now faces the fall out by immediately cancel the company's contract. The service is now back in municipal hands.

**FASH BASHED**

**AFTER A LOT of confusion and last minute date changing, the fascist National Front (NF) finally decided to have their march in Wolverhampton on January 15. The march was held to sit up racists following the horrific murder of white teenager Terry Grigg last year. His family were reportedly said they want nothing to do with the NF or their politics. This was the anniversary of Terry's death, with the NF also holding a march last year.**

One group of anti-fascists spotted two particularly ugly and badly dressed NF leaders who followed them onto a train heading towards their meet up point. At the next stop, the boneheads were made to feel extremely "uncomfortable" on the train. But the NF fascist would later turn up to the march looking more than a little worse for wear. One anti-fascist sustained an injury from the fascists attacking his friend. It was evident the NF leaders had not had any thought about how they could get back to their postal address.

Central Tens in the Midlands are also to be the target of strike action after 700 drivers voted for three-hour stoppages three consecutive Saturdays – the dispute flared after two drivers were sacked over disciplinary action, which the workers felt amounted to management bullying.

In Wolverhampton the march is being supported by the anti-fascist group West Midlands Against Racism.

**THERY'RE ALL AT IT!!**

**WHEN THE BBC broadcast the Jerry Springer Opener in January and the moral guardians of the right raised their hackles. Media organisations, the Life League, and Christian Voice all voiced their strongest opposition to what was supposed to be the last group trying to prosecute the BBC under a 17th century law of blasphemy which "for the purpose of serious, scandalous or profane matter relating to God, Jesus Christ, or the Bible, or the formatories of the Church of England". It believes Britain is "deep in sin" and drowsing under a "tidal wave of filth".**

This crew of Christian fundamentalists were joined by the Bristol based Sikh fundamentalists against the play by Gurpreet Bhatts (herself a Sikh) which succeeded in closing the play down. One Sikh who set himself against the action of these fundamentalists said that "the promotion of religion in public life, especially in the public sector, has not only legitimised 'reets' multiculturalism - where culture has low given way to religion, particularly if it is capable of delivering ethnic minority votes". He went on to say that the result is often to stiffen dissent within religions and make perímetry of religious identities by men the whole of the Sikhs, Muslim, Christian or Hindu way.

Around the same time, the Rampant social centre in East London and Indymedia Cinema organised a festival of documentaries from India. The social centre received threatening phone calls from the BBC producers who claimed the film has an anti-Hindu agenda. These threats followed after fundamentalist groups (the BAA for example) had been alerted on a mailing list. The social centre refused to give in, especially after the film's rarity it received from many quarters.

These incidents are a backdrop to the plans by Charles, Gazhanka Blunket as Home Secretary, to push through "religious hate" laws. The anarchists stand for a secular society, which is essential to challenge reactionary religious groups to impose their agendas. We stand for free speech and free expression. These moves by religious fundamentalist groups are to protect the vested interests of groups within the Sikh community against rebellion within its own ranks as well as the case within the Muslim communities.

Multiculturalism as pushed by the New Labour government is just to promote tolerance and understanding but to promote rigid ideas of ethnic identity. Instead of competing communities defined by fake ideas of ethnic identity, we look towards a working class that will be united in action whilst remaining aware of the cultural differences that are different. We must fight any attempt to gag us with dogsey laws based on clapped-out ideas about blasphemy.

**WELFARE FOR THE RICH**

**WHEN RACHEL'S ORGANIC (Dairy) Ltd announced a "massive new extension" to its headquarters and main processing plant in Aberystwyth at a cost of £1m, BBC Wales News focused on the extra 50 jobs that would be created and that the company was getting huge political and financial reward from the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) and the Welsh Development Agency.**

In fact Rachel's Organics Ltd received £1.3m from the government in the form of a grant. No keen Neil Burchell (Managing Director) stated that "Wales is a business-friendly environment".

It seems Rachel's Organics were milkig its success but they were also milking the general public. Why should the WAG give £1.3m to a company that is not only a private company so that they can make a private profit? It's bad enough workers are exploited at the point of production but the WAG/WDA have no qualms in handing over large sums of taxpayers' monies to private companies.

This is not only how the capitalistic system works.

What is so interesting about the Rachel's Organic Ltd case that nobody is talking the the way it was reported. The emphasis put by BBC Wales was on the wonderful jobs being created. It was a success for "our" economy. The WAG/WDA showed how they can be happy. (You would have thought the workers actually owned the factory they were working in!)

**THE BOMB**

**THE POTEMKIN MUTINY**

**THIS YEAR MARKS the 100th anniversary of the Potemkin mutiny, one of the events that sparked the 1905 Revolution in Russia.**

In June, 1905, sailors on the Potemkin battleship mutinied on the Black Sea fleet in protest against the serving of rotten meat. These are the words of Afnasy Matushenko, the parliamentarian on board:

"...16 of the worst among the crew, the Captain of the Potemkin...sent the senior surgeon of the ship...to examine the meat. He put his finger into the rotten meat, put on his pince-nez so as to see the meat gots better, twisted it round in front of his face, sniffed and said that the meat was worse. However, the captain did not want to eat it all.

All that was necessary was to wash off the mutiny with water, and the mutiny would be excellent..."

Captain Golikov ordered a sentry to be stationed by the meat...the sentry was instructed to write down the names of all who came to look at the meat and after wards to report them to the Captain."

"Comrades, don't forget your oath - don't forget your principles."

The muzzles of the rifles dropped to the deck - they had refused to shoot. Matushenko described theonn the gun:

"Drop your weapons, who replied; "I will drop my weapons when I am no longer a living being but a corpse. Go to the ship. This is the people's ship and not yours."

The crew threw the officers overboard and sailed into Odessa. Fearing that the Potemkin would be attacked by other ships of the Russian fleet, the mutineers decided to flee the ship, took the ship with them on the gun:

"Drop your weapons, who replied: "I will drop my weapons when I am no longer a living being but a corpse. Go to the ship. This is the people's ship and not yours."

"Comrades, look what they are doing to our fellows! Grab rifles and cartridges, shoot them down, the swine!"

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The brave Matushenko was an anarchist who has been thought to have thrown the ship's keys overboard, and thus forced the ship to return to Odessa. This has been a misreporting of events, for the keys were never thrown, but were later recovered in a secret place by the ship's crew. The mutiny has been immortalised, along with all the other classic movie Battleships Potemkin by Eisenstein.***
WATER WAR TWO VICTORY!

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AFTER A LOT of confusion and last minute date changing, the fascist National Front (NF) finally decided to hold their march in Woolwich on January 15. The march was held to sit up racial tensions following the horrific murder of white teenager Tony Gregory last year. His family were repeatedly said they want nothing to do with the NF or their politics. This was the anniversary of Tony’s death, with the NF also holding a march last year.

One group of anti-fascists spotted two particularly ugly and badly dressed NF members, who followed them onto a train travelling towards their meet up point.

At the next stop, the booholes were made to feel extremely “uncomfortable” on the train. The fascist would later turn up at the march looking more than a little worse for wear. One anti-fascist sustained an injury from the fascists attacking his fists.

The NF later held their march, bringing out thirty members (almost half last year’s total). No arrests were made.

For more information on fighting fascism, contact Antifa at www.antifa.org.uk

LIBERTY NOT TYRANNY!

WELFARE FOR THE RICH

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In fact Rachel’s Organics Ltd received £1.35 million as a contribution towards the cost of a new factory. It seems Rachel’s Organics were backing the idea because they were also milking the general public. Why should the WAG give £1.35m to a company without doing any public services, just to make the company more profitable? It’s just one way the public are being conned in the name of economic growth.

But obviously state owned enterprises means that control of resources remains out of the hands of those people who need them and those who actually run the services, the water and sanitation workers.

Indeed, under pressure from the World Bank the Bolivian government may at any time sell to another transnational company.

The spokesperson of the Cochabamba campaign, Oscar Olvera, says that “the people want to participate in the management of all that affects their daily lives.” Ultimately, as our organisation, the Library (Anarchist-communist) argue, “Only a social revolution and a construction of a new society can offer a future to the workers who fight, not only to solve their immediate problems, but also to construct their self-managed, horizontal, libertarian communist future.”

For further information contact: Juventudes Libertarias, Bolivia Email jzl_boliv@hotmail.com ★

THEY’RE ALL IT!

WHEN THE BBC broadcast the Jerry Springer Opera in January, the moral guardians of the right raised their hackles. Media reformers such as Christian Voice all voiced their strong disapproval. The latest group is trying to prosecute the BBC under a 17th century law of blasphemy which forbids people to utter “scurrilous or abusive matter relating to God, Jesus Christ, or the Bible, or the formatories of religion of England.” It believes Britain is “deep in sin” and drowsing under a “tideal wave of fithe”.

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These incidents are a backdrop to the plans by Charles, Gladstone’s son, to put on his pince-nez to see as he sees the heat. Better, twisted it round in front of his face, sniffling and said that the meat was very good. He thought the meat and therefore did not want to eat it. All that was necessary was to wash off the meat with water, and the meat would be excellent.

Captain Golikow ordered a sentry to be stationed by the meat... The sentry was instructed to write down the names of all who came to look at the meat and after wards to report them to the Captain.

“Comrades, don’t forget your oath – don’t forget the people who are the only ones in the dock,” he said. The muzzles of the rifles dropped to the deck – they had refused to shoot. Marching to the song about the women of the Red Army...

“Comrades, look what they are doing to our fellows! Grab rifles and cartridge, shoot them down, the swine!”

The sailors rushed to the gunboat deck, seized rifles, loaded them, and ran out to their comrades who stood surrounded by the Red Army. When they saw themselves on Matuschenko with the gun order: “Drop your weapons,” they replied.

“I will drop my weapons when I am no longer a living being but a corpse. Go to the ship. This is the people’s ship and not yours.”

The crew threw the officers overboard and sailed into Odessa. Fearing that the Potemkin would be attacked by other ships of the Russian fleet, the mutineers decided not to go further and surrendered themselves to the local authorities.

The brave Matuschenko was an anarchist and the moment the Red Army struck, after having spent some time in London, he returned to Southern Russia to carry out underground anarchist activity. He was caught and hanged by the tsarist economy.

The murder has been immortalised, all in the classic movie Battleship Potemkin by Eisenstein.

THE POTECKIN MUTINY

THIS YEAR MARKS the 100th anniversary of the Potemkin mutiny, one of the events that sparked the 1905 Revolution in Russia.

In June, 1905, sailors on the Potemkin battleship mutinied against the Tsarist regime. The mutiny was sparked by a Tsarist order to supply food for more than 8500 troops assembled in San Pietroburgo for a Franco-Russian invasion of Turkey. The order came just weeks after the beginning of the Russo-Japanese War.

The sailors had already been sent to the Black Sea to fight against the Tsarist regime and were provoked by the conditions aboard the ship. The sailors, who had already suffered a number of deaths due to disease and malnutrition, were refused medical treatment and were forced to work in unsanitary conditions.

The sailors were also overworked and underpaid, and many of them were suffering from illnesses that could have been easily treated. The sailors were also denied the right to vote or participate in the decision-making process of the ship's officers.

The sailors also had to endure the presence of foreign soldiers on board the ship, which was seen as a symbol of the Tsarist regime's corruption and decay. The sailors were also forced to work long hours without rest, and many of them were injured or killed in accidents at sea.

The sailors' mutiny was sparked by a series of events, including the death of a young sailor who had been beaten by the ship's crew, and the refusal of the ship's officers to investigate the cause of his death. The sailors' anger was also fuelled by the presence of foreign soldiers on board, which they saw as a symbol of the Tsarist regime's corruption and decay.

The mutiny was led by a group of sailors who had previously fought in the Russo-Japanese War and had returned to Russia to protest against the Tsarist regime. The mutiny was supported by a number of Russian anarchists and socialists, who saw it as a symbol of the workers' struggle against the Tsarist regime.

The mutiny was ultimately crushed by the Tsarist authorities, who sent in troops to restore order. However, the mutiny had a significant impact on Russian society, and it helped to galvanise support for the Russian Revolution of 1917.

The Potemkin mutiny is remembered as a symbol of the workers' struggle against the Tsarist regime, and it has become a symbol of the power of the working class to resistance against oppression and injustice.

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**INSIDE INFORMATION**

**Polish ABC and Antifa News**

ANTIFA TRIAL: Unfortunately still continuing. Deeply the acquisition of all five defendants, both the prosecutor and the nazi that accused the anarchists filed an appeal. However, a new court against the trial will be held.

This farce has already gone on for three years and it seems that prosecution is really determined to prove those charged guilty. It is clear of repression, which ended last year, still exists.

Lapa, an anarchist from Bialystok sentenced to one year jail for a previous body harm charges filed an appeal and was finally acquitted after three years of court hearings and lots of money being spent in his defence. This verdict was welcomed with relief, as Lapa was very close to a jail sentence, especially taking in account that he has a suspended sentence for other anti-fascists actions.

Soja, an anarchist from Bialystok, had his trial opened again. Charges are "violently resisting arrest" and two counts of "insulting a police officer". Charges are related to police raid on DeCentrum squat in Bialystok three years ago. Process was stopped before due to inability to interrogate all witnesses, but now the police have finished new investigation and sentenced it will be held.

Five people who took part in anarchist action against the visit of Russian diplomat in Poland, were sentenced to five years in a convoy of diplomatic cars was attacked by anarchists, had been finally sentenced by local courts to fines for breaking of public order (all people got between 25 and 65 euro fines). It is definitely not such a bad end, as for action like this they could face criminal offences. There are a few more people charged for the same event who will be having trials soon.

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Sebastian Ksiazek is serving a six year sentence for alleged armed robbery of a shop (seems that shop belonged to a policeman) and stealing ammo and surveillance equipment from there.

He is interested in any anarchic and punk literature and can understand pretty well English and Russian.

Recently he has been having some problems with the prison authorities for receiving some anarchist magazines (after the last issue of Akcia Berozprowadna, kind of Polish Class War equivalent, he was accused of trying to organize sabotage in prison, however ridiculously it sounds...) but he is in good spirits. Its possible that he will be released in next few months, but its not sure yet.

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Organisation is vital if we're to beat the bosses. Our work in the anarchist movement and are affiliated to the International Anarchist Federations. The Anarchist Federation in the many countries, across Britain and Ireland fighting for the kind of world outlined above. Contact us at: Anarchist Federation, 84B, Whitechapel High Street, London, E1 7QX. Tel: 07946 214 590. Visit: http://geocities.com/pit_stop/ploughshares/pitnews.html

**8 International Women's Day**

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**PENSIONS**

**NEW LABOUR PUT forward new pensions plans which will come into force in April, increasing the age at which employees can retire.**

The Trades Union Congress as a result of widespread anger and pressure from union members has called a day of action to protect pensions on February 18. The TUC dragged its feet over the day of action and took months to arrange it. Even then, it was to be a day of action, and not involve anything like strike action.

Whether it's state pensions where payout is low, private sector pensions where final salary schemes are ending or public sector pensions where the retirement age is being raised to 65, pensions are under attack.

At its last conference New Labour announced a scheme to discourage people from retiring early. Work until 70 and receive a lump sum of £250-300 (depending on your age) and get a pension. Apart from some people dying before they get there and so saving the State a lot of money, you stand a good chance of being totally knackered when you get it! Make no mistake, the attack on pensions is an attack on the working class.

The Russian example

Vladimir Putin, the Russian president, was forced to drop pensions after widespread protests across Russia by pensioners. He stated that pensions should go up by 200 roubles. Demonstrations had taken place from Vladivostok in the Pacific coast to Moscow. These days demonstrations and other shows of mass discontent are rare and the Putin administration was obviously shocked. The old pensions system was given out mainly in subsidies, from free travel on public transport to low prices on medicines. The new scheme would be replaced by cash payments. Pensioners were not convinced.