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## Food Not Bombs gets active again in Belfast and Dublin



Last Thursdays 5th Aug Food Not Bombs Soup kitchen had an international flavour with around 20 folk turning up to show solidarity & support with the collective following our recent brushes with the PSNI. It was quite a sight, tables & chairs were

set up on Botanic Avenue summer salads & sandwiches served up & part of the street was reclaimed for an hour & a half in the name of people not profit.

As well as the usual well worn Belfast faces a large hungry crew turned up from the Tools For Solidarity International Workcamp. TFS another Belfast based collective collect & refurbish old hand tools no longer in use in Ireland, & provide quality kits of tools to artisan groups in Uganda & Tanzania.

TFS host several international workcamps a year in both North & South of Ireland. These camps give volunteers a chance to learn about development issues & give practical to people solidarity in Africa. The volunteers were keen to learn about FNB & some of them had done some lentil munching at FNB at home before.

Darren from FNB Belfast said “we brought along a copy of the application form for a trading permit we’d received from the City Council so as people could take some time to read it & have some discussion about how to approach this situation.

“The next Belfast FNB activity is a special Jam the War Breakfast outside the Belfast Magistrates Court on Thursday the 12<sup>th</sup> of August at 9am to coincide with the trial of folk arrested during Bush's visit to Northern Ireland in 2003.”

Meanwhile in Dublin, FNB have had three events where they've given out free delicious/amazing/sensational vegetarian food.

Derek and Maeve talked about their recent efforts: “We collected fruit and vegetables from the market on Moore Street on the Thursday and Friday prior to the giving out of the food, but this turned out to be way too much. We were overcome by broccoli, and now we reckon that one collection of food on the Saturday is plenty for the moment. Cooking and bread collection from bakeries has been taking place on the Saturday. all the food we use is food that would otherwise be thrown out. We get it for free and so we give it out for free.

“Our first Sunday we set up in the millennium park opposite the Olympia (just outside Dublin castle). we fed lots of people with a sort of vegetable mush. Our preliminary plan was to give food out there every second Sunday. However, since we're just getting this thing rolling, we haven't finalised any decisions like this yet.

“The following week, FNB provided free food at the DIY fest in the Project Arts Theatre in the city centre. There was vegetable curry, hummus and lots of bread.

“Then, last Sunday, the rain fell. We had no umbrellas. it was very cold. Instead of setting up in the Millennium park we distributed the free wholesome soulful food outside the Mc Donald's of the Ilac centre. At first we used the shelter from their overhang, but after a while we moved slightly away from the Mc Donald's and more towards the street. Our two varieties of vegetable stew and the sack of bread were very popular. All the food was gone within an hour. We talked to lots of people and did our bit to divert some McDonald's customers towards an all-round better option.

“So, so far it's all going pretty well. There been a real interest from the public. We're gaining momentum all the time - a bread redistribution network started, regular meetings, free food on the streets and plans of big things to come. These are the very early days, but everyone involved in FNB is really working hard.”



Food Not Bombs takes the food from supermarkets, street markets, bakeries etc which will not be put on public display the following day, but all the food is still good. They do not use meat for ideological and health reasons. The food is then prepared and given out for free. Where FNB is regularly active, the food is distributed to homeless people.

## Anti-nuke action at Faslane, Scotland, on Hiroshima anniversary

At 12.30 am on August 9th, three peace activists entered the high security Faslane Naval Base on the Clyde and remained inside the base for over 2 hours. On the anniversary of the US bombing of Nagasaki, the two women and one man highlighted the continuing and illegal development of the UK's own weapons of mass destruction.



The activists stated that "the global proliferation of nuclear weapons makes the world a more dangerous place and is terrorism on a global scale."

The three, as part of Trident Ploughshares, cut into the high security base, through an outer perimeter fence and through a second weld mesh fence. The bandit alarm was triggered closing all gates to the

base for approximately 2 hours, and consequently causing a queue of traffic at the main gate for this time. Two activists headed inside a high security area, before being detected by MOD police. They remained situated between the fence and the razor wire until after 2.30am when the MOD finally cut a hole through the weld mesh to reach the activists who were then arrested.

In a joint statement the three stated: "We have chosen the anniversary of the destruction of the Japanese city of Nagasaki by the atomic bomb, on 9th August 1945, to take action to highlight the British Government's own weapons of mass destruction, present at Faslane.

As concerned and responsible citizens we are appalled by the hypocrisy of our government, which claims to be committed to disarmament under the Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT), yet shows no signs of fitting actions to words."

Earlier this summer the US and UK governments were accused by the British American Security Information Council (BASIC), of conspiring to break the international agreement to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons. BASIC, along with another nuclear think tank, the Acronym Institute for Disarmament Diplomacy in London, have detailed evidence of a large scale collaboration by the two countries to develop their nuclear arsenals, an activity that the NPT is specifically designed to prevent. The horrors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki must never be allowed to happen again, yet the US and UK governments are doing nothing to lessen that risk."

Peace slogans were also painted on buildings within the area. A picture of the destruction of Nagasaki was hung within the base. All three, Jean from Biggar, Micah from Edinburgh and Roz also from Edinburgh, were arrested for Breaching MOD Byelaws, and one for two sets of malicious damage. They were released later in the morning.

## Peace Activists on Trial in Belfast



Five anti war campaigners are on trial for their part in protests against George Bush's visit to northern Ireland in April 2003. Catherine Ross, Colette Dornan nee McCann, Darren Malone, Pdraig O'Connor, Tomas Gorman, appear at

Belfast Magistrates Court on Thursday 12th & Friday 13th of August at 10am. The charges range from the sublime & ridiculous 'malicious sitting' to 'public disorder' & 'resisting arrest'.

The arrests took place on the 8th of April 2003 outside Belfast City Hall when around 300 people blocked the main road following a die-in to protest Bush's visit. Protestors criticised the PSNI's handling of the affair, the riot squad dragging clearly peaceful protestors (including school kids in uniform) & striking some with batons.

Taking over a year to come to trial the defendants have been subjected to the inconvenience & annoyance of over 10 court appearances on what are essentially minor charges. However none of the defendants have been deterred in their opposition to war & all of them have taken part in actions & protests against Bushes subsequent visits to London & Shannon.

Among revelations around Iraqi prisoner abuse the Butler Report & inquest into September 11th it seems timely to ask why Bush & Blair are not on trial. It is now widely accepted that Bush & Blair

lied to & manipulated to push ahead with the occupation of Iraq in contempt of International Law.

## Racist attacks in the north

The PSNI in County Antrim say they are treating weekend attacks on the homes of two care workers as racially motivated. Two houses in Tobar Park, Cullybackey, were attacked early on Saturday, but details were only released on Monday.

In the first incident, at about 0120, windows were broken at the home of a South African woman and her four-year-old son. Another house, where an Indian family were due to move in, was also targeted. No one was injured in the attacks, which police have described as cowardly. Sma Ndaba, whose husband is in South Africa on business, said she heard the brick crashing through her living room window. However, because the family have never had any trouble in the year since they moved into the area, she did not think it was her home that was being attacked. Mrs Ndaba said the local community had been very supportive following the attack.

"My neighbours have been very good and I am very proud of the Cullybackey community, they have been supportive," she said. "Even the ones that live a bit further from me were coming to me and comforting me. "They were saying they would not allow this to happen in their community. I am sure it is just a minority who are not accepting of me, because the community has been really supportive to me."

In the second incident, the window of another house in the area was also broken. An Indian woman who works at the same care home as Mrs Ndaba was due to move into the house with her family on Monday. Inspector Peter Wylie condemned the attack. "These victims work locally in healthcare and are well respected in the area, their contribution to this community contrast sharply with the cowards who attacked them," he said. He also appealed for anyone with information about the attack to contact the police.

SDLP councillor Seamus Laverty said he was outraged by the attacks, which he called "heartless and senseless". "The racist bigots who carried out these attacks do not represent the broader community in Ballymena," he said. DUP councillor Tommy Nicholl said he was disgusted by the attack. "If I can appeal to whoever, and I understand that there are only about two or three involved, can I say please stop and realise what you are doing to the village of which you are part of," he said.

Sinn Fein assembly member Philip McGuigan urged unionist politicians to join forces with others in the community in standing up to those behind sectarian and racist crime. "These attacks are unacceptable and must end," he said.

Last week, police in Belfast urged ethnic minorities in the south of the city to be vigilant following a spate of racist attacks. There have been 89 incidents in the area so far this year ranging from verbal abuse and graffiti to physical attacks on people and their homes, according to the police.

## Ireland gives a summer welcome to Citizen Traveller - yet again.

In August 2002 Indymedia Ireland carried a letter to the EZLN and Mexican civil society entitled "In Ireland Marcos is a Traveller". The previous month a poster (an image of which is on the next page) had appeared campaigning against the trespass laws that had recently been passed. In the two years since that article Ireland passed the Nice treaty and built an Anti-War movement. Indymedia published 75,000 articles or comments and the Public Order Act sprang to prominence used against RTS'ers, Bin Tax campaigners and others. Of course some of those 75,000 articles also mentioned the trespass aspect and it's use against travellers. But since the

Department of Justice decided to cancel the Citizen Traveller campaign, somehow the issue faded from the view of many.



The stories from Cork should surely be told. Last summer, we saw why this county leads the league table of evictions with 138 evictions taking place under the new act in the first 12 months of its operation. Indeed the last two years have seen the TASS initiative and — on Indymedia at least — an attempt to increase traveller visibility by telling the stories, following the cases and discussing the issues.

An Indymedia editor suggested an update to 'Marcos is a Traveller' and contact was made with the Traveller Visibility Group. We got sent a set of pictures with asides and an invitation to tell the big story, do a feature and say what was happening. But when you look at the pictures uploaded to the Indymedia website, see what Ireland demands of her citizens, even those who qualify under the proposed new restrictions, its very hard to improve on the words that were published here two years ago:

“This war is happening everywhere including Ireland. The Irish government is at present using draconian new laws to move Indigenous Irish Travellers from anywhere that they attempt to camp. They are the Irish equivalent to the Indigenous Peoples of Mexico and they are being described openly by members of the establishment in Ireland as 'Terrorists'. They, unlike the EZLN, have never taken up arms to fight for Justice, Peace and Dignity. They have done nothing except live their lives as their ancestors have for generations. They are a nomadic people. Just today I read of 30 families who had moved their caravans to an unused portion of land near the city of Dublin (our capital) being driven from this land by the Irish Police.

“So why am I telling this to the Zapatistas and Mexican Civil Society? To point out that in the Fourth World War things are becoming the same everywhere. And to point out that the resistance everywhere finally can realise this through channels of authentic speech and authentic tellings of the truth.”

## Kate Bamidele granted stay by High Court Order

Kate Bamidele was granted a preliminary order by the High Court restraining the Minister of Justice Michael McDowell from taking any further action to deport her. Kate originally arrived in Ireland in October 2002 after fleeing from her native Nigeria.



Residents Against Racism, a local activist group involved in the campaign to highlight Kate's case, were happy that she was not to be deported immediately, but

they still say that she may yet be sent back to certain death. They were pleased with the news from the High Court, after staging an

urgent last minute demonstration outside the offices of the Progressive Democrats on Mount Street in Dublin on August 10<sup>th</sup>.

Kate comes from northern Nigeria, where Sharia law is in force. Although often referred to as 'Islamic law', most of the world's Muslims do not support the imposition of Sharia at all.

It dictates very strict rules and punishments, especially against women. Kate has three children aged between 4 and 8 from a relationship with a Christian man. In August 2002, four Sharia policemen arrested her for having sex outside marriage, and a judge in a Sharia court sentenced her to death by stoning. A few weeks before the stoning was to be carried out, she managed to escape from prison. Eventually a priest helped her to hide, and she managed to get out of the country and reach Ireland.

Residents Against Racism say that they will continue to campaign against unjust deportation orders and state-sponsored racism against refugees and asylum seekers.

## Iraq: The Cork Connection Irish Government. employs Dick Cheney's company to build Irish roads

KBR, a subsidiary of Halliburton, has been given the contract to build the Fermoy Bypass. This company was formerly headed by American Vice President Dick Cheney. It is currently under investigation in various countries for bribery and corruption and has just been castigated by the Pentagon for overcharging by nearly two billion dollars for services rendered in Iraq.

The invasion it turned out wasn't predominantly driven by the UK & US governments but by a number of very rich and very influential American companies. Corporate sponsorship of war is nothing new, dating back reliably to major conflicts such as the Sino-Japanese war in Manchuria and especially the Chaco War between Bolivia and Paraguay which companies like Krupps, Skoda and Vickers were widely held responsible for. Even the first world war was allegedly egged on by the silent hand of industry, leading eventually to the American senate to instigate an investigation in 1934, as it did again in 1994.

DeVelera once said that the only thing a small country can do in practical terms is to voice its opinion. Our government failed to do this effectively, if at all, before the start of the Iraq war. However to add insult to the injury of ignoring the 100,000 who marched in Dublin in 2003, they have hired one of the worst corporations implicated in the Iraq conflict to build the Fermoy Bypass in north Cork. The fact that KBR was chosen as the lead contractor for the by-pass was casually mentioned in my local newspaper. What was not mentioned was that KBR is a subsidiary of Halliburton, the company formerly headed by the US president Dick Cheney. The newspaper did not mention the dark history of this company or the ongoing investigations into its dealings

The firm has been under investigation by numerous institutions in various countries as well as the U.S. The French are investigating it for bribery in an oil scandal in Nigeria, while nearly every notable American institution seems to have raised a legal eyebrow at its shenanigans, including investigations by the U.S stock exchange committee and the U.S army and pentagon.

A report by the very much Republican-run Pentagon admitted that Halliburton couldn't account for about one point eight billion dollars of charges. This on top of a previous investigation wondering why the same company was breaking the embargo on Iran. The list goes on and on.

It seems a curious choice of contractor to build the bypass around Fermoy but it could be viewed as a perfect marriage of convenience. Irish politicians have demonstrated a fondness for brown paper envelopes in the past and Halliburton cant seem to give out enough.



**IMC Puerto Rico: Venezuela - Between Revolution and Empire:** On Sunday, August 15th, a national referendum is scheduled to take place in Venezuela to decide whether democratically-elected president Hugo Chávez should remain in office. The outcome of this referendum, while significant, is only a fragment of a much larger and longer tale of class struggle in Venezuela, where 80% of the population lives in poverty and the richest 20% control the majority of country's natural and human-produced resources. Far from being simply an electoral process determining the destiny of a leader, many

in Venezuela understand the current struggle as a confrontation between the popular movements of the Bolivarian revolution against the Capitalist Empire. Media activists on the ground in Venezuela describe the situation as a potential brink of class war. The organized poor are prepared to protect, by any means necessary, the revolutionary processes they have been building at the grassroots level even before Chavez took office.

Chavez was first voted to office by an overwhelming majority after leading a coup attempt against the corrupt leader Carlos Andres Pérez, who among other atrocities, brought the nation under the rule of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) 'austerity measures.' The popular uprisings that occurred as a result were crushed with military force, resulting in thousands of deaths. While skepticism still exists among dissident leftists in Venezuela about certain of Chavez' policies, many in Venezuela view the opposition's attempt to oust him as an attempt by the capitalist classes to reassert fascist rule over the country. This confrontation will not be decided solely by ballots, but by popular struggle in the streets and the countryside.

Various popular revolutionary movements in Venezuela believe beyond doubt that Chávez is supported by the overwhelming majority of the Venezuelan population. Should the results of the referendum, official or otherwise, show a loss for Chávez, millions of Venezuelans will consider them fraudulent and immediately take to the streets—not waiting until the scheduled elections a month later. The intention of the popular movements who are preparing for an imminent uprising is not only to neutralize an opposition fraud, but to take the "Bolivarian revolution" to what they consider the next logical step: popular control of the means of production and communication through the exercise of direct democracy in assemblies.

Independent media activists currently working in and around Caracas have outlined three possible scenarios for a fraudulent outcome of the national referendum: (The question posed in the referendum is about overriding Chávez's government—The Bolivarians vote for the "No" while the Opposition for the "Yes")

- 1) Apparent victory of the "yes" through official channels.
- 2) A technical tie between the "Yes" and "No," which would lead to negotiations between competing bureaucracies and, many believe, a halt to revolutionary processes.
- 3) A unilateral announcement of victory of the "yes" by the opposition controlled media before official results are given. Then, once the Electoral Council recognizes Chávez' victory, an aggressive media campaign will point to the "chavista fraud" to try to take the middle class to the streets. They would immediately deploy a plan of unprecedented violence (suggested by the presence of Colombian paramilitary elements all over Venezuela, in addition to the recent theft of explosives and weapons) in order to create chaos and provoke massacres that could justify a coup d'État or multinational "peacekeeping" forces in Venezuela.

There is a general consensus amongst the popular movements that no fraud will be accepted, even if legitimized by the "revolutionary" bureaucracies. If a fraud takes place, revolutionaries will immediately activate, autonomously, a radical offensive against the capitalist ruling class and invite President Chávez to command this process of insurgency.

Contingency action plans are being prepared across all of Pachamerica (all the countries of the Western hemisphere) as well as Europe, by autonomous affinity groups and Bolivarian circles in dozens of cities. Revolutionary activists in Venezuela are urging international vigilance as the referendum nears, and actions in front of embassies, petrol stations and other appropriate targets in solidarity with the Bolivarian struggle as the situation develops. Monday, August 16th has been declared an day of intercontinental solidarity with the Bolivarian revolution, and Global Day of Action, as decided upon by the Peoples Global Assembly, on October 12th.

**IMC Athens: Behind the olympic spectacle:** "Creating a glossy Athens image, hiding the reality of the people." On Friday 13th of August, an estimated 4 billion people will watch the opening ceremony of what is the biggest spectacle of our times: the Olympic Games. However, this incredible amount of people will not have the opportunity to find out how we got here.

The preparations for what is perhaps the biggest spectacle in the world are well under way. So far national and international corporate media have largely focused on the construction (or not) of the Olympic venues. The social effects and consequences of the Games however, remain largely unreported.

Already massive environmental damage has been caused plus nineteen workers have lost their lives in the so-called working "accidents" whilst working at the Olympic venues' construction sites. At the same time, the Olympics have proven to be the perfect excuse for the Greek State to attack all the social groups that are in the margins, in fact, everyone refusing to participate in the corporate spectacle that the Olympics are.

Furthermore, stray animals (mainly dogs, cats and pigeons) in all four Olympic cities are already being killed in order to "clean" and sterilise the cities for the arrival of the delegates. A new 'Olympic' prison is being built at Aspropirgos, near Athens. It is expected that the prison's inmates will include junkies, roma and refugee populations, political activists; in fact, anyone seen to be causing trouble or simply being in the way.

During and after the Olympics, Athens will have something Orwellian about it; over 1,000 surveillance cameras have been installed within Olympic venues and another 283 in other public spaces. These are extraordinary numbers for a country where such cameras have only been introduced within the last few years. The cameras were supposedly installed temporarily and for traffic co-ordination purposes only. This, however, would not explain why most of them are installed in areas where demonstrations are expected to take place.

The Greek Minister of Public Order, Y. Voulgarakis, recently confirmed fears that the cameras will stay after the Games. He stated that he would never order the removal of the cameras, adding that "any minister who did so would have to face the consequences, as this (surveillance) network has cost a vast amount of money to the country and therefore has to be used in the post-Olympics era".

Further adding to the whole surveillance paranoia Voulgarakis announced that during the Games, citizens will be able to dial a four-digit number (1014) free of charge, in order to inform the authorities of any "suspicious" activities that they might become aware of.

It is estimated that the security personnel present in Athens during the Games will be 40,000 - 80,000 strong. The Greek police and army, domestic and international intelligence services and even NATO forces will be there. The first Olympic Games of the post-9/11 era will be the Games of surveillance, commercialism and State terrorism.

Finally, the environmental destruction caused by the construction of venues for the Games is massive. The Olympic Village is being constructed on the slope of the mountain of Parnitha, eliminating part of forest in one of Athens' last green resorts. At the same time, the canoeing venue is built in the area of Marathon, despite the fact that this is an area of global cultural and historical heritage. The list is endless: the destruction of green space to allow for the construction of the ping pong venue in Galatsi; cutting down of 8,500 trees to allow for the expansion of roads; construction of an ultra-high voltage centre (400/150 KK.Vat, 1120 M.V.A.) at the mount of Immitos. The centre is being built 125 meters away from the local school.

Naturally, such repressive plans and actions have been fiercely opposed by leftist and anarchist groups and individuals across the country. Amongst others, the campaign "anti2004" (<http://www.anti2004.net>) and numerous anarchist groups have taken on a number of actions (such as the anti2004 anti-authoritarian festival) to show their disgust for the Games and all that they stand for: dope, bosses, multinationals, environmental destruction, State repression. Opposition to the Games is strong and growing. As an anarchist slogan states, many wish for the Olympics to die in their birthplace.

