

# offline



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## Scotland After The G8

Activism in Scotland experienced a boost in the months following the G8. Two social centres – **Saorsa** (gaelic for “freedom”) and **Chalkboard** opened in Glasgow, and the **Indymedia Scotland Infoused Hacklab** opened in Edinburgh. A legal support group are monitoring the court cases relating to the G8 and provide support for defendants. The Campaign to **Save the Cameo** was successful, and privatisation of council housing could be prevented. The Glasgow based initiative **Make Borders History** continued after the G8 in Glasgow as **Open Borders Glasgow** with direct actions to prevent morning raids and deportations.



**The Zapatista Solidarity groups** are still raising a w a r e n e s s a n d enthusiastically preparing for their **big solidarity party on the 16th of February** for their twinned community in Chiapas.

In an effort to **Stop Climate Change** and prevent further roadbuilding, **JAM74** and **Friends of the Earth Scotland** halted the building of the M74 Extension, south of Glasgow, which threatened the **Cre8 Community**

**Garden**. The main campaign at the moment is the resistance against building the Dalkeith Bypass through a big park which is also a wildlife resort, recreational facility, and part of Edinburgh’s Green Belt. The campaign includes an unlikely liason of a citizen campaign **Save Dalkeith Park**, ecowarriors occupying the trees, and resistance in the Scottish Parliament and beyond. However, a specialist team have already started evicting the four protest camps. Despite three protesters slowing down the eviction by nearly a week by refusing to give up their hiding place in a tunnel, the eviction of the main protest site, the top site of the four-sites-strong anti-road building resistance, has been cleared by specialist climbers of the **National Eviction Team** from Swansea with a 70-people team under the lead of the Sheriff Officers supported by an additional 30 policemen to protect the fenced-off site from protesters, bystanders, and the media. **The Scottish Executive** plans to spend two to five weeks on the eviction of the protesters, estimated to cost £1.4m in total.

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THE INDYMEDIA NEWS SHEET

Offline brings back to the streets highlights from Indymedia websites, part of a global network that encourages the public to report their own stories to the world uncensored. Offline is available online to download and you are encouraged to copy and distribute printed copies far and wide.

Offline is just one of many Indymedia initiatives aimed at reclaiming the media. You may also wish to check out Indymedia radio and cinema projects.

**Publish your own reports on Indymedia UK**

Go to [www.indymedia.org.uk](http://www.indymedia.org.uk) click the 'PUBLISH' link at the top of the page and follow the instructions. It's easy.

Don't hate the media -become the media!

[dissent.org.uk](http://dissent.org.uk)

[edinchiapas.org.uk](http://edinchiapas.org.uk)

[openborders.org.uk](http://openborders.org.uk)

[jam74.org](http://jam74.org)

a new book on the movement of movements against the G8 in 2005:  
[shutthemdown.org](http://shutthemdown.org)  
[autonomeia.org](http://autonomeia.org)

## Agrexco Blockaders Acquitted

On Thursday 26th January, seven defendants were acquitted on charges of *aggravated trespass* and *failing to leave land when requested to do so by a police officer*. The charges resulted from a blockade of the Agrexco premises in Hayes Middlesex on November 11th, 2004. Agrexco is the Israeli National exporter of fresh produce and flowers from Israel and the occupied Palestinian Territories. The acquittal after submissions at the end of the prosecution case, meant that the defendants were unable to present their defence that trade with Israeli Settlements is not lawful activity.

[Palestinecampaign.org](http://Palestinecampaign.org)

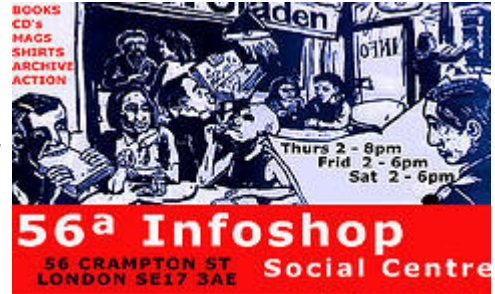


Indymedia is an open network for information produced by grassroots groups challenging the bias of corporate media. To report your own actions, upload photos and video or see what else is happening locally near you – visit the IMC UK website at:

[www.indymedia.org.uk](http://www.indymedia.org.uk)

## UK Radical Social Centres

Five years ago, you could count on one hand the number of places in the UK which associated themselves with radical politics (anarchist, libertarian). However, the mobilisations around the G8 saw a surge in activity in setting up new social centres. Now there are around 20 such places from Brighton's **Cowley Club**, London's **RampART**, **56a Infoshop** and **LARC**, Nottingham's **Sumac Centre**, and the **Saorsa Centre** and **George X** in Glasgow. Perhaps of most note has been the increase of rented or purchased premises such as **the Common Place** in Leeds and **the Basement** in Manchester. That doesn't mean there aren't new squatted spaces still appearing. In Nottingham there is the **ASBO Community Centre**, and a new space in London **the Ex-SSEES**.



Interest in the idea of social centres is still very high amongst the radical/anarchist milieu. Meanwhile a small group from the popular education collective **Trapeze** have been travelling the country interviewing people involved in current social centres for a new book provisionally titled '**a handbook for autonomy and creation**' due out in June 2006. But why haven't we got many places that can live up to the name "social centres"? What were the problems politically with previous attempts of social centres? What can we learn? What is next? Last month thirty people attended a wombles meeting in London to discuss just these issues and a similar discussion in Leeds turned into a national gathering of around 50 people.

Look out for the next gathering: [indymedia.org.uk/en/topics/freespaces](http://indymedia.org.uk/en/topics/freespaces)

[cowleyclub.org.uk](http://cowleyclub.org.uk)  
[rampart.co.nr](http://rampart.co.nr)  
[56a.org.uk](http://56a.org.uk)  
[londonarc.org](http://londonarc.org)

[asbo.squat.net](http://asbo.squat.net)  
[thecommonplace.org.uk](http://thecommonplace.org.uk)  
[sumac.org.uk](http://sumac.org.uk)



## A Boost For Video Activism



While ever cheaper consumer electronics and increased internet bandwidth have made it easier than ever to make and distribute independent video, the number being made still appears to be disproportionately low compared to the number of people filming at events. Various projects have been initiated to empower more people to get involved with radical video production and screening. They include online distribution, archives, screening databases and training sessions (see **IVDN**, **IndyPeer**, **IndyTorrents** and **Clearer Channel**). In London during January there was a **video activism gathering** consisting of skill sharing workshops, presentations, discussions such as the role of cameras on demos (how video can be used to get protesters both nicked and set free), along with feedback from the G8 video indymedia experience. Modeled on similar national gatherings in previous years, this one was organised by and took place at the **rampART social centre**. The event ended with a public screening with films from **Real2Reel**, **Revolt Video**, **Camcorder Gorillas**, and others. There was also a

premiere of **Cine Rebeldes 'Latitude 36'** and two films made during the gathering: **'Justice For Dad'** & **'The Demo Demo'**. The gathering generated a number of proposals to indymedia and have already resulted in support for **uploads of 3GP and M4V formats** for mobile phones and ipods, etc. Further follow-up workshops will be taking place, join the list if interested. In Manchester earlier this month there was a gathering to look at how groups currently work with each other, what resources are available for screenings and campaign work, and how best to make them accessible.

The European Newsreal: [europeannewsreal.indymedia.org](http://europeannewsreal.indymedia.org)

## Protest At Harmondsworth After Death Of Detainee

On 19 January, **Bereket Yohannes**, a 26-year-old from Eritrea, was found hanged in the showers of **Harmondsworth detention center** near Heathrow. The following day, distressed detainees refused to take food, held a meeting and demanded to meet with the **United Kingdom Detention Services (UKDS)** who run detention centres. 61 detainees signed a joint statement concerning the conditions at Harmondsworth and the treatment of detainees and presented it to UKDS. A member of the **detainee support network** said: "I wish to underline the detainees' protest was thoroughly peaceful. The committee members had a key role in defusing tension and stopping other detainees from taking more drastic and desperate forms of action." Nevertheless, UKDS and the Home Office responded by moving those involved to "secure cells" (solitary confinement) or transferring them to other detention centres as a punishment. This was not the first time that miserable conditions at detention centres have led to protests and people taking their lives. **A vigil in memory of Bereket** was held on the 29th outside Harmondsworth detention center, with participants encouraged to visit detainees.

## Clowns In Parliament Square in Protest Against SOCPA

The rebel clowns, and many others, spent a day at Bow Street Magistrates court expressing solidarity with five defendants who had been charged under the **Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 132 (SOCPA 2005)**. The bill outlaws all *demonstration without authorisation within 1Km of parliament*. These five defendants had had the audacity to hold signs reading **We have the Right To Protest**. The magistrate must have thought they were very clearly Serious Organised Criminals indeed – because she found them all GUILTY. But the arrest policy is inconsistent and confusing. Make some sense of this if you can: Barbara Tucker was arrested for wearing a sign reading **I am not the serious, organised criminal**. Maya Evans was convicted last month for ringing a bell in the exclusion area. Yet on 7th January anti-socpa activists and others held a similar ceremony in the same spot, did not apply for police permission under the socpa law but stayed free. On December 21st, carol singers raising money for medical aid for Iraqi children were ignored. Cops recently refused to arrest Gary Smithers, who was holding a banner reading **Parliament Square belongs to the People**. (Gary was told by the copper who came to speak with him that his banner was 'not a protest, it's a statement of fact'). Yet the last 2 weeks have seen nine people convicted under the act simply for holding signs in the square and proclaiming their right to protest.

A comprehensive list of arrests and convictions: [spy.org.uk/parliamentprotest/arrests](http://spy.org.uk/parliamentprotest/arrests)

A worker from the worker-occupied Zanon factory is visiting the UK on a speaking tour **12th to 17th February**, organised by NoSweat and StudentsAgainstSweatshops.

[nosweat.org.uk](http://nosweat.org.uk)

**IndymediaUK** has changed the way comments to online articles are displayed. If you want to know why and how, please visit the site. Indymedia is an open publishing platform for alternative grassroots news. The comments functions allow everybody to correct or add to posts. Quite often comments are used for quick discussions or rants, in a way that would be more suited for a discussion forum like **libcom** or **urban75**. Some comments seem to be designed to discourage, disinform and undermine activists. Constructive additions that correct or add to articles often get lost in wider debates. Some regional collectives have found it difficult to develop a local news site when articles immediately get hit with large numbers of bad comments.

To address this problem, we have introduced a feature that allows imc uk site admins to promote comments to "additions". A comment can now be manually "promoted" to an addition when it adds information or thoughtful criticism. We hope that displaying constructive and focussed comments underneath the articles will add to the quality of imc uk news. Additions will be displayed with their full text at the end of each posting. The titles of all other comments will be listed after the additions. Clicking on a title displays that comment along with all the others.

Discriminatory or disruptive comments will continue to be hidden according to our editorial guidelines. From now on comments that are hidden will be accessible in the same manner that hidden articles are.



## Witnesses Reclaim Truth in Genoa

On the 11th January the witnesses hearings restarted in court for the trial against the policemen who raided **the Diaz school** on the 21st July 2001, at the end of the **G8 protests in Genoa**. During the 19th and 20th hearings, which took place on the 11th and on the 19th January respectively, several British witnesses recalled their experience .

The G8 in Genoa saw arguably the worst violence of all summits, including one demonstrator shot dead. The right wing government at that time had an agenda of repression, intolerance and a determination to totally crush demonstrations. Finally 4 years later they now have a case to answer for the violence inflicted on many attendees at the Genoa G8 meeting in 2001. A large number of demonstrators are witnesses in the prosecution case, but the high-ranking officers accused may benefit from a new statute of time limitations introduced by the Italian Prime Minister, so in fact the trial may never be completed. In the trial of a larger group of 45 police running parallel with the Diaz case, detainees allegedly abused at Bolzanetto prison testify forcefully that 29 officers and their seniors are guilty of inflicting indiscriminate violence during the attack.

[genoajustice.org](http://genoajustice.org)  
[italy.indymedia.org](http://italy.indymedia.org)  
[supportolegale.org](http://supportolegale.org)



## Resistance to the World Economic Forum

**The World Economic Forum (WEF)**, a foundation whose membership consists of chief executives of the world's richest corporations, some national political leaders (presidents, prime ministers and others), and selected intellectuals and journalists, met this month in the Swiss mountain resort of **Davos**. This neo-liberal institution has been a focal point of the extra-parliamentary anti-capitalist movement in Switzerland for the last few years. A decentralised **Day of Action** on 21st January saw anti-WEF events in a dozen towns with hundreds of people participating in creative and militant actions. Activities ranged from **Reclaim the Streets** to street theatre, demonstrations and public meetings. Militant activists threw paint bombs at banks and attacked several buildings with fireworks. In Basel on 28th January, 2500 people took the streets against the WEF, imperialist wars, repression and capitalism.

After facing huge intimidation in recent years from the state's repressive forces (6,500 soldiers protecting the WEF this year), activists decided to focus on a decentralised Day of Action.

Street-theatre, demonstrations, Reclaim the Streets parties and paint bomb attacks took place in a dozen towns.

[indymedia.ch](http://indymedia.ch)





# The Other Campaign Has Started

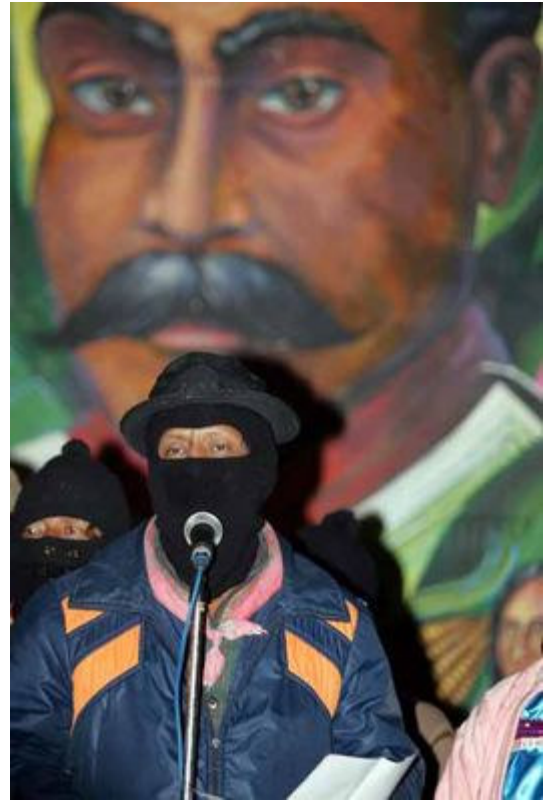
On the 1st January 2006, twelve years after the **Zapatista** uprising in Chiapas, Mexico, a delegation of the **EZLN** departed from the Garrucha Caracol to San Cristobal de las Casas. This marked the first step in the new Zapatista political initiative known as **The Other Campaign (or 'La Otra')**: a proposal that aims to forge an anti-capitalist alliance *from below and to the left* in Mexico and beyond. The Other Campaign, timed to coincide with this year's Mexican presidential race, will take the delegation of the EZLN – which includes Subcomandante Marcos (or SubDelegate Zero as he is known in relation to this campaign) – throughout Mexico's 32

states, "to meet, talk and decide together how to build another way of doing politics. A programme of struggle that will construct democracy from below, with all these national and international organizations that resist neoliberalism and fight for humanity."

True to the habitual Zapatista methodology of putting their word into practice, the Other Campaign is an embodiment of the aims and dis-course of the **Sixth Declaration of the Lacandon Jungle (or 'La Sexta')** that the Zapatistas made public in three parts at the end of 2005. This Declaration was the result of a long period of reorganization and internal debate within the EZLN. Amongst other issues, the Zapatistas re-evaluated the state of their autonomy throughout the Zapatista communities, specially since the opening up in 2003 of the 'Caracoles' and the 'Councils of Good Government' (Las Juntas de Buen Gobierno) They also addressed issues about sustainability, isolation and political aspirations beyond their strongholds in Chiapas. This internal debate concluded with a three week long period of consultations with the Zapatista support bases of Chiapas, during which, the EZLN declared a Red Alert throughout the Zapatista autonomous areas.

With these new proposals, the Zapatistas not only show, once again, their intelligent use of strategy, but also their capacity to re-construct themselves, by formulating important changes at the centre of the EZLN's struggle. The proposals mark an extension of the focus of the political subject, from the indigenous communities to a much wider spectrum of anti-capitalist movements, organizations, and individuals in Mexico and beyond. It also reclaims the paradigm of 'the left' as the legitimate home for the resistance against neo-liberalism. A *non-electoral* left, nonetheless, that defends its autonomy from political parties, and that operates outside the parliamentary institutions [**Marcos: Zapatistas Will Not Attend Evo Morales' Inauguration in Bolivia**].

At the same time, the EZLN's six months journey throughout Mexico also indicates the opening up of their immediate geographical context, by sending a delegation to physically connect with the other experiences against neoliberalism that occur all over Mexico, Latin America and globally. It is for this reason that the Zapatistas have already called for another **Intercontinental Encuentro against Neo-Liberalism and for Humanity**, to take place in the second half of 2006 in the time and place agreed by all those participating in the consultation. A blog of the process with discussion forums has been set up "so that the conception, organization and holding of the Intercontinental Encuentro proposed in the Sexta, can be produced with the real participation of supporters throughout the world, and not as a unilateral decision by the EZLN."



[chiapas.indymedia.org](http://chiapas.indymedia.org)  
[mexico.indymedia.org](http://mexico.indymedia.org)

[chiapasnews.ukgateway.net](http://chiapasnews.ukgateway.net)

[kiptik.buz.org](http://kiptik.buz.org)  
[wombles.org.uk/zapatista](http://wombles.org.uk/zapatista)

## KASHMIR EARTHQUAKE DISASTER

solidarity night & benefit  
for grassroots relief project

FRIDAY 10TH FEBRUARY  
@ OCCUPIED SOCIAL CENTER  
22 RUSSEL SQ, LONDON

7PM: IMCUK eyewitness report/slideshow

9PM LIVE MUSIC:  
THE KUT  
PETRA JEAN PHILLIPSON  
KENISFELLA  
& DJs

with FOOD & DRINK

A camp for climate action is being organised to take place in the North of England from **26th August to 4th September, 2006**. The camp will: take action against climate change; provide information on climate change and its causes; share and live practical solutions; network with other people campaigning on all the aspects of climate change. Everyone is invited to get involved and come to a public meeting: 11am – 6pm 11th and 12th February at The Sumac Centre, Nottingham  
[climatecamp.org.uk](http://climatecamp.org.uk)