

# offline



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## GATWICK NO BORDER CAMP

This year sees a resurgence of NoBorder camps around the world; eastward expansion of the EU means the walls of 'Fortress Europe' now extend to the western border of Ukraine, where a camp was held in mid-August. Another will happen in early November on the US/Mexico border, and this September saw the first NoBorder camp in the UK.

Despite a last minute change of location due to weeks of constant police harassment of local farmers, hundreds of people attended the Gatwick NoBorder Camp in West Sussex, south of Crawley. The camp sought to try to halt the building of a new detention centre nearby, and to gather ideas for the fight against migration control systems.

The camp programme consisted of four days of workshops, discussion, and protest, with various actions announced for the week including a 'Transnational Demo' from Crawley to the Brook House site. Brook House will be Britain's largest detention centre for migrants.

There were several other actions including a solidarity march in Newcastle, the occupation of Virgin Atlantic tour operator offices and a blockade outside Group 4 near Crawley, and demonstrations outside Lunar and Electric houses reporting centres in Croydon.

### 2 YEARS OF NOBORDERS UK

It was before the G8 2005 in Scotland that initiatives started to network around the issues of Freedom Of Movement in the UK again. A Make Borders History demo took place in Glasgow during the 2005 G8 summit in Scotland, calling at several institutions and companies involved in the Border Regime.

During the following year, No Borders groups were set up all over the country, in London, Brighton, Cardiff, Nottingham, Leeds and other cities. Regular demonstrations targeted immigration reporting centres as well as detention centres.

2006 saw the first UK-wide No Borders Gathering. A year later, another gathering was held in Glasgow. The initiatives had different focal points, from fighting against dawn raids, anti-deportation actions, campaigning against the point-based system, to solidarity with migrant workers (e.g. justice for cleaners) and, of course, demonstrations at immigration prisons. In Glasgow, people started Unity, a union by and for asylum seekers. In London, Harmondsworth became another focus of protests as well as building up practical support for detainees. The October 7th Network organised a demonstration in London as part of the Transnational Day Of Action for migrants' rights. However, when the Home Office disclosed plans to build a new immigration prison at Gatwick, the new Brook House became a focus for the whole network.

Days after the Home Office told refugees "We'll do everything we can to send you home", 26 migrant prisoners escaped from Campsfield, Oxfordshire, following days of protests. The riot was the latest episode in the migrants struggle inside detention after the Harmondsworth riots last November. Relentless protests, both inside and outside detention, have managed to put many detention and deportation profiteers on the map. On 17 August, activists occupied the office of XL Airways in Crawley to protest against the charter airline's role in forceful deportations on behalf of the Home Office. Several demonstrations have protested against planned charter flights to deport rejected asylum seekers to DR Congo.

No Border Camp was organised by No Borders groups from Birmingham, Brighton, Glasgow, Leeds, London, Nottingham, Sheffield and Cardiff and supported by Barbed Wire Britain, Unity, Feminists Against Borders, West Midlands Antifa, Sex Workers Union, Vapaa Liikkuvuus (freedom of movement-group in Finland), Campaign to Close Campsfield, No One Is Illegal, Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!, and many more.

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

[NOBORDER.ORG](http://NOBORDER.ORG)

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

[noborderslondon.blogspot.com/](http://noborderslondon.blogspot.com/)

[NOONE IS ILLEGAL noii.org.uk](http://NOONE IS ILLEGAL noii.org.uk)

Groups such as No Borders and National Coalition of Anti-Deportation Campaigns (NCADC) effectively engage in the struggle against border controls, migrant and refugee exploitation, detention and deportation.

Call to Action - No Borders Camp Mexico-U.S. border November 5-11, 2007  
[noborderscamp.org](http://noborderscamp.org)

no one is illegal



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

DSEI 2007:

## A WEEK OF ACTION AGAINST THE ARMS TRADE

The 4th Defence Systems & Equipment International (DSEi) at the ExCeL Centre in London's Docklands was the focus of a concerted campaign in response to the callout for a Week of Action.

Some actions took place in advance of the opening, with Army recruitment adverts subverted in Oxford, a lock-on and weapons inspection at MSI in Norwich, and the previous days actions included a picket of a defence conference in Central London, and an action at AWE Aldermaston.

The opening day, Tuesday 11th September, saw the security cordon around DSEi breached shortly after 7.30am, by about 20 activists. Later a solidarity blockade of BAE took place in Manchester; about 80 people joined a CAAT march and rally, and about 50 cyclists arrived at Custom House DLR station from a critical mass style ride. Two people were arrested after 'rivers of blood' were poured onto the ramparts of the Arms Fair venue.

Space Hijackers managed to get a tank and sound system to the main entrance of ExCeL after diverting the police with another decoy tank. They auctioned off the tank and invited the 200 strong crowd to a party against the arms fair to let the fair's delegates know what they think about their murderous business.

On the Thursday evening, the arms dealers attended their 'Dinner of Death' at the Dorchester Hotel. A heavily policed but noisy picket took place, while a Critical Mass ride of about 50 cyclists was prevented from reaching the hotel. Earlier in the day, the Princess of Wales fountain was dyed blood red to commemorate victims of cluster bombs.

DISARM DSEI: [dsei.org](http://dsei.org)

## DAY OF ACTIONS AGAINST ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND

On 15th October local groups formed to mobilise for this year's Climate Camp took action against the Royal Bank of Scotland, a major backer of the aviation industry and the world's self-described 'Oil and Gas Bank'. Over 25 protests and actions took place in London, Manchester, Sheffield, Norwich, Cambridge, Oxford, Edinburgh, Bristol, Aberystwyth, Cardiff, Bath Bradford and St Andrews, with Headquarters being targeted, local branches occupied or locks glued, and many banners letting the public know about the banks role in climate crimes.

A Sheffield-based group wrote; "RBS is helping force open the carbon frontier, financing controversial projects in Nigeria, the Caucasus and Wales. Its involvement in Angolan and Nigerian oil fields encourages corruption and conflict, while gas projects from the Arabian Gulf to the Gulf of Mexico threaten environmental destruction.

RBS-NatWest publicly promotes itself as "The Oil & Gas Bank". They provide the financial fuel that is accelerating climate change. Without these loans to oil and gas corporations the projects would not happen. It is estimated that in 2006 the bank provided over \$10 billion to fossil fuels – more than five times that provided to renewable energy. RBS provide oil corporations with loans to build new massively ecologically detrimental drilling rigs, pipelines and oil tankers. And through Aviation Capital, RBS helps airlines to launch ever more planes – and carbon emissions – into the skies. From the Niger Delta to the Arctic, from the North Sea to the Middle East, RBS loans play a key role in forcing open the new carbon frontier, which contributes to environmental destruction, disruption of indigenous peoples and increased conflict across the planet.

The day of action was called by the UK Rising Tide Network at this years Camp for Climate Action:

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



## Smash EDO Action Camp

For over 3 years, Brighton residents have been campaigning to close down local arms manufacturers EDO MBM, a subsidiary of EDO Corp, a US-based arms multinational. EDO MBM's military products include bomb racks, release clips and arming mechanisms for warplanes like the F-16 and Apache helicopters. They have contracts with the UK Ministry of Defence and US arms giant Raytheon relating to the release mechanisms of the Paveway bomb system, the most used missile in the aerial bombardment of Iraq. EDO MBM also sell weapons components used by the Israeli military on Palestinians.

From 27 to 30 August, SmashEDO held an action camp in the Wild Park, close to Mouslecoomb Station in Brighton. The camp aimed to be a time to hold creative direct actions against the arms trade and a forum to discuss the anti-arms trade movement, but on Tuesday afternoon police forcibly moved in and removed the camp's infrastructure using a nineteenth century by-law. Despite police repression most campers remained put, new provisions were brought in, and activists maintained the camp whilst carrying out a series of daily actions.

The campaign has included rooftop occupations, blockades, creative protests and every Wednesday from 4-6 a noise demo takes place outside the EDO MBM factory. This was the third peace camp of the campaign. The first camp in 2004 mobilised local support and ended with a rooftop occupation of the factory. Sussex police, accompanied by a helicopter and dogs, raided the camp in 2005 and tried to shut it down. However the local council told the police they had no intention to close the camp which was on council land. Last summer, protests at the factory focused on the Israeli bombardment of Lebanon, which killed over 1,000 civilians; there was a rooftop occupation and two blockades of the gates.

In 2005, EDO MBM attempted to quash the campaign with an injunction under the Protection from Harassment Act (PHA) with the help of notorious anti-protest lawyer Timothy Lawson-Cruttenden. The Injunction collapsed a year later, costing EDO around £1m in costs and with compensation awarded to the protesters representing themselves.

During the campaign over 40 protesters have been arrested with the vast majority resulting in acquittals or not even going to trial. Two protesters spent a week on remand before having cases against them dropped. Since the campaign began EDO MBM boss David Jones and eight other directors have resigned and EDO MBM have been forced to close a major section of their business.

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

# CLIMATE CAMP 2007

Sunday, August 12 - Late Saturday night, a field close to Heathrow airport was occupied by about 100 people, the first wave of setting up the 2007 Camp For Climate Action. Twin double decker tripods were quickly erected and despite being just 800 metres from BAA's head office, it took the police two hours to find the site.

The next day more than 300 people continued to set up this years Camp For Climate Action to prepare for a week of 'low impact living and high impact direct action'. After BAAs failed injunction, the authorities tried to make this as difficult as possible using anti-terrorist legislation. Climate campers and local residents responded with resourcefulness and determination.

**DAY 1:** After a press conference and an opening meeting, the first round of workshops took place. The evening saw a brief police incursion. Around 7.30pm, approximately thirty police, backed by officers in riot gear, entered the camp without warning in an attempt to raid it. With their hands in the air, protesters formed a human barrier and blocked the police, before peacefully escorting them off the site.

**DAY 2:** Workshops kicked off, covering a wide range of topics including low-tech sanitation, nuclear power, climate change and global justice, decentralised energy, aviation and climate change, introduction to permaculture, and movement building. With Indymedia facilities on-site, the entire campsite wi-fi powered by wind generators and solar arrays, there were workshops on open publishing, writing, reporting, and digital photography. About 80 people left camp to participate in a local march against airport expansion, but were held up by police, penned in and lead toward the perimeter of the airport - almost into the area covered by the BAA injunction.

**DAY 3:** At 7am two independent groups of campaigners from the Camp stopped carbon-intensive private jets from operating at two airports in the south east. Executive flights at Biggin Hill and Farnborough airports were brought to a standstill by activists concerned at the huge growth in the use of private jets by business people.

**DAY 4:** Activists occupied XL Airways offices in Crawley. Campaigners also blockaded the Department of Transport headquarters in London. Several superglued themselves to the revolving doors and other doors were chained shut. Staff inside were seen giving thumbs up to the Climate Campers. Two more protestors were on the porch roof with a banner reading "No Airport Expansion".

**DAY 5:** Children and their parents from around the UK gathered at Heathrow's World Freight Centre to blockade its access road. About 30 campers brought a banner to a picket of striking cargo workers at Nippon Express Heathrow depot. The workers were out on strike against changes that would see them working 25% longer hours for no extra pay. Climate campers were keen to show their support. Around 40 activists from the camp occupied Carmel Agrexco, the 50% Israeli State-owned exporter/distributor of illegal settlement produce from Palestine's West Bank. The company's offices were trashed and the action ended with five arrests.

**DAY 6: 24HRS OF DIRECT ACTION:** Sunday saw the start of Climate Camp's 24 hours of mass action. There was a banner reading 'Plane Suicide' hung on Colnbrook Bypass motorway bridge over the M25. The banner overlooked the traffic going northbound, some of which exits off towards the airport. A BA World Cargo terminal shed was blockaded by an 8 people lock-on. And a couple of hundred people blockaded the BAA headquarters in Heathrow overnight.

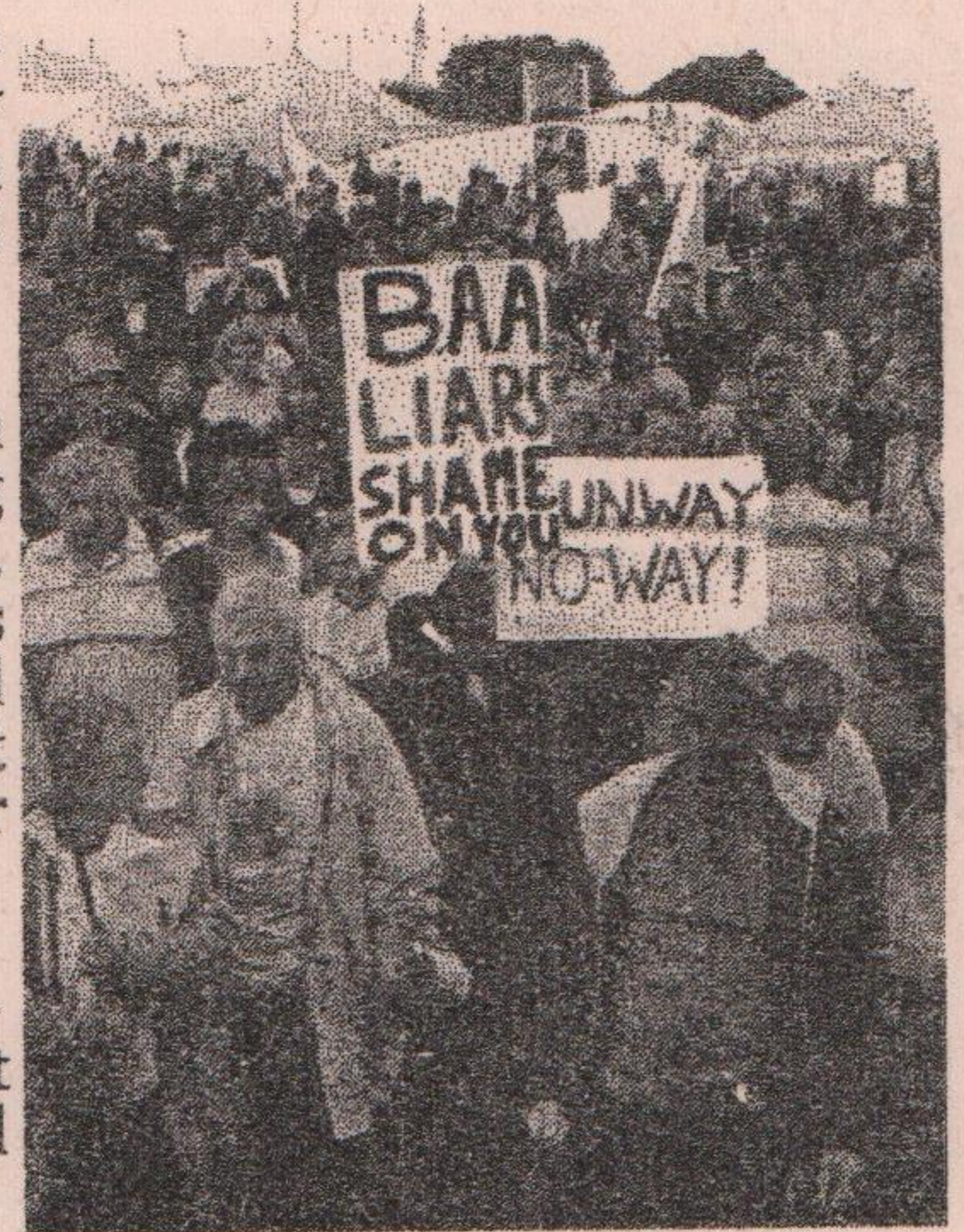
**DAY 7: 24 HRS OF ACTION SPREADS THROUGHOUT ENGLAND**  
The second Day of Action saw a flurry of direct actions throughout England despite widespread abuse of Stop and Search powers over the duration of the camp. Whilst the 24hr blockade of BAA headquarters in Heathrow continued, a series of protests took place in different parts of the country - a blockade of Sizewell nuclear power station; a group super-glued themselves to various entrances of the BP head offices; in Oxford people occupied the offices of a carbon offset company called 'Climate Care'; work was disrupted at the London offices of Bridge Point Capital, the owners of Leeds airport; and a battalion of ten clowns marked out the site of a 4th runway in the garden of Lord Soley, chairman of the Heathrow Forward campaign.

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NEXT TO NOWHERE: Liverpool's New Social centre

Saturday 15th September the door was unlocked at Next To Nowhere in Bold Street, and Liverpool's new social centre was 'officially' opened with a whole week of events, starting with a party and ending with a film night: a Oaxaca info night with an Indymedia activist from Oaxaca speaking about recent struggles against the state government there; an Indymedia info night; Merseyside Anarchist Group Introduction to Anarchism; and a play - 'The Boy Who Dropped an Egg on the World'.

Next to Nowhere is a radical social centre built and run by activists from the Merseyside area. They have a vegan cafe, a free to use computer suite and gig and meeting spaces. The social centre is run by the Social Centre Collective, a group of activists who came together through the Liverpool Social Forum.

[liverpoolsocialcentre.org](http://liverpoolsocialcentre.org)      [socialcentresnetwork.org.uk](http://socialcentresnetwork.org.uk)

## RAMPART UPDATE

After three and a half years there remains no indication that the building is wanted for redevelopment in the near future. Since the climate camp there have been suggestions that the rampART should have an eco refit with rainwater harvesting, grey water flushes, perhaps even compost toilets and renewable energy. Meanwhile, the walls on the first floor have been removed to create a larger room for meetings of up to 50 people.

The current collective is keen to get more input and regular involvement from groups that use or would like to use the building and there are plans for users gathering. Unlike the more practical organising that takes place at the normal weekly meetings, this gathering would be more a consultation, an opportunity for everyone to consider the current and potential role of the social center to different groups and campaigns. It would also be a chance for people not familiar with the collective to gain greater understanding of the decision-making processes, practical issues and problems related to the project.

Also on the horizon is an assembly of as many different London-based campaigning groups as possible, along the lines of the long defunct 'London Underground' or 'Radical Assembly' that used to take place in London, Brighton and elsewhere at various times. The general format would be a go-round in which each group has a couple of minutes to say what they are currently up to and what people can do to get involved. After there might be some discussion to help link up collaborations or spin-off meetings and actions, followed by a quiet social evening, food and drink in order to allow informal networking.

The aim is to help create a greater sense of unity between disparate groups, link up individuals to others working in their location or area of interest, reduce duplication of efforts and avoidable clashes and generally help to strengthen 'the movement'. Initially this would be a one-off event although the hope is that it will prove useful and generate momentum to become a regular assembly, perhaps hosted on rotation in different parts of London.

To stay informed, subscribe to the rampART mailing list via <https://lists.riseup.net/www/subscribe/rampart>

WOULD YOU LIKE FREE SMS ALERTS ABOUT SOCIAL CENTER GIGS AND EVENTS?

Text 'follow londonscn' to 07624801423 then reply with a name of your choice as instructed to confirm.

## CAMBERWELL SQUAT UPDATE

A bunch of local South Londoners opened up a building in Camberwell, South London, in mid March and set it up to run it as a social space. After a lot of work fixing and repairing, the space was open for a cafe, and social nights with films, talks and parties within weeks.

The old Good Food Cafe at 192 Warham Street, Camberwell, South London, had been left empty for about a year, with no electricity and with water pouring from ripped out pipes, damp and dark.

After a few adventurous nights, it was seized by some local troublemakers on 10th March 2007, painted, plumbed, electrified, repaired and turned into a communal space for use as a cafe, bar, cinema, meeting space, and much more. The alleged owners, after some ranting, at first agreed to leave us there for 6 months, since their plans involved knocking the building down, and they have no immediate planning permission. However they later changed their minds and took us to court and after a few adjournments, the case justice system once again struck in favour of property.

In the meantime a collective grew up, consisting mainly of people living locally, some of them long time activists, some more recent arrivals...with lots of energy and ideas for events, but still wanting more, from other groups and individuals. Apart from the ideas coming out from the group, the building housed events by Indymedia, Reel News, No Borders, State of Emergency and more.

One of the main lessons of the five and a half months we spent in the squat is that there is a huge energy and potential for organising, getting events and action together in the Camberwell area.

We want to say thanks to all the local crowd, regular attenders, and wider scene who supported the Centre, came to our events, helped with building and cleaning, held their own nights and generally gave us a hand or stopped by to talk... and specially the anonymous one/s who splattered just how much they miss us all over the boards around the building the very day we were evicted. You made the space as much as we did. We hope we will see you soon, in a new space, in other local projects... The struggle continues.

CONTACT US:  
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**noborders/rampART benefit**  
Oct 27<sup>th</sup>  
**word up!**  
it's yer right on  
bookfair after party

**Drowning Dog & Malafesta**  
U.S. No-Field Electronica  
Class Conscious Hip-Hop  
**DJ Rubbish**  
ironic garage / political rap  
**boogieknight**

**Figure of Speech**  
**Literal X** revolutionary rap  
**The Edge** serrated hip hop

doors from 6pm with films, drink and music  
acts start from 9pm till late.      £5 donation  
**15 Rampart St, E1 2LA**  
off Commercial Rd nr New Rd Jnct, via #25 free bendy bus

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