

IDENTITY CARDS AND BORDERS

If you listen to Conservative Party propaganda, especially through newspapers like the Daily Mail, you might believe that Cameron's party is on the whole opposed to ID cards and databases. But far from it!

In fact the Conservatives have just employed Lord Stevens of Kirkwhelpington, an ex-Metropolitan Police commissioner, to plan the creation of a 10,000-strong 'border' police force. The Tories may pretend this is an alternative to identity cards, but Lord Stevens is known to be completely in favour of them. In October 2005 Stevens spoke in favour of Labour's ID Card Bill. He explained that in 1994, when the Tories were putting forward their own bill through Michael Howard, it was "not taken forward fully mainly because it was felt by the police, among other agencies, that ...[it]... would erode relationships with the public." He then went on to say, "I and others think that there is, in general, an overwhelming case for identity cards" and that he was in favour of fingerprinting the entire population.

So whatever we hear from the political parties about ID, it is lies, made up to try and win political points. Also it is clear that the same parties are happy to play up fears of 'foreign' visitors and immigrants to try and win votes. For

this reason it is important not to separate ID and immigration issues. They are part of the same thing - social control that will rob us of all any remaining freedom unless we rise up against the state. The 69 new identity & passport interview centres are due to start opening this May, which will mainly affect first time passport applicants like teenagers. The No2ID campaign previously called a day of action on 26th March to protest against these. At the same time, it should be noted that asylum seekers in Britain, who are escaping repression abroad, already have their passport taken from them, are made to have an ID card and are subjected to regular degrading fingerprint checks. So as part of these protests it must be made clear that we are against all forms of repression and control not only for 'British' citizens, but for all people, and work to destroy state plans for tighter border controls as well as identity schemes.

More info: Defy-ID: <http://www.defy-id.org.uk> & No Borders (UK): <http://www.makebordershistory.org>
Map and addresses (where known) of the 69 Interrogation Centres: <http://www.no2id.net/getInvolved/idCentres.php> ★

PRISONERS NEEDING SUPPORT

Czech antifascist prisoner needs support

AUGUSTING KRAUS IS an antifascist from Czech city of Most, who had been recently sentenced to 14 months of prison for his participation in attacks against local nazis. His charge was "bodily harm". He speaks Czech, can easily understand Sloval and Polish. You can also write him short postcards in English. Its important he receives some support.

Augustin Kraus, Vazebni veznice, PP-1, Litomerice, 41 201, Czech Republic.

Antifascist in Russian prison

In may of 2004, Vahtang Devitlidze, anarchist and member of Federation of Revolutionary Anarchists, was hanging in centre of Krasnodar with two friends. They ran to a group of local Nazis, and soon a fight broke out.

There was no choice - in order to defend himself, Vahtang had to pull a knife. As a result, he wounded one of the attackers to leg, while he was also hospitalized with less serious wounds himself. Already when a fight was over, police showed up and arrested people. Eventually in court Vahtang was given a probational sentence of 2.5 years, for "Causing grievous bodily harm" (second part of statute 111 of Russian criminal codex). He did not felt like submitting to probational regime, and escaped to Belarus. But once when visiting his family in Krasnodar, he got arrested and was sent to a low-security prison for the remainder of his sentence. He

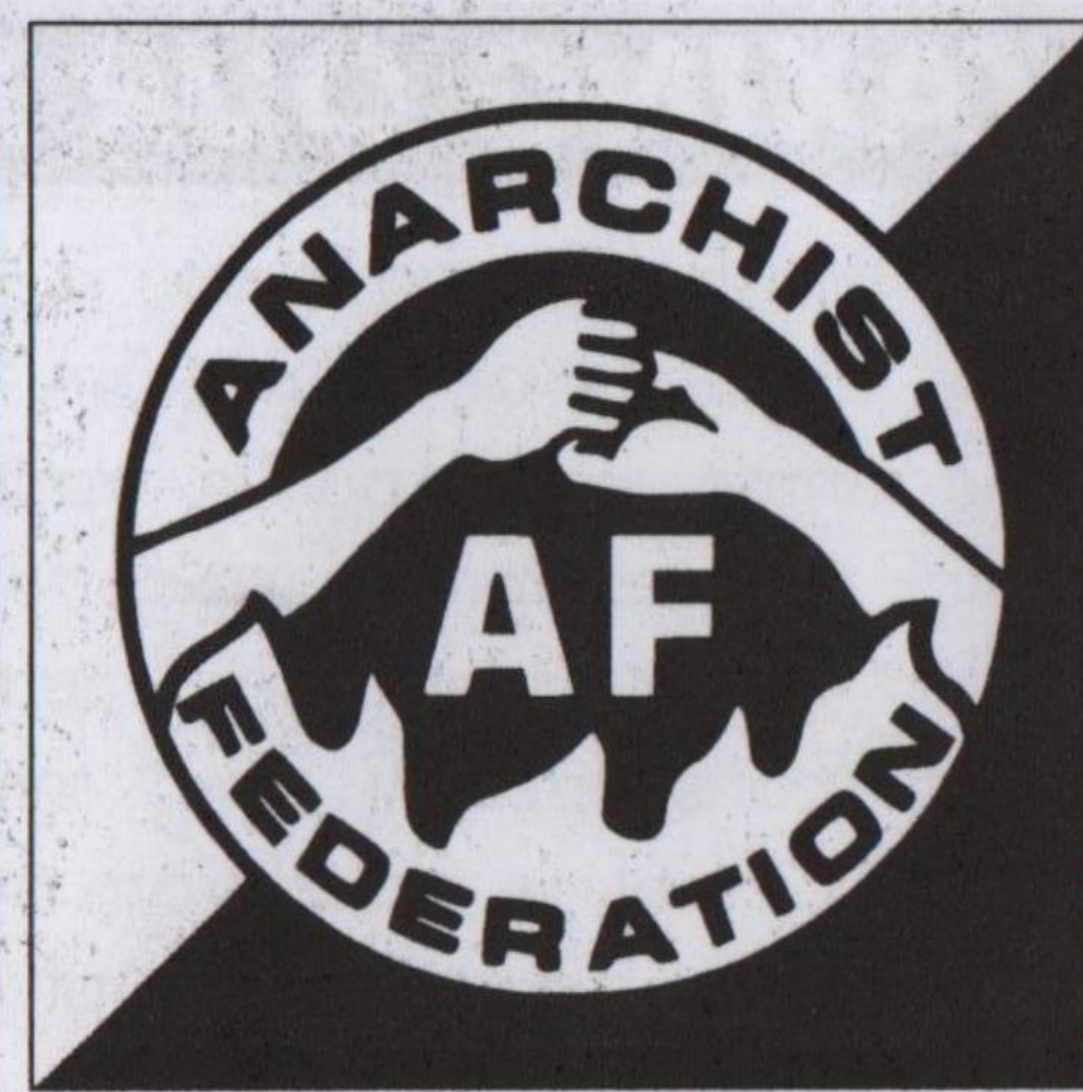


escaped from prison, but was caught again and heavily beaten up. In summer of 2006 court sent Vahtang to a normal prison for remainder of his sentence.

Anarchists in Krasnodar are raising money to support Vahtang in prison, as in Russian prison relatives and friends of prisoners have to feed them. In his letters Vahtang is in good spirits and is doing his sentence without problems. You may write to Vahtang to following address, but keep in mind that he does not speak any other languages except Russian - so if you do not speak Russian, send stuff like photos and drawings instead (Autonomous Action of Krasnodar).

Vahtang Devitlidze
ul. Libbedova 42, UO 68/2,
otryad 14, brigada 142,
g. Hagyshensk, Krasnodarskiy Kray
352680 Russia

Info from: www.brightonabc.org.uk ★



The Anarchist Federation is an organisation of *class struggle* anarchists aiming to abolish capitalism and all oppression to create a free and equal society. This is *Anarchist Communism*. We see today's society 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 racism, sexism 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 defeat these attacks and ultimately overthrow capitalism.

As the capitalist system rules the whole world, its destruction must be complete and world wide: We reject attempts to reform it, such as working through parliament and national liberation movements, 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 beat the bosses, so we work for a united anarchist movement and are affiliated to the International of Anarchist Federations. The Anarchist Federation has members across Britain and Ireland fighting for the kind of world outlined above. If you're interested in joining contact us at:

Anarchist Federation
BM ANARFED
London WC1N 3XX
Email: info@afed.org.uk
Also visit: www.afed.org.uk
and www.iaf-ifa.org

Subscriptions to resistance costs £4 from the address above for 12 issues. A two issue subscription to our magazine, Organise! for revolutionary anarchism, is also £4.

You can subscribe to resistance by email for free via the website above ★

resistance anarchist bulletin



Issue 93

April 2007

Free/Donation

Something rotten in the state of Denmark

A relatively small incident sparked off three days of rioting in Copenhagen, the capital of Denmark, in March. The Danish government closed its borders to stop people joining the disturbances from neighbouring countries.

Emerging from the eighties squatter movement, Ungdomshuset (Youth House) was a centre for punk youth in Denmark and had a large gig space, a regular stop-off for bands on European tours, and was a place to meet and organise. It was originally given to squatters in 1982 by a law that requires the state to fund the rent on buildings used by the youth wing of political parties. In effect the punks were given the building in return for stopping squatting elsewhere. However times change, and pushing the gentrification agenda in 2000, the State began talking about reclaiming the house and selling it to developers for a knock down price of £250,000. The residents responded with a huge banner on the roof saying "For sale along with 500 autonomist stone throwing, violent psychopaths from hell". Local property tycoons decided to forgo this opportunity.

The Faderhuset - Father House - a sect of right-wing Christians then went to court to gain possession. This sect teaches creationism in schools and has a slogan "Denmark is Christian". After a five year court Faderhuset gained possession on 14th December 2006. For the first time the place was officially squatted and a banner proclaimed, "Troublemakers of the World; We bid you Welcome!" Two days later, there were riots involving 2000 people, described by Danish police as the "worst since the Second World War".



The punks' struggle struck a chord not only in their neighbourhood, but with Danes who are angered by the political situation-the ruling Liberal party is propped up in their coalition by the openly racist Danish People's Party. One activist told the information sheet SchNEWS, "A lot of people got involved - the whole mood of the neighbourhood changed. Norrebro is an area with a long working class history: it was the birthplace of the Danish workers' movement. The house was the venue for the declaration of International Women's Day in 1910, whilst others left it to fight fascism in Spain in the 30s. From being an insular punk scene, Ungdomshuset became a cause celebre with people from all walks of life getting involved." Christiana, is a whole area in Copenhagen which is a bastion of "alternative" living and thinking. It is feared that the eviction of Ungdomshuset is a preliminary for an attack on Christiana - itself on prime

building land.

In March a surprise eviction raid began at 7am, spearheaded by anti-terrorist police in helicopters. Cops abseiled onto the roof and gained entrance with the aid of two giant cherrypickers. The entire building was coated in foam to prevent molotov cocktail attacks. A fifty metre area around the house was sealed off and the forty occupants were arrested.

Rioting soon broke out across the city, particularly in the immediate area in and around Christiana. Barricades were built, cars set on fire and police vans attacked with molotovs and paving slabs. People of all ages and mo, militant youth attacked the police. Sixty-year olds were seen taking part in the direct actions.

On 3rd March, police organised a wider crackdown against the movement. In raids ostensibly aimed at foreign activists, around 90 Danes were arrested. Most were known activists and they include almost all of Ungdomshuset's legal team and the local Anarchist Black Cross.

The demolition began on March 5th. Logo-obscured plant machinery driven by masked men destroyed the building. However, sabotage action has already begun against those companies involved. One firm backed out of the demolition process after two lorries were burnt out. There have been solidarity actions all over the world at Danish consulates.

Despite the demolition, the events have sparked off a whole new movement in Denmark. The struggle is far from over. Over 200 people are still locked up. Contact Danish ABC (www.blackcross.dk) or see www.jagtvej69.dk to offer financial support ★

COPWATCH

A monthly report on all the nutty things that our public forces are up to, when they are not defending us from sudden death...

Recently published on the BBC website "Pc Carla Street, 34, of Stretford, Greater Manchester, was said to have struck Kelly Osborne, 28, while in the Asda supermarket in Trafford Park. After being arrested, the officer admitted slapping the woman in the face but only as a "pre-emptive strike".

I'm glad to know that the cops are updated on international issues, President Bush's doctrine of preemptive strikes seems to have been adapted to the streets of Manchester. I only hope they scale it down, or we'll soon see the RAF bombing Albert Square.

We have to quote PC Street when she declared that: "We were the victims because of the jobs we were doing. We were targeted because of our careers." Poor her, not only has she to put up with universal derision, but on top of that she can not punch others at will. No wonder the force is in such a state! ★

FAST FOOD WORKERS GET FAST RESULTS

After a three-day strike in March non-unionised workers at the Saint-Denis Basilique branch in Paris of KFC won a series of concessions from management. The strikers obtained:

- ★ The replacement of faulty machinery
- ★ More and longer breaks
- ★ Strike pay for all three days

The strike was accompanied by protests outside the branch. Employees from Pizza Hut (part of the same group) were present at the demonstrations.

KFC workers in New Zealand had previously won other gains by striking ★



DON'T LET A LOTTA LITTER LOITER

It has emerged recently that 10,000 passports have been issued to people who applied for them under a false name. We keep being told in the news how big the problem with identity theft is, but the truth is that nothing will make it easier than the introduction of ID cards.

On the one hand the situation is being blown up out of all proportion by a government bent on filing us all. On the other, no matter how sophisticated the system is there will always be a way for a determined criminal to get hold of one with fake details, as this passport fiasco clearly shows. As the record in many other European countries shows, the introduction of compulsory ID cards has done nothing to reduce levels of crime, as there is always a way around.

This comes less than a week after the Home Office unveiled plans to create detention units in high street shops and shopping centres, altogether with new proposed legislation to allow police to



fingerprint, DNA sample, and what not, any petty criminals. And petty means petty, because it includes "crimes" such as littering. So watch out, if you drop this copy of Resistance or forget it on the train seat you'll be shopped for it ★

THE WILDCAT ARCHES HER BACK

Wildcat strikes have broken out over the world in the last month or so.

In Denmark (also the scene of fierce rioting) hundreds of workers at the Danish Broadcasting Corporation—DR—walked out in a wildcat strike in March against plans to cut over 10% of the workforce.

DR announced that it will cut 300 jobs—from a workforce of 2,600—as part of a cost-cutting package prompted by overruns in the construction of its new headquarters. DR operates two TV channels and four national FM radio stations and is seeking to make cuts of 300 million kroner (£26m) a year to compensate for cost-overruns at their new headquarters in Copenhagen.

Costs for the construction have reached 4.7 billion kroner (£450m), 1.7 billion kroner (£160m) over budget. In 2005 DR laid off 100 workers on account of the first budget overrun of the new headquarters. In Holland in February, bus drivers on public transport employed by Connexion went on unofficial strike on 19 routes in the Amsterdam-Zaandam region.

In the USA hundreds of school workers in Monongalia County in the South went on sick-out (a mass phoning in sick) giving school children the day off as all state schools were forced to shut.

Because organised strikes are illegal, the "sick out" was conducted informally, and no organization took responsibility.

Governor Joe Manchin had to say he was

not opposed to a pay raise larger than the 2.5 percent he proposed in January.

In Canada staff at the Nackawic paper mill in New Brunswick went out on wildcat strike on 5th March for a day over hiring practices.

In Belgium, train Drivers at the Onoz depot on the Namur-Luxembourg line walked out on wildcat strike on 12th March in protest against a new annual leave system.

The Wallonia minister of transport, Antoine, said that strike leaders should be fired. He declared: "I asked for a disciplinary investigation in order to identify the persons in charge. If they are identified, I asked that they be laid off".

A wildcat strike of conductors paralysed services across Wallonia in late February following assaults on staff, who only returned to work following a commitment to improve safety on trains.

Meanwhile a refusal to check tickets and potential national strike were on the cards in a dispute over staff bonuses.

In France and Germany 10,000 Airbus workers are facing redundancy or having their contracts transferred to subcontractors. Subcontractors can attack jobs and working conditions far more easily than Airbus itself could hope to.

Beginning in one of the mechanics' workshops in France a wildcat strike began in March and spread rapidly throughout the entire plant. While their union argued

TAXING OUR PATIENCE

The British Government is spending huge amounts of money on a military programme whilst public transport and social services remain underfunded and whilst further attacks on pensions are being considered... The money they spend so freely is raised from the mass of the working population through direct and indirect taxation.

£1.5 billion is being spent on the Trident nuclear sub programme each year - that's £2000 a minute.

The government points to a capital cost of £20 billion and annual running costs of £1.5bn for Trident. Using the MoD's figures that amount to £65bn over 30 years, 3% of the overall defence budget.

The cost of British troops fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq has risen by 42 per cent and 16 per cent respectively. Expenditure in 2006-7 for Afghanistan is now expected to be £770 million, compared to £540 million in the Government's Winter Supplementary Estimates.

£1.2 billion was spent over the same period in Iraq, up from £860 million.



Costs have risen by more than 10 per cent for Iraq and almost a third for Afghanistan.

The British Armed Forces have the second highest expenditure of any military in the world. £3.1 billion has been spent by the British government on Iraq in the aftermath after the war so far.

And in Gordon Brown's latest budget, an extra £400 million was set aside for the Armed Forces in a special reserve fund to pay for any future costs in Iraq and Afghanistan. On top of that he gave an extra £86.4 million to the government spying services- MI5, MI6 and GCHQ- which brings total spending on them to £2.25 billion by 2007-08, more than double that spent before September 11 ★

for a vote to go back to work the workers refused, arguing that if they return to work then any future strike action would be too late.

After the intervention of union officials workers eventually went back to work. However Airbus has made clear that it has no intention of investing further in the plant and that they will require investment third party partner to keep it open and ultimately to take it over.

On hearing that their victory was a no such thing the workers went back out again almost immediately.

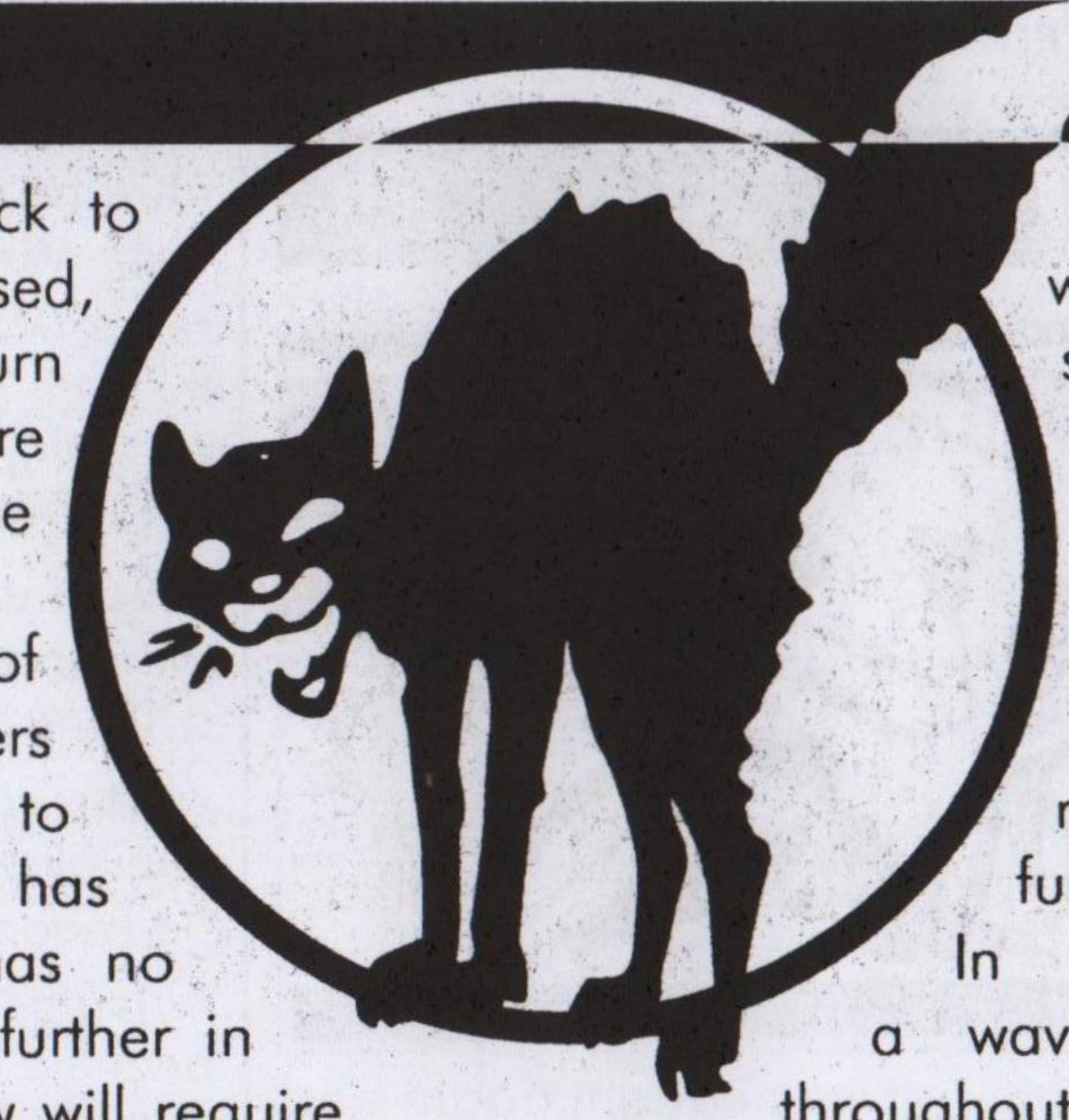
In Germany about 1,000 Airbus workers wildcatted at the Laupheim plant in southern Germany, in protest at the aviation firm's decision to consider selling the site.

This followed a spontaneous walk-out by staff at Nordenham.

In the Channel Islands, over 30 security workers with Group 4 Securicor came out on wildcat strike in March and blocked Guernsey airport's departure lounge until bosses signed a agreement over union recognition and working conditions.

Airlines Flybe and Aurigny were affected by the disruption as flights were grounded for an hour.

'To the best of my knowledge, we have



never seen a time where the security service is withdrawn for industrial action,' one airline boss remarked.

Resistance hopes that union recognition will not stop workers taking further action.

In Vietnam there was a wave a wildcat strikes throughout the country. 1000 workers at a furniture factory in southern Vietnam downed tools and walked out over low pay.

Over 4,000 workers walked out over low pay Monday at four foreign companies in the southern Vietnamese province of Dong Nai and as of yesterday were continuing to strike work at three of the firms.

The workers of the Singapore-owned Asia Garments returned to work after the company agreed to raise their salary by 7 percent and pay a monthly allowance of VND50,000 (US\$3.1).

Workers at the Taiwanese-owned textile company, All Super, complained not only about low wages but also about being forced to work up to 1,000 hours overtime a year which is five times higher than allowed by the Labor Law.

Between 15 and 30,000 workers have taken part in 16 walkouts, mostly wildcat strikes, in the province since January ★

AF NEWS

As part of the International Day of Action called by the International of Anarchist Federations, Anarchist Federation groups and members across the country took part in anti-militarist demonstrations. Below are reports from two groups. For more information see www.iaf-ifa.org

Liverpool

Fifteen activists picketed the Liverpool army recruitment office on March 19th in an event organised by Liverpool Social Forum and the Merseyside Anarchist Group. They were marking four years since the invasion of Iraq began but also starting a round of campaigning which they hope will break the Stop The War Campaign's stranglehold on the anti-war movement in the area. The action lasted two hours and loads of leaflets were handed out to the young unfortunates who had appointments with army 'career officers'. On their way out, two lads said they had decided not to join (including one who was being 'escorted' by his dad). Loads of noise was made which really annoyed the army recruiters and the professional bullies at the ever-unpopular Reeds recruitment agency. Not surprisingly, the army wasn't too happy about the demo and were quite aggressive towards campaigners. The police were called after about half an hour but made no attempt to seize propaganda or stop the protest. After asking the group to stop taking photos of recruitment staff (ignored) they went on their merry way. It wasn't a perfect action, and there were many lessons learned for next time. But everyone who took part thought it had been worth it, and that it might just be the start of something big. Wars won't be stopped by petitions, marches or 'left' politicians. "We need to organise in our streets and our workplaces. We also need to make the link between capitalism's demand for oil profits abroad and attacks on living standards at home", said one of the campaigners.

Manchester

Manchester Anarchist Federation and friends attended not one, but two, demonstrations against the occupation of Iraq on Saturday 17th March. It seems that the anti-war movement in Manchester dislike each other almost as much as they oppose the war. Still, we turned up with our black and red flags and chatted to passers-by at both events, whilst distributing copies of Resistance ★