

printflare

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IndyMayday Centre up and running off Mountjoy Square in Dublin City Centre



The Concert has been cancelled. All of the tabloid trailers for the riots have been filed. The 'Powers that Be' are planning a fence around Farmleigh House. The Elites are making their travel plans as are

the protesters. The Army are practicing their formations and looking for Wombles in the bushes at the Curragh. Only one piece of the puzzle is missing - An Independent Media Centre to tell the story. We need help to create it.

The Community Media Network have donated the use of a large building, right in the centre of Dublin, for use as a media centre. It has the capacity to house an independent cinema, a photography exhibition, workshops, computer lab – have a look at the plans on the website to get an idea of the scale of what is available to us. A team has been working to put together a timetable of events – getting films for screenings, people to give workshops, sourcing photography and other material for exhibitions – have a look at the draft timetable on the website for what is being proposed – there's still space for you to fill.

Fixtures have been planned and equipment is being borrowed – but more is still needed. If you have access to stackable chairs for a week, a weekend or even a night – get in touch. If you can contribute a van for a few hours we'd love to hear from you. Anything we can't borrow we're going to have to hire – so rest assured any monies donated will be well used.

Finally – people are needed. Getting the building ready, stewarding, taking bookings for workshops, making / selling tea & coffee – there is loads of work. We are also going to be putting together a newsdesk and photography / video dispatch teams. Come along and learn or teach or help – whatever. The Indymedia Centre is located on Charles Street, which is just off the east side of Mountjoy Square, Dublin 1. It's a large red brick warehouse building with the letters 'OCW' on the front.

Mainstream media propaganda/hype goes supernova in the run up to Mayday

So a Video (punctuated by visuals of scaremongering 'riot' newspaper headlines on the subject of planned protests on

Mayday) posted on this site becomes front page news in the Irish Examiner. Strange days indeed. Here's what the maker of the Video had to say about the video in question on the newswire a few days ago. The journalist concerned - Juno McEnroe of the Irish Examiner - obviously read this. The ironies are multiple.

The maker of the video responded on the Indymedia newswire: "It was a piss-take, a bit of fun. Propaganda can work both ways. It was meant to show how silly (and frightening) the whole thing is. I am sure most Indymedia viewers are smart enough to see what's going on. Using the media to create fear as justification for violence - that's what I said in the video. As for attracting "extreme elements" of whatever the cops are calling peace protesters or environmental activists - I think the corporate media has already done a good job of that. The only thing this video advertises is peaceful protests like Critical Mass and RTS. Not one stone let alone one petrol bomb has ever been thrown at a (anti-War / Globalisation) protest in Ireland - It is not the Irish protesters who are arming themselves to the teeth and training for violence is it? Lets look at the facts and look behind the propaganda lie machine. Any violence on Mayday if there is any will likely come from the State against the protesters, the Government is running scared - every day now they make another announcement escalating and militarising the situation. As for the video - tongue in cheek ;) stay tuned for many more..."



The Examiner journalist is either a bought and paid for character or is stupid as nowhere in the article does he/she mention the videomakers rationale for making the piece and the fact that the only references to riots in the video are snapshots of other previous scaremongering press headlines. From this to the headline - Video Urges Dublin Riots to Destroy EU' - is some jump. The video categorically does not 'urge riots' - it promotes a series of protests including a critical mass bike ride, a pro-immigrant protest and a Reclaim the Streets protest while taking a critical view of the anti-democratic propaganda being pumped out by Irish newspapers and television.

So who in our wonderful society is going to stand up for the right of Indymedia to report on whatever happens? Not many it seems considering the number of individuals and organisations who have stood up for the democratic right to

protest the EU summit in the face of the unceasing and increasingly hysterical manufacture of a moral panic by the Gardai in cahoots with trained security correspondents and with elements in the cabinet.

The number of individuals and organisations on the left who have asked any questions about such scare mongering about protests is none btw unless you count the protesters themselves.

- No questions about the army being deployed
- No questions about the level of scaremongering
- No questions about 'Ad Hoc Detention Centres' (does this mean internment without trial?)
- Does no-one remember what happened at and in the vicinity of the Indymedia Centre in Genoa on July 21 2001 under cover of media hysteria about 'violent anarchists'?
- Doesn't this all seem a little familiar?

AMBUSH2004! Campaign initiated at Galway meeting

Anti-war activists from across the country met in Galway last Saturday to lay the foundations for a broad-based campaign to counter the visit of George W. Bush to Ireland next June.



Representatives from the Galway Grassroots group, Mid-West Alliance Against Militarism and Aggression, Geeks Against War and the Cork Grassroots Group agreed to use the Bush visit as an opportunity to mount effective resistance against Irish complicity in U.S. military adventures. For those involved in AMBUSH2004, it seems fitting that George W. Bush's entry to our island will be via Shannon Airport, the very venue of the Irish Government's jettisoning of neutrality to serve the interests of the profit-hungry U.S. ruling elite.

The first part of the meeting was taken up with a lengthy informal intelligence report. It was asserted that Air Force One would most likely touch down at Shannon Airport around midnight on Friday 25th of June, from where George Bush would at some point be ferried by helicopter to the summit venue, felt in all likelihood to be Dromoland Castle in Co. Clare (it was reported on reliable information that U.S. Secret Service agents had been sighted reconnoitring that venue earlier in the week). It was pointed out that Bush's visit would likely be a very brief affair, probably in the region of 14 hours, and that he would be getting ferried back to Shannon Airport on Saturday afternoon after attending the summit of E.U. leaders, probably scheduled to leave the Airport at around 2pm. Dromoland Castle being around 8 miles from Shannon.

The meeting agreed to put forward a number of general strategic goals that the campaign sees as the focus of opposition to the Bush visit. They are:

- Firstly in that we aim to mobilise the maximum number of participants for peace actions during the time of the visit.
- That we need to go to the general Shannon area, on both the Friday, June 25th, and the Saturday, June 26th, while Bush is there.
- Thirdly that we aim to have some form of peace camp or protest village, a variety of different forms this could take are being explored.
- Fourthly that this being an EU-US Summit, happening adjacent to the airport in Europe where one quarter of US troops in Iraq have been transited through, we would hope to internationalise the protests, and plan to contact groups in Europe with this aim in mind.
- Finally that we would see the main goal being to keep the focus on the military uses of Shannon airport, and that accordingly the main emphasis of the protests should be on the airport rather than Dromoland castle, but this is not to rule out a lesser focus on the summit site itself.

A number of practical proposals in regard to publicity, finance and international outreach are being actioned. There is to be a further meeting in Galway on Sunday April 18th.

The real Mayday street party is still on!

The Government may have cancelled its 'Beautiful Night' concert in O'Connell Street, but the real Mayday weekend street party is going ahead. Reclaim The Streets is throwing a 'No Borders' street party on Bank Holiday Monday, May 3rd, to which all are welcome.

Dublin Grassroots Network - a collective that includes Reclaim The Streets - is calling on people to come along and have fun at this true party of the people.

Mick Dooley of Dublin Grassroots, one of the main groups organising protests against Dublin's EU summit, said: "The only street party worth joining in town will now be the ONLY street party in town.

And unlike the state's cancelled street party, everyone from around the world is welcome to come to Dublin for this, not just those that satisfy the demands of Fortress Europe.

Expect music, dancing and face painting, a day for all to come and enjoy a vision of the Europe that we really want. Closing off O'Connell Street for a street party on Mayday is a Reclaim The Streets concept, which the government hijacked and tried to use as part of its cynical PR exercise. The Government's so-called Day of Welcomes is a sham. The European Union is more about keeping people out than welcoming people in."



Pit Stop Ploughshares Go Searching for Weapons of Mass Destruction

The Pit Stop Ploughshares await trial on charges arising out of their non violent disarmament of a US Navy war Plane at Shannon Airport on February 3rd. 2003. Conviction carries maximum penalties of 10 years imprisonment This past week, the Prosecution has delayed the trial of the Pit Stop Ploughshares by initiating a judicial review of the trial judges order of discovery in relation to the nature of US military flights through Shannon preceding the outbreak of the US bombing campaign.

The move is reminiscent of the British state's response to the discovery order in the Katherine Gunn/MOD case - where discovery on the British Attorney General's opinion on the legality of the war given to Blair was ordered and remains unrevealed.

For the past several weeks of Lent, the Ploughshares have maintained a daily vigil outside the Irish Aviation Authority in downtown Dublin. This has been an attempt to remain awake to the monthly movement of 10,000 US troops through Shannon Airport en route to Iraq. The Irish Aviation Authority and other government and private bodies sanction this contribution to the U.S. war effort. Many passers by are shocked to discover that the U.S. military are still using Ireland as a pit stop.

This past week saw a US military plane flying the skull and cross bones land at a Dublin airport. The flag of pirates (privateers) is appropriate in the ongoing plunder of Iraq. The basis of the Pentagon's ongoing war on the people of Iraq has always been to expand power and profit. The marketing of the war as a crusade against Weapons of Mass Destruction and against Terrorism is steadily exposed with each passing day of no WMD finds and Iraq's transformation into a font of humiliation, vengeance and the terror of the ill-equipped.

Both terrorism and weapons of mass destruction remain serious issues in our world. Dublin Catholic Worker's, Damien Moran and Ciaran O'Reilly, will join the search for WMD in England over the Easter season participating in the 50 mile peace walk from London to Aldermaston - Britain's nuclear bomb factory from April 9th to 12th. For more information check out <http://www.youthstudentcnd.org.uk>

Ploughshares/Catholic Worker & friends will also maintain an overnight vigil outside the Israeli Embassy on the last night of the 17 1/2 year incarceration of Maordachii Vanunu <http://www.nonviolence.org/vanunu> In 1986, Vanunu was kidnapped in Rome by Mossad (the Israeli secret service) after exposing Israel's secret nuclear weapons program. he was drugged and illegally taken to Isarel where he has spent the last 17 1/2 years in prison (The first 11 years in solitary confinement). The Dublin vigil will commence on Tuesday April 20th. 7.30 pm and conclude at 12 noon April 21st. It will be one of many vigils at Israeli Embassies around the world.

The Pit Stop Ploughshares will next return to court for a bail hearing on Monday April 19th. The Prosecution appears for its judicial review on April 21st.

The racism continues- more chartered planes, 61 more deportations

Sixty-one failed asylum seekers were deported from Dublin in the second such deportation in a number of weeks. The Romanian and Moldovan failed asylum-seekers were deported from the State in the early hours of March 31st on a chartered aircraft. The operation came after a week-long series of raids by gardai in counties Cork, Galway, Wexford, Tipperary and Dublin and followed co-operation between the Irish, Romanian and Moldovan authorities.

It brings to 300 the number of failed asylum-seekers deported in the first three months of the year, double the figure for the same period last year. A further 1,000 deportation orders are outstanding.



All have had their asylum applications rejected and had exhausted the appeals process. The group included around 55 Romanians - 40 men, 10 women and a small number of children. Around 10 Moldovans were also included in the group.

The flight took off shortly after 2 a.m. from Dublin Airport and was scheduled to visit the Romanian capital, Bucharest, and Chisinau, the capital of Moldova. The deportees were due to be accompanied on the flight by a number of gardai. It is understood an Irish advance party was already at the two destinations yesterday and had worked with the authorities in Romania and Moldova to put in place the necessary paperwork to repatriate all of those on board last night's flight.

One of the Romanian deportees, Mr. Josif Fagoras (27), left behind his wife and three young children, all under seven. One of Mr. Fagoras' children is an Irish citizen whose family is supposed to be protected under article 41 of the Irish Constitution. It seems that the Irish State is under no compulsion to obey its own laws. Instead the State has decided that 'Irish Born Citizens' are a different kind of citizen, these young Irish Citizens, who can't stand up for themselves, are having their constitutional rights trampled on by the State, and by the Minister for Justice, Michael McDowell.

It is extremely difficult to understand why the State wants to deport so many immigrants. Even if we look at the immigrants as the State does, not as human beings but as economic units, the State's immigration policy doesn't make sense. Last year alone, Minister McDowell signed 2,428 deportation orders; for all of these deportation orders to be carried out it would have cost the Irish taxpayer in the region of 6.5 million euro. Clearly it is not the immigrants that are costing the economy but the State's racist immigration policy.

Yes to life NO FTAA Another America is possible

From the valleys and mountains of the Andes, the peoples of the land make a call for a continental and world-wide mobilization.

The Ecuadorian Peasant Confederation CONFEUNASSC-CNC, member of the CLOC (Coordinator of Latin American Organizations of the Countryside) and Via Campesina, committed to the continental Campaign in struggle against the FTAA, is making a callout to join forces with the Days of Resistance and Struggle against the neo-FTAA, known as the bilateral Free Trade

Agreement, to take place in Quito on the 17 of April, the International day of Peasant Struggle.

In Québec, Cancún, and Miami we have achieved victories in favor of the sovereignty of our nations and the unity of our peoples. The fathers of neo-liberalism know that united we are too strong, and have thus taken the new strategy of "divide and conquer", opting to push forward the bilateral Free Trade Agreements.

The entire American continent is on the menu of the government of the United States. NAFTA, the Free Trade Agreement with Canada and Mexico, was the *apéritif*. Now the appetizer is on the table in the form of the CAFTA with the Central American nations. The main course is to be ourselves, the Andean Region, and if they can manage it, Argentina, Brazil, and Venezuela will be for dessert.

Ecuador has been a country full of resistance, which, like the other Andean countries has continued to resist the blows of neoliberalism. For many years we have not only resisted, but we have reclaimed and constructed alternative ways of life in solidarity and *minga* which guarantee the autonomy of our peoples.

The Bolivian people, in a social rebellion, suffered the loss of 77 lives defending their identities and sovereignty, overthrowing the president and protecting their natural resources. Our Colombian neighbours live immersed in a state of repression and violence exacerbated and regionalized by Plan Colombia, a project initiated by the imperialism of the United States administration. In the case of Ecuador, the national government has proclaimed itself the closest ally of the United States, and this is proving to be true : in the last two months, the government has arrested, attempted assassination, and assassinated various social leaders, and its audacity has reached the point of censoring the media, violating the right to freedom of opinion.

The Days of Resistance in Quito will be days of struggle and of celebration ; days of reflection, analysis and learning, of cultural and artistic demonstration as well as political protest. We will be thousands of living beings, prevailing from all the corners of the planet in order to make our voices heard.

One Year On In Iraq: Fallujah Death Toll rises to 500 plus

Anti-occupation demonstrations have erupted all over Iraq in the last two weeks. Hundreds died and more than a thousand were wounded in a massacre in the town of Fallujah - a flash-point for resistance - by three battalions of American troops.

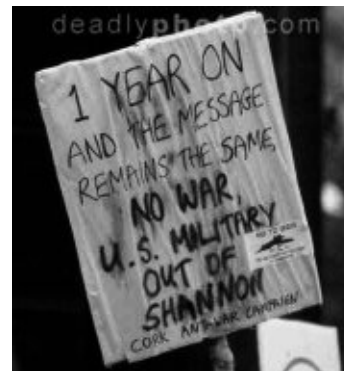
Journalist Naomi Klein and Photographer Andy Stern report from Baghdad: "April 9, 2003 was the day Baghdad fell to U.S. forces. One year later, it is rising up against them. Donald Rumsfeld claims that the resistance is just a few 'thugs, gangs and terrorists.' This is dangerous, wishful thinking. The war against the occupation is now

being fought out in the open, by regular people defending their homes and neighbourhoods - an Iraqi *intifada*."

US administrator Paul Bremer has acknowledged that the United States is facing a crisis in Iraq. The 620 strong Iraqi 2nd Battalion refused to fight on Monday after members of the unit were shot at in a Shi'ite Muslim neighbourhood in Baghdad while en route to Fallujah. US Senator Susan Collins has said that the 'transfer of power' deadline of June 30 may not take place. "The plans for transferring power on June 30 depended on the Iraqi security forces being in place, being well-trained, and being able to respond to outbreaks of violence," said Collins, a senior Republican.

After numerous reports of civilians being killed and TV footage from Al-Jazeera showing women and children being killed by missiles from F16 fighter jets, one member of the Iraqi Governing Council has plainly stated that "*This is genocide.*" Meanwhile, Brig Gen Mark Kimmitt, the deputy director of U.S. military operations in Iraq claims that "*We are just carrying out our work as professionally as possible . . .*"

Emergency protests against the slaughter in Fallujah have begun to spring up Worldwide. It is unclear as yet whether or not these will continue or grow in scale. A clear unified reaction to political developments and a clear set of demands has yet to emerge from the Global Anti-War Movement.



An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern '*was always against the war*'. Here are the reactions of some of those who were involved in anti war activity in Ireland.

'For the sake of the suffering Iraqi people we must hope that Iraqi resistance and protest here in the West force the US to pull out as quickly as possible' - Richard Boyd Barrett (IAWM)

'Anti-War Ireland, a newly-formed coalition of anti-war groups, has condemned the collective punishment of civilians by us forces in Falluja and has called on Irish politicians to take a principled stand in condemning the actions of the occupation forces' - Caoimhe Butterly (Anti War Ireland).

One regular contributor to the Irish Indymedia web site is predicting that the US is facing defeat: "There is increasing evidence that the Americans face a decisive defeat in Iraq. The majority of Iraqis oppose the occupation. About 70% of Iraqis are opposed to the U.S. occupation. A substantial minority - about 25% - support attacks on U.S. forces. These figures are based on the most recent major poll of Iraqis, by Cambridge Research, taken many weeks ago and have presumably been significantly increased by the U.S. actions over the past week. Considerable anecdotal evidence suggest that the brutality of the American attacks on Fallujah and Sadr City have marked a turning point in Iraqi attitudes towards the Americans. US Public opinion is finally waking up. The latest Newsweek poll has John Kerry leading George Bush by 50% to 43% of likely voters, with 5% supporting Ralph Nader. This is a dramatic reversal due almost entirely to the Iraqi resistance, as more TV pictures of wounded and dying U.S. troops and Iraqi civilians are making it through the American media filters. Also, the illusionary linkage between Iraq and the 'War on Terror' is being exposed (with the help of Richard Clarke). Polls taken earlier this week show rapidly rising support in the U.S. for immediate withdrawal - currently at 44% of the US people. The Bush administration is being politically throttled by the Iraq resistance." The full analysis with contributions (including opposing points of view) from others is available on the site at http://www.indymedia.ie/newswire.php?story_id=64262