

BACK ON THE STREETS!

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REVOLUTIONARY CLASS STRUGGLE NEWS

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No Equality on a Dying Planet

ANARCHIST COMMUNISM HAS a long environmentalist pedigree, stretching back to the 1880s and thinkers like geologist Peter Kropotkin and the geographer Elisee Reclus, right up to the present day. The rejection of any productivist ideology which is based upon the desire to dominate nature and maximise production is central to anarchist communists. And that includes so-called 'socialist' worldviews that glorify industrial output. To sustain life on the planet, the capitalist system, which produces commodities for profit, rather than the necessities for a full and happy life for all, must go. We live in world where there is no reason not to be able to feed, clothe and home our population, except that no short-term profit can be made from it. But it will take a global social revolution from below to do that.

We know that the climate emergency is too pressing to wait for the social revolution to deliver justice, but we believe that anarchist communism has within it the lessons of solidarity, horizontal networks of workers' organisations, and bottom-up community organising needed to challenge the inaction of world



leaders and industry.

Anarchist communists believe in equality and in freedom. Freedom is unachievable without equality and equality would be unachievable without freedom. And there can be neither on a dying planet. If those who desire freedom and equality do not organise and act to take the future of the Earth out of the hands of those who have a profit-driven death wish, then we will enter a period of barbarism and social chaos ending in the end of life on earth. It is a stark choice.

We've made ours. Join us.

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VOICE OF THE ANARCHIST COMMUNIST GROUP

A Just Transition



WE FACE A climate emergency that's already costing thousands of lives around the world. Extreme weather events like floods, droughts, forest fires and tropical storms are happening more often, becoming more intense, and are right now, not at some hypothetical future point, putting the livelihood, homes, safety and even lives of millions of people at risk.

To avoid the worst of this, societies are going to have to initiate massive change. Reliance on fossil fuels must end. Countries will have to cut their planet-heating emissions down to zero. And they need to do it fast. If done without considering the needs of workers, that will lead to economic suffering for working communities. Many of us will remember the economic, social, health, and cultural damage done in the 1980s to UK coal mining communities. Damage that is still being felt.

We urgently need a more sustainable economy that's fair to everyone – including people working in polluting industries, in the global north and the global south. We cannot leave workers in polluting industries behind. Any solution must support decent and dignified livelihoods when polluting indus-



tries decline, creating a fairer and more equal society. None of which seems at all likely under capitalism.

And that is why our response to climate change needs to involve and amplify the voices and needs of working-class communities. We cannot rely on governments, far less industry, to represent workers' interests.

The movement for change needs to be many times larger than it is and directly engage with a wider range of people. It must be willing to not only make demands of government but to challenge capitalism directly. Those at the point of production, who have the power to bring everything to a halt, have a critical role.

Climate Denial

We believe that the evidence of the last few decades of climate denial, prevarication, and blame-shifting, shows that only with a complete change in the system can we properly deal with climate change and social and economic justice issues.

There is precious little time to stop devastating environmental impacts. This

is something that the young people involved in the climate strikes have begun to understand, positing the slogan of "social change not climate change". They have also begun to understand that capitalism cannot be reformed to be greener. It is like a ravenous furnace consuming the Earth's resources at a terrifying rate and will not stop until it has consumed the Earth itself.

With enough pressure, we may be able to slow some excesses of the capitalist system. We should certainly demand reparations from it for the damage already done and still to come. We aren't saying that if we can't bring down capitalism we may as well not bother doing anything. But if we want a real just transition away from a fossil fuel economy, ultimately we need a social revolution.

This social revolution must totally transform life on the planet and create a system built on need not profit, which establishes new social forms that no longer threaten human existence itself. We call these new social forms Anarchist Communism.

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Community and Workplace-centred Direct Action is the Answer

IN RECENT TIMES governments around the world have been gradually gathering more repressive and invasive powers. In the UK this crackdown on dissent has been gathering speed. The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill is huge piece of legislation that, amongst other reforms, includes significant expansion in police powers to shut down, at their own discretion, protests that they deem “too disruptive”, and confers up to 10-year sentences for demonstrators considered to be causing a “public nuisance”. The Glasgow cops at COP26 are threatening to deal with anything they don’t like “swiftly and robustly” and probably quite brutally.

Disagreeing with governments is being criminalised. The definition of “extremism” is being widened. And yet we are witnessing the real effects of unchecked climate change. Oil-funded governments, defending the interests of fossil fuel giants, have sat on their hands for decades, insisting that nothing was happening. Those are the real criminals and extremists. The corporations and governments who caused the crisis, who denied the crisis, and then tried to pass off the blame on us, saying the solution was our individual actions.

They meant that we should individually change our ways, without system change, while fossil fuel corporations get to keep

ravaging the planet. But in a way they are right: only our actions can bring about change.

Direct action is the political and social intervention of the affected people in solving their problems without external mediation, especially if the mediators are part of the problem.

Indirect action, like writing to MPs, signing petitions, and appealing to the better nature of corporations, has failed. We have asked them to act for decades, and all we get are fine words. Instead, we, the affected people and our communities, need to stop those responsible from continuing their actions. We need to disrupt the fossil fuel industry at points of production or distribution, we need to disrupt the functioning of inactive and complicit governments, we need to resist repressive policing which serves only the interests of destructive capitalism.

Target Individuals

We applaud the spirit and commitment of climate activists, but we caution them against misdirected action. Actions which seem to target individual citizens, which seem to be moralistic or to demand individual behaviour changes will only serve to alienate. Citizen A did not plan the public transport system. Citizen B did not put their workplace out of reach of the rail network.



Citizen C did not build the out-of-town shopping centre. These and so many other problems are the effects of a fossil fuel dependent society not of their making.

Instead, we must go into our communities and show them they alone have the agency to effect change. And to show them where the real change needs to take place, where most effectively to target our anger.

We can’t wait for the fossil fuel industry to change its ways. We can’t wait for governments to act on our behalf. There is no time for delay. Others can’t be trusted to act on our behalf. We need to act ourselves, and to be clear about what action to take.



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Stop Cambo!

CAMBO, THE OIL field in the North Sea, west of Shetland, where a tax haven registered company called Siccar Point has applied for a permit to drill at least 170 million barrels of oil, has become a watchword for corporate greed and malfeasance.

Shell, the largest non-state-owned energy corporation in the world, who are 30% owners of Cambo, is known to have been commissioning reports on the greenhouse effect since 1981. In the decades that followed, they were to be one of the fiercest corporate deniers of climate change, despite having had the evidence in their hands. Their past and continuing actions are proof that capitalism is devoid of a sense of responsibility.

The UK doesn't need the oil that lies in the Cambo field. We can't use it. At the Paris round of COP, the UK agreed to measures to keep our climate within liveable levels. That means a global temperature rise of no more than 1.5°C. Scientists tell us that it is not safe for the planet if the UK were to use all the oil and gas in existing fields. That is without opening any new fields.



WHO WE ARE...

The Anarchist Communist Group (ACG) is a revolutionary anarchist communist organisation who seek a complete transformation of society, and the creation of anarchist communism.

This will mean the working class overthrowing capitalism, abolishing the State, getting rid of exploitation, hierarchies and oppressions, and halting the destruction of the environment. To do this, we believe it is important to be organised.

We are committed to building an effective organisation that works towards the common goal of anarchist communism, in cooperation with other working class organisations and in grass roots campaigns.

We strive to base all our current actions on the principles that will be the basis of the future society: mutual aid, solidarity, collective responsibility, individual freedom and autonomy, free association and federalism.

If you want to join the ACG, then look first at our **Aims & Principles** on our website www.anarchistcommunism.org

You can also drop us a line at info@anarchistcommunism.org

The pressure to open Cambo isn't driven by a need for its products. It is driven by capitalism's need to produce. Capitalism isn't a system designed to meet needs. It's a system designed to produce commodities, and if there is no need for those commodities then the need has to be created. That's why the fossil fuel industry has spent so many decades denying the reality of climate change: to ensure a continuing demand for their commodities.

Nor should we imagine Cambo would bring other benefits to the UK. In 2020, Shell, the fifth largest company in the world, paid no tax in the UK. Quite the reverse: the government handed over nearly

\$100 million to Shell. In addition, Shell has been ordered by a Dutch court to cut its oil production by 45% by 2030. Not only that, the contracts for construction and installation at Cambo have already been awarded to overseas companies, so there will be little domestic benefit in employment.

One of those overseas contractors is Petrofac. Co-founder Ayman Asfari has, along with his wife, donated almost £900,000 to the Conservative Party, and is under investigation by the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) for allegedly paying million-pound bribes to secure contracts in nine different countries. Former UK prime ministers David Cameron and Theresa May both reportedly lobbied the Bahraini government on behalf of Petrofac in 2017, and Liam Fox also lobbied Bahrain on behalf of Petrofac while he was International Trade Secretary, even after the SFO investigation was announced.

Shell is taking us for mugs. Its only aim is to fill its coffers, even if that means destroying the planet. The government is taking us for mugs. Its only aim is to represent the interests of corporate greed. Cambo must not go ahead. In order to save the planet its reserves must stay in the ground.