

SMASH

Newsletter Issue #4
MARCH 2005



NOT GUILTY!

The three activists who occupied EDO's roof at the end of the peace camp in September were found not guilty of two charges in Brighton Magistrates Court in February. The 3 defendants were acquitted on sections 68 (aggravated trespass) and 69 (failure to leave land if practicable when asked by a police officer) of the 1994 Public Order Act.

The prosecution had alleged that by hanging a banner the three were trying to intimidate EDO workers, and the Court was entertained by a silent video which supposedly showed a police officer asking the three to come down! However, the district judge hearing the case was not convinced, and threw out both charges. This bodes well for the 4 who are appealing their aggravated trespass convictions for doing essentially the same thing in May.

Trespass in itself is only a civil, not criminal, matter, so the police can only use 'reasonable force' to remove you. It only becomes criminal if it is 'aggravated', by intended disruption, intimidation or obstruction. In reality, the cops will nick you anyway and figure out if you did anything illegal later . . . but if all this sounds a bit complicated, here are some simple tips for would-be roof dwellers:



- Don't take anything with you which could be used for criminal damage or disruption, eg. spray paint or a megaphone.
- Don't shout at anyone, banners are ok and get the message across.
- Come down 'as soon as reasonably practicable', i.e. when a cherry picker arrives.
- Don't disobey police requests to leave - but if you can't hear them from on high, then that's ok!
- Happy roof dwelling!!!

EDO MBM are losing fans!

A group of local residents calling themselves 'The Masked Pixie Avengers Of The Victims Of EDO Corporation' have joined the campaign against EDO, with "a FANTastic opening night assault on the factory". On Wednesday 16th February, the 'pixies' cut their way into the security area at the back of EDO's factory where they set about dismantling some state-of-the-art air conditioning vents serving EDO's high-tech 'clean room' labs. Protective grills were unscrewed and a total of 18 fan blades were shattered before masked pixie avenger hammers began their work on the delicate and expensive looking air filters made out of some soft space age aluminium type foil material (very very easy to ruin) – From Indymedia UK.

WHY SHUT DOWN EDO?

Because EDO profit from death and destruction - they make parts for weapons which are used en masse against innocent people like those in Fallujah. Their products include bomb-release mechanisms for F-16s and Tornados and parts for the Paveway so-called 'smart' bomb. EDO MBM is a wholly owned subsidiary of the US arms company EDO Corporation. We will be here until EDO isn't.

However, we don't expect you to just take our word for it, ask them yourself:

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Day of Action: Report

Saturday 12th February was a day of action against EDO MBM, called by Brighton Quakers and Smash EDO. A series of workshops on topics from campaigning to legal advice and banner making culminated in a march by around 40 people to Churchill square. It was good to see lots of new faces, including the children dressed as doves singing peace songs. Three days later, the first Quaker-inspired silent vigil at EDO's factory shamed the workforce and bosses who continue to be paid in the blood of Iraqi civilians. Around 15 people kept the candle-lit vigil as staff left work.



EDO fail to silence us!

At the beginning of February, a letter arrived at the independent news website Indymedia's UK address. It was from warmonger EDO's lawyers, RPC, and threatened to sue Indymedia for libel over anonymous comments referring to warmongers EDO MBM as 'warmongers' and complicit in the killing of children. This attempt to suppress free speech angered a lot of people, who promptly wrote to RPC to point out that calling EDO 'warmongers' was clearly fair comment. Just ask warmongering EDO Corp Chariman James M. Smith: "In the late eighties peace broke out ... it was a difficult time for us". Subsequently, and by complete coincidence on the same day the 'McLibel' defendents won their case in the European Court of Human Rights, RPC replied to some of

the emails to state that they were 'no longer acting'. So have warmonger EDO's lawyers abandoned them or are they just afraid to have the fact that they are warmongers examined in Court? Either way, while the warmongers are 'no longer acting', we still are! We will be here until the warmongers EDO aren't, that's just what warmongers deserve!

Forthcoming Events

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DIRECT ACTION AGAINST THE ARMS TRADE

Monday 21st March is an International Day of Direct Action to mark 2 years since the illegal invasion of Iraq, called by the anti-arms trade assembly at Beyond ESF during the European Social Forum in London. EDO may not know it yet, but they're holding an OPEN DAY to mark the occasion! The CIA (Citizen's Inspection Agency) will provide a chance for residents to find out just what nasty military hardware is cooked up in the factory. If you'd like to be a weapons inspector, just turn up at the bottom of Home Farm road at 10am, weapons inspection uniforms will be provided.

- ◆ **Regular Thursday noise demos** are ongoing 4-6. well done to those who continue braving the elements.
- ◆ The Coalition Against EDO are holding their second silent vigil on **Tuesday the 22nd March.**
- ◆ **Wednesday March 23rd** - Smash EDO Cabaret Night Fundraiser @ the Prince Albert, Trafalgar Street, Brighton, 7.30pm. Featuring films, comedy and live music from Emberhoney (dark-edged folk), Playfwdstop (Cinematic Soundscapes) and Nimomashtic (alt. folk soul). £4/3 concs.

WHISTLE-BLOWERS CORNER

We know that not everybody who works at EDO is totally happy with management.

Pissed off with the boss? Why not give us a call in strict confidence?

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Smashing Briefs

- ◆ It seems Special Branch aren't so special after all. All proceedings have been dropped against the activist who was arrested for 'harassment' in a dawn raid in December. For those who don't know, or thought we lived in a democracy, Special Branch are Britain's political police. In the dawn raid, they took all the activist's stuff including his computer and entire CD collection, yet he's not eligible for any compensation! We reckon it's Special Branch doing the harassment round here!
- ◆ Four of the activists convicted of aggravated trespass in January for the rooftop occupation last May are appealing to Lewes Crown Court. Brighton Magistrates Court refused to hear evidence about EDO's connection to war crimes, even though it is admissible under the International Criminal Court Act 2001.
- ◆ Stop the War Coalition National Demonstration. Central London, March 19th.
- ◆ The 'Pitstop Ploughshares' trial in Dublin began on the 7th March and continues until the 18th. The 5 face up to 10 years in jail if convicted of 'disarming' a US jet illegally stopping on Irish territory.

CONTACT US

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