

# Belgrade 6 Free!

At the first Organise! public meeting in the new Warzone centre in Belfast Anthony Crowther, acting secretary for the anarcho-syndicalist International Workers Association, gave detailed updates on the situation with the FAU Berlin and the Belgrade 6. In the last issue of the Leveller we reported on the state arrest and detention of the Belgrade 6. Tony's talk was described afterwards as "powerful" and he did justice to both topics in great depth, with humour, passion, feeling and without notes.

We are reproducing an article written by Tony immediately after the release of our comrades on 17th February:

There was a tremendous turn out of supporters for the start of the Belgrade 6 case. There was also many supporters from outside Serbia, which included many supporters from the IWA sections. All the main Serbian TV channels were also present. Little information came from inside the courts, so it was a long day for supporters waiting outside with all sorts of conflicting rumours circulating about what was happening inside. Our concerns were only increased when several anarchist from Croatia were arrested for unfolding a banner which read ANARCHISM IS NOT TERRORISM. They now face up to a month in prison.

At 3.30pm loud clapping came from inside the court. A few minutes later supporters, who had been allowed in the court, emerged to announce that the Belgrade 6 were going to be released in effect on bail. There was plenty of confusion but it later confirmed that they were going to be released until March 23rd when they would still face terrorist charges. But the fact that they had been released was a tremendous victory. Later in the evening the Belgrade 6 were informed that the charges of terrorism would be dropped and replaced with a lesser charge. Needless to say the mood among the family and supporters was euphoric. At the meeting after the release we were informed about some disturbing treatment the Belgrade 6 had received while they were in prison. The fight is not over, the Belgrade 6 may still face serious charges when they return to court on the 23rd March. We must keep up the pressure on the Serbian state. But the fact that they have been released and the terrorist charges dropped is a massive victory, But the campaign must continue until all charges are dropped and the Serbian state is held accountable for actions.

Long live the IWA  
Anthony Crowther  
Acting IWA Secretary



Scenes outside the court



Tadej and Ratibor, two of the imprisoned comrades, meet friends and supporters on their release on bail.



## British Gas workers vote in favour of strike action

British Gas workers have voted strongly in favour of strikes as a result of what they have called "macho management".

In a huge turnout of 8,000 balloted workers 82% have supported strike action while 90% have supported taking industrial action short of a strike. The workers' union, the GMB, has given British Gas a week to respond to the threat of industrial action.

GMB general secretary Paul Kenny said: "The vote clearly vindicates what we have been telling the company. It is now time for them to sit up and take notice.

"We are giving British Gas a week to give us a constructive response. We want an independent inquiry into the profit at all costs culture at British Gas.

"We will meet with shop stewards to determine what form of action should be taken should British Gas fail to lift the conflicting demands on its workforce."

Workers have voted in favour of industrial action in order to tackle a management culture of bullying, customer exploitation and profits at all costs.

## Different country, same old story...

On the early morning of the 11th November 2008 twenty French political activists were simultaneously arrested in various part of France in connection with 5 incidents of electric train lines being shut down. The police operation involved helicopters, 150 anti-terrorist police and prearranged vast media coverage. Immediately afterwards Michèle Alliot-Marie (minister of home affairs at the time) spoke on TV about anti-terrorist action, linking the persons arrested to supposed 'ultra-left' or 'anarcho-autonomist' insurrectionist groups. Nine, most of whom are from Tarnac in central France, were subsequently accused of "criminal association for the purposes of terrorist activity".

They have all since been released one at a time as a result of the little evidence being presented by the state being torn apart by the defence. However the Tarnac 9 still remain under judicial controls, they are not allowed to see each other.

It has since emerged that some of the Tarnac 9 were under huge police surveillance for months and that the main reason for their incarceration was their alleged authorship of the book "L'insurrection qui vient" (The Coming Insurrection). Authored anonymously by the 'Comité Invisible' the book advocated revolutionary struggle based on the formation of communes, or affinity groups, in an underground network outside of mainstream politics.

The farce surrounding their arrests and the attempt by the French government to create an enemy within (the anarcho-autonomists), demonstrate again how the state, scared by recent social turmoil (such as the 2005 revolts in the marginalised suburbs, the huge protests against the CPE in 2006, and the riots after Sarkozy's election in 2007) will do everything to show its power and scare people.

Fr@nky

More information and references:

[http://www.radicalphilosophy.com/default.asp?channel\\_id=2187&editorial\\_id=27700](http://www.radicalphilosophy.com/default.asp?channel_id=2187&editorial_id=27700)

<http://www.tarnac9.wordpress.com/>