

Earth First! Action Update



Issue 64 December 1999

"Action is the life of all, & if thou dost not act, thou dost nothing" Gerrard Winstanley

Di WTO,

Between November 30th and December 3rd Seattle hosted the third ministerial conference of the WTO. It brought together bureaucrats from 135 nations to attempt to further impose the market on our lives and to make major decisions in our 'best interests'. However the WTO's aims are far from this. Since being established in 1995 the WTO has continuously placed profit before people and planet. In response to this and in attempts to build better mechanisms for ensuring social justice and environmental protection actions took place on and around N30 throughout the world...

In Sheffield on Friday 19th November, prior to the WTO meeting, around 12 terrorists gained entry into Cabinet Minister Richard Caborn's Office. The terrorists were armed with anti-WTO leaflets and two were heavily disguised as a pantomime cow. After using false pretences to gain entry into his office ("Delivery for Mr Caborn") they proceeded to harass the Minister for Trade about his forthcoming visit to the WTO meeting.

In Madhya Pradesh, India, more than 300 indigenous Adivasis jumped over the fence of the World Bank, building on 24th November. They blocked the building, covering it with posters, graffiti, and cow shit, sang traditional songs at the gate, and went back only after Mr Lim, the country director of the World Bank, went out to receive a letter signed by all their movements. Attempts by Mr Lim to deliver a speech were refused by the Adivasis who said that such dialogues only had the objective of deceiving the Adivasis while pushing through commercial interests.

On 25th Nov 5000 French farmers held a banquet of local produce under the Eiffel Tower in protest at the impact of trade liberalisation.

Sleepless in Seattle...

Tens of thousands of people converged on Seattle to protest at the WTO's neoliberal agenda in many different, non-violent ways. They scared off Bill Clinton and successfully impeded the talks. The response of the state was massive and brutal. A state of emergency was declared; martial law enforced and a curfew imposed between 2pm and dawn every night. 500 people were arrested on Wednesday night for breaking the curfew and protesting in the newly declared "no protest zone"; tear gas, pepper spray and rubber bullets were fired indiscriminately at protesters and passers-by by robocop clad cops. A Chinese observer commented "this is as significant for the west as Tiananmen square was for us... Governments will have to respond."

The talks were finally abandoned on Friday night. As the director of Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch said, "The allegedly unstoppable force of globalisation just hit the immovable object called grassroots democracy."

London's Burning

Early in the day there were protests at Trafalgar Square and outside the Citibank. Later, over 1000 people gathered outside Euston Station to 'reclaim the railways' from proposed privatisation.

Tabloids fuelled the usual paranoia about "eco-terrorists" - *The Evening Standard* reported protesters inserted razorblades into leaflets! Riot police outnumbered protesters two to one, they blocked in the crowd and were forcefully taking photos and ID. At the end of the rally a police van was torched and around 40 people were arrested by heavy-handed cops. 4 were charged with violent disorder and 7 were injured.

The Monthly Round up of
Ecological, and Other, Direct
Action from Around Britain

Earth First! is not a cohesive group or campaign, but a convenient banner for people who share similar principles to work under. The general principles behind the name are non-hierarchical organisation and the use of direct action to confront, stop and eventually reverse the forces that are responsible for the destruction of the Earth and its inhabitants

DOIN' IT UP NESTLE

Around 40 people invaded the Nestle factory in Halifax. Some walked through the food factory turning off chocolate machines, other groups invaded offices and others hung banners. The fire alarms went off, the police arrived and the workers all piled out of the factory wondering what was going on. When they learned what the WTO was and why Nestle was targeted, several proved quite sympathetic. Once the main crowd of protesters had left to blockade the gate, the police arrested those left on-site. Three people hung a massive banner from 50 feet up the factory's chimney. In all 15 were arrested, a number for attempted burglary (!)

LEEDS SHENANIGANS

Over 100 people gathered in Leeds, matched by double that number of police. They walked through the streets with banners and huge model figures, of a rich boss and an enslaved worker. Settling down outside British Telecom, leaflets were handed which listed the corporate targets in Leeds that supported the WTO. An Esso garage was then blockaded, the rooms in the Hilton hotel leafleted and other autonomous actions taken by small groups.

WTO demo's took place all over the country, in Glasgow, Manchester, Sheffield, Cardiff, Bangor and Edinburgh. There were marches, video-showings and blockades. In Totnes a disused garage and old Toll House were squatted to raise local awareness about the WTO.

Other decentralised protests took place around the world. In Geneva 'vandals' cut the electricity supply to the WTO HQ causing an explosion in the adjacent power supply building and plunging the WTO building into darkness and wiping out computer links to Seattle.

The EF! AU is written by activists as a networking tool for activists. A different collective takes on its editorship for a year at a time, in line with EF!'s non-hierarchical principles. If you have done an action, set up a new group, or want to tell people about a campaign, then send us an article (maximum 150 words). It doesn't matter if it seems small to you; stories of 3 people sitting in the road are sometimes the most inspiring especially to people who aren't part of a large group. The feature pages are also available for longer articles which will provide useful information for activists.

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News in Brief

◆ On October 27th, supporters of Mumia Abu-Jamal occupied the FBI Office in Portland, USA. They demanded that the FBI release all files pertaining to Mumia Abu-Jamal, the MOVE organisation and organisations supporting Mumia, to Mumia's attorney "in order to provide necessary material for a new, fair trial for Mumia Abu-Jamal." It is not thought the FBI complied with this demand.

◆ The Norwich city centre branch of Macdonald's was picketed on 16th Oct, the international day of action against Mcd's. Leaflets and free flapjack were handed out and a banner hung. October 30th also saw an impromptu 'party' held at the same location. Around 25 revellers entered the store with costumes, music and leaflets. The staff forcibly ejected them all then called the police.

◆ Police investigating June 18th are furious after the Crown Prosecution Service dropped charges against a woman demonstrator allegedly found in possession of a lock-knife. The CPS ruled that prosecuting the 19-year-old student would be against the public interest because of injuries she suffered when she was hit by a police van at the height of the riots. The woman was charged with violent disorder.

◆ Two Ashton Court protestors who abseiled down into a quarry, just in time to stop a meadow being blasted by dynamite have had the charges of aggravated trespass thrown out of court. The judge ruled that as protestors were still underground fighting the quarry expansion, the protestors actions were excusable under the rather obscure eighteenth century Explosive Substances Act.

◆ On 3rd October, a wet Saturday lunch time, people from Swansea Earth Action and the Peoples Swansea Campaign took part in a "Strictly Pedestrians Only!" event. The idea was to emphasise the problems that those not wishing to use cars face on a daily basis just in getting from A to B. "It's bad enough that our city centres are full of traffic fumes without having to risk our lives trying to get there"

◆ Earth First! South-Central is a new Earth First! group formed "somewhere in between Bedford, Northampton and Milton Keynes - and doing it on-line at www.mindstar.org.uk/ef

◆ To those who heard about how the nasty ALF "branded" an undercover journalist: His work with the RSPCA was terminated after doubts were raised over the integrity of his video evidence. It is thought he helped set up the cock fights he then 'exposed', and doubts over his evidence have, led to at least one court case collapsing. On one previous occasion he has claimed he was shot in the leg and on another that he had been tarred and feathered. Things that make you go mmm...

◆ Julia Butterfly Hill has been living 180' high in an ancient redwood called Luna for almost two years. Luna is located adjacent to a massive mudslide caused by MAXXAM/Pacific Lumber's logging that damaged or destroyed 30 homes. On Sunday 12th December there'll be an anniversary rally in the USA.

◆ On Saturday 30th October, two people were arrested in North Yorkshire on suspicion of criminal damage (later released without charge). The suspicions of the police may have been alerted when they were handed bags full of GM plants marked "biohazard".

"WANTED: MASS MURDERERS"

British Aerospace held a careers seminar at Manchester University, where they hoped to attract young people to join the company which makes weapons of mass destruction. BAe makes the Hawk fighter jets that were sold to Indonesia and then used for years in repressing the people of East Timor.

Four people heard about the careers seminar the previous day, and decided to let the students know what BAe is responsible for. Two came to the door holding a banner and leaflets, but were refused entry by security guards. Luckily the other two were already inside, so one woman held the door open while another explained their reasons for be-ing there. BAe panicked and shut down the seminar - allowing the four people to discuss BAe's practices with attendees.

More of the people present were opposed to the seminar than wanted it; the police failed to turn up, obviously having better things to do; also a video projector cable had mysteriously disappeared.

On 2/11/99 British Aerospace tried to hold a milkround graduate recruitment talk at Sheffield University. Some Sheffield EFers thought they fancied a career in murdering people so they went down to apply. 14 protestors managed to get past the security on the doors and made three speeches on the evils of BAe. The BAe speakers meanwhile fled. The protestors stayed there for a bit eating free food and borrowing their freepost envelopes (HEHEHE!) Then some protestors held a die-in. A few minutes later BAe returned to talk to a few remaining wannabe killers. Protesters burst back into the building but could not get through the locked doors to the room they were in. Still, they probably couldn't have heard much over the cries of "Don't worry, they're only kurds" and the banging on the door.

Aberystwyth students scare off the SAS!

Despite his training as a former S.A.S. soldier, the threat of criticism was too much for Tim Spicer (Scaredy Spice) chief executive of Sandline International, the private army-mentamob responsible for the carnage in Bougainville among other atrocities. Timmy was due to give a lecture at the university of Wales Aberystwyth on "The role of private armies in the emerging global order." When he was informed by the uni' that he might face opposition he decided to chicken out - Unwilling to speak to anyone who might disagree with his own brutal line. Scaredy spice was disgraced as the commander of 2 British army soldiers who killed an unarmed Catholic teenager in N. Ireland, shooting him in the back. "Hurrah!

- We Won!" said one student. "But, we're sorry to have missed out on the chance to throw rotting vegetables at Timmy."

EXODUS VICTORY

Luton's Exodus Collective have managed to defeat a last minute attempt to evict them from a farmstead they have occupied since 1992. The eviction notice had been entirely unexpected given that Exodus had successfully pitched for the property in auction in 1998. However, with no legal binding on completion of sale until contracts and deposits had been exchanged, the Department decided to pull out of the deal after extensive lobbying from Tory MP Jonathan Sayeed (Mid Beds). The attempted eviction was subsequently planned for the morning of November 5th and hundreds of activists from around the country prepared for an emergency mobilisation after news of the threat swept round the country.

However, following Exodus's personal appeal to Lord Whitty, Sayeed's campaign to evict the farm faltered just two days before the planned arrival of bailiffs. Sayeed said that he was "furious", but there is now nothing that Sayeed can do to alter Exodus's legal possession of the 17 acre farm.

BRIEF ENCOUNTER

Marks and Sparks were caught with their trousers down at the opening of their new Manchester store by Super-heroes armed with the biggest pair of pants in the city. 'Superheroes Against GM Pants' unfurled a four-metre pair of pants and then attempted to pull down all the tasteful trolleys on display in the store. The GM cotton disproves M&S's claims to be totally organic. Monsanto's GM cotton is bred to be herbicide and pest resistant. It has all the inherent risks of gene transfer and increased pesticide usage of other GM crops - and it does nothing to prevent skidmarks, either. Watch for further actions! More info. 0161 224 4846

SAFETY DAD GETS CROSS

Dad Derek Potter was furious after his six-year-old daughter was knocked down on a busy road outside his cafe. Swansea Council told him they could only afford to build one new crossing this year and had 50 other requests. So Derek decided to do it himself. Every night he sneaked out to paint black and white stripes on the road, complete with battery operated beacons and railings. But as he was finishing, he was arrested and his crossing dismantled. He said: "The playground is just over the road and children are always risking their lives to get there." After council workers moved in, all that remained were a few white stripes on the road.

FUNKY MONKEYS

Nov 28th's demo against Shamrock Monkey Farm in Sussex saw activists blockading Brighton town centre while the riot squad waited on a country lane 20 miles away. Save The Shamrock Monkeys PO Box 3090, Brighton BN1 3QU tel: 0702 093 6956

\$HELL ON EARTH

BACKGROUND

The oil-rich Niger Delta has been profitably exploited by oil companies such as Shell for many years. Their multi-billion US dollar investment projects mean environmental pollution and landscape degradation to the people who live in the area. From 1958 to date, Shell has drilled about 1,000 million barrels of oil from Ogoniland with total disregard for the people living in close proximity to their operations. The environment is totally devastated and the atmosphere is polluted with carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons; the streams and creeks have been poisoned with acid rains and oil spills; and the rivers are without fish. While Shell Oil reaps massive profits and sponsors the accommodating Nigerian government, many areas in the Niger Delta have been left in abject poverty with no electricity, pipe-borne water, equipped schools and hospitals, no housing schemes, no roads, no employment opportunities and no control over how their land is governed.

On November 10, 1995, the Nigerian Military government, in spite of a world-wide appeal, "judicially" murdered by hanging writer and human rights activist Ken Saro-Wiwa and 8 other Ogoni environmental activists for campaigning against injustice. Four years on after these murders and nothing has changed. The Nigerian Government has still not met one demand made in the Ogoni Bill of Rights.

Peaceful occupations of oil installations run by Shell and Chevron have increased since the mobilisation of the Ogoni and other ethnic groups, and the hanging of Ken Saro-Wiwa in 1995. Increasing numbers of groups across the Niger Delta have been calling for economic and environmental justice and joining the pan-Niger Delta resistance movement.

Anniversary Actions Several anti-Shell actions, taken to commemorate the executions of the Ogoni Nine, happened around Britain on November 10th along with a number of talks and video showings and the protests outside Shell and the Nigerian High Commission by MOSOP (Movement for the Survival of Ogoni peoples).

In **Stockport**, activists from Manchester Earth First! hung banners from the canopy of a Shell petrol station while others blockaded the entrances. The police even advised them on how to blockade more effectively until their senior officers arrived. Many people were persuaded to buy fuel at alternative outlets after brief discussions. Leaflets were also handed out, and pumps temporarily shut down. Inevitably the Bill turned up and several police cars and a van unwittingly parked in the forecourt helped to discourage trade. Eventually the EF'ers were given the ultimatum of move or face arrest for breach of the peace. They refused to move on and one arrest shortly followed. A de-arrest was quickly negotiated - "release him or you will have to arrest us all" - and the ten Musket-eers left soon after.

In **Sunderland** over 40 people blockaded, the Grindon Mill Shell garage, shutting down the pumps and talking to motorists about the company's pollution and links to human rights abuses.

Twenty people all but shut down a Shell station in **Norwich** as they had done on November 10th for the last three years, with only 10 cars using it all morning.

Several different Shell stations in **Leicester** were hit by a roving team of three energised protesters switching off the main fuel cut-off switch, locking pumps, ranting about the issues and running around with a banner saying 'Get the Shell out of Nigeria'. They also re-named Gallowtree Gate as 'Ken Saro-Wiwa Street' for the day.

In **London** a roving team of two shut down a Shell station, two Texaco's and an Esso with great ease using the same masterswitch. These rather effective 10-second actions left forecourt staff completely confused and blocking the entrances themselves, calling head office for advice and the police for a shoulder to cry on.



On 20 November, over 1500 Nigerian soldiers moved into Bayelsa state and began killing, raping and burning down villages. The attacks were launched with no government announcement as a State of Emergency would not look good for the new civilian government. Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch fear mass killings of innocent civilians. The attacks represent advance action to hit the communities where resistance against the oil companies and government has been particularly strong.

In an emergency response, on 24th November 4 people chained themselves together, blocking Northumberland Avenue outside the Nigerian High Commission. 2 chained themselves across the entrance while others held banners (eg 'Civilian government?! STOP THE KILLING'). Niger Delta resistance leaders, London-based Nigerians and British activists gathered to shout 'Stop the killing, stop the drilling'. The 4 blocking the road had their chains cut and were arrested and held for 6 hours, charged with obstruction and in court on Tuesday 30th November. The action was reported in a major national newspaper in Nigeria that night.

Aluta continua! The struggle continues!
Contact: DELTA, Box Z, 13 Biddulph Street, Leicester LE2 1BH, UK
tel/fax: +44 116 2109652 e-mail: lynx@gn.apc.org web: www.oneworld.org/delta



Letters of protest can be sent to:

His Excellency President Olusegun Obasanjo, State House, Abuja, Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria. Fax: +234 9 523 2136

Mark Moody-Stuart, Chairman of the Board of Directors, President and Managing Director, Royal Dutch/Shell Petroleum Company, Carel Van Bylandtlaan 30, 2596 HR, The Hague, The Netherlands. Fax: +31 70 377 2616

POLL TAX PRIVATISED!

Since April, local authorities have no longer had the right to use the courts to collect unpaid Poll Tax. They are therefore passing it on to private debt collectors such as: East of England Trade Protection Society, a division of Ensign Credit Services Ltd, Ensign House, 56 Dork Road, Norwich, NR1 1RY. 01603 629105. Tell them your views.

100,000 NEW TERRORISTS

The queen's speech announced that the government wants to introduce a new, revamped Prevention of Terrorism Act, redefining terrorism as "the use of violence against persons or property, or the threat to, use such violence to intimidate or coerce the government, the public or any section of the public for political, religious or ideological ends." If Ghandi was alive and living in this country

he'd be in jail, along with the founders of the Labour Party.

ALSO BEWARE:

The queen's speech also proposed giving the security services sweeping powers to intercept Internet communication and read private e-mail. Police will likely share information obtained in this country with other police forces worldwide

Contact: ioca-campaign@gn.apc.org

WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT US

Over the last few years, many academics have written about environmental direct action and Earth First! In this feature we aim to show the people who have been written about, just what exactly has been said about them. There isn't the space here to include more than short summaries and some quotes, but we've included enough information for anyone interested to get the full piece from their local library. For some full-on theory from an activist perspective, of course, you can't get better than Do or Die, Aufheben and the like, listed in the contacts page. Academics tend to be more positive and less critical.

DIY CULTURE AND DIRECT ACTION

F.F. Ridley 'Crusaders and Politicians', Parliamentary Affairs, Vol.51, No 3, July 1998. A special issue of 'Parliamentary Affairs' looks at why protest and politics outside parliament have grown while establishment party politics has declined. Ridley identifies the strength of protest, or 'cause groups' like ours, to lie in their moral appearance (not after personal gain), their displays of courage (eg. tree-sitters and tunnellers) and their avoidance of institutional politics, which is viewed as corrupt and self-serving by the public.

"Cause groups are ... outsiders that do not fit into the established system of interest organisations / pressure groups which, with government, constitute the networks of policy-making. They are excluded because they have no ongoing concern with a set of material interests, no clientele that can be defined in such terms, and often no permanent organisation either. But they may also be outsiders by choice. This can be a tactical choice, as suggested above (e.g. to mobilise support that crosses socio-economic divisions as well as party-political lines). It can also be a tactical choice to avoid being tarred with the brush of politics, since a political colouring is more likely to lose than win supporters."

"their supporters may show unexpectedly strong emotions, displacing expected behaviour patterns and disrupting established ways of government - as did the Crusades many centuries ago." !!

Darren Hoad, 'Direct Action and the Environmental Movement', Talking Politics, 10:3, Spring 1998. Discusses the nature of direct action, and argues that it is the reaction of social groups who find themselves marginalised by the political system. "Activists themselves really fall into two camps; those who want to overturn the system and replace it with decentralised, democratic and sustainable alternatives (see Earth First! And Green Anarchist networks) and those who want to see the processes of liberal democracy refined, made more accountable, less secretive and obviously sustainable. In both cases direct action is seen as

the means to their differing ends."

"Much of the thinking which underpins environmental movements' demands sees the institutions of the State as anathema. The state's systems and processes are remote from the individual. They are actually responsible for unregulated growth and pollution and they are unable to acknowledge difference and alternative lifestyles."

"An explanation for ... direct action is perhaps best rooted in the sense of isolation, disenfranchisement and the failure of the liberal democratic system to encompass variety and difference."

THE ANTI-ROADS MOVEMENT

Brian Doherty 'Opposition to Road-Building', Parliamentary Affairs, Vol.51, No.3, July 1998, Oxford University Press. Doherty covers the Earth First! critique of Greenpeace/Friends of the Earth and looks at how the anti-roads movement mixes reformist NIMBYism and countercultural ideals. He states that "The anti-roads movement is an awkward combination of a radical new social movement and a more specific reformist environmentalism."

"The direct action groups helped to create a story, whilst the more moderate groups were able to fill the new political scenario with political meanings, arguing the case against roads on technical grounds. In turn, this also allowed for some surprisingly positive media coverage of the counter-cultural idealism of the direct action groups."

Brian Doherty - b.j.a.doherty@keele.ac.uk Looking at how 'repertoires of action' develop, Doherty argues that the example of the anti-roads protests "support the view that when new forms [of NVDA] emerge they do so as a result of interaction between movements and their opponents." He defines the use of tunnels, lock-ons, tripods etc., as a 'manufactured vulnerability'. "Whereas previously barricades provided protection for protesters now the tripod exposes the vulnerability of the protester. It does not oppose force with force, but places

the responsibility for the protester's safety in the hands of the authorities."

"If the authorities are not going to use violence on a scale sufficient to shock the public, how can protesters resist in such a way that maximises their effectiveness but also exposes the contrast between the force used by the authorities and protesters' moral superiority? Eco-activists in Britain and elsewhere have used technical devices to manufacture their own dangers in order to make their bodies vulnerable. The use of tools is therefore more than simply a technical game; it is essential to the dual aims of making power visible by prolonging its exposure and attempting to change government policy directly."

Brian Doherty, 'Paving the Way: The Rise of Direct Action against Road-building and the Changing Character of British Environmentalism', Political Studies (1999), XLVII. Here Doherty looks at how the radical environmental movement refutes the theory of 'political opportunity structures', which claims that "social movements form when ordinary citizens, sometimes encouraged by leaders, respond to change in opportunities that lower the costs of collective action, reveal potential allies and show where elites and authorities are vulnerable." He points out that the protesters at Twyford, for example, had little hope of success, and that "sites for protests were chosen based on the need to oppose the imminent destruction of valued locations rather than based upon an instrumental calculation over the longer term of the right moment to act." What the theory misses is that the passion and determination of the activists themselves can create a movement, "credit must be given to the inspiration provided by the movements' early risers who established the Earth First! network and protested at Twyford Down with little hope of success."

Wallace McNeish, 'The Anti-Roads Protest in the UK: a Sociological and Political Analysis', in Alternative Futures and Popular Protest Conference Bound Papers 1996 Available through inter-library loans from the National Library. McNeish looks at the anti-roads movement according to the theories of Jurgen Habermas, who sees new social movements as forms of resistance to the 'System's colonisation of the Lifeworld'. The lack of public consultation over new road developments, for example, and the way in which the issue was dealt with by government as a technical one to be decided by experts, represents the encroachment of the 'System' on the life-

world." The key to success for social movements lies in how well they express a 'communicative rationality' to oppose this encroachment.

"for Habermas the new social movements ... provide examples and prototype models for the possible birth of a new society that is predicated on equality, universal rights and radical democracy. The anti-roads movement fulfils each of these positive criteria in its base community like protest camps and free states, in its law-breaking NVDA, in its grassroots participatory orientation and in its refusal to abide by the state's repressive laws or planning decisions."

Ben Seel, 'Strategies of Resistance at the Pollok Free State Road Protest Camp', Environmental Politics, Vol.6, No.4, Winter 1997. Published by Frank Cass, London.

Seel uses the theories of the Marxist Antonio Gramsci to consider how far the 'core group' of protesters at Pollok represented a challenge to the 'hegemonic', or dominant, capitalist system.

"The ideological perspectives and strategies of the core group are best described as embryonic counter-hegemonic resistance, while at the same time their actions also contribute to a residue of reform."

He states that "the core group challenged hegemonic ideology and culture in four main ways. They challenged the legitimacy of ownership of land, the democratic status of Britain's liberal-democratic polity, the notion of economic growth and 'infrastructure improvement' as being equal to development or progress, and commodity consumption as the route to personal satisfaction or happiness." However, they were only 'embryonic' because "long term strategic theory was not a central articulating principle amongst the core group."

EARTH FIRST! (UK)

Each of these articles covers, to a greater or lesser extent, the EF! critique of Greenpeace and other Environmental Non-Governmental Organisations, the debates on non-violence and property destruction, the law, the media and personal lifestyle. They tend to position the philosophy of EF! UK in between deep ecology and social ecology, distancing it from its EF! US counterpart, and then examine how the political strategy relates to core principles. But remember, no-one speaks for you - even the Action Update can't really be representative.

Ben Seel, 'If Not You, Then Who?' Earth First! in the UK, Environmental Politics, Vol.6, No.4, Winter 1997, published by Frank Cass, London.

In this short article Seel views Earth First! UK as part of the same 'embryonic counter-hegemony' as the Pollok Free Staters, being "perhaps the only part of the wider green movement today which asks questions of systemic rather than just reform-oriented scope."

"Essentially EF! is concerned with trying to influence the future trajectory of 'progress' and 'development' through a mixture of green cultural alternatives and NVDA protest exposures and show-downs which try to show where power lies, whose interests it is being used in, and what is passing for 'progress' or 'development'."

Derek Wall, Mobilising Earth First! in Britain, Environmental Politics, Vol 8, Spring 1999, No 1. Published by Frank Cass. (also the book 'Earth First! and the Anti-Roads Movement, 1999, Routledge, London).

Derek Wall examines which structural influences enabled EF! to form at the time it did, although he recognises that "whatever the structural conditions, without the initial efforts of small numbers of innovators who 'produce and propagate ideologies' and mobilise other resources, movements are unlikely to emerge".

"While greens may not merely seek redress of particular grievances but to create more fundamental transformation, without such concrete grievances or 'mobilisation targets' a green political critique may appear too diffuse and abstract to allow movement mobilisation. Such 'targets' act as symbols or points at which particular concerns collect together to reach a threshold where protest may occur."

"Interview accounts suggest that the initial 'cost' of participation in direct action was perceived to be low, while the 'benefits' in terms of direct disruption, media attention, self-empowerment and solidarity creation were correspondingly high... the lack of facilitation [government responsiveness] and the absence of severe repression meant that EF! (UK) found it easier to raise fundamentalist demands."

Jonathan Purkis, Daring to dream: idealism in the philosophy, organisation and campaigning strategies of Earth First! In 'To Make Another World: Studies in Protest and Collective Action', Barker & Kennedy, 1996. This article begins by describing an 'ethical shoplift' of mahogany, then uses that to explore idealism in EF! in three ways: philosophy, organisation and campaigning strategy. Purkis argues that EF! are novel in taking the 'problem' into the offices, shops and places which are usually separated from politics and struggle.

"whilst EF! as a group may concentrate on

the most obviously 'criminal' companies, in their literature they may well also identify other 'suspicious' organisations and in their everyday lives activists usually monitor their own consumption patterns using ecological and other criteria. Consequently we can see a politicisation of everyday life and the emergence of a ecological notion of the 'personal as political' ... when this new sensibility is linked to direct action, it is possible to see a dual type of resistance - both symbolic and economic - to the prevailing economic and political culture, on a local and a global basis."

"although EF! are being idealistic in their long term vision of a society adhering to some of the principles of Social Ecology, in their day to day activism they show a pragmatism and a reflexivity of purpose as to what is feasible."

Alex Plows, Earth First! Defending Mother Earth, direct-style. In George McKay's 'DIY Culture', 1999

Speaking as an activist, Plows analyses the different ethical and political ideas of EF! in a much more thorough, if also more personal way, bearing in mind that "EF! is defined by the people who make it up at any one given time" and "ideology is autonomous, autonomy is the ideology." She argues that EF! is the opposite of a single issue campaign. "EF! aims to bring to the public's attention the 'hidden' socioeconomic/environmental costs, the knock-on effects: 'progress' can only be defined as such because *it is itself* presented and evaluated in a 'single-issue' way."

"On its Action Updates, EF! defines itself as 'a convenient banner for people who share similar philosophies to work under'. This 'similar philosophy' is an appreciation of a shared ethical/political agenda with a fundamental target: while groups tackle, for example, intensive farming, the arms trade, road-building, these are the effects of a more insidious cause - 'progress culture'. Capitalism, modernity, call it what you will - EF! challenges this dominant paradigm, the structure/values/structure spiral which promotes and perpetuates exploitative unsustainability, and terms it 'progress', 'development'."

"EF! links western 'progress' to an anthropocentric (human centred) value system. That is, society perceives itself as being separate to, and better than, nature, rather than an intrinsic part of it. EF! not only challenges this anthropomorphic value-system with direct action, but posits an alternative, holistic ethic as a replacement."



EF! CONTACTS NOVEMBER '99

ACTION GROUPS		PROPAGANDA		PROTEST CAMPS		INTERNATIONAL	
Arun Valley EF! c/o 10 Albert Road Littlehampton W. Sussex BN14 6EN 01903 721615 arunef!@radicalfluff.demon.co.uk	Bath EF! c/o PO Box 426, Bath Somerset BA1 2ZD	Nottingham EF! c/o The Rainbow Ctr. 182 Mansfield Road Nottingham NG1 3HW 0115 958 5666	Blatant Incitement Project (outreach & small group support) c/o Mane. EF! doinit@nematode.freeserve.co.uk	Advisory Service for Squatters 2 Saint Pauls Road London N1 2QN 0171 359 8814 advice@squat.freeserve.co.uk	Hunt Saboteurs Assoc. PO Box 2786 Brighton BN2 2AX 01273 622827 hsa@gn.apc.org	Avon Ring Road Protest Camp c/o 84 Colston Street Bristol BS1 5BB 0797 999 0389	An Talamh Glas 4 Ashgrove, Seacrest Knocknacarra, Eire roberta@indigo.ie
Bristol EF! c/o Box 51 Greenleaf Bookshop 82 Colston Street Bristol BS1 5BB 0117 939 3093	Cambridge EF! Box E, 12 Mill Road Cambridge CB1 2AD	Oldham EF! PO Box 127 OLDHAM OL4 3FE	EF! Winter Moot wintermoot@yahoo.com	KEF Supporters Group BCM Box 1160 London WC1N 3XX 1003021616@compuserve.com	Friends of MOVE PO Box 14129 London W12 8GR	Birmingham Northern Relief Road 07931 161 761	A SEED Europe PO Box 92066, 1090 AB Amsterdam, Netherlands +31-20 6682236 aseedeur@antenna.nl
Cheltenham EF! 16 Portland Street Cheltenham Gloucs. GL52 2PB hq@chelt-ef.freeserve.co.uk	Exeter Environ. Network PO Box 185 Exeter EX4 4EW	Reclaim the Streets PO Box 9656, London N4 4JY 0171 281 4621 rts@gn.apc.org	Spirit of Freedom (Earth Lib. Prisoners) c/o Leeds EF! earthlibprisoner@hotmail.com	Anarchist Black Cross (prisoner support) c/o PO Box 446 Sheffield S1 1NY	The Land is Ours (see Oxford EF!) 01865 432920 office@tlio.demon.co.uk	Cedar & Arthur's Woods 07775 752160, 07901 867584	Autonomous Green Action, POB 4721, Station E, Ottawa Ontario K1S 5H9 Canada soy@igs.net
Glasgow EF! PO Box 180 Glasgow G4 9AB	Guildford EF! PO Box 217 Guildford GU1 1WS fax 01483 203212	Reclaim the Valleys c/o Swansea Environment Centre Pier Street Swansea SA1 1RY	Reading Roadbusters R.I.S. Centre 35-39 London Street Reading Berkshire RG1 4PS 0118 954 6430 roadbusters@clara.net	Anarchist Communist Federation c/o 84b Whitechapel High Street London E1 7QX	Legal Defence & Monitoring Group BM Haven London WC1N 3XX 0181 5337116	Faslane Peace Camp Shandon, Helensburgh Dunbartonshire Scotland G84 8HT 01436 820 901	Autonomous Green Action, POB 4721, Station E, Ottawa Ontario K1S 5H9 Canada soy@igs.net
Gwynedd & Mon EF! The Greenhouse 1 Trevelyan Terrace Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 1AX 01248 355821 afu01b@bangor.ac.uk	Hull On Earth c/o PO Box 43 Hull HU1 1AA	Sheffield EF! c/o Brambles Resource Centre, 82 Andover St, Sheffield, S3 9EH. 0114 279 7164 jimthackery@yahoo.co.uk	Corporate Watch 16b Cherwell St. Oxford OX4 1BG 01865 791391 mail@corporatewatch.org	Anarchist-Primitivist Network PO Box 252 Rickmansworth Hertfordshire WD3 3AY	Making Waves PO Box 1377, Sheffield S36 4BZ 01226 764279 pp3mc@aol.com	Gorse Wood (anti-A170 bypass) 07957 915 977	Australian EF! AU ef_au@hotmail.com
LEAF Box Z, 13 Biddulph St. Leicester LE2 1BH 0116 210 7251	Leeds EF!, c/o CRC, 16 Sholebrooke Avenue Leeds LS7 3HB 0113 262 9365 leedsef@ukf.net	Southampton EF! SUSU Pigeonholes Southampton University University Road Southampton S014 eco@soton.ac.uk	Counter Information c/o Transmission 28 Kings Street Glasgow G1 5QP	Anti-Fascist Action BM Box 1734 London WC1N 3XX	London GreenPeace & McLibel Support Campaign 5 Caledonian Road London N1 9DX 0171 713 1269 info@mcspotlight.org	Hockley Housing (near Southend) 01702 206181/ 0831 687635	Car Busters 44 rue Bordeaux, 69001, Lyon, France +33 4 72 00 23 57 carbusters@wanadoo.fr
Liverpool EF! 96 Bold Street Liverpool L1 4HY	LuneAC (Lancaster) 01524 593878 luneac@joymail.com	South Devon EF! Birdwood House 44 High Street, Totnes Devon TQ9 5SQ	Do or Die c/o Prior House, 6 Tilbury Place, Brighton BN2 2GY doordtp@yahoo.co.uk	Anti-Quarry Action (AQUA) Kimberly Mill Park King's Steignton TQ12 3NR 01626 363844	No Opencast 190 Shepherds Bush Rd London W6 7NL 0171 603 1831	Park Nook Camp Liverpool 0403176279	Coast Mountains EF! 1472 Commercial Drive Box 128, Vancouver V5L 3X9 Canada +1 604 708 9660
Manchester EF! Dept 29 255 Wilmslow Road Manchester M14 5LW 0161 226 6814 mancef@nematode.freeserve.co.uk	Mid-Somerset EF! PO Box 23, 5 High St. Glastonbury, Somerset BA6 9PU	TAP (Tyndeside Action for People & Planet) PO Box ITA Newcastle Upon Tyne NE1 1TA tapp@newcastle54.freeserve.co.uk	Green Anarchist BCM1715 London WC1N 3XX	Campaign Legal Group (self-training) 43 Swan Meadow Road Poolstock Wigan WN3 5BJ 01942 513792	The Rational Trust, (Wilts, greenfields) c/o 21 Beaulieu Close, Swindon, SN5 8AQ 0788 0592370 / 0836 743581	Pressmennan Woods Camp c/o 7 Pitcox, Dunbar, EH42 1RQ 01368 850630	Czech Republic EF! Zeme predevsim! PO Box 237, 16041 Prague 6, Czech Rep. zemepredevsim@ecn.cz
Norfolk EF! Norwich Direct Action Forum PO Box 487 Norwich NR2 3AL 07931 308091 Directactionforum@egroups.com	Wolves Eco Action c/o Wolves Hunt Sabs Wolves Uni SU Wulfruna Street Wolverhampton WV1 1LY	Warwick EF! c/o Green Society Warwick Uni SU Coventry CV4 7AL suoad@csv.warwick.ac.uk	I-Contact video network 76 Mina Road, Bristol BS2 9TX, 0117 914 0188 i-contact@videonetwork.org	Disabled Action Network 3 Crawley Road Wood Green, London N22 6AN 0181 8891361	Solidarity Federation PO Vbox 29, SW PDO, Manchester, M15 5HW 0161 232 7889	Open 2-8pm Thurs & Fri	Finland EF! Viivinkatu 17 AS 17 33610 Tampere 61 Finland ransu@sci.fi
SUPPORT GROUPS	Anarchist Teapot Action Kitchen, Box B Public House Bookshop 21 Little Preston Street Brighton BN1 2HQ	York EF! c/o York LEAF PO Box 323, York	Peace News 5 Caledonian Road London N1 9DY	Earth Circus Network CREATE Centre Smeaton Road, Bristol BS1 6XN 0117 925 0505	Schnews & Justice? PO Box 2600, Brighton, E. Sussex BN2 2DX 01273 685913	Autonomous Centre of Edinburgh 17 West Montgomery Place, Edinburgh EH7 5HA 0131 557 6242	Finland EF! Umweltprojektwerkstatt Yorkstrasse 59 HH 10965 Berlin, Germany +49 (0) 30 78913144 umpruwe@jpbberlin.berlinet.de
OTHER CONTACTS	Undercurrents 16b Cherwell St, Oxford, OX4 1BG 01865 203662 underc@gn.apc.org	Smash Hits BM Box 5538 London WC1N 3XX	West Country Activist c/o PO Box 478 Taunton TA2 7YR wca@conk.com	Forest Action Network (as for Norfolk EF!) 01603 611953 fanuk@envirolink.org	Genetic Engineering Network (GEN) (as for RTS) 0181 374 9516 genetics@gn.apc.org	Citizen Smith Old Community Centre 161 College Road Kensal Green, London NW10 3PH 07931 980534. citizensmithuk@hotmail.com	Groene Front! Postbus 85069, 3058 AB Utrecht, Netherlands groenfr@dds.nl
PROTEST CAMPS	Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp (alternative weekends) 33 Heron Road Bristol BS5 0LT 0117 939 3746/ 01703 554434	GenetiX Snowball (open crop removal) One World Centre 6 Mount Street Manchester M2 5NS 0161 834 0295 genetixsnowball@onet.co.uk	Green Anarchist Network BCM 1715 LONDON WC1N 3XX	URGENT (greenfield housing network) Box HN, 111 Magdalen Road, Oxford OX4 1RQ 01865 794 800 info@urgent.org	Trident Ploughshares 2000 (anti-nuke direct disarmament) (see Norfolk EF!) 01603 611953 reforest@gn.apc.org	Kebele Community Ctr 14 Robertson Road Eastville Bristol BS5 6JY 0117 939 9469 kebele@marsbard.com	Poland EF! PO Box 40, 43-304 Bielsko-Biala 4 Poland +48-33 183153 wapienica@pnrwi.most.org.pl

Action Groups are local EF! contacts. Some of them are active groups, some of them are aspiring towards this but need more people to get in touch. Some are just people who will know what is going on direct action wise in their area. The **Propaganda** section lists non-EF! publications which we think are worth reading. **International Contacts** are entry points into that country's own network of groups. **Other Contacts** are ones whose aims and principles we agree with fully or in part, or groups that we think may be of use or interest to people. For groups web addresses visit www.k2net.co.uk/ef/ **New additions and alterations are shown in bold**

PROTEST CAMPS ROUND-UP

Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp

The 'Exposing The Nuclear Chain' November camp featured workshops on the plutonium piling up in Britain, nuclear materials convoys and Women's Aid to Former Yugoslavia. There was also a successful workshop on climbing gates, sparklers, fire breathing and tricks! On Sunday there was a Women in Black Remembrance Day Vigil at the main AWE gate. Next Camp: Friday Dec 10th (evening) to Sunday 14th (noon)

Gorse Wood

Schnews reports that protestors won second prize in a best tomato competition in their local village horticultural show, and also second in the flower arranging section - by putting some sunflowers in a smelly old parabol! (ok so there was only three entries). Gorse Wood are asking for solidarity actions against the developers Laing.

Hockley Woods

The repossession hearing at Hockley Wood near Southend, was on the 23th November and although they did not win they were granted a reprieve of a couple of weeks. Protesters want to launch a private prosecution against English Nature for negligence so they really need sponsors for this. Concrete and people also needed on site.

Lyming Forest, Kent

Everything is quiet, and the share prices of Rank developers are plummeting downhill. If Rank pull out, however, the local councils are so gung-ho about developing that another developer might replace them.

Park Nook, Liverpool

The situation is stable (hooray!) pending a 'Town Green Application' to be designated as public green space. Any clearance work could even be prosecuted for public nuisance!

Another campaign is about to kick off at Sefton Park, however, where proposals to 'restore' it to its Victorian stage would involve removing over 100 trees. Local concerns are rising, and the consultation period starts in January. To keep up to date, get the 'Liverpool Eco' from usual outlets or Liverpool EF!

Pressmennan Woods, Dunbar, Scotland

100 trees were felled in the early hours of 9th November, since when a protest camp has been set up. Numbers are low, and more bodies are really welcome. Crash spacers available. 200 more trees are under threat this winter,

Hillgrove Prisoners: Five people have been given custodial sentences for 'violent disorder' at Hillgrove Farm cat breeders.

Andrew Warley, William Dale and Guy Rees are all at HMP Birmingham, Winson Green Rd, B'ham, B18 4AS. They may well be moved as it is a dispersal prison.

Anne-Marie Moynihan, HMP Brockhill, Redditch, Worcs, B97 6RD. Adam Marshall, WOI&RC Brinsford, New Rd, Featherstone, Wolverhampton, WV10 7PY.

Prison numbers currently unknown.

Remember! Don't over indulge this Christmas & New Year, Give your money & Goodies to us instead. The action update relies on your help!

FASLANE UPDATE

At the 'Torch Trident' party and actions on 5th November, there was a beautiful sunny day. A tripod was set up to block the South Gate road, while the North Gate was also blocked by 2 people locking on to one of the base buses. Music played, a picnic was had under the tripod and the base traffic was blocked for about 3 hours. There were 14 arrested and held in until Monday.

Trident Ploughshares activists gathered for a weekend disarmament camp at Coulport on 15th November Trident Ploughshares 'Crimestoppers' prevented workers entering Coulport for over an hour. There were 13 arrests, mostly for Breach of the Peace.

Meanwhile in late November the convoy of trucks which transport nuclear warheads between Coulport and Reading was stopped for 23 minutes at Balloch roundabout. One person locked on while a ranting priest climbed on top and warned the world about the dangers of nuclear weapons. The Grim Reaper, who also attended, reports that there were 8 arrests.

S.O.S Itoiz

Suspended 125 metres above London on the Millennium Wheel, the latest action of the Solidari@s con Itoiz began their European Tour. Now they are asking for help from groups all over Europe. The S.O.S Itoiz Tour aims to denounce the dam and the five-year prison sentence eight of their members received for a non-violent, accountable action against the construction of the dam. For the coming months they will travel throughout Europe spreading information and building resistance to the Itoiz dam. Solidarios@ythis.zzn.com
Or call +31 20 668 2236

NARMADA UK

On 8th November, 40 Narmada UK activists marched from Covent Garden to the Indian Embassy in London, to protest against the continuation of work on the mega dams on the Narmada river which will destroy the homes and livelihoods of thousands of tribals in India. They constructed a model dam outside the Indian Embassy.
Contact: NarmadaUK@yahoo.com

Action Diary

DECEMBER

10-14 Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp

11-12 Wintermoot general and agenda meetings. Manchester. 0161 2266814

12 Cannabis Consultation Conference, 1.30 - 5pm. Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, London. Stalls, speakers etc..

13 'Cultures of Resistance' party and exhibition all week. Celebrating D1Y protest, sex and art. London. 0958 765151 or rachred57@hotmail.com

21/22 WINTER SOLSTICE/FULL MOON GATHERING, St. CATHERINE'S HILL, TWYFORD DOWN, WINCHESTER.

Seven Years since YELLOW WEDNESDAY

Seven Years of PROTEST

Seven Years?!

LET'S PARTY!!!

Bring friends, yurts, cakes and merriment.
01248 750539

25. Bernard Matthews Picnic. Contact W. Norfolk Animal Rights: 01553617521

26. Anti-Hunt demonstrations. Contact: 01273 622827

31. Fuck Up the Millennium Celebrations. Everywhere.

JANUARY

22 Bloody Sunday March. Assemble 12 noon, Whitehall Place nr. Charing Cross and Embankment Tube. Contact: 0181 4428778

FEBRUARY

14 Trident Ploughshares blockade of Faslane

18 Critical Mass in Derby.

APRIL 28 - MAY 1

Mayday 2000 Festival of Anarchist Ideas and Action. BM MayDay, London, WC1N 3XX
www.freespeech.org/mayday2k

Prisoners

J18 Prisoners:

Onorio Lo-verso, TC3014, HMYOI Raleigh House, Portland, Dorset DT5 1DL. Please write in Italian if poss.

Sean Brown, BP5610, HMYOI Huntercombe, Henley on Thames, Oxon, RG9 5FB. Mark Leighton, SB4402, HMYOI Feltam, Bedford Road, Feltham, Middlesex TW13 4nd.

Adam Rowley, FB4126, HMYOI Dover, Western Heights, Kent CT17 7DR.

Darren Sole CW 9599, HMP Wandsworth, P.O. Box 757, Heathfield Rd, London SW18 3HF

Robert Lee Thaxton, #12112716, OSP 2605 State Street, Salem OR 97310, USA

He can only receive had written letters in clean and unused envelopes.

CAMPSFIELD 6TH ANNIVERSARY

Three hundred people, from Kent, Bristol, Bradford, Leeds, Coventry, Birmingham, Brighton and London, marked the sixth anniversary of the opening of Campsfield Immigrant Detention Centre. They were hassled by the police all day, with every protester photographed and videoed by the police.

Campsfield is surrounded by a 20 foot high, half inch thick metal wall. Protesters were banging on this with their hands to let the refugees in the camp know they were there. Police decided this was causing "criminal damage" to the fence and ordered the protesters to desist. This only encouraged people to bang even harder. Next police charged the demonstrators and began pulling people away from the fence dragging them through a hedgerow and physically throwing them into the field adjacent to the camp. A line of police was then put on the fence to keep protesters away.

Demonstrators let off multicoloured helium balloons that tangled above the 20 foot high fence, their strings caught on the razor wire. Paper planes flew over carrying messages of support in many different languages to the detainees. Protesters played drums, flutes, guitars and makeshift drums with pots and pans.

Group 4, who run Campsfield for the Immigration Service, were clearly nervous of the protest. Bolts along the fence had been welded solid. Detainees were locked indoors until the demonstration finished. At the end of the demo protesters agreed to continue opposition against existing detention centres Campsfield (Oxfordshire), Harmondsworth (Heathrow), Tinsley (Gatwick), Haslar (Portsmouth), Rochester Prison (Kent) and against the new detention centres planned at Oakington (Cambridgeshire), and Aldington (Kent).

Contact: National Coalition of Anti-Deportation Campaigns (NCADC,) 110 Hamstead Road, Birmingham B20 2QS. 0121-554-6947, ncadc@ncadc.demon.co.uk
Also: CAGE c/o Notts EF!

FREE MUMIA DEMO's

Demo's took place across the world when black activist Mumia Abu Jamal's death warrant was signed. He is now expected to appear in court for his appeal in March after both sides have presented their cases in writing. After that it is a question of whether the judge decides to hear the new evidence that was not available, or not presented, in the original trial, or simply to rule on the basis of the existing transcripts. The death warrant hangs over the proceedings and Mumia's life is still in grave danger.

Bristol

The Bristol Free Mumia group organised a public meeting, daily leafletting and a demo, plus a benefit gig on Friday 19th Nov. The leafletting happened outside the Disney shop, because the American companies are accomplices in this injustice. Some activists also discouraged potential Disney customers to buy from them. At the 6th November demo, about 50 people turned up. They carried placards with the text "Mumia must live!" and banners. Shouts demanding Justice and freedom for Mumia happened along the march. The most attractive thing of the demo was the performance of three activists as Mme Justice and the 'men in black'. This was a parody of Justice being under the control of some real dodgy geezers. It grabbed the attention of the Saturday shoppers and the activists ended up performing the sinister chasing of Justice for more than an hour (as a result the Mme Justice has lost her voice...), making the coppers lose their temper with so much running up and down.

Bristol has also hosted an Exhibition: 'Art for Mumia', while Interference FM broadcasted Mumia's spoken word together with relevant music.

Contact us at: EF!AU, P.O. Box 1TA
Newcastle-Upon-Tyne NE99 1TA
0797 4791841
<actionupdate@gn.apc.org>
www.eco-action.org/efau
Subscribe to email edition for free.

Edinburgh

25-30 people held a successful picket of US-owned businesses McDonalds and American Express in support of Mumia on Sat 6th November in Princes St. The American Express window was decorated with posters. Small groups entered McDonalds and American Express and leafleted workers and customers inside. The police came and took everyone's names, but there were no arrests.

Liverpool

On Thursday 25th November there was a Street Protest in Liverpool sponsored by the local Trades Council, UNISON branch, Green Party, Catholic Worker and various socialist groups.

London

Over 150 people gathered in Trafalgar Square on Saturday 6 November and moved on to hold a rally in Hanover Square, home to US magazine Vanity Fair and TV company ABC, both of which have contributed to the vicious campaign to kill Mumia. Mumia Must Live! BM Haven, London WC1N 3XX www.callnetuk.com/home/mumia

U'WA COMMUNIQUE

"Approximately 200 members of the U'wa indigenous tribe of northeastern Colombia assembled in a permanent settlement on part of our ancestral land [on] November 16. This area.. is the site where the multinational company Occidental Petroleum (Oxy) wants to drill the oil well 'Gibraltar 1,'.. which threatens life and our ancient culture. With this permanent presence and with the support of the local farmers.. we are claiming our ancestral and constitutional rights to life and to our traditional territory.. We U'wa people are willing to give our lives to defend Mother Earth from this project which will annihilate our culture, destroy nature, and upset the world's equilibrium.. we ask people around the world who value the Earth and indigenous peoples to speak out against the multinational oil company Oxy through protests, letters and other actions of solidarity."
www.ran.org

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