Iceland:
Summer of Dissent

In Iceland a summer of dissent against heavy industry and large dams has begun. In a much disputed masterplan, all the glacial rivers and geothermal potential of the largest wilderness of Europe would be harnessed for aluminium production. This is already resulting in large scale destruction of pristine areas of Iceland.

For the third year running activists from around the world including many from the UK gathered to protect Europe’s largest remaining wilderness and oppose Rio Tinto/ALCAN, ALCOA, Century/RUSAL and other transnational companies. Lots and lots of successful direct action has been happening – here is just a selection:

On 19th July Saving Iceland closed the single supply road from Highway 1 to the Century/Nordural smelter on Hvalfjordur and the steel factory Elkem – Icelandic Alloys. Activists used lock-ons (metal arm tubes) to form a human blockade on the road and occupied a construction site crane.

20th July - 25 protestors went into Reykjavik Energy (OR) and hung up a banner inside stating: ‘Reykjavik Arms-dealers’ to highlight the sale of energy to companies involved in arms production and serious human rights violations. Protesters stayed in the building for an hour.

The same morning the Icelandic embassy on Queen St, Edinburgh was targeted by members of Saving Iceland. Paint was thrown on the building, the lock was glued and a message was affixed to the exterior reading “The Whole World is Watching”. “Iceland Bleeds” was also painted on the steps. The action served as a response to recent acts of police brutality against Saving Iceland activists in Reykjavik who continue to oppose the assault on the Icelandic wilderness by heavy industry.

24th July 20 Protesters lock their arms in metal tubes and climbed onto cranes on RioTinto's Straumsvik smelter in South-West Iceland.

26th July Blockade of Hellisheidi Power Station - activists locked on to different vehicles and one climbed a crane on the worksite and unfurled a gigantic banner: "STOP PRODUCING ENERGY FOR WEAPONS".

For more info and amazing images of Iceland check out www.savingiceland.org
Britain GM free again!
After three years of no GM crops being grown in the UK, BASF announced two test sites for GM potatoes this year - in Hull and Cambridge. This testing of the waters was followed by swift action locally and nationally.

One down...
Over 100 people followed the rallying cry for a protest and picnic at the Hull site in April. Just weeks later BASF announced that following extensive local and national resistance, they would not be conducting a GM potato trial in Yorkshire this year, but that they may have another go next year.

Sorted!
Not to be outdone by their northern friends, on the night of 30th June protestors destroyed the GM trial in Cambridgeshire. Campaigners scaled a fence to enter a field between Girton and Histon and pulled up all of the crop. This action follows a series of protests at the site. The previous Sunday saw a march on the field where the protestors faced overwhelming numbers of police and two participants were arrested.

B.A.S.F. has now stepped up security at the site and have obtained an injunction banning people from the field.

E$$O Pipeline Protests
With the gas pipeline converging on two fronts the protest tree camp in the Brecon Beacons has just been served with an eviction notice and are now on high alert for eviction. Activists are now dug-in and locked-on up trees with support from local people, ready to resist. They need your support. If you can get down there, ring the camp hotline on 07917383517, or email bristol@risingtide.org.uk

For more info on E$$O's pipeline www.fightthepipe.co.uk

London E$$O station blockaded
On 8th June red nosed clowns and E$$O tigers blockaded an E$$O station in West London for over two hours to highlight ExxonMobil/E$$O's role in bankrolling climate chaos. E$$O's support for the Liquid Natural Gas pipeline is paving the way for new Gas Fired power stations, locking us into another 30 years with these emission-spouting beasts. The blockade went on for over two hours and activists handing out leaflets got a positive reaction from most people, including car drivers.

norwich@risingtide.org.uk

Norwich petrol station shut down
Twelve activists from Norwich Rising Tide shut down a Jet petrol station during rush hour as part of the International Day of action against climate change and the G8 on 8th June. Despite a police presence when they arrived, the activists stretched banners across all three entrances, stopping vehicles from filling up. While blockading the pumps they handed out leaflets pointing out the inability of G8 leaders to truly tackle climate change and showing up the G8’s so-called climate deal for the sham that it really is.

Climate activist super-glued to door
An environmental activist was so enraged that lastminute.com continue to push short haul flights whilst knowing the damage they do to the climate that she super-glued herself to the front door of the company's London HQ. The woman, a member of climate action group Plane Stupid, superglued her hands to the front doors of the building - blocking staff from entering their offices as part of the G8 climate action day. She said, “Whilst G8 leaders have simply caved in to the demands of their respective airlines to fly, I choose not to fly next time, and a banner with the slogan “Let’s fry” was released in the departure lounge where it floated to the ceiling carried by helium-filled balloons. This was part of a day of action against short haul flights called for by Airport Watch and demos took place at airports across the UK and Europe.

Free train tickets at airports across the UK
On 19th June impromptu ticket exchange booths popped up in airports across the UK. Greenpeace volunteers at the booths explained to passengers about to take domestic flights that flying causes 10 times more damage to the climate than taking the train - and then offered to exchange their plane tickets for climate friendly train tickets instead!

Happy Birthday Camp Titnore!
After years of local campaigning failed to persuade Worthing Borough Council to oppose the development, people saw direct action as the only way to continue the fight.

They didn’t really think the camp had any chance of lasting more than a few days, or weeks at the most. And when the landowners won possession in the High Court in London in August, everyone was braced for an eviction, but it didn’t happen.

The landowners, and potential developers, hoped the protesters would all melt (or freeze) away, during the winter, but they didn’t.

The fact that the camp is still up and running is testament to the battling, never-say-die attitude of all those involved.

But now there is a need for more people to lend a hand and get involved, to ensure that the camp is still there, resisting this development, in another year’s time.


Oil Barons Fooled
14th June saw pranksters the “Yes Men” pose as ExxonMobil and National Petroleum Council (NPC) representatives and deliver the keynote speech to 300 oil bosses at GO-EXPO, Canada’s largest oil conference, held in Calgary, Alberta.

In the speech, the "NPC rep" announced that current U.S. and Canadian energy policies are increasing the chances of huge global calamities. But he reassured the audience that in the worst case scenario, the oil industry could “keep fuel flowing” by transforming the billions of people who die into oil.

“We need something like whales, but...
in infinitely more abundant," said "NPC rep" "Shepard Wolff" before describing
the technology used to render human flesh into a new Exxon oil product called
Vivoleum. 3-D animations of the process
brought it to life. "Vivoleum works in
perfect sympathy with the continued
expansion of fossil fuel production," noted "Exxon rep" "Florian Osenberg".
"With more fossil fuels comes a greater
chance of disaster, but that means more
feedstock for Vivoleum. Fuel will
continue to flow for those of us left."
The oil bosses listened to the lecture with
attention, and then lit "commemorative candles" supposedly made of Vivoleum
obtained from the flesh of an "Exxon
janitor" who died as a result of cleaning
up a toxic spill. The audience only
reacted when the janitor, in a video
tribute, announced that he wished to be
transformed into candles after his death,
and all became crystal-clear.

Tesco Blockade in
Porthmadog
On 14th July activists blockaded Tesco in
Porthmadog, Wales. The action was to
protest about Tesco's destruction of small
local shops and businesses as well as
their token use of Welsh on signs in their
stores and their link to Adecco
recruitment agency who recently banned
their staff from speaking Welsh. The
activists blocked the entrance and put up
posters announcing that the store was
shut.

Work stopped at Tara
On the 18th July activists protesting the
building of the M3 motorway near the
Hill of Tara in Co Meath stopped
construction on the site. Protesters
climbed on top of construction vehicles
and stood in the way of moving
machinery in an effort to prevent work on
the route of road. People also tried to stop
construction workers from entering the
Soldier Hill archaeological site on the
Hill. 7 campaigners were arrested for
blocking traffic, even though they weren't
on the road when protesting!
The Hill of Tara is still to be won but
there is not much time. Get down there
now with camp tat like rope; tarps; food
etc. Contact Vigil phone number 086-
1758557

Mobile phone masts
destroyed by tank
On the 15th July a man used a tank to
demolish six mobile phone towers in
Sydney, Australia. After taking the tank
the man toured six Sydney suburbs and
managed to ram the tank through fences
and into six mobile phone towers,
telecommunication relay sheds and an
electrical substation - all in just two
hours! The damage caused major
disruptions to mobile phone services in
parts of Sydney. More than 20 police
started chasing the tank before realising
they couldn't stop it and running away to
a safe distance to watch.

West London residents
stop traffic outside DfT
On the 20th June West London residents
protesting against Heathrow expansion
plans stopped traffic outside the
Department for Transport offices before
trying to invade the building.
After discovering that the DfT had
secretly passed key information
supporting expansion of Heathrow to
BAA the protesters decided to carry a
bed with the slogan “DfT in bed with
BAA” to the DfT offices.
A dozen residents halted the traffic
and painted a runway on the road before
leaving the bed outside the building.
Earlier in the year the residents, who are
working with Plane Stupid activists,
invased Chatham House and disrupted a
speech by Transport Secretary Douglas
Alexander.

Dutch Earth First!
Defeats NATO!
For two years GroenFront! (Dutch &
Belgian EarthFirst!) have been fighting
with the local community in Schinveld,
in the South-east of the country, to
preserve a forest that would be destroyed
for the sake of the NATO air force base
across the German border. The new base
is planned to allow AWACS radar planes
to lift off with more fuel in order to fly
directly to Afghanistan and Iraq.
A direct action camp was evicted in
January, and 15 acres were destroyed, but
35 acres saved. GroenFront! was
preparing to reoccupy the woods awaiting
the final outcome of a legal battle
between the local council and national
government, but now to great surprise,
the protesters have been vindicated and
the forests are definitely saved from
NATO's bloody claws.
On 18th July the highest court in the
Netherlands ruled that the logging of
Schiveld forest is illegal and therefore
must be stopped. www.groenfront.nl

Protest at weapons
manufacturers HQ
On 24th July about 30-40 people
gathered at the Nottingham UK
headquarters of Heckler & Koch, the
world's second-largest manufacturer of
handguns, assault rifles, submachine
guns, machine guns and grenade
launchers.
It was recently found out that their HQ
is based on an industrial estate in
Lenton, Nottingham so some people
decided to pay them a visit.
There were about the same amount of
police officers as protesters, in an
attempt to keep them off the actual
estate where the company is based.

Diary Dates
24th-26th August - Dutch EF!
gathering.
Workshops and discussions eg the
five coal-fired power stations
planned to be built in the
Netherlands, current campaigns,
climate neutral squatting, DIY
windmills, economic shrink and
much more! www.groenfront.nl

19th-24th September - Gatwick
No Border Camp 2007
The first No Border Camp in the
UK will be a chance to work
together to try and stop the
building of a new detention centre,
and to gather ideas for how to
build the fight against the system
of migration controls.
www.noborder.org
Palestinian Flag Hoisted at Agrexco

A Palestinian flag fluttered over the Agrexco Carmel depot in Hayes, Middlesex, for a few hours on the afternoon of Sunday 15th July. Activists entered the Israeli, 50% state-owned fresh produce importer's premises shortly after 1pm. The action is part of an ongoing campaign against the company which is the major distributor for settlement produce. After replacing the Israeli and British flags, the activists entered the warehouse and conducted a brief inspection before some of the group D-locked themselves to a storage trailer. After disrupting business for about 3.5 hours, the group left voluntarily without any arrests.

Latest from Co. Mayo

This summer has seen the Shell to Sea campaign gain increasing momentum as construction of the proposed onshore gas refinery in County Mayo, Ireland begins. Resistance was stepped up following a jail sentence given to three local fishermen accused of assaulting Gardai (Police) during a Shell to Sea picket last year. In a show of strength on 12th July people came to show their solidarity to the men and to their resolute opposition to Shell's project. The following day a local resident and someone from the solidarity camp locked on to a car, blocking a bridge on the way to the refinery site. They remained locked on for six hours, supported by forty protesters (held behind police lines) whilst others set up spontaneous blockades on alternative routes to the site. Construction lorries returned to their quarries with full loads. In the evening one hundred cars met the three fishermen who had been granted bail that morning. Around one hundred protesters entered and marched around the site for about twenty minutes. Taking control of the site was a fitting end to a highly successful day.


Siberian protest camp against uranium plant attacked by nazis

Early morning 21st July, neo-nazi skinheads launched a vicious and unprovoked attack on an anti-nuclear protest camp in Angarsk, Siberia, Russia. The nazis violently attacked activists in their sleeping bags and tents with iron rods, knives and air pressure guns. Ilya Borodaenko suffered a head-fracture during the attack and later died in hospital from his injuries. At least nine others have been reported to be seriously injured, one of which has had both their legs broken. Tents were set on fire and several belongings were stolen. The camp started last week and is aimed at protesting against a planned centre of uranium enrichment in Angarsk. Ever since the arrival of the activists, the police have tried to intimidate them and have entered the camp in an attempt to gather information about planned actions. The organisation who planned the camp, the 'Ecological Wave of Baikal', had planned various rallies in the surrounding area to inform locals about the plans and their aims.

Financial help and other forms of solidarity are urgently needed. Contact xmakimax@gmail.com or ogopogos@gmail.com if you are able to offer support.

EF! Gathering report

This year's EF! summer gathering took place on a beautiful site, converting many to the wonders of Norfolk - trees, green woodpeckers, at least 3 types of horsefly, and even some undulations! Local history includes the longest strike in history at Burston. The area was also a centre for rural rebellions like the Swing Riots and the tearing down of fences around common land by peasants (not to mention Boudicce...). Much of the focus this year at the gathering was of course around climate chaos, and in particular much plotting and planning was done for the Camp for Climate Action. Hopefully as you read this those discussions are bearing fruit! There were lots workshops on practical skills: from tool sharpening, through blockades, climbing, night navigation, researching corporations, arrest role-plays, conflict resolution to squatting & squat electrics – these were much appreciated, as were workshops ranging from Iceland, nukes, aviation & other climate chaos, Palestine, arms trade, anti-fascism, No Borders, roads & other protest camps, to travellers & resistance against genetics. There was the same good mix we've seen for the last 3 or 4 years of old hands and younger enthusiasm, with people getting involved in new EF! groups, campaigns and next year's gathering collective and a relaunch of the EF! Action Update. Hoorah! The atmosphere was enjoyable, productive and supportive. See you all next year for more fun and plotting.

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