



## about us



### WEEK OF ACTION

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2014**

Anarchist Action Network bloc on Mass march against NATO

**Sunday:**

Day of action and workshops on Drones

**Monday:**

Day of action on Austerity, Benefit cuts and evictions

**Tuesday:**

Day of action against racism, prisons and borders

**Weds:**

Direct action skillshare day in Newport.

**Thurs:**

Day of mass Action to disrupt the NATO summit

**Fri:**

Day of affinity group actions against capitalism, the state and NATO -  
Get together with your mates and organise your own action

Benefit gigs and socials throughout week

## HOW WE CAME TOGETHER

Anarchist Action Network is made up of autonomous groups and individuals that originally came together to support the London mobilisation against the last G8 summit (known at that time as "StopG8"), as well as to reinvigorate the anti-capitalist movement in the UK. Groups that have joined the network include South Wales Anarchists, Sussex Anarchists, Bristol Against the Arms Trade, Fitwatch, Smash EDO and Disarm DSEI. This year the network was joined by Stop NATO Cymru, a Welsh group initiated by local activists to mobilise against the forthcoming NATO summit.

## OUR AGREED PRINCIPLES

The Anarchist Action Network has agreed some basic principles and objectives for our work.

We have adopted the PGA Hallmarks:

1. A very clear rejection of capitalism, imperialism and feudalism; all trade agreements, institutions and governments that promote destructive globalization.
2. We reject all forms and systems of domination and discrimination including, but not limited to, patriarchy, racism and religious fundamentalism of all creeds. We embrace the full dignity of all human beings.
3. A confrontational attitude, since we do not think that lobbying can have a major impact in such biased and undemocratic organisations, in which transnational capital is the only real policy-maker.
4. A call to direct action and civil disobedience, support for social movements' struggles, advocating forms of resistance which maximize respect for life and oppressed peoples' rights, as well as the construction of local alternatives to global capitalism.
5. An organisational philosophy based on decentralisation and autonomy.

**WE HAVE ALSO AGREED A FEW ADDITIONAL PRINCIPLES. THESE ARE IN LINE WITH THE IDEAS OF THE PGA HALLMARKS, BUT MAKE A FEW POINTS MORE EXPLICIT FOR OUR NETWORK:**

- We are openly anti-capitalist.
- We aim to make decisions by consensus.
- We respect a diversity of tactics.

You can read more about this on our website



Between Saturday August 30 and Friday September 5 the leader of the so-called North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) countries will be inflicting themselves on Newport- a little town in South Wales. Hiding themselves behind a wall of their thugs.

According to the government's websites:

"During working sessions at the Celtic Manor and more informal events in Cardiff, world leaders will look to address issues which threaten NATO countries' national security, from fragile states to piracy, from terrorism to cyber attacks."

Back in the real world NATO is pouring its forces into East European countries in its continuing push-back of Russia. Whatever you think of Putin, the NATO agenda is definitely not about justice and freedom for Ukrainians. The EU didn't hand £16billion to the Kiev government out of the goodness of its heart. It was conditional on the kind of economic privatisations that have made a wasteland of Greece.

Then there's Syria. Not so long ago plans to invade Syria ground to a halt. The continuing lesson of Iraq was too recent- not to mention the disintegration of Libya following NATO bombing. Not so many months later a new state- run by extreme fundamentalist Salafist ISIS - spread across both countries. The Saudis funded ISIS and similar groups as they deliberately triggered the Shia/Sunni war across the Middle East to destroy the Arab Spring. Have they lost control? .

No doubt the West will continue pumping in weapons and hoping they end up in the "right" place. NATO leaders initially were loud in their verbal support of the Arab Spring. The reality proves the opposite.

NATO supported assorted military dictatorships in Turkey- and then Erdogan's deepening repression. Having supported two military coups in Greece it won't flinch if there's a third to "resolve" the political crisis there. And of course Mubarak and then the military coup in Egypt. NATO leaders lurch from threatening to bomb the crap out of Iran to wondering how they can confront the Salafists without upsetting their Saudi and other Gulf State funders. Having massively helped to create Islamic fundamentalism in its battle with Russia in Afghanistan you'd think it would have begun to wonder if it shouldn't leave the world alone. Some chance!

Meanwhile, not content with a thoroughly NATO active role in Somalia, the elites of the African Union is desperately increasing "cooperation"- specifically yelping for help in Nigeria.

NATO is working hand in glove with AU's armed African Standby Force across Northern Africa. Here the proxy war is against China for oil and gas, and for weapons markets also against Russia.

But NATO's reach extends beyond the areas mentioned. From the North Atlantic to the South Pacific, from Armenia to Uzbekistan, Mongolia to Canada, through its membership and assorted Partnerships. If we described everything they've been "involved" in we'd be writing a book!

**It's easy to see it all as someone else's stupidity somewhere else. But this is not some weird video game. It's thousands of real live women mutilated, raped and killed. Its children facing the same- or becoming drugged-out child soldiers. Its men doing little better. Its families fleeing their countries and drowning or being imprisoned trying to reach safety. And it's our children being used as cannon fodder in their wars.**

In fact NATO make easy to tell where their latest "intervention" by NATO and its allies is outside Europe. By the desperate refugees fleeing rape, torture and death to the unwelcoming arms of racist Europe. Afghanistan, Somalia, Syria.... Who's next?

This is about ordinary human beings being destroyed by rapacious ruling elites that don't even see anything but their own profit margin. We are in Newport to say we are not going to pretend we don't see what's happening. We are in Newport to confront these murdering scum with their crimes. Join us!

## COMING FROM OVERSEAS?

You're coming to Wales to tell NATO they're scum- great!! Information about accommodation will be available nearer the time, and from info points during the Week of Action". There will also be a map of companies etc relevant to the themed days of action. These will be released nearer the time. If you're coming from mainland Europe check out the info inside about visas, border policing etc.

## NEWPORT RISING

Stop NATO Cymru, the Anarchist Action Network and South Wales Anarchists held a weeklong 'festival of radical change' held in Newport, the location of the forthcoming NATO summit. There was a mixture of practical workshops, discussions and skillshares. Many different groups were represented and each day had a different theme, concentrating on a particular struggle including Anarchism, anti-militarism, anti-fascism and anti-borders, and resisting evictions. As a result of the week, a new Newport arm of the Network is now thriving and locals have come together to set up local claimants and housing action groups.



## ACTIVISTS BLOCKADE NATO PRE-CONFERENCE

In a joint action called by Smash EDO and Anarchist Action Network, activists blockaded a NATO pre-conference held at a stately home in the Sussex countryside. Meanwhile, banners were hung off road bridges close to the venue to greet delegates as they arrived. The "Post 2014 Strategic Narrative Conference" in March aimed to set the agenda and content for the 2014 NATO Summit. Protesters succeeded in blocking the front entrance, leading to chaotic scenes on the A283, as cars queued to get into the estate.



## LONDON MAYDAY ACTION – COPS OFF CAMPUS

In London the Anarchist Action Network joined the 'Cops Off Campus' Demo to support protests against universities minister David Willetts giving a lecture on campus. Protesters showed their anger at recent cuts to allowances for disabled students and Willett's past involvement in the tuition fee increase. During clashes with police and security staff, around 40 protesters battled to get inside the building where Willetts was speaking. A handful of students managed to enter the room where Willett's was speaking and disrupt the talk. AAN was proud to support the students in their struggle, many of us being students ourselves.



## CARDIFF MAYDAY ACTION - ANARCHISTS SHUT DOWN BARCLAYS BANK IN CARDIFF

Stop NATO Cymru formed a Radical Bloc on the Trades Council-organised May Day march, breaking from the main route to take action against the bank instead of going to listen to speeches by union officials at the Trades Council's rally. Barclays are a major investor in Exelis Inc. the parent company of the EDO Corporation which is guilty of mass-producing arms to sell to oppressive regimes, exacerbating violent conflict and suppressing legitimate protest. The bank lost a busy Saturday afternoon's profit and messages were posted outside.



If you want to join us for the Week of Action from abroad, you are very welcome! But here is some information you might find useful.



your passport and wave you through without asking questions. HOWEVER be aware that at Calais and other ferry ports vans, camper vans, minibuses, and lorries are very often checked, as the police are looking for migrants hiding in larger vehicles. They sometimes use dogs, heat and CO2 detectors and other sensing devices to check large vehicles. Also, the Eurolines coaches are very commonly stopped for immigration controls. It is possible that before large actions there will be extra tight checks at the border. If you do not want to be searched or questioned, it is a good idea to travel as inconspicuously as possible. Try to look "normal", and travel in a normal car rather than in a large group of activists on a coach. Again, it is unlikely that coaches will be turned away, but it is likely that you will be searched and asked questions.

## IF YOU ARE AN EU CITIZEN

Britain is not in the Schengen zone, so you will get stopped and asked to show your passport or ID at the border. The police have the power to search you and ask questions. However, according to experienced legal activists, it is very unlikely that you will be refused entry to the UK (unless you are very high profile). If they think that you are coming for the Summit, it is quite possible that you will be searched and asked questions, but then let through the border. In theory, the police do have the power to refuse entry to EU citizens in extreme cases, on 'public policy' grounds. They can do this if you pose 'a sufficiently serious threat to fundamental interests in society'. This can be because of serious criminal convictions, but it can also include your conduct or membership of a particular 'undesirable' group. For example, this power has been used against high profile public figures, e.g., Dutch fascist MP Geert Wilders. But legal activists say that is unlikely to be used unless you are particularly high profile: for example, if you have a particularly serious criminal record, or if there is a specific warning about you on a European police database.

## IF YOU ARE NOT AN EU CITIZEN

Rules for visas for non-EU citizens depend a lot on different countries: you need to check with the Home Office website to see what rules apply to your country. Be aware that it is easier, and fairly common, for the police / immigration officers to refuse entry if you are not an EU citizen. They are likely to ask you to explain why you are coming to the UK, and they may ask you to show that you have money to stay in the UK, that you have a place to stay, etc. If you need more specific information you can also contact us by email.

## GENERAL ADVICE

The strongest border controls are usually at airports. You are probably more likely to be checked and questioned at an airport than on the channel tunnel or at a ferry port. Ferry ports usually have the easiest controls, at least if you are coming on foot, on a bike, or in a normal car. If you cross by car on the ferry, it is very common for a guard to just take a quick look at

## SCHEDULE 7

The other thing you should be aware of is the so-called "Schedule 7" anti-terrorist law. This gives the police the right to stop and question anyone at the border, without giving you your normal rights under police questioning. That is, legally you DO have to answer their questions. They can hold you for up to 9 hours even without suspecting you of any offence. They can also take cameras, computers, and mobile phones and keep them for up to 7 days to collect information. If you refuse to answer questions, they can charge you with a criminal offence. Since October 2013 you are entitled to have a solicitor present during questioning. This law is highly controversial. It is supposed to only be used to prevent terrorism, not to gather information on protests. But the police widely abuse it to try and increase their 'intelligence'. Some activists have decided to refuse to answer questions, on the grounds that the law has not been applied properly because the questioning was not really connected to terrorism. So far the police have been reluctant to charge people who have done this, probably because they know they could be criticised in the courts for misusing these powers. But if you decide to refuse to answer questions you need to be aware that you are taking a risk.

## PROBLEMS AT THE BORDER

If you have any questions, or if you get stopped at the border and need legal advice, you can call the Green & Black Cross (GBC) legal hotline. The number is: 00 44 7946 541511. If you do get stuck at the border in France you can also contact our friends at Calais Migrant Solidarity, who can help arrange legal support in France if necessary. Their number is: 00 33 6 45 46 59 86

## USEFUL RESOURCES:

<http://greenandblackcross.org/legal>  
<http://ldmq.org.uk/>  
<http://www.freebeagles.org/>