Close all immigration prisons

Support June 24 Day of Action
Bolivian regime calls state of siege

Simone DeValle
On Wednesday 12th April the Bolivian government imposed a "State of Siege" upon the population whereby all constitutional rights were suspended, in a desperate attempt to stop a three-week-old strike movement being led by teachers, which was quickly growing into a general strike. The strike was against cuts in education, part of the government's neoliberal policies being forced upon the country due to conditions imposed by the International Monetary Fund. From the start of the strike three weeks earlier, the government had used violence and intimidation, beating demonstrators and using tear gas. The state of siege was declared when the COB (the Bolivian equivalent of the TUC) met and decided to step up the fight against the government's austerity drive. The military surrounded the meeting and arrested all those present, claiming that their decision forced the government to impose the state of siege. A local journalist called the state of siege "an arbitrary measure that reflects the government's weakness and President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada's incapacity to solve the country's social problems in a peaceful manner". The president first claimed that the siege was declared because the COB was refusing to allow the Catholic church to mediate in talks between the COB and the government, though even the Catholic church has since condemned the government's actions. Over a thousand people have been arrested, many of them are being held in the most inhospitable areas of the country, either in the freezing snow of the Andes or the sweltering heat of the forests, and are being refused visitors. As well as banning all forms of demonstrations or meetings, the government has also banned the use of cars claiming that if people want to go somewhere they can walk. If they do walk, however, they are liable to be arrested by the military if they are in a group of three or more, and a curfew has been imposed from midnight till 6am.

We're going on a summer holiday!

Kathryn Marshall
It's about time holiday package organisers woke up to the fact that no one organises a better Summer holiday for young people than those of us planning the International Youth Camp 1995. Forget the tacky 18-30 jaunts and read on!
This year's camp will take place between July 22nd and 29th in the beautiful South of France, and will cost you an attractively small £150.
You will be provided with the opportunity to meet with over a thousand young militants from all over Europe and beyond. It's a unique chance to share your experiences with others who are exactly on your wavelength.
Then there's the fantastically programmed programme of discussions, workshops and films that are laid on. Subjects up for grabs this year include women's liberation, environmental issues, racism and youth struggles right across Europe. The camp will also raise and discuss the issue of linking up European activities with the rest of the world.
As well as this, there is loads of time for relaxing and having some fun, with discos and parties organised, including a women only event.
All this for just £150 - it's an amazing deal. Last year, the camp in Tuscany was a massive success. Jake the Liberation delegation, put up the Liberation/Poster and encourage your friends to join us too! Let's make the whole thing even more massive this time round.

Environmental racism - Stop Shell!

Bala Kumar
Nigeria earns most of its wealth from the sale of oil. But oil production is also threatening the survival of the Ogoni people of southeastern Nigeria. Oil mining is dominated by western multinational companies like the Anglo-Dutch giant, Shell.
Land used for agriculture is crosed by pipelines which often leak. Oil spills onto the soil destroying crops, killing animals and fish in rivers and streams. Shell is more concerned about profits than the environment and does little to clean up its mess. Not only are the Ogoni unable to make a living but their health is endangered. In the production process gas which comes to the surface is burned away in flares. This gives off a sickening smell and poisons people giving them nausea, vomiting and worse.
Even oil rig workers complain of 'accidents' causing regular fatalities; and high lead levels in their blood from old and unsafe technology.
The Ogoni have not enjoyed much of the riches. There is no electricity, running water is scarce and there are few schools and health centres. Of course the Ogoni people have not taken the occupation of their land and the attacks on their livelihoods and lives without resisting. Ogoni youth have led demonstrations in protest against Shell and attacked their facilities. Shell has retaliated by deploying the Nigerian army to launch brutal and horrific raids on their villages, burning down homes and imprisoning hundreds of people.
Mean while British oil has come to Nigeria's military government and supports British companies whose activities are endangering the environment and peoples lives.
Ken Saro-Wiwa, a leader of the Ogoni has been imprisoned in an army camp since May last year and will shortly be brought before a military tribunal on trumped up murder charges. He has a heart condition and could die if he doesn't receive specialist medical treatment and immediate release.
The ultimate fate of the Ogoni is bound up with the anti-military democracy movement in Nigeria and the creation of a society which puts people before profits and social greed. There are many things we can do in the meantime.
We can campaign for Shell to bury all pipelines and stop gas flaring, clean up polluted areas and pay fair compensation to people affected.
There should be an international arms embargo against Nigeria and support for democratic struggles there. All political prisoners should be freed including Ken Saro-Wiwa.
Immigration controls - are they all racist?

Simon Devilie

Although today racism is usually associated with the right wing, it would be difficult for anyone to grow up in Britain without being mis-educated into some form of racism. What is important is that we are aware of this and try to do something about it. One of the most important ways that a racist consciousness is developed is through the idea that we need controls to prevent Britain being "swamped with aliens" as Margaret Thatcher put it.

Every time the government is under pressure from its own failings it resorts to wrapping itself in the union jack. To focus attention away from its own policies it points towards some kind of "foreign" threat. Britain is far from an exception to the norm since all capital governments do this.

To the shame of the Labour movement, it was the trade unions in Britain that first raised the demand for immigration controls.

They claimed that immigration was creating a pool of excess labour power that was allowing bosses to pick and choose who they employ and thus driving down wages and conditions. In a sense they were right, greater profits are to be had for the bosses when workers are forced to compete for jobs. The trade unions however played into the hands of the bosses by allowing themselves to be placed in competition with migrant workers, rather than uniting with them to fight for better conditions for all workers.

Today, the government still calls for tighter immigration controls, though now they are already far stricter than they ever have been. The last few years have seen the creation of numerous rounds of legislation both within Britain and on a European level. It has even seen the creation of immigration prisons where people aren’t even granted the rights given to convicted criminals, despite the fact that they have committed any offence. This new legislation is aimed specifically at black people. New powers of stop and search given to police allow them to harass black communities and, with the proposed introduction of ID cards you can bet your life it will be black communities who will be targeted first, in practice this will be similar to South Africa’s old “pass laws”, where black people were required to show a pass when they were in a white area, only now the “white” areas will be the whole of Europe. The response of the anti-racist movement has been sadly lacking however. The trade unions and the Labour party all support some form of immigration controls or other, and even groups such as the National Assembly Against Racism only call for an end to “racist” immigration controls. The problem with this position is that once you have accepted the idea that immigration controls of some form or another are needed, how do you have controls that aren’t racist. The answer is simple - you can’t. Consistent anti-racists must oppose all immigration controls.

German state aids repression in Turkey

George Thompson

A new youth paper is about to be launched by young revolutionary groups in the German group Avant!

They aim to attract youth into the struggle against the rise of racism and imperialism of the new German state. The German state has been financing the war that the Turkish government has been waging against the Kurdish people. Opposition members of the German Green party argue that Kohl’s conservative government is "aiding and abetting an extermination strategy" in their support for Turkey’s war against the Kurds.

In the past few years they have channelled over 3.5 billion pounds to a Turkish regime in which fascists are the strongest organisational element. To please these friends, Kohl has declared the Kurds “the enemy within” Germany, closing down their social centres and outlawing their organisation. Thousands of Kurds are facing prosecution for "campaing on with banned associations" and political exiles are being deported to face the brutal Ankara regime.

Meanwhile profits are pouring like weeds on the fields of the dead, 700 German companies are producing weapons in Turkey to kill Kurds. Turkey also has support for its repression of the Kurds from other EU leaders who recently voted to accept Turkey into the European Customs Union. These appeasers also permit the butchery in UN "safe havens" and oppose the Kurds fight to self-determination.

Internationally youth must build solidarity with the Kurds, expose our own leaders as apologists for war crimes and help liberate Kurdistan in a continuing struggle against the fascists and warmongers of capitalism.

Raze the prisons to the ground

Rod Marshall

The grotesque slaughter of Nicholas Ingram revealed the full inhumanity of a capitalist system trying to make an example of someone who had transgressed.

It isn’t even clear if Ingram committed the murder for which he was sentenced. New evidence has been revealed that suggests another person was present at the crime scene. Any further investigation will, of course, be too late for Ingram.

It is also too late to stop the attack and murder of the victims in the Ingram case. Nothing can stop the pain of grieving for people whose partners or friends have been murdered. Nothing - including the execution of the (supposed) culprit.

Society terms this justice - but it does not bring back people who have been killed. It doesn’t stop the missing of somebody who is gone. Neither does hanging up people in jail for 20, 30, 40 years. The question should be - what can stop people from committing murder?

Certainly a person who likes murdering should be kept from doing so - but such people themselves need serious psychological help - it is cheaper to leave them to rot. And for people who kill through anger - we need to understand why people, through the aching desperation of their lives sometimes lose control.

The way that society mistreats us from birth has a lot to answer for. From an early age at school you are ordered around, your freedom and expression is violated. Selfhood becomes defined in terms of competition for friendship and for the ‘rewards’ which are meted out for the completion of tasks. Enjoyment and understanding of the world becomes buried beneath the servitude towards parents, teachers, bosses.

Its not necessarily the fault of parents and teachers either - many try hard to bring up and teach children with care and compassion. But this systematic alienation of self leaves some people completely desperate for answers. For a few this pressure is manifested in an inability to cope. And why should people have to cope with long hours in a low paid job, the task of trying to bring up children, being pushed around by arrogant managers and Tory governments? But for a few this pushing around causes people to flip and perpetuate added violence on others. The violated violate the violated further and then are violated again themselves through prison terms or the electric chair.

This cycle of destruction and violence has to end. Unfortunately it is a defining feature of capitalism. So ending this cycle becomes part of the struggle for an alternative to capitalism. In the meantime we should try and end the more vicious aspects.

Just as we campaign against genocide on Bosnia or Chechnya - so we should campaign against the death penalty worldwide. And - to contradict Tony Blair and Tony MPs - it is time to understand more about the daily despair that drives people to kill. Only such an understanding can ultimately lead to the end of such desperate acts.
**Fight Against Cuts in Education**

**Turn up the volume**

Chichester Liberation!

Have you noticed how selfish the Tories think we all are? As this issue of Liberation goes to press, Tory chair Jeremy Hanley has been on national television declaring that what we have to realise is that standards in education have been rising under the Tories because of their grant and huge investment policy.

Unfortunately for Mr. Hanley nobody is listening to fiction from him any longer. Instead, people all over the country are getting active against the reality of the situation: the sweeping education cuts are introducing the soaring class sizes that are coupled with staff and resource shortages and the attacks on FE and HE students in the form of yet more grant reductions. They aren’t waiting for the Labour Party to solve our problems either. Whilst the leadership has spent its time recently distancing its commitment to public ownership, it hasn’t been so quick to commit itself to increased education funding or even to an immediate end to the cuts.

Young people have an important role to play in this fight against cuts in education, and in the organisation FACE. We are offered a new and exciting opportunity to get involved in a campaign that’s drawing together a huge and diverse layer of anti-government feeling and anger.

Students don’t need to fight alone in defense of grants; they can join with parents, teachers, governors and other unions who value education and who want to see it improved, not further slaughtered.

It was this broadness to the campaign that came across so strongly on the big London demonstration in March.

Many local FACE groups have been established such as in Oxford, Derbyshire, Herts and Shropshire. Do you think there is the potential for setting up a group in your town? Have parents and teachers been saying the things about Tory education cuts that you’ve been saying? Do you want them to be supportive of your campaign within the student movement for Free Education that has just begun?

Now is the time to explore all possibilities for linking up everybody’s work into the broadest possible fight against cuts in Education that we can manage. Then, the factories from Mr. Hanley and the like will be drowned out for good.

---

**Young people need our welfare rights**

Elkie Dee

Young people are losing out badly as a result of Tory policies, in particular the attack on the welfare state.

In EDUCATION

- Classes are growing bigger, with the result that teachers and lecturers have less time to spend talking to pupils/students.
- Grants and benefit rights for many students have been cut, so many face poverty, debt, or giving up their courses.
- If young people seek training to improve their job prospects, they find there is no financial support at college and the variety of government schemes available are exploitative and inadequate.

**BENEFITS**

- Unemployment among young people is high and they have been clearly targeted by benefit cuts, for example the removal of benefit for 16-17 year olds and the reduced rate for 18-24 year olds.
- There are more and more hoops to jump through to continue claiming benefit, and young people face coercion to accept low-paid jobs or places on work training schemes. They will probably be the first to be put on Workfare with the introduction of the Job Seekers Allowance next year.
- Young mothers have had their benefits attacked by the fall in income support and the Introduction of the Child Support Act, and are to have their very limited rights to be housed by local authorities taken away.
- Young people are also affected by the cuts in free healthcare and by job cuts within the Welfare State.

The Labour leadership’s response to this has included welcoming and supporting government attacks on the Welfare state and young people and criticising teachers for their resistance to government policies. Labour councils have implemented many of the cuts in the Welfare State quite happily.

Young people need to get involved in fighting back against these attacks. Join campaigns to defend your local schools, colleges and hospitals. Join FACE (Fight Against Cuts in Education). Join welfare rights campaigns. Raise issues and demands about what young people need from the Welfare state within these campaigns. For students in further and higher education, a campaign to Defend Free Education was launched at the Welfare State Network conference in April and local groups are being set up.

If you work, try to join a trade union and take up these issues there. Cuts in the welfare state means cuts in jobs and mean that employers can seek to cut pay and conditions for everyone.

Get involved to defend the Welfare State!
Build the campaign in defence of grants!

Anthony Brain
Since they were re-elected in 1992 for a fourth term, the Tory government has launched massive attacks upon the welfare state and state funding of education. This is one way in which the capitalists can increase their profits at the expense of the working classes. The latest attack is that grants for students will be reduced by 42% over the next financial year. This has provoked massive opposition within the student movement. This has coincided with the radicalisation amongst students opposing the cuts in education, shown clearly by the left winning the key votes at the NUS conference. Students should forge links with parents, teachers and governors and the labour movement to fight against these attacks on grants. Socialists need to organise within the NUS for a mass demonstration involving all these forces towards the end of the summer term. We need to organise because of what the leadership of NUS is doing as the Tories launch such a big attack. They are capitulating in a totally cowardly way to the onslaught, making statements such as "This policy by the government would represent a step forward", presumably from having no grants at all. This is not the "leadership" required. This fight is crucial to protect the rights of students to a decent education.

Get real!
Organise a democratic broad left in NUS to defend students' interests

Ricky Paul
The recent NUS conference, led by Blair's babies in Labour Students, signalled a further retreat in the fight for a decent grant and accepted the possibility of a graduate tax. A tax? Yes there've been loads! Attacks on the level of our grant for the last 16 years, the increasing reliance on the student loan and the overdraft from the bank manager, pressure to work all hours at the supermarket rather than the library, while the library is empty of books and resources. Staff look strained and tired. Attacks all round and now another one? The idea that I'll be able to that I'll be able to walk into a well paid job at the end is just that - an idea dreamt up by government ministers. Graduate debt, graduate unemployment - both are rising. So why is the NUS not fighting these attacks on students and higher education?

An important reason is the unreal world of NUS conferences where political groupings on the "left" and right attempt a victorious struggle for power. The right, in the form of the careerist leadership of Labour Students, have their eyes firmly set on the house of commons tea rooms. It is Jim Murphy, the labour president of NUS, who has led the retreat in the fight for grants.

On the left there is 'Left Unity' which is clear in its ambition to try and take control of the NUS executive. The problem is that it is completely undemocratic and exclusive to one political group. It is also solely focused on just trying to win elections and on doing deals inside the NUS hierarchy.

Instead students need a left in NUS that reflects the real concerns and struggles of students on the ground: a broad left which is democratic and not dominated by one current. This kind of grouping needs to link up to students that are involved in lots of different campaigns in colleges (from campaigns against cuts to campaigns for environmental sustainability). It should also build alliances with trades unions and campaigns. If NUS is going to be changed it has to fight for a proper grant and proper funding - i.e. if Labour HQ's stranglehold is going to be weakened - then building a democratic, participatory left alliance in NUS is vital.
Can Labour make a difference?

Tony - Portrait of a Serial Moderniser

Don't hold for role models

John Kipling reviews P J Harvey at the Leeds Town and Country Club

In the past couple of years P J Harvey has risen from the underground hardcore music scene to semi-fame.

Her March gig at the Town and Country Club in Leeds was one of many sold out concerts and solidly knocking out an electrifying entry fee, I conspired myself with a pint and surveyed the vast floor. The crowd consisted mainly of young people who didn't conform to any obvious style, instead they got on with it and helped slurring them in the mix. The women were definitely more stylish than the men. There was a high proportion of women in the audience, including a number of strikingly dressed “50 foot queennies” (in the spirit of the P J Harvey song).

Support band “Tinny” were not very exciting. Still, the crowd was involved in the energy. They obviously had something to say, but the young black rapper and female singer didn’t deliver it very well. There seemed to be trying to fuse rap and ambient sounds with slow rock, but they lacked musical inspiration, being more motivated by their lyrical message.

P J Harvey appeared on stage like Isobella Rosselio selling “Blue Violet” in the David Lynch film of the same name; heavily made up with red lips and blue eye shadow (!) in a glamorous red dress, with backpack.

Climbing into the set, the band maintained a restrained pace for most of the gig. Though slow, the music was intense and driving, busting with concentrated energy. Polly has changed her band. She has expanded to 6 musicians (all in suits and mostly lead by the girl to rock'n'roll) including the new drummer (3 of whom looked like Bech), reflecting a new slickness in the sound as compared to the old days.

While not long before Polly, Guitar is Polly is concentrating on her strong singing voice. Her blues vocals integrate into the simple songs, which have a strong country's western flavour. She seems to be fascinated by Mid-West America, using it as a setting for some of her love songs, and singing in a Mid-West American accent even though she's from Devon!

The music also retains its Pixie-esque raw guitar sound and occasional unconventional time signatures.

The slow, pounding music reflects Polly's highly sensual image. She plays a predatory female, grabbing voluptuously on stage, the centre of attention. Her lyrics often deal with sexual relationships, almost definitely heterosexual, but mixing male and female roles. She seems to have an affinity for maleness, sometimes singing like if she were a man (as in “Man Size”). I often wonder how she got on with boy Steve Albini (of Big Black, Reapeman and Shellac) who produced her first album.

Overall, the gig wasn't my cup of tea, I prefer something faster and more energetic, even if not as slick and controlled. Danceability would also be an advantage!

Elle magazine describes P J Harvey as “a new breed of pop female”. I hope they don't mean that Raritly. Personally, I think she's a more interesting and substantial role model than Madonna, but then I don't hold much for role models.

Young Voices: Our readers speak out

“Porn is simply a sick industry that exploits people of either gender who are young and poor”

Could I take issue with Barbara Van den's article on pornography in Liberation! Issue 37?

Firstly, I find her portrayal of porn as an industry "about men's power over women" objectionable in the extreme. Many feminists prefer to overlook the fact, I know, but there are a lot of women who buy pornographic material that features men andusty! Surely if the argument is carried through to its logical conclusion, then pornography is all about women's power over men...

Or could it be that porn is simply a sick industry that exploits people of either gender who are young and poor? Could it be that the porn industry panders to the sadistic fantasies of anyone who is deviant and perverse enough to waste money on exploitative material? Surely, it would be better to regard pornography as at best a minor aspect of the wider struggle for the liberation of women.

It must surely be that the priority is to stop civilisation, the poverty that breeds exploitation will be too. Only when we have socialism will we have true equality.

On another note, congratulations on producing a youth paper that is genuinely interesting and provocative.

Yours in comradeship,
Phil

PS I'd love someone to shoot my arguments down in flames though. Please do reply to this letter!
Why socialists should support animal rights

> Aldan Saltar

Today the belief in animal rights is in springing thousands of young people across Europe to challenge the authority of a society which should take responsibility for the struggle for animal rights? What is meant by "rights" and do animals have them?

Most animal rights campaigners argue that animal and human rights are universal, and are based on the sanctity of all living creatures. Socialists, however believe that rights depend on cultural and material conditions: the ability of people to value themselves and other living things, and the ability to fight for those rights.

All societies value some animals. The key question is, can animals exercise rights? At least some animals feel pain. They experience freedom and well being. They can therefore "enjoy" rights and "suffer" their denial. Some, but not all, enjoy "animal rights" If animals have rights, should socialists support them? The goal of socialism is human emancipation - a world free from the exploitation and oppression of one person or a group of people by another, and from the suffering which results. If it is wrong for people to abuse other humans, how can it be right for them to abuse animals?

Some animal rights campaigners call the abuse of animals by humans "peculiarism". They liken it to the racial abuse perpetrated under fascism.

Socialists do not equate human and animal rights in the same way. We recognize that many animals are dependent on human beings for their livelihood, and that historically the exploitation of animals has been necessary for the development of social and economic life. However we also recognize that cruelty to animals is a moral issue and a concern to the respect for the rights of all living creatures, and that respect for animal welfare can make us more human and compassionate.

Another reason why Socialists should support animal rights is the ability to fight the same enemy: capitalism. Economic power is responsible for massive cruelty to animals.

Rival commodity companies test new brands of animal products daily. Mass killings and torture are the result, and therefore suffering is unnecessary. Far too many young people, women especially, targeting their insecurities, and causing misery to themselves and the environment.

The meat industry keeps millions of people hungry in the "Third World", as well as molesting and slaughtering livestock and poultry. In Latin America rainforests are cut down and huge tracts of fertile land turned over to cattle raising while local people starve. The beef is exported to hamburger chains in Europe and North America.

Meat is a very inefficient source of protein. The area of land needed to produce meat is far greater than that needed to produce the equivalent amount of vegetable protein. Over grazing is also creating large scale soil erosion.

Modern farming methods cause greater suffering in the name of efficiency. Hens and pigs are crammed into cages or pens with no opportunity for exercise, kept weak and prone to disease. More humane methods would cost more, reducing profits.

A socialist revolution would create the conditions for ending the abuse of animals. Workers and communities could jointly plan the production and distribution of goods for the benefit of society, animals and the environment.

The use of animal products could be phased out, and alternatives developed. Production would no longer be for profit, ending the incentive to use cruel battery methods. The same time a planned economy could end the waste involved in producing meats. legen

Defy the Criminal Justice Act!

> Alan Salter

I was always obvious that the Criminal Justice Act would go through Parliament. There was little opposition from Labour, who seem to be trying to outflank the Tories as the party of "Law and Order". Yet even though the Bill is now an Act, the police seem reluctant to use their new powers. Perhaps they realise how draconian the Act is, or are worried they might provoke a massive reaction.

Huddersfield Reaction Against the CJA certainly got into gear when the first two people were charged under the Act in Kirklees. Two men were arrested whilst peacefully protesting against the felling of trees to make way for a new road and the destruction of a park. One was occupying a tree and the other was about to climb into one. Their court cases were adjourned twice, largely due to mass demonstrations in Huddersfield Town Centre and outside the magistrate's court. Eventually the charges against the two men were dropped.

The Ant-CJA Campaign renewed its activities with a mass meeting of Kenneth Clarke's garden. The Chancellor of the Exchequer is an MP for, where he lives in a posh suburb. On April Fool's Day, he found about thirty protestors occupying his garden, Irving drums and playing whistles, displaying banners, and having a picnic! "The real criminals are the Tories!" was the cry of the people on his lawn. The local news cameras were there and we got a five minute slot of sympathetic coverage on the Midland News.

"Don't you think this is just an invasion of privacy?" one reporter asked. "This government is invading people's privacy!" was the reply.

We managed to party for about half an hour before the police arrived in force, at which time we decided to leave peacefully rather than get arrested. The Criminal Justice Act is designed to create a smokescreen to divert attention away from the real crisis in society. This government has presided over an increase in crime to record levels, yet they always con-centrate on punitive measures and would rather ignore the obvious problems of unemploy-ment and poverty.

They are attempting to build a "propagandist" case to choose groups of people such as travellers, squatters and party people, in order to legitimise a further increase in police powers. Alternative lifestyles should be defended at all costs against the al-ternation of consumerism and the arm's length 'society'. Squatters should be defended in their attempts to take back our own uselessness, at a time when thousands of properties are unbuyable and the government is reducing housing stock. Youth need to enjoy parties as an escape from the harsh realities of life in the nineties. In fact it is those who are left behind and those with no future who are trying to escape from the reality.

The act is also a threat to trade unionists' ability to protect their positions. Many trade councils in particular have opposed the CJA and this year's conference of trades councils has a number of resolutions against the Act. It is important that trade unions link up with local groups, particularly as many young, being unemployed, don't see the relevance of the labour movement.

Local groups should continue to raise awareness of the CJA and not let it be forgotten. It is vital that actions are taken to prevent the CJA stop them from protesting. This will help to make it unpopular.
Global warming on the back-burner

Globally, temperatures are rising as a consequence of climate change, says a report presented to the inter-governmental Climate Change conference in Berlin.

Each decade sees an average increase of 0.3 degrees celsius, melting polar ice caps and causing a rise in sea-levels which would inundate 36 small island states making them disappear.

So the blame has been placed for everything from droughts in California to floods in Bangladesh and forest fires in Russia. Heat from the sun's rays is trapped on earth by the depletion of the ozone layer in the atmosphere which is responsible for channeling it back into space. This is called the greenhouse effect. Ozone is being eaten away by chemicals called chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) which are found in aerosol cans and refrigerators.

Presently states are committed to eliminating CFC use by 1996 but it's not the only agent of global warming. Carbon dioxide produced in large quantities by the combustion of fossil fuels like oil, coal, and nitrous oxides and methane, a by-product of rice cultivation, are also culprits.

Under the Climate Change Convention, industrialised countries are to maintain carbon emissions at 1990 levels by the year 2000. While some countries will meet the goal - which is not a legal obligation - others, like Canada, probably won't. Even if all the major carbon emitters meet the target, it will still be too little, too late for many.

At the Berlin conference small island states were pressing industrialised countries to reduce their 1990 level of emissions by a minimum of 20% by 2005. They were to be disappointed. There wasn't even an undertaking about levels of carbon emission beyond the year 2000. This has been deferred to the next Climate conference in Tokyo in 1997. Instead western countries, countries from the Commonwealth, Canada and the USA,论证ed on dealing with the fundamental causes of climate change, backed by oil producing countries such as Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, Germany and the Scandinavians are far more sympathetic to the Maldives and Marshall Islands than to India and China who are intent on following the western growth model.

25% of the world's people living in the rich countries are responsible for 75% of global carbon emissions. The advanced capitalist world won't act to halt global warming because to do so would pose the need for far changes in the economic system and the relationship of power and wealth that flow from it. Reducing carbon emissions means reducing energy use in the West and switching from fossil fuels to renewable energy like sun, wind and water. Oil producing countries fear loss of revenue. Transnational companies foresee the end of their huge profits and moneyploy markets. Natural ways of absorbing carbon dioxide like hating deforestation are opposed by companies currently exploiting tropical rainforests at unsustainable rates.

On the other hand, countries like Japan and Korea see the market mechanisms and technology as their salvation from the chemical in consumer goods. The international standards force on which never applied to Western countries when they industrialised are a new kind of protectionism.

Western countries barred from using CFCs are now using hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) which are just as harmful. Greenpeace is developing a refrigerator which doesn't use CFCs but has reduced its mass production.

Decisive action won't come from capital govenments or big business. It comes from the market. The market is the money market. The market is the country.

The market is the market. The market is the country.

Global warming on the back-burner

Spread the word!

Liberation! is unique. Young people don't have much power in the world - so we need to organise to get our ideas around.

For just £2 we'll send you the next four issues of Liberation - better still, take a few copies to sell to your friends.

☐ YOU ARE ON! here's £2 (stamps, a poster, order or a cheque payable to Liberation Publishing Association, Suite 2, The Mead, 45A Park Road, London NW1)

☐ Send me copies of Liberation on sale or return.

Name

Address

Post code

Telephone

Age

Send this coupon back to Liberation, PO Box 1112, London NW1 4PU.