



# The Anvil



Newsletter of Melbourne Anarchist Communist Group (MACG)

issue 2 \* June-July 2007 \* free

## NO GUANTANAMO IN AUSTRALIA THE SOCIAL MASS MOVEMENT MUST ACT

### **\* *A concentration camp on the quiet***

Have you heard there is currently a Guantanamo-style detention complex under construction in Australia? If so, you're one of the few who have. It is scheduled to be complete by the middle of the year, at a cost of \$364 million of *our* money. It is located on Christmas Island, 2,400 km from Perth, 360 km from Jakarta and almost 2000 km from Darwin. The area around the complex has high cliffs, blocking access to the sea, to prevent any attempt at escape.

### **\* *Please sir, may I leave the room?***

Security features are inhuman and extreme. There are multi-layered electric fences and movement detectors. There are hundreds of cameras, under eaves, on roofs, in every room and microphones behind heavy metal grilles. It has CCTV linked to a Remote Control Room, so that detainees can be watched all the time, even from Canberra. Detainees will wear electronic ID tags or cards, identifying them to the central control

system wherever they are. Doors to rooms are electric and centrally controlled and detainees must punch Request To Exit buttons. Once admitted, a detainee need never leave even if gravely ill, since the medical facilities even include an operating theatre. And, of course, there are the solitary confinement units.

### **\* *Who will fill this dungeon?***

The Government says that this is an immigration detention centre constructed as "a deterrent". Official figures, though, show only 153 "unauthorised entrants" have arrived in Australia by boat since 2001. There is more than enough room at hellholes like Baxter to hold that many, so the question arises – who is the Christmas Island detention centre *really* being designed to hold? The island is very far from the mainland and there are no lawyers there. Refugee advocates and lawyers will have not access unless the Government permits it. Ominously,

*continued page 2*

last November, US officials inspected the complex, flown in by chartered plane from Singapore.

**\* *Close all detention centres***

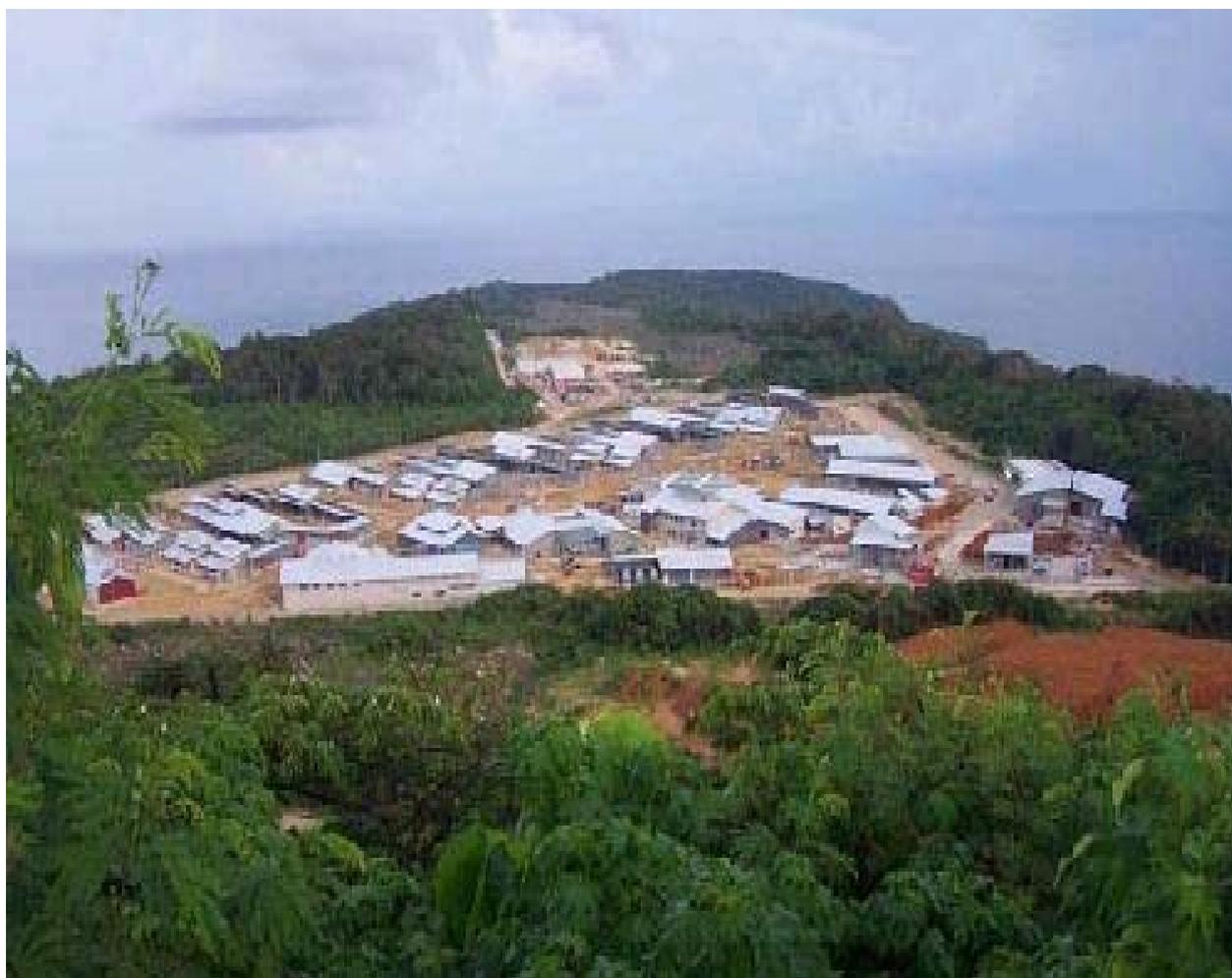
We do not know for whom this is being constructed, but we do know it is no place for a human being. Baxter is a place of the disintegration of human dignity, but this high-tech hell centre takes the concept even further. It is the logical culmination of the practice of detention.

The working class movement, the social mass movement, the political organisations must not allow this

abomination to be used. We have to stop construction of this soul-destroying dungeon in the Indian Ocean, beyond reach even of the capitalists' own laws. The time to act is now, to stop this centre and to close them all.

**CHRISTMAS ISLAND DETENTION CENTRE  
WHERE NO ONE CAN HEAR YOU SCREAM**

**Melbourne Anarchist Communist Group**



## **OUR RIGHTS AT WORK -- WHERE NEXT?**

The Howard government's Work Choices legislation has been in action for over a year now, and the news is bad. Workers in many industries, but especially retail and hospitality, are being forced onto individual contracts (AWAs) that gut their conditions. Bosses sack workers and tell them to re-apply for their own jobs – for less pay. And despite the lowest unemployment in a generation, wages are barely keeping pace with inflation and the profit share of national income is at a record high. With things like this going on, we should be making this country ungovernable.

*With friends like these, who needs enemies?*

The ACTU's "Your Rights at Work" campaign has disappeared, all wrapped up neatly and presented to the ALP to help them with their election campaign. The ALP, of course, returned the favour by getting stuck into some serious union-bashing ever since its National Conference. Even the Liberals would once have paused before coming out with the statements that Kevin Rudd and Julia Gillard have made.

None of this is surprising. The ALP needs the approval of big business for all its policies, so it can be expected to give way to the Business Council of Australia whenever it seriously wants something. Even the right to strike, the most basic weapon of self-defence that the working class has, won't be restored by a "Labor" government. And if they're union-bashing even before the election, there's no telling what they'll do once they're in power and they're not looking for our votes.

*We need action from the unions*

Howard's Work Choices laws might be vicious, but they're not stupid. They've been put together with the clear purpose of ensuring that the entire union movement will be destroyed. Work Choices restricts our right to strike so far as to make it almost useless. The bosses now have the ability to force workers gradually onto individual contracts, either by making a job offer conditional on an AWA, or by saying you have to sign one if you ever want a pay rise again. The idea of Work Choices is to make unions so useless that nobody would waste their money on joining one.

The strategy is brilliant, but it has one weakness. It relies on us obeying the law. If we strike illegally, production stops. The Government can threaten us with all sorts of consequences, but production doesn't start again until we go back to work. And if we strike in large enough numbers, their threats will be shown to be empty. Despite everything, *their* power is built on *our* obedience. The ALP won't save us, so we have to act through our unions and save ourselves.

*The rank & file have to take charge*

The bureaucrats running the ACTU, however, would run a mile before striking seriously enough to defeat Work Choices. They don't want to upset the ALP, while the ALP won't upset the Business Council, and the Business Council likes Work Choices just the way it is. It's a recipe for disaster, at least for those of us who don't have a safe ALP seat to be parachuted into.

*continued page 4*

The only solution is for the rank and file of the unions to take matters into their own hands. We need to organise in the workplace and rebuild the unions from the ground up. We need workplace meetings to discuss strategy and give instructions to our delegates. And we need to have networks of delegates, organised both locally and industrially, so we can act independently of the officials if they won't come along with us. It's the only thing that will work.

The grassroots union insurgency is the only way to defend our wages and conditions and it's also the inspiration for a workers' revolution against capitalism. The liberty, equality and solidarity we build in the class struggle are the foundations of a world of voluntary co-operation, from which poverty, war and oppression have been eradicated. By organising in the workplace with grassroots democracy, we will build the new society in the shell of the old.

---

### **Defend the Fertility Control Clinic**

Fourth Saturday every month  
10.30 - 11.30 am  
118 Wellington Parade, East Melbourne

The presence of clinic defenders keeps the anti-abortionists away from the clinic, so that staff and clients can enter and leave, and people can walk the street, free from their harassment. Defending the clinic is still an important part of the battle to decriminalise abortion and make it freely accessible, on demand, to all women.

Organised by Campaign for Women's Reproductive Rights

For more information, or to get involved in CWRR, contact Debbie on 0425 733 256 or Michelle on 0424 737 150

## **What is Anarchism?**

Anarchism is a social philosophy based upon the principles of liberty, equality and solidarity. It is the political dimension of a free society.

## **What is Communism?**

Communism is the principle of "from each according to their ability, to each according to their need". It is the economic dimension of a free society.

## **What is the Melbourne Anarchist Communist Group?**

The MACG is an organisation of class struggle revolutionary anarchists who share political positions, articulated in theory, strategy and tactics.

We aim to encourage struggle by the working class for its own interests and, within that struggle, we aim to advance Anarchist ideas as its necessary philosophical basis.

**Melbourne Anarchist Communist Group (MACG)  
P.O. BOX 2120, Lygon St. Nth, East Brunswick, VIC 3057  
macg1984@yahoo.com.au**