



offline

9 February 2009

Gaza Appeal Projected onto BBC Broadcasting House

In response to the BBC's continued refusal to air the DEC Gaza aid appeal, members of ISM UK decided to use the outside walls of BBC Broadcasting House for a public projection of the appeal.

On Saturday 24th January, around 10,000 people demonstrated outside the BBC, and Monday 26th the same building was temporarily occupied by a group of activists, with demonstrations taking place at BBC offices in Manchester and Nottingham. In Cardiff, activists shut down the BBC with superglue.

The ISM projectionists said: "If the BBC are not willing to screen the appeal, then we will. The members of the public have a right to see it and to determine for themselves whether they wish to contribute or not. It is not for the BBC to take the decision out of its fee-payers hands."

For more information about solidarity with Palestine in the UK see the IMC-UK Palestine page. The International Solidarity Movement (ISM) is a non-violent global movement dedicated to resistance to the ongoing illegal occupation of Palestinian land by the Israeli state.

palsolidarity.org
ism-london.co.uk

SHAC in the City

More demonstrations took place at NYSE Euronext, Barclays & Bank of New York Mellon in the financial district.

The demonstrations started on Cousin Lane, outside NYSE Euronext - a company that continues to trade HLS shares. With shares closing at a pathetic \$6.60 that day, Euronext could easily dump HLS but chooses to stay loyal to the puppy killers.

There were a couple of Barclays demos, in support of protests at Barclays in Italy. Barclays are the biggest shareholder in HLS (with about 440,000 shares) and will seemingly invest in any company they think they can make a profit from, no matter what damage is done to people, animals or the environment.

The demos finished with a lively and fun protest at BNY Mellon (HLS's 2nd biggest shareholder) on Queen Victoria Street as workers were going home for the weekend. Scary masks (including a gas mask) were worn to imitate the mostly unseen horrors that the animals in HLS go through every day.

shac.net

Sonballing RBS

Tuesday 3rd: a small group of people gathered in Bishopsgate outside the London headquarters of RBS to protest over the governments bank bailout. They challenged bankers on their lunch break to a snowball fight. Some bankers even joined in.

Demo against Israeli Colonel Visiting London

A Mr Geva Rapp, a very senior member of the Israeli Defence Force was due to speak at a student venue opposite Euston station, not far from SOAS.

There were nearly 50 protesters present even before the demo was officially due to start, with only five police present - though there were other 'security' men on the door. A small group of protesters attempted to storm the entrance and were met by extreme panic from the cops and extreme violence by the security.

Police attempted to announce a Section 60 order by megaphone but were shouted down, and tried to remove the demo by force. The demo (around 100 people) linked arms and refused to move. Euston Road was effectively closed off for a while.

One protester was arrested after he climbed the side of the building with a Free Gaza placard and sat on the ledge above the entrance. Cops then charged the crowd to force them down the road but after a brief mass detention, let everyone go.



Genocide in Sri Lanka

The Sri Lankan State is currently engaged in the ethnic cleansing of the Tamil minority while the international community turns a blind eye.

A war that most people don't even know about - bombing schools, orphanages, refugee camps and hospitals, using food, water and medicine as a weapon of war.

The Government of Sri Lanka has removed all International Volunteer Organizations (INGOs) from the region and is not allowing any international media into the area. There are no witnesses to the unfolding humanitarian crisis.

Due to the ongoing military offensive, over 300 000 people have been squeezed into a very small area in the north-east of Sri Lanka where government forces have been firing multi barrel rocket launchers into the densely populated area - a so-called 'safety-zone'.

Many of the people are without shelter, food, clean water or adequate medical supplies. Since 2005, the Sri Lankan Government has been responsible for an estimated 1500 extra judicial killings of Tamil civilians, torture, scores of kidnappings and countless arbitrary detentions.

- Over 100, 000 Tamil men, women and children have been killed.
- One million Tamils have fled the country.
- Over half a million Tamils have been displaced.

Tamilnet.com



Binyam Mohamed High Court Judgement

On 1st February, several newspapers reported that Binyam Mohamed, who has been on hunger strike for over a month, is "close to death".

On 4th February the High Court decided against publishing a (secret) short summary of Binyam's treatment.

Binyam Mohamed was detained by US authorities in Pakistan, rendered to Morocco, Afghanistan, and then Guantanamo Bay - where he remains today.

The High Court ruled that in the face of threats over future intelligence co-operation from the US Government, it could not publish details of the torture of British resident Binyam.

In an extraordinary ruling, two British judges revealed how the US government has 'threatened' the British government with reprisals should the British reveal evidence that American agents were involved in Binyams rendition and torture.

The judges made a plea to President Obama to reconsider President Bush's remarkable policy of retribution against anyone who might reveal American crimes.

Binyam is a victim of 'extraordinary rendition' and torture. He was initially held illegally in Pakistan for four months, which is where a British intelligence agent interrogated him under circumstances later found to be illegal by the British court. He was rendered to Morocco by the CIA in July 2002, where he was tortured for 18 months, with the British government supplying information and questions used by the Moroccan torturers. In January 2004 he was rendered a second time, to the secret 'Dark Prison' in Afghanistan, where his torture continued. Since September 2004 he has been held in Guantánamo Bay.

Binyam has never been tried for any crime.