

NO ONE IS ILLEGAL

No One Is Illegal, UK - www.noii.org.uk email: info@noii.org.uk - post: Bolton Socialist Club, 16 Wood Street, Bolton BL1 1DY. May 2011

JAILED FOR BEING THE WRONG KIND OF FOREIGNER



DAWN RAID. A woman is dragged away during a deportation raid in Glasgow in October 2006. UK Border Agency "enforcement teams" now do this work, making 585 similar early-morning "visits" between January and November 2010. Photo: www.ianmacnicolimages.co.uk

RIGHT NOW, OUT OF SIGHT, out of mind, in Britain, around 3,200 people who haven't harmed anybody are being held in 11 special prisons, not knowing what's going to happen to them, or when.

They're people of all kinds - refugees, foreign workers, the foreign-born spouses or children of British people, overseas students, and even babies (the government promised in 2010 to stop doing this, but didn't).

They've been snatched off the street or dragged out of their workplaces, schools or homes, even from their beds in the small hours of the morning, by special "border enforcement" squads that have legal powers even the police don't have, and put straight into prison without any trial. If they do eventually see a judge, it's not a real judge but an "immigration judge", in

a special "immigration court", which isn't subject to the same regulation as a normal court, and of whose existence most British people are quite unaware.

So what's their crime? Being the wrong kind of foreigner: an asylum seeker, an "illegal worker", an "overstayer", a partner in a "sham marriage". Which in general means: black (or at least, not exactly white) and not very well-off.

• **In 2010 alone, 25,935 people were imprisoned** under these laws at one time or another. Some of them had been held there for years, without trial or time-limit.

• **57,085 people were forced** to leave the country, brutally in many cases, often back to persecution and torture and, in one case, **killed in the process.** This is part of a wave of anti-foreigner policies that's swept the rich world since the early 1990s, and is **wreaking devastation world-wide.**

• **Since 1993, at least 15,725 people have died** at Europe's newly fortified borders - trying to cross the Mediterranean in small boats; deserts, mountains, rivers and minefields; suffocated in the backs of trucks; crushed under trains. The EU even pays tyrants like Libya's Colonel Gaddafi to catch and imprison Africans trying (or suspected of trying) to make their way to Europe.

SAY 'NO' TO THESE INSANE, INHUMAN LAWS.

Anti-immigrant laws are a shameful new development, instigated by racist groups, supported by powerful right-wing interests, and enacted by cowardly politicians who haven't the courage to oppose them. But more and more people are ashamed to belong to a country that treats human beings this way. No One Is Illegal believes this injustice will be condemned by history.

We ask you to help make history by supporting the No One Is Illegal Declaration:

"People should be free to live and work wherever they wish, and enjoy the same rights as all other residents. No one is illegal."



You can do this online at the No One Is Illegal website:

www.noii.org.uk

...where you'll also find information about the many other campaign groups in Britain, Europe and world-wide that are springing up to support freedom of movement, and full human rights for all human beings.

FAKE THREATS, REAL VICTIMS

ANTI-IMMIGRANT LAWS are always to appease racist agitation and threats. Never because there are in fact “too many people” in a country.

- **The USA wasn't “full up” in 1882**, when white supremacists forced through the very first, modern anti-immigrant law: the Chinese Exclusion Act.
- **Britain wasn't bursting at the seams in 1905** when violent anti-Semitic groups persuaded the Government to stop Jews escaping the pogroms in Russia with Britain's first Aliens Act. Population then was barely 37 million, and British people were emigrating in droves. The same act was later used to exclude Jews fleeing Nazi persecution in the 1930s.
- **In 1962, the British Union of Fascists**, and the fascist National Front claimed “our first success” with the Commonwealth Immigration Act - excluding Caribbeans and South Asians for the first time.
- **In 2001, the British National Party** dubbed Labour's Home Secretary, David Blunkett, their “favourite politician” for his tough anti-immigrant initiatives, and even quoted him on their leaflets.
- **And in 2011, Conservative Prime Minister David Cameron** announced an impractical “immigration cap” - “to starve extremist parties of the oxygen of anxiety

they thrive on”. Which is rather like tackling child-abuse by banning children.

ALWAYS ROOM FOR THE RICH

HOWEVER LOUD the anti-foreigner rhetoric, there has always been plenty of room for the rich - and the richer they are, the more space they can have. (And the more unequal Britain becomes, the more space and resources richer people need - to insulate themselves from the poorer ones. See “How little is your England?”, below.)

This is hardly mentioned in our media, which are controlled by the very rich, and by people who depend on them. Instead, they offer us scapegoats: disturbing creatures with extraordinary powers. Even quite small numbers can cause panic.

- **In 2001, Australia** (population 19 million) panicked at the approach of the Norwegian MV Tampa with 438 Afghans that it had rescued, and sent troops to prevent it reaching the Australian mainland.
- **In 2010, Canada** (population 33 million) panicked when a boat containing 490 Sri Lankans appeared off the coast of British Columbia. An act was rushed through parliament just to refuse them entry.
- **Britain panicked in 2006**, when it was revealed that 1,000 offenders had completed their prison sentences and been released. The problem? These ex-prisoners were born abroad. For the first time in history, a nationwide man-hunt was launched for criminals after

they had been caught and punished, so that they could be punished all over again with deportation - plus, for some, months or even years in “Immigration Removal Centres”. Nobody above the rank of junior sub-editor could see anything odd about this.

And hardly anyone mentioned that their “crimes” were mostly ones immigrants are forced into by the new laws: travelling without proper papers, or working, without permission, to keep body and soul together.

Meanwhile, white Australians, New Zealanders, Canadians and US citizens - thought to be the biggest group of “overstayers” living and working in Britain - didn't evoke this reaction (and never turn up in immigrant prisons).

We would laugh at the idea of hordes of blond-haired Swedish people swimming to Britain across the North Sea, but the media and politicians speak and act as if black and brown people are capable of much more extraordinary feats: flooding across the Sahara, then the Mediterranean, and (presumably) eating their way, like locusts, through Europe's “soft underbelly”, pouring over the Alps before a final sprint through France and across the channel to Little England.

Fantasy prevails, people become numbers, and are submerged into a substance called “immigration”, to be “managed” at whatever cost.

This means big bucks for the unscrupulous, and unspeakable suffering for their victims.



US cartoon against the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act: “We must draw the line somewhere, you know”.

HELP! WE'VE BEEN FLOODED WITH BOGUS IMMIGRATION SCARE STORIES!

RIGHT-WING MEDIA spend millions drumming up hostility against their chosen scapegoats: single mums, social workers, “benefit cheats” and, above all, immigrants.

In August 2010, the Sun, the Mail, Express and Telegraph, all carried front pages saying that “Foreigners get 77% of new jobs in Britain”, citing Office for National Statistics (ONS) employment data for April-June 2010. The Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) couldn't find the 77% figure in the ONS report, but tracked the story down to anti-immigrant pressure-group Migration Watch - who had used the ONS figures rather creatively.

It was also claimed that the data showed that “the difference between UK nationals and migrants is that Brits would rather live on benefits than work”, clearly demonstrating the way immigrant-bashing goes hand in hand with bashing the poor, and the welfare state (which all of these papers have always hated).

When unemployment really *did* rise (because of budget cuts) the government response was to drive people into badly-paid casual jobs by cutting benefits.



This one's a spoof (but can you tell the difference!?)

It's a brilliant, 12-page send up of a well-known anti-immigrant, claimant-bashing tabloid, produced in 2005 by Manchester No Borders and the Basement Café Collective. *Hate Mail* includes all the usual sections: *Hate TV*, *Hate Work*, and *Hate Life* - plus the ever-popular, tell-it-like-it-isn't John Fistula column: “They should count themselves lucky! Asylum seekers *STILL* get to breathe British air!”



Download your **FREE** copy of *Hate Mail*™ today from **No One Is Illegal**: www.noii.org.uk

HOW LITTLE IS YOUR ENGLAND?

New atlas shows we're being flooded by the rich

BRITAIN IS TINY IF YOU ARE POOR, but enormous if you are wealthy - and the wealthy like to keep it that way.

In *The Atlas of the Real World*, Danny Dorling and Mark Newman reveal that one third of Britain's population now lives in just 3 percent of the land area: a densely-packed belt running from London to Liverpool. **If everyone in Britain lived this way (and most of us approximately do) this would indeed be a "tiny, overcrowded island": only slightly larger than Wales.** It is even smaller if you are poorer: for the young men interviewed in a Rowntree Foundation study in 2008, Britain was a bleak part of Peterborough measuring just 200 x 200 metres. Beyond that, the world felt hostile and dangerous.

This is partly due to the privatisation of public space. Whole city centres are being handed over to private corporations, like the ones that own Liverpool One and other "shopping cities". Cities have fewer and fewer places where people can even sit down without handing over money. Children, women and the old are confined to their homes as the streets are surrendered to the auto industry.

The cause is a kind of "flooding" Migration Watch never mentions: not by immigrants, but by the likes of Migration Watch founder, Sir Andrew Green, whose Britain includes large, comfortable homes in Oxfordshire and central London and, for some of his allies, truly vast country estates.

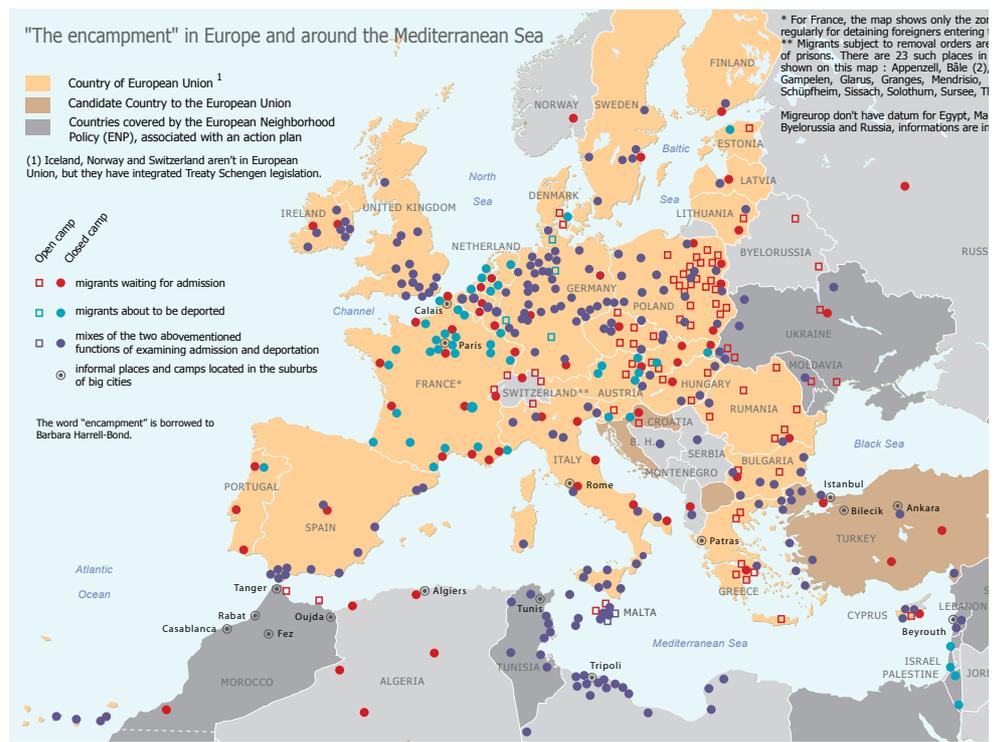
RICH PICKINGS FOR GANGSTERS, DICTATORS & MULTINATIONAL SECURITY FIRMS



LIBYA'S MUAMMAR GADDAFI was transformed from international villain to "privileged partner" in 2003, when he accepted the role of EU border guard from Italy's Silvio Berlusconi. Since then, tens of thousands of sub-Saharan Africans have been incarcerated and brutalised in huge desert camps funded by Italy and the EU. Gaddafi has been lavishly equipped for this task, including two vast, state of the art electronic border-surveillance systems, and innumerable smaller items.

This was just one of his shopping lists, handed to the EU in 2007 'for a better control of Libyan shores and for greater effectiveness in the fight against illegal migration' but almost certainly then used against pro-democracy rebels:

- 12 reconnaissance aircraft
- 14 helicopters
- 240 all terrain vehicles
- 86 lorries
- 80 pick-ups
- 70 buses



Since 2007, "smart money" has poured out of Wall Street and the City into land, worldwide, driving up prices and restricting access. Nearly half of Cambodia was bought and fenced off by foreign speculators. **In Britain, the global super-rich drove up the price of agricultural land (doubling it in places) in their search for privacy, golf-courses and grazing for polo ponies.**

This is the real face of "flooding" - and it's visible wherever you see a private security van. Very often, from one of the very same companies that run the immigrant prisons.

Above: Europe's immigrant prisons extend far beyond EU borders. Oppressive governments are paid to be EU guard-dogs. Within EU borders, firms like Serco, G4S, Sodexo and GEO do the policing - and increasingly influence policy.

ANTI-IMMIGRANT LAWS HAVE brought slavery back to Europe with a vengeance. In Britain alone, as many as 750,000 people are trapped in illegality and are sometimes literally worked to death.

They can't seek help or join unions for fear of discovery, imprisonment and deportation. They end up working round the clock, for low wages or none, in food packaging plants, factories, restaurants, or in the sex trade.

Many of them are refugees whose asylum claims have been refused, as most claims are. Homeless and destitute, they're not allowed to work legally, yet can't go back. Others came here to make badly-needed cash for families back home, little knowing what a harsh country this is. Many are in debt to "agents" who promised them good jobs in Europe. If they try to escape their debts, their families at home will be terrorized. Others have been employed legitimately, but on visas that tie them to a particular employer - who enjoys total power over them. Others have been simply kidnapped

from their homes - in places as diverse as Moldova and Vietnam - by the thriving criminal networks which use EU immigration law to keep their human assets obedient and in fear.

The sex trade more than doubled between 1990 and 2000. In 2004, the POPPY project found that 4 out of 5 of the women working in London's brothels were foreign nationals, most of whom were thought either to have been trafficked, or trapped into sex-work when immigration crackdowns made other work impossible. The same year, Europe's illegal sex industry was "estimated to turn over more money annually than the total of all military budgets in the world - about £5,000 bn". (Julie Bindel, the Guardian, 15/5/2004). The vast majority of these women had never wanted to be prostitutes, were traumatized, and wanted out.

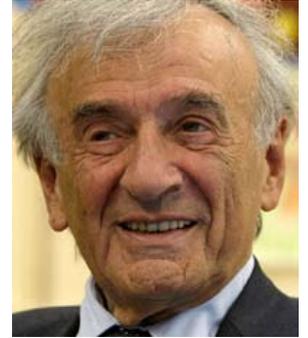
Controls have created vast, new "respectable" industries as well: from IT firms involved in biometric controls and monitoring, to the vast security and outsourcing firms (like Serco, GEO, G4S) that run detention centres, carry out deportations, and ferry detainees around the country. They can then export the systems they've developed to less-developed countries, which have been persuaded to buy them by the EU, and help with the "war on immigrants" in exchange for aid, technology and trade.

From the Baltic States, to Turkey, to Morocco, Europe is now ringed by poorer "buffer states" that have agreed to catch and imprison would-be migrants before they can reach the European border, in return for subsidies and favours.



“I swore never to be silent whenever and wherever human beings endure suffering and humiliation. We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented.”

-Elie Wiesel, holocaust survivor and Nobel laureate, in Tucson, Arizona in 1985, launching the “No Human Being is Illegal” campaign for Salvadoran and Guatemalan peasants, seeking refuge from US-sponsored genocide, but declared “illegal” by the authorities.



JOIN THE FIGHTBACK AGAINST THESE VICIOUS LAWS

1. ANSWER THE ANXIETIES AND LIES

“What if they all come here?”

“They” didn’t “all come here” before we had these laws. Before 1962, those who did come very often went away again after they’d made a little money, or worked here seasonally. After the shutters came down they were forced to settle here permanently, or lose their livelihood. Controls trap people. The same thing happens in the USA, where strengthening the Mexican border has trapped able-bodied workers on the US side, forcing them to take on US lifestyles so that they can’t send so much cash back home - intensifying the pressure on younger Mexicans to migrate, too.

Britain’s biggest recent “floods” of refugees were from Bosnia and Kosovo in the 1990s, Afghanistan from 2001 and Iraq in 2003. All places Britain and the USA had chosen to bomb. Moral: if you don’t like foreigners, don’t wreck their countries.

“What about the economic effects?”

Even Migration Watch admits that immigration raises national income per head. Immigrants also make a net contribution to public funds of over £2 billion a year (Home Office figures).

More people does not mean a lower quality of life. Holland has almost twice the UK’s population density but is a rich country. Malta’s is even higher - but rich Brits still go there in droves to retire, so it can’t be that bad! Albania is half as densely populated but is very poor. There is not a fixed cake of wealth within each nation,



with the slices getting thinner each time a new person arrives. Every immigrant is a person who can contribute to society and immigrants are on average younger than the existing population so can help support the old.

“What about housing?”

The biggest strain on housing comes from people like Tory Prime Minister David Cameron, who confessed in 2010 that he didn’t know how many homes he owned, and his predecessor, Margaret Thatcher, who sold off our council housing and forbade councils to build more. Asylum seekers don’t get council housing anyway and cannot choose where they live. They are often housed in ‘hard to let’ properties from which private landlords reap a healthy income from public funds.

“What about crime?”

These laws feed crime by putting people into the power of the globalised gangs. Illegal industries thrive on immigration controls. And they turn innocent people into criminals by making more and more of the things they do illegal - like working without Government permission, or not having the correct documents (which international law says is not a crime and should not be treated as one).

“What about our social cohesion?”

It’s said that immigrants damage our society because they “don’t integrate”. But the people who “don’t integrate” the most are the rich - with an entirely separate (but tax-subsidised) private education system for their children, private healthcare (subsidised by the NHS), not to mention their private jets and estates. And “illegal immigrants” certainly

aren’t closing factories and hospitals, or starting the supermarket price-wars that drive high-street shops out of business. On the contrary, foreigners keep these things going. The real damage is done by far too much wealth in far too few hands.



2. GET INVOLVED

There can be no such thing as “fair” or “just” or “reasonable” or “non racist” immigration controls. No One Is Illegal doesn’t distinguish between “economic migrants” and “refugees”, between the “legal” and the “illegal”. These are labels invented by politicians. By dividing us, they distract our attention from the attacks being made on all of us. No One Is Illegal exists to put an alternative vision forward: that our interests lie in supporting each other, that organised labour is stronger if it fights with migrant workers and that ridding society of divisive and oppressive immigration controls is essential if we want a better world. Find out more and take action

- **Sign** the No One Is Illegal Declaration, and make a donation to help us publicise it. You can do both at www.noii.org.uk.

- **Practise** saying it out loud: “*People should be free to live and work wherever they wish, and enjoy the same rights as all other residents. I believe no one is illegal.*” Then say it to lots of other people!

- **Read** our series of pamphlets, e.g. “Building An Anti-deportation Campaign”, “Workers’ Control not Immigration Controls”, and our exposé of population politics “Too Many of Whom and Too Much of What?”. Order or download them from noii.org.uk.

- **Check out** other groups who oppose immigration controls and deportations, for example:

The No Borders Network: www.noborders.org.uk

The National Coalition of Anti-Deportation Campaigns: www.ncadc.org.uk

Free Movement: www.freemovement.org.uk

- **Raise the issue** where you live; book a No One Is Illegal speaker or workshop.

- **Challenge** immigration controls in your workplace: order a copy of our trade union pack and ask us to come and speak to your branch.

- **Start** a No One Is Illegal group yourself: get in touch for ideas and advice!

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