

CIVIL LIBERTIES

the end of personal freedom



Alliance for
Green Socialism



INTRODUCTION

The government is increasing its power and control over us more and more.

They are doing this because our society faces multiple crises. Those with wealth and power want to ensure that they do not suffer the consequences of these crises. The poor are to pay, not the rich. And if the poor do not like that, any resistance will be put down.

We are facing a recession brought about by the unbelievable greed of finance capitalists who have lent money they do not have and hidden these transactions in “financial instruments” no-one can unravel.

We are running out of resources, particularly fuel, water and food, and moving into an era of shortage – a lack of the things like cheap power, cheap food and cheap travel that have supported “successful” capitalism for a century.

We face global warming – caused by capitalist industry – that will literally transform the face of the earth.

The response of New Labour – in hoc to their neo-liberal and US sponsors - is to take into the hands of the central government more and more power over ordinary people. The government seeks to ensure the survival of finance capital. The interests of the City of London - and Wall Street - come far above those of the people.

This pamphlet seeks to show you some of the ways our liberties are being eroded in an effort to clamp down on dissent and prevent us from defending our democratic rights.

The policy of pouring taxpayers money into the military, the replacement for the Trident missile system and the development of new nuclear bombs enables the government to attack others abroad.

Repressive legislation, cutting away our basic rights and liberties, allows them to control you and me at home—and to attack us as and when necessary.

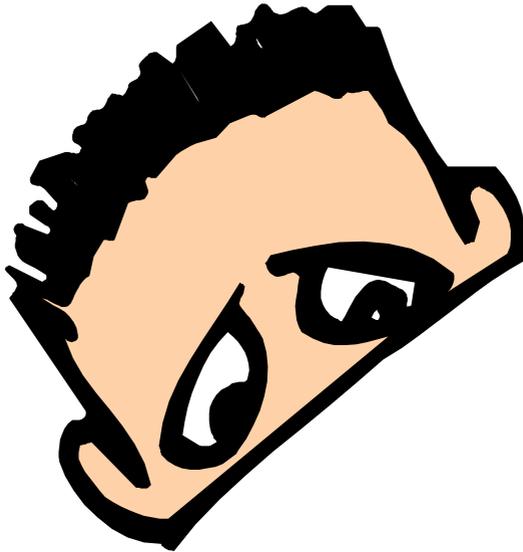
FEAR – THE KEY TO CONTROL

Falling crime but rising fear

Crime surveys show that actual crime has decreased in recent years. Yet the New Labour government is constantly exploiting the fear of crime.

Why does the government want us to be more scared of crime at a time when we are actually less likely to be attacked or robbed? The government and the right-wing media tell us to be scared. They paint gory pictures - hooded youths terrorising shopping centres and classrooms, scheming immigrants taking advantage of our welfare state, and terrorists turning bed-sits into bomb factories.

The more afraid we are, the more the government can justify authoritarian laws to keep us under control.



Terrorism & crime

We are all supposed to be afraid of an ever-increasing threat of terrorism. Yet the number of terrorist acts and the number of deaths caused by terrorism is much lower now than it was thirty years ago! We didn't need all these repressive laws when we faced the IRA.

What is so extraordinary about “terrorism “legislation is the assumption that, without these new draconian laws, terrorists would be free to bomb, hijack etc with impunity.

Yet murder has always been a criminal offence, whether committed by "terrorists" or anyone else. So are arson, hijacking, threats to kill, poisoning and so on. These are already well-established criminal offences, as is conspiring to do any of these things. If somebody is plotting to blow up a building or a plane, there are plenty of existing criminal offences that he or she could be charged with. Why have an array of ill-defined new offences like "acts preparatory to terrorism"?

The answer is that the government wants the power to harass and arrest people whom it does not favour, but where it doesn't have any evidence that they are committing, or planning to commit, a crime. In other words, power to move against anyone they don't like, including political opponents.

Immigration

Almost every year, there is another Immigration Bill. The latest one contains yet more surveillance measures - fingerprinting and high-tech monitoring - making it more and more difficult for asylum-seekers to enter the country. What this government will not acknowledge is that if you are fleeing a repressive regime it's rather hard to persuade that regime to give you a valid passport. Therefore, many asylum-seekers have little choice but to travel on forged documents.

Measures brought in against immigrants - such as control orders - quickly become measures applied to British citizens too.



WHO DO THEY THINK YOU ARE?

Identity Cards

An immediate threat to civil liberties is the introduction of ID cards. The government claims that these cards will protect us from shady characters - fraudsters, terrorists, illegal immigrants etc - and that they won't be used to monitor law-abiding citizens. In fact criminals will be able to get hold of fake IDs easily enough – it is law-abiding people that the system will control. Fraudsters will get fake ID cards – indeed, forgers are already gearing up for the increase in demand.

A huge, lucrative criminal trade in fake ID cards worth billions will be born. A recent BBC report showed that a plausible forgery of the driving licence and utility bills of the Home Secretary, Jacqui Smith, could be bought on the internet for a few pounds.

Terrorists, of course, don't usually have a criminal past. When David Blunkett was the Secretary of State, he clearly acknowledged that ID cards would not stop terrorism. The 11th September hijackers and the 7th July bombers could have got genuine ID cards without difficulty.

ID cards will criminalise even further those people who have few rights in our society - asylum-seekers, illegal immigrants or people who prefer not to have much to do with government agencies. They will also give the police yet more discretion to harass anyone whose face they don't like the look of.

The government's sop to the Muslim community, which is most likely to be stigmatised as potential terrorists, is the old promise to legislate against incitement to religious hatred. The arguments against this proposal have been well aired by Liberty. Legitimate comments or jokes about religion could be deemed criminal. The BNP will seize the opportunity to make its leaders martyrs.

National Identity Register

It is the National Identity Register – the database supporting the ID cards - which is most worrying (and rarely mentioned!). The intention is to put name, date of birth, address on at first. It will then be expanded to include such personal information such as your health records, driving record and convictions, religion, ethnicity, political leanings, sexual preferences and spending habits. (The latter is very useful for big business so that they can target the marketing of their goods and thus increase their profits). Also, think of how else some of this information could be used.

If you buy alcohol you could be a potential drunk driver or less healthy and become a burden on the health service! If you are a Muslim you could be a potential terrorist!

Other authoritarian governments are already leading the way. In the Shenzhen province in Southern China they are field-testing a new ID and surveillance system. They are using 'residency cards' which have a chip storing; name, address, work history, educational background, religion, ethnicity, police record, medical insurance status, personal reproductive history and landlord's phone number. They have plans to add credit histories, subway travel payments and small purchases. Without this card you may not legally live there and cannot get any government benefits.

In Britain, our super database will contain no safeguards for the people on it. You won't be able to check records or have them changed. The only people who will be protected will be the rich and famous. You could even be erroneously given a criminal record that really belongs to some one who has similar name.

Far from preventing fraud, the consequences of identity theft will be far worse if all our personal details are brought together on one database. With tens of thousands being able to access your records it would achieve the exact opposite.

Turning us into criminals

Tens of thousands of ordinary people could easily be criminalised through our ID card system because there are new offences to ensure that we comply:

- £1,000 fine for failure to notify the authorities of a change of details
- £2,500 fine for failure to have a card
- 2 years in prison for refusal to pay the fine
- £10,000 for an employer who gives work to an illegal immigrant

Fewer and fewer of us will be "law-abiding" citizens and all of us whom the government characterises as non-law-abiding - like protesters, strikers, immigrants, benefit claimants and left-wingers - will be monitored.

National DNA Database

Britain is well on the way to having a national DNA database of all citizens. Of course, the police and government have moved first on the basis of race. The ethnic break down of men's DNA on the database so far shows that 40% is from black men, 13% is from Asian men, 9% is from white men

The database holds the DNA of 24,000 children under 16 who have never been convicted or cautioned. Indeed, recent reports suggest a figure nearer 100,000.

WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU ARE GOING?

Passports

Recently issued EU passports are already being called “biometric” in order to get us used to the idea so that when our finger prints, iris scan, etc are requested we will think they are just more routine data. Face scanning for air passengers is to begin this summer in the UK.

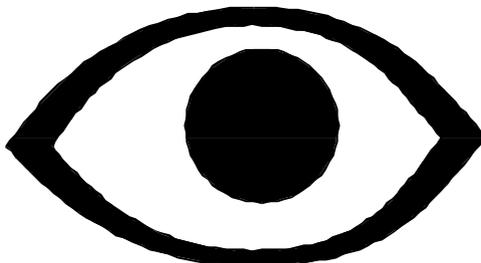
In fact the current passport chip simply holds a digitised copy of our normal passport picture. It is highly unreliable for ‘one to many’ checks such as matching the chip image to a watch-list or database. Because facial features can change a great deal over a decade the software fails to find matches where it should. Also, it has been found that the chips in ten-year passports only have a manufacturer’s guaranteed lifetime of two years – a classic “private supplier” error.

Biometric data

From 2009 the Passport Office will issue passports, which are genuinely biometric to all new applicants, effectively introducing ID cards by the back door. Instead of sending in an application form and photographs by post, new applicants will be interviewed at one of the 69 interrogation centres

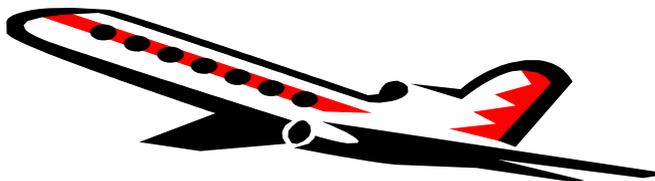
They will have to prove who they are and then will be fingerprinted, have iris and face scans taken as well as a DNA sample which will give the state a unique identifier for an individual. These biometrics can be used for verification purposes - with varying degrees of accuracy, because none are very good.

Of course, criminals can alter biometric data - the notorious US bank robber John Dillinger had new fingerprints grafted way back in the 1930s.



Travel

The Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 empowers the police to request bulk information from international air and sea carriers. Previously it had to be specifically about a suspect in a crime. That bill didn't include domestic data so part of the Police and Justice Act 2006 requires domestic carriers in the UK to provide the same "trawl" information.



The following information is provided 24 hours in advance and again after flight/boarding closure, in a prescribed format for electronic processing, for all passengers and crew travelling by ship or aircraft internationally and within the UK.

- Name
- Gender
- Date of birth
- Nationality
- Travel details
- Details from passengers travel documents

This information may then be used for any "police" purpose.

All passengers will be profiled, that is they will be risk assessed and the data will be kept for 5 years and then for a further 8 years in a 'dormant' database. As well as this there is already an EU-US "Passenger Name Record" scheme. The USA has no fewer than 755,000 people on its terrorist "watch list".

Serious questions arising over privacy, human rights and data protection are supported by the European Data Protection supervisor who concludes there are four key areas of concern:

1. How justified are we to be collecting all this data in the first place?
2. The legal framework is not clear.
3. Who exactly will be receiving the data?
4. How can the data to be protected if it is transferred to a third country?

WHO'S TRACKING YOUR CHILDREN?

Database of children

The “ContactPoint” database - live in 2008 at a cost of at least £241m - will contain highly sensitive information on all 11 million children in England and on their parents and carers. A staggering 330,000 users will have access to this sensitive personal information.

Social workers are concerned that there is confusion over who is responsible for vetting this huge pool of users and over who is going to oversee the security of the system. It is thought that the database will hold details such as relatives with drinking problems and of relationship difficulties between parents – for over 300,000 peoples to see.

The government assures us that security will be watertight. Yet, incredibly, celebrities and politicians will be allowed to have their children excluded from the system. So much for trust in its security!

Fingerprinting

In Britain we have traditionally been protected from having our fingerprints taken without good cause, and protected against their unreasonable retention by the police. Now the European Council want to fingerprint all children from the age of 6 years. The European Parliament wants it to be for all children 12 years and above, but no-one seems to be resisting this dreadful proposal to progressively fingerprint the entire population.



Registering Your Baby.

Mothers will no longer be allowed to leave the baby's father's information off the birth certificate unless they can give a good reason with proof! So a woman with good but private reasons for omitting the father's name will be made into a criminal.



WHO'S WATCHING YOU?

Surveillance

Privacy is essential to dignity and lies at the heart of democracy.

A YouGov poll in September 2007 reported that:

- 57% think that the UK has become a surveillance society
- 48% that that authorities hold too much of their personal information
- 54% do not trust the government and other authorities to keep their personal information confidential.

The UK and USA have been running global surveillance systems since the start of the cold war through NSA and GCHQ and their scope was extended by the ECHELON system in the 1980s.

So, for 60 years, these hidden systems have been beyond democratic control and now we see this alliance extended to cover not just suspected terrorists, but criminals as well, by-passing standards of privacy and data protection.

The UK is one of the few countries classed as an “Endemic Surveillance Society” (the worst classification) in the 2007 International Privacy Ranking survey. (see Appendix 1).

CCTV

Closed circuit television (CCTV) was supposedly introduced to prevent crime. However, the cameras do not deter criminals. Despite the fact that Britain has more cameras than anywhere else in Europe, they have not worked in terms of deterrence. Nor have they provided any significant help in identifying and prosecuting offenders.

Only 3% of street robberies were solved using CCTV in London last year so billions of pounds have now been spent on new technology, intended to boost conviction rates. It will include:

- A new database of images (using technology developed by the sports advertising industry) to track and identify offenders.
- Putting images of suspects in muggings, rape and robbery cases out on the internet (From June 2008)
- Building a national CCTV database, incorporating pictures of convicted offenders as well as unidentified suspects (on hold while the technology is refined)

Unfortunately the police find CCTV footage ‘difficult to use’ so they often don’t track it down. It is time consuming to watch and the boundaries for its use in court are not clear. Overall it fails to fulfil its stated purpose.

What it does provide is far more state surveillance of ordinary people than anywhere else in Europe or, probably, the world. The average person is caught on CCTV three hundred times a day.

Telecommunications

In October 2007, the mandatory retention of telecommunications data in the UK came into effect – a decision that was made in secret and ‘fast tracked’ through the European Parliament. A record of everyone’s phone calls, e-mails, mobile phone calls (including location) and internet usage will be kept, putting everyone of us under surveillance.

The US threat

Much of the world’s communications travel through switching points in the United States, eg most of the Internet traffic between Asia and Europe passes through the USA and increasingly Internet transactions and e-mails between Europeans are passed through there too. Any data held in or passing through the USA can be accessed by the US government under US law.

WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?

Thought crime

What you say (or think?) can now also constitute a crime. Religious hatred? Although slightly weakened, the new Act still enables prosecution for being against religion. Or for "glorifying terrorism"! Anyone who expresses some understanding of what drives people to violence can go to prison.

The latest counter-terrorism Act criminalises "acts preparatory to terrorism" and "glorifying or condoning acts of terror."

The offence of "glorifying or condoning acts of terror" is a frightening concept that strikes directly at the right to freedom of expression. I may believe the attacks of 11 September 2000 were appalling, but I don't want to stop someone who thinks otherwise from expressing their view - I want to argue back.

And just because somebody might want to condone it or glorify it doesn't mean that they are going to emulate it. If they do try to, there are plenty of criminal offences with which they can already be charged. The point is to catch them and charge them.

Where will the line on the new thought crimes be drawn? Expressing support for Palestinian suicide bombers, or for the resistance in Iraq - or condemning the war crimes committed by the US and British governments - could all now be criminal offences.





Freedom of the press

The following examples demonstrate the threat to the freedom of expression and the freedom of the press.

Investigative Journalist **Shiv Malik** was ordered to surrender his notes for a book he is writing on terrorist organisations. The case against him under the Terrorism Act 2000 is believed to be unprecedented since his source had already come forward and volunteered to speak to the police.

Sally Murrer is awaiting trial on charges of illegally obtaining information from the police – if the police win it will become a crime to report what a police officer or any other public official says without authorisation, or indeed even to talk to them.

UK **Indymedia** are a network of individuals, independent and alternative media activists and organisations, offering grassroots, non-corporate, non-commercial coverage of important social and political issues. Rackspace, a US company, has offices in London subject to UK law. They have had two of their servers confiscated by Special Branch without any explanation. It would seem that the FBI had been asked to remove a story about Swiss undercover police from one of Rackspace's websites and that the Italian government has been hostile to them ever since their coverage of Genoa in 2001 (G7 conference and protest riots). So a trail that started in Switzerland and Italy has now ended fairly and squarely in the lap of the Home Secretary to justify.

The General Secretary of the National Union of Journalists, **Jeremy Dear**, has written to the Home Secretary, Jacqui Smith, about the level of routine police surveillance by the Forward Intelligence Teams (FITs). This has become so intrusive that it amounts to harassment.

EXECUTIVE POWERS

Arrest

For centuries Britain has distinguished between serious "arrestable" offences and minor offences not subject to arrest. This has been no academic distinction. Many a demonstrator and many an assertive citizen has been grateful for the distinction.

The Serious Organised Crime & Police Act 2005 swept this aside at a stroke. You can now be arrested for anything - dropping litter, parking badly, anything at all. Indeed, you can be arrested merely on suspicion of doing something dreadful, like dropping litter. In fact, no offence has even to have been committed. You can be arrested because a police officer suspects a crime (like dropping litter) might have been committed, and that you might have been the person who might have committed it.



The effect in practice is very simple. Anyone can be arrested, any time, anywhere, at the whim of any police officer.

Anti-stalking laws

These were also, supposedly, to make us feel safer. Yet they have been hardly used at all against stalkers. Instead they have been employed against political activists.

Under "anti-terror" legislation you can now be stopped and taken to a 'designated' place to be searched. The most recent secondary legislation defines a "designated place" as anywhere in the United Kingdom.

Also under "anti-terror" laws, the Home Secretary can now designate any area she chooses as subject to arbitrary stop and search by the police.

Detention without charge

This government now has the power to hold you without charge for forty-two days. Anyone who has been in a police cell for even a few hours knows that a prisoner held for a long time will say anything required to get out. After six weeks you would confess to anything.



Forty-two days is by far the longest period in Europe for detention without charge.

Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs)

An ASBO can impose restrictions on where you can go, who you can talk to, what you can sit on - anything. In practice many courts issue ASBOs, imposing wide-ranging restrictions, on request. Despite all the evidence that they are used overwhelmingly against vulnerable and mentally ill people, they are here to stay and result in prison sentences for people who have not been convicted of a crime.

Last year an illiterate man was given an illegible ASBO and then arrested for breaching it; in Bristol a woman with a propensity for suicide attempts was given an ASBO against jumping off bridges. And, of course, the state tried to use an ASBO against Quaker peace campaigner Lindis Percy.

POLICE PRACTICE

Demonstrating

If you take part in political protest the police will harass you to try and stop you doing so. They arrest people week after week, simply as a means of stopping you protesting. Many are simply held for a few hours and then released - although the police try to blackmail them into agreeing to a "caution" which admits guilt. Of those few actually charged, most will be taken through months of pre-trial stress and expense - only to have the Crown Prosecution Service drop the charges at the last minute.

This has nothing at all to do with criminal justice and everything to do with preventing legitimate protest. It is a consistent policy of abuse of police powers to suppress dissent.

Movement

Think about freedom of movement. In the seventies the police used to stop and turn back - after confiscating items like shoelaces - coaches carrying football supporters. The police had absolutely no legal power to do so, but of course, who is going to make a fuss about cracking down on football hooligans?

Later in the seventies the police extended this practice to anti-racists on their way to protest against Nazis parading through the streets and by the eighties the police had plenty of precedent to apply this unlawful "power" to miners and printers travelling to picket lines. Without a shred of legality, they simply stopped their coaches and turned them back.

The extra-legal practice has been established that you can only moved around your own country if the police are willing to allow you to do so.



POLITICAL POLICE

Special Branch

Our political police have doubled their numbers since 1970 to 4,247 in 2001. Their role is to support MI5 collecting intelligence on national security which includes

- anti-terrorism
- public order
- subversive groups

These are defined as groups whose activities are intended to ‘overthrow or undermine parliamentary democracy by political, industrial or violent means’. In practice both Special Branch and MI5 routinely place political and trade union activities under surveillance and recruit ‘agents’ within parties and unions.

Weaponry

Police are extending their use of electro-shock weapons, with officers in 10 forces taking part in a 12 month trial (from Sep 2007). Previously “Taser” high-voltage shock guns were only used by specialist firearms officers and only as an alternative to lethal force when there was an immediate threat of death or serious injury to police officers or members of the public. They are now being issued widely to non-specialist officers for routine use.

Shoot to kill

In 2005 Jean Charles de Menezes was shot by armed police at Stockwell tube station despite being entirely innocent of any crime. The police simply shot an innocent man. Not one police officer has been prosecuted for this murder. Not one has even been disciplined.

Recently a Leeds man was on his way to meet up with friends, when he went into a hypoglycaemic coma whilst waiting for the bus. Understandably, he was sitting hunched over his rucksack and was unable to respond to the challenges of armed police who had been called to the scene. One officer pointed a gun to his head, another shot him twice with a “Taser” gun (which incapacitates the victim and can kill), then he was bundled into a police van where he regained consciousness. The MedicAlert medallion he was wearing was ignored!

The police explained that “he looked Egyptian”.

PRISONS, TAGS, CHIPS AND TORTURE

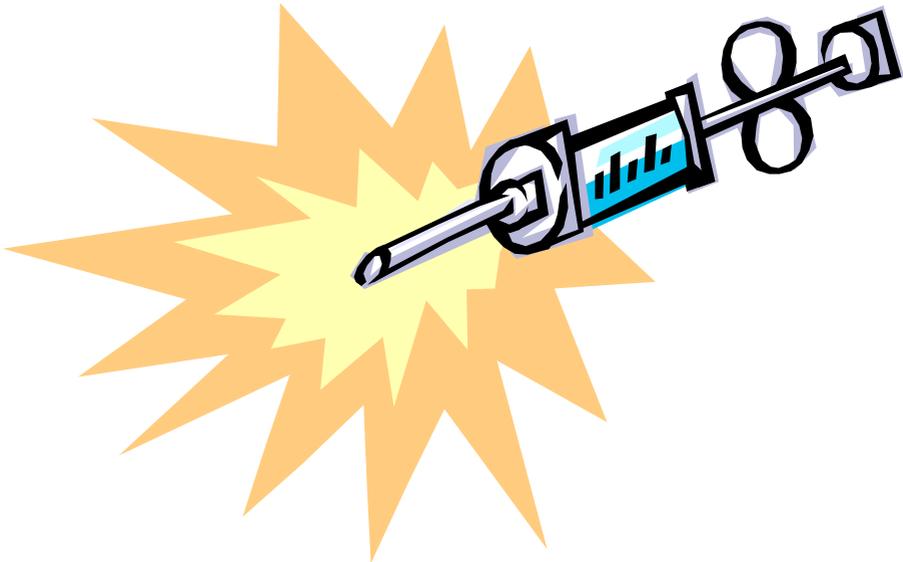
Microchipping

Ministers are now planning to implant ‘machine readable’ microchips under the skin of thousands of offenders as part of an expansion of the electronic tagging scheme. The microchips are injected into the back of the arm with a hypodermic needle and consist of a toughened glass capsule holding a computer chip, a copper antenna and a ‘capacitor’ that transmits data stored on the chip when prompted by an electromagnetic reader.

One company plans deeper implants that could vibrate, electroshock the bearer, broadcast a message or serve as a microphone to transmit conversations.

This degradation of offenders does nothing towards rehabilitation and nothing for our safety, as some will inevitably find a way round this new technology in the same way that they have with other tagging devices. One consumer privacy expert has proved that he can bump into a chipped person and siphon the chip’s unique signal in a matter of seconds.

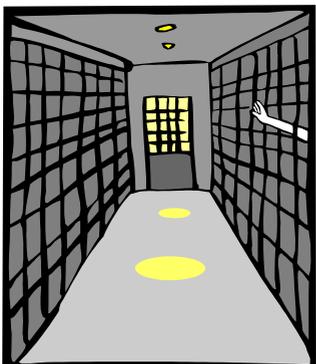
It doesn’t take much imagination to realise that we can all be chipped next.



Prisons

New Labour has expanded our prison population, now the largest percentage of the population in Europe. They have allowed private companies to run sections of our prison service for profit. They have pushed judges to hand out longer and longer sentences

- Three new US-style “Titan” prisons are to be built, each holding 2,500 prisoners.
- An old RAF base is earmarked for transformation into an open prison and
- The use of a prison ship is still being considered even though they have been found to be unworkable in other countries



By 2014 the government will be in a position to lock up 96,000 of us!

Rendition for Torture

Finally, it has been clearly established that the British state allows - and even initiates - rendition to foreign countries for torture. It is not just that our government failed to protest about the existence of the illegal US kidnap and torture centre at Guantanamo Bay. Nor just that our government has failed to protect British citizens and British residents from kidnap and torture by the USA.

The British government has actually initiated the arrest, detention and rendition for torture of British residents - as well as facilitating the illegal transport by the US of kidnapped foreign citizens though UK territory on their way to secret torture centres in other countries.

It is reported that only 4% of detainees (not prisoners, “detainees”) are sent to Guantanamo Bay and that the other 96% are sent to places like Libya, Syria, Egypt and Morocco.

IS BRITAIN A POLICE STATE?

Any decent country must keep a balance between, on the one hand, the powers the state needs to defend society against genuine threats and, on the other hand, the preservation of the individual and collective rights and freedoms that make society worth protecting.

In Britain that balance no longer exists.

What do we mean by "police state"?

Most people use the term "Police State" to mean a country where the government controls its people, instead of the reverse, and where the agents of the state, such as the police and various "security services", have arbitrary and unaccountable power over individuals.

How near are we to a "police state"?

How does Britain measure up? What freedoms have we lost - or are we losing?

The answer is that the government has already assembled both the necessary laws and the "custom and practice" precedents of a police state.

Rights we have enjoyed for centuries – some since Magna Carta – have gone completely or been severely eroded. Habeus corpus, free speech, trial by jury, freedom to travel, personal privacy ... the list is long.



Magna Carta
1215

How will the state use its power over its own citizens?

How heavy-handedly these powers and practices will be used depends on how rapidly the crises of capitalism and the environment develop.

One thing is certain: the freedoms many of us think we can still take for granted are gone.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

Individual Action

It is hard for individuals, acting on their own, to make a difference.

One person did manage to make a change. Clarence Willcock was prosecuted for refusing to carry an ID card after the end of World War II. The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Goddard, acquitting him, said that this use of ID cards was an abuse of power and that it was undesirable to turn law-abiding subjects into lawbreakers. As a result, Winston Churchill abolished them as part of his ‘bonfire of controls’.

You could:

- Refuse to carry an ID card
- Refuse to give data for the National Identity Database
- Write to your doctor forbidding the entry of your medical data onto the national system
- Write to your MP (they take a surprising amount of notice of letters)
- Send letters to the press, especially in response to stories about the exaggerated threat of terrorism and crime

Collective Action

It will be very difficult for the police and government to control us all if we act in a united way.

Push your Trade Union to make a stand on civil liberties. Trade Unions like the PCS (Public and Commercial Services Union) are already working hard to maintain our democratic rights.

Join a “single issue” action group such as No2ID or Liberty.

Join a political organisation seeking to defend our liberties, such as the Alliance for Green Socialism, which sees the threat to civil liberties in its overall context.

Educate people

Talk to others about the issue of rights and liberties – and why they are being taken away.

Tell people about this booklet and other publicly available material. More copies of this booklet are readily available from the address on the cover.

APPENDIX 1 - Privacy Ranking

The UK based Privacy International and the US based electronic Privacy Information Centre in their Privacy and Human Rights report allocated the UK its 'endemic' rating because it has:

- World leading surveillance schemes
- Lack of accountability and data breach disclosure law
- Commissioner has few powers
- Interception of communications is authorised by politician, evidence not used in court and oversight is by commissioner who reports only once a year upon revising a subset of applications.
- Hundreds of thousands of requests from government agencies to telecommunications providers for traffic data.
- Data retention scheme took a significant step forward with the quiet changes based on EU law.
- Plans are emerging regarding surveillance of communications networks for the protection of copyrighted content.
- Despite data breaches, 'joined-up government' initiatives continue.
- Identity scheme still planned to be the most invasive in the world, highly centralised and biometrics-driven; plan to issue all foreigners with cards in 2008 are continuing.
- E-borders plans include increased data collection on travellers

APPENDIX 2 - Useful Websites

<http://www.greensocialist.org.uk>/<http://www.amnesty.org.uk>

<http://www.actionaid.org.uk>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk>

<http://www.hri.org/docs/ECHR50.html>

<http://www.indymedia.org.uk>

<http://www.liberty-human-rights.org.uk>

<http://www.no2ID.com>

<http://www.privacyinternational.org/>

<http://www.soilassociation.org/nanotech>

<http://www.statewatch.org>

“No one shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.”

Article 3, European Convention on Human Rights.

“No free man shall be seized or imprisoned, or stripped of his rights or possessions, or outlawed or exiled, or deprived of his standing in any other way, nor will we proceed with force against him, or send others to do so, except by the lawful judgement of his equals or by the law of the land.

Magna Carta 15 June 1215

“the United Kingdom’s (imprisonment) rate ... is now the highest among countries of the European Union”

Home Office ‘World Prison Population List’ 2003

“The ECHR does not consider that the (UK) law ... provide(s) adequate protection against abuse of power (in) the scope or manner of exercise of the very wide discretion conferred on the State to intercept and examine external communications.”

European Court of Human Rights 1 July 2008

“In future it shall be lawful for any man to leave and return to our kingdom unharmed and without fear, by land or water”

Magna Carta 15 June 1215

"I suggest that all member states should equip themselves with a PNR (travellers’ personal data) system and share information with others when relevant".

European Commissioner for Justice 4 July 2007

“When you have got more than 300,000 people accessing this (ContactPoint) database, it’s just very difficult to stop the sale of information.”

Ian Brown, Oxford Internet Institute 27 August 2007

“Throughout the country are an estimated five million CCTV cameras; that's one for every 12 citizens.”

New Statesman 2 October 2006



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Alliance for Green Socialism
WHITBY
YO21 3HF

Please send me information about the AGS

I would like to join the AGS

name

address

.....

telephone

email

Annual membership of the AGS is only
£25 pa (waged), **£15** (low-waged), **£5** (unwaged), **£3** (students).
Please make cheques payable to Alliance for Green Socialism..
When completed, please send this form to:

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Alliance for Green Socialism
WHITBY
YO21 3HF

First they came for the Jews
and I did not speak out –
because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for the communists
and I did not speak out –
because I was not a communist.

Then they came for the trade unionists
and I did not speak out –
because I was not a trade unionist.

Then they came for me –
and there was no one left
to speak out for me.

Pastor Niemoeller

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