

EAT THE RICH

PRAISE THE LORD: THE SUPER-RICH ARE GETTING RICHER. Can't you just wait for that wealth to trickle down your way? There are 171 Billionaires in the UK, and Covid has not stopped the accumulation of riches for them.

The top ten all added to their hoard. But spare a thought for poor Sir James Dyson who only added £100 million to his pile of £16.3 billion. The Tories were so moved, they gave him lucrative contracts for NHS ventilators without competitive tendering.

Dyson comes in 4th with Sir Leonard Blavatnik the richest bastard with £23bn, over £7.2bn more growth in a year. Second, David & Simon Reuben adding nearly £5.5 billion to their £16bn stash. And bronze model goes

to Sri and Gupti Hinduja at £17bn. None of the top 3 are exactly household names.

In Scotland Anders Povlsen, has £6bn, a Dane who likes the country so much he owns more land than the Queen and the Church in Scotland combined. Nice to know the Viking Raids never stopped ! Povlsen added an extra £1.2bn last year. Only 10 of the 171 are Scotland based.

In the North & Midlands of England, some voters have swallowed the 'levelling up' mantra of Johnson. Vote Tory and get more funds for your local area. Whatever happened to the cry: **"We don't want your crumbs, we want the bloody bakery"!**

GLASGOW KEELIE

June 2021

KENMURE SPECIAL

Priceless

PUT THE KETTLE ON!



HISTORY MADE AS THE PEOPLE KETTLE THE POLIS

LOCAL ASSEMBLIES

Assemble & Organise!

Bring climate justice to COP26.

Join our in-person local assemblies, from the Highlands to Brighton.

**SUN 13th JUNE
GLASGOW**

Collina Street
Maryhill Occupations
12 - 4 PM

**COP²⁶
COALITION 26**

Resisting Raids and Evictions – What Next?

KENMURE ST showed both the depths to which the racist UK state will sink to and the strength that we have in opposing them.

The following week, **Glasgow No Evictions** held a meeting to discuss how to organise to resist future raids and evictions.

Over 150 people joined on Zoom and heard not only about the recent lived experience of people in the network, but how we might learn from resisting raids in Haringey, Glasgow back in 2015 and from Birmingham based activist Muhammad Idrish who fought deportation in the 1980s.

The contribution from Idrish was particularly powerful because it highlighted the importance of collective action through the support he received from his trade union NALGO (now Unison).

The next day, the Home Office attempted another

raid in Paisley, but it was impeded when the occupiers of the property refused to open the door. As word spread, activists started to arrive on the scene and the enforcement officers thought better of using the tools they had brought to force an entry and left.

Remember, anyone can stop a raid or eviction. Join **No Evictions**, be vigilant and report sightings of the enforcement vans, respond to any incidents by sharing information or going along in person.



Slow Death from Earning your Crust of Bread.

DAY AND DAILY, millions of ordinary people head out to earn their crust of bread, sadly some never return home alive.

Sometimes the death of a worker doesn't come with the quick explosion/fire or mechanical failure, but is a slow process through a disease brought about by working conditions. **Mesothelioma** was a killer that could take up to 40 years or more to kill but was deadly nevertheless. This disease was caused by working with asbestos, a cheap and good fireproof insulating material, but lethal to those who breathed it in, even in minute doses.

It was known to have disastrous health effects as far back as the 1930's, medical papers had been written of its dangers then, people fought to have it banned, but it took until 1999 before it was finally banned in the UK and the EU. Legislators and their friends in government dragging their feet on this matter for more than 60 years.

I worked in the Clyde shipyards in the 50's and asbestos was widely accepted and still in use on a massive scale. I recall one fine summer day, onboard a ship that had been launched and was being fitted out. The engine room was open to the sky and the sun was streaming in filling the engine room. As I looked up I was aware of a white mist in the sunlight. It was asbestos powder, it was everywhere. The reason for this summer asbestos snow was the pipe

ladders. Their job was to burst large bags of asbestos power with a shovel, mix it with water into a thick paste, to spread on the various pipes, then bind it in place with a sort of hessian bandage which was steeped in a more watery solution of asbestos. No masks, no breathing apparatus of any kind.

INTO HOMES

This stuff was so lethal that family members of workers died from mesothelioma just from the dust brought into their homes on the clothes of those working in that atmosphere. Although now banned, due to its long incubation period, people are still dying from Mesothelioma to this day and will continue to die in years to come.

To say that the employers were unaware of this slow death is ludicrous, the subject matter had been well discussed. What does the life a worker matter when they knew then that there were plenty more workers in the care of the workers wife. To change insulating material would have cost money and interfered with their profit margins. Always remember, that when you go to work to earn your humble crust of bread, your employer doesn't give a damn about you or your health, just how much they can make from your labour and skills.

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PEOPLE POWER AND DIRECT ACTION won against Priti Patel's racist laws at Kenmure Street.

But organising ourselves is not new to Keelies. During WW1 the Clyde Workers Committee wildcats defied their Unions, organised themselves, while in 1915 women and children organised Rent Strikes creating Red Clydeside. Only fifty years ago saw a mass Work-in at the UCS Yards with hundreds of other face-offs with Council, Government and bosses; today's Keelies stand on the shoulders of giants.

Home Office wasted no time demoralising protestors as 'the mob'. But the brave and fast actions of the No Evictions Network and a 1000 neighbours saved these two young men from being seized in a 'dawn raid'.

This widespread tactic uses the element of surprise to forcibly seize people. Glasgow Girls at Drumchapel High School fought against it in 2005 trying to stop their friends being subjected to dawn raid deportation.

You need nerves of steel to wait for asylum here. Some face 'leave to remain' withdrawal and fear of seizure, the sad death of Mercy Beguma last August, or forcible removal of funds and sent to 'prison cell' hotels

Enough is Enough

Our screens showed the Tories 'hostile environment' in action - a solid ring of police around the van protecting the State's property, police horses ready to mow into protestors, riot gear ready, kettling at the end of the street turning peaceful locals into would-be criminals.

But we learned non-violent direct action, passive resistance and use of social media against State force; occupy under the van, mobilise masses of people, be unresponsive to police negotiation, sit dead-weight on the street preventing easy extraction, activate phone trees, obstruct the enforcement process, blockade the exits and don't forget to organise basic needs of toilets, food and water.

So get involved you know what to do now! Those young men are not outta the water yet and they are not alone.

KEELIE COMMENT

The Scottish Government aspires to a "more humane" asylum system whereas regular readers will know we have a No States, No Borders position.

Whilst the Holyrood policy worked in our favour this time, we have no doubt that under different circumstances they would have used the full force of state power against us.

The people had control in Kenmure Street. This threatens "leaders" of all political shades. Anwar parachuting in with a deal he had agreed with the parties being a demonstration of this. We were told that on our behalf he had agreed that we would disperse! Not something well received by the crowd.

If the men were not at risk of being detained again, why didn't

they walk through the corridor we had cleared to their close door? Instead, they were escorted by the cops and Anwar to a nearby mosque which had a conveniently raised front porch where the spectacle could be filmed and photographed.

This march to the mosque gave the cops the opportunity to vent their anger and frustration on people of all ages in their path. Pushing, shoving and manhandling them out of their way. Serious injury by trampling was only narrowly avoided. But a price obviously worth paying to wrestle power from the people and have a grandstanding opportunity outside a mosque.

The people united will never be defeated, as long as they stand up to self-appointed and unaccountable so-called leaders.

UNABLE TO JUSTIFY their racist stance and practice of dawn raids, the UK Government is now resorting to ever more desperate tactics.

Home Secretary Patel has claimed that she is representing the rather convenient "silent majority" who "do not want their communities and way of life to change beyond recognition" and linking migration to widespread criminality without any evidence.

She's even taken to attending raids herself. Please come and try that in Glasgow!

Here at The Keelie, we share the position taken by No Evictions that we won't buy into the good migrant – bad migrant rhetoric. There should be no raids and evictions.

The structure of our class ridden society, where the wealth of billionaires grows and food banks proliferate means that we welcome the possibility that migrants will contribute to changing that beyond all recognition.

THE BATTLE OF KENMURE STREET

ON 13th MAY RESIDENTS IN POLLOKSHIELDS saw an Immigration Enforcement van in Kenmure Street.

They alerted others and went over to find out what was happening. Enforcement officers were putting two men into the van. Activists positioned themselves in front and behind the vehicle whilst one crawled underneath. The van was unable to move and at this point the Police arrived.

To carry out an immigration enforcement raid during the festival of Eid, in a community with many Muslim residents can only be viewed as a deliberately provocative act by the racist UK Government.

The men have both lived in Glasgow for a number of years one of them having a partner of five years who later spoke about her anger and distress. The distraught parents of one of the men had to be comforted by a neighbour.

By afternoon, over 1,000 activists were surrounding the van and the incident was national and international news. The crowd was incredibly diverse and the bus stop became a makeshift point for food and water that

people began dropping off. This is the power of solidarity that can challenge an authoritarian and racist state apparatus.

Unable to free the van, increasing numbers of regular cops arrived, then the blue jacketed "liaison officers" who no one seemed to want to talk to. **No Evictions** with its non-hierarchical structure, has no leaders the cops can negotiate with.

Police horses and riot cops began arriving on nearby streets. No one fell for the now familiar ploy from the cops of "clear a path we need to get the paramedics through". Were they unable to walk up the pavement with a guide from No Evictions like everyone else? Then the cops made a dash to force themselves through the crowd. They were met by a group of committed people who immediately sat or lay in the road, forcing a retreat.

The day was punctuated by singing and chanting. It was looking as though the stand-off would either last into the night or the cops would attempt a dangerous operation to clear the street. Human rights lawyer Aamer Anwar then announced that he had brokered a deal for the two men detained to be

released into his custody and be escorted to a nearby mosque. The cops issuing a statement that it wasn't safe to do anything else. The two men were soon released and arrived safely at the mosque. The following day they told No Evictions they were "both safely back home yesterday evening...[we] are overwhelmed by the response and... thanks to everyone for the support."

We at the Keelie are extremely proud of our fellow Glaswegians for having responded so quickly and decisively to support others in their community. Hopefully, the Home Office will be deterred from trying this type of raid in Glasgow.

• TO GET INVOLVED CHECK:

<https://www.facebook.com/noevictions>

noevictionsnetwork@gmail.com



ANYONE CAN PREVENT A DEPORTATION! If you see an enforcement van in your area:

1. Contact Unity Centre
0141 427 7992
unitycentremedia@gmail.com

2. Contact Glasgow No Evictions Campaign
07448 515094
noevictionsnetwork@gmail.com
or by FB messenger

3. No Evictions are trying to verify reports before sharing widely because of possible hoaxes. If you can, please go along and check that a detention is taking place and send us a photo before sharing on your own social media. We can then organise a response. Kenmure Street showed how minutes can count.