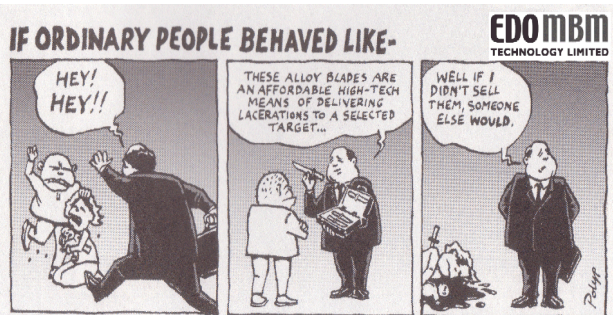


# SMASH EDO

Christmas 2004 Newsletter

## << PUBLIC MEETING >>

At 6:30 on the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2005, Smash EDO are holding a public meeting at the Bridge Community Centre, Moulsecoomb to discuss the presence of arms dealers in our community and the campaign to shut them down.



British/Polish peace activist Ewa Jasiewicz will be speaking about her eye-witness experiences in Iraq since the invasion, and speakers from the campaign will explain what we've been up to! There will also be plenty of chance for discussion. The meeting starts at 6:30pm, so some along to find out more or get involved!

### Action Zone

We regularly confront EDO's management and workforce. Every Thursday between 4pm and 6pm, we have a demo outside the factory with upwards of 30 people attending. Drums, megaphones, whistles and pots and pans remind the staff that their complicity in mass murder is unacceptable to the people of Brighton.

At the end of October, activists disrupted the Unmanned Combat Air Vehicles (UCAV) conference in London, which was sponsored by EDO. Activists briefly got in and confused security by shouting anti-arms trade slogans whilst wearing suits, before being ejected.

On the day after the latest ground assault on Fallujah, Smash EDO activists joined 300 other angry people for an impromptu march around Brighton, and according to a report on Indymedia UK, people have been demonstrating their rage at EDO in a more direct manner - smashing windows and hurling red paint.

**More actions are planned so watch this space!**

### WHO, WHAT & WHY SMASH EDO?

EDO MBM Technology Ltd is a company based on the Home Farm Industrial Estate, Moulsecoomb, Brighton. EDO profit from death and destruction - they make parts for weapons which are used en masse against innocent people like those in Fallujah. Their products include bomb-release mechanisms for F-16s and Tornados and parts for the so-called 'smart' Paveway bomb. These weapons are used in Iraq and sold to companies like Lockheed Martin and Raytheon who arm all sorts of nasty regimes like Saudi Arabia and Israel ...

**We will be here until EDO isn't.**

### EDO ON TRIAL

Six Smash EDO activists were convicted of obstructing the highway at Brighton Magistrates Court in December after the court refused to let them explain their actions. The charges resulted from a blockade of the factory in May that cost EDO around £20,000.

At the same action, a further 5 activists climbed onto EDO's roof and hung banners. They are charged with 'aggravated trespass' and will be in Brighton Magistrates Court, Edward Street from the 11<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> January.

'Aggravated trespass' means obstructing lawful activity - so the activists will argue that EDO's support for the war crimes being committed in Iraq is illegal under UK law - effectively putting EDO on trial! The five will be calling witnesses from Iraq and Palestine to support their argument. Support is welcome - there is a public area in the courtroom.

Tom Gittoes, one of those charged said "It disgusts me that I am being treated as a criminal for protesting the manufacture of bombs in our town. EDO make fat profits from death and destruction, they should be in the dock, not us."