

**Newspaper of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist)**

# Oppose the Privatisation of the NHS: Our Security Lies in Our Fight

**N**early sixty years after the establishing of the National Health Service, a service that was

**founded on the basis that it would be free and available to all, it is increasingly being sold off to private monopolies who**

**stake their claim on the health of the British people to line their pockets. As cases up and down the country reveal, the**

**undermining of a free and universal health care, whether it be the selling off of GPs**

*Continued on page 2*

**FIFTH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE WORLD-WIDE  
ANTI-WAR  
DEMONSTRATIONS  
OF UNPRECEDENTED  
SCALE**

The anniversary of the biggest anti-war demonstration in British history, February 15, sees the anti-war movement building and the need to continue being built as strong as ever. In Afghanistan and Iraq, the horror of what has been unleashed on

these two nations since 2001 is very clear. These are crimes against humanity in these countries committed on a daily basis. These crimes of Anglo-US imperialism do not even have a geopolitical aim, and those responsible cannot escape the



accusation of acting out of some

*Continued on page 2*

## Commentary

## Rowan Williams attacked for raising questions in the society:

# Oppose the Hysteria and Disinformation Aimed at the Muslim Community

**U**NDER THE RULING ELITE'S ADOPTED POLICY OF FEAR, there is not a day goes by when the Muslim community are not being attacked by the government and media. There is a constant agenda to demonise the Muslim community and set them apart from the British polity, of which they are part. The mere mention of *sharia* law, the body of Islamic religious law on which Dr Rowan Williams' comments in a speech raising questions about religious and civil law, has seen the creation of a media mass hysteria, which has turned the Archbishop of

Continued on page 4

**[inside]**

## Fifth anniversary of the world-wide anti-war demonstrations 2

## Stop paying the rich!

3

## Event to celebrate the successful struggle for Whipps Cross hospital **4**

Published by RCPB(ML)  
170 Wandsworth Road, London SW8 2LA  
Registered as a newspaper  
Printed by Millennium Press

## Oppose the Privatisation of the NHS: Our Security Lies in Our Fight

*Continued from page 1*

**surgeries to private US corporations, or the government's refusal of treatment to asylum seekers; the NHS must be defended and safeguarded from this huge anti-social offensive.**

NHS staff are particularly strong in defending the NHS. They are currently in a battle against an appalling pay cap by the government, who want public service workers to accept their increasingly eroded pay and conditions, on the basis of being good British citizens. But NHS staff are firm in their stand to defend their NHS. As the NHS demonstration held in London last year showed, the sentiment is against privatisation, and slogans on the march reflected the will of the workers to become the decision makers.



This year, Brown has painted his vision of the NHS as one that is for preventative medicine with investment in screening, etc., and, as the Darzi report in October 2007 put forward, that the NHS needs to be "fair effective, personalised and safe". But the picture that NHS staff are seeing is a scene of retrogression and return to the days of every man for himself, while giant corporations get rich off the wealth created by the workers and on the ever-worsening conditions that produce the limited health care of the British people.

### The fight

This is in complete contrast with the vision held many workers of a new health service centred around the human being, both patient and staff, that acts preventatively providing the best services possible to meet the needs of the people. Workers are coming to the realisation that this sort of health service has to

be fought for, and now are beginning to understand that our security lies in our fight. The health workers of Britain are becoming a huge force, demanding an end to privatisation and an increase in investments in social programmes.

## Fifth Anniversary of the World-Wide Anti-War Demonstrations of Unprecedented Scale

*Continued from page 1*

of the most brutal and bestial motives. Stability and humanity are the last thing on the minds of the occupiers, as they terrorise the people. The millions who marched on February 15, 2003, represented the majority of the British people, and it is now clear that the people need to be mobilised again into taking part in the anti-war movement, creating a mass movement that can effect lasting change.

Now in 2008, while the US has thousands of troops in the north of Iraq, Britain has 5,000 troops in the south, while in Afghanistan the war is escalating with 7,700 British troops being deployed there and over 42,000 NATO troops in total. After a meeting between Gordon Brown and Condoleezza Rice, discussing continued occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan and their plans to intervene in Iran and Kosovo, the

big powers are showing they are not going to end these wars, which highlights that only a mass movement of the working class and people can achieve an end to war.

While the people of Britain and the world oppose their governments' actions and atrocities in the illegal occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan, those sovereign nations who are under attack or threat of attack are strengthening their movement to defend their sovereignty, resist and get rid of foreign occupation, and make social progress through their own efforts.

This anti-war movement reflects a mass sentiment, and this must become a foundation to build resistance to the government's policy of war and aggression, and to firmly make the stand of the people for peace and friendship towards other sovereign nations.

Despite the great achievements of the anti-war movement, like the



February 15 march, the People's Assemblies and the World Against War Conference, the working class and people of Britain are still faced with the need to resist the Anglo-American dictate, and take up for solution the question of organising to bring into being an anti-war government.

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## Workers' Weekly

Newspaper of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist)

Website: [www.rcpbml.org.uk](http://www.rcpbml.org.uk)

February 16, 2008 Volume 38, Number 5

Subscription rates within Britain (including p&p): 4 issues - £2.95, 6 months - £18.95, Yearly - £33.95. For any subscription applications from abroad or for bulk subscriptions, please contact *Workers' Weekly* directly. Cheques should be made payable to 'RCPB(ML)' and sent to 170 Wandsworth Road, London SW8 2LA.



# Stop Paying the Rich!

**Discussion at the European Social Forum in October 2004 on the necessary fundamental change in the economy**



In the light of the fact that Chancellor of the Exchequer Alistair Darling has been accused of bowing to pressure from the super-rich after he said that they should not be worried about his proposed charge on “non-domiciles”, it is instructive to examine the situation of Lakshmi Mittal, donor to New Labour, who holds personal wealth reported at £23.5bn.

The steel monopoly ArcelorMittal from its headquarters in Luxembourg announced a share dividend payment of US\$935.4 million to the Mittal family for 2007. The fortune to be paid comes from the claim by owners of equity on realised added-value produced by many thousands of ArcelorMittal steelworkers worldwide. Last December, ArcelorMittal acquired NSD Limited, a steel distribution company based in Scunthorpe. It was announced on February 13 that ArcelorMittal had posted a record pre-tax profit of £9.9bn.

The ArcelorMittal global empire controls 10 per cent of the entire world's steel production. Owners of ArcelorMittal share equity have claimed \$1.50 per share for about \$2.2 billion of the monopoly's total realised added-value in 2007. The money is to be paid in four instalments during 2008. This announcement is not entirely correct, as the actual claim of owners of equity on realised added-value is \$1.87 billion. The government of Luxembourg claims 15 per cent of the equity claim or \$330 million. Other claimants of realised added-value besides those owning equity are steelworkers, salaried employees, various governments around the world, owners of ArcelorMittal debt and land, and executive managers.

The Mittal family-Empire

owns 43 per cent of all ArcelorMittal shares totalling 623.62 million shares. With a dividend of \$1.50 per share the gross take is \$935.43 million. The state of Luxembourg claims 15 per cent of the total or \$140.3 million leaving the Mittal family-Empire with a \$795.13 million payment from realised added-value produced in 2007.

## Luxury Spending

The head of the Mittal family-Empire, Lakshmi Mittal, lives in London. Mittal family-Empire luxury spending includes a £57 million mansion in Kensington, bought from Formula 1 boss Bernie Ecclestone, next door to one owned by the Sultan of Brunei. In 2004, the *Sunday Times* reported that the Mittal family-Empire organised in Paris a six-day wedding extravaganza for a daughter that cost £30 million, reportedly the world's most expensive wedding ever. The mansion is decorated with marble taken from the same quarry that supplied the Taj Mahal, earning it the title “Taj Mittal”.

In the year 2005, the head of the family-Empire Lakshmi Mittal made a donation to the Labour Party of £2 million, and another of the same amount in 2007. In 2001, a week after the general election, he gave New Labour a special donation of £125,000 just weeks before Blair wrote a letter to his Romanian counterpart supporting Mittal's bid to buy Sidex, the country's state steel company.

## Stop Paying the Rich!

This insane paying the rich from the global socialised economies has got to stop. Workers need look no further than these irrational payouts to the rich to grasp what is rotten within the imperialist economies, leading

inexorably to crisis after crisis and failure after failure.

Along with these payments to the rich comes private power and control over the socialised economies of the world and their political systems. This enormous private wealth mobilises state-organised power for further payments from the public treasuries of the world to expand their empires in ruthless competition with other monopolies. The amassing of private wealth to the extent of the Mittal family-Empire and the concentrated economic power of ArcelorMittal and their associated political power and control are driving the world to unbridled tyranny of the rich and whatever serves their narrow private interests. Consequences of this are seen in uneven economic development, outsourcing, sudden shutdowns, layoffs, the wrecking of particular productive entities and even whole sectors of the economy, corruption, poverty, despair and war, all in the discredited aim of making this or that particular monopoly competitive.

The workers of the world in their particular nations will never be able to develop a self-reliant rational sustainable steel sector or any other sector as long as their socialised economies are under the narrow sectarian control of private family empires and subject

to making these enormous payments to the rich. Workers will not be able to use the added-value they produce in a rational socially conscious manner to reinvest in their enterprises or elsewhere for extended production or increase investments in social programmes as long as these payments to the rich continue and the rich use their wealth to dictate economic, political and military affairs.

This paying the rich has got to stop for headway to be made in building a different world where the socialised economies are sustainable and the security and needs of the people are guaranteed in law. Workers organised to defend themselves in trade unions and by building their own mass political party are charged by history to save the day and bring about a necessary fundamental change in the economy and lead society out of the crisis. The society must develop collective means to control the socialised economy to survive and prosper. This collective ownership and control is needed to ensure that all its produced added-value is put back into the economy to meet its social responsibilities to sustain the collective socialised economy, the people's well-being and public good.

## Stop Paying the Rich!

(Adapted from an article by K.C. Adams)

# Workers' Daily Internet Edition

Daily On Line Newspaper of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist)

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WDIE sent by e-mail daily (Text e-mail): 1 issue free, 6 months £5, Yearly £10  
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# Save Whipps Cross – Celebrating the Fight!

Saturday, February 16, 2008  
7.30pm till late

Lord Rookwood Pub, Leytonstone  
(see: [www.savewhippscros.org](http://www.savewhippscros.org))



**S**ave Whipps is a campaign by local people, hospital staff and community health workers fighting to save Whipps Cross Hospital as a full district general hospital in the heart of the community. It has had massive local support and quite some impact. The hospital's future now seems more assured than it did this time last year, but nothing is yet certain.

As the campaign heads into 2008, the Save Whipps Cross Campaign took the decision that it was time to celebrate the successes so far and arm everyone participating in the campaign with the

determination to further challenge plans that threaten local health services.

The fight has not yet achieved victory. But it has made some big advances exemplified in the report in November from NHS Director of Clinical Excellence Professor Alberti, which vindicated the arguments for keeping Whipps Cross Hospital as a fully functioning acute district general hospital.

There is a very present threat now to all community health services across the country and to the NHS itself. The success achieved by the Whipps campaign is not simply one of saving, for now, the hospital as it

is. The success is also that the fight to save the hospital has brought such a diversity of people together, from communists to conservatives, from hospital consultants to health visitors, who have worked closely together. Most importantly, all who fought this closure did so with the clear understanding that health care is a right, not a privilege for those that can afford it, and that they are never going to give over our precious NHS to the monopolies. Where they try to carve it up for profit we will fight them!

The Save Whipps Cross Campaign is organising a party for all friends and supporters on

Saturday, February 16, 7.30 till late. Admission (£5) includes food and your first drink (children £1 including food), plus music, including the *a cappella* socialist women's choir Velvet Fist, dancing with DJ Matthew, and a chance to talk and relax.

The venue is the Lord Rookwood pub in Leytonstone. To get your tickets email [info@savewhippscros.org](mailto:info@savewhippscros.org) or call Charlotte Monro on 0798 451 7381.

The campaign would like to express its thanks to Bob, landlord of the Lord Rookwood, for generously providing the venue free of charge.

## Oppose the Hysteria and Disinformation Aimed at the Muslim Community

*Continued from page 1*

**Canterbury's questioning into a witch hunt about the Muslim community who are yet again targeted as the "enemy within".**

The Archbishop was commenting on the question of parts of *sharia* financial and family law, with a view to seriously discussing the issues and specifically combating the disinformation promoted by the powers-that-be. In the course of his lecture at the Royal Courts of Justice, he touched on how different communities relate to something other than the British legal system. For example, Muslims have a religious opposition to charging interest. On this, Dr Ali Former, Chairman of

Liverpool Islamic Institute, said: "There are parts of Sharia family law and financial law which it would be good to have accommodated within the British legal system.....I think it would be a great step forward if this could happen and I don't think the Archbishop was talking about anything more than that."

Amongst the hysterical headlines and comments of the establishment, there were even calls for the Archbishop's resignation. Subsequently, a false debate was created, by which the issue on which people were invited to take sides was the adoption of a completely different law system for Muslims, which was not what the Archbishop raised. MPs started shouting "barbaric" and again the question of women was introduced, completely distorting both Dr Williams' remarks and the substantive issue of *sharia*. This is all part of the policy of fear, to imme-

diately conjure up these images in association with the Muslim community.

This media hysteria promotes the idea that to raise an issue in this society, especially one that involves defending the Muslim community, is to come under a huge offensive from the monopoly-run media, and that you will be demonised by raising questions surrounding rights for Muslim people who are in the minority. As soon as the issue of Muslim religious rights and their right to their beliefs was raised, the news corporations immediately raised the false debate, adopted a policy of disinformation, and echoed the line of Gordon Brown that the Muslim community are a threat to "British values", and "our way of life", that other cultures and ideas have to be "tolerated" if not managed.

This is the fascistic nature of government policy and is a policy

that needs to be resisted and opposed by the working class and its allies. There are questions that must be posed: Who benefits from the divide and rule ethos? And how does the working class become a force to overthrow those who have usurped power by force and stop this road to fascism?

This government's and the monopoly media's whole policy of fear is to counteract the fact that the Muslim community are part of the polity, and the disinformation is aimed at undermining the unity of the working class and people, who have continued and will continue to take a stand in defence of the rights of all.

*Workers' Weekly* calls on the working class to oppose the media hysteria and disinformation, and to seek to understand and participating in discussing the issues with a cool head. The whole polity must unite to take a bold step in defence of the rights of all.