x ULTRA-MILITANCE x

Free

Issue #1



...the smell of petrol still fresh on our hands, we laughed at the sunrise, in the knowledge that somewhere, under this same sun, those who profit from the blood of the innocent were waking to the flames that destroyed their machinery of oppression...

READ AND PASS ON

X ULTRA-MILITANCE X

Sitting in a pub or sitting watching the sunset eating free food? Taking the same bus to work or bunking the train to a place you've never been before? Walking through woodland drinking fresh spring water or spending another night drinking bottled water at the local gym? Staring at animals in cages or seeing them face to face in the wild? Living your own exciting, amazing, unique and fulfilling life or watching that of the latest soap icon? Watching news happen or making news happen? Walking the well-worn path to the local off-licence or walking untrodden paths through fields of corn? We know what our decisions would be. We dream of a world free of charge, like no other, in which dreams become reality. Together it is possible. The wind is calling our names, calling us to stop watching the world through the office window, calling us to action...

An intro...

So much more than mere abstinence, than some passing trend, than the music we listen to, the clothes we wear, and the books we read; this is a declaration of resistance. It is anger against their corrupt system and all it stands for, against their decadent institutions and the central basis of their exploitative, materialistic, intoxicated culture. It is so much more than simply saying no, it's about what we say yes to: self-liberation, positivity, creativity, to the vibrancy of life, freedom for all, and the destruction of the system to which we hold no allegiance.



It cannot be doubted that self-respect and self-discipline are a benefit to this struggle. The decision to live poison free, with our minds and bodies clear from toxins, cannot be taken lightly; it is however, one that is never regretted. It strengthens our resolve, fuelling our passion for life in its purest form. The chains have been broken. We are free.

This decision is not taken for recognition, acceptance, or image; if it is taken for selfish reasons then it is worthless. Of course there are personal reasons, such as self-improvement, pride and self-motivation, but more importantly is that we do not waver from the militant cause of freeing the innocent. We must not relent in our war against those who would imprison and torture our brothers and sisters.



We have freed ourselves from society's indoctrination, and chosen to ignore the lies that we are taught from birth. We have seen through the inherent corruption, deceit and decay in our society. Removing ourselves from their vampyristic desire for flesh, from their lust for destruction and short-lived escapism. We refuse to partake in their barbaric social order, we cannot and will not accept it as our own.

From our hearts comes this sacred oath that we will willingly and joyfully follow the path of militant action, fuelled by uncompromising self-respect. From the core of our beings comes this decision to reclaim, restore, and rejuvenate our lives. The fire burns in our hearts; a fire we cannot and will not quench. Focused, and driven by passion, dedication, honesty, truth and love; and unmoved by the false promises of society's blood-drenched and poisoned normality.



No longer wishing to live a shadow existence under a dark cloud of intoxication, we have thrown away the crutches we once relied upon; we have foresworn the sadistic desires of man for death and the taste of blood. We may be shunned and ridiculed for our voluntarily isolation; but this is the life we've chosen, as there truly can be no other way. All actions based upon and guided by this vow we have made to ourselves. A vow which will not be broken, and which is reinforced by everything seen in our daily lives. We will turn this system upside down, ending centuries of deprivation, desecration and destruction; we will rebuild our culture anew, we will set this world on fire.

PURIFICATION

A fight relentless I won't cease until all captives will be free. Forged through self discipline, I laid down my own rules. Track down hunters in the fields, cornered and blood chill executed. Corporations ravage and spoil the Earth, time to even up the score.

An interview conducted via e-mail with one of the leading lights in the European Vegan Straightedge scene...

1. **Are you able to give a brief introduction to Purification, who's in the band and what the message you are trying to spread is?**

Hi to everybody. My name is Andrea', but everyone know me as the monster , I'm the guitar player of Purification, Maurizio is the singer, than we have Fabio on drums and Emiliano on bass. The band started during summer 1996 as a project between people who were fed up with the current state of the scene of those days, where turncoats and bands with meaningless lyrical-contents were the norm. Here in Roma the scene has never been really big, but we have always had a strong and dedicated Vegan Straight Edge community. We started the band because we were into recording a 7" with extreme and militant lyrics, then playing some shows and call it quits right after that. But what happened was that the more we were playing together, the more we felt confident and happy with what we were doing, so as a natural progression the project band became a full-time band. Purification is our way to interpret the hardcore music and a way to express our feelings regarding critical matters that we all held so dear. In the hardcore scene everyone is well aware of animal rights, as a band we are not going to change the world, but in spite of all those who betrayed and sold out we want to be present to bear witness of our commitment.

2. **What's the Italian vegan straightedge scene like at the moment?**

The Roma HC scene has always been, through the years, the most respected scene here in Italy. The oldest, with the bigger scene, better bands and such. But since a year now we have experienced a big downfall, especially in a city that was so famous for its Vegan Straight Edge scene. Most of those people sold out, so now in Rome we still have a hardcore scene but no more focused on veganism, so we as a band have nothing to do with the new scene, the rest of Italy is the same few hardcore scenes, but just musically oriented no politics involved.

3. **How about the animal rights / ALF scene in Italy. We heard about the successful liberation of over 100 beagles from Morini farm last year. Are animal rights groups gaining in popularity and becoming more active? What are the main targets for the movement at the moment?**

We are not here to succeed, but to bring witness of our beliefs in animal liberation. The real battle is one fought outside of the hardcore scene, is a battle fought in the 'real' world. No one seriously intended to change the current status of things will concentrate his/her efforts in the scene. As for me, I was active in the animal liberation movement as an activist, and when I leaflet in the streets or participate to demos, those actions are intended to reach people totally unaware of their bad habits. Wherever we go, we bring our ideas with us, even during our every day life when we are confronted with people who are unaware of veganism or animal liberation. Education and actions goes hand in hand, and the one does not exclude the other. Education is at the roots of everything. To gain knowledge is the first step, but then you have to put that knowledge into action, otherwise that knowledge that you got is dull, useless. To be honest right now I'm not informed about the ALF targets here in Italy, I've been into serious problems with police, they controlled my mail etc. For me and for the rest of the band it is better to stay a little bit out of this situation you know what I mean!

PURIFICATION
X VEGAN STRAIGHT EDGE X

4. **The whole world saw a couple of years ago at the G8 summit in Genoa just how brutal the Italian cops are. How repressive are they towards the vegan/animal rights movement?**

Some Purification members were there. People even told me to have spotted some guys with Purification t-shirts, the ones with the big Animal Liberation print on back. A black-block guy even walked up to this friend of mine to tell him that he knew the band of the shirt that he was wearing and that he liked the lyrics, amah. Anyways, personally I don't think that violence was a good move there, also because in most cases it was provoked by the police to repress the whole movement as a whole, to brand all the people there as terrorists and communist trouble-makers. Long gone are the days of the field battle, nowadays it may be that resorting to violence cannot be a wise move. And in Genova the police, the armed arm of the multinationals and of the American way of life, made a good work in de-legitizing the movement and in letting some hundreds of people in creating troubles and have fights with them. Thumbs up to any form of direct action, even violent, but people should always question when and how this violence must take place.

5. **Abortion is a much debated issue within the scene, what are your views on it?**

Purification is not a pro-life band or a hardline band ,but i think that every members of the band is against abortion. I'm really against it but i know that for me is easier to say this because i'm 29 and i've a good job so i'll have no problem to raise a child , but the most important thing for us is education because especially young people are totally unaware about sexual education.

6. **What do you say to those people who describe Purification as fascists?**

It's always the same , when you're militant about your belief narrow minds consider you a fascist,that's life ...here in rome there are a lot of real nazis and they hate us too so it's a big problem for us because we're hated by both left wing and right wing people!

7. **How's you new album coming along? How did you hook up with Unborn for your recent split release with them? They are the only XveganX bands we're aware of that exist in the UK at the moment.**

Unborn are close friends with us from many years, Rat and Nick for me are example to follow for all the young vegan straight edge, so when the guy from kerosene asked us to do something together we were proud of this.

I believe that the record is cool , but to be honest our new record ,that will be out in june for uprising records, is really better than the split cd was. Also Karl from earth crisis will sing in our new cd so prepare for a great record!

8. **Have you read the book Declaration of War and if so has it influenced your vegan philosophy at all? You mention in some of your writings that we need to go beyond the traditional ALF style tactics and start taking more militant action. Do you think the day will come when animal abusers start being killed in revenge for their actions?**

When you are pushed to the corner, often violence becomes the only viable option. I do not really understand why people are so opposed to the concept of violence. Violence is part of human nature and we cannot deny our nature only to yield our desires. Love and hate, violence and peace, both are parts of our feelings, of our humanity. In the completely depersonalised structure of our social system, instincts are repressed in order to transform us into consumerist machines: we have value as long as we consume. But to fight, to release our anger is one of the most natural aspects of human nature. They try to sedate our urges providing us with palliative tools. They want to transform the whole of humanity into fearful submissive sheep. And the whole process starts with the repression of the most basic needs: the sexual urge, freedom, natural foods, a clean environment, etc. With this short preamble I only wanted to explain you why I think that violence is neither good nor bad, but simply, violence is. You cannot use reason to judge something like that good or bad. My answer to your question is that when necessary, violence is an effective means to foster a change in society. A way to send a message to the status quo in a very persuasive manner.

9. **Any last words, thank yous or messages to those who have broken the sacred vow?**

No word to waste for them , their hearts were never in it , so fuck them!

I want to thank you for the interest showed in what we are doing and for caring enough to interview us. As a last word I want to tell people reading this interview, not to judge Purification as the 'typical' Vegan Straight Edge band, since we are no 'generic' HC band, the members in Purification have been active in the HC scene for more than 15 years now, we have passed through many periods and scene politics, and trends brought away many so-called friends, we are no 15 years old kids yelling about revolutions and killings only to sell out in a couple of months, we have passed the test of time, we truly believe in what we say, we are a living proof that being Vegan and Straight Edge and getting older and committed are real options, even in this world populated by fake and bloodless individuals. We are not better than you, we are not superior to anyone, what we ask for is respect, we need no words of appreciations, no compliments, because what we do is mainly important for ourselves, we accomplish pride in our commitment and dedication, we feel good in knowing that we won't go down the drain as almost all the others went through the years. We are here to stay, VEGAN STRAIGHT EDGE until the last day.

Thanks to Purification for doing this interview, they are truly one of the greatest Vegan straightedge bands around at the moment

www.straightedge.it/purification.

DIRECT ACTION
from protest to resistance



While we believe in, and fully support militant direct action, we would never dismiss the benefits of 'peaceful' protest. It must however be remembered that highly visible demonstrations have limitations and drawbacks. A large protest is great for demonstrating the fact that many people are opposed to the issue in question. Sometimes this is enough; it may convince a local council to keep a swimming pool open, or stop a McDonalds being built in a small town. On a large scale however, it seems unlikely that protest will have any serious effect on the contentious issue. Of course it can be used to gain public support, or to keep the issue in both the public eye, and in the face of those who are the cause of the problem.

It would seem that large demonstrations work best when they are combined with direct action; when it becomes civil disobedience. Take for instance the recent world summits. If these protests were designed to keep the oppressors of our earth under the spotlight, it is very unlikely that these protests would even have made the news if they had not involved economic sabotage against large corporations and people taking a confrontational stance to defend themselves against violent police. The real reason for these protests of course was to stop the summit. This was achieved through roadblocks, cutting through, climbing over, crawling under or pulling down fences. This is however, where one of the problems with demonstrations comes into play. To get a lot of people in one area with the intent to cause civil disobedience, it is unlikely to go without the state noticing. A lot of protestors means lots of police, and thus increases the chances of being caught. A small cell of activists on the other hand, can work under cover of darkness, get their job done and be out without the state knowing until it's too late.

No amount of demonstrations will stop a war. Digging up runways, disabling vehicles, destroying recruitment centres might. Once the state has decided it's stance upon something, the views of the population become irrelevant. They can ignore banners and chants, they can't ignore a brick through their window. Marching through a town will not stop vivisection. Liberating animals from labs, redecorating offices, gluing locks and burning trucks will at least save lives, and is more likely to have the desired effect in the long run. If you have right on your side, then public opinion will catch up with you, as it did with the suffragettes, who bombed, bricked and broke their way to equality.

Remember, there is a time and place for everything; decide what your objectives are, decide whether a demonstration or direct action would be more effective, and decide exactly what action is going to achieve what you want. Stop wondering who's behind the mask, and look in the mirror.

Direct Action Internet Links

WWW.ANIMALLIBERATION.NET	-	MASSIVE WEBSITE WITH LOADS OF INFORMATION ON THE ALF
WWW.DIRECTACTION.INFO	-	UP TO DATE NEWS ON RECENT ALF/ELF ACTIONS
WWW.NOCOMPROMISE.ORG	-	MILITANT UNDERGROUND ANIMAL LIBERATION WEBSITE
WWW.SHAC.NET	-	ARGUABLY THE MOST SUCCESSFUL ANIMAL RIGHTS CAMPAIGN EVER
WWW.EARTHLIBERATIONFRONT.COM	-	THE BIGGEST ELF RESOURCE ON THE NET
WWW.EARTHFIRST.ORG	-	THE OFFICIAL EARTH FIRST! SITE

Who are the ALF?

A brief guide to the Animal Liberation Front

The Animal Liberation Front consists of small autonomous groups of people all over the world who carry out direct action according to the ALF guidelines.

These groups, or cells, can range from one individual to a group of people working closely together. It is vital for activists to stay anonymous, and therefore activists in one cell will have no knowledge of activists in another cell. This is what helps to keep activists out of jail, and free to be active another day.

Since there is not a central organization or membership guide to the ALF, people are driven only by their own personal conscience to carry out actions. The A.L.F. is non-hierarchical in it's structure, which allows for only those people involved directly in the action to control their own destiny.

Anyone in your community could be part of The A.L.F. without you knowing. This includes P.T.A. parents, church volunteers, your spouse, your neighbour, or your mayor. No one is immune to the suffering of animals, which includes even the workers themselves in any animal abuse industry who cannot bear to watch animals withering in pain any longer.

Any action that adheres to the strict non-violence guidelines of the ALF, can be considered an A.L.F. action. Economic sabotage and property destruction are considered A.L.F. actions, as well as live liberations. Volunteers carry out actions across the world to bring animal liberation a little closer to the victims of untold agony.

Since there isn't a way to contact the A.L.F. in your area, it is up to each of us to take the responsibility ourselves to stop the exploitation of fellow animals. In the words of a convicted A.L.F. activist "when you see the pictures of a masked liberator, stop asking who's behind the mask and look in the mirror!"

Any group of people who are vegetarians or vegans and who carry out actions according to A.L.F. guidelines have the right to regard themselves as part of the A.L.F.



So what are the guidelines?

- TO LIBERATE ANIMALS FROM PLACES OF ABUSE, IE LABORATORIES, FACTORY FARMS, FUR FARMS, ETC, AND PLACE THEM IN GOOD HOMES WHERE THEY MAY LIVE OUT THEIR NATURAL LIVES, FREE FROM SUFFERING.
- TO INFLICT ECONOMIC DAMAGE TO THOSE WHO PROFIT FROM THE MISERY AND EXPLOITATION OF ANIMALS.
- TO REVEAL THE HORROR AND ATROCITIES COMMITTED AGAINST ANIMALS BEHIND LOCKED DOORS, BY PERFORMING NON-VIOLENT DIRECT ACTIONS AND LIBERATIONS.
- TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS AGAINST HARMING ANY ANIMAL, HUMAN AND NON-HUMAN.

ALL OUR HEROES WEAR BALACLAVAS

A pledge of allegiance

On TV, in magazines, on the billboards that glower down at us, corporate signs forcing their message upon us. There is no escape. Their false idols are everywhere. Chosen, groomed by the system, kept in line, smiling sweetly and doing as they are expected, any original dissident thinking leeched from them by the money and its power over them, keeping them in check with the threat that wavering will only lead to ruin. Politicians, pop stars, royalty, movie stars, models, sports stars, religious leaders. They are the false heroes. Why worship those who only take, those who profit from your irrational devotion. Their painted faces, their surgically sculptured appearance, their deceit, lies and façade of caring, their immaculate appearance, false images of humanity. In a society where money and image have more importance than human happiness we are expected to worship, follow, admire and respect these pillars of society, these people who have it all.



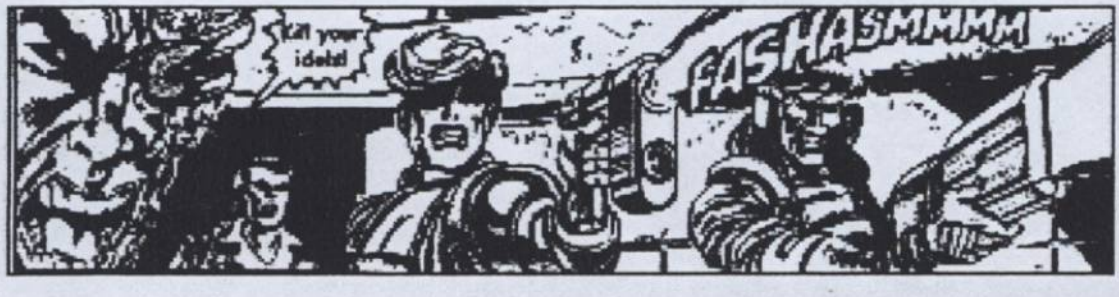
We have no option. We must fight back, smash the pedestals upon which they stand, remove the belief that it is better to support a man who can kick a football than the thousands of people round the world fighting for their lives against the capitalist beast and its multiple tentacles.

Millions die, the earth is raped just to support the lifestyles of the elite, privileged, idol (idle?) class. How much longer can we let this go on, how much longer will we sit back and let them profit off our labour and misplaced sense love for them. How much longer will we fall victim to man's desire to be lead, for some guiding force to emulate, venerate and adore. Our current system based on profit, greed and exploitation must be replaced. The time has come for change. No longer swayed by the perfect image of humanity. No longer fooled by those who would only seek to profit from our naivety. Seeing beyond their cunning lies. No longer merely watching others, living our lives through those seen on TV. We must claw our own lives back, living them as if every action truly means something, as if something actually depends on what we do.

There are heroes; real heroes. The people behind the balaclavas. The nameless, masked faces. Those prepared to risk all for what they believe. Those motivated by an intense altruistic desire. Driven by compassion, by the knowledge that whilst the masses stay fixated by their TVs, by the latest gossip column and by the latest trend, they have to take action themselves. Liberation, economic sabotage, direct action. Remaining secret these people are our heroes. No pin up photo is necessary, it's nothing to do with how they look or what they wear, it's about what they do and why they do it. Respecting those who deserve respect. Those who do not need a stage, who do not need an admiring audience, those whose actions speak a million words.

These few words written here are a pledge of loyalty, of support to these people. Never forget though that we, you, me, all of us can be these people, we too can live life in it's most beautiful, freest form, taking it back into our control, when we see beyond the years of indoctrination, when we see the real truth, when we start taking action, when we realise that we can rebuild our world, a world in which all of us are heroes. All we need to do is to stop watching others acting and start acting ourselves.

ALL OUR HEROES WEAR BALACLAVAS



RECENT ACTIONS



4/04/03 *(USA)* ALF arson against tiger meat seller

2/04/03 *(GERMANY)* 24 dogs liberated from vivisection breeder

3/28/03 *(SPAIN)* Arson at fur farm

3/26/03 *(FINLAND)* Arson at fur storage facility

3/25/03 *(USA)* Arson at veal slaughterhouse

3/15/03 *(UK)* 43 goats liberated from lab supplier

3/10/03 *(BELGIUM)* 1500 mink released

3/09/03 *(NORWAY)* Arson at two fur farm suppliers

3/07/03 *(SPAIN)* 300 mink released

3/06/03 *(USA)* Attempted arson at McDonalds

3/02/03 *(USA)* 115 animals liberated from Meriel labs

2/22/03 *(IRELAND)* 1000 mink released from fur farm

2/18/03 *(SWEDEN)* McDonalds arson

2/15/03 *(NETHERLANDS)* Animal breeder raided

2/12/03 *(UK)* ALF attacks HLS employee's car

2/11/03 *(NETHERLANDS)* ATM machines destroyed

2/06/03 *(ITALY)* ELF claim $7million at ski resort

2/06/03 *(ITALY)* ALF sets fire at lab

2/06/03 *(ITALY)* Explosion at Marsh office

2/04/03 *(USA)* ALF cuts breaks of 48 lobster trucks

2/01/03 *(ITALY)* ALF free 2000 mink

1/29/03 *(SWEDEN)* Fur farmers windows smashed

1/28/03 *(SWEDEN)* Arson at dog breeder

1/04/03 *(USA)* ELF torches SUV's

1/03/03 *(UK)* Arson attack on hunt supplier

1/03/03 *(NETHERLANDS)* Chicken truck arson

1/02/03 *(UK)* 84 turkeys liberated

1/01/03 *(USA)* 4 chickens liberated

1/01/03 *(UK)* 600 battery hens liberated



DUMPSTER DIVING

turning trash into treasure

When people see me rooting around in a dumpster, they invariably speed up and determinedly focus on that point on the horizon used to make uncomfortable situations disappear, and I evaporate.



After my first trip to my local skips, netting a marvellous haul of bread, cake, fruit and veg, I was hooked. I still firmly believe that food from a skip tastes immeasurably better than food from a shop. Or at least food you've paid for. You'll have to try it to see what I mean.

People's reactions to my dumpster diving still intrigues me. Why is dumpster diving socially dirty? Why is it deemed to be radical? At what point does something actually become trash, become totally worthless? How can an 85 pence bunch of broccoli mutate into irredeemable garbage on the basis of its being two days past its prime? What's the functional difference between my laptop that I pulled from the trash, and the new £300 model?

Given the mountain of stuff that I've saved from the landfill, the pile of cash I haven't spent, and the ridiculous amount of fun I've had collecting all of my finds, I can't see any reason to view the fruits of the dumpster with any hint of disgust. If the rest of society chooses to ignore this vast resource, then that decision speaks volumes about our culture of consumerism - but it also means more selection for those of us who choose to take advantage of it.

* * * *

A few quick tips...

Watch out for intentional contamination and sharp trash. Some people will bleach their food to prevent 'theft'. Bottles, metal and general glass just hurt.

A good long stick with a sharp end is really nice to poke at bags and reach way back into corners.

Avoid meat, eggs and dairy food.

If the cops ask what you're doing, say you're looking for boxes.

Be conscious of how much you are taking and how much you use: wasting trash means that it cannot be used by others.

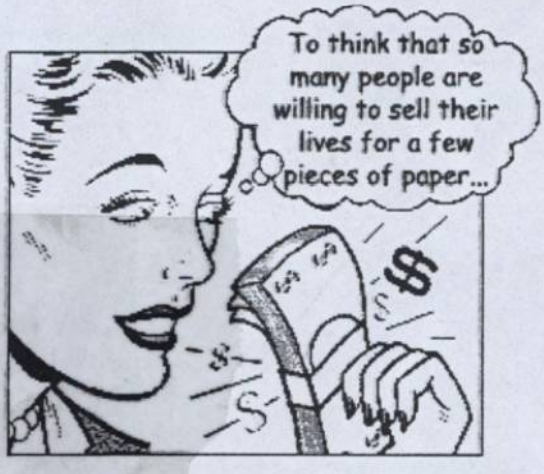
Leave the dumpster looking better than you found it, just a simple way to ensure that it will remain a resource for all.

An Outro...

We have cried a thousand tears, screamed a thousand screams but nothing ever seems to change. Our anger is rising and it will not and cannot be held back. We are starting to see beyond the lies they have so cleverly spun, indoctrinated and conditioned us with. We are now listening with unblocked ears, seeing with uncovered eyes. We can see what they've done, what they are doing and what they will do. Where we were once blind we can now see. And we can see the crucial choice we must make, literally a choice of life or death. The choice of either fighting to destroy the system which ensures that the gap remains between rich and poor and will go to any length to maintain this divide, or of sitting back; hypnotized by our TVs, looking the other way and criticising those fighting whilst we inexorably let the world die.



It's a simple choice, either we actively fight to stop the rape, plunder and desecration of our earth or we let it happen. Those that sit passively by are just as blameworthy as those partaking in the destruction. It won't be long before the forests are gone, before the seas are devoid of life, before all species of animals apart from those used by man are left, before encroaching deserts swallow up more land that was once lush, before the ice caps melt, before ancient cultures are lost and the last indigenous tribes are wiped out. There can be no compromise in this fight, none at all, we have to halt the destruction in it's entirety or we will simply let it continue at a slower pace.



The machines must be destroyed, societies institutions torn down, our materialistic life-styles must cease and our oil and profit driven capitalist culture overthrown. There is no option; we have to fight to save our world. Will they forgive us in the future when they are living in the tattered remains of our once beautiful planet knowing that we could have done more, so much more to stop its systematic annihilation?

A line has been drawn, a line which has been over-stepped, the corporations that rule our world have been given adequate warning; letters, protests, petitions, lobbying and despite small compensations all have failed to halt the spread of the disease of mankind's greed. Like a cancer spreading across the earth, growing larger, dissipating round its host, draining it, using it for its own gain until finally killing the host and taking itself with it. Cancer can be cured but it must be caught at an early stage, that time is now, we must act now.

They have over stepped the line and our resistance must correspondingly increase, more militant tactics pursued. However we chose to do it. We must turn off our TV, let go of the remote control and join in the fight to topple the destroyers of our world. Corporations may be faceless entities; almost living beings in their own rights, with the sole purpose of keeping the shareholders happy, but they can be destroyed, we will bring them to their knees and we will not let them rise.

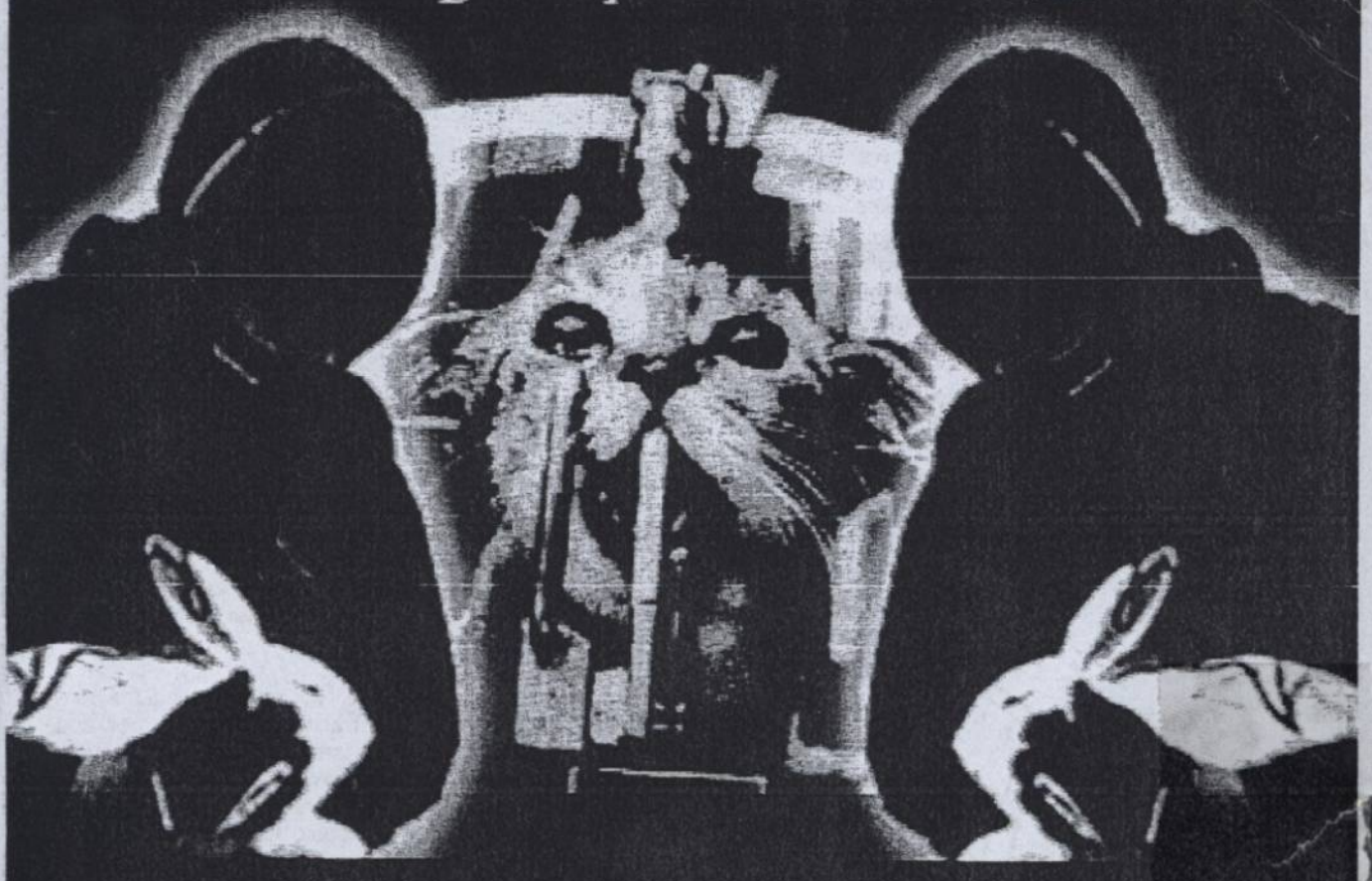
By whatever means necessary this system will be smashed. Every one of us must play our part. We must cast away the chains of apathy and get busy living. Will you be the one that lights the spark, that starts the fire, that sets this world ablaze?



You only have one life – DON'T WASTE IT!

So what are you waiting for...?

STOP WONDERING WHOSE BEHIND THE MASK...



...AND LOOK IN THE MIRROR!

We are the person sat next to you on the bus, the girl sat behind you at school; we have anger in our minds and fire in our hearts ... we are the future.