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National Action goes to camp INVESTIGATION p36



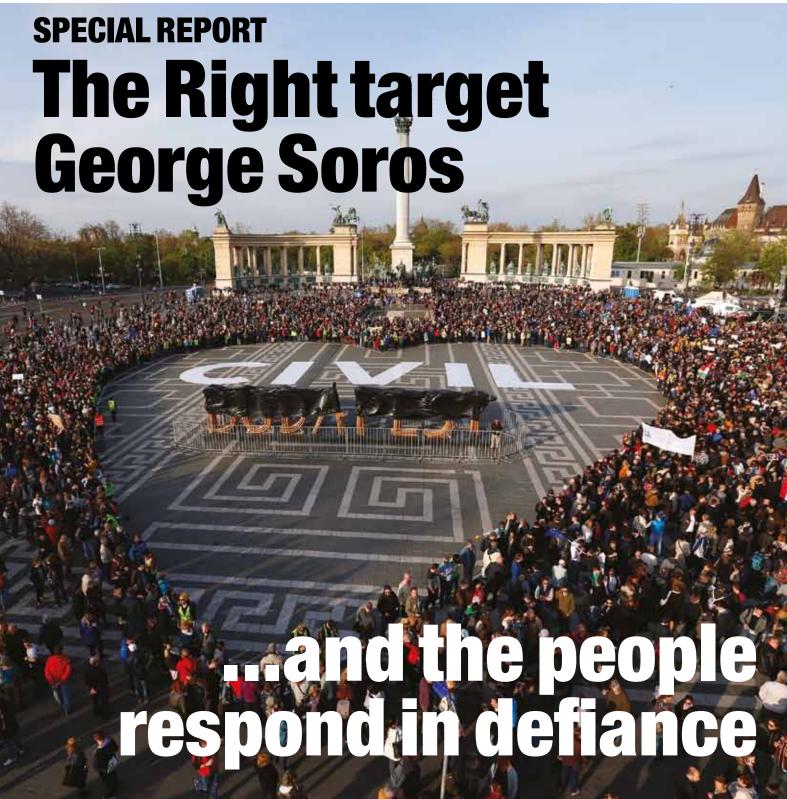


Providing a positive antidote to hate and intolerance

Mar-Apr 2017 Issue no. 31 Price £3.50



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CANADA | Canadians march against hate prejudices

FROM MARTIN THÉRIAULT

JUST WEEKS after the Islamophobic terror attack that killed five people and wounded twenty at a Quebec City mosque, the far right Canadian Coalition of Concerned Citizens (CCCC) launched an appeal for marches against *Sharia* law and globalisation. Anti-Muslims, racists and far right groups rapidly started organising but their plans were frustrated by the emergence of local anti-hate coalitions that mounted counter-demonstrations in more than 20 Canadian cities.

The far right marches generally failed to materialise. When they did, they were often outnumbered 10 to 1. In Winnipeg, 400 people gathered against racism, many from First Nations, while the far right had only 20 people, heavily protected by police. In Toronto, 400 people countered around 30 racists, including the loony Soldiers of Odin. In Hamilton, 300 people turned out to denounce around 20 members of PEGIDA. In Edmonton, 200 anti-fascists prompted the rapid exit of 20-25 far rightists. In Calgary, home turf of Blood&Honour, no fascists showed up.

It was in Quebec that the largest demonstrations and counter-rallies took place. In Montreal, 150 supporters of various far right groups (Wolfpack, Soldiers of Odin, PEGIDA) were confronted by 350 protesters. With their paramilitary gear – body cameras, wireless communication, medics etc. – the Wolfpack supporters provided the main contingent of the far right demo. Despite its claim to being non-violent and merely wanting freedom of expression, a video by Anti-Pegida Quebec showed members shouting at police officers: "Kill the bastards! Kill the rats!" referring to anti-fascists.

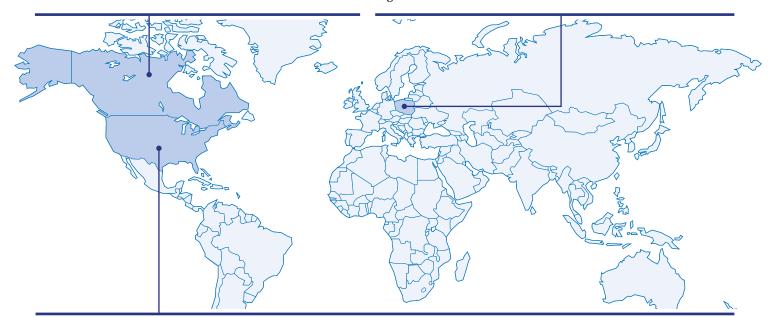
POLAND | Failed traveller Jacek Miedlar

 $FROM\ RAFAL\ PANKOWSKI\ FOR\ NEVER\ AGAIN\ ASSOCIATION\ IN\ WARSAW$

FATHER JACEK MIEDLAR is in his late 20s and has only been active on the Polish far right for the last two or three years only but has made a name as a firebrand public speaker and a cult figure among the most extreme right-wing nationalists.

Now a household name in Poland, Miedlar made international headlines when he was prevented from entering Britain in February. Coincidentally, his inflammatory speeches had been the subject of analysis and debate at a packed Oxford University seminar by a NEVER AGAIN Association member on 21 February. Miedlar is the only antisemitic, anti-Muslim and homophobic hatemonger to have been suspended as a priest by the Polish Catholic Church. Arguably, he is also a product of youth culture, hanging out with radicalised football hooligans and members of the revived National-Radical Camp (Oboz Narodowo-Radykalny, ONR), a fascist youth movement created, and banned, back in 1934. The ONR is active again and it has support among many young Poles.

An anti-Muslim Britain First rally in Telford on 25 February and a large Polish nationalist festival held in Slough on 26 February had to go ahead without him. Stopped by the UK's Border Force he informed his followers on social media: "I was detained by the Jewish secret services. (...) I was treated with contempt for praising Jesus Christ which they consider as racist. Their behaviour was pure Talmud." His outburst was endorsed by several Polish-born right-wing activists in the UK and publicly supported by Polish MP, Robert Winnicki, leader of the Nationalist Movement (Ruch Narodowy, RN). Increasingly shunned as a lunatic by other far right leaders in Poland, Miedlar announced on 7 March he was going to establish his own nationalist organisation.



USA | Trump wastes no time after inheriting Obama's deportation machine

FROM THE CENTRE FOR NEW COMMUNITY IN CHICAGO

ON HIS CAMPAIGN trail, Donald Trump pledged to create a "deportation force" and use it against immigrant communities. Many media outlets at the time failed to cover the fact that such a force already existed and flourished under President Obama. More people were deported during Obama's tenure than under any previous president. Early signs suggest the Trump administration will build on that trend.

In his first month, Trump unilaterally expanded immigration enforcement

priorities sending scores of long-time residents and non-violent offenders into detention and/or deportation proceedings. Notable cases include a victim of domestic abuse detained outside a courthouse after she requested a protective order and a young activist detained after speaking at an immigrant rights press conference.

While some aspects of Trump's actions like the notorious travel ban have been stalled by the courts, other dangerous enforcement policies continue apace.

Trump has offered high-level government and advisory roles to many people with ties to racist groups, largely adopting their extreme recommendations.

Together, they are committed to this immigration crackdown.

At federal state and local level, civil rights groups are pushing for legal aid and measures protecting immigrant communities from overzealous enforcement agents. This local, grassroots opposition is crucial and must continue.