

FROM: **NO CCTV**

Press Release

**Advance notice – Stunt / Photo Opportunity:
Birmingham City Centre 8th June 2012**



-- BEGINS --

8th JUNE 2012 - 1984 ACTION DAY - STUNT / PHOT OPP. ADVANCE NOTICE

8th June, the anniversary of the publication of George Orwell's novel '1984', has been declared International 1984 Action Day [1] by groups around the world concerned about the rising levels of surveillance particularly the never ending spread of CCTV cameras.

On Friday 8th June No CCTV will be in Birmingham City Centre, from 10am - 4pm, raising awareness of surveillance issues by encouraging members of the public to "buy" CCTV camera footage of themselves. Specifically they will be on the High Street near to the Pavillions shopping centre from 11.15am - 12pm for a photo opportunity.

Posing as a fake photography company 'PANOPTICON Photography' [2], armed with a corporate banner, portfolios of images and a flyer explaining the photographic "special offer"[3], privacy minded representatives will ask passers by if they would like to buy a photograph of themselves. They will point out that the pictures have **ALREADY BEEN TAKEN WITHOUT THEIR CONSENT** by Birmingham City Council, something that they do every day of the week to law abiding members of the public. Under the Data Protection Act CCTV images can be requested for a small fee - so people can claw back a measly portrait photo from the millions wasted on surveillance cameras.

Charles Farrier of No CCTV said:

"Initially, people are often riled and annoyed by the idea of someone photographing them without asking. Yet rarely, if ever, do they think about the millions of public surveillance cameras that routinely do this every day. Why is that? A conversation about the UK's growing surveillance society and its implications inevitably follows, forcing them to question their assumptions."

This light-hearted stunt helps raise awareness of the No CCTV campaign, which fights the spread of camera surveillance as year after year it becomes more extreme and pervasive, leaving people with food for thought and information that challenges their hitherto unquestioning acceptance.

PANOPTICON Photography will be joined by Steve Jolly who successfully fought the installation of Project Champion surveillance cameras in Birmingham in 2010 and now campaigns with No CCTV.

Similar events are planned outside of the UK [4].

No CCTV will also be launching a new website to mark 1984 Action Day, more details to follow soon.

-- ENDS --

References:

[1] See <http://1984actionday.wordpress.com>

[2] <http://www.panopticon-photography.co.uk>

[3] http://www.panopticon-photography.co.uk/_materials/2012_panopticon_a4.pdf

[4] <http://1984actionday.wordpress.com/action-dates/>

NOTES TO EDITORS:

1. No CCTV is a UK group campaigning against the excessive use of surveillance cameras in the UK. Their homepage is at www.no-cctv.org.uk

2. For further information contact Charles Farrier at press@no-cctv.org.uk or Steve Jolly at steve_jolly@no-cctv.org.uk

3. 1984 Action Day is to be an annual event - it came about after a meeting of campaigners opposed to surveillance cameras at the Freedom Not Fear event in Brussels in September 2011. The annual Freedom Not Fear demo in Berlin regularly attracts thousands of people.