

FROM: **NO CCTV**
Press Release
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Attn: News Desks

-- BEGINS --

NO CCTV TO MARK INAUGURAL INTERNATIONAL 1984 ACTION DAY - 8th June

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. No CCTV will be staging a stunt in Birmingham city centre to raise awareness of the dangers of the surveillance state [2]. Other international events are planned for the whole weekend (8th – 12th June) [3].

Charles Farrier of No CCTV said:

"The surveillance state just keeps growing in the UK – with the extreme measures put in place for the Olympics (a sporting event !), the continued expansion of CCTV cameras, number plate cameras that store car journeys in a central database and government plans to monitor even more online activity – we will be asking people 'When will you fight back?'"

Writing shortly after the publication of '1984' [4] Orwell pointed out that his book was not an exact prediction of the future but that "something resembling it could arrive". He pointed out "that totalitarian ideas have taken root in the minds of intellectuals everywhere, and I have tried to draw these ideas out to their logical consequences."

The "logical consequences" of which Orwell warned mirror the ten steps toward fascism laid out by American author and political activist Naomi Wolf [5]. Step 4 on Wolf's list is "Set up an internal surveillance system" - and few places in the world have seen the establishment of such a comprehensive internal surveillance system as the UK. Orwell wrote that his dystopian novel was set "in Britain in order to emphasize that the English-speaking races are not innately better than anyone else and that totalitarianism, if not fought against, could triumph anywhere." [4]

WEWATCH WEBSITE WATCHES THE WATCHERS

No CCTV will also be launching a new website WeWatch.org.uk to mark 1984 Action Day. The site was created by German designer Julia Lowczycka as an information strategy for Londoners' to inform them about CCTV surveillance and how to protect their privacy. The site includes a community section where visitors can download resources such as guides on how to protect your privacy and find links to find out more information about surveillance. Only an informed public can be vigilant to the dangers of the surveillance state - the We Watch website will both inform and amuse.

-- ENDS --

References:

- [1] <http://1984actionday.wordpress.com>
- [2] http://www.no-cctv.org.uk/press/press_release_18.pdf
- [3] <http://1984actionday.wordpress.com/action-dates/>

[4] Letter from Orwell to Francis A. Henson of the United Automobile Workers, 16th June 1949

[5] <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2007/apr/24/usa.comment>

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.