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For Justice, Freedom & Solidarity

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UMNO - PAS

Unity Talks

A marriage of convenience?

EDITOR'S NOTE

In our cover story, Maznah Mohamad analyses the recent proposal for Umno-Pas unity talks. A Pas-Umno 'marriage', she says, would have been nothing more than a marriage of convenience with disturbing consequences. Such talk and the divisions it has created in Pas may have contributed to the party's poorer showing in the recent Manek Urai by-election, suggests Anil Netto.

Tan Pek Leng reviews an inspiring new book of poems and prose of men who were imprisoned without trial for their convictions in Singapore. Such dissidents and 'prophets of doom' are actually essential cornerstones for building an accountable and just democracy, says Angeline Loh.

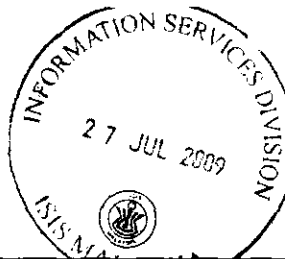
It all depends on how you look at them. Hishamuddin Yahaya points out that people like Mat Kilau and Tok Janggut were dubbed "traitors" by the British while Chin Peng and company were seen as "terrorists". No matter what, not one person should be held in detention without trial as it violates basic human rights, asserts Norlaila Othman.

It's not just the ISA that needs to be repealed. It is time to set up a law reform commission to look into and update outdated criminal laws, writes Hamid Ibrahim. Tommy Thomas discusses the Griffith thesis: Judges well lend their support to government measures to preserve stability and they will not be overly concerned if such measures require the invasion of individual stability.

Government policies, such as those governing public procurement, need to be reformed as well. H A Lee says its time to give the *rakyat* a preview of what ketuanan rakyat economic and social policies will look like.

Finally, P Ramakrishnan takes a look at the controversy over Kg Buah Pala.

Aliran is an organisation for 'social democratic reform'. We advocate freedom, justice and solidarity; comment critically on social issues, offer analysis and alternative ideas keeping in mind the national and global picture based on universal human rights and spiritual values. We are listed on the roster of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. Founded in 1977, Aliran welcomes all Malaysians above 21 to be members. Contact the Hon. Secretary or visit our webpage.



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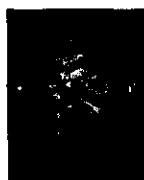


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Weapons inspections are frequently derided as the most feckless tool in our nonproliferation arsenal. The head of the Iraq Survey Group runs us through his surreal experience in the country, and shows that the lessons of Iraq can apply to Iran and North Korea. Pyongyang and Tehran are well on their way to functioning nuclear capabilities. Inspectors will be our only way out.

64 **Tyranny for the Commons Man** *by Barry Schwartz*

Six billion people are now sharing one planet, one water supply and limited energy resources with a grab-first-ask-questions-later mentality. But there is hope. New insights into human psychology can help manage everything from environmental negotiations between countries to convincing people to replace plastic sacks with reusable bags. A bit of calculated behavior coupled with a hint of morality is an avenue for exiting the tragedy of the global commons.

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Iraq, cradle of civilization, has a long and tortured history. Home to the tyrant, the origins of despotism lie in the primordial ooze of the Mesopotamian swamp. Yet for a brief moment fifty years ago, the land of two rivers experienced democracy. America's adventurism in Baghdad has given the Iraqis an opening to resuscitate this republican interlude. As our forces withdraw, Iraq is being given a second chance at measured liberalism.

81 **A Revisionist's Burden** *by H. W. Brands*

It is often noted that history is written by the victors. Does this truism still apply? Nowadays, history is regularly written by the victims, usually in service of a political agenda. And some of the victims' grievances are centuries-old. Nonetheless, these long-remembered slights continue to poison political debate in many countries, often with violent consequences.

88 **The Mountebanks & The Apostates** *by Fawaz A. Gerges*

As the Bush administration began its war on terror, it turned to the wrong people for policy advice. Uninformed pundits and shadowy security types were given a free hand, and they lumped all Islamists together. When academics criticized this approach, they were shut out of the corridors of power. But it turns out the Middle East specialists were right all along. The best way to win the fight against the jihadists is to expose them as a violent fringe.

Drawings AP Images: pages 10, 14, 17, 55, 56, 59, 61, 77, 78; Corbis: pages 7, 13, 21, 25, 28, 33, 36, 39, 41, 51, 83, 84, 87, 92, 95; Getty: pages 67, 71, 72, 80; Images.com: 46, 91.

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4 **Republican Reckoning** *by Jacob Heilbrunn*

Mismanaged for eight years by the Bush administration, the Republican Party is in peril. Neoconservative table scraps are neither appropriate nor wise. But the GOP has another foreign-policy tradition to which it can turn. Presidents from Eisenhower to Reagan emphasized prudent restraint coupled with the pragmatic use of force. Unless they want to remain in the wilderness, Republicans would do well to learn from their own history.

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9 **Armageddon in Islamabad** *by Bruce Riedel*

Culturally fractious and politically unstable, Pakistan has been a foreign-policy disaster three decades in the making. Now we face the potential of a nuclear-armed state run by Islamic extremists. The head of Obama's AfPak policy review shows us the devastating consequences of a Taliban-led takeover of Islamabad. The resulting state would pose the most serious threat to the United States since the Soviet Union. This is a crisis of epic proportions.

20 **Tithing at the Crude Altar** *by Michael T. Klare*

America's energy dependence will be an immutable reality for decades to come. And the news gets worse. As oil sources from more-or-less friendly regimes begin to dry up, we will increasingly turn to dictatorships for our energy needs. The habit of giving military protection to petro-states in exchange for free-flowing crude shackles us to nefarious governments. Emancipation will come from the power of the market.

31 **Two Indias** *by Ramachandra Guha*

India is in many ways two nations, divided between Left and Right, rich and poor, Hindu and Muslim. In its recent election, New Delhi avoided the perils of identity politics. But the center governs neither wisely nor well. With questions of growing economic inequality, lack of sustainability and continuing ideological strife, the national government must work urgently to make the two Indias one whole.

44 **Battlefield: El Paso** *by Douglas S. Massey*

Over the past two decades, America has witnessed a dramatic upsurge in illegal immigration, mostly from Mexico. But this is a problem of our own making. Workers previously labeled immigrants became illegals. The border was fortified. And now many migrants have permanently settled here rather than returning home. A more laissez-faire attitude that allows for the freer flow of people will reduce both the number of migrants and illegals.

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Am I a hypocrite? In order to put this magazine together, I flew halfway across the world, contributing to the very problem – climate change – that is threatening the Arctic's future. Some of my colleagues felt that I shouldn't have gone: it caused a heated discussion in the *New Internationalist* Co-op while I was planning my trip. They felt that the flight wasn't justified and that we risked losing our readers' respect.

But what is the alternative? Could I have written with accuracy about this extraordinarily remote, unimaginably different part of the world if I had never set foot in it? More importantly, how can we fulfil our mission to tell the stories that are ignored and bring out the voices that seldom get heard if we do not, from time to time, venture off the beaten track to find them?

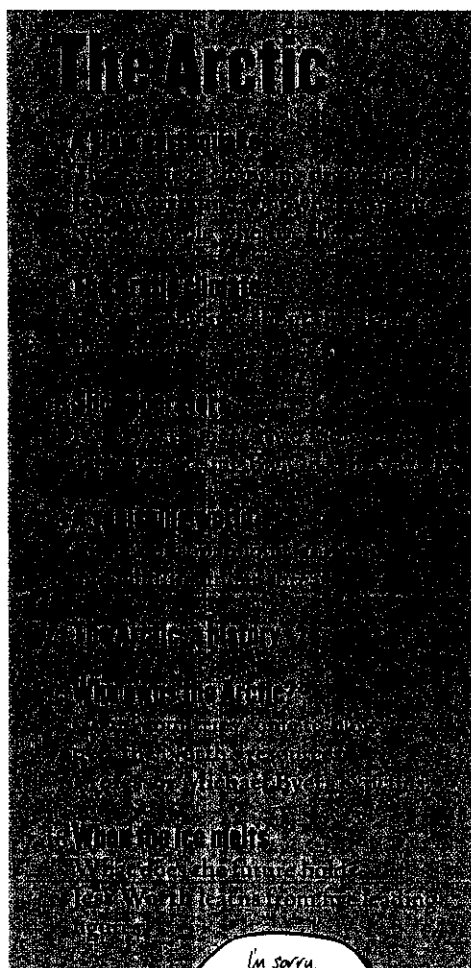
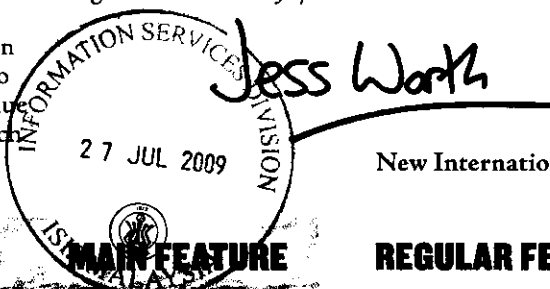
It's a painful dilemma for anyone who is paying attention to the scale of the climate crisis – especially those of us who work on international issues. Here at the NI we will continue to wrestle with it. Don't worry, we're still all speaking to each other – but we'd love to know where you stand.

While I was breaking every rule in the Good Climate Citizen's handbook, thankfully our Australian co-editor was *Doing The Right Thing*. Chris Richards attempted to survive without using her car. You can find out how she fared in this month's *Special Feature*.

Finally, to help you through the busy summer months we've combined the July and August magazines. We're delighted to include a special supplement we've put together with Book Aid International. It contains inspiring tales of how books are changing lives across the Majority World, and a heart-warming short story from Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. Enjoy!



Jess Worth for the
New Internationalist Co-operative



ALL PHOTOS: BRYAN AND CHERRY ALEXANDER PHOTOGRAPHY, APART FROM PAGE 18: ALEXANDER NATRUSKIN / REUTERS

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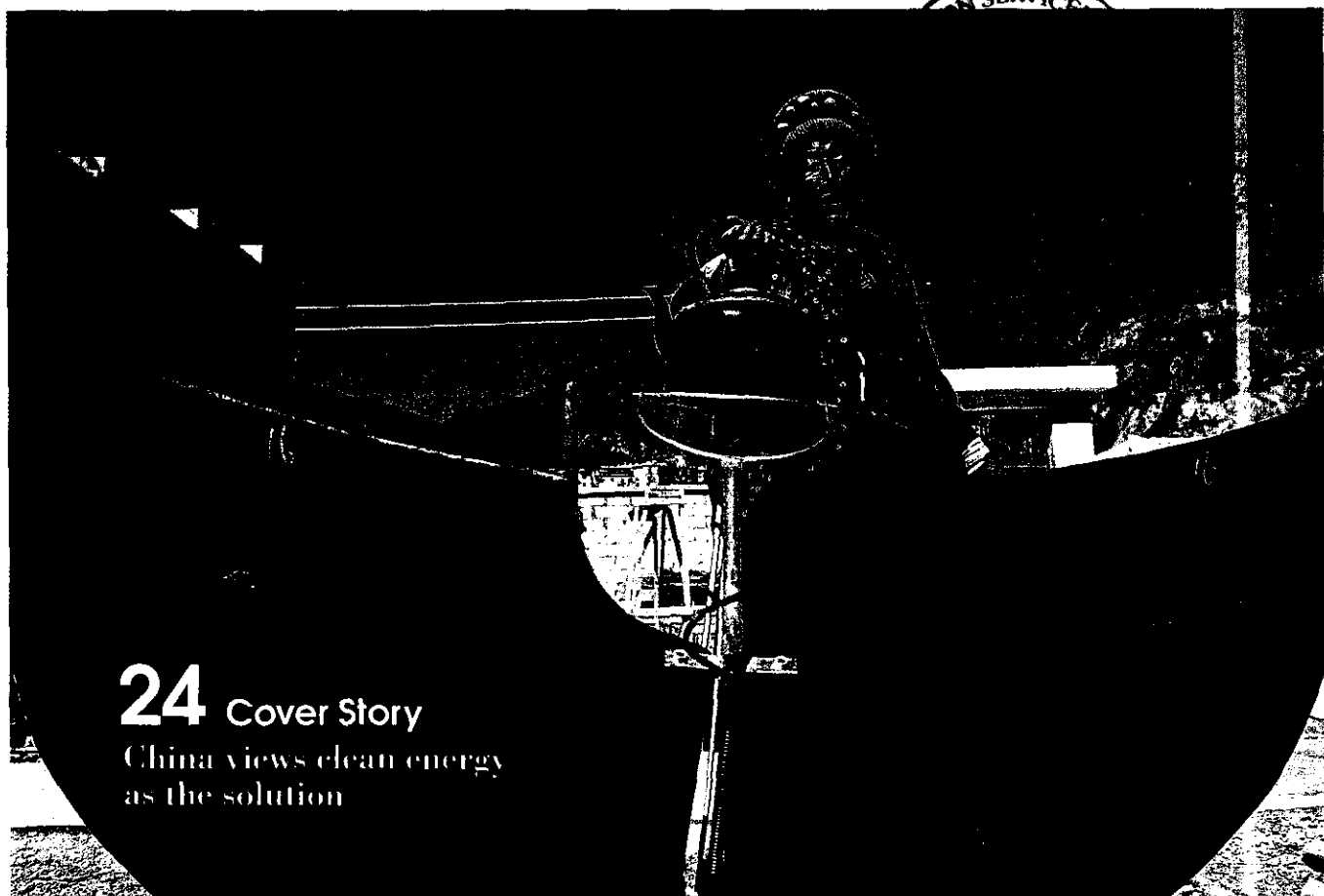
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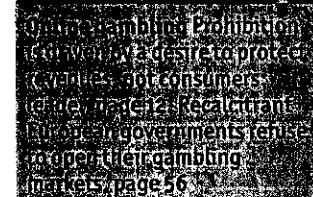
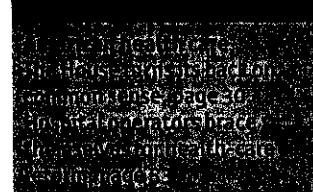
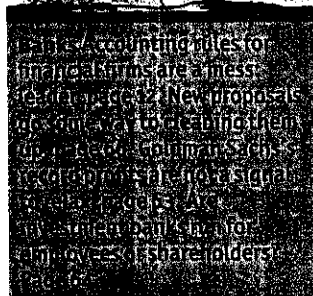
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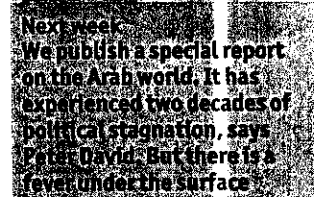
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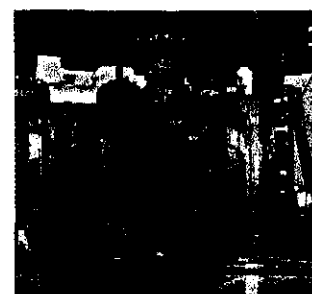
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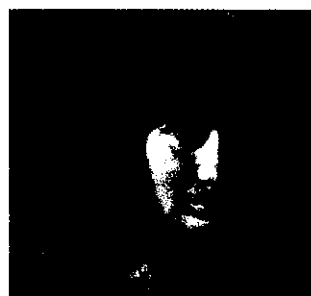
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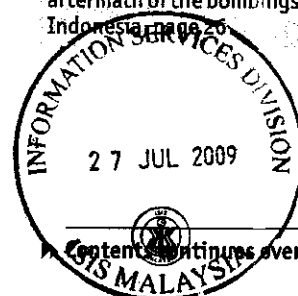
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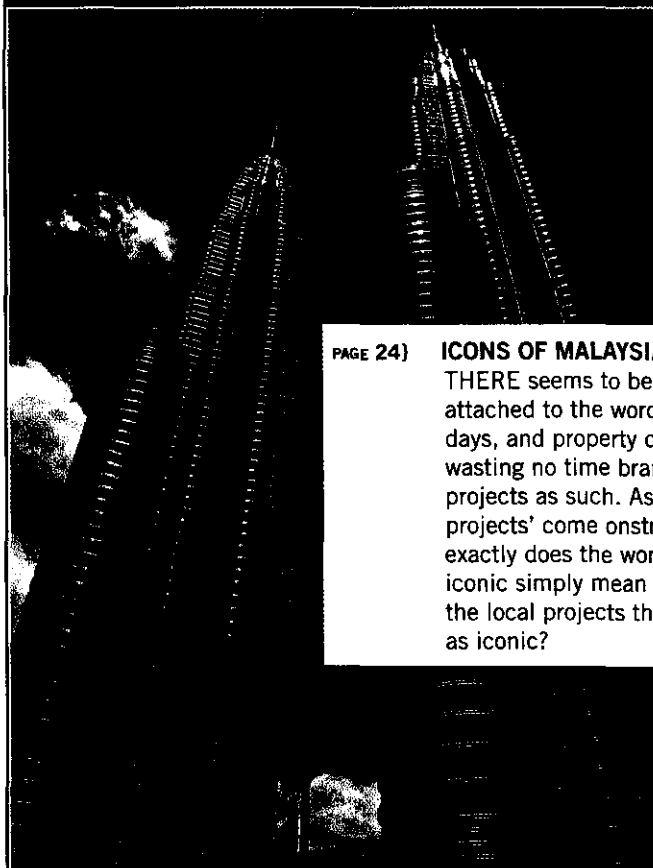


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Two of Taiwan's leprosy sufferers sip water rely on their hands during a protest against the government's plan to demolish their sanatorium

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