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**AGAINST THE GREAT DEFEAT OF THE WORLD
AN EXCLUSIVE EVENING WITH JOHN BERGER**

Los Angeles, London, New Delhi, and Singapore (September 14, 2007) – John Berger, internationally recognized as one of the most influential writers of the last fifty years, is appearing in London next month to give a rare and exclusive reading from his new novel: *“From A to X”*.

The event, hosted by [Race & Class](#), is taking place on Thursday, October 4th at the New Theatre, London School of Economics. Berger will read extracts from his new fiction, which consists of love letters by a woman to a political prisoner serving a life sentence. The reading will be followed by open discussion, to be chaired by A. Sivanandan, political activist, writer, founding editor of *Race & Class*, and the director of the [Institute of Race Relations](#). Berger hopes the event will move people to talk about a number of issues, including migration, globalization, frontiers, terrorism, asymmetrical war, resistance and storytelling.

Berger has been a reader, supporter and occasional contributor to *Race and Class* for over thirty years. The journal is the foremost English language title on racism and imperialism in the world today, and one of few journals to appeal to both academics and politically aware publics alike. Recent contributions by Berger have covered issues on Palestine and globalization. Other recent topics in the journal include analysis of the revolutionary movements in Bolivia and Venezuela, the forced marriage debate in Britain, and the plight of prisoners during Hurricane Katrina.

Speaking on his involvement with the event, Berger commented “The journal represents what I most respect in Britain, in terms of openness and resistance. *Race and Class*, in what it testifies to and argues for, is exemplary in its resistance to the old and new forms of barbarism. Quoting myself from my last book, ‘when people are honest with themselves, they gain the advantage of surprise, an incomparable tactical advantage in any insurrection. It’s the lies that we will tell ourselves that make us repetitive!’ *Race and Class* obstinately challenges this.”

*“ . . . we're going to take up again the struggle
again we're going to begin
again we're going to begin all of us
against the great defeat of the world.”*
--Juan Gelman

Entry to *Against the Great Defeat of the World* is free, but by ticket only. Please note places are limited and early booking is essential.

To apply for a ticket either phone 020 7837 0041 or email events@irr.org.uk, leaving email and postal details.

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Notes to Editors

Against the Great Defeat of the World is a Race & Class event with John Berger and A. Sivanandan.

The event takes place on Thursday 4 October, 6.30-8pm in the New Theatre, (East Building), London School of Economics, Houghton Street, London, WC2A 2AE.

John Berger is a novelist, painter, writer, story-teller, poet and essayist. His works have been translated in many languages. His book, *Hold Everything Dear: Dispatches on Survival and Resistance* has just been published by Verso.

A. Sivanandan is a political activist, writer, founding editor of *Race & Class* and the Director of the Institute of Race Relations. His novel *When Memory Dies* is reissued this month, published by Arcadia Books.

Race & Class is the foremost English language journal on racism and imperialism in the world today. For three decades it has established a reputation for the breadth of its analysis, its global outlook and its multidisciplinary approach. *Race & Class* is published quarterly by SAGE. <http://rac.sagepub.com/>

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