



**(325)**

.. a data network for direct action ..  
.. a media framework for social war ..  
.. the refusal of fixed territory ..

*“Even when he is not an anarchist, the criminal who attacks a banker, a factory owner, a manufacturer, a treasury, a mail truck, etc., is sympathetic to those amongst the exploited who think that the wage slaves that defend the pennies and paper money of their boss, (whether private or state) are suck ups and snitches.”*  
- EMILE ARMAND (1872 - 1962)





### Editorial. Jan 2009

*And again we begin...*

325 is an insurgent anti-prison zine of social war & anarchy, published underground for the last 5 years. It is an irregular platform for hidden news of the ongoing resistance against capitalism and the state, and the situations of the prisoners, who are imprisoned for their ideals. Prison is the feature that unites all features of modern society. When you step outside from the cells you are not free- the streets, the buses, trains, supermarkets, libraries and workplaces are under surveillance and controlled by a corrupt system of deadly machinery. The agents of the system appear not to be living beings, for they are anti-life. Inside them is only cogs, gears and wheels, empty of emotion, empathy and beauty.

The cops can burn to death a 21 year old African man, Oury Jalloh, strapped down in a holding cell of the police station of Dessau, Sachsen-Anhalt, Germany, with impunity.

The cops can shoot down Alexandros Grigoropoulos, a 15 year old rebel in the public square of Athens, Greece, in front of everyone. Without compassion, without remorse, without any trace of what it takes to make our hearts human.

The cops can shoot down Jean Charles de Menezes, a 27 year old electrician on his way to work, in front of crowds of people in plain day and escape even bourgeois 'justice'.

All these killers are simply disposable tentacles of the monstrous incompetence and bloated arrogance of the entity known as the state. Unwilling or unable to think for themselves they are animated by the machine, subjugated minds and vital body of a vast living death stretching down through the ages of humanity, like a gross sickness or tumour. It is time to put out the existence of this horror and transform our world beyond recognition.

This magazine is an infrequent DIY printed project of incendiary texts & images, involving the collaboration of a small network of anarchists and anti-capitalists spread across Europe and the World. Most of the information about current legal situations of prisoners and anti-political struggles changes frequently, check out our web pages for more information and links. Consider becoming a contributor / distributor. ACN

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\*{ Pages [4, 5, 6, 33, 39, 40, 48] Sections from

"Considerations on Illegality by *Alfredo M. Bonanno*"}



## A Storm approaches...

From our analysis of anarchist and autonomous direct actions in the last 11 months since the last issue of 325 was published, the social struggle (and also state repression) has intensified to a significant degree. There has been a dramatic upsurge in rebellion against the state and the corporations, especially in Europe but also around the world. Europol's so-called 'insurrectionist triangle' of Spain, Greece and Italy could even now be said to have connected into Mexico, Chile, Argentina, Germany, France, Portugal and Canada. In a global era of unfolding prison-society, rebels exist everywhere and seek allies, exchange and collaboration in the social war.

State repression has likewise extended and unilaterally co-operated, with the FBI involved in raids against the 'Tarnac 9' in France, and the recent admission by a senior member of the Israeli foreign secret service, Mossad, that they have been conducting surveillance and providing intelligence on the European anarchist and autonomous movement



for France, UK and Germany since shortly before the G8 in UK, 2005. As a tiny DIY project we are not able to cover in any satisfying way the dramatic multiplication of direct action resistance, but we feel the turn of the seasons in our bones and we want to take part in, and deepen, this conflict. The insurrectionary situation in Greece came as we were putting together

this issue of the zine, and helped delay the scheduled printing of December 08 for this issue.

We would have loved to have been able to cover the unfolding events in more depth, but our humble project must hit the streets regardless, the events in Greece would fill an entire magazine themselves with critique and inspiration. They pose serious questions about our limitations of self-organisation and methods of destructive attack.

## The anarchist movement and the problem of secrecy

To say that the anarchist movement is by nature not a clandestine movement is meaningless. A revolutionary movement as complex and rich in elements for the radical transformation of society cannot fail to be thought of as anything other than an intervention that is realised in the light of day so that everyone has the chance to take its ideas into consideration.

The fact that the anarchist movement has at times been reduced to clandestinity depended exclusively on altered historical and political conditions in a given country.

But that does not prevent the anarchist movement from developing its political and revolutionary activity with the caution mentioned earlier. It also develops more specific activity that is not aimed at propaganda and participation in social struggle, but has different objectives that are - obviously - not in contrast with the first. In the first place, the problem of finding the means necessary for the struggle. In the second, attacks against objectives and individuals actively involved in exploitation, and so on.

This kind of activity cannot be considered as something "different" or "separate" from the rest. The need for secrecy, which seems out of the question as far as these aspects are concerned, leads those who believe secrecy is impossible to conclude that all such activity must be abandoned, thus sacrificing a potential that continues to reduce everything to simple declarations of principle and sad inadequacy of means.  
*Considerations on Illegality - Alfredo M. Bonanno*

How to widen the struggle? How to move against the legion of police and secret intelligence? How to broaden our social circles and develop our face-to-face relationships? How to deal with social chaos and the strategy of tension? How to seize and dismantle the productive capabilities of capitalism? It is clear to us that across Europe and beyond, the global economic crisis begins to appear and social war ignites amongst the people. It is moving faster than any of us could anticipate.

As the economy crumbles and prices increase all over Europe, we too must raise the price of what it costs to kill one of us. This rising price of the cost of life will be the spark of our rage and we intend to leave only ashes of the old world, not build new functions of political administration of capital. For all those people who ask where the front-lines are, the insurrection is here, in our daily life around us, hidden only by the depths of ignorance, or fear; The state has declared war on all who will not comply, will you avert your eyes when people start again to talk about revolution or will you look for others to conspire with?

# The broad concept of illegality

Simply spreading information that has been distorted or kept quiet by the institutions and the media is "illegal". It does not go against any precise law (except in cases of information protected by "State secret"), but is contrary to the State's management of social control, of enforcing the law.

So a wide range of activity exists that attracts the attention of the State's repressive organisms to the same extent (if not more) as behaviour that actually breaks a precise law.

At certain moments the circulation of information can be very damaging to projects of State control, at least as much as (if not more) action considered by the law as crime.

It derives from this that the difference between the "formal" line of illegality and the "real" one fluctuates according to the repressive projects of power.

So State and capital both nationally and internationally determine levels of illegality - or if you prefer a limit of 'legality' - fixed not so much through recourse to precise laws (the law acts in given cases), but with an intricate practice of control and dissuasion that only at certain moments becomes actual repression as such.

*Considerations on Illegality - Alfredo M. Bonanno*



From work to leisure, from protest to party, too many people drug themselves with apathy, lust and greed; the spectacle runs their lives, scared to finally attack the conditions that make their lives miserable they violently poison others with their sickness of heart.

Depression and addiction to the market claim the rest, we have had enough of walking into the desert, pretending that everything is fine, dying of thirst.

We are finished with activism and the tired regime of leftist repression, incestuous meetings, social centres, bar management, tourism, it is just as much a trap as drug addiction. We are sick of feeling like our only hope is to resign ourselves to hiding from the storm, we want to unleash the frenzy of our compassion. We call others for collaboration, we don't wish for supporters, only co-conspirators in the struggle. Activist structures appear to be highly vulnerable to manipulation by individuals with a preset agenda that rest on creating and leading a 'consensus' to an already decided outcome and trajectory. The main feature of these models is usually noticeable in their inflexibility, emphasis on production/'efficiency' and focus on 'getting shit done'. This is done under a facade of collective decision making and 'inclusion'. These

forms of 'non-hierarchical consensus decision making' are just as vulnerable to passive/aggressive power dynamics as other forms of organisation. The power dynamic is suppressed but it is diffused into the very form of the structure itself, establishing 'permitted' limits of action and dialogue on the 'participants'.

It's needed to challenge dominance whenever it appears, and also the various guises and models it employs, to bring the point home to people that we can see through what they are doing, when they are censoring people and limiting the areas of potential debate and activity. We have seen it dozens of times where individuals have manipulated events like regular politicians. Even if these activists might not be aware of what they are doing, they play their role well.

If you are a true believer with a prepackaged philosophy and outlook, you will miss a great deal, because you're pre-programmed to ignore what doesn't fit into your mold and it doesn't matter what your model is. If you are simply open-minded to the edges where

your rationalism meets the 'other' and accept the push beyond the limits of what you know, put yourself in situations extreme to your daily routine, your job, your school, possibly your partner, your identity, we find ourselves at the place where the barriers begin to dissolve and the world begins to look like a very different place. For us, we want to understand what it is to be human, a rebel against all God and law. This is the key to really begin the activity of deconstructing not only ourselves, but our society, which rests on division, alienation and authority.

Our investigation must run into the veins. The condition of modern war is not just global, it is in the heart of each of us as we struggle to make the decisions that will affect our whole reality.

The economic system has not looked so fragile in decades, oil war and ecological collapse are hastening the global crisis. The desperate ecological meltdown as it hastens into certitude provides a backdrop for global wars over energy, land and other resources. Religion, the zombie hand of the past fights bitterly to prevent its imminent demise and the tortured Middle East cries for liberation. Earth responds to the tremendous influences of industrial civilisation, and again history moves with tumult unseen since the last wave of social resonance, which brought the death camp, the atomic bomb, cybernetics, Internet and LSD.

In the face of the apparent scarcity of traditional resources, Capital and State, in the forms of Science and Technology, are manifesting their form revealed, as self-aware militarised robots, able to manufacture themselves independent of human beings. A totalising self-organised sentient cybernetic material force composed of artificial intelligence, robotics, self-production, utilitarianism and environmental exploitation. An entire city in South Korean is being built based around the production of robotics and machine intelligence. Like pools of water collecting together, 'like attracts like', for this cybernetic awareness appears to be attempting to constitute all isolated aspects of the industrialised totality into a singular

force capable of controlling even our apparent reality itself, endlessly creating itself dispersed in a relationship of extraction, manipulation and social control.

However the neo-liberal capitalist economic system is disintegrating, breaking down into tottering marionettes of repression; Financial recession and the spectre of a global banking collapse haunt the corridors of power.

This tsunami brings a question of continuity to the entire mass society. This object of total disruption is coming into our present, brought forth from the future by the critical destruction wrecked by this technocratic industrial civilisation, breaking up not only the present sociological world but also the ecological sphere. The unstoppable shifts caused by industrialism appear to be one of a sheer scale and breadth that the crisis to come is felt only as rain-drops to the storm that approaches.

Everyone is paying attention. some expecting more of the same steady degradation that threatens not their meaningless existence but only prolongs it. All the solar/wind power, recycling and permaculture in the world is not going to stop the juggernaut response of destructive environmental forces aching to be released. As a concept, the 'future' itself is uncertain, and as anarchists we spend every day not waiting for collapse but organising for insurrection - we have to train, prepare, heal and educate ourselves about the emerging total police-state, as it attempts at all cost to preserve the rule of the elite.

We are some of the ones who have chosen sides in this war, and we know that the state is our enemy, it will kill, torture and imprison anyone who threatens its power. You do not need barbed wire and bars to build a prison camp - You just need dominion. The social war is the modern warfare, the urban war, the 'quiet' war. The conditions of tension in the social terrain are a flash-point for the subversion and destruction of the entire mode of industrial capitalist production and political economy. This is what it will take to begin to repair the damage, nothing less.

The key is to really start, to begin your own rebellion. To say "No, I have had enough!", enough lies from the false culture, enough of the abuse and

## The function of secrecy

When we see that control is not just a repressive fact but is also, and often essentially, participatory, it is possible to evaluate the problem of secrecy differently.

Basically it is we ourselves who by "participating" could end up sanctioning definitive real control. If we refuse to collaborate, if we obstruct the creation of a ghetto culture with all possible means, a language for the exclusive use of those who are and will be excluded from the technological management of production, therefore of power, then real control will not be possible.

It is not so much the problem of considering today what margins the State conserves from so-called "not applied control", i.e of the capacity it could employ - also preventively - but doesn't, so as to give the impression that at least there is an area that is devoid of control. In substance, this area might exist, it might not. It is social control as a whole that is not yet total. Even that which looms up before us - prisons for example - are still incomplete control. It follows that it is not a question of the extent of control, but of the quality of the control itself.

The function of secrecy in subversive behaviour could therefore be that of denying this participation, avoiding interiorising the values and language that the State is transmitting with the aim of control.

*Considerations on Illegality - Alfredo M. Bonanno*

violence the system subjects us to everyday. Everything that brings us the deceit of the routine we declare our foe, the world of the decaying lie, the death world of the resurrected politic.

All appears to be "up in the air", how can we ever return to our previous lives? To struggle to find enough to eat, to find a place to sleep, to know you are something made of dreams and hopes. To *act* with your fate to be in your own hands and no other. To be more than our enemies can ever expect, and to die knowing you lived a life that was your will, for none other than the star of your heart, our struggle that guides us through the chaotic night to our certain death.

Let's organise to attack and destroy this intolerable system with our close friends and comrades, known and unknown, in the areas we know and understand, with the means that are available to us - making direct action, raising consciousness and organising ourselves using principles of mutual aid and solidarity - it will make mass imprisonment a thing of the past.

MUTUAL AID &  
SOLIDARITY

SELF-ORGANISATION  
DECENTRALISATION

COGNITIVE LIBERTY  
SEXUAL LIBERATION

INSURRECTION  
ANARCHY



# International Resistance News



**4 January, Berlin, Germany** - Two upperclass cars torched in Berlin-Friedrichshain.

**2 January, Berlin, Germany** - An upperclass car burned in Berlin

**1 January, Berlin, Germany** - In the night of new year the Police station in the Berlin district - Prenzlauer Berg - got attacked. A unknown number of Autonomen attacked the police station from a group of 1000 people. After 3 Cop cars in the front of the station got smashed they broke some windows on the building and tried to shoot fireworks inside, which got stuck in the security fence behind the windows. 1 Cop got injured by a flying piece of glass. Before this, the same group of people thrown already fireworks at cop cars passing by and smashed the windows of a tram.

**1 January, Greece** - Arson and other attacks took place in many cities after midnight sending a message for 2009. In Athens, 7 banks, 3 car dealerships, 7 cars and 15 garbage bins were set on fire. In Thessaloniki, bank offices, and a womens' clothes store were burned. During a demonstration, 23 garbage bins (used as barricades) were burned and the police fired teargas and flash-bangs. In another part of the city, municipal police cars and office were attacked and burned. In Larissa the city's Christmas tree was half-burned. In Serres, the nationalist right-wing party offices were attacked, the windows were smashed and paints were thrown.

**1 January, London, UK** - "... 2 banks vandalized in the old street area and many political slogans written all over ...with these actions we mean to show solidarity with the revolt in Greece and bring together the anarchist movement in UK .. United we stand - Divided we fall.... vandals united @"

**? December, Brighton, UK** - "Direct aktion in Brighton. Solidarity with all those fighting back. Luxury SUV in flames and spray-paint slogans in some few places. We did this for greece and all prisoners. @narchist greetings to all those who want to fight back now - we are with you."

**31 December, Lisbon, Portugal** - "Wild demonstration by 17 individuals around the Lisbon Prison (Estabelecimento Prisional de Lisboa). We shouted against the police, the prison guards, the prisons and this society. We handed out leaflets to the prisoners' visitors and to passers-by; we made a lot of noise with a megaphone, whistles and football horns, and

read several times a communique with the megaphone, at different spots around the prison walls. For brief moments we occupied the road, ignoring the cops nerves, and left a few banners in front of the main gate. Several police reinforcements arrived, which tried to identify two comrades, but were prevented by the others immediate response. However, some of the other comrades ended up being surrounded and identified, but that didn't ruin, nor will ever ruin, our party. We were there to send our energy to the ones inside the cells, to express our visceral desire that not only the energy, but also the anger, the revolt and the joy, coming from both inside and outside, blow up the walls of every prison. Solidarity with the rebel comrades and the prisoners in struggle throughout the world. Inside and outside the walls, that insurrection begin!" **Anarchists**

**30 December, Berlin, Germany** - 7 upperclass cars get torched in different part of the city.

**29 December, Berlin** - In the night two upper class cars were put on fire in Berlin. The political police took over the investigations, as a political motive for the arsons can not be excluded. This year already more than 60 cars had been burned in the capital, presumably for political reasons.

**27 December, London, UK** - "Saturday aktion in solidarity with the greek revolt. today afternoon took aktion in london in solidarity with the revolt in greece and we ask freedom to all the imprisoned ... 2 cash points and 1 bank was vandalized ....unknown persons set on fire 1 luxury car and 2 huge skips set alight .....just remember WE DONT FORGET WE DONT FORGIVE .....COMRADES FROM ALL THE WORLD UNITED WE STAND DIVIDED WE FALL SOLIDARITY MEANS ATTACK @"

**23 December, Berlin, Germany** - Three upperclass cars torched in different districts.

**21 December, London, UK** - Action in solidarity with the Greek revolt. "Solidarity with the greek revolt bring chaos in london. yesterday afternoon and night small actions took place around the city and old street ...4 banks got vandalized and many cash machines destroyed ...many bins and skips got alight and 2 cars got flames as well ..all this actions is in solidarity with the greek revolt and to everybody



who stay in prison for direct actions ....WE DONT FORGET WE DONT FORGIVE ..the time is now a.c.a.b"

**20 December, Lisbon, Portugal** - On December 20, about 80 people got together in the afternoon in a central square of Lisbon, in a solidarity concentration with the rebels in Greece. After a while, this concentration turned into a spontaneous demonstration through the rich part of downtown: along the way, the traffic was blocked, several messages were spray painted in shops and banks and on a police car, which got caught in the middle of a huge banner, scaring the shit out of the morons inside. In the end the banners were put on a statue of another central square. One of the banners read "Let's occupy our lives with acts of insurrection. Here as in Greece, social war." Also on December 20, international day of action called by the occupied polytechnic assembly, in Athens, flyers were distributed in Amadora, and several messages were spray painted throughout the city as well. One banner was placed on a fence, in solidarity with the struggle in Greece. Back in December 12, some spray painting in the entrance of the Greek consulate in Porto, in solidarity with the revolts in Greece. "Those who sow death, harvest tempests. @"

**20 December, Dublin, Ireland** - Greek Embassy smashed up with rocks and red paint, solidarity demo followed in the day.

**20 December, Ontario, Kanada** - Action in solidarity with Greek rebellion. "On the night of December 20th in a city near Toronto, Ontario, 4 banks were attacked by anarchists. The windows and bank machines were broken with hammers. Messages against Capital were painted on the wall. Banks pay for prisons. We are against this prison-society and it's final conclusion; the lifeless prison structure. Solidarity with uncontrollables in Greece, native communities in struggle, and the self-organized struggles of prisoners; your fight is ours! Spread the word."

**19 December, Berlin, Germany** - Two upperclass cars burned down. Moreover, about 20 person dressed in dark clothes attacked a luxury condo building under construction in Kreuzberg with stones and colour bags in the night to Friday. In the Paul-Linke-Yards so-called Carlofts are being build, said the owner. This means that the flats have their parking lot right

in front of their door. The cars will be brought to the respective floor by a lift. The condos in the scene district will cost up to 1.6 million Euro. This was not the first militant action happened against this project.

**16 December, Reykjavik, Iceland** - Escalation of revolt over economic collapse, active black bloc seen for first time in Iceland. From an anarchist comrade: "On The 16th between 100-200 people blocked the Ministers meeting place for the second Tuesday in a row. Last time only 20 or 30 people were there and were seriously held back by the pigs, but this time the ministers had to scramble their way over the fence and go in through the backdoor. Yesterday around 80 people walked from one Landsbanki office to the other shouting slogans and stomping around. In the computer department they forced their way into the office and protested among quite baffled employers. Today a group of 50 people smashed their way into the financial management institution of Iceland. "

**16 December, Berlin, Germany** - A police station got attacked in Berlin. "Release the anger which has no description!" "In the late hours of the 16 of December 2008 we attacked a police station sited in the Bulgarische Strasse, Treptow district, and also the cars parked in front of it with stones and color." "We did this action in relation to the ongoing trial against alleged members of the Militante Gruppe, the arrest of French activists at the beginning of November, the police murder of Alexis happened on the 6 of December in Athens and the acquittance of the cops responsible for the murder of Oury Jalloh on the 8 of December." "Since the 25 of September 2008, a trial is going on in Berlin against Axel, Florian and Oliver. They are supposed to be members of the Militante Gruppe and have tried to torch some military trucks on the 31 of July in Brandenburg/ Havel." "Our contribution to the worldwide action day in solidarity with the three defendants of the 13 of December." "we let our anger and sorrow speak through the actions. " "Against cops, State and Capital!"

**15 December, Setubal, Portugal** - "In the night of 15 of December, several recycle points were burn down in different points of Setubal, Portugal. Also some solidarity messages with the comrades in Greece were spray-painted. That the flame of rebellion spreads throughout the world!"

**? December, London, UK** - "AKTION IN LONDON. POLICE VANS VANDALIZED .BANKS VANDALIZED..CASH POINTS DESTROYED ...BINS SET ON FIRE ..BMW SET ON FIRE ....POLITICAL SLOGAN IN MANY PLACES AROUND THE CITY ....SOLIDARITY WITH GREEK REVOLT WE DONT FORGET WE DONT FORGIVE NO SURRENDER."

**15 December, Mexico City, Mexico** - The "anarchist individualities for the destruction of the establishment" burned a police station in

Mexico DF in solidarity with the prisoners taken by the police in the uprising that took place there on the 2nd of October this year. They also dedicated their action to the freedom fighters in the Greek streets. In the words of the old "anarquistas expropiadores" ("expropriator/bank robber anarchists") "SOLIDARITY AMONG ANARCHISTS IS NOT JUST WORDS."

**14 December, Lisbon, Portugal** - GNR (Republican National Guard - the Portuguese militarized police) barracks in Loios, Lisbon, attacked. One window smashed and "NAO ESQUECEMOS. NAO PERDOAMOS. (A)" ("we don't forget. we don't forgive. (A)") written on the wall.



**12 December, Cardiff, UK** - Police station attacked in solidarity with Greek revolt. "In the early hours of this morning (12/12/08) individuals visited a police station in the Canton area of Cardiff. Slogans in support of the Greek rioters, in memory of Alexandros and anti police were painted on the front of the building. Two Police vans outside the station were also painted and covered in paint stripper. We stand in solidarity with the rioters of Greece and with the poor oppressed of the world. For every action they take to repress us we will answer with a militant attack.. We must fight to oppose this death machine. THE SOCIAL WAR CONTINUES."

**10 December, Bristol, UK** - Solidarity with the Greek rioters. Police vehicles damaged in Bristol in response to killer cops in Greece. "Over 30 police vehicles, both marked and unmarked, were attacked in Bristol last night by anarchists with catapults. 2 sites were targeted, Broomhill Road in Brislington and Poplar Way in Avonmouth and extensive damage done. Seems like Big Brother can't be watching everywhere. We will always turn our grief and tears for our murdered comrades into rage and attacks against the enemy. From the banlieus of Paris to the streets of London and Athens, police bullets and violence against the poor and those who oppose them will always be the same. They will get away with impunity

in the courts, but not on our streets. For every attack a militant response, and for international solidarity. Strength and respect to the rioters in Greece and everywhere. Against all authority. Find your own way to fight back, but do it now!"

**9 December, New York, USA** - Solidarity from New York with Greek uprising. "At 3:30 am last night the Greek Consulate in New York City got a surprise visit from anarchists in solidarity with comrades in Greece. At 12 noon today a protest was held at the Consulate in memory of Alexis and in solidarity with the riots and those arrested in the past few days. The Greek Consulate had windows broken and graffiti, including "Alexis was Here."

**7,8,9 December, Germany** - "After the police murder of a Greek comrade in Athens, solidarity actions widen in all Germany: from big city to small towns, many are taking the streets these days. Our solidarity does not know any border - ACAB everywhere!" **Enraged individuals**

#### Sunday 7.12

**Berlin:** spontaneous demonstration with 200 people in the district of Kreuzberg. / **Hamburg:** spontaneous demonstration with over 100 people. / **Koln:** Paintbombs against the Greek consulate. / **Dresden:** a courthouse get its windows smashed and graffitied in solidarity with Greek comrades spray painted.

#### Monday 8.12

**Berlin:** occupation of the Greek consulate by a group of 30 anarchists, a banner reading "Alexander Grigoropoulos, 16 years old, murdered by the State!" was hanged from the consulate's balcony, leaflets have been thrown on the streets and distributed, while about 70 solidarious people held a rally in front of the building. Nobody got stopped by the cops and the action finished in the evening. / **Dresden:** 50 people gather for a spontaneous demonstration. / **Bremen:** about 100 people demonstrate. / **Koln:** 250 take the streets towards the Greek consulate, speeches in Greek and German are made about the situation, fireworks exploded against the cops, some chairs fly against some shop windows. / **Potsdam:** 60 people gather for a spontaneous demonstration, distribute flyers and explode fireworks in front of the local police station screaming "police murders". / **Schnervendingen:** 25 people take the streets and distribute flyers. / **Dresden:** 30 people take the streets through the local Christmas market, creating chaos by pulling down trashbins and other material on the streets, when passing in front the police station they smashed one of the cop car parked on its front.

#### Tuesday 9.12

**Leipzig:** spontaneous demonstration with 200 comrades, also in solidarity to Timo, a German comrade currently under trial in Thessaloniki and the acquittance of the cops who burned the African refugee Oury Jalloh in Dessau in 2005, acquittance just happened on the 8.12, cops try to stop the demo without succeeding. / **Jena:** 30 anarchists take the streets and smash a



bank. / **Dortmund**: 60 people take the streets. / **Frankfurt**: 150 take the streets towards the Greek consulate, some smashed banks on the end. / **Rostock**: 150 take the streets, the banner reading "policemen are murders - Greece is everywhere - Genoa, Athens, Dessau", several fireworks have been exploded against the police. / **Konstanz**: 30 people take the streets. / **Hannover**: 70 people make a spontaneous demonstration to the Greek consulate and distribute flyers. / **Minden**: 30 people take the streets and throw paintbombs against some banks and a police car.

### Wednesday 10.12

**Düsseldorf**: 150 comrades hold a demonstration to the greek consulate, which get blocked by the cops. Later on, despite massive police presence in front of the consulate, some people manage to spraypaint "assassins" and "acab" on the facade. / **Oldenburg**: 120 people demonstrate in the inner city, cops get attacked with bottles, some people try afterwards to burn a big christmas tree sited in the christmas market, sadly gets stopped by active citizens. / **Jena**: second solidarity demonstration, 60 people demonstrate through the inner city and the christmas market, as soon as the cops show up get attacked with stones. / **Nürnberg**: demonstration with 50 people. / **Saarbrücken**: spontaneous demonstration with 30 people. / **Osnabrück**: spontaneous demonstration with 30 people. / **Bielefeld**: 80 people gather for a spontaneous demonstration. / **Erlangen**: 30-40 people demonstrate through the inner city.

### Thursday 11.12

**Frankfurt**: demonstration to the greek consulate with around 500 people. The cops try to stop the demo afterwards, while some people build barricades, cops get attacked with stones and paintbombs, some of their cars get damaged as also the police station. / **Magdeburg**: 30 masked up people gather for a spontaneous demonstration through the inner city.

**Kiel**: spontaneous demonstration with 100 people. / **München**: rally of 100 people in the inner city.

### Friday 12.12

**Berlin**: A demonstration with about 1500 walked through the district of Kreuzberg. Originally planned in solidarity with the MG-defendants and against State repression, it became another occasion to show our solidarity with Greek revolters. During all the demonstration people chanted anti-police slogans; the demonstration was very strong, most of people walking in chains, but it remained peaceful, beside a few firecracker thrown at the cops. The latter, unnormal for Berlin standards, kept relative distance, probably not wanting to escalate the situation. It is reported that after the demonstration cops have been hit with stones. Several militant actions took place during the night: some trash bins have been set alight in Kreuzberg, a Porsche got burned in Friedrichshain, two banks got smashed in solidarity with Alexis and graffiti for him left behind, also in Friedrichshain, while

one of the banks had been hit with a molotow cocktails.

### Saturday 13.12

**Bremen**: demonstration of 300 people against repression and in solidarity with the events in Greece: it got forbidden by the cops, 150 remain in a police kettle for several hours. / **Hamburg**: an antirepression demonstration takes place for Mumia Abu-Jamal, 500 people take part, among them an antirepression bloc of about 300 comrades, the demonstration passes by the Greek consulate and a speech gets done there. / **Magdeburg**: 30 people demonstrate spontaneously in the inner city, graffiti have been made. / **Hannover**: 180 demonstrate against repression and police murder: of Alexis, or Oury Jalloh, of Halim Dener. The demonstration reaches the Greek consulate, people get attacked while trying to get closer to it than what the cops wanted to. The latter attacked the demonstration and wound some participants. During the week, the windows of the greek consulate got hit by stones and color. / **Würzburg**: about 100 people mostly masked up demonstrate carrying a banner reading "against police violence and state terror – murder remains murder!". Cops are hit by several firecrackers and try to stop the demonstration, a scuffle takes place, one police and a few demonstrators get wounded. / **Weimar**: 50 people take the street of the inner city, "armed" with smoke bombs, fireworks and firecrackers, distributing flyers. As soon as the first cops come, they get attacked with stones and bottles, then the people disperd, although a few get arrested afterwards. **Münster**: 60 solidarious people take the streets for an unpermitted march.

### Sunday 14.12

**Glauchau**: spontaneous demonstration of 35 people carrying a banner reading: Europe or Athen, it will burn, you'll see!", flyers and stickers for Alexis are distributed to passer-byers.

### Monday 15.12

**Gera**: 10 people take a protest on the local christmas market, dressed in white and with red stains on their dresses, with banners reading "Alexis, that was murder" and "stop police violence in Athen and everywhere else", flyers have been distributed to passer-byers. Some banners and graffiti have been also done around the city in solidarity with Greek revolters. / **Minden**: about 100 to a solidarity demonstration for Alexis and greek revolters.

### Saturday 20.12

**Hamburg**: under the motto "solidarity is a weapon, insurrection an argument!", about 1000 anarchists and autonomen walked their way through the city, aiming to reach the Greek consulate and then the inner city. However, a large amount of riot police prevent the demo to get too close to the consulate and at all to reach the inner city with its christmas shopping. Two water cannons also blocked the people with their treating presence. About 2-300 later found their way to the Greek consulate.

**9 December, Bristol, UK** - Bristol police station attacked in rage over killing of Alexis, 16 year old anarchist of Athens, Greece. "As police repression in Greece escalates, we, a few of many anarchists in Bristol, feel compelled to act in solidarity with Greek anarchists. We see those struggling against police repression abroad as allies in the fight against state repression throughout the world. All repressive state institutions are targets. Last night, Newfoundland Road police station was attacked. Missiles were launched at their vehicle compound, damaging bodywork and windscreens, rendering around eight police vehicles inoperable, at least for the day. A message of solidarity was sprayed on the station. We urge anarchists who feel a sense of solidarity with Greek anarchists to take immediate action, by whatever means necessary."

**28 November, Berlin/Magdeburg, Germany** - "You can't control nuclear energy – you can't control us! In protest against a symposium about used nuclear waste dumps taking place in Berlin, and also as a contribution to the mobilisation against Castor we put a hookclaw into the electrical power line of the railway between Berlin and Magdeburg in the night of 28th/29th November... Paralyse the nuclear state Germany! Help capitalism to die!" - **Anti Castor Action Berlin**

**24 November, Ridley Park, PA, USA** - Sabotage shut down assembly lines at a Philadelphia area Boeing aircraft plant that produces military hardware. A foreign object was found lodged in the fuel line of a V-22 Osprey fuselage on Friday. The incident was the second to cause concern at the plant this year. Last May a worker snipped wires in two CH-47 Chinook Helicopters at the same facility.

**24 November, London, UK** - In the evening the Greek Embassy is spray-painted again in solidarity with the prisoners on hunger-strike. "yesterday night the Greek embassy was spray painted and same vandalism was done ....we will not stop .....to the secret cops in the other side of the road .....LOSERS" - **anti kapitalism crew**

**17 November, Buenos Aires, Argentina** - Freddy and Marcelo, political prisoners, start a hungerstrike and a train line is blocked in solidarity. "On the 17th of November compañeros Freddy Fuentevilla and Marcelo Villarroel, politically persecuted in the Chilean state and held kidnapped in the U11 of Neuken prison by the Argentinean State, started a hunger strike ... Extending their struggle and accompanying their decision, some compañeros expressed active solidarity the same morning by cutting train passage on the red line that goes between City Bell and Cill Elisa. "We hung a sign (Freedom Now For Freddy and Marcelo) that was illuminated by the fire of burning tires. Keep open the door to extend rebellion! "SOLIDARITY IS A WEAPON!! USE IT!!! ONLY STRUGGLE WILL MAKE US FREE!! WE ARE AT WAR!!! Salud y Anarkia."

**17 November, Lima, Perú** - Embassy intervention in solidarity with Chilean and Mapuche Prisoners. "Around 1 o'clock a group of around twenty people appeared in the door of the Chilean embassy in Peru hanging banners and giving out fliers (NO REBEL IN THE CLAWS OF THE STATE/ FIRE TO THE PRISONS/ BRING CHILEAN AND MAPUCHE PRISONERS HOME) After some slogans were shouted and some declarations read the group began to paint the walls of embassy and hence confronting the guards from the enclosure; Minutes before the cops showed up the group disappeared..."

**16 November, Lisbon, Portugal** - "Sunday night anarchists attacked the Greek embassy in Lisbon (Portugal) with black paint-bombs. Greetings to the comrades. Solidarity to the prisoners in struggle!"

**15 December, Berlin, Germany** - Anti-militarist sabotage in Magdeburg. claimed by 'commando black salt cellar': "On Sunday night we did a sabotage action on an area of the Bundeswehr in Magdeburg/Diesdorf. We damaged the vehicles parked on an unprotected area of the Bundeswehr (a truck, a van and a car). Tyres were slashed, locks glued and the walls sprayed with several slogans, like "soldiers are murderers". The vehicles took a lot of paint as well. This was done in solidarity with the anti-militarists arrested in Berlin. Direct actions against military facilities and other institutions of state violence are legitimate and necessary in the struggle for a society free of masters. Aren't we all a bit militant group?"

**14 November, Vancouver, Coast Salish, Kanada** - Sabotage of 5 Cop & Probation Offices. "Over the night of November, 14th, 2008 we sabotaged a total of five Community Policing Centres and Probation Offices. Probation offices on Burrard St. and on Commercial Drive had their locks glued and wire placed in the locks to make it more

difficult to repair. The windows of the Community Policing Centre on Commercial Drive were smashed yet again and the locks glued at two more Community Policing Centres on East Hastings and on Keefer St. Fuck the Police!"

**12 November, Barcelona, Catalonia** - Violent manifestation of Nissan workers in Barcelona. More than thousand workers of the Japanese automobile company Nissan carried out a manifestation that finished violently outside of the company in Barcelona in protest by a plan of dismissals that Nissan anticipated to finish with 1,680 dismissals.

**10 November Berlin, Germany** - Early Monday morning two vehicles of the Deutsch Bahn were demolished through arson at Schmollerplatz in Treptow. A resident noticed the fire and called the fire brigade, police said. One car got heavily damaged, the fire spread to another one parked nearby. The Provincial Criminal Police examines whether the arson has a political motive.

**10 November, London, UK** - Greek embassy attacked again by anarchists, spray painted, windows smashed, car tyres slashed. "IF THEY GIVE US REPRESSION WE GIVE THEM DESTRUCTION".



**9 November, London, UK** - On Sunday night the Greek embassy was spray painted with political slogans in solidarity with the prisoners in Greece and some windows got smashed. It was also done in solidarity with 3 animal liberation militants arrested in Sweden involved in a campaign to close a fur shop.

**8 November, France** - In a coordinated attack metal rods were jammed against overhead power cables, taking out trains on lines north, east and south of the capital, causing chaos to the French rail network. The French police subsequently raided several locations in France, with the village of Tarnac being

particularly targeted. Two people are still being held and a total of nine people are being charged with criminal association with the aim of terrorism and sabotage, and one of the defendants is charged with being the leader of a terrorist group. Police claim that the group has had contact with people across Europe in countries such as Germany, Greece, Belgium and the UK, the cops are investigating these links. The group had been under heavy police surveillance since April after the French police were alerted by the FBI after some members had tried to cross the US border illegally. Details of the 'Tarnac 9' case can be found in the Repression & Reports section at the back of the zine.

**7 November, Madisonville, TN, USA** - Arson attack at Police Chief's home. An arson heavily damaged the home of Vonore Police Chief John Hines. The blaze broke out Monday night at Hines' house, the fire was set outside the house.

**6 November, Thessaloniki, Greece** - Arson against New Democracy (ruling party) offices in solidarity with Greek prisoners in struggle : "We claim responsibility for the symbolic attack at the local offices of New Democracy on Kompotheklas 8 in Analipsi, Thessaloniki, early in the dawn of Thursday 6-11-08. With a minimum act of solidarity we care for the prisoners angry voices to reach every corner of this city. In this struggle held in every prison of the country these days, where the damned souls put in front their lives, our solidarity is not just granted and self-evident, it is practical. We "warm up" our embraces to welcome again in the gulfs of resistance our comrades I. Nikolaou, D. Syriano, K. Halazas." - **Cells of aggressive solidarity to prisoners**

**4 November, Abadino, Euskadi** - Blockade against TAV high-speed train lines being built across Europe. A group of 20 people against the project of the TAV occupied an area important to the project and made lock-ons. They were controlled by police and security. With this action, they have denounced the destruction that is causing works in the district of Mendiola (Abadino), making clear that they will not stop fighting until stopping this madness and that they will continue. "OBRAK GELDITU! MAKINAK KANPORA! AHTRIK EZ eta KITTO!"

**6 November, Undisclosed location, UK** - Control freak Jacqui Smith, the UK Home Secretary, had her fingerprints stolen from a water glass taken from a Social Market Foundation event where she was speaking. Earlier this year activist anti-ID group 'No2ID' offered a reward of £1,000, to be paid for the fingerprints of Jacqui Smith and Gordon Brown. Once the group has both sets of fingerprints, it intends to make them public, as Berlin's Chaos Computer Club did with the fingerprints of German Interior Minister Wolfgang Schauble.

**24 October, Thessaloniki, Greece** - From the mass-media: 'A group of unknown persons

attacked with Molotovs late-night at 23:50 a subsidiary of Piraeus bank, in the center of Thessaloniki The group, five to seven persons, broke down the glass window of the bank on Vasileos Irakliou street, 1, and hurled two molotovs inside, causing material damages. Communique sent via e-mail: *"The night of Friday October 24, we set on fire the subsidiary of Piraeusbank on 1, Vasileos Irakliou street, wrecking it, as a minimum contribution to the proclaimed war against authority. A war that breaks out everyday, against state and capital and consciously unsettling the established order of social peace and harmony. The bank, as a keystone of the economy will always be a target of ours. We negate submission to the existent system of exploitation and thus we select to set the time and the place that our rage will be materialized. Every lost hour in this society of torpor, apathy and willful servitude is a defeat. Every assault is a victory. We call the flames of negation of the existent to intensify the revolutionary action. The capitalist society won't fall apart due to its economic contradictions and disruptions. We thus dedicate this attack to three of those. To Dimitra Syrianou, Kostas Halazas and Ilias Nikolaou, accused with arsonist attacks realised in Thessaloniki and having gone underground, denying to give themselves in, to the hands of the judges. Solidarity to all imprisoned revolutionaries. 'till the next time..." - Cells of creative rupture*

**23 October, Berlin, Germany** - Slogans spray painted on prison-memorial: *"On Thursday the 23rd October we visited the former prison of Moabit (1875-1989) and decorated it with color. Especially during the nazi-times, the history of this place had been shaped by the persecution, torture and homicide of political prisoners and partisans. Considering that nowadays the outside walls of this place should remind visitors about its horrible past, we found important to pay a visit here in order to sensitize visitors about the present situation in this country. Since antifascists are still a target of state repression and are getting imprisoned because of their political convictions, we left behind the words "...and still, antifascists are getting criminalized and imprisoned", "Freedom for Andrea and Christian", "Make an hole out of prisons" as well as the internet addresses of the soli-websites for the prisoners. (www.freeandrea.de.vu / www.freechristian.de.vu). Freedom for all!"*

**15 October, Santiago, Chile** - Explosive attack against Social Club of Police by rebels: *"We attack the Social Club of the Police of Investigations ... Another blow, one more. Again we remembered to them that we followed moving here to us under its noses, that we will never disappear. We become to rise against the monotonous excrement which they turn our lives. To produce, to work to fatten their bank accounts, so that they can arrive at old age and enjoying their club, where they meet to celebrate the triumph of their class. They have won over us long ago, hundreds of years, but today we stopped resisting and happened to attack, the offensive is ours. The day Wednesday 15 of October we deposited an explosive device in the parking lot of the club of*

## COMMUNIQUE FROM THE BARRICADES

Yesterday, the 15th of July, around about 1.30pm in the UMCE, a meeting was held for the liberation of all political prisoners. The meeting met first in the interior of the university to incite the people, and afterwards it was brought to the street-the place where all popular combat should be, cutting off Macul with barricades.

The students had the whole street on incited, calling for the the liberation of every dissident who has been kidnapped by the State and Capital, having to explain their motive to the motorists and bus drivers that didn't want to respect the barricades, who, unconsciously, didn't know that their kids or themselves could find themselves as prisoners for simply thinking differently.

The group of students, made up of about 30 youth, continued to shout slogans of freedom in the street, when far off appeared the first radio patrols of the pigs of Capital, who only see discontent. After a few minutes there appeared a group of masked youth, whose petrol can, molotov cocktails and flame, set fire to the barricade made by comrades (note that the relation between the student and the masked is alive more than ever and they are complementary).

Faced with this presence, the minds were excited still more, and all the people in the street called for the presence of those responsible for kidnapping and fighting on behalf of the State and Capital, the dogs in green. From the other side of the meeting, appeared another radio patrol and some motorbikes, who attempted some sort of enclosure but whose cowardice prevented any further action.

After this, another group of masked youth numbering around 30, made their presence known in the street. After some long minutes, there appeared a van that came from Irrarrazaval and not Grecia as is customary, which was received by a barrage of molotovs, stones, paint bombs and empty bottles.

One doesn't have to wait around for repression and a squad soon disembarked and fired their gas bombs into the crowd. The combat was then brought inside the University, from where the students launched all types of objects at the pigs, who demonstrated their ignorance by continuing to fire chemical bombs at the crowd, some of which were made of a red gas (this type of bomb are for use by the military and are made to kill not to disperse).

The combat lasted 1 hour, even though the actions of the pigs was destined to fill the university full of gas, above all with the red gas. In one moment, the masked youth stoned a radio patrol, one that was abandoned., together with two mobile patrols, one if which was on the receiving end of a molotov just as a pig was preparing to fire his shotgun (lamentably this molotov went out just above him). By 3 in the afternoon most of the students had to abandon the university, to avoid continuing to breath the shit, every day more intense, of the chemical bombs.

*the police of investigations, located in the Brazil place. Professional branch of the repression we have not forgotten you, our attacks will be more and more accurate and incessant. There where we see its' benefit, there we will leave our gift, remembering at that moment the hundreds of thousand of comrades and companions who succumbed before their power. With this action we want to remember the murders of the State in these last months: Jhonny Cariqueo and Marcelo Gonzales, who died by the police beating of the 29 of March and 11 of September respectively. And with*

*special dedication to the last ones kidnapped by the power: Axel Osorio, Esteban Huiniquir, Marcelo Dotte, Pablo Morales between so many more. We affectionately greeted them with the noise of the explosions, demonstrating that our better form to support is the combat against the power in all forms. THE MATERIALS TO ATTACK CAPITAL FROM ALL SIDES, THE OBJECTIVES ALSO. NOR A MINUTE OF SILENCE, ALL A LIFE BATTLE" - Fracción autónoma de ataque Leon Czolgosz*



**14 October, Berlin, Germany** – Prison visited. Part of the communique: *"On the 14.10 we interfered with the order and the security of Pankow prison by using fruits and vegetables, which we threw inside the inner yard, as we also decorated the sad and grey prison walls with slogans. We chose the Pankow prison since by now Andrea (Antifascist prisoner) is imprisoned there, although we want also to express our solidarity to all prisoners. The action took place daytime, because we are not interested in hiding as the cops will do at the coming trial against Andrea ... The slogan "Freedom for Andrea, Christian and the RAF! Death to the cops" now decorates the prison walls. Death to the cops since they defend capitalism and capital actively by any means necessary. Freedom for Andrea, Christian and the RAF prisoners! Make an hole out of prisons! Destroy the prison system!" - Ali baba and the forty thieves*

**13 October, Crawley, UK** - An arson attack saw 19 cars destroyed in the early hours of the morning. The burning cars were parked in a car park of a Volkswagen garage.

**13 October, Ontario, Kanada** – Sabotage of CP train lines in attack against the capitalist system, colonialism and the 2010 Winter Olympics. Here is part of the revindication : *"In an attempt to cause a shillload of economic damage to the infrastructure of the CP rail main-line, we cut down two telephone poles across the tracks just to the north of their main intermodal yard outside Toronto. A pile of fallen trees was ignited with gasoline across the tracks, and we molotov'd one of those weird grey box things that look pretty important and are full of electrical shit. We also tied copper wire across the tracks to signal the blockage so no one would get hurt.. ... Every train- stopped, every track- untied, every jail- destroyed!"*

**1 September, Minneapolis, USA** - In resistance to the Republican National Convention there was a large mobilisation of anti-capitalist groups and individuals, including the black bloc. The results were broken windows, smashed cop cars, blockades, and cops and right-wing vigilantes beaten to the ground by anarchists. Many people were arrested and beaten by cops, some in extensive pre-planned raids which had used infiltrators and high-tech surveillance teams on the dissidents.

*positive and desirable. The action against Haeflting is made in solidarity with the accused anarchists and indigenous in New Zealand and also with prisoners everywhere. For a world without racism, sexism, kolonialism, and repression. Smash prisons into nothing!"*

**30 August, Berlin, Germany** - An arson attack against a police station. As the cops report, unknown persons threw two incendiary devices against the front-part of a police station located in the Eberswalderstraße, Berlin-Pankow (Prenzlauerberg), which got slightly damaged. Nobody got arrested.

**21 August, Elorrio, Euskadi** - Sabotage to Exbasa constructor (TAV). *"The past Thursday 21 of August we set fire to a work house of constructor EXBASA located in Elorrio (Bizkaia). In this company one is integrated AMENABAR, one of the companies that construct the High Speed Train. With this action we want to leave to them well clearly that we will not stop until they remove its dirty hands from Amalurra. AMALURRA DOES NOT HAVE VOICE BUT FIRE! SOLE ETA BALENO GOGOAN ZAITUZTEGU! SABOTAIA ETA EKINTZA ZUZENA!"*

**21 August, Hamburg, Germany** – Autonomen devastated a district office of the immigration department. They destroyed with hammers nine glass-doors, smashed computers and spray painted everywhere red colour: yesterday, mid-day, 30 masked-up people assaulted the immigration office-department, located in the Hamburg-Nord district-office, Eppendorf. The

spokesperson of the district-office Hansen: *"a worker has been slightly injured by the pieces of glass. All the five workers are totally under shock and have been send home. One does not exactly know when the department will be able to open up again, the damages are supposed to be higher than 20.000 euros".* The cops intervned with a large presence and arrested two Italians (26/40) – they are supposed to have taken part in the destruction. The other authors escaped on bikes. The arrested 26 year-old man is already known in relation to "violent-political acts". (update: the 40 year old person got out fast, the other one came out the day after and will face serious charges.)

**August 11, Farellones, Chile** - High tension electrical tower bombed in Chile, claimed by anarchist group. The group, in an e-mail sent to various media outlets, took responsibility for a bomb attack on a high tension electrical tower on the road at Farellones, where one of the major ski centers of the Metropolitan Region is located. The message said, *"Sabotage the centers of diversion of the rich" and "prepare a subversive September".* The revindication also mentioned Johnny Cariqueo Yanez, a youth who died March 31 from a heart-attack after he was arrested and jailed on the night of the "Day of the Young Combatant." The same anarchist group claimed responsibility for the May 18 bombing of the same police station the youth was jailed at.

**8 August, Berlin, Germany** - Arson attacks against company vehicles, on of which is done in solidarity with German prisoners on hungerstrike. Within two hours unknown people set up two company cars on flame on Friday night, in Treptow and Mitte, the cars belong to the company Siemens. Already on Tuesday two heavy goods vehicles had been torched in the north of Berlin, Oranienburg, belonging to a sister-company of the Metro-group. The fact that police suspect left-radical extremists to be behind the attacks, it is also shown by a communique in regard to this last action. The group "FFA" took responsibility for the arson against the company C+C Shaper, referring to the then current hungerstrike of over 500 prisoners happening in the German prisons.



**August 6th, Coast Salish Territories (Vancouver), Kanada** - Solidarity Action with Hunger Strike August 1-7, Kanada. *"Sheriff Van and Police Cruiser Firebombed August 6th, 2008 Coast Salish Territories (Vancouver), Kanada. In plain daylight in the afternoon of August 6th, we firebombed two vehicles belonging to*

**1 September, Berlin, Germany** – Prison labour shop defaced. *"In the night to Monday 1st September we have improved the windows of the Haefltingshop with stones and bottles of colour. Haeflting (this means 'prisoner') is a yuppie clothing company in Berlin who directly profits from prisoners and jails. It gets rich from people who are imprisoned (all the products are made in jails) and promotes the idea of jail as something*

criminal police looks for possible connection with the "climate" and "anti-racist camp", the inner senator, from the CDU, asked the police to survey all district-offices by now on. Around 12.35am the devastators began: they stormed the immigration-office department, where by that moment there wasn't any public attending. They used a prepared fire-extinguisher full of red colour to damage the interior, they threw the files on the ground, destroyed telephones and computers. The

*the police. One was a sheriff van parked in front of the courthouse on Main st, located south of Powell st. The other was a police cruiser parked on the south-east corner of Main and Hastings st, it was empty because the pigs were in the middle of conducting an arrest. That afternoon's gossip in the downtown east side was one of sheer happiness found in the shared appreciation of seeing a sheriff van burn in front of the courthouse doors. What bliss must have been felt by the people locked inside awaiting their trials in that despicable house of injustice. Those who live in the downtown east side struggle together daily*

to survive beneath the booming development which continues to exclude them to an existence of poverty and prison. Along with the police and private security; the courts, sheriffs, and judges continue to enforce the orderly and lawful circulation of commodities and money with limitless social control. Their complicity is present in the example of development, police repression and prison. They should expect no less than burning vehicles and creative expressions of our contempt. We hope this act will spark communication and create new relationships of collaboration in struggle. Our choices move beyond run, hide and prison. There are endless possibilities to be found in the conspiracy of attack. We chose to act between the days of August 1st-7th because of the call for solidarity by 500+ prisoners in German prisons and around Europe who are on hunger strike. Our love is sent to the comrades who continue to refuse the life of passivity and silence, inside and outside the walls of prison. For the freedom of Amadeu Casellas Ramon, Gabriel Pombo Da Silva, Marcos Camenish, Jose Fernandez Delgado! Freedom for all Prisoners! May our willingness to revolt spread our crimes of passion through their quiet cities and into the solitude of prison! We are bound to annihilate their prison-world!" - **Solidarity**

**15 June, Bristol, UK** - Group 4 Security attacked. "Late on Sunday 15th June, G4S (Group 4 Security) depot in Portland Square, Bristol, was attacked by dedicated individuals. 3 vehicles were beaten up with sledgehammers in revenge for the beatings G4S give out to innocent migrants every day, in the course of their 'business'. G4S pride themselves on doing evil cheaply and efficiently, just like fascist lackys in other times and places. Anything that can be done to cost them money and time is effective and worth the effort. This beating goes out as a warning to all those who abuse power, and as an incentive to people who fight whatever side of the fence they are caught on."

**14 June, Campsfield Detention Centre, UK** - Riot at immigration detention centre over imprisonment. A disturbance kicked off at around lunch time, people were angry because they are detained for a long time and so on, so they began messing up the dining hall, smashing windows, lighting fires. The library/ education was badly damaged by fire. Around 30 detainees climbed the roof. Others were jumping down walls in panic. Firefighters were called. Riot Police and a specialist Prison Guard unit used dogs and batons to suppress the uprising and forced the people back to their cells. This is the latest in a series of disturbances at the facility. In August last year, 26 immigrants managed to escape. Prior to that in March, an Algerian man attempted to forcefully resist efforts by immigration authorities to remove him. When fellow detainees attempted to help him a riot ensued in which 2 detainees and 7 staff were hospitalised.

**13-14 June, Paris, France** - Incendiary attacks against the state. Here is the claim: "In the framework of the international week of solidarity with Isa and the others, many vehicles were burned simultaneously on the night of Friday the 13th to Saturday the 14th in Paris: a diplomatic car on rue Weiss (13th arrondissement) outside the economic ministry (and a BMW was smashed), a very new van of the Forclum business (which belongs to the Eiffage group that build prisons) on rue de Charenton (12th arrondissement), and a truck belonging to the city hall of Paris on rue de Coriolis (12th arrondissement) that strives like its predecessors to hunt the poor of the city. Fire to all the prisons! Freedom for all the prisoners, with or without papers, with or without chlorate!"

**? June, Sheffield, UK** - Part of an anonymous communique: " ... Some SUVs at a garage on Ecclesall Rd, Sheffield, needed their paintwork redoing after a little redecoration in red...Free Jeff Luers!"

**9 June, Stoke Holy Cross, UK** - Cars attacked during British National Party meeting. Several members of a far-right political party had their cars vandalised whilst the group held a meeting in a village near Norwich, windscreens were smashed, paint was sprayed across vehicles and paint stripper was poured over three cars parked at the Stoke Mill Conference Centre and Restaurant in Stoke Holy Cross. Around 100 supporters and members of the British Nationalist Party (BNP) had gathered at the venue for a meeting on Monday evening. But whilst the meeting was going on, anti-fascists went into the car park and carried out the attack.

**7 June, Kendal, UK** - Police station attacked with device. The blaze, in a store room at the station in Kendal, in the early hours of 7 June, was quickly extinguished, and no-one was injured, the investigation was still ongoing.

**3 June, Charlotte, USA** - \$3.5 million mansion destroyed by fire. 16 partially or recently constructed luxury homes have been intentionally burned down in southeast Charlotte, western Union County, and Lancaster County, South Carolina since 2001. The fire at 8407 Winged Bourne Drive, south Charlotte, started about 7:30 p.m. in a second floor hallway and spread quickly, shooting flames hundreds of feet into the air. The three-story mansion off Gleneagles Road near Quail Hollow Club was about 60% complete. By Tuesday investigators had ruled out all possible accidental causes. Viva the ELF.

**10 May, St Leonards, UK** - More than £100,000 of damage was caused to cars parked outside a showroom in after four vehicles were set on fire and destroyed and another 3 more cars were damaged during the blaze. One of the cars was an E-plate Ford Escort, which is a collectors' item.

**1 May, Hamburg, Germany** - 1,000 Nazis marched through Barmbek district, protected by the police, while 10,000 anti-fascists attempted to stop the Nazi demonstration. The police violence against peaceful blockades sparked the heaviest riots Hamburg has seen since the 80's. A entire tyre depot was set on fire causing a major incident and 2 buses used by Nazis to enter the city were also set on fire. The anti-Nazi actions consisted of rallies, concerts, barricades on the street and on railroad tracks (which actually delayed the arrival of the Neo-Nazis), and a protest march. When about 8000 people blocked the starting point of the Neo-Nazi demonstration, the police decided to attack the blockade with water cannons, pepper spray and truncheons. Right afterwards, the demonstration was attacked again by the cops. A number of later skirmishes on subways and train stations were reported. On the way back from Hamburg, 200 Neo-Nazis assaulted everybody at the train station who looked remotely left-wing. The police watched and did nothing for a long time. as the finally decided to arrest one of the fascists, they were attacked by his comrades. Stones, bottles and firecrackers flew through the air, and the cops decided to let the arrestee go. Later that night, in front of the autonomous cultural center Rote Flora, a fight between youths and the police broke out. 4 people were arrested. These Quarrels are common, especially after big demonstrations, and have been more frequent since the G8 protests last year.

**9 April, Athens & Saloniki, Greece** - Greek anarchists attack Italian interests in solidarity with imprisoned comrades in Italy who are accused of being members of 'F.A.I.' (Informal Anarchist Federation). Here is the communique - "On Wednesday April 9 we spotted and torched agencies of Italian interests (Car agencies, Greco-Italian school bus). By this movement, we send to the imprisoned Italian comrades accused for membership in F.A.I. (Informal Anarchist Federation) our salutation with fire. This is how we re-activate vigorously the internationalist revolutionary solidarity. The Italian comrades of F.A.I. form a federation that through its offensive actions, as the one of 21/12/2003 setting of explosive devices outside the house of -the president of E.U. at the time- Romano Prodi, or of the 3/3/2005, with their triple bomb attack outside carabinieri barracks, at Genova and Milano, claiming: "...We consider essential that every person that isn't tamed by the fake prosperity that democracy provides, must express his/ her rage with his/her action and by every means, we will keep on intruding your

*dreams, your economic interests and your peace. It won't take you much time to understand the consequences of your indifference (abstract of a F.A.I. Communiqué). In this tough route they selected, there were also losses. Arrest warrants, imprisonments, juridical farces. The last years, the Italian state attacks brutally the insurrectional part among the Italian anarchists. Apart from perennial captivities, certain other comrades as Massari, Rosa, Fantazzini, aren't accompanying us anymore in this dangerous route to the wild rebellion, since they were murdered by the Italian state. But neither death is able to erase the rage from the eyes of the insurgents. The cells of F.A.I. and not only them, strike back and attempt to create a condition of omnipresent conflict, where there is no place for compromise. In its declaration, F.A.I. mentions: "Strike and destroy the responsible for the repression and exploitation. Strike and destroy the prisons, the banks, the court-houses, the barracks..." Accomplices in the crime of direct revolutionary action, we seek, through our attacks, to form a range of dislocation of the uneventful social peace. To commit the crime of ending the silence, to overcome the postponements and the hesitations, to live beyond the laws that enslave and the conventions that shoot in the back. And the only precise way to achieve this, is to participate in the revolutionary war, declared since the beginning. This is our way to spread the fire of conscience, in this combatant condition that we selected for ourselves. We don't abandon any imprisoned comrade, neither in Greece, nor in Italy, nor anywhere. Revolutionary salutations to the imprisoned Italian comrades, accused for membership in F.A.I. Freedom for all imprisoned Italian comrades accused for subversive practices. It all continues, we'll be back soon." - Conspiracy of Cells of Fire (Athens Cell)*

*"Within the context of actions of offensive solidarity to the Italian comrades of FAI, we also attacked (same day and same hour with the comrades in Athens) 2 targets of Italian interest: An Italian brand commercial store in the center of Thessaloniki and a Benetton subsidiary in Kalamaria." Solidarity to the prosecuted for the FAI" - Conspiracy of Cells of Fire (Thessaloniki Cell)*

**March 18, Santiago, Chile** - An explosive device exploded on Tuesday in a branch of the Credit and Investment Bank in Chile's capital of Santiago, severely damaging the first floor of the building but injuring no one. The explosion which occurred at 1 am. also smashed windows in buildings close to the branch. "We have witnesses that say one or two dark vehicles carried the attackers," said Ronald Casanueva, an armed police commander. "A significant amount of damage has occurred," said Juan Alarcon, from the eighth Fire Brigade company. Chilean radio said a self-described anarchist group had called to claim responsibility for the attack.

**March 16, Montreal, Canada** - Anti-police demo of around 200 people sees 32 people arrested on charges of mischief, assault, assault on a police officer and theft, after riot breaks out. Dozens of downtown corporate windows were smashed, a Molotov was used against a police vehicle and many slogans were painted against

the police and the capitalist system. Luxury cars were smashed.

**March 13, Montreal, Canada** - Police vehicles set on fire at police station, here is part of the claim - "Fire set at a police station on Hochlaga, Montreal Night of March 13-14 2008. 6 police cars were burned at the police station 23 on the corner of Hochlaga-Aird. Action against oppression that intensifies in the neighborhood as well as everywhere exploitation is reproduced. We act in solidarity with the politically detained natives of America that continue to fight for their freedom and autonomy. We call on every population to re appropriate time, space, the streets, the city, and to put fire to everything that represents authority. The city is us, it is not a prison that belongs to capitalists. We are not slaves, yet we built their houses, their banks, their roads, we take care of their children while we serve them coffee every morning, we pick the fruits and vegetables that they eat..... The least we can do is to burn their cars, SUV, police vehicles, their new housing developments, their big mansions, their hotels, expose them for who they are..... The most we can do is to make them inexistent!! Similarly, we need to specify that we support every armed struggle that seeks autonomy and we invite everyone to act and question their past and role so that we can get closer to communities that subsist, and to struggle against all forms of oppression. Fire to the capitalist system, creator of cadavers! " - Collectif Ton Pere

**March 14, South London, UK** - Two teenage lads aged 14 & 15 acquired a car and used it to mow down several armed police officers. One officer was dragged with the car for five to six feet; the other went over the bonnet. As the car fled the scene it collided with a stationary Armed Response Vehicle, injuring three other officers who suffered impact injuries. Unfortunately the lads were arrested.

**March 13, Edinburgh, Scotland** - "This is Fuck the War Coalition, and we want to bring the war home to those who profit from imperialism. This morning we attacked 4 targets around Edinburgh on the 5th anniversary of the start of the war in Iraq. We attacked the US consulate with paint-bombs and paint stripper; smashed the Army Recruitment office on Shandwick Place; vandalised the corrupt chancellor Alistair Darlings office; and the arms company SELEX had its windows smashed."

**March 6, New York, USA** - A small explosion caused minor damage to a U.S. military recruiting center in New York's Times Square area in the early hours, there were no injuries. Low-grade explosives packed in an ammunition box cracked the recruiting station's thick glass door and twisted its metal framing. The blast also shattered a window encasing the classic poster of Uncle Sam saying "I Want You." Pigs are linking the blast to explosive attacks against the Mexican (2007) and British Consulates (2005). The 2007 October 26th attack against the Mexican Consulate was in solidarity with the rebellion in Oaxaca State and in memory of Brad Will, anarchist murdered by Mexican government forces. No-one has been arrested for any of the actions. Police are searching for a hooded bicyclist seen on a surveillance video pedaling away.

**March 3, Navasota, Texas, USA** - Prisoners take direct action against surveillance cameras. "On or about March, 3 groups of prisoners carried out a joint and coordinated direct action at the Luther unit Texas Department of Criminal Justice, located in Navasota TX. The 3 groups of prisoners in 3 of the 4 dorms in C-Hall masked themselves in homemade balaclavas and completely destroyed the \$2000 dollar surveillance cameras that had recently been installed in the dorms. Despite intense pressure from prison administration all 54 men in each of the 3 dorms (162 men in total) maintained their solidarity in the face of harsh collective punishment and refused to inform on any of their fellow prisoners who carried out the action. ... Let us hope that the spirit of rebellion continues and grows." - *El Insurgente, unembedded in Texas prison.*

**February 27, Montevideo, Uruguay** - On the morning of February 27, 2008, there was an attack on the Goethe Institute of Montevideo, an organization connected to the German state, resulting in all of its windows being totally destroyed. This attack represents a show of support and solidarity with the hunger strike that is taking place from February 18 to 29 by insurgent and anarchist prisoners in diverse countries of the world, between Germany, Spain, Switzerland and Argentina. This hunger strike involves a mobilization against prisons and repression, the isolation regimes, torture and perpetual imprisonment, and for the freedom of all sick prisoners. Those behind this initiative of struggle are the anarchist prisoners Marco Camenish (Switzerland), Rafa Martinez Zea "Jon Bala" (Puerto Ill, Spain), Joaquin Garces (CP Castellon, Spain), Gabriel Pombo "Musta" and Jose Fernandez (Germany), Petrisans (Argentina) and Thomas Meyer Falk (Germany). Solidarity with the prisoners in struggle in every part of the world. Down with the walls of the prisons.





# FROM AUTONOMOUS SPACE TOWARDS LIBERATED SPACE:

## SOME POINTS FOR DISCUSSION AND DEBATE

*"All of the models and structures in which we've taken refuge must be fiercely examined and critically dismantled, and we must learn to depend on ourselves. If we do not wish to find ourselves in a world where no one really lives, where no one really knows anyone else, where everyone has become a mere cog in a machine meshing with other cogs but remaining truly alone, then we must have the strength to attack alienation in every way we can. Otherwise, we may just find there is no place left where we can meet face to face".* **Killing King Abacus**

The gathering of people from across Europe around "Autonomous" Space has encouraged us to commit our experiences and ideas to paper. We have decided to present our common thoughts with the hope of sparking debate and finding affinity. These are not static words conceived of in the dry desert of opinion or in the hope of furthering an ideology, but rather they are forged through our shared experiences and projects as comrades and our desire for unlimited revolt.

Our lives in and around spaces considered autonomous have given us many things; friendship, escape, small glimpses of the world to be built and not least the critique that is written here. Our desire is not to abandon the project of social centres, communes and squats per se, but rather to go beyond them in order to further our projects of experimentation and revolt that we have seen hints of in "Autonomous" spaces. We ask ourselves; can an "Autonomous" space be created within the domain of capital? What does it mean to be autonomous? Liberated?

We should begin with our proposal to move from "Autonomous" Spaces towards Liberated Space. We conceive the "Autonomous" Space as a potential that has lost significance, direction and power as a weapon for destruction of the existent and as a tool of things yet to come. "Autonomous" spaces still have the potential for genuine face to face interaction between people, experimentation of relationships,

music, art, rebellion etc. but are frequently limited to ritualized relationships and codified behaviour.

It is important for us to acknowledge that there are no "Autonomous" Spaces within Capital. We cannot simply step over the border of Capital into Autonomy regardless of how comforting that sounds. Capital seems to us a social relationship as well as a material force. It enforces its domination over all terrain be it the streets of Moscow, the plains of Africa or the wilderness of Antarctica. Every space is a commodity to be consumed or capitalised upon. We believe for a space to be truly autonomous it must first be liberated. Liberated in our sense doesn't just mean taking something out of the hands of capitalists (the mere re appropriation of a building) but rather taking space and finding ways to use it as a weapon against the state and capital themselves.

Put simply, liberated space would not look like taking over a building and filling it full of barricades that block out any light that the outside world potentially has to offer, but beginning to reconceptualise space and see the subversive qualities in the architecture

and space that surrounds us. A market becomes a point of interaction, a park becomes a training space, a car becomes a torch of solidarity, a field becomes a hideout, a roof a lookout, a prison a target.

We don't mean to imply that in order for a space to be truly liberated its participants need to be "militant", far from it. We only suggest it needs to be based on the logic of attacking the arteries and veins of domination, from social relationships (including capitalism) to military barracks, power lines, banks etc. For us an increase in militancy would be completely useless and would mean an increase in specialization, sacrifice and alienation. The aim of the militant is to pressure the state and its institutions into granting his/her "demands". The idea of constant attack is significantly different to this logic. Constant attack requires a refusal of the existent, its roles (including that of the militant) and its willful destruction with the aims and means of unlimited freedom.

Others when questioned on the possibility of liberated space have spoken eloquently on the necessity of attack. We also suggest that any space that is given to us is a poisoned apple given by the hand of our enemies with the hope of distracting and neutralizing our energies. Every thing that is given -even through struggle- is always a double edged sword. Space which is taken and time which is stolen, turn the enemy's gifts into mere absurdities. The take, is of course, a bone of contention and is the realm where the stale breath of ideologues is ever present. Taking for us is a methodology which is opposed to any ideology be it that of the activist or the reactionary. We can only say that the act of taking is limitless and would serve to open up further possibilities.

A recent example which highlights the differences in the mentality between attack and militancy and the unlimited taking of the revolutionary vs the acceptance of concessions is the case

of the struggle for Ungdomshuset. We do not mean for this example to spark an endless debate around these events, but rather to try and draw out the differences between these conceptualizations of space and struggle.

The riots for Ungdomshuset, which, for a brief moment of time turned normalcy on its head, succeeded in creating small liberated zones where commodities value was subverted from useless junk in a store to burning barricades. People took control of their rage and self organized their hatred toward a world that had robbed them of already so much. These experiences became nullified, tamed and recuperated by the very activism that was complicit in organizing the revolt. Instead of broadening the struggle across the social terrain they pushed it into the cage of the single issue activist campaign, striving only for one limited goal.

This struggle did open up cracks in the facade of capitalist consensus where members of the excluded met face to face; finally with a real reason to communicate and a real reason to act! However the prevalence of the activist mentality in the movement to save Ungdomshuset meant that each brick hurled through a bank window with a genuine disgust and aimed at uprooting the whole rotten system, transformed mid flight into a ballot in the box for complicity and negotiations with the state furthering its (the states/ capitals) project of consensus and dialogue.

We seem to only be able to say what a liberated space is not. How can we go from the mere negation of a thing into the lived

experience of what we desire? This is a fundamental question which there is seemingly no answer to, only process and experimentation. A tension between the existent and our wildest dreams. We feel the pressing need to realize our dreams here and now. In order for this to happen discussion, communication and finding affinity with others are of the utmost importance.

How could we conceive of a liberated space in a world that is dogged by the absolutes of the economy? Or, how could one talk of freedom when one is not free? Perhaps we could only perceive the expansion of liberated space when we actually begin to liberate space. This seems obvious but it is a fleeting idea that can be obscured by the trivial demands of running an autonomous space. Creating liberated space is not a surgical operation whereby we cut one part of reality (that part being space) from the totality of everyday existence and doctor it accordingly. Our creation maybe relies on our understanding of this totality; that it reproduces itself in every aspect of our lives. So, our Liberated space could be crafted from a recognition of the totality and the need to attack it. And the creation would be an attack in itself. Our means and ends become inseparable as does our theory and our practice.

The social centre, squatted or not continues to provide a quarter where we can passionately debate and discuss our next move. Sometimes they afford us a momentary glance at the possibility of a life self-determined and of full enjoyment. Mostly they are racked by informal hierarchy and insipid ideology. In our experience, when we begin to liberate space or when we embrace the possibility of unlimited revolt the social centre regains its potential and its subversive qualities.





# Thoughts on our meetings together ...

Reflections on the Interspace Meeting. May 24-26, 2008. Kesselberg, Berlin. [This is not a summary of the content of the meeting. Content can be found in the minutes that have been typed-up elsewhere on the net. For us, it is more relevant to print this text and we think it should receive a much broader reading]

*"Nothing more can come to us from assemblies than what each of us as individuals strives to put into them...When there is no openness to listening, that is to say, to paying attention to new realms of thought, of one`s own thought, we will always find ourselves saying the same things, whatever the topic of discussion may be. Anchored to our faith like in a church...we repeat our rituals in order to go back to our houses with little questioned as always. Until the next discussion."*

- Massimo Passamani

Passamini imagines the assembly to be a "known and hospitable place" but one where "one always remains a bit frustrated". Sure enough, rare are the moments when people leave a meeting of one hundred people, that has lasted three hours, feeling positive and inspired. This sense of frustration is often an outcome that is widely predicted and often resigned to as some sort of inevitability. But it should not be inevitable. And we should not be able to predict outcomes from what have become ritualistic and comfortable processes. To avoid this predictability questions must be asked. Where does this frustration from meeting come from? Why do we continue to replicate the structures that foster this frustration? And, what alternatives are there?

The general assembly, agenda setting, feedback and evaluations are now intrinsic to the frameworks that structure the ways that meetings are held. Perhaps it is these very structures that are the source of our frustration. Is it possible that, as a result of a lack of imagination to create anything better, we are relying upon structures of discussion and reflection that in their very essence contradict the theoretical content of these discussions?

Increasingly, certain communication tools are dominating our meetings. Flip charts, power-point, multi-hand signalling systems, moderation, rigid agendas, feed-back, mixing-up, breaking-down... the list goes on. These are tools that have emerged from the board room and that are intended to facilitate productivity, efficiency and expedient results. They serve not to enrich or deepen our conversations and relations but to further sharpen our utility. Through these methods we are further isolated and distanced from each other while the *real* contact we have is gradually erased. These structures have not only lead to a deterioration in the form of our communication but also in our approach to it.



From these structures an approach has been bred that is far from the rhetoric of DIY and self-organisation that punctuates our discourse. We have become agenda slaves and feedback fetishists and all too often we willingly and gratefully submit to the dominance of the 'impartial' moderator. Rather than freeing us from hierarchy and lack of representation the participatory structures that we implement permit a level of disengagement which gives rise to a dynamic based on production and consumption. Instead of reflecting individually on what our aims, questions or objectives may be in a meeting we look to moderators and agendas for this direction. These structures or tools are not, however, intended to replace our participation in meetings but to facilitate it. Consequently, when our participation or engagement no longer presides in a meeting these tools are granted powers of determination. As a result, the tools often fail to meet the demands being made of them thus impeding the progress of the meeting. What can also occur is that this power of determination is accepted and even embraced by the tools (the moderator or the agenda for example) which leads to the creation of undesirable hierarchies. Either way, we find ourselves once again sitting in a meeting feeling frustrated.

Perhaps, then, our frustration arises from the structures that frame the way we meet; from tools that ultimately take us away from theories of self-organisation, process (over product), quality, and embracing the unknown. We are frustrated, perhaps, because our praxis is finding itself increasingly disjointed from our theory.

Is it also possible that the *grounds* on which we meet contribute to this frustration?

When we meet we do so with some form of over-arching and unifying purpose of presence. On a logistical and practical level it is necessary to find this common purpose to meet. And of course, this search for affinity is a primary motivating factor for why we have the meetings in the first

place! The frustration arises, however, when there is an assumption that this affinity will be comprehensively shared by all meeting attendees. Let us say, frustration occurs when the meeting adopts an identity and we all become identifiers. It occurs when there is the expectation that the grounds on which we meet should symbolise a set of definable identifiers that will lead to affinity.

Rather than succumbing to the temptation to attribute the meeting with an identity it is perhaps less frustrating to see it as the convergence point for many individual subjectivities that are creating the potential to be drawn closer together. It should also be emphasised that underpinning this search for affinity, which provides the grounds on which we meet, must be the will to find affinity and solidarity through action. When we meet we do so not to theorise infinitely in a tail-chasing vacuum but to use and apply this theory in and to our actions.

It is also possible that part of the frustration that is felt from meeting arises from the structures of valuation that we use to gauge success. There is a tendency to assess the value of a meeting according to its productivity rather than its quality. Without concrete conclusions, fixed dates and specific targets a lack of achievement is felt that often expands into a sense of failure. Experiencing a feeling of either collective or individual achievement is not only desirable but also necessary if our struggle is to be sustainable. That is not the question here. The question is asking from where or what we get this sense of accomplishment. By reassessing the parameters of what we consider to be of worth in a meeting we will, perhaps, be less likely to get frustrated by a failure to achieve expectations of productivity that are created and reinforced by capitalist logic. It is not being suggested that we should lower the levels of what we hope to achieve but instead to challenge the existing structures according to which we attribute quality.

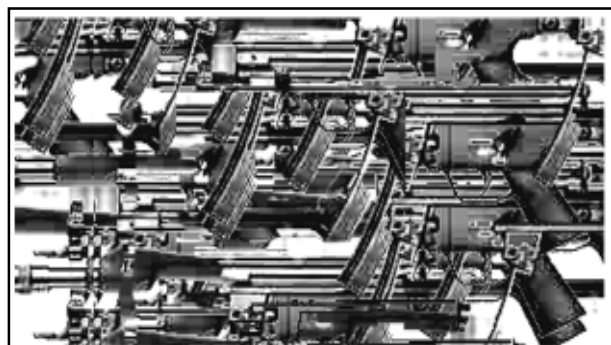
It was asked earlier, why, we insist on replicating meetings that we continue to be frustrated by and that consistently fail to generate enriching and inspiring interactions. One of the reasons that we continue to recreate these structures is because they have become the principal context in which we are able to have certain interactions with large numbers of people. We create these occasions in order to meet and to communicate face to face, to add spoken word to what has become a cacophony of cyber voices and to have real-time connections that have the potential to be both immediate and reflectively delayed in a way that the internet can never replicate. Quite simply, all we want sometimes is to talk more freely and to feel some distance from the omnipresent spectre of surveillance and security.

There are undoubtedly many positive reasons for meeting with each other. In order to find alternative structures that reduce our frustration it is maybe a

good idea to reflect on what the underlying motivations are for the interactions and exchanges mentioned above. Are we trying to build networks that function in a practical and coordinated way? Or are we trying to broaden our understanding of different contexts and experiences? Are we working towards coordinated action? Or are we actually looking to strengthen personal links and affinities? By asking these questions we will also find ourselves better prepared for meetings. We will understand our own, personal reasons for attending a gathering and have a better sense of what we desire from it. We will be ready, when we find ourselves unmotivated to participate in a discussion, to ask ourselves why and whether we can act to change it. We will be ready to identify when we are unsatisfied with the structure of something and to question that structure and find alternatives.

When we have the answers to these questions it will perhaps be easier to find the most effective and fulfilling structures and contexts in which to meet. We can begin to examine the appropriateness of what now seem to be tired and overused formulas. We can question whether an agenda is really necessary in a discussion and if we actually need to allocate time slots to every possible topic that might arise in a gathering. We can challenge the rigidity of timing and timetables and instead invite fluidity and flexibility. We can resist the impulsive need to minute and feedback everything that is said in all contexts.

By stripping away the appendages of our meetings and fully disassembling their mechanisms we can begin to reduce our frustrations by identifying and building different ways of meeting in order to find affinity and act together and in solidarity with one another. In doing this, hopefully, we will find ourselves less frustrated and less often at meetings that we couldn't care less about...



## **POISONING THE WAVES.**

Two hours of chaos and anarchy, of music and angry words. Punk, Crust Punk, Raw Noise, D-beat, Death and Black Metal and most importantly news of struggle, direct action, solidarity and porco dio!  
Every Saturday (hopefully) from 2pm to 4pm  
on wirelessfm.net.

*A personal report from this years action days for autonomous spaces in Berlin. This report reflects the thoughts and opinions of the authors, not of any campaign, although these opinions may be shared by others.*

# (BRIEF REPORT FROM) ACTION DAYS FOR AUTONOMOUS SPACE, BERLIN, GERMANY MAY 27 TO JUNE 1/08

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## BERLIN - IN CHAOS!

Last week, anarchists set their own dates for a confrontation with the State and Capital. Not prepared to be crushed by increasing repression against the spaces in which we live, plot and fight from, the Action Days for Autonomous Spaces put Berlin in chaos.

Following the three-day 'Interspace' meeting in Kesselberg (a previously squatted land project outside Berlin) from May 24-27, many people headed into Berlin to put theory into practise and to join forces on the streets with those already preparing for the Action Days. An info-point was set up at the Kopi, radical left projects provided voku (people's kitchen) for the week as well as hosting theoretical and practical workshops.

But, most importantly, hundreds of people from Berlin and from elsewhere went on the offensive and instigated 6 charged days of diverse and often militant action. In a city which has one of the harshest anti-squatting policies in Europe - the Berlin Line - where squats can be evicted immediately and brutally, people showed they were undaunted and defiant.

The focus of these action days in many ways remains the defence of certain threatened physical structures. However, as the diversity of actions that took place demonstrates, what was being fought for is not confined to or by the walls of such buildings. By expanding the definition of what we understand by 'free space' we are able to broaden our attack beyond these physical spaces to an attack

against social control as a cornerstone of capitalist logic - from autonomous space to liberated space.

### Highlights of the week:

- 4 cars burnt and caltrops (bent-nail devices used to puncture tyres) left on the surrounding streets to deter cops and the fire brigade from getting there in order to put the fires out.
- Construction crane burnt.
- A truck and four more cars burn.
- Squatting of building on Michael-Kirch Platz.
- 8 cars burnt as a response to eviction of Michael-Kirch Platz and in solidarity with those arrested.
- Anti-Gentrification Rally at Bethanien.
- Parts of Rigaer 84 squatted and opened to public.
- Luxury apartment attacked with paint bombs and stones.
- Bike Tour of Media Spree buildings, the company responsible for much redevelopment in Berlin.
- A Mercedes, a rental car and 2 cars from a telecommunications/security company burnt out.
- Windows of bank Sparkasse smashed.
- 8 luxury cars, 2 bins and billboards burnt or destroyed.

- Offices of estate agent Oliver Rohr who works for Rigaer94/Liebig14 landlord Beulker attacked with graffiti, paint bombs and glue in the locks.

- O2 advertising screen at Warschauer Strasse attacked with paint bombs.
  - McDonalds in Kreuzberg- trashed.
  - 2 unfinished lofthouses have their windows smashed- one attack takes place in broad daylight.
  - Cop car windows smashed by Mauer Park.
  - 18 windows of SAP, a software company connected to arms trade, smashed.
  - Windows of Verdi Hotel by Kopi smashed.
  - Cops attacked with stones and bottles outside Kopi.
  - Banner drop in support of Rigaer94 from the roof of the cathedral Berliner Dom.
  - Barricades built in Friedrichshain, Kreuzberg and Wedding.
- There was also a pirate radio (originally set up for the April Days of Action in Defence of Free Spaces) and a web-based real time info-ticker which provided up-to-the-minute information on everything from demos, actions, arrests, police locations and detailed descriptions of undercover cops and their vehicles.
- The constant prowling of undercover cop cars and a rumoured 250 civil police (as well the politically motivated crime unit) deployed in Kreuzberg did not deter

people from taking action, and nor did brutal attacks on crowds of demonstrators or the imposition of "Platzverweise" or "banning orders" from particular areas on anyone who looked 'autonomous' - the use of these was ruled illegal by a judge later in the week. Despite beatings and arrests, the cops were finally unable to contain, control and crush the spirit, energy and daring of the week-long revolt.

After years of simply responding to dates ~~set~~ by institutions, governments and trade fairs etc, those acting to resist the repression of free space - which extends to the totality of what we conceive as freedom - are left with a revived feeling of strength and energy. Discussions and analyses have been sparked; creative, autonomous participation has been

## COMMUNIQUES :

Here we document some of the communiques for the actions during the week:

### **Construction machine set on fire**

"As open-up for the action days for autonomous spaces, on the night to tuesday 27 we set ablaze a construction machine in the Diestelmeyerstr. (Friedrichshain), which was participating in the building of luxurious townhouses. Stop the neoliberal city-plans! Against Capitalism!"

### **SAP attacked**

"18 windows are not enough! On the 28.5.8 we smashed the windows of SAP in the Rosenthalerstr. SAP is worldwide on the frontline for what concerns business-software. They develop software for repressive/security authorities and organizations involved in war businesses, also for the NATO and the German army. SAP is about logistic to personal management. So that the companies involved in the war can work good together, SAP provide them software for connecting among each other. SAP is one very important global-player within inner and foreign army and surveillance industries. Such a security is for the rich ones, who have to secure themselves from the growing impoverishment of people around the world, through war, exploitation, exclusion and oppression. Our action is in the context of the action days for autonomous spaces, because freespaces mean to us a life free from capitalist exploitation, repression and war. No peace with the war!!! Destroy militarism!!"

### **Housekeeper of Rigaer94 and Liebig14 attacked**

"In order to support the ongoing struggle of Rigaer94 against its eviction, we visited last night the offices of Rohr-immobilienverwaltung, glued the locks, threw color and left the graffiti "fingers off the R94 and L14". Rohr manage all of the houses owned by Beulker, landlord of Rigaer94 and Liebig14, therefore he is directly responsible in the case of an eviction. Fight and defend autonomous spaces!"

### **Surveillance company cars set ablaze**

"End with Big Sister! Two cars of the company Lipinsky have been torched on 29.5 night. Lipinsky is a company involved in

inspired and face to face affinities built on. Above all, what has emerged from and what underpins these elements is the offensive action that people have taken which has let loose the reins of our imaginations and our resistance.

We hope it does not stop here, and that the quality and diversity of attacks, as well as a deepening understanding of what it means to liberate space in lives held hard in the velvet claw of capitalism, continues everywhere.

### **Put Berlin in Chaos! Put Everywhere in Chaos! ...**



One note of sadness and anger from last week is the state-murder of an 18 year old boy in custody on May 29. Not known to be connected to the autonomous scene, he was arrested with two friends after attacking traffic lights and a car and was found hanged in his cell at 1.20am, only 3 hours after the time of his arrest. It is unlikely that it was suicide - as the cops have stated - because of the design of the cells in Templehof nick and the short amount of time that would have been available to him while being driven to the police station and processed.

For more information on the free spaces campaign in Berlin, go to [wba.blogspot.de](http://wba.blogspot.de)

telecommunication and surveillance issues. They offer advices, projectizing, installation, care-taking from surveillance systems: video surveillance, remote control, alarm systems, mobile surveillance-robots and more. All such small or bigger playgames for capitalists make us puking during our daily life. We attacked Lipinsky because we do not want a society where each movement is going to be under control. Towards a borderless freedom of movement and against the controlwahn and exclusion poliic of capitalists. No control! No surveillance! Freespaces in all the world! Smash all cameras everywhere!!! No secure house for the dominants!"

### **02-Screen made nicer**

"The „02 screen" at the Wahrschauer Bridge has been made nicer by some paintbombs, exactly on its inauguration date!"

### **Loft-complex got attacked**

"Such a thing comes from such a thing! Again it happened to the windows of a luxury-complex in construction, this time "Carloft" in the Liegtitzerstr. (Kreuzberg). "It was very easy", decidedly affirms Carlo from the group "bonzenpack wegscheppern", "they have so much fear about their cars, that they even want to lift them up with a lift directly into their apartments (ndt. in this loft one can bring his/her own car up in front of the apartment...)"

You can imagine, who has some spare money for such a thing. "In the case that they will win space here around, we can soon prepare our luggages and we are not ready for this at all!". We stay all! Freedom instead of capitalism!"

### **Surveillance company cars set alight**

"End with Big Sister! Two cars of the company Lipinsky have been torched on 29.5 night. Lipinsky is a company involved in telecommunication and surveillance issues. They offer advices, project management, installation, care-taking of surveillance systems: videosurveillance, remote kontrolle, alarm systems and mobile surveillance-robots. All such small or bigger playgames for capitalists make us puking during our daily life. We attacked Lipinsky because we do not want a society where each movement is going to be under control. Towards a borderless freedom of movement and against the controlwahn and exclusion poliic of capitalists. No control! No surveillance! Freespaces in all the world! Smash all cameras everywhere!!! No secure house for the dominants!"



# Notes from International Anti-Prison Gathering Kiel, Germany 26-28 September, '08.



*In any gathering of this nature where the discussion has to be translated into several languages and lasts many hours, any notes taken are bound to contain mistakes and errors. We have tried to keep the essentially strategic comments and open-ended dialog intact for easy reading, whilst removing repetition. Due to the length of the text, we could not print all the notes from the individual presentations, but this is material widespread on the internet. We invite you to correct any inaccuracy or omissions, contributions are welcome. A lot of the information here is specific to the situation in Germany, we hope it can inform and inspire. Everyone finds and takes away a different experience and the debate is still open - break the prisons down!!!*

Some of the participants who came with projects:-

Autonomous Prison Project Koln, ABC Kiel, ABC Berlin, 325, Soli group of Christian, "Prison and Justice" Radio Transmission from Hamburg, "GefangenenInfo" from Hamburg, Balaklava crew (anarchist newspaper from Wien) and more.

## Day 1

Warning to expect controls by cops & nazis in the area. Introduction "Why antiprison" + Discussion about establishing common ground + Critique of the publicity material Film - Russian prisons

## Day 2

*Presentations* – Autonomous Prison Project Koln. Sound Demo outside the Koln prison with spontaneous street-protest.

*Presentations* – Austria Animal Liberation raids and Limits of the solidarity work & presentation about UK, one movie about Mumia's situation and prisons in USA as well about Transgender persons in USA prisons were shown.

## Day 3

Ending Discussion – closing remarks – summary – feedback

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## Day 1 : Friday 26/9

Over the last two or three years people in the movement have become more interested in this topic, not from any organised groups, but they got more connected and organised so now they think it will continue and there will be more structure. The weekend is intended to exchange basic thoughts from our combined understanding and present different situations of countries.

Our personal communications outside the discussions are just as important. The idea behind the weekend is that the anti-prison movement is weak at the moment, and we want to start the project again, specifically against the state and the capitalist system, not just prisons. Everyday life is connected to the prison, because it is what enforces the system of private property, the prison is the microcosm of the state. For growing numbers of people, life is more dangerous and criminalised. Looking at the society which leads the trajectory of imprisonment, and making a wider denouncement from a perspective of being at war with the present rule of the financial market will take time and energy.

The gathering was also open to non-anarchists, as people to suggest or give presentations.

The modern anti-prison movement started in the 1960's in Europe from the Southern European areas, from the prisoners themselves. The social

struggle was very high, and the social movements were strong, but they were repressed. In the last few years the movement started to grow again, in the last 2-3 years in Germany there was certainly a larger interest in this topic, and there has been a widespread hunger-strike by German prisoners, there is a Greek hunger-strike ongoing as this is being written, and an Italian hunger protest is planned for December... The question is how we can be on the 'outside' and smash the walls in, the state borders that keep us prisoner in the 'homeland nation-state', and those walls which separate the contradictions of the capitalist way of life from the broader population.

The internet is the dominant way to communicate and it is important to meet face-to-face, we shouldn't be surprised if our relationships and affinities naturally withdraw or wither if we spend too much time in cyberspace, the instantaneous exchange of information there is useful, but let's not forget the information horizon never ends, we can put all this effort into overground international info-tech structures but it means absolutely nothing without it manifesting in the streets. Real, valid connections come from the networks of resistance and friendship which define our struggle and our methods of organisation : mutual aid and solidarity. The underground cells, the individuals who make the decentralised direct-actions of solidarity and attack, unknown to each other, are together as unknown collaborators in the compulsion of the excluded to resist oppression.

The previous European anti-prison structure came mainly out of anarchists from France, Italy, Spain and Swiss back in the mid of 2003 and the last meeting of parts of this structure met in Barcelona in 2004 (See "Notes taken at the international gathering against prison society", in 325 #1, or 325 online). This structure came under a lot of repression and surveillance from the authorities, and eventually fragmented as people felt it had come to the end of it's usefulness. Certain realities which are not to the taste of the system had regrouped and it was viewed as a threat. People were tracked,

watched, harassed, threatened, beaten up, at the same time there was the beginning of a wave of repression, arrests, imprisonment as the EU and Europol attempted to deal with the "Mediterranean Triangle" of "anarchist terrorism". Now Barcelona, which was identified as a centre of anarchist and anti-system activity by the Europol has been under repression for the last 3 years, it is a specific outcome from the investigations into infrastructure, communication and friendship networks. It was seen as a place where the autonomous squats, social centres, anarchist activity was getting too much, it had to be attacked and repressed, and this is what the Catalan state police, the Mossos D'Esquadra have done for the past 3 years, they have had a Carte Blanche to evict, arrest and terrorise.

Comrades in Italy and Spain took the brunt of this wave of repression, across Italy from 2003 anarchists were arrested and centres shut down and yet this wave has not yet stopped... The specific police unit to target anarchists set up by Europol was mainly organised by the Italian Carabinieri, the paramilitary police, notorious torturers, manipulators and killers, largely responsible for the brutal terrorisation of the demonstrators in Genoa, G8 2001.

The opening evening was very informal, approx 80 people, and around 200 people participated in the entire 3 days of events including the demo, which was attended by around 100 people. At the demo, which was outside of the prison and courthouse of Kiel, there was a Sound demo with statements read out against the jail, there were slogans and banners, including an improvised street-protest invading the roads around the prison, also it was noticed that some windows of the courthouse had been smashed earlier before the demo arrived. In the evening there was a banner drop from a motorway bridge near the autonomous project which housed the gathering, earlier in the day the people had held the banners there for the people travelling in the cars to see, with a few people sounding their horns to support us.

To begin the discussion, the program was stated and people were asked if they also wanted to respond to any feature of the events. So this meeting is for coming together face-to-face and to gain a common understanding of what we all feel about the theme of prison. It was discussed at one point whether we should split into smaller groups but it was felt that we needed to have a common discussion amongst all of us present.

So, the discussion was opened to let people say anything they had to say, because it was not the time to hear a long presentation or monologue because some people had travelled a long way, so it was asked if people attending wanted to bring in any points or raise questions if they had any, to share ideas about "Why anti-prison?".

One early point raised was that the

only people there at the meeting were those from "our-small corner" and that despite the invitation not many autonomous groups showed up who were not linked in some small way with the organisers. It was not usual that a 2-3 day anti-prison meeting happens organised by anarchists, but it was totally open to autonomous left radicals and this was made very clear from the beginning.

Since we start from small situations, it's not so important, as the process is about development. The organisers are anarchists and autonomous people. There was a second hand criticism that the promotional material and the text of the underground press-release was arrogant and confrontational, in that we just want to stage an event for "our people", just among us and no-one else, and very critical towards the efforts of other people in the left movement.

It was reported that some people felt "scared" by the promo flyer/text/image, probably being "too anti-prison and anarchist", that if we wanted more people to show up we should make it more open to others, less threatening. There is a clear anarchist connection to this meeting, but there is also not many people for example from the more communist direction, they were not enthusiastic to participate for these reasons. For this process it is really important that as many people participate, and it was responded to that if people feel so attacked by such material they should just show up here and discuss their points. The gathering was open to those who were willing to collaborate but that the purpose was to concentrate on some specific realities and meet together



for the first time around these topics. The title of the gathering is really important for it is not simply about anti-repression activities but about a wider anti-prison and anti-state critique, because the society we live in is an open prison, and it does not end with the prison, it is about the dismantling of society itself, and the eradication of the capitalist system.

Really it is quite clear that if those groups are not saying they are for prison abolition, that is their position, and it is clear, they might want to be involved and that is okay, but what is more interesting is how to broaden this discussion into the prisons themselves amongst the prisoners, and how we exchange this information with them. In a text within the booklet for the weekend Christian Summermann (Anti-Fascist prisoner in Germany) raises this point and it is his main concern with what is happening in Germany, because it is not happening, and it involves a lack of information getting into prisons and amongst prisoners. Those are the people who we would like to see more involved in these discussions, than other groups who have already said what their position is, what their purpose is, and what they are going to do.

The discussion on the outside of the walls of the prisons is low within Northern Europe. Anti-prison is a minor topic and few too people are aware, or feel they can do anything against the totality of the repressive apparatus of the state.

Despite this a big hunger strike just happened within the jails of Germany, there is organisation amongst the prisoners to varying degrees, there are revolutionary prisoners, there are direct actions happening in solidarity... The last big prison disturbances happened in the 1990's, and this is the first time such things are occurring again, there are certainly many prisoners who are close to rebelling and a movement outside is important in sustaining the ideas and heart of those inside. It is an important point to recognise the centrality of the decisions of the prisoners themselves in the direction of the struggle. The recent hunger strike was a positive start and connecting point for many people inside and outside, and links were made that are growing, but we need more direct contacts with people locked inside.

There is a magazine for prisoners without political censorship, called "Lichtblick" and based in Tegel prison, Berlin, where even Nazis sometimes contribute, but this stresses the importance of making reading material that challenges this and spreads libertarian concepts. It was felt that we should really know what we are talking about before we talk about destroying the prison because when we make the demonstration in the street, when we organise and agitate we need to be

able to explain to the people who ask "what about the Nazi, the child molester, the rapist etc." How to know to react and talk with people about the emotions raised, "the social question".

There was a proposal from an autonomous commander from Spain 30 years ago- first the Nazis and these people come out of the prison, then we kill them. This was not a concrete proposal we made an agreement on. Short of shooting people, which undoubtedly would happen to the class enemy in a revolutionary situation, we have to find ways to resolve the problems of violence and hatred, this is the challenge.

The prisons themselves don't appear not to be able to fall tomorrow and if the time comes when we are in a position as a social movement to destroy them, we would have also a wider social movement which deals with problems and conflicts in a completely different way rather than just brutalise people. A movement that has the power to overturn the ruling class through self-organisation will be strong enough to carry the release of the prisons. This would go a long way to removing the background factors of anti-social crime and it can be hard to explain to people, as it is the concept of an anarchist or libertarian communist society, and this has been deliberately obscured and discredited by the authoritarian forces.

It is not the case that the people in the prison are serial killers only, everyone knows on the street you should not be in the prison for selling marijuana, stealing from the supermarket and defrauding the government tax and so on. For us, there is no difference between social and political prisoners, this is the difference between anti-prison organising and solidarity work that only involves only supporting specific political prisoners.

It was thought that many people in society knew why more prisons were not a good thing, and that an increasing number of them when in contact with the judicial and penal system had a negative reaction towards it. So it was thought that it wasn't so important to stress the activity of convincing the "person-on-the-street", as pretty soon you can be sure that they already know it, as the prison population is growing and that is because people are jailed for smaller crimes. There is a growing prison labour industry in Europe which adds to the trend and a particularly repressive atmosphere which is growing, you are criminal if you do not accept every last law to regulate everything, the anti-social behaviour laws of UK, the "citizenism" of Spain, no drinking in the squares, no smoking, do not gather, do not congregate. This is what the state has always done - prevent the people from meeting together, clear the streets and roads, suppress, jail and murder those who rebel. Everyone knows the truth but follows the lie in their own way.

We need to ask ourselves what this society would look like without the prisons, to

imagine what would constitute the basis of our means to deal with conflicts. The society needs to change, our problem is we cannot visibly propose a reality, we are in a grey-zone, what should it look like? That which we wish to create and take part in and think about, together, that is what it will look like.

We shouldn't make such a big difference between ourselves and prisoners anyway, we are all being watched and recorded all the time and subject to the police, it is not like we are in this complete freedom and the prisoners come out and, "wow, they are free", there is no 'free'. How we should talk about prisons should take that into account.

For some people at the gathering, the situation after the prisons come down is not as important as the fact they exist right now. Forced medication was seen as a particularly bad problem in the USA and UK, but looking at situations on-the-ground was a focus of concern.

Others did not agree that it should be a main point to focus on these topics, the conditions inside the prisons, the fact they are being drugged, or if they are being beaten up everyday, or how the conditions are. It was very important that the prison be destroyed right now. The question that everyone asks, what do we do with the rapists, murderers, fascists- It does not just stand on itself, it is not just tear down the walls and things are over, it is the whole prison society, it is part of a bigger world that keeps humiliating, locking up and punishing people, that is the thing you have to get rid of.

It is not just physically knocking down these buildings but it is also destroying this whole system which creates it. Once this system which creates its own prisoners, this system which humiliates people, is gone, there would not be tons of people filling these places!

The justice system prevents victim and offender from having contact with each other, and denies the community from getting involved, the justice is bourgeois. Nothing is resolved.

An interjection was made that in Rwanda there are community mediation initiatives to deal with the effects of genocide based on community mediation and discussion. It is true that sometimes the community kills and perpetrator of serious crimes, but the aim is to find new ways of dealing with violence. Certainly bourgeois justice is about punishment, not rehabilitation.

It is not just about punishment, it is about discipline, societies of control and so on. For certain the surveillance

cameras which we can find everywhere are not as important to the authorities as manufacturing the actual fear of being watched. You do not steal, you do not make actions, you are scared and isolated. Both need to be fought against, the punishment, the blow, and also the terror, the control.

All this needs to sink in, to be brought into the society. The main anarchist ideas are solidarity and mutual aid, that is what happens when the walls come down and we abolish prison society. It isn't thought of that we can abolish all conflict, and it's not desirable to end all conflict, because it is creative, how you deal with that conflict. Our position as anarchists is -mutual aid and solidarity-, we can't look for these guarantees and promise to people that we are going to be able to deal with all conflict, sex offenders, Nazis; the only thing we can say is that we have this idea of solidarity between us, that if society came down, then this is how we deal with the problems that arise.

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## Day 2 – Saturday 27/9

Starting from the 70s' one group present had contact with the prisoners of the Red Army Faction (RAF), they squatted a house for a living project, many other people were involved, some of them went to prison, from this a prison project evolved, making contacts, visiting etc. Making newspaper for prisoners etc. In the 70's & 80's there was not just the Revolutionary Cells, there was many other underground autonomous groups, there was also a lot of overground public work for the people of the RAF. The Rote Hilfe, (Red Help) in Germany at one point was connected so closely to the situation of the RAF (Red Army Faction) prisoners. From '72 there was a book of articles about militant resistance, communism etc. The fact that political prisoners receive isolation and torture as an answer to their political militant intervention is the reality. Now there is a movie about the RAF coming out, it is interesting because the RAF are still sitting there in prison, in isolation conditions which didn't disappear, there is a trial ongoing for 5 people accused of terrorist association, because of burning a Turkish commerce centre, in Berlin there is the trial against the supposed Militant Group (MG) people. Modern isolation conditions were born in the United States but have been perfected here in Germany, at the end of the 70's the practice came to Hamburg and have been developed. The anti-terrorist laws and criminalization of the movement, backed up with imprisonment, isolation, torture and murder have always been tools for the state to use against the social movement. Certain tortures are 'white tortures', psychological tortures, constant lights etc to affect the concentration, destroy the mind.

In the prison if you kept your political identity you would be subject to this, and not only the political prisoners but it was widening. There was a group called 'Black Help' for prisoners, an anti-prisons group, they made a paper which was important for the struggle, it included the writings of some June 2nd Movement prisoners

(an underground autonomous/anarchist direct action group), and also other social prisoners, it was an important project for the prisoners and the people outside, it was not just for itself, but for people to take action.

At one point there was a big discussion about the question "destroy prisons" or simply "support our political prisoners". The RAF always defined themselves as political prisoners, different to social prisoners. The Black Help defined all social prisoners as political prisoners, there is no distinction between social and political prisoners, that was the statement.

The prison of course is widening outside the walls, so even in the bar you are in a kind of prison, prison is a situation in society.

In '82 an autonomous anti-prison project started, in a squatted factory, involving ex-prisoners, it was involved in the left-radical movement. Also a book was published which had a lot of impact on the movement and the direction taken between those inside and outside, there was much activity.

We need to understand the basic conditions and possibilities for resistance in the prisons and outside, what constitutes the reality.

At the beginning there was not so much collective action, but a lot of contact with prisoners, making written material for the public, having a concentrated approach, at the time there was a lack of medical care, so there were a few actions. The attempt to make a prisoners newspaper ran into problems with censorship and disruption by the authorities.

One German anarchist from the Autonomous Prison group from Köln had been in prison in total for 10 years from the 70's, 4 years for 5 gram hashish, 6 years for bank robbery, assorted 'crimes' associated with the movement. He'd been involved with the underground groups and now was organising with the autonomous-left prisoner support organisations, he also always thought things should be taken in a stronger direction against the government and capitalists.

He had suffered isolation and torture, he made the situation public, alongside with the other political and social prisoners through the publications of the movement.

It was very hard conditions, there were many restrictions and a situation of social repression. He went on hunger strike, like many people, but during the hunger-strike the prisoners called it off and decided it would be better to make a collective action and occupy the roof, it was hard to organise, 40 people. During the decision making process questions like, "how to defend against the guards? how to defend this room?". About one or two hours before the action started, the riot vans appeared to the prisons, the state had prepared, he was deported to another prison, in isolation, in a section of the wing alone.

In this prison there was a comrade who was not a revolutionary but a reformist, he would try to deal with the situation in a different way, but for everyone it was hard, your ideas are challenged, there is little potential because the conditions are not in your favour at all.

In his opinion, it is important not to start from zero, but learn from how the radical generation before the one you are in has conducted itself, for the continuity of the struggle.

Written material is important in this regard, making an exchange with prisoners, how to get prisoners involved in this discussion, phone-ins to group meetings if possible and personal contact, the visibility is needed when in prison, as communication breaks the isolation and creates bonds and solidarity.

It seems a little clearer that the anti-prison movement now has less of a divide between social and political prisoners. Contact with relatives and family is very important, there has to be responsibility, try to raise awareness, so on the inside the prisoners feel that it is worth the struggle, that they do not act alone. In this way it is really crucial to be able to carry the struggle forward in harsh conditions, despite the low-level at present.

Another anarchist present talked about some of the projects he was involved in such as writing letters to prisoners, he began writing in a fake name then after used his real name as he became overground, making publications and circulating letters, it has evolved into an 80 prisoner project. He thought that there was a lack of structure in the anti-prison movement, just a handful of groups, existing in the 80's & 90's until now. The newspaper they produce gets read by many prisoners and is called "Mauerfall" and also people like anarchist prisoner Thomas Meyer-Falk are involved.

Prison work must continue over the months and years, if it disappears prisoners cannot have hope in it, it has to be consistent. Very important to collect this experience between us and the prisoners, we are the same, and widen the discussion, make networks of affinity. Letters are of course only part of the story, there are many ways to support the prisoners. In publications prisoners can get a voice ordinarily denied them, so comrades abroad or nearby can hear their thoughts.

Contacts must be established to make firm these relationships, so prisoners can ask of what they want from the support organisations in coordination with the relatives.

If you know the visiting hours of the local prison, go to the area and talk with the friends and relatives of the prison, start a discussion there. By going to prison every week, always in the visiting room, approach and explain your point of view. Many people wish to talk about their experiences and those of their loved ones and know what the situation is clearly inside the prison, many times there are people who want to tell what is going on, but don't know how or who to say it to. It is an effective way of keeping contact and knowing the community affected by the incarceration.

There has also been many changes since the 70's & 80's, there are now more fascists in prison with more organised structures than before. It can be difficult to build support for our prisoners, the fascists have built contacts with many social prisoners so the access to our publications is under threat, like the prisoners themselves who come into contact with the extreme-right inside. It is important to understand this. Many social prisoners, drug users, thieves, fraudsters, minor criminals, their first point of reference was the counter-culture, the left and alternative. Now many Nazi & fascist perspectives are making a return, and they are not so previously disorganised as the last two decades.

Recently there was a fight outside a court between Nazis and Hells Angels bike gang, they both had prisoners in conflict in the jail and outside, at the court where the trial was taking place. It is important that prisoners can see something different than fascist material and ideas, to know that there is an expression of rebellion unlike reactionary and racist ideology. Everybody is potentially at risk of prison, where the Nazis will attack you and kill you, and the outside resembles an open prison more and more.

This discussion which is part of our European anti-prison activity is intended to strengthen the networks of resistance so we are better able to counter the extreme-right and their clumsy handlers, the state.

It is simple to understand that if you want to act, you can make your own decisions, you start to resist and take your life for yourself. Importantly, it is also about getting used to the idea that if you are in the movement, prison is a threat, by making contact with prisoners and creating solidarity with prisons we step towards overcoming this threat.

"What can I do to prepare for prison?", "How is it in prison?" many people want this information badly, and more will end up there as mass imprisonment unfolds. Again, public information, newspaper projects and continuity are the key towards a sustained process of agitation. Not just to talk about prisons, but to bring in much more to broaden the perspective, it touches on many themes.

It is important for some to define themselves as political prisoners, those who had taken arms and so, it is for them to decide, but putting aside differences in the face of adversity is also needed, for example there is few connections



between the migrant struggle against detention centres and the anarchist & autonomous prisoner struggle, even the social prisoners struggle which is building and has already had some serious moments in Germany, Greece, Belgium, Italy and Spain recently.

Except there is contradictions in the solidarity work, and conflicts over approach, specialisations, etc. If militants are expected to go to jail, it is a situation worth thinking about to prepare the solidarity group, to know the appropriate direction and level of activity before-hand to prevent time delay in responding to political repression.

If solidarity groups are created they shouldn't be focused simply on fighting one persons case, or one wave of repression, they should target the entire system that maintains domination and exploitation.

In Austria with the raids against animal liberationists the whole topic is very 'hot', the solidarity groups of course are for the liberation and continuation of the animalists demands. The movement is defensive and paranoid from the paramilitary raids which occurred in such an extensive manner.

It is needed to work in small concentrated groups on the topic and the communications between the groups need to be improved. There is a lot of information but not enough discussion, or even activity, happening in many places in Europe. A mass of little groups networked together, but now there needs to be more activity in the face of the crackdown.

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### Day 3 – Sunday 28/9

For this gathering, some of the participants felt that there could have been another day, the schedule was tight and two presentations did not happen, the soli-party took place on the Saturday night, leading to sore heads and a delayed discussion on Sunday, this is to be reflected upon. The discussions & presentations started at 2 in the afternoon going until 8 at night, a 'tough' program for sure, it is a point for reflection, maybe more space for discussions after the talks/presentations next time. There was a high-level of discussion amongst the people outside the structured talks, small groups of people talking and finding affinities, during the night and day, and this is the important thing.

The face-to-face conversations going on between the people were of a really high quality, and the way people were relating to each other was very interesting and fresh, there was a lot of things happening outside the main discussion. It is obviously very

difficult when many people are coming to an event like this with different expectations, different levels of understanding. The days were very full, and this was the first gathering of its type for some time, so it's to be expected that it is just the start. There were comments that it was disappointing that more people from the left-radical movement in Kiel did not come, and that there were a few internationals who had travelled specifically for it, but it is another encounter and networking point from where we can push things forward.

We have to think about how we communicate better, when we are in our everyday fight sometimes you are



isolated from the communications of the internationals and what is happening around the world. It is only from personal contact we establish these relationships, so it is more difficult than relying on the internet, but it has to be done. Perhaps we can use this meeting for trying to have better communications, making more translations, building on these relationships of solidarity.

There was a little disappointment voiced about the lack of concrete initiatives that came from the weekend, there doesn't seem to be a material anti-prison struggle now, but a lot of dispersed activity. We have had a lot of discussions, but we have not talked about what it would look like. The quality of information, relationships and exchange very good, but sometimes it was more anti-repression, rather than anti-prison. If what we are here for is anti-prison then what we are here to

talk about is how we concretely improve the communication between ourselves and the prisoners, then possibly a structure for communication between internationals.

We have to understand what these new prisons and technologically developed prison states are going to look like, it is key to fighting against them.

Talks about attacking the structures of the prison state, what this would look like was missing from our discussions, talks about other autonomous groups like 'Os Cangaceiros', who would concentrate on the architects of the prison, the construction, the people behind the prisons and the avenue of activity that is open to you once you comprehend their role, so this is the kind of information we should be talking about, not the hypothetical discussion over what we would do with the Nazis, or these other situations.

By building a dossier on the prison projects we can see how they work and what they need to function. There was a brief campaign in UK called CAGE, at the turn of the century, which occupied a prison being built and made some trashing, sabotage, before leaving. In terms of attacking a specific industry, of course from the UK there is the situation of the Animal Liberation Front, they have systematically taken on companies and brought them down, how they have done this is by attacking the many smaller companies that they need to survive, it is a case of a single issue being pushed to it's limits, for this as anarchists we don't want to separate it from the revolutionary struggle against all domination, but it is an example to learn from in terms of a campaign.

In Germany, the Anti-Fascist movement, the amount of research they put into what they are doing, they have good skills, there should be more cross-over into this

area. In Berlin they want to make a new jail, half privately owned, the architect is from Austria, in 2012 it will be built, in Großbeeren, which is in Brandenburg, Berlin's region.

It is good to act against the prisons, but also in an information way, against the idea of their "perfect world", where prisons serve their purpose for the "good of society", this is part of the counter-information struggle. It would have been good to have more discussions about these themes, but it is a problem that you cannot lose from sight that in different countries you have a different kind of repression, like to discuss these arguments, there is another certain sense of repression in other countries, and we have to find a balance.

In a bigger meeting we have to understand about these things, but when talking about a history, of tactics, of methodology, it is for everyone to decide.

It is not the case that these things were not discussed though. It was a case that the people

who brought it up are internationals, there are not many people who would bring it up in this context here. Just because this specific work, very few groups are making activities, as everybody knows, repression concentrates on these people. There is stress, paranoia, from outside, it is to you to understand when to discuss, what to discuss and so on. In regards to illegal direct action, I think a lot of people do not know how to talk about these things, they talk too much or not enough.

We can however speak about what is done, what is in the past, what everyone knows is happening, and the theoretical.

The concrete solidarity, it exists, but when we look at the different countries, there is a different level of action, in Germany, for the prisoner who has a soli-group, etc there is something happening, but the groups, the individuals they sometimes feel very alone. When the prisoners who are spending a long time in jail, it is hard, for everyone, and you have to be strong, and we must have more consciousness about what happens when you go to the demonstrations and you go to jail.

Every time people make the slogan "Smash Capitalism", "Smash the Nazi" we have to think about ourselves as potential prisoners, because this is the future they want for us, so we had better be prepared to refuse this role, and that comes from being prepared. The solidarity group, it must be active not just for one month, one year, but all the time, and conscious. For example the 1st of May in Germany, there should be more time and effort for the prisoners.

It has to be more serious, when you write a poster, make an action, make the demo, you have to be prepared for arrests already. You must continue the solidarity work in an organised way, it is not right to forget about the prisoners from the demonstrations, it is about our political cohesion.

It is also not just about after the demo, it is about how to develop the idea that prison is a brutalising totality, if a few people from the movement enter the jail, it is a good point to begin, but it is not all. Our goal is to widen the perspective, not just support the prisoners from our circles. A consciousness and wider knowledge on the whole topic, a possibility to meet and discuss on a level of understanding not yet totally present.

This gathering has been good for the people to meet each other and exchange views, contacts, ideas, make a visible space for these topics and open this debate. Hopefully it will go further on, there is more people than expected really, a lot to improve, less presentations, more discussions, this will be the second process.

Despite the recognition that mass imprisonment is a reality, it is not our wish to find a new 'revolutionary subject' in the prisoner, the proletarian is not this, we don't

have to make this mistake, that these people have a 'special role', they are people like us, who happen to be in a different situation, but are not 'better' or more 'revolutionary'. It is very difficult as it is outside, with all the social problems to work with people, so 'inside' it is not really easy at all. It is not any different than the work with migrant communities, there are points of misunderstanding, points of clarity and so on. None of the people are perfect, the difference is that the people inside got caught. Which are the ways to raise awareness and take actions, to make a debate, it can go good, it can go very wrong.

There are a lot of questions and a discontinuity.

More and more, the real thing is that everyday life becomes more like the prison, from the time you wake up to go to sleep, outside is a prison, Europe is a prison, so many people here in Kiel are left-wing, anti-fascist, but they are not here, they are fighting Nazis on the street, 800 people at the demonstration against a neonazi club 30km away from Kiel (taking place the Saturday of the meeting – St.Pauli vs Rostock, 150 people were arrested, some in hospital).

Everyday in Europe it is like this. Dog-fights when we should be going after the owner, we should be aware that the prison riots are in a place of weakness, that it suits the guards to murder the prisoners and so on, watching them fight with each other, it is endless like that way. They use the conflicts and gang-fights for themselves, setting them up and taking bets on the winners. They deliver the left-wing people to the fascists in jail to prevent organising or even just doing their time.

A German anarchist of the older generation who had spent time in jail gave his respect for any rebels trying to climb the roof in prison and bring some collective actions, this was possible in the '80's and '90's, - that is not really the situation right now in Germany. He commented that for him it was problematic to organise a demo in front of Kiel prison which is an old building arranged as a 5-pointed star, where all the cell wings are not-visible to each other and face only into the inner courtyard. The prisoners couldn't see the demonstration, but they could have heard it. We must engage with open hearts and ask the meaningful questions, explore and begin the healing process, rejecting the endless violence. It makes no sense to turn the young people on to something 'romantic', with 'excitement' about prison and spread illusions, it is a serious situation when we have to fight.

No answers, more questions.

All the people out of prison is threatening for the 'normal people' it is a question of changing the reality, that they understand that the prison is the threat, that it doesn't make their communities secure.

For the last German hunger-strike recently, the government did everything it could to keep it out of the newspapers, and of course the media complied. They knew that one spark or incident could get out of control, because there is this image of the nice German jail, the "human rights" which is nothing but lies. We see how the media and state function, they say nothing about the hunger protest. The authorities have a strategy and make information against us immediately there is a situation to their advantage, this shows the importance of the counter-information work.

The right-wing makes politics from the situation of the child-abuser in prison, "no you can't get rid of the prison", but whilst in the jail, the child-abuser is a 'downcast', he is hated, the moment there is a riot, he is killed. The violence and abuse will not end until there is a profound transformation of society.

There are simply more Nazis in jail than anarchists or other left-radicals, it was a Germany situation for years, despite Thomas Meyer-Falk and the RAF, there were very few of 'our' prisoners inside. The fascists have made a lot of effort and been rewarded, it is hard without having many people inside to have a counter-force force against the Nazis, based on solidarity. From the autonomous scene very few people get in contact with prison, this is why Nazis are there, they are much more involved with criminal activities and come into contact with the prison system more from this.

For many years this topic has been sinking, but from the past few years, from Thomas Meyer-Falk, from Gabriel Pombo da Silva, the debate has been deepened and slowly more people are confronting this reality. More and more actions are happening and for sure the repression is also growing, but essentially the power dynamic in prison is not going to be in our favour, and neither is it 'outside'. There is a limit to our activity due to the physical nature of the walls, well, attack the prison industry, but inside, it is another story, another world.

There are a lot of riots here in Europe, from the anarchists and autonomous, but there are still basic problems with racism and reactionary right-wing tendencies in the broader population. In many places, we struggle but we are marginal. So it is not a miracle that there are a lot of right-wing people in the jail, they are everywhere. In other countries where there is more left-wing types and anarchists, there are more of us in jail.

A prisoners work strike is a good idea for the situation here in German jails with the forced labour and cell-renting system (prisoners are forced to pay cell 'rent' in Germany). A good point underpinning the next hunger-strike, a

concrete point for attacking the prison labour, which is simply a system of forced production and repression.

As more of the already fragile economy begins to be dependent on large warehouse style prison labour facilities, it becomes more essential to organise against them, as it is also an attack on workers 'outside'. Prisoners unions, prisoners leagues, strikes, sabotage, it is important.

This struggle however should not be separate from the broader revolutionary struggle, and there should be a recognition of the limits of the bodies, to concentrate on the prisons yes, but we should be for *total liberation*.

It is the risk of specialisation, always when there is only a few groups working on this topic, there is a risk that things become compartmentalised, other threads within the topic need to be widened, and connected to the different parts of the struggle- no borders, anti-psychiatry + 'cognitive liberty', youth jails, and anti-terror laws. To work on different levels and not get stuck in a very particular activity. Prison of course is this productive process so we agree that this is also an area worthy of inquiry as it is essentially a concrete expression of the class struggle, it is the government of poverty.

In closing.. **"Silence is also an answer"**.

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## Afterword - A few thoughts...

by ABC Berlin & ABC Orkan

It is a month since the anti prison gathering and all of us went back home with good feelings. Since we live in different cities, it took us a bit to gather as "organiser-crew" for having an exchange and discussion about how we felt that those days went. As for everything we organize as anarchists, we believe that there can not be a simple "black and white" analysis or evaluation: if we are critical when talking about initiatives organized by others, than even more when it is about ours, in order for us all to learn from our limits and try to cross them even better the next time.

After all, we are not the ones who like to rest on one's laurels. But let's proceed with order.

### **Our goals for this weekend...**

As a premise, one should say that those days have been organized by a very small amount of people. We came across the very idea of these days already a few months ago, planning the event for May 2008, but then things took another direction and the idea remained there, but its date unconcrete. Finally, after the hunger strike in German prisons, August this year, we sat together again and felt the necessity of re proposing this idea out of different reasons. To have a moment where the different groups and individualities living in Germany who work actively against prison (and its society) could meet, discuss, share experiences, build affinities, plan further moments of the struggle, get connected: this was perhaps one of the major reasons. Also, to host three days would have offer the possibility for "non-experts" to participate in discussions, formal and informal ones, and hopefully get involved in the struggle or at least going back home with a few more critical ideas. Moreover, the idea to have international companions giving a presentation about the situation in their countries, what struggles are happening, how do people react, how can we learn and support each other, what are, if, the common perspectives.

### **...and what really came out on the end...**

As said, we encountered many limits while organizing this event. At first, we have been a small group of people organizing these days. Secondly, most of us never took part in organizing such a gathering: indeed, this has been the first time in Germany such an event was hosted.

We have been in general overwhelmed from what our plan was: simply, too many things at once. We recognized the impossibility, in regards to the present situation of an anti prison/anarchist movement in Germany, to organize a gathering where all the three aforementioned aims we had, could produce positive results when coming together at the same time.

Surely, one of the most positive results has been the possibility for many people who work on these themes and feel affinity with each other, to physically gather together for the first time.



This means the possibility to discuss critically together about the present situation, finding ways to get connected with other and launching questions about how to widen the struggle here.

In regards to this, we definitely came back home with a good feeling for the future: several individualities and groups from Germany and Austria began a common, prolific discussion which could produce interesting moment of struggle; also some dates have been set for the future where we will work together, to cement such affinity, while hopefully discovering new ones on our path (to name a few occasions of common struggle: the anti repression weekend in November in Wien, the hunger strike by Italian life prisoners from December (2008), the new year's eve demonstration to the prison in Berlin...).

This, considering the situation here, can be seen as a very important step: we had to began from almost point zero, since anti prison themes have been dormant for some time, when compared to countries like Spain or Italy. However, it is extremely hard to try to reach such a goal and at the same time to involve new accomplices on our way.

Indeed, it is surely challenging but at the same rather difficult to hold common discussions among people who come with different

experiences, desires and expectations, who are on "different levels" in a way, where the division between "experts" and "non-experts" strongly arises, especially when challenging a theme like prison which, as said before, for a lot of people here is unknown and awkward, not mentioning the fact that is often the most difficult to tackle within one's personal path, exactly in relation to the usual question "what if there is no prison?".

We do not mean here at all that we are happy to belong to the "specialized" circle. What we mean is that we have been overwhelmed by the disparity of expectations and perhaps our naivety in not dealing with this beforehand.

For an example, the opening discussion, a general one about why we do what we do, why we are anti prison, has been quite a mess, because when we talked we made the mistake of not considering enough the fact that for many of the attendants, prison and related topics are rather new and therefore one can not begin straight to discuss on a certain, high and complicate level, even though for us it might seem normal.

Indeed, one of its results has been that many ones did not show up again the following day, since they got overwhelmed exactly by such a level, as we heard from some locals. By distributing a pamphlet to everyone, where few texts introducing to "anti prison" (two of signed by prisoners) where contained and the few text published beforehand on our websites, we tried to raise awareness beforehand for people to come a little bit prepared. But this has been clearly only a small drop. We are still unsure how we could possibly combine these different levels.

Perhaps by spreading more texts beforehand, perhaps hosting such discussion at the end of the weekend, after people had time to chew, by different means, the themes proposed. Also probably by discussing rather concrete initiatives and moment of struggle rather than giving more space to presentations and slightly theoretical confrontations.

A well done critic made at the final plenary tackled the absence – beside the informal discussions – of discussion about practical solidarity, what we mean by this, how do we conceive it, how we can share experiences of struggle taking place in different countries, under different conditions, how we can effectively attack the prison system and where are such examples, in the history as in the present...

Moreover, we never thought when organizing this meeting in the form it had, that a few people who are not strictly connected to the "scene" would attend these days; therefore, we have not been surprised by such a lack of, as much as we were not really impressed by the absence of other collectives who

work on anti repression and political prisoners, but are not outspokenly anarchist: probably for a few of them, the character of the event was too informal and anarchist indeed (a thing we are of course happy of!). For sure a missed chance for having a perhaps heated, but surely interesting and worthwhile debate.

Another point of self-critic would be the international character we aimed to give to this gathering.

Some people from abroad came and gave a presentation about several topic (we want to excuse us again with the ones for who we were not able anymore to find a place in the schedule, although it was planned...), but one can not speak neither of a high participation from foreigners, neither of any so called "concrete" results.

For the latter we can say that, as mentioned already, even if the weekend lacked in general of any discussion about concrete moments and ways for struggles to come (despite networking among already active groups and individuals from Germany and Austria) and therefore nothing "concrete" came out with our foreigner comrades, still we ought to mention the positive inputs these very presentations gave on people attending (we could name the one about the affirm of prison society in England, which raised awareness about possible, scary scenarios in regards to a development of social control here) and the very fact we had another chance to meet face to face besides the inhuman Internet communication; for the former, we see the short time preparation and invitation as a major reason for it.

We can not pretend that people, even though interested, might decide to pop up in northern Germany when they get to know about such event only a few weeks in advance (the call came out sometime in August).

We are sure that many ones more could/would have attend when informed in time.

And, when speaking of foreign attendance, we noticed how we personally have been overwhelmed by the issue of translating: next time we have to work better in order to improve this, even though one should also say that German, because of its very sentence-structure, remains one of the

most difficult (European) language to translate when this is done simultaneously (in German one put the verb on the end of the subordinate clause, phrases are extremely long...).

On top of this, some other elements played against us, such like Kiel being not the most easy reachable town, being far north, an antifascist demonstration taking place on the Saturday 30km away from Kiel, which has been seen an high participation...

### And what to say about the future?

We wanted to keep it short and we can not say we reached this aim! We do not own the answers and we are aware that the problems aroused during the weekend are yet not unknown to many ones of you reading this text.

We throw some questions, the answers can generate only by a choral debate among us all.

That is why we hope there will be some other reactions by people who attended the weekend, or from people who read this text or took part in organizing similar gatherings, in order for us to improve the organization of such days, the next time we will organize them, by being inspired from your critics. As we mentioned already, there have been some really good things which made our mind very positive after these days, having a feeling that we are in the process of building something, with different other people who also hate this prison society and want to fight against it, locally as much as internationally. Despite its limits, this weekend has been a good experience, especially to learn how we can do it better next time.

By this we actually mean that we are quite decided to host a second gathering next year, again in Germany.

As soon as we will be more clear about it we let you all know, this time a bit more in time. For sure, we are not able to guarantee you sun and beach.

Until that moment, we hope to cross your path somewhere during the next year, while struggling against prison society and capitalism, for the total liberation.

### ABC Berlin and ABC Orkan





# Letter from John Bowden:

## *“Return to Resistance”*

What has become of prison revolts in the British prison system? Where now are the open expressions of collective anger and solidarity that fueled the uprisings and jail riots of the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s and created the iconic images of Hull 1976 and Strangeways 1990? What happened to the spirit of revolt that used to periodically shake the British long-term prison system and engender a philosophy of prisoner empowerment and solidarity, a philosophy that situated the struggle of prisoners at the very forefront of the universal struggle for human rights and even social revolution?

Has the British prison system now become so responsive to and accommodating of the rights of prisoners that revolt and protest has been rendered unnecessary and redundant? I think not. In fact British jails are now more chronically overcrowded than ever before and inmates virtually warehoused in conditions and under regimes probably worse than they were twenty years ago. The despair and misery created by such conditions is reflected in rates of self-harm and suicide that are inexorably growing, along with the length of sentences now dished out. And like never before the treatment of prisoners is increasingly influenced by a political climate and manipulated public mood supportive of even greater repression and revenge. Yet nowhere, apparently, is there the spirit of solidarity and organised resistance amongst prisoners that was so evident twenty years ago, no-where the readiness to fight back and literally raise the roof in protest. Instead of defiance there seems now only passive acquiescence and an acceptance of conditions and forms of treatment that previously would have mobilized disobedience and revolt.

Silence in the face of intolerable oppression is a disturbing phenomenon; in conditions of extreme cruelty the will to resist is inherently human and wholly characteristic of a healthy and intact human spirit possessing an integrity unique to our species.

Why then has the militancy that seemed to characterize the behavior of long-term prisoners, especially, towards the prison system been replaced by conformity and submission?

Organizationally, the prison system in terms of methods of control, prison architecture and design, etc, has developed significantly since the last major prison uprising at Strangeways in 1990. Before the Strangeways revolt the physical space of most large prisons was more or less controlled by the prisoners themselves and scrutiny and close supervision of that space by the jailers was difficult and haphazard. Apart from punishment/segregation units, most prisoners were housed in large wings where they were allowed to circulate freely and create a certain degree of autonomy of physical space; complete oversight and surveillance was impossible and control often tenuous, and where incidents of protest were sparked off they tended to spread without containment, developing a momentum that reached into most areas of the prison. Large group solidarity was a common feature of life in the long-term prisons and was reflected in the balance of institutional power which dictated that the co-operation and good will of prisoners was a vital and necessary prerequisite of relative control.

Changing the physical architecture of prisons was to become a key component in the state's strategy of eradicating large scale protest and seizing back control of physical space. The new-generation of prison architecture and the extensive re-design of prison space started in the early 1990s, purpose-built for small group control, new wing lay-outs won back completely the control of space from prisoners.

In Scotland, where bloody revolts had convulsed the prison system during the 1970s and 1980s, a massive building programme transformed the old open-plan halls and galleries into new "super wings", enormous structures where space is divided and subdivided into small self-contained units holding under 50 prisoners, all closely monitored and observed in small manageable groups. This separation and concentration of prisoners into small groups under almost microscopic surveillance effectively prevents and undermines the potential for large-scale disturbances by quickly identifying and weeding out

"ringleaders" and containing and isolating conflict when it occurs. By transforming the physical space and design of jails institutional power has shifted back in favour of guards and removed the spectre of mass prison uprisings.

In and of itself building methods of control into the physical fabric of prisons does not eradicate completely the possibility and existence of rebellion, and when trying to understand the reasons for such a radical downturn in the prison struggle the wider social and cultural context is equally relevant.

The term "millennium prisoner" is now often used as a derogatory label by prisoners themselves for the current generation of prisoners who seem on the whole to have reconciled themselves with the institutional interests of the prison system and possess absolutely no memory of a time when prisoner culture was imbued with a spirit and attitude of resistance. This is not just a generational phenomenon but a social and political one also and reflects a fundamental change in the nature of the wider working class community from which most prisoners are drawn. On the whole, the prisoners who revolted and fought the system during the most turbulent decades of prison protest, the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s, were products of close knit industrial working class communities with strong traditions of trade union organization and militancy; solidarity and mutual support were the lifeblood of these communities and informed the instincts of even those on the wrong side of the law. The generation of prisoners who riot and fought at Pankhurst in 1969, Hull in 1976 and Strangeways in 1990 were from communities still nourished by class consciousness and a "them and us" attitude, as well as an understanding that sticking together and showing solidarity was the most effective way of securing collective benefits and rights.

During the 1980s and 1990s the Thatcherite onslaught tore the heart and soul out of working class communities and transformed them into wastelands of depression, hopelessness and defeat, and bred a generation of young people saturated with cynicism, alienation and absolutely no memory of a time when principles like solidarity, community and mutual support defined working class identity. Even the more proletarian forms of property-related crime, which in a way represented a sort of elemental form of class warfare, gave way to a more viciously entrepreneurial drug crime based on crude capitalist principles and a contempt for poor

communities and those who inhabit them. Drug dealing is a uniquely capitalist of crime involving massive profit for the few and immense misery for the many, and is informed by a rejection of the sort of values or codes of the old criminal fraternity - never grass, resist authority and never hurt "one's own". Modern drug dealers in attitude and mentality are the absolute antithesis of what were working class villains and their way or strategy of doing prison time is also radically different; collusion and co-operation with prison regimes has replaced defiance and resistance, and the fighting spirit that sometimes gave rise to a noble vision of positive change and reform; from the flames of revolts like Strangeways came manifestos of radical reform and an understanding and imperative that prisoners are as deserving of full human rights as any other human being. Today those sort of noble aspirations seem to have given way to a mood of defeat and conformity.

As microcosms of society prisons, in an often brutally exaggerated way, reflect the social condition and reality of life of the poor generally, and also the level of political activity and struggle of that group. When the poor are subdued and disorganized and kept under the heel so are those in prison; the reproduction of a junkie culture amongst prisoners accurately reflects what has taken hold in most poor and working class communities and districts on the outside.

What then are the chances of defiance and militancy re-emerging amongst large groups of prisoners and re-defining their current relationship with prison authority? The

inexorable drive towards greater incarceration and the construction of virtual penal cities in the form of massive "Titan jails", will eventually result in whole chunks of the poor and disadvantaged population being walled into factories of repression; sooner or later that repression, no matter how sophisticated and well-organised, will meet with resistance. There has always been a cyclical quality about protest, revolt and resistance, both in prison or outside in the wider world, and periods of quiescence and absolute social control are always fragile and essentially dependent on people co-operating in their own subjugation as opposed to control being imposed by force and coercion alone. As the South African Black Consciousness activist Steve Biko once said, "The greatest weapon in the hands of the oppressor is the minds of the oppressed themselves". Those who administer the prison system equate a good prison with a well-controlled prison; the prime function of prison is to imprison efficiently and maintain absolute control over the imprisoned. Issues of human rights and respecting the inherent human dignity of the prisoner do not register in the mentality of the penal operator and ground has never been conceded on these issues unless prisoners themselves have forced them onto the agenda. There is a direct relationship between the limited liberalization of prison regimes

in the British long-term jails during the 1970s and 1980s and the protests and demonstrations of that period that forced the system to concede ground. No significant reform of the prison system has ever been achieved by anyone other than prisoners themselves, usually as a result of collective direct action, and the progressive erosion of those reforms over the last 20 years is as a direct result and consequence of the change in prisoner culture and the diminution of collective struggle amongst prisoners. Unless the spirit of struggle is re-discovered, therefore, nothing will prevent a nightmarish vision of the prison world coming to pass; the mass imprisonment of social problem and poor people in huge privately-controlled jails where human rights are abandoned completely in the interests of profit and the total and absolute control over the imprisoned. It's maybe in all our interests ultimately that we see the return of a militant and unmanageable prison population.

#### **John Bowden**

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UK

## **Ronnie Easterbrook - "Britain's oldest political prisoner" - on Death Fast**

### **Editors note: 7 / 1 / 09**

*Update:* Brighton ABC are aware that according to the prison hospital, Ronnie may only have one week to live in his present condition. Free Ronnie NOW!

Ronnie, from south London, was convicted in 1988 of the attempted murder of a policeman during an armed robbery that was set up by the police and in which the only person who died was his fellow would-be robber who was shot dead by the police. Through information from an informant, Police had lain in wait, with a TV camera crew in-tow and ambushed the gang. The man shot dead by the Police, Tony Ash, was unarmed and already surrendering to them.

Ronnie has campaigned relentlessly since then for his conviction to be overturned, refusing to become involved in applications for parole or early release. He had wanted to mount a political defence at his trial, arguing that the infamous 'shoot to kill' policy adopted by the British state in Northern Ireland had now been taken up by the Met. Police in pursuit of criminal gangs. However his barrister at the time refused to follow his instructions and Ronnie himself refused a prosecution deal, so he was forced to defend himself in court, without legal

representation. Handed down a Life sentence (originally with a whole-life tariff, itself highly unusual given the circumstances of his case), Ronnie held one of the longest dirty protests in the British prison system and undertook a 60 day hunger strike 10 years ago to try to force the authorities to review his case.

Now at 78 years old this hunger strike, after 20 years fighting the system, is likely to be his final act of resistance to the unfair trial and unjust treatment he has received. Physically weakened by previous protests and in ill health (he only has one lung), Ronnie has made an advance directive/living will to refuse any medical intervention in this hunger strike. He writes:

"Many will say: 'Well he is only a criminal.' True but if the protective aspects of the law do not apply to me, it follows that there is no law. Hitler started by excluding sections of the German populations from protection of the law. State evil can always find 'reasons' disguised as righteousness. "After 20 years inside, I have been held

a political prisoner, or a prisoner of politics. I refuse to go through a parole process. Why should I when the authorities, Home Office and Judiciary, know they are holding me illegally?"

It's vital that all efforts are made to get the authorities to re-open Ronnie's case so the callous indifference shown by the powerful to one of the powerless is reversed.

Write to him at:

#### **Ronnie Easterbrook**

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Secretary of State for the Home Office  
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# The situation of Freddy, Marcelo and Andrea.

Since the 14th of March Freddy Fuentesvilla and Marcelo Villarroel have been locked up in Argentina, accused of the illegal transport of weapons, for which they have been judged and sentenced to three years and six months in prison. They entered illegally into Argentina because the Chilean government, their police force and the mass media accuse them (without evidence) of an attack on a bank in Chile which left one cop dead. The Chilean Diplomats in Argentina want Freddy and Marcelo expelled to Chile, where they will be judged and sentenced for the crimes they are accused of.

On the margin of these accusations, the margin of whether they are innocent or guilty, it is necessary to say what are the real motives of the spectacular persecution embarked upon by the Chilean government of Michelle Bachellet: that both are known social fighters and popular combatants. Marcelo has spent more than eleven years in prison accused of diverse actions carried out when he was a militant in the Lautaro Movement. Moreover because he was under-age he suffered torture and incarceration in the youngest political prison in Latin America. While inside he was part of the Camina Libre collective, an organisation that fought for a permanent end to the political prison, without bowing to the FACTICOS powers that sought his repentance and collaboration with the new order. Freddy became militant in MIR, and formed part of a generation that did not believe the dictatorship had ended, and that see in Democracy only a new face of economic dictatorship.

But that is not all, today we must lament the criminalisation of the

support network of our companeros. On the 19th of September, Andrea Urzua, was arrested on a border pass, accused of attempting to ingest and pass on a "substance" to the imprisoned comrades. According to the press, in a matter of hours, said "substance" underwent a mutation: first it was sleeping pills, then after it was drugs until finally it became dangerous explosives.



Andrea had gone to visit Freddy and Marcelo in the Neuquen jail where they are held, but on second day she attempted entry she was denied because they had supposedly discovered this "substance" in her vagina. The message that power is trying to give is clear, any form of solidarity will be repressed. Of course this is an incredible set-up. Today she is faced with fifteen years in jail. As well as that, in Chile, Pablo Morales, the spokesperson for the families and friends of the comrades in Argentina, was arrested. In conjunction with other comrades, Pablo, had participated in forums and other acts which clarified beyond doubt the set-up Marcelo and Freddy are subject to. Nobody doubted some excuse for his arrest would appear sooner or later. They revoked his freedom because of an ongoing case from 1992 that falls outside the law that allowed Morales to walk free in 2003 after 11 years of imprisonment alongside Villarroel.

The dictators of yesterday and their inhumane methods remain alive in Latin America.

**We are not all here, we are missing the prisoners! Only struggle will make us and them free!!**

*"Today, from this prison and its walls that attempt to silence and bury us, we scream our greetings to all those in struggle inside and outside prison. A fraternal hug that never ends, we continue on foot, never begging or kneeling. To attack our most intimate and close spaces is only part of the dirty war in this social war of the classes."*

**Freddy and Marcelo**

26 Sept. 2008  
Unidad de detención provincial  
Nº 11 Neuquén, Patagonia  
Argentina

**Letter from Marcelo Villarroel U11  
Neuken 21 November 2008:**

"Having passed 5 days on hunger strike we want to salute, by means of these words, all our companeros in Argentina, Chile, Peru, Espana and different places in this world. We give a huge hug and revolutionary energy to animate you to continue in active solidarity with all revolutionary prisoners that fight daily against Capital's prison system that wipes out thousands of people the world over...

Our struggle, is without doubt for the abolition of prisons, for the liberation of all prisoners and for the definitive elimination of capital, an omnipresent system, naturalised daily within a death machine.

Our struggle is for a new and better life, for a society without classes, for a free and happy life, and to deliver the only thing we have: our own lives...

We hug all and give a brotherly kiss too, with the certainty that we are united with all those without a name and face but that travel free in a world full with repression...

*While Misery Exists::We Choose Rebellion"*



18/11/08

*To the Argentinian people and their organisations*

*To the Chilean people and their organisations*

*To the Mapuche people and their organisations*

*To the Network of Support, spaces of counter information, nucleus, companeros, families and sister organisations across the world*

From the provincial detention unit 11 in Neuquén, Chilean Political Prisoners Freddy Fuentesvilla Saa and Marcelo Villaroel Sepulveda want to communicate to everyone:

That from 12 O'clock midday today, Monday the 17<sup>th</sup> of November we are starting an indefinite liquid and hunger strike with the following demands:

### 1. LIBERATION OF ALL COMBATANTS IN POPULAR STRUGGLE

With particular attention paid to the situation of companeros today in Chilean, Argentinian and Brazilian prisons. The most advanced democracies of Latin America based on systems of control and punishment in order to exterminate political dissidence: we cannot remain silent.

### 2. POLITICAL REFUGE IN ARGENTINA

We seek the annulment of the expulsion order served to us. We seek a revision of the speedy and irregular denial that was given in our cases. In Chile there are no guarantees of any type of due process in the cases against us. They have arrested and incriminated us under false

evidence. They persecute us under military and civil judges, they torture and incarcerate to kill

### 3. DIGNIFIED TREATMENT IN PRISON

No to the continuing torture of their high security regimes. We seek equality of work and rights that are given to every detained person, and the end of more than 5 months confined in a container of people called "BUZÓN".

These are the motives and reasons that guide us today. We cannot remain silent or be spectators to the daily struggle against the entire prison network that annihilates thousands of poor people in Latin America and the world.

Our decision is a cry to all those conscious sectors of people and communities that fight to emancipate themselves. It is also a cry to look at reality knowing that there are prisoners that have throughout history continually represented a human force and collective that is clearly revolutionary; libertarians that have not ceased their efforts to live free, dignified and happy.

In Chile it is the police state that brutality forces the views and patience of the complicit majority. The high security prisons, the police set-ups, the constant following and harassment, the microphones in house and places of meeting, the torture, are fired at us daily by Miss Bachelet.

Kirchner's Argentina, a democratic and generous one, which just expelled our Paraguayan farmer companeros, leaving them before the Paraguayan political class (that serves Yankee interests for judgement). A class that maintains thousands of people in prisons and units of detention where they are subject to unacceptable conditions and treatment.

The Brazil of Lula and the PT is a country with prisons known as "Lunatic Factories" where they have kept Mauricio Hernandez the last six years who today fights to keep himself alive and lucid somewhere in the death machine of "the democratic government of the working class president".

Today with a closeness and fraternity, we make a call to articulate, diffuse, organise, ask, inform, propose and arm; the most effective form, we believe, to contribute from different points of struggle where there is anti capitalist opinion present.

To construct the networks of solidarity, that is the permanent challenge for the victorious construction of this mobilisation.

**Prisoners in struggle: To the street, alive and free!!**

**Political Asylum in Argentina: No to the Expulsion!!**

**Only the Struggle sets us free!!!**

*Marcelo Villaroel Sepulveda*

*Freddy Fuentesvilla Saa*



# Letter from Freddy Fuentevilla after 25 days on Hunger Strike

A brotherly hug and salute to all those that have shown solidarity and support; we know that we are not alone, in fact we are many. To our families, the individuals, the popular/social/revolutionary organisations, the support networks: our greetings.

After nearly 6 months of being held in confinement, in isolation, without communication and without sun, we say that SOLIDARTY is our only weapon. It creates a front to fight from within these walls; this solidarity knows no borders and bowls us over, it only knows internationalism and quality.

This solidarity that emanates from you is that which has allowed us at the same time, to define part of this path, to nourish the dreams of freed people and strengthen us.

And it is precisely this that capitalism and its bulls will never understand, or that between men and women there can exist communities of resistance with collective values not mediated by commercial transactions by means of money and exploitation. However, we also know that they are not interested in comprehending such a reality, only annihilating it in whatever from it takes. To be in possession of solidarity is a serious offence, it is a precious human characteristic, it is not metal, it doesn't generate revenue moreover it runs completely contrary, a sister to peoples and townships, it creates communal rations and helps create consciousness of this political and class reality, it unites the objectives we have in common against the enemy we have in common, and its danger is its virtue: a virtue that generates rebellion and subversion in the different expression within the struggle of people in all parts. It is a weapon that we all possess! To summon it you only have to open your eyes.

After 25 days of this hunger strike we continue to feel the solidarity, nevertheless the police have already commenced repressive measures, sanctioning us in ridiculous ways, making total use of their impunity and abusive power that is gifted to them by the State and the Walls around us. This is no surprise, moreover it demonstrates that the external pressure is being felt. The police only try to justify the unjustifiable, accusing me of contempt of court and initiating rebellion.

Now, although the charges appear attractive, I should mention that I am surrounded by 12 policemen, between them riot police and prison wardens. I find myself alone and I have been on hunger strike for three weeks which means contempt of court is not viable not least inciting the police to rebel.

We greet every one who fights in a forest or on a street with the dreams of the fallen, all of the prisoners of the Capitalist System across the world and in particular those prisoners in struggle. To all those who open this struggle to others and make it their own.



**While Misery Exists We Choose Rebellion**

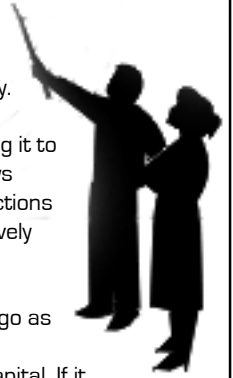
*Freddy Fuentevilla  
Saa*

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Freddy and Marcelo ended their hungerstrike after 46 days on 3 January, 2009, They were moved to a better prison with different conditions.

## The politics/legality relationship

Basically, all political critique is within the terms of legality. In fact, it strengthens the institutional fabric by allowing it to overcome defects and delays determined by the contradictions of capital and some excessively rigid aspects of the State.



But no political critique can go as far as to reach the absolute negation of the State and capital. If it were to do so - as happens with anarchist critique - it would be a question of social critique, so would not be considered a constructive contribution to the institutional fabric and consequently become - in fact - "illegal".

Social and political situations can arise in which greater equilibrium between the political and economic forces make it easy for a social critique, even a radical, anarchist one, to be recuperated. But that does not alter the substantially "illegal" content of this critique.

On the other hand, even behaviour that falls quite outside the law can be considered differently in the light of determined political situations. For example, the armed struggle of a combatant party is undoubtedly illegal behaviour, but at a given moment it can turn out to be functional to the project of recuperation and restructuring of the State and capital, an eventual agreement between combatant party and the State is not impossible (the latter in its guise of guarantor of the privileges of capitalism).

This is not as absurd as it seems in that the combatant party places itself in the logic of destabilising the ruling power in order to construct a power structure that is different in form but identical in substance. In this kind of project, as soon as it is realised that the military confrontation cannot proceed because there is no outlet in the medium term they come to some agreement. The amnesty being discussed in the Italian 1970s movement is one of these possible agreements. Other forms can be imagined in the light of the recuperation by social democracy. A cohabitation as a result of the military defeat that seems the only possible solution to those who yesterday were convinced they could take over the old power structure and manage it completely.

As you can see, whereas simple anarchist critique - radical and absolute - is always "illegal", even the armed struggle of the combatant parties can sometimes enter the domain of "legality". That proves once again the "fluctuating" concept of legality and the State's intention to adapt this to the conditions of control.

*Considerations on Illegality - Alfredo M. Bonanno*

**(Tranquilizing) (Convenient) (Comfortable)**



# Capitalism

# THE EUROPEAN SILICON VALLEY



This article is a translation from the Italian eco-anarchist paper "Terra Selvaggia". >>

**Why C.E.A. Grenoble, the largest centre of technological research that has been producing eco and social disasters for military purposes for 50 years in Rhone-Alps must be closed down.**

We have already extensively talked about nanotechnologies and biotechnologies in previous issues of Terra Selvaggia by also publishing writings from America, where such technologies are quite advanced. This context appeared so unfamiliar to many European countries that some of our readers pointed out how certain sceneries were improbable even in the field of the new technological-scientific dominion. These considerations come out of an underestimation of the situation: the technological developments we talk about do not arrive out of the blue. If they are compared to the technological progress of the past centuries, these new experiments are very fast and can deeply transform our society. Moreover they are not carried out in secret underground laboratories protected by barbed wire. Certainly such laboratories do exist but they are not the only ones. Global dominion decentralizes its death creations in numerous research structures, be they private or public (universities, national research centres, etc). It is not that a single structure is responsible for the realisation of lethal weapons or sophisticated instruments of control; on the contrary many centres work on such projects each contributing to parts of them. Non-strictly scientific disciplines are not excluded from the scientific devastation as they participate to some particular aspects, secondary but indispensable, of it. Nano and biotechnologies are more and more successful in universities where courses, master, doctorates, etc. are created. The link between industry and research is strengthening through investments, collaborations, and common projects concerning universities, research centres and companies...but in order to create what? Why do these technologies proliferate? No technological development can exist without a tenacious work of persuasion that makes it possible. Fomenting fear is crucial in this context: security reasons, threat of possible 'terrorist attacks' with biological weapons, defence of national borders create the right atmosphere of consensus to shameless technologies of death and security systems

that suppress freedom. Perhaps the time of the cold war is not so distant and perhaps it has never ended. Is there anything more devastating than nuclear weapons to be used against neighbouring countries? Prestigious scientists all over the world are working on that, especially inside the 'harmless' public research structures that do not need any barbed wire...

The history of C.E.A. and of Minatec shows how the distinction between public research that is supposed to be under the control of the population and military research has no sense. This distinction is one of the mystifications of power. What is then this 'public research' so acclaimed by sincere democrats? It is based on mere economic considerations: to provide a defence against private speculators. They fix their attention on meaningless details and completely ignore the heart of the question. After all, what can we expect by those who consider the rainforest, the biggest lung of the earth by now reduced to its minimum terms thanks to deforestation, an economic resource that is falling apart? Even climate change and its devastating consequences on life are quantified in American dollars.

Nevertheless mechanisms are under way, which will soon change the face of the planet as we have always seen it. More and more advanced technologies cannot resolve global problems but they can certainly resolve other problems, those that the powerful care for: their profits. It is here that the story of this French research centre, called 'the European silicon valley', begins. In this centre, where the unjustifiable is justified, all new weapons are programmed, which will be used by dominion in order to control the 'emergencies' created and developed by the latter. Obviously Minatec is not the only structure engaged in this kind of research but it represents an important point of reference in Europe especially as concerns the gathering of scientific disciplines and the encounter between multinationals and so called public research.

Minatec is an important target for the movement that struggles against eco-devastation in France and not only. For us, who have been writing about these questions for a long time (with special regard for what happens in the United States), this is the confirmation that the latest developments of the technological-scientific dominion are so widespread that they have arrived in European laboratories. That is to say very close to us.

Who knows, maybe some representatives of C.E.A.-Grenoble-Minatec are in Lebanon to pick up the fruits of the latest experiments on war fields: charred human bodies.

*'The economic metropolis with high potentials of development are identified by investors during the night thanks to images provided by satellites or directly by aeroplanes. The more these cities are lit the more they are interesting! When the technological stripe of the alpine arc, in its centres of Geneva and Grenoble, is completely lit and the biotechnology centres of Losanne, the CERN physics and IT centres of Geneva, the solar energy of Chambéry and the nanotechnologies of Grenoble form a long spinal column we will be able to say that we have won! Jean Therme, C.E.A. technological research director and C.E.A.-Grenoble director.*

2006 coincides with the fiftieth anniversary of the Atomic Energy Committee (C.E.A.-Grenoble). On June 1 of the same year C.E.A. and the national polytechnic institute inaugurated Minatec, the biggest European research centre for micro and nanotechnologies.

## NO RESEARCH IS NEUTRAL

'Defence is the main protagonist of research as it supports civilian and military researches, which are more and more linked to each other'. M. Alliot-Marie, defence ministry on his visit at Minatec and C.E.A.-Grenoble. This visit reveals the relations between national defence and the research centre in Grenoble. As it is engaged in constructing nuclear submarines and aircraft carriers, C.E.A. is responsible for projecting and handling nuclear reactors and high performance chemical and biological sensors and specializes in the study of the effects of nuclear radiations on biological tissues.

C.E.A. was created in 1945 in order to build the atomic bomb. After the ratification of the Stockholm treaty that banned atomic weapons in 1951, former general administrator of C.E.A. Pierre Guillaumaut, military and secret agent, founded a secret structure inside C.E.A., called D.A.M. (Direction of Military Application).

As the population generally refused the construction and use of atomic weapons, C.E.A gave itself a respectable façade, which it managed to keep thanks to ambiguity and disinformation. Politicians and C.E.A. directors, while continuing to develop atomic power for military purposes, publicly accepted that France had chosen not to develop any

military option: this contradiction became the rule inside the C.E.A.

Hiring of staff was therefore submitted to a rigorous political control of applicants even in so-called 'civilian' sectors, which were actually orientated towards military goals.

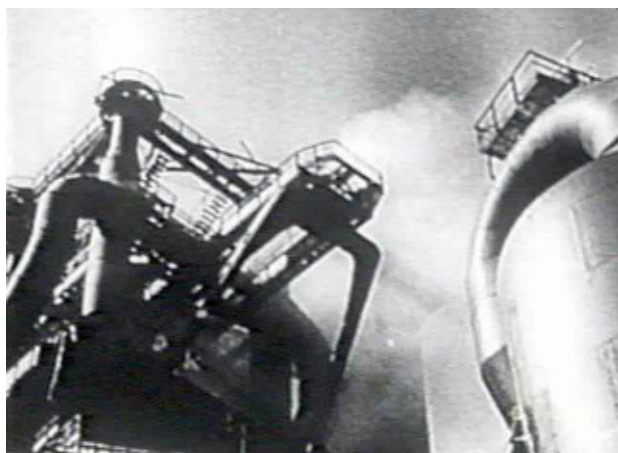
C.E.A. became a 'state inside the state': whatever the government on power was, C.E.A. was secretly engaged in the creation of the atomic bomb.

In this context Pierre Gauillaumaut created in 1955 the C.E.N.G., 'Grenoble Nuclear Studies Centre', in order to develop electronic devices that were able to work inside a highly radioactive environment. This led to the construction of the 'Ledi Laboratory' in 1967, which is today an innovative centre of research in the fields of electronics, microelectronics and nanotechnology. From the C.E.A.-Ledi other military structures were born: in 1978 the 'Infrared Laboratory' (L.I.R.) and the 'General Delegation of Armament', and in 1986 the Sofradir.

In the Nineties Soitec was created for the management of the technology of semi-conductors in relation to military and aerospace fields. In 2001 Apibio was created for the development of biochip, with the aim of defence from biological and chemical attacks.

Fifty years after the creation of C.E.A.-Grenoble the collaboration between military and the army led to the creation of Minatec, a project planned and carried out by Jean Therme, director of CEA-Grenoble and military-industrial expert.

The importance of Minatec from a military point of view was pointed out in 2001 by an article entitled 'Micro technology: a big investment for the defence'. This article was the final achievement of the congress 'Science and defence', organized in Grenoble by D.G.A.: 'This initiative has offered the occasion to expose to 200 congress participants the priorities of defence needs through a series of discussions pivoting on three main themes: micro technologies for electronics and the treatment of signals, integrated captors for information control and finally 'intelligent' or nano-structured materials.



Why has Grenoble been chosen? Because it has a worldwide influence thanks to its many laboratories, research centres and universities that form an impregnable fortress of innovation to which the General Direction of Armaments [D.G.A.] regularly refers to'.

In 2001 CEA and D.G.A signed up a declaration of intensive cooperation in the field of electronics with the aim of 'satisfying the needs of defence for control, the access to the most advanced civilian technologies and the acquisition of more specialised technologies'.

The D.G.A. have access to the observatory of micro and nanotechnologies and of the 'Lab Idea', a 'structure that monitors the application of technology on control and the calculation of threats. Minatec is also at disposal of army industries so that they can have access to the most advanced micro technologies'. The army is linked to Minatec, takes part to the choice of subjects of thesis, the observation groups on C.E.A.-Leti programs and the financing of some of the research projects. D.G.A. and C.E.A. cooperate in researches and objectives of technological innovations. As nuclear technology in the past, nanotechnologies have now a strategic role for the army as testified by the enthusiasm of the D.G.A.:

'Nanotechnologies offer us the possibilities of better performances both in the nuclear field and in that of the energy of explosives. Their applications are particularly important for missiles and special lancers'. And as happened for nuclear energy, the mystifications of technological-scientific power boasted about good peaceful 'civilian' uses of nanotechnology.

A study commissioned in 2004 by C.E.A. highlights other sectors of interest of nanotechnology (such as infantry) and points out the importance of various C.E.A. ventures such as Apibio, Sofradin, Tronic's, Poxitech, etc. Biotechnologies are equally important

for the army especially as concerns the realisation of 'ethnic' weapons and weapons of mass destruction, which are not so expansive as the chemical ones.

C.E.A also plays an important role in this sector with its two laboratories, the P4 Biomerieux in Lyon and the military laboratory CRSSA in La Tronche, which

study system of defence against attacks carried out with weapons of mass destruction.

'There is nothing in the biological sector that cannot be transferred on a military level' (an expert of C.E.A.)

## THE INDUSTRY OF RESEARCH

The research carried out in Grenoble does not only concern the army but it also represents a big incentive for the industry. As concerns the link between industry and research, in fact, C.E.A.-Grenoble is the centre that has the most advanced relations with industrial environments.

From the C.E.A. website: ' From batteries to fuel and nano-machines, from various materials and biochips, C.E.A. is at the avant-garde of technological research and takes an active part to the transfer of this knowledge to industry'.

C.E.A. has put into action a number of mechanisms in support of the creation of companies. 'Biopolis' is a 6-million euros project financed by local communities and by C.E.A. in order to encourage the creation of biotechnology companies. Twenty-six companies have been created thanks to technologies developed in Grenoble since 1975. The most important one is C.E.A.-Leti, which has deposited about 1,200 patents whereas Sohadir and Soitech are the most outstanding companies in Grenoble. Furthermore E.F.C.I.S., born from C.E.A.-Leti, was bought by Thompson, which in turn has joined Italian SGS giving birth to ST Microelectronics. The latter is the third biggest producer of semiconductors in the world and is engaged in nanotechnology research. All these companies are in the running for bio and nanotechnology, given that the world market of nanobiotechnology has been estimated at 24 billion euros in 2005. Therefore C.E.A. does not only create companies but it also makes industrial agreements with already existing enterprises. Minatec is the most known case but it is not the only one. We can mention Nanotec 300, an investment of 30-million euros in collaboration with ST Microelectronics, Philips and Motorola; Nanobio, a 46-million euros projects in collaboration with Nano2Life, an European venture that aims at transferring nanotechnologies to health treatments. Convergent biotech, nanotech and IT technologies are a true innovation to investors, as they promote progress in all sectors and contribute to nourishing the economic global game so beloved to multinationals. The race to progress passes through the increment of consume and therefore it creates new 'needs'. In this context C.E.A. clearly shows how scientific research is strictly linked to industrial society and how research and so called progress represent a major factor of competitiveness. Here are some of the innovations elaborated inside the C.E.A. laboratories: silicon plaques for Play Station 3, X-Box, high definition TVs, watches without batteries, home cinema, portable computers, rotation screens, intelligent styles, high memory rigid disks, infrared sight for support in driving cars, miniature instruments for medical analysis, food control and biological analysis of water...

The active participation of public research in the race to high tech stirs the enthusiasm of local bodies, following the equation served in its many versions: research = innovation = competitiveness = progress = employment.

'The development of economic activities emerges from innovation and creates jobs for all the citizens. Let's recognize that it is a true gold mine'. The man who said that is Michel Destot, deputy mayor of Grenoble since 1995. It must be said that this senior engineer of C.E.A. has a great experience as concerns progress, innovation and gold mines...

In this society the blackmail of unemployment justifies the unjustifiable and conceals some essential questions: what kind of employment? In order to produce what? At what conditions? What are the social and ecological consequences? Who will benefit from all that?

### AN OUTPOST OF TOTALITARIAN CONTROL

As technologies reflect the projects of society it is important to be aware of them. The Blue Book published in 2004 for the French government by GIXEL, a lobby gathering about fifty electronics companies, gives a clear idea of such projects. Here is an extract from the chapter 'Acceptance from the population': 'Security is often considered as an attack to individual freedom in our democratic societies. It is therefore necessary that the population accept the technologies that we use, including biometrics, video surveillance and all kinds of control. Public bodies and industrialists need to study methods to make biometrics accepted. These methods must take into account the benefits for the individuals and point out alluring functions such as:

- Education in nurseries: pupils will employ these technologies in order to enter schools and parents will rely on them to look for their children.

- Introduction of these technologies in consumables, leisure activities and games: mobile phones, cars, and domestic video games.

- Development of 'cordless' services in banks, supermarkets, transport, internet access, etc.

As for the technologies of surveillance and control it will be necessary to rely on persuasion and on regulations by demonstrating how these technologies can benefit the population and by minimising the annoyance they can cause'.

Idea's Lab, a 'laboratory of ideas' created in 2002 with the collaboration of ST Microelectronics, France Telecom and Hewlett Packard, can efficiently serve these purposes. Various kinds of 'creative' people (designers, artists, etc), experts in human sciences (sociologists, anthropologists, etc), experts in logistics, microelectronics, microsystems and industrial operators work together in this laboratory. What is their goal? To make possible the acceptance of futuristic objects and services that will revolutionise our daily life

just as mobile phones have already done. A few examples: electronic trade, communicating clothes, surfing in the 3-D world, biometrics devices, radio frequency labels...

We already know how propaganda can induce to consume products.



Idea's Lab illustrates the growing intervention of human sciences so that the population get used to the new instruments of surveillance even before products are created. Moreover convergent technologies (biotech, nanotech, IT) make new instruments of social control possible, instruments that power had never attained in human history: 'intelligent' video surveillance, biometrics, electronic micro labels, nano cameras...

Powerful financial and political interests converge towards these technologies. They represent the promise of amazing innovation to the State in terms of social control; and to the industry they represent the prospect of extraordinary profits whereas to research they represent a fruitful source of financing. During his visit at C.E.A.-Grenoble the ministry of defence stated: 'Thanks to Minatec and Minologic the defence can rely on civilian research. ST Microelectronics, Radicell and Soitec can offer important potentials to the equipment of our forces'. The main sector of interest is 'Radio Frequency Identification Devices' (R.F.I.D.), a system that allows chips to communicate at distance the information they contain. Substituted by the bar code in the big distribution, the R.F.I.D. is the main concern of Minalogic. 'Making many objects of the daily life intelligent and communicative' is its goal. C.E.A.-Leti, which is the pilot of this project, already works on 'techniques of impression in liquid phase of the electronics circuits of R.F.I.D. chips'.

Another important sector is the 'intelligent' video surveillance: it consists in creating more and more miniaturized cameras that are able to recognize faces and behaviours and to broadcast live their images on a transport web by making the identification of 'abnormal situation' automatic. In other words technology decides the final diagnosis following a previous classification of behaviours into 'normal' and 'abnormal'.

This is also connected to a government bill on 'prevention of delinquency' inspired by a study of I.S.E.R.M. on recognizing 'behaviour problems' in young children. As concerns automatic behavioural identification C.E.A. publishes on its website: 'Starting from the observation of faces, the laboratory aims at identifying emotions (joy, sadness, fear, etc)'. ATmel, the sector in Grenoble that specialises in biometrics and micro cameras is directed by Jean Vaylet, a senior of C.E.A.-Leti. R.F.I.D. are already in use in public transport tickets and highways in Grenobles.

Jewish people living in the French occupied area had to hold the mention 'Jews' on their identity card starting from October 1940. And when in 1942 the yellow star became compulsory to be worn most Jews accepted the rule without worrying too much; after all they had nothing to hide and sewed voluntarily the yellow star on their clothes. Then, out of the blue, their mere existence was considered a crime. Do you think that mentioning the Vichy republic is not appropriate? Well, we think it is: it reminds us how we are in the hands of the State and how intelligent video surveillance, RF.I.D. and biometrics can strengthen its efficiency. If the Vichy authority had had these instruments at their disposal in 1940 how many Jews who escaped persecution would have been saved? Could the partisans have fabricated false documents if biometric passports had been in use then? Similarly, biometrics and video surveillance are leading to totalitarian society.

When the government introduces police records containing biometric data for every person who 'has nothing to hide' and video cameras allow the identification of every single person, what will be the possibilities of resistance?

Once these technologies are generalized we all will get used to permanent control and surveillance and that will be normality to the new generations.

Consequently the dangers of transgression of existing rules will be interiorised.

Finally the new technologies of control must be considered along with the project of the society that produces them: who benefit from them and why are they developed?





## FROM NUCLEAR POWER TO NANOTECH: THE CONTINUOUS PROGRESS OF ECO-DEVASTATION

'Radioactive water is regularly thrown in small quantities into the Isere river. According to Jean Therme these quantities are so small that they dilute themselves in the river' (from the 'Dauphine Libere', 30/01/03).

On July 11 2002 C.E.A. announces the stop of its Siloette reactor 'after two years of regular and efficient service'. Le Monde writes: 'C.E.A. Grenoble puts an end to its nuclear power following the stop of the Siloette reactor'. This stop, which follows those of the Melusine reactor in 1989 and of the Siloe reactor in 1997, is part of a well thought strategy. Nuclear power, which once was the jewel of the Grenoble research, is now substituted by micro and nano technologies. 'Our sites will be transformed' Jean Therme promises. And C.E.A. nuclear technicians get a chance to boast about the beneficial effects of nuclear power: 'This proves that nuclear structures can function close to urban areas for forty years and then can be dismantled without any bad impact on the environment'.

In September 1976 Louis Neel intervened at the general assembly of Isere to support the construction of Super-Phenix in Malville by pointing out that classic plants (fuel and coal) could cause real deaths whereas 'the deaths in plutonium plants are only potential deaths'. Two years later the mayor of Dubedout proposed the Thermos project, a 'domestic nuclear plant' to provide heating in Grenoble. Two decades later deputy-major Destot explained to the national assembly that 'in a country like France, which lacks of its own energetic resources, nuclear power is an indispensable source of energy'. A year later he attacked those who opposed biotechnology in order to justify the latter: 'Nuclear had to be stopped because it could be used for military purposes'.

By now C.E.A. is no longer a nuclear site as it is engaged in the development of bio and nano technologies. Their operators declare: 'Minatec will be realised according to an eco-friendly approach by also taking into account the production of renewable energy'. It is well

known, however, that the electrical industry is the most polluting ever as confirmed by the state of soil, air and water in the area where the Californian Silicon Valley is situated.

In spite of the fact that they boast about durable progress ST Microelectronics also confirms the devastating effects of the link between industry and research. In fact, they

are responsible for stockpiling dangerous materials, spreading poisonous gases and causing water pollution. And what is it all about for? Just for producing gadgets that will end up in the more and more increasing mountains of electronic waste. At the same time so called durable progress opens the door to new markets: C.E.A.-Leti is working on a system 'able to observe live the evolution of tumours or the progresses of a cure'; Apibio is working on the creation of chips able to detect cancers, O.G.Ms and chemical contamination; the Sinapis laboratory is bringing to perfection a 'micro capturer that controls in real time the management of waste'. What a formidable market is that of eco-devastation and industrial risks! Certainly trying to fight against the sources of pollution is not so profitable as fabricating palliatives and remedies while pollution goes on.

After nuclear power and O.G.M, the same logic of death characterising this society dominated by power and profit is manifesting itself through the race to nanotechnology.

## DAYS OF ACTIONS AGAINST MINATEC

Between May 29 and June 2 2006 hundreds of people coming from all over France and other European countries took part to a series of demonstrations against Minatec.

### May 29

About sixty people storm the museum in Grenoble during a meeting of researchers and hurl eggs against the latter. Writings against Minatec are left on the walls of the museum.

### May 30

Dozens of people occupy for more than two hours the Town Hall in Isere and cause damages in the offices. A bus carrying researchers and operators of Minatec to a gala

ceremony at the Saint-Jean-de-Cepy castle is blocked for a few hours by a barricade in flames.

### May 31

Dozen of people make their way into the site of Minatec and interrupt a conference attended by researchers, investors, industrialists and politicians who are all targeted with eggs. A number of computers are damaged with water and Minatec brochures are destroyed. Following this episode police will watch the Minatec site day and night.

### Night between May 31 and June 1

A huge writing 'STOP C.E.A.' is painted on the towers of the Bastille.

### June 1

The computers of 'Eolas', an IT engineering company in Grenoble, are sabotaged. About one thousand people coming from France and other countries demonstrate against Minatec and its world. Police charge on various occasions and a girl (Clementine) is injured on her face. Two cash machines are covered with paint and damaged. Two windows of banks are smashed. As the demo ends, the windows of a police station in the centre of the town are smashed. The action is dedicated to Clementine. The site of a firm producing R.F.I.D. and nano systems is covered with paint and writings against the cybernetic industry. The windows of a work agency are destroyed whereas cars are put to fire and barricades are erected against the charge of police in the area of the Grenoble Town Hall.

### June 2, the inauguration day

Grenoble is under siege: police patrol the town and stop groups formed by more than three people. A large area surrounding the site of Minatec is blocked by lines of polices and anti-riot barricades. At 7:30am police evict the anti-Minatec camp. The SNCF electric system running from Grenoble to Chambéry is sabotaged in three different points causing delays in electricity supplies. Two people who had climbed on the roof of a building opposite the Minatec site in order to unfurl a banner are arrested. Gathering points of NGO are patrolled and controls are intensified but counter-information actions are carried out. In spite of police controls, a dozen of people manage to reach the site of Minatec and distribute leaflets during the inauguration ceremony. Two NGO members are held in custody for eight hours. In the afternoon a conference of the Green party is disrupted.



# Technology and secrecy

But do the potent technological means the adversary is dotted with really make the secrecy impossible? This question enters the field of perplexities that have been generated over the past few years due to a lack of knowledge of technology and a fantastic and hyperbolic view of its possible use.

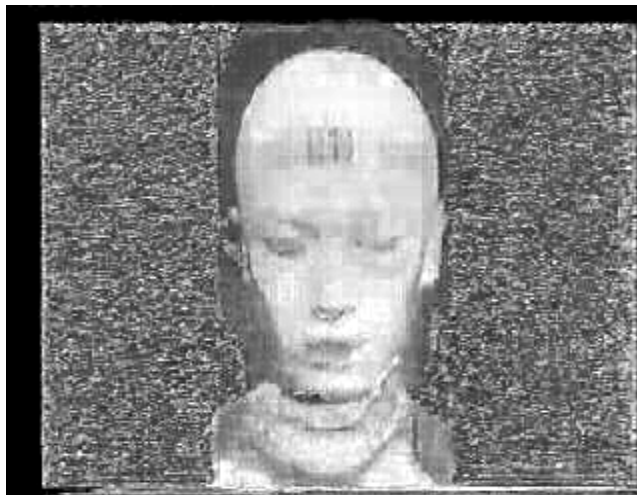
Like everything else one does not know, or that one knows little about, the technology of the past few years with its computers, automatic listening centres, lasers, radar, etc, has fascinated many comrades who were once nearly all passionate readers of science readers of science-fiction. The pleasures they once found in such reading is now found in reading, often without basic preparation, more or less specialised newspaper accounts (more often simply 'scandalistic'), of the great possibilities of technology today.

We are not trying to underestimate the repressive potential that the technical findings of today are putting at the disposition of power. We just want to say that certain things should be said with caution. If for no other reason than not to undo people's subversive energy and contribute to hammering nails into our own coffin.

Total control is a dream that power has been passing on since the era of the great Leviathan. In actual fact this is impossible. The main obstacle is not so much lack of technical efficiency concerning the mechanisms of control and not even the limitations of those who have the task of making it work. The limitation of control is that, in order to extend, it must penetrate the mind of whoever is being controlled. So the real controller is not so much - or at least not only - the policeman, the judge or the prison guard, but the person that is being controlled him or herself.

Whoever is in control makes plans to enter the culture of the person they are controlling, trying to build within the people a resistance to freedom, which is an obstacle to subversive struggle, an impediment to free thought. Once that is done it will be the controlled person to censure their own actions and thoughts. Finally, in a third phase the controlled person will see to extending control, to perfecting it by participation in the elaboration of technological centres for storing data and the elaboration of

information. This participation, which constitutes the maximum level of control imaginable, will only become possible when the first two levels have been interiorised (control seen as the enemy and control penetrating us as a way of thinking). The third level should not be seen as participation in the functioning of "machinery" so much as an ongoing contribution to enriching the information available to capital and which constitutes the base of capitalist accumulation of the future.



In such a perspective clearly any sector that is removed from the reaches of control or protected from the spreading process of cultural integration must be defended with every means, even by having recourse to the techniques of *depistage* that are based on secrecy.

Anyone who denies such techniques a priori does so because they shortsightedly see them as plots and romantic nonsense of days gone by. This is not so.

Of course, it would be absurd to entrust messages to a ciphered code, not only of the kind used by Bakunin and Malatesta but any kind at all, for the simple reason that any communication that is more than a couple of lines long can easily be decoded by any computer. But even the code of Bakunin and Malatesta (for messages of a few words) still holds and cannot be decoded by computers because they lack the necessary frequency to establish the various characters.

I am not discussing the question of coded

messages here, I am just saying that no one can exclude that at a given moment a revolutionary might be forced to make a communication that they do not want to make known to the enemy. It is as well to know that such a thing is possible - if the message is brief - and that no technology in the world can break even the simplest codes.

Why open the way to repression?

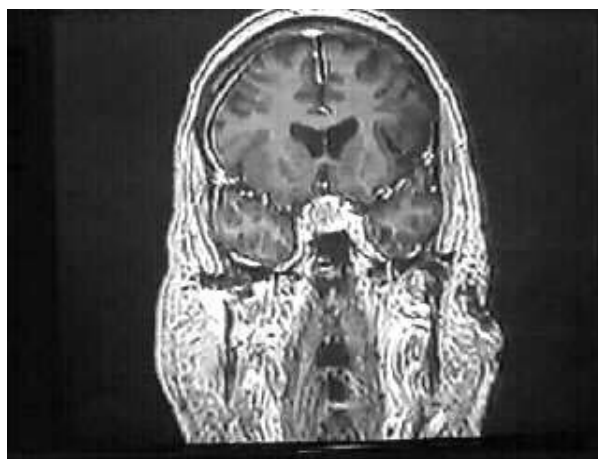
Those who consider secrecy to be impossible maintain that all anarchist and revolutionary action should be publicised to a maximum degree. For example, for them there would be nothing strange about publicising lists of those belonging to all the anarchist organisation (beginning with the Italian Anarchist Federation / FAI : precisely these comrades publish the names of the members of that organisation).

On a purely abstract level there would be nothing strange about this. But in practice many objections to such an idea arise. First, why open the way to repression? Second, if anarchists are tolerated today

within a certain repressive perspective, tomorrow this could change for the worse, and the police would already find themselves with well drawn-up lists to facilitate their task. Why should we help them in their job of policing? Of course, many comrades' names are already known, but many others are not and the police go to great lengths to find them out. Some innocent soul might ask themselves why they bother, given that the work of the movement - in the main part - takes place in the light of day. But that would be a stupid question.

Accumulating data today could be useful to the repression of tomorrow.

*Considerations on Illegality -  
Alfredo M. Bonanno*



# DELINQUENCY

BY RODOLFO GONZALEZ PACHECO

Are delinquents good or bad? What does that matter to us as comrades? This doubt that the judge should raise of himself, but never does, has to be surpassed by us, absorbed by the passionate flames of our vindications: They're victims.

Without falling in sensibilities before those who are beyond the law, we can affirm that they are always better than those that punish them. How can we compare them? If one could possibly do it, it would have to be like this: The delinquent call is more humane than the vigilante, it is less piggish than the stationmaster, still less beastly than his boss, and finally he is never as roguish as the president of the republic or the king of the kingdom.

He, who embodies power, embodies pain. The rest are just gradients, links in a chain that squeezes the neck of those who fall down lower. He is the expenditure of the blood and tears of others that he scares away with his deeply miserable life.

He is the victim, but not only of the pain that the perverted inflict upon him, but also of these "honest men" that haven't dishonoured the law. This is the palinode that we have to sing in front of the delinquents.

Every puritan, even though they may call themselves anarchist, deep down is a man of the law; like every woman that grows conceited by the chastity of her soul, is in the end, bourgeois. Their capital of virtue, like that of the bourgeois, that of gold, is made of the misfortune of her sisters; it is this infected mud that nurtures her beautiful plant; the flower of her delicate purity.

The delinquent is dispossessed of his own honesty; the prostitute is dispossessed of her virtuous love. An anarchist before them should never ask himself if they're good or bad, quite the contrary, they should help them focus their vengeance against the bourgeois. Share and share everything: if here, in the

world of the delinquent, many virtues are lacking, it is because in those that pursue them, and what is worse still, in the puritans, they surpass, they surpass until they corrupt the soul.

Fallen woman, rejected by everyone: if one was able to compare oneself to you, lets say: you are always more humane than a virgin, just as she is less foxy than a nun, just as she is never prone to the corrupt feelings of a president or a queen. It is your fallen sap in the mud that nurtures these plants. You have been plundered. Whoever touches you touches the plunder. Who will be the man who has to help you raise yourself against the looters?

To be honest we have to dishonour many things in ourselves, if we want to honour real justice. Because without doing this, the dishonoured will never understand us. Less "good" laws and more militant Anarchy!

--

*From "Carteles I" by Rodolfo Gonzalez Pacheco, a series of Spanish language anarchist texts which are circulating in the Spanish prison system and beyond. Translated into English by anarchist prisoner Rafael "Jon-Bala" Martinez Zea and other unnamed rebels.*



## Space of secrecy

Contrary to the opinion of some - who maintain it is pointless - I consider secrecy to be one of the essential elements of revolutionary action.

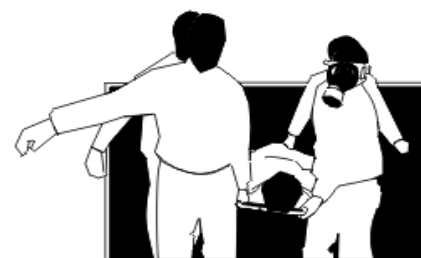
But this concept must be gone into. In the first place the idea that one can only think of secrecy in the eventuality of clandestine action. Secrecy is also indispensable in the activity of counter-information, activity aimed at intermediate struggle. In fact an intermediate struggle, for example, a factory occupation, is not the "real" aim of anarchists, this comes afterwards in the consequences that might develop. These consequences cannot be foreseen during the work of counter-information and, in the narrow sense, are not part of the intermediate action, but belong to a successive phase which can only with difficulty be grasped by those who participate in the struggle simply to satisfy a primary, immediate need.

Secondly, even if we take it for granted that the repressive forces will come to know every aspect of our struggle - from the phase of counter-information to the successive one - that is no reason for not adopting the method of giving as little information as possible to the enemy. Doing things in the light of day does not mean that we supply explanations of everything for use by the police. Think, for example, of a situation where many actions take place in different places simultaneously. By taking care of the communication aspects (leaflets, posters, papers, etc.) one can make it more difficult for the police to discover the relationship that exists between these actions. This is a question of simple caution in order to delay repressive action.

Educating oneself to care and prudence is therefore fundamental for every revolutionary no matter what action they intend to carry out. If we stop to think about this for a moment, even when simply drawing up a leaflet we can easily work out safeguarding techniques that should be used so as to avoid aspects of repression. On the other hand, knowledge of these techniques allows us to use instruments of denunciation or contempt at opportune moments when we consider it important in such a way that the risk involved becomes a calculated risk not a simple error of the pen or ideas, to be regretted immediately afterwards.

As we can see, the space for secrecy is wide and goes far beyond the realm of clandestinity.

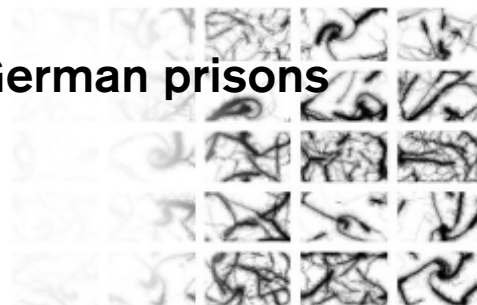
*Considerations on Illegality - Alfredo M. Bonanno*





# An overview of the hungerstrike in the German prisons

## by ABC Berlin / August - September 2008



The biggest self-organised action initiated by prisoners inside German jails for a long time to date, has now ended.

We invested some of our time to gather a few thoughts about this experience, since there have been already a few written texts and actions towards a reflection during the last weeks.

From different points of view, this hungerstrike carried a big meaning: for example, the opening of a debate amongst solidarious people and prisoners could be one of the most important results, together with an improvement of the self-organization by prisoners and the opening of new perspectives of struggle against the prison system.

Even though the number of solidarity actions is not always comparable to that of other countries, it became clear that here as well such a topic can find a certain support, support which is slowly extending.

But let us begin slowly, since for us it is difficult to put together a readable text because of the complexity of the situation: we do not aim to completeness, but rather to take part within a debate which we hope will keep on carrying on.

### **A "historical" hungerstrike - the beginning of a new series of struggles?**

It is many years since such an action, organised by prisoners in complete autonomy, has come to our ears.

The process of individualization, separation and breaking of solidarity, which is growing steadily within this society, can only reflect itself behind the prison walls to an even more extreme extent.

The politics of "re-socialization", the blackmailing of prisoners through the offer of better conditions, but only to the price of passive, conforming behavior inside the walls, the scandal of the forced labour, the damocle's sword of the prolonged detention (sicherungsverwahrung) after the end of your served sentence in case you are considered still "dangerous") and finally a growing disinterest by the people here outside, no matter if "normal" ones or "from the scene", everything contributed to the decrease of the struggles behind the bars.

Surely, there are still a few examples of individual prisoners, who despite the situation kept on struggling during the years and payed always a high price for it.

However, there has never been space for speaking of a prisoner's movement. But insurrection and revolutionary breaks are unpredictable, this time a small spark has been enough in order to release a new, potential situation inside the German prisons.

The case of a prisoner, Nadine Tribian, who has been confronted with an extreme pressure by the prison system and its active reproducers, created the conditions for a solidarity among prisoners, which is rather a seldom occurrence.

The fact that over 500 prisoners showed solidarity with her, taking part in the hungerstrike, proved perhaps the beginning of a new time, one where words as solidarity find their place again.

On top of this comes that the protests have been done against the prison system, not limited to the situation of a single prisoner.

Moreover, there have been a few prisoners who tried to give a wider perspective to such a hungerstrike, like Gabriel Pombo da Silva, by making clear their total refusal against the entire prison system.

And we are sure that besides Gabriel way more prisoners had similar thoughts, since one of the biggest possibilities offered by such a protest is exactly a possible radicalization of its participants - in prison as also here on the outside.

Gabriel's participation in the hungerstrike was extremely important, since he wrote a few texts and he is a "known" prisoner (meaning by this that he receives wide support by anarchists worldwide), the fact that he wrote a call to action surely moved many people to become active.

Further on we will speak again about his texts.

### **The reaction from outside - the word "solidarity" widens again...**

As many people probably know, one can not really talk about a widespread anti-prison attitude within the "German movement". Surely, there

are many who organise activities in solidarity with "political" prisoners, but definitely less will declare their solidarity with all prisoners in struggle and against the entire prison system.

However, the voice of the latter spread around during the last months, slowly but continuously, influencing the general discourse, at least in regards to our small "scene".

And we were quite surprised that there has been such a relative high attention in regards to this hungerstrike.

The support has been mainly organised by four, five groups from different cities of Germany (Red Help Dresden, Gefangeninfo from Hamburg, ABC-Orkan, Mauerfall-Gefangenen Rundbrief from Morbach, Autonomes Knast Projekt from Koln, to name some...), who, as long as their energies went, tried to draw attention for the protest.

Indeed, our role here outside remains to make the protest of prisoners visible: towards this aim, there have been several different kinds of actions, which contributed to make the topic known to a wider spectrum of people.

From rallies in front of the prisons, through to spreading information, sending protest-postcards to the Minister of Justice from Nord-Rhein Westfalen and the Bielefeld's prison (where Nadine is sitting) until direct actions, many things happened. You can find a list at the end of this text.

Many people wrote to us because they wanted to organise actions in solidarity in front of the prisons or wherever, asking us if there would be any prisoner taking part in the hungerstrike in their cities and what they could do to support them, many ordered our soli-postcards.

In general, we had the feeling that these protests woke up the interest of many people, despite the ongoing "summer-hole".

For many, this has been the first time at all that they reflected somehow deeper on such a theme, for example on the fact that a separation between "political" prisoners and the rest does not make any sense.

We can see a few steps towards the right direction.

But let us wait a bit, seeing what is going to happen within the next couple of months;

surely, one possibility for discussion could be represented by the anti-prison days taking place at the end of September in Kiel.

### **The bourgeois press - an expected (mostly) collective silence**

The majority of the bourgeois press remained in silence in regards to this protest.

This does not surprise us at all, it is rather a confirmation of what we think of them, which is nothing positive.

However, there have been a few positive exceptions within the ranks of the left-liberals/post-socialist journals, which reported widely about the protest during the whole week - such as Neues Deutschland and Junge Welt.

Seven articles popped up, written mainly by political active journalists from Berlin. When they have asked for information, we gave them it through emails or told them to look at our own website.

We actually do not have a friendly behavior towards the bourgeois medias, not at all, however we also have to say that the articles have been written quite ok (one can read them also on our website, only in German though, you can make yourself an idea).

At the same time, we got to say that we get stomach-pains for what concerns the media issue, but this time we found it good the fact that engaged journalists tried to write fairly about these struggles.

One of the main problems is also represented by the fact that prisoners are not really in the position to spread this information (surely they sent it around to different journals in their round-letter, of course nobody showed any reaction to this).

Therefore we believed it was important that their voice would find a place also in our media, even if we normally carry another kind of relation with normal media.

In this sense, for us it has not represented a problem to give information further and to look what happens afterwards.

We also should not underestimate that prisoners, besides the ones who already carry anarchist positions, see a goal for their struggle in the fact that more media report this, because they want to reach the "public opinion" and show them what prison really means.

Following such a way of thinking, they also measure their results: surely, they find it cool that people from our "scene" organise

actions, however they are also happy about a wider support which, they believe, is to be reached through the media-reports.

Therefore, it is also up to us to communicate with them again how the media-machine works (even though many prisoners know this already, but probably still keep some hope that the former will change) and that the building up of solidarious relationships in the struggle actually represents a more concrete and trustable experience.

Through this we try to overcome an eventual usage of the media-machine and reach through our own channels more people than merely the ones in our "scene".

This still remains still a big challenge and there is still a lot to do here...

We know some journalists who were calling the prisons got the answers of the latters remaining the same: "Here there is no hungerstrike taking place!".

As we found out later on, it seems that in Germany a hungerstrike would be considered as official by authorities only after the eight day and only afterwards made known.

### **The difficulties of the communication - or about the difficulties to overcome the concrete walls...**

As already mentioned before, many people wanted to know from us in which prisons people were taking part to the protest, in order to organise actions in solidarity.

However, our answer remained almost always the same one; "We have no clue."

For us it was the same situation, we found out on Thursdas 31st of July that also in Berlin-Moabit some prisoners would also take part in the hungerstrike. Therefore we quickly organised a demonstration to the prison for the following days.

None of us here outside knew in which prisons the prisoners were taking part, for how long, how many of them and so on.

We believe this to have produced a negative influence on what concerns the organization of solidarity. Not that one necessarily needs a prisoner in hungerstrike in his/her city in order to organise something in solidarity.

However, since this has been the first time when many came more familiar with such a theme, more information would have definitely made the creation of solidarity easier.

### **Where have been the difficulties in the communication lying?**

To say it shortly, there have been several reasons for it.

First, our contact with the Iv.I. (Representation for the Interest of the Detainees - Prisoners organisation) came into being only one and half month before the hungerstrike began, when we received their round-letter.

Secondly, one can imagine that the prison operated a large censorship against prisoners for all the duration of the protest as also beforehand, exactly in order to reach a limitation of communication (not that under normal circumstances would be that different...).

We hope that the prisoners will communicate to us if this has been the case or which are the reasons behind the fact that not so many informations found their way to the outside - we wait for your answers.

We should also not forget that the organizational process among the prisoners is only at its beginning, surely it needs a longer time to reach a better coordination among each other.

At the end one has also to say that we all on the outside need to learn how to work better with each other.

There is a close cooperation among different groups, but it must be improved by us all, as example we need to see each other more often, in order to discuss together.

And lastly, we could add that we must recognize the fact that this has been the biggest action organised by "social" prisoners with which we have been confronted with in here.

Considering the lack of experiences, we have been a bit overwhelmed by the new situation and therefore we need still to learn a lot. However, we can see as positive that this hungerstrike perhaps contributed to a closer and more long-term future cooperation among different groups/ individuals.

### **How one could overcome the limits of a hungerstrike?**

During the history there have always been different meanings about the hungerstrike

as mean of struggle - it would be here too long to try to present a sum-up of such discussion.

Many prisoners see this mean as the most extreme and last one left to them by the State.

Their bodies become their last weapon, often linked to a physical decay or to the price of death - During the history of the hungerstrike there have been many of the latter.

On the other side, other people are not keen to make the State the favour to further destroy themselves, even more than they have been already made by the imprisonment, but they still remain solid with the hungerstrikes, like Thomas Meyer-Falk.

We respect the decision by prisoners to choose such a means of struggle, in fact it has also showed a few times that it can lead to partial victories, such like the case of the Thessaloniki 7 (imprisoned following the protest against the EU-Summit in Thessaloniki, 2003) or the recent case of the anarchist comrade Amadeu Casellas.

At the same time, a hungerstrike can reach partial victories only through a wide support organised on the outside: in fact, we on the outside possess way more possibilities to act than the ones who are held as hostages by the State.

Only through a varied support is it possible that the requests of the prisoner might obtain a higher attention: this we see as the role of all the people in solidarity who choose to act their support.

The pressure has to be built on different levels, in order to widen the limited means of struggle of the hungerstrike.

### **Critical solidarity is the salt of any revolutionary struggle**

There have been different critics on the form of this very hungerstrike, above all on the "organization" which is called - the Iv.I.

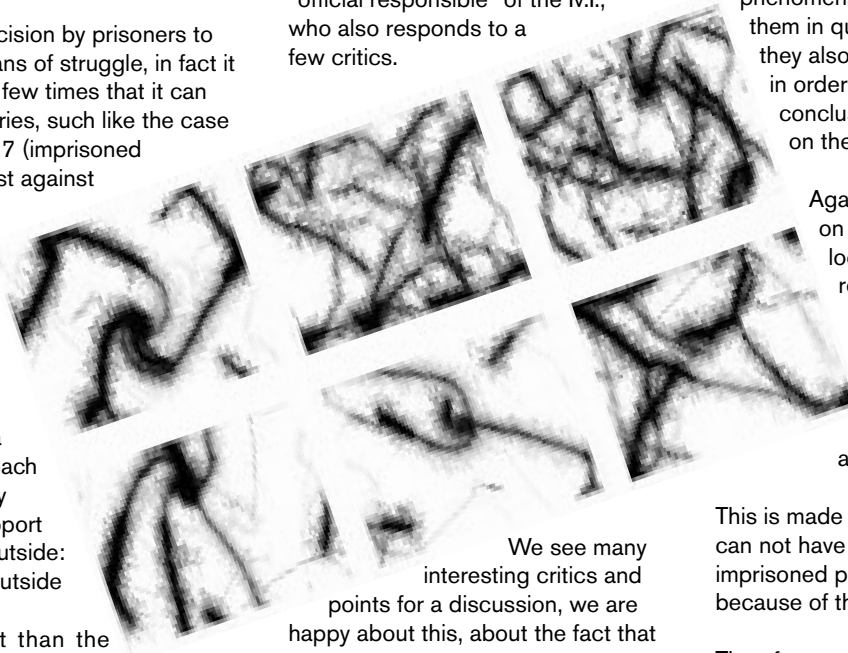
One text signed by anarchists in solidarity tries to critically reflect on this shortly before the beginning of the hungerstrike (this text is to be found in the current Entfesselt, in English on the web).

Therein, the writer(s) mainly criticise that the protest has been called on by an

"organization" (since an official representation is against any idea of an autonomous/anarchist way of organizing), which explicitly limited itself to call for legal form of action and asked mainly for better conditions in prison, losing the general picture from their eyes -the entire prison system.

Afterwards there came a letter signed by Gabriel, who already beforehand declared his solidarity as well as participation within the hungerstrike, which can be seen as an answer to the former letter and to several critics he received by some supporters.

Moreover, we received in the last few days a letter signed by Pit Scherzl, the "official responsible" of the Iv.I., who also responds to a few critics.



We see many interesting critics and points for a discussion, we are happy about this, about the fact that such a debate happens, since critical solidarity is the salt of any revolutionary struggle.

These critics have to remain solidarious though, sometimes their tones can be misunderstood, producing a negative rather than positive atmosphere which reflects on both sides.

We would like to mention that such debate between anarchists supporters and prisoners is not something new.

A similar example can be traced within the last hungerstrike against life-sentence, organised by italian prisoner last year.

It had been called on by an "official" organization and called off by the same one, a thing which has been criticised by anarchists.

**"Anarchists are not born thus, but rather become such"**

We share some of the critics explained within the one text signed by solidarious anarchists as much as some contained within Gabriel's text.

We are also against any formal organization, since they are hierarchical in their own roots, therefore to be refused from our side.

Why Pit and the others decided to choose such a form of organization, we do not know, therefore this remains an open question for the debate: also here we would be happy to have a discussion on this problem.

However, we can assent to Gabriel's statement and confirm that anarchists are not born thus, but they rather become such...

Outside as much and inside we can not expect that people who did not go through our same "politicization" path will recognize some phenomena from the very first moment or put them in question: as much as we have to, they also have to gather their experiences in order to eventually come to other conclusions and embrace wider critics on the present conditions.

Again, as anarchists we should keep on critiquing some decisions and look if and how our critics will be received.

Moreover, to build up a discussion with the ones in struggle, who often do not have anything to do with anarchist principles.

This is made more difficult by the fact that we can not have direct communication with imprisoned people as we would wish to, because of their imprisonment.

Therefore we have to pay attention on how we lead such a critical discussion, way more than the ones we lead daily with our comrades outside.

Through the lack of such direct communication among the participants, such critics can be very quickly mis-understood as unsolidarious or even as attacks.

And this can happen even though we can imagine how people mean them, but only because we are often in the privileged situation to either directly know the people who formulated such critics or to have already read some of their texts.

A privilege, which most of the prisoners do not have.

If we are interested in carrying further a debate and cooperation with the prisoners in struggle, we must open communication's channels, ignite such processes, as it has been the case within the last months.

Sparing in this the arrogance to pretend that they would immediately spring on our anarchy train and make our critics theirs.

Perhaps this will happen, perhaps not, nobody can foresee it.

But the attempt to keep such channels open is extremely important for us, in order to communicate with people new ideas and dreams: what they do with them, remains their decision.

Moreover, we should not forget that many people might be unfamiliar with our way of arguing, being confronted with it perhaps for the first time: things which for us might be clear since long time, have to be reflected upon by many, our style of writing can therefore be rather alien...

### On legality and peaceful protests

Another critique was that the Iv.I. called only for legal actions and explicitly took distance from revolts.

We as anarchists clearly see such a position as problematic, or let us say it more openly: Should it happen here on the outside, we would react very differently.

We would have understood if the Iv.I. would have called for peaceful protests without explicitly taking distance from other means.

In fact, there are different means of protest and everybody should choose the ones he/she feels closer.

In his new letter, Pit writes where his problem lies: in prison, one suffers a different pressure by the State. The margins of action are limited and eventually the price one has to pay for is much higher than here outside.

We ought to never forget this or play it down. Further on, he declares another truth, that the situation inside German prisons looks very different than in Spain or in Belgium. We believe him when he says that 95% of the prisoners behave like sheeps and a revolt would be a thing of merely few individuals...

Moreover, Pit writes also that everyone on the outside should act in the way he/she believes to be appropriate and he shows his private solidarity with them.

And this is an important declaration for us, because it leaves many doors open. The point is that people in prison, confronted with a complete arbitrariness, want to defend themselves from usual harassments, which we know well enough through their reports.

There are always "responsibles" for any protest, however, in prison one does not have the possibility to remain anonymous. Therefore one will not call to revolt, also in order to not let the State cut the legs of a freshly newborn movement of protest - during history many people began with legal

means and after decided to choose others or to choose both - the possibilities are still there.

We believe that many ones are happy when here on the outside one chooses to not put a limit to means of protest: if they as well will come to the same conclusions, we will see, since this is a decision which they have to take by themselves- surely, they will get our support in any case.

### A struggle for "Rights"? - "Legal, Illegal, Scheissegal!"

We understand Gabriel and the other prisoners when they refuse to behave "stoically" or as "martyrs". Indeed, we are not religious people and such way of sacrificing does not have anything to do with our ideals and anarchism.

We also can see why prisoners decide to struggle for their "Rights", since here outside is often not much different: "Rights" are being used everyday by all of us, as example in the moment we choose to defend ourselves during a legal process.

Moreover, one asks for the enforcement of different "Rights", it might be the one to have a phonecall after the arrest or the one to get a lawyer. Surely, we fight towards the destruction of the present conditions and we do not like to beg the State for any "Rights" or to use them, but, as Gabriel writes, "legal, illegal, scheissegal". Rights are there, already given, struggled for during history.

We as anarchists see our struggle not as one which begs any bourgeois rights from the State or makes reforms a primary goal within a struggle. Our goals will not let themselves be reduced in this way, where through this we create a legitimation for the State as our partner from which we want something.

However we must say that Rights are there and can be used during a struggle: this remains anyway one of the biggest contradictions, even among us.

No one possess the answer about the "right" way to deal with these things, no matter if anarchist or not.

The main thing remains the fact that this would be only one of our means of struggle, neither the only one nor the main goal, because otherwise nothing would make us different from other reformist movements.

Exactly different goals and a larger choice of means, not dictated by the penal code, through which we try to overthrow the actual conditions, remain the biggest differences with other movements.

Even during uncompromising struggle it is possible to ask for the application of "rights" or "reforms", one does not really come out of this circle (in fact we all try to put our counterparts under pressure, might be against an eviction of a squat or the enforcement of new laws...).

The important thing remains that such things will not be considered as our main goal, since the latter is freedom and the diffusion of possible insurrectionary struggles and situations.

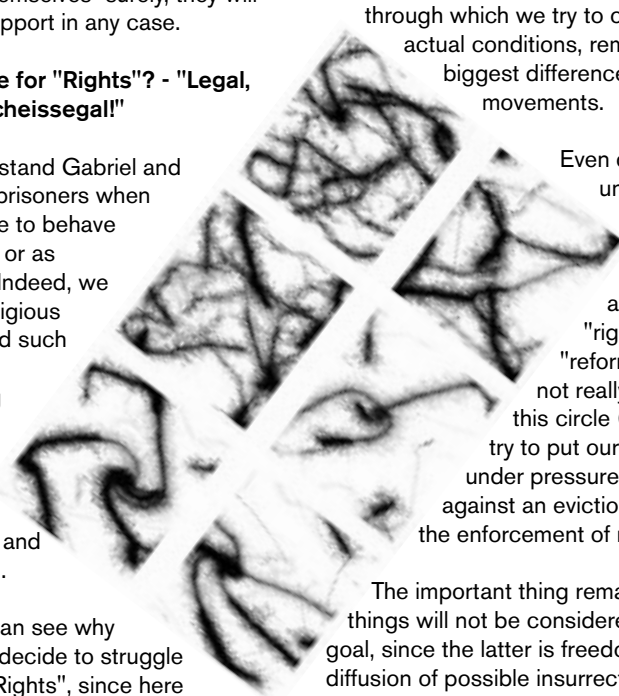
We see as unproblematic that prisoners fight for the application of their "Rights", but only as long as they have clear in their minds that the goal of their struggle is the destruction of the prison system, as example, which is necessarily linked with the destruction of this society.

This appears at least within the letter signed by Pit (sadly we did not heard anything by other prisoners) and this let us hope that more prisoners will develop such analysis and ideas, in order to fight together against the system.

### The end of a struggle can only represents the beginning of a new one...

We see in this struggle the beginning of a self-organization among prisoners, a potential towards a break with the present conditions, passivity in prison and isolation. As a possibility towards the radicalization of their beings, through the building of communication with each other, during which none of us pretends to sit on the throne of truth and wants to spread holy recipes to the others, where we have an influence on each other, despite the strength of the walls.

Moreover, we see also the possibility here on the outside to further build and reinforce



consciousness and solidarity for this struggle - and for new ones.

Many questions stay open, there is still a lot to be done.

We would be interested in hearing from other prisoners their impression on the hungerstrike as much as on further moments of struggles.

Since we do not like any organization with the big "O", we would also like to have a direct contact with the prisoners themselves, not mediated only through the Representatives of the Iv.I.

But perhaps the prisoners have no will to begin such contacts and rather like to delegate this to the Iv.I.: we do not know this and therefore put such a question.

Pit and all the others at the Iv.I.: you do not have to feel under attack, we respect your work and we are in solidarity with you, despite our differences.

But the latter are there and therefore you also have to see clearly that as anarchists we criticise certain things and we will keep on doing so.

As much as you would also do: as long as this takes place in a solidarious way, such a critic remains necessary, in order to learn new things from each other.

In fact, we on the outside we do not sit "with dry asses", although in freedom and with better position to act.

Many people take risks and will be confronted with prison and repression: for sure, we also wish that these ones would become more, since there is always enough of the ones, who stay sitting...

One will surely find new occasions for the future.

One might be the hungerstrike against life-sentences called by Italian prisoners for the 1.12.08

Already a year ago there has been one, during which a similar debates erupted among anarchists and the prisoners association which called for the hungerstrike.

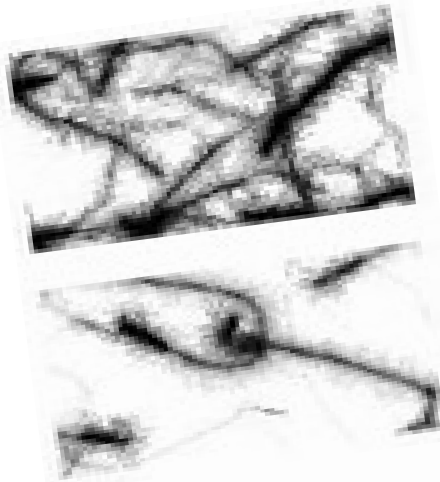
In one way or the other, it remains important that we keep alive the opened communication channels, in order to not lose such a contact and discuss, organise, support and widen together further moments of struggle.

Also the ones here outside will keep on reflecting how they can support future struggles by prisoners.

In fact, what happened during the last months is not much, but we are sure, that it can just become better...

### ABC Berlin

*Note: All the various texts and letters of discussion referred to in this article by ABC Berlin can be found at 325 online.*



## A chronology of the solidarity



**3/08/2008** Dresden, Germany - In Alaun park, an infotable is set up and pamphlets are distributed to passers-by about the hunger strike.

**4/08/2008** Berlin, Germany - Manifestation of over 60 solidarious people from Plotensee prison, where the anti-fascist Christian S. is locked up, to Moabit prison where different prisoners are in hunger strike. Moreover, 500 protest postcards will be printed with the adresses of the Justice Minister of NRW and Bielefeld's prison. A few banners and posters calling for solidarity will be hanged in some public spaces and houseprojects.

**5.8.08 Berlin:** two heavy-good vehicles belonging to the company C+C Shaper are torched, as several newspapers report. The action is put in the context of solidarity with the prisoners in hungerstrike: "We

criticise that horrible food is getting sold for extremely high price to the prisoners and want to show our protest against a system where private companies make profit through the imprisonment of people."

**5/08/2008** Hamburg, Germany - There is a gathering of some 80 people in front of the prison of Holstenglacis. Texts are read out in different languages and there is communication with several prisoners. The solidarity contribution of Gabriel Pombo da Silva was also read out.

**6/08/2008** Koln, Germany - There is a gathering at the probation office. Information about Nadine Tribian, the situation in the German prisons and the hunger strike is distributed. Different posters express solidarity with the protesting prisoners and for the destruction of the prisons.

**6/08/2008** Vancouver, Canada - In an action of solidarity and attack, a sheriff van and a police car are set on fire in the daytime. The first one was parked in front of the court house, the second was an police cruiser that was empty since the cops that were busy arresting someone. [Read the entire communique in the **International Resistance News** section]

**6/08/2008** Vancouver, Canada - The windows of a probation office are smashed. The action is claimed in solidarity with the hunger strikers in Europe and more specifically with Gabriel Pombo da Silva, Jose Fernandez Delgado and Amadeu Casellas.

**7/08/2008** Amsterdam, The Netherlands - The windows of the Goethe Institute are smashed in solidarity with the hunger strikers in Germany.

**8/08/2008** Madrid and Canarias, Spain - Around 50 ATMs are temporarily disabled. Messages are left behind: more than 470 prisoners on hunger strike in Germany against isolation. Active solidarity. Prisoners in struggle.

**13/08/2008** Santiago, Chile - The "internationalist insurrectionalist forces" bomb an Itua bank. The action is claimed as a reaction to oppression, prison, the State and Capital, and more specifically in solidarity with Gabriel Pombo da Silva and for the release of Axel Osorio, who has been imprisoned since December 2007 in relation to a bank robbery in Chile.

**14/08/2008** Aachen, Germany - Demonstration in solidarity with the hunger strikers. Gabriel Pombo was in hunger strike in this prison.

# EMILE ARMAND (1872 – 1962)

## Is the illegalist anarchist our comrade?

Translated by JML 2007

***“When we consider the thief as an individual, one can't say he's any less human than anyone in the other classes of society. Those who make up large bandit bands have a strongly communist social relationship with each other. If they represent a left over from a previous age, one might consider that they were the precursors of a better age in the future. They know where to ask to be welcomed and hidden whatever city they go into. They prove generous and prodigious towards their own people, up to a point. If indeed they consider the rich their natural enemies, their legitimate prey, a rather difficult point of view to contradict, a large number of them are animated by the spirit of Robin Hood: a great many thieves have a kind heart when it comes to the poor.”***

**(Edward Carpenter :**  
Civilisation, its Cause and Cure.)

I am not a fan of illegalism, I'm ALEGAL. Illegalism is, all in all, a dangerous road to go down for those who take to it even for a little while, a fall-back solution, neither to be extolled nor recommended. But the question that I propose to study here is not whether the practice of an illegal profession is dangerous, but whether anarchists seeking their daily bread by resorting to occupations that the police and courts condemn are right or wrong to expect that anarchists who accept working for bosses will treat them as comrades.

Comrades whose points of view they would defend in public and who they wouldn't turn their back on when they fall into the hands of the police or under the judges' cutting scrutiny (Unless they ask for silence on his case).

The anarchist that takes up illegalism does not want to be treated as a "poor relative" who no one wants to publicly admit is in the family, since it would hurt the anarchist cause because it is thought that refusing to break with him when the representatives of capitalist persecution decide to attack him would risk losing the anarchist movement the sympathy it gets from syndicalists or from the customers of the anarchistic middle class.

The illegalist anarchist appeals to his comrades who are exploited by the boss, that is, to those among them who hate their work, who feel exploited by the boss. He only expects to be more or less understood by those who do work that is pleasing to them. Among the former he includes the anarchist ideologues and propagandists who spread, defend, and expose the ideas



that correspond to their opinions - as, at least, one hopes they would do. All the same they can only ever get a meager, very meager salary out of their labor, and their moral situation is not at all comparable to the position of an anarchist working under the constant surveillance of a foreman and made to undergo all the promiscuity, so horrifying to him with his morals, of the different humanities there are around him. That's why the illegalist anarchist denies those who do work that please them and who pass judgement on him for his outlawry.

Those who do all the written and oral propaganda they please, and do a job that's convenient for them, often forget that they are privileged compared to the great majority of people, their comrades, who are yoked and driven all day, from the first of January to the last day of Christmas, working jobs they altogether hate.

The illegalist claims that these anarchists are just as much or as little their comrade as the small businessman, the secretary at city hall, or the dance teacher are, since all of them

make just as little a change in the economic living conditions of the present social milieu. A lawyer, a doctor, a schoolteacher - they can send their articles in to the anarchist newspapers, they can chit chat in little anarchist circles, but they are nevertheless just as much the supports and the supported of the hierarchical system, which has given them a monopoly that lets them exercise their profession, following the regulations they must submit to in order to continue doing so.

It wouldn't be exaggerating to say that every anarchist that accepts being exploited for the profit of a private or State employer commits an act of betrayal towards anarchist ideas. Indeed, he is reinforcing domination and exploitation, no matter what - and contributing to the maintenance of statism's existence. Doubtless he may become conscious of his inconsistencies and try to make up for or fix his way of doing propaganda work; but whatever

the propaganda an exploited man does may be, he always remains an accomplice of the exploiter, a cooperator in the system of exploitation that controls the conditions that production takes place in.

That's why it's not accurate to say that anarchists that "work," who submit to the ruling system of domination and exploitation, are victims. They are just as much accomplices as they are victims. Every exploited man or woman, whether inside or outside the law, cooperates with the state of exploitation; every dominated person, whether legally or illegally, cooperates in the state of domination. There is no difference between an anarchist worker who has earned 200,000 dollars over the course of thirty years working, and with his savings manages to buy a divey little champaign bar, and an illegalist anarchist who makes off with a safe containing 200,000 dollars and buys a seaside house with it. True, neither of them are anarchists except by name, but the difference is that the anarchist worker submits to the terms of the economic contract that the managers of the social milieu impose on him, whereas the anarchist burglar does not submit.

The law protects both the exploiter and the exploited, the dominated and the dominator so far as it comes to the social relations they have amongst one another, and from the moment that he submits, the anarchist is just as protected in his good and in his person as the statist is; the law makes no distinction between archists and anarchists if both of them comply with the injunctions of the social contract. Whether they like it or not, the anarchists who submit -- bosses, laborers, employees, functionaries -- all are graced with all the basic "protections" and "benefits" of the forces of public order, the courts, social conventions, and official educators. That is the compensation they get for their submission. When the statist employer, through moral persuasion or by the force of the law, makes a contract to give a wage or salary to his anarchist employee, the forces of social convention don't really care whether or not the employee is hostile to the wage system deep down in his heart or out on the surface.

Contrariwise, unsubmitive ones they are -- those draft dodgers of the social contract -- the illegalist anarchists have the whole of the organization of society against them, when, to "live their own lives," they cut to the chase and go immediately, straight through the ranks, to a goal that the submissive anarchist only later or never arrives at. They run an enormous risk and it's only fair that that risk be compensated by immediate results -- if there are any results at all.

Recourse to cunning, something that the illegalist anarchist constantly takes, is actually a process that all revolutionaries use. Secret societies are an aspect of this art. When putting up subversive posters one waits until the cops are somewhere else. An anarchist that travels to America hides his moral, political, and philosophical point of view from the customs agents. Whatever he may be, apparently submissive or frankly unsubmitive, the anarchist is always an illegal person when it comes to the law -- when he propagates anarchist ideas, he goes against the special law against anarchist propaganda, and furthermore, by his anarchist mentality he opposes written law itself considered in its essence, since Law is the concrete manifestation of statism.

The unsubmitive anarchist can only be sympathetic to the anarchists that feel themselves to be submissive. The anarchist that has not been able, or hasn't wanted, to break with legality, recognizes himself, fully realized logically in the illegal attitude. The

temperament and reflections of the submissive anarchist can bring him to disapprove of certain of the unsubmitive anarchists' acts, but never could render the unsubmitive ones personally antipathetic to him.

When the revolutionary anarchist reproaches him for immediately going after his own well-being from an economic perspective, the illegalist anarchist replies that he, the revolutionary anarchist, is doing just the same. The economic revolutionary expects an improvement of his personal economic situation from the revolution; if he didn't he wouldn't be a revolutionary. The revolution will give him what he wants or will not, just like an illegal operation rewards he who carries it out with what he wants or not. It's a question of time, quite simply. Even when the economic question doesn't come into play, no one makes a revolution unless one expects a personal benefit from it, a religious, political, intellectual, or perhaps ethical one. All revolutionaries are egoists.

Does the carrying out of acts of revenge by illegalists not have an unfavorable influence on anarchist propaganda both in general and particular?

In responding to this objection, the most important of all for this essay, one must keep in mind always that the human individual, when entering the world, or when entering a country, is subjected to certain conditions of economic life, which are imposed on him. Whatever his opinions may be, he must submit, in order to live (or die) in peace, to a constraint. Wherever there is constraint, the contract is no longer valid, because it is unilateral -- the bourgeois law codes themselves even recognize that an agreement underwritten by threats has no legal value. The anarchist then finds himself constantly in a legitimate defensive situation against the executives or partisans of an imposed economic social contract. For instance, no anarchist who takes up the illegal professions are looking to establish a society based on universal banditry. His situation and his acts are only related to the economic construct that the capitalists

have unilaterally imposed on those who are revolted by their principles. The illegalism of the anarchists is only transitory: it's a fall back solution.

If the social milieu would concede to the anarchists their possession of the inalienable means of personal productivity, if they were permitted to freely make use of their products with no fiscal restrictions (tax, customs, dues), if they were allowed to use amongst themselves an exchange value which no tax would be applied to, all the risks and dangers of illegalism would no longer play any part (in economic illegalism, that is.) Economic illegalism is thus purely circumstance.

Economic or otherwise, illegalism is a function of legalism. On the day when authority will have disappeared - political, intellectual, economic authority - the illegalist anarchists will have disappeared as well.

Thinking about it this way one can understand that in fact illegalist actions are a boon to anarchist propaganda.

Every anarchist, submissive or not, considers as a comrade those amongst his fellows that refuse to accept military servitude. It's inconsistent, then, that that attitude would change when one of them refuses economic servitude.

It is well known that anarchists do not want to contribute to the economic life of a nation that does not give them the possibility of expressing themselves by the pen or by words, a nation that limits their faculties or their possibilities of realization or association, in any realm. Nonetheless, it is alright with them if the non anarchists want to behave however they please. The anarchists that consent to participate in the economic functioning of a society which doesn't let them live how they want are inconsistent. It doesn't make sense that they'd object to those who rebel against that state of things.

The draft-dodgers of economic servitude find themselves to be constrained, by an instinct of self-preservation, by their need and will to live, to appropriate the products of other people's labor. Not only is this instinct primordial, but it is legitimate, say the illegalists, when compared to capitalist accumulation, an accumulation which the capitalist doesn't personally need in order to exist, an accumulation which is superfluous for the capitalist. Now, who are these "other people" which the thoughtful illegalist anarchist sets himself against, the

anarchist exercising an illegal profession? Those "other people" are only those who want the majorities to dominate or oppress minorities; they are the partisans of the domination or dictatorship of one class or caste by another; they are the voters, the supporters of the state, of the monopolies and privileges that it implies. These other people are in reality the anarchists' enemies -- their irreconcilable adversaries.

When he faults those other people economically, the illegalist anarchist only sees in them an instrument of the statist regime.

Given these explanations, one couldn't say that the illegalist anarchists are wrong to feel betrayed when the anarchists who have preferred to follow a less dangerous road than the one he has chosen abandon him, or otherwise don't care to explain their attitude.

I repeat what I said at the beginning of this text; it's a fall back solution -- the solution offered by illegalism is extremely dangerous and it must be demonstrated that the benefits outstrip the costs, which is a very exceptional case. The illegalist anarchist that is thrown in prison can expect no favors when it comes to parole or sentence reductions -- his file is red flagged, as they say. But this warning aside, one must further remark that to be practiced seriously illegalism demands a temperament of exceptional mettle -- a cold-bloodedness and self-assuredness that not everyone has. As in all experiences of anarchist life that don't fit into the routine of everyday existence, if illegalist practice would totally coincide with illegalist theory to such a point that it would make him unresponsive to all other activity, to all other attitudes, it would be a frightful thing. But anyway he is equally unresponsive to certain little legal professions that spare those who exercise their legal profession in the factory or office.

## CONCLUSIONS

The economic anarchists, managers, and governors impose working conditions on the workers that are incompatible with the anarchist notion of life, that is, the absence of exploitation of man by man. In principle, an anarchist refuses to allow working conditions to be imposed on him, refuses to allow himself to be exploited; accepting them would mean he abdicates and submits.

And there's really no difference between paying taxes, submitting to exploitation, and submitting to military service.

Granted, the majority of anarchists do submit. "We get more out of legality by being cunning about it, by standing up to it and flying in its face." Exactly. But the anarchist that tricks the law mustn't be proud or quick about it. Certainly by doing so one escapes the dangerous consequences of unsubmission, the prisons, the "most abject of slaveries." But if he doesn't have to go through all that, the submissive anarchist must still deal with "professional deformation;" since they must obey the law on the surface, many anarchists end up not reacting at all, and going over to the other side of the barricades. One must have an exceptional temperament to deceive the law without falling into the trappings of legality!

As for the anarchist who is productive in the present economic milieu -- that's a myth. Where are the anarchists that produce anti-authoritarian values? Almost all anarchists converge in the maintenance of the economic state of things with their production. No one will ever make me believe that anarchists that build prisons, barracks, churches, make weapons, ammunition, uniforms, print law books, political newspapers, religious books, who warehouse them, transport them, or sell them, are doing some kind of anti-authoritarian production. Even anarchists who in the present society make the most basic goods for voters and elected officials alike is going against his convictions.

Neither propagandists of the spoken word nor men of letters are entitled to enjoin obscure individualists to withdraw the material benefit they get from their ideas. Do they perhaps discount the "moral" and sometimes pecuniary benefit they draw from their own efforts? Renown hawks their names "from one end of the world to the other;" they have disciples, translators, defamers, persecutors. Why do they reckon they can get away with that, then?

I find it quite fair that all labor be compensated, in all realms -- it is fair that if one suffers from one's opinions one should have the profit. What matters is that no violence, ruses, theft, fraud, or imposition, must bring one that profit to the detriment or wrong of one's comrades, of those from "one's own world."

In the present social milieu, anarchy goes from Tolstoy to Bonnot : Warren, Proudhon, Kropotkin, Ravachol, Caserio, Louise Michel, Libertad, Pierre Chardon, Tchorny; the tendencies they represented or that certain agitators or actors living today whose names are of little import represent are like the colors of a rainbow, where each individual chooses the tint that most pleases his or her vision.

From a strictly anarchist individualist point of view - and here I will conclude this essay - the criteria for camaraderie have nothing to do with being an office worker, a factory worker, a functionary, a street vendor, smuggler, or burglar - it has to do with the fact that, legal or illegal, MY comrade always looks above all to the sculpting of his own individuality, to the diffusion of anti-authoritarian ideas wherever he can, and who, by making life among people who share his affinities as agreeable as possible, attempts to reduce to an ever weaker minimum the amount of useless and avoidable suffering they must go through.

## The exercise of control

The instruments of repression are only in minimal part related directly to repression as such.

Most of them function as preventative instruments of control.



This consequently has an effect on all potential forms of illegality - through a series of measures - and on all forms of different behaviour. Potential illegality is within the law today, allowing the far-seeing eye of the censor to calculate a possible outlet. The same goes for "different" "deviant" behaviour (a move away from that imposed by the producers of consensus), today a possible object of study or wonder, but real danger points of social subversion in the future.

Now, the exercise of control is based on the accumulation of data: behaviour, deviance, taste, ideology, actions, etc. The greatest amount of data possible and its relative elaboration is at the root of any extensive project of control. Without these elements the latter would not be possible, it would be circumscribed and not very dependable in the wider, participatory perspective of control.

*Considerations on Illegality - Alfredo M. Bonanno*





(April - August 2008)

**27/03 Lantin** – Farid Bamouhammad attacks a guard when he tightens the handcuffs before leaving his cell. He barricades the cell and waits for the intervention team to come. They don't come and Farid stays barricaded in the cell for three days.

**29/03 Lantin** - Farid Bamouhammad puts fire to his cell. Two other prisoners from Bloc U (isolation wing) do the same. The guards put out the fire, the two are transferred and Farid stays in his half-burned cell. The guards use big equipment to take off his hand cuffs that he wore for three days, because the key doesn't work anymore. He has severe wounds and burnings on his wrists.

**05/04 Steenokkerzeel** – Four immigrants try to escape from the closed centre 127bis, in the same way as others did some weeks earlier with a successful escape, by cutting the bars and passing by the roof. Unfortunately, they are seen by the guards and put in isolation.

**14/04 Verviers** – Two prisoners escape, using a screw driver they made a hole in the wall.

**18/04 Brussels** – In Anderlecht, youngsters shoot on police cars with an air rifle. Confrontation with the cops, two guys are arrested. Their friends go to the police station where they are held and new confrontations occur. A third person is arrested.

**19/04 Brussels** – In Molenbeek, a wild demo takes place against closed centers and prisons. Anti-riot cops block the demo and the people disperse.

**24/04 Brussels** – In Molenbeek, 50 persons go on wild demo to the police station after the arrest of a woman without papers that participated in a church occupation. The police circle the demo and some people are beaten. The woman is released.

**28/04 Lantin** – Anarchists gather at the prison of Lantin, shouting slogans and distributing pamphlets in a nearby neighborhood. Prisoners shout back, denounce their conditions and put fire to some cloths. Police arrests all anarchists and releases them shortly after. In the prison, a small confrontation takes places. Some prisoners and guards get hurt.

**29/04 Brussels** – 200 people gather in front of the Office for Foreigners (responsible for the deportations). Some people are beaten by anti-riot cops and a big part of them are arrested. In the night people gather again to demand their liberation, gathering in front of the justice building where police cars are blocked and some of their tires are slashed. Small barricades are put, the police uses the water canon to disperse the people. 15 people without papers are transferred to closed centers, the others are released.

**01/05 Merksplas** – An uprising breaks out in the closed center after the "suicide" of a prisoner in the isolation cell. Mattresses are burned and parts of the collective space are destroyed. For a moment, prisoners block the access to cops and doctors. The following days, troubles continue with for example the occupation of the yard, when prisoners refuse to return to their cells.

**01/05 Brussels** – An ATM of the Post Bank is burned. A message later clarifies: fire to the prisons – fire to the closed centers. The Post Bank manages the bank accounts in the prisons and closed centers.

**05/05 Brussels** – The headquarters of the Socialist Party are attacked. Windows are smashed and a slogan specifies: no to raids.

**21/05 Brussels** – In Etterbeek, two cars of Greek diplomats are burned in solidarity with the imprisoned anarchists in Greece.

**30/05 Verviers** – A whole night of riots in the prison. One wing is completely destroyed by the prisoners in revolt. At least 25 000 euros of damage.

**End of May Ghent** – A prisoner destroys his cell entirely and barricades himself inside. The guards force entry in his cell and use a water cannon. The prisoner is heavily beaten and put in isolation.

**05/06 Antwerp** - A prisoner attacks a guard who gets severely wounded.

**13/06 Brussels** – A metro station in Molenbeek is attacked by masked persons. Surveillance cameras, the windows of the station, the vending machines etc. are smashed. A slogan specifies: "Stop the raids".

**16/06 Brussels** – A van of the company ISS Cleaning is burned. ISS Cleaning does maintenance work in the closed centers.

**24/06 Brussels** – In Anderlecht, youngsters attack the police with stones after the arrest of a person. The person still gets arrested.

**25/06 Ghent** – An ATM of the Post Bank is burned and completely destroyed. The offices also suffer damages due to water and smoke.

**26/06 Antwerp** – A prisoner attacks the director and a guard with a self made knife.

**30/06 Brussels** – Four civil police inspectors are recognized and attacked by tens of youngsters. The four cops are hospitalized, no one is arrested.

**08/06 Steenokkerzeel** – Riot cops enter the center after a small rebellion. Eight prisoners are transferred to other centers.

**14/07 Charleroi** – Police executes a person who did not want to stop for a police control.

**16/07 Diksmuide** – Tens of cars seized by the police are burned.

**19/07 Ghent** – Two police vans are entirely burned on a parking lot. Four other cars are damaged.

**20/07 Turnhout** – A prisoner puts fire to his mattress and is put in isolation.

**21/07 Merksplas** – Two prisoners climb on the roof of the closed center. When police arrives, riots break out in the center. Windows and infrastructure are broken. It's only hours later that the police can reestablish order in the center.

**25/07 Leuven** – A guard is taken hostage by two prisoners demanding their liberation. A bit later, they release her and barricade themselves inside the library. They destroy the library and put fire to it. Special police forces intervene and put end to their revolt.

**27/07 Brussels** – A vehicle of the company FABRICOM GTI (Suez) is set on fire, close to the Royal Palace. Fabricom GTI is involved in the maintenance and construction of prisons.

**29/07 Brussels** – Immigrants without valid documents occupy several cranes on construction yards demanding regularization. A few days later, police puts an end to some occupations while other occupations are stopped by the people themselves.

**31/07 Merksplas** – Five prisoners revolt and cause huge damages by putting fire to a part of the prison. 70 prisoners had to be evacuated. Special police forces intervene to put down their revolt.

**01/08 Ghent** – Two cars of prison guards are burned on the parking lot of the prison.

**07/08 Nivelles** – Prisoners occupy the yard and refuse to return to their cells. After an hour of negotiations with the prison authorities about the conditions, they go back to their cells.

**16/08 Charleroi** – A police station is attacked with Molotov cocktails. The entrance of the building is damaged.

**24/08 Steenokkerzeel** – An uprising breaks out in the closed center. Prisoners put coordinated fire to the buildings, which destroys two of the three wings of the center. Some prisoners try to escape, only one succeeds.

**26/08 Steenokkerzeel** – Banners in solidarity with the burning of the center are put over the highway. In Brussels, tags in solidarity are put in all areas of the city.

**27/08 Leuven** – Farid Bamhoummad is transferred to the prison of Bruges. Guards gave as a reason that he broke a chair in the prison of Leuven. In Bruges, he has a severe physical fight with the guards and is put in the new isolation unit.

# Statement about the taking of hostages



*-This text was written by ABC RTS (Stuttgart and surrounding cities, Germany) to describe their response to the arrest of the Aachen4: Gabriel, Jose, Bart and Begona (Bart & Begona are now released). We are reproducing it here to shed more light on the Aachen case and to give it further circulation in light of the arrest of 3 anarchist comrades in Greece, for the kidnap of George Mylonas, one of the richest industrialists in the country. Whilst not directly dealing with the events and motivations in Greece, it lights an idea into the darkness of both cases. For Gabriel, Jose and others in Aachen, it was a desperate situation of trying to escape a police control and the torture of the Spanish isolation units, 'F.E.I.S'. For Polikarpos, Vagelis and Vasilis, it was a decision they took with determination as an action against the class enemy, the one who has us 'kidnapped' everyday, and they did not harm a hair on his head, which cannot be said for those on the other side who try to hold us all down...*

Gabriel and Jose are political prisoners who had escaped from the brutal F.I.E.S isolation units in Spain, and were on the run. Bart, a young anarchist from Belgium, and Gabriel's sister Begona were with them. After escaping a police identity control near the Belgium border, the 3 men changed their vehicles and took hostages, in an attempt to secure passage. Eventually they were cornered in a garage by police. Their trial ended September 2005. Gabriel and Jose were sentenced to 14 and 13 years, Bart 3 years and 6 months and finally Begona, who was not involved in the hostage taking and resistance was sentenced to 10 months probation. For more information and resources :

[www.escapeintorebellion.info](http://www.escapeintorebellion.info)

One of the charges Bart, Gabriel and José are accused of is the taking of two hostages – Mrs. and Mr. Schulz – at the petrol station on June 28th 2004, trying to escape from police control and the certain re-arrestment. We don't agree with this taking of hostages and we can't ignore, that the hostages are still traumatized and under psychological treatment. But this is no reason for us, not to stay in deep solidarity with our comrades, with whom we feel to be connected. But as the taking of hostages seems to be a main reason for the lack of solidarity, we see the importance of making a final statement about it.

We don't think, that it is necessary for solidarity-work to agree 100% with everything a person has done, because we refuse to put everything in black and white and rather try to point out the contradictions than to spare them out or whitewash them. For us, it's important, to see the context and reflect the causality of things that happened and therefore we have to consider different realities in the personal lives of people, and the social and political situation in other states – even if this reality is far away from the one we do know. For the Aachen-case this means to draw the attention towards F.I.E.S and the situation in Spanish prisons, both, Gabriel and José have suffered from. We can not isolate the things happened on June 28th from this reality and we have to take their experiences of being imprisoned and tortured for years and their conscious decision of refusing to be a victim of this circumstances into account. When we criticize the taking of hostages, we should criticize the structural frame of violence, within the freedom of action is restricted so much by laws and prohibitions, that sometimes human beings seem to be forced to use violence, not to become victims of violence themselves. When we keep this in mind, the hostages seem to fulfill the role of a "doubled victim". On a concrete way, they are victims of being taken as hostages; other people forced them with arms to do things, which are against their will. In a more abstract way, they have not only become "victims of victims", but victims of the social conflicts, which in the end, led to their situation. For this reason we don't have to wonder about, that the state doesn't give a shit about the hostages (support, therapy) but uses them to convict the Aachen prisoners. If people are arguing in an ideological manner, as many groups and individuals do, who refuse to support the prisoners because of the hostage-taking and the contradiction between libertarian ideas and the violence used, the reality of social conflicts is disguised. Of course, it's principally right, that libertarian basics can't be reconciled with violence or the threatening of it against innocent persons, to use them as means to an end or to subjugate them under their own will. But we have to look to the particular circumstances than to use libertarian principles in an orthodox way. When we consider the principles in the behaviour of human beings with each other in their fundament as a kind of

social agreement, than offences against them logically are a kind of social conflict. To look on and sanction only these offences means to ignore this conflict, unimportant if it is a political or social one (like it happens every day in the constitutional state). In case of the Aachen prisoners it's a political conflict, which is grown out of a social one, like every political conflict. As soon as a social conflict is recognized and it's believed, that the reason for this conflict was discovered, it gets a political conflict. It doesn't depend on the righteousness or legitimacy of the analysis. This recognition of the reasons for social conflicts led the Aachen prisoners, absolutely independent of each other, into a fundamental opposition of the ruling system of the ware-producing society – the anarchism or libertarian communism. We can see that the essential factors for the occurrences in Aachen came into being long before and not just there. Apart from old ideas, we see in the analysis of the ware-producing society or the capitalism, that it won't be finished off by itself but needs to be abolished. But the state, who is inseparably linked with this system, have the monopoly of using violence, without it, it couldn't fulfill its function. This structural violence (which doesn't need to be physical) has a daily effect on us and through us. This goes as far as most of people understand their situation in competition to other human beings as normal or even as a natural law. If this should not be the case, the constitutional monopoly of violence takes hold of, not to loose its basis. This means, that the abolishing of capitalism and the emancipation to a society of free associated persons, can not come peacefully. In their long time of imprisonment, 2 of the Aachen prisoners have made concrete experiences with one of the most terrible forms of asserting this monopoly of violence: torture. We think, that this recognitions and practical experiences have been the reason for that the Aachen prisoners have seen themselves forced to threaten uninvolved persons to escape from their hopeless situation. This happened out of the particular situation and never could be a libertarian tactic. Looking towards the circumstances, we think to be able to dissolve the contradictory behaviour. But if we argue ideologically, we find an indissoluble contradiction in the use of violence itself. Ideology so far is the disguise of social conflicts and for that the misjudgment of reality. For the subject it even can happen by a perceived image of the alleged reality, a subjective and not an objective image of reality arises. The perceived get disguised by subjective factors like aims or considerations. These are the factors that are taking effect on all of us, but only when we are not conscious of these effects, they are ideology-forming. But it seems like many people are just afraid to face a contradictory and brutal reality. We should analyse this fear of giving up its own subjective truth to overcome it and become strong enough to fight this brutal reality – as strong as our solidarity, we feel for our comrades as well.

Greetings and a big hug,

ABC RTS

### 3 Anarchists arrested in big kidnapping case (Greece)

On 20th of August 4 people got arrested in Greece on the accusation kidnapping with a large ransom being paid. The people arrested are Polikarpos Georgiadis, Vasilis Palaikostas, Vagelis Hrisohoides and one other, of whom the rest of the group has taken distance from because of his behaviour. On the 21st 4 other people got arrested for also playing a smaller role in the kidnapping. The person being kidnapped some months ago concerns the president of the union for heavy industry owners (employers syndicate) Georgos Mylonas, who not long ago caused some fuss over his sayings about working harder and longer in the factories. He was released after sum of 10 million euro's was paid, arranged by his wife. Media and police claim this money was meant for freeing Vasilis' brother from prison; Nikos Palaikostas. Pictures in the bourgeois press show the large variety of ammunition, Kalashnikovs, an RPG, explosive devices, bulletproof vests and fire brigade uniforms that were found at the arrest. Stories of the amount of money being found back change every day. Police says that a big part of the coupons were marked and at about 150 different places they found them back.

The history and traditions of Vagelis, Vasilis and Polikarpos in this case, but also of many other strikes against the exploitation and slavery of people, is important for the context of this kidnapping and social rebellion in general reality. Polikarpos and Vagelis are dear comrades in the anarchist scene since many years and have been very active. Polikarpos was sent to prison before on the 16th of April 2004, accused for attempted arson with an ignitable device against the vehicle of a private security company. The police tried to charge him with attempted arson and the possession of explosive devices, but could not proof anything. He stayed in pre-detention for one year and was found guilty anyway. He got out for having served already the one year prison sentence he finally got. During his time in prison he got to know Vasilis Palaikostas. The bourgeois media accused him a the time of being a bank robber as well, and from this point of view it fits them well to claim these days that Vasilis had "selected Polikarpos for a conspiracy in setting his brother, Nikos, free from prison". These two brothers are well known "legends" in the country for decades.

Since the fall of the Ottoman empire in 1821 Greece knows a very popular and great tradition of social and class robberies, as a respond to poverty and exploitation. These people would take back the money of the

rich, the authorities, the exploiters, and usually hide in villages, with the help of the people; they would refuse to help the police and protect them from the authorities. The rebels always had strong connections with the people and provided for their communities for instance in forms of financial support for education, medication and protection on their turn from the police. In this reality, the two brothers Vasilis and Nikos, and still many others, who grew up in a very poor family, couldn't take any longer the exploitation and slavery of themselves as well as of the people around them in this society, and thus have been living their lives as social rebels for the last 30 years. They made tens of bank robberies, car thefts and escapes from prison, but never had fancy clothes, drove expensive cars or lived in luxury houses. Indeed have once thrown the money back on the floor of the bank, because that little amount wasn't what they needed. Everything was always send to where it was needed and shared with the

people who protected them, hid them and still won't say a word to the police about their comrades.

During all these years they've been underground, while being traced by the police from time to time as well, either resulting in a successful escape by stolen cars, or unfortunate prison time. Always escaped from it however, with the loving and spectacular help of the other brother.

Throughout the 80's they did many robberies, until Nikos ended up in prison in 1988, but was released from it by his brother only a few days later, by throwing a rope over the wall of the prison outside. Two years later, in February 1990 he was arrested again. One month later Vasilis was unluckily caught with a friend, while trying to rescue his brother. This was supposedly the first time they were both in prison at the same time. In December 1990 though, Nikos escapes from Korydallos prison in Athens after a huge uprising in the prison, cops have then been looking for him for the next 16 years, until they caught him by accident when he was in a car crash in 2006. He has not been out ever since. In 1991 Vasilis manages to escape from Halkida prison. In 1992 he robs a bank. In 1995 they rob a bank together in Athens. In December 1995 they're being accused of having

kidnapped the president of a "halvas" factory, Haitoglou. They supposedly let him go after four days and 750.000 euro's ransom. The minister of public order send out a warrant, on tv, radio and posters, with their picture and a reward of also exactly 750.000 euro's. In 1996 Vasilis was traced by the cops in Korfu, but managed to escape from them by taking a car. Two years later the same situation appeared in Yanitsa, and again in May 1999. In 2003 Nikos makes a spectacular escape with a helicopter. In 2006 Nikos robbed a bank in Veria by bicycle and got away because the masses of police out there were completely preoccupied with the protection president visiting the streets of Veria at that very moment. In September of that year he had the car accident and got locked up again after many years of living on the run and in hiding.

The police found out about the identity and whereabouts of the group because the fourth men, was spending large



**George Mylonas, 49, the owner of Greece's largest aluminum extraction firm who was kidnapped by gunmen on June 9, 2008 in Thessaloniki. Mylonas is one of the top industrialists in the country, he was released unharmed on June 23, 2008 after a ransom had been paid to the kidnapers.**

sums of cash money on luxury cars in Crete. Also because Georgos Mylonas had stated to the police that during his kidnapping he had heard airplanes flying over very frequently. With the arrest of the man in Crete they found out he rented a house in Souroti, a quiet area near Thessaloniki, close to the airport. Police claims that with 14 special force cops, and 10 civil cops (it's very likely there were way more), they surrounded the house in Souroti. Both Vasilis and Polikarpos were arrested there, where they had also kept Mylonas and the artillery. Later on, the cops found a stash of guns and 3 million euros at the house of Vasilis. On the 26th August they appeared before the court and received remand until trial, which could be up to 18 months time, but it does not look like the state wants to let any of them out soon.

Vasilis Palaikostas was sent to the prison of Corfu, Kerkya, one of the most brutal and worst places to try to escape from. Vagelis Hrisohoides was sent to Domokos and Polikarpos Georgiadis was sent to Ioannina.

**Break in the walls!**

# Letter from Polikarpos Georgiadis: "Did Anybody Talk About Kidnapping?"

*"The proletariat of the industrial countries has completely lost the affirmation of its autonomous perspective and also, in the last analysis, its illusions, but not its being. It has not been suppressed. It remains irreducibly in existence within the intensified alienation of modern capitalism: it is the immense majority of workers who have lost all power over the use of their lives and who, once they know this, redefine themselves as the proletariat, as negation at work within this society".*

**Guy Debord**

Since the nineties different people who've expressed themselves about post-modern typology wearing a different mask every time (sometimes of the neo-liberal, sometimes of the "middle political scene", sometimes of the social democrats, sometimes of the ideologists of tepidity and confused multi cultural neo-leftism that mixes everything up, and sometimes the mask of the "anti authoritarian" new-hippie lifestyle ) ruminate/brag about the ideology of the end of history: there is no more proletariat, there is no class war, we can at last without fear head towards the Paradise of Market, where honey and milk flow abundantly. And hamburgers and ketchup too...

Unfortunately for the apologists of legality, the facts are stubborn: a handful of capitalists has organized a criminal gang and kidnapped proletarians demanding for ransoms, their working power, the commercialization of human activity, their time (that transforms into money), even their whole existence. Wage slavery is a permanent crime against human dignity. It's not just because of the usual 'casualties' of work "accidents" of class war. It's not just because of the dead, wounded and amputated people of the work "accidents", but also because of the diseases related to the working environment and space. It's not just because of the strawberry fields, that show us we've never escaped the time of slavery. It's not just because of the sacrificed workers (locals and immigrants, "expensive and cheap" labor hands) at the altar of every "American dream" or "Greek miracle". It is the existence itself of waged work that constitutes the permanent crime! And the criminals, the kidnapers and the blackmailers are all the Mylonas. Even if the rats of the media present the leader of thieves Mylonas (the boss of the gang for common thieves of the Federation of Industries of Northern Greece) as an "innocent" victim, as a misunderstood neo-liberal Christian child, as a pain resistant worker, who makes efforts night and day for the common good.

As for the illusionist tricks that different vampires like Mylonas invent to show their "human face" (for example green capitalism,

socialised industry, etc.), only one thing can be said:

**SATIRE HAS ITS LIMITS...**

Mylonas is no more than the brain of a gang of exploiters. Like all capitalists he too is a parasite: a weight on earth and an obstacle for winds.

So the Mylonas couple should stop pretending to be raped virgins .

*"O gentlemen, the time of life is short!*

...

*And if we live, we live to tread on kings"*

**W.Shakespeare**



*"The first duty of the proletariat is the consciousness of itself, of its position and its role. The consciousness of being a prostitute in the hands of a capitalist, of producing wealth for the bosses and misery for itself. The consciousness on the other hand that produces the whole material life of society. That it is nothing but CAN BE EVERYTHING.*

*The second duty of the proletariat is the denial of its imposed role, the denial of work, the denial of alienation.*

*The third duty of the proletariat which arises naturally from the first duties, is the revolutionary action for it's own suppression.*

*Only the subjects can ignite the objective conditions and cause the revolutionary explosion for the destruction of the authoritarian/class society."*

From: *'The art of war', 6th issue of "Asymmetric threat"*

Unfortunately in the wild west of capitalism the proletarians lullaby with

trash eating over consumerism. Life has evolved into a necrophilic survival between cages of cement, cars, billboards, surveillance cameras and cops. The route of survival is assigned: from one concentration camp to another. From school to university, from army to wage slavery. And there the proletarian crosses the same streets of alienation as the night walker: work, home, shopping mall, work. From production to consumption...

Behind the iron curtain of virtual prosperity and spectacular misery lies an unadmitted truth: the miracle of the west walks over corpses. Not only of those in the third world (either way this constant exploitation is the most gigantic crime of human history), but also of those in the third world in the west.

Behind a glance of being high on consumption hides the rot of a slaughtering civilization. But from inside this rot one possibility springs up. A possibility that not even the think tanks of the existent system, not even the bureaucratic certainties of Bolshevism, not even the paleolithic determinism of ideologies can repress: the social entropy, the revolution, the constant struggle for the destruction of the state, of private property and of waged work.

Comrades! Life is short. If we live, we live to step on the heads of bosses and their slaves.

**For anarchy and communism!**

*Polikarpos Georgiadis,*

Prisons of Ioannina,  
01/09/2008

**P.S.1** As in the past also now, in my public speech I will not speak about issues of the penal code. Moreover "innocence" and "guiltiness" are fake distinctions that concern only the legal armory of the state. The only thing that I want to say about the case, is that I was and I am in solidarity, as anarchist as well as a friend, to an illegal and haunted man, Vasilis Paleokostas. From there on, my speech will be a continuity of my pre-arrest placement and not a whine for "innocence".

**P.S.2** Economical and legal support is good. So are wishes for freedom, but the strongest form of solidarity is the continuation of revolutionary action.

-Freedom to the comrades G. Dimitrakis, G. Voutsis-Vougiatsis and V. Botzatzis.

-Freedom for the revolutionaries of the revolutionary organisation 17th of November.

-Solidarity to the 6 wanted comrades.

**-Revolution first and always-**



## Letter from Fenix Delgado

**Fenix is one of three Chilean students whose case they are attempting to apply the anti-terrorist laws to, for throwing a Molotov cocktail.**

19/11/08

### *To conscious minds and solid hearts:*

I find myself imprisoned in Temuco prison, a product of a cheap set-up doctored by the Public Ministry with the permission of the State. With this set-up they look to criminalise the limit of the absurd, refusing me my legitimate right to manifest my discontent against those who flaunt their power and the small amount of people whose money is made from the sweat and blood of many.

I am a prisoner for my ideas! They have blamed me for having thrown a Molotov at a cop car. So what is the reason for applying such a harmful law.

They fear these ideas, the same way they start to fear the discontent of so many brothers in struggle that they dare to criticize. We should oppose the desperate measures of a fascist democracy that censors and punishes us. I invite you to fight for my freedom as part of fight for the freedom of all of you, of your ideas and the right to be consistent with them. I am grateful for the support of all those that have accompanied me, and my family in this hard job, lamentably the enemy is powerful and we only have truth and the participation of all those that are conscious of this injustice in our favour.

The walls of this repression threaten to maintain me here for a lot of time without liberty, it is because of this that your participation has become indispensable, for it gives me strength and hope. It is necessary that the participation is maintained, that the authorities would know that we are not alone and that they feel pressured to do away with this injustice. The organisation of all those that feel part of this fight is indispensable. To unite forces to turn power around so it reaches a major unity.

No to the injustices of authority, we will be able to demonstrate that, YES, we are able to defeat it. I have faith that we will gain my freedom and the freedom of Jonathan. I trust in all those that up until now have helped me; my friends, compañeros from university, the anonymous people who have joined up and especially my closest family....

*Fenix*

## *On Struggle, Prison & Social control... by Anon.*

Once they have finally moved me to my new cell, I collapse on the mattress, exhausted from the previous days, weeks, months... I lay there for ages. As the days tick by, my soul wells up inside of me, standing up; I beat my hands against my chest, singing, letting it all out, through the cracks of the door. Their control room is right next to my cell, I beat against the walls, singing through the top of my lungs, hope they can hear me. I draw pictures on napkins and wet them slightly to stick up on the walls. I write and write and write. I receive no letters or mail, although I am sure and soon to find out I am being sent them from as far as the other side of the globe.

Dying for social interaction with other prisoners, or anyone except guards, but only allowed outside by my cell for half an hour, turns out to be in a fenced off area, it is cold, I press the button for them to let me back into my cell. There is no answer, I look for something to destroy, I climb up the fence and am ripping at the steel wires like a caged monkey. Eventually they take me back to my cell, I don't go out again. I sing, slap and bang things, beat boxing, generally making noises, eat some shit food, drink loads of tea and watch the burning cars and molotov's being thrown on the television screen, wishing I was there, but knowing I am in here for them, and they are out there for us.

I haven't spoken to anyone now except briefly with guards about what's in the food. It's the first experience I have had not speaking with people for this amount of time and it's hard to deal with. Despite the physical exhaustion from the time prior to this (that is from working, sleepless nights hitching across the European continent, throwing cobble stones out on the streets, being tear gassed and water blasted, beaten, tied up, made to sit in indignant positions for hours without blood circulation in the wrists, screaming at cops and for friends...) I force myself to do press ups and sit ups. I dance in my cell to the music bursting out of my mind, wishing I had music. The structure of the institute itself in it's operation, function and strategy begins to pour through my brain like battery acid, burning through all sensibility developed throughout my life and our species. There is nothing human about this, other than the humans who's time and labor have been purchased by the state to control the other humans whose bodies are forcibly possessed on behalf of the powers of commerce who require safety in their arenas for production and consumption. Safe in the sense that their highly unstable exploitative capitalist system plough's through the fabric and strength of the community with it's dehumanizing program of social destruction, to reinforce this and provide a safe path towards ultimate destruction of the biosphere... for digits in a database which are symbolic of 'wealth' to be exchanged for the good's made by slaves...

And I can't help but feel a sense of relief at the escape from the intensity of never-ending struggle. The pacification, docility and numbness I feel by being contained, to have my life taken from me. I am completely by myself without possibility of communication with anyone other than guards, not allowed in anyone one place long enough to engage. I have not experienced this sort of overwhelming social control, and it almost overpowers the deep need and desire to resist.

It is from this experience and others experiences like this, prison abolition becomes a far higher priority in the struggle for dignity, than it ever previously was. I didn't used to understand the importance of prison resistance, but now I can't ignore it for a second. The most intense feeling I have ever experienced, is a desire for freedom, it is this intense feeling which manifest itself almost nightly in the dreams about being hunted, arrested, incarcerated, or committed.

I realize now that I and many many friends are in vulnerable positions (or already under the weight of the state control) and that if we ever hope for a life on the outside, in which we do not live in our fear of the worst, that our spirit can only survive through abolition of not only prisons, but every piece of surveillance equipment, DNA database, bank, passport, certificates and control-technology. And that power remains in hands of people and not technocracies, corporations, religions and states.



Over the past week and a half, (15 June 2008) an unprecedented political crackdown has been enacted in advance of a series of economic summits around the country. Despite this, the brave workers of Kamagasaki stood up against the stiff security environment in riots against the brutal beating of a day laborer over the past five days. The twin situations of repression and revolt deserve to be examined in more detail.

### Repression

In the run-up to the series of G8 summits, over 40 people were arrested in pre-emptive sweeps of broad left and anarchist groups.

On May 29th, 38 people were arrested at Hosei University in Tokyo at a political assembly against the G8. These large-scale arrests were carried out by over 100 public security agents after the students staged a march across campus protesting the summits. Some of the arrestees are still jailed, and among them are apparently some leadership of the Chuukaku-ha Leninist organization, one of the largest organizations of its kind in Japan. On June 4th, Tabi Rounin, an active anarchist from the Kansai region, was arrested on accusation of having his address registered at a location other than where he was living. When arrested, his computer, cell phone, political flyers and more was taken from him; these items were used when detectives interrogated him, asking him about his relationship to internationals possibly arriving for the G8, as well as his activity around Osaka. He would be the first obviously political arrest masked as routine police work.

On June 12th, an activist from the Kamagasaki Patrol (an Osaka squatter and anti-capitalist group), was arrested for allegedly defrauding lifestyle assistance payments. This person has been constantly followed by plainclothes police and even helicopters during demonstrations. Clearly, his arrest was planned with the idea of keeping him away from the major anti-summit mobilizations and he will be held without bail for the maximum of 23

days until the summit is over. The office of an anarchist organization called the Free Worker was raided in order to look for 'evidence' in this comrade's case.

The same day the Rakunan union in Kyoto was raided, with police officers searching their offices and arresting two of their members on suspicion of fraudulent unemployment insurance receipt. One of these two arrested are accused of funneling money received from unemployment insurance to the Asian Wide Campaign, which was organizing against the economic summits. In the meantime, Osaka city mobilized thousands of police with the pretext of preventing terrorism against the summit, setting up inspection points and monitoring all around the city. But the strengthened state high on its own power inevitably deployed it in violence, and turned the day laborers of southern Osaka against it in riot.

temporarily seized. The riot stopped around midnight with the riot police being backed into the police station. The next day they brought over 35 police buses and riot vehicles into the Naniwa police station with the intention of using these against the rioters.

During the riot, the police surveilled rioters from the top of the police station, from plainclothes positions and from a helicopter. Riot police with steel shields were deployed all around the neighborhood in strategic places to charge in when the action kicked off. The workers organizations which by the second day were maintaining the protest had chosen a good time to do so because the police department proved unwilling to unleash the direct, brutal charges seen in the 1990 riot due to the international spotlight focused on them. On Saturday a police infiltrator was found in the crowd, pushed up against a fence and smashed in the head with a metal bar.

## In the Shadow of G8: Repression and Revolt in Japan..



### Revolt

Kamagasaki is a traditionally day laborer neighborhood that has experienced over thirty riots since the early 1960s. The last riot in Kamagasaki was sparked in 1990 by police brutality and the exposure of connections between the police and Yakuza gangs.

The causes this time were not much different. A man was arrested in a shopping arcade near Kamagasaki and taken to the Nishinari police station where he was punched repeatedly in the face by four detectives one after another. Then he was kicked and hung upside down by rope to be beaten some more.

He was released the next day and went to show his friends the wounds from the beatings and the rope. This brought over 200 workers to surround the police station and demand that the police chief come out and apologize. Later people also started demanding that the four detectives be fired. Met with steel shields and a barricaded police station, the crowd began to riot, throwing stones and bottles into the police station. Scraps with the riot police resulted in some of their shields and equipment being

The riot has lasted since the 13th and every night there is a resumption of hostility between the day laborers and the cops. Workers so far refuse anything less than the fulfillment of their demands in light of the police brutality incident. Despite the call from more 'moderate' NGOs to 'stop the violence' there has been no let-up in hostility towards the police, although the real level of violent confrontation is not as strong as the weekend of the 13th-15th. The riot has been characterized by the participation of young people as well as the older day laborers in confrontation with the police. As the guarantors of everyday exploitation under capitalism who have to assertively maintain the constant dispossession of the urban working class, the police have many enemies. This they are finding out every night.

Over the past couple of days there have been points where more than 500 people have gathered and rioted around the neighborhood. Police have responded mainly by defending the Nishinari police station, their home base, while getting back up from the local Naniwa police station, which has a riot countermeasure practicing lot, and holds tens of anti-riot vehicles. Despite this mighty arsenal, the police were perhaps surprised when they deployed their tear gas cannon on the first day only to be met with cries of joy and laughter. The use of force no longer has any spell of intimidation, it is simply expected.

Still, the combined brutality of the police and their riot vehicles has netted over 40 arrests (including many young people), many injuries and even blinded one worker with a direct shot of tear gas water to his right eye.

# The Festival is Over

## Japan Resistance Report 2008 <<<

The struggle here is inevitably limited by the particular situations of day laborers, who are dispatched to their job sites and have no direct access to the means of production that standard wage workers would. This prevents them from for instance calling political strikes against police brutality, and hitting powerful interests in the city where they really hurt. As workers deprived of these means to struggle, the day laborers will always have the riot as a method not only of collective defense but for also forcing concessions from the city in the form of expanding welfare access, creating jobs, backing off of eviction campaigns etc. While these are more or less important gains strictly in terms of survival, it is important to explore the possibilities of spreading the antagonism of the Kamagasaki workers to the larger population of exploited people in order to imagine doing away with this power structure once and for all.

It is unclear exactly where the situation is headed, but we can know for sure that the real repression in Kamagasaki will arrive after the summits have ended and the focus is off of the Japanese government. Then we will see the raids, the arrests and the scapegoating of particular individuals for the righteous outburst of class violence that these riots are. Instead of quietly accepting their fates as people to be trampled upon, the participants have directly attacked the wardens of wage labor who guarantee the violence of everyday slum life.

Overall, the ongoing repression against those involved in organizing against the G8 summit as well as Kamagasaki should not convince anyone that the ruling class here is once again afraid of the working class. In repressing certain left groups organizing against the economic summits, the Japanese government is more interested in preventing a movement from emerging that starts to question capital at the macro level, than actually attacking an existing one. On the other hand in Kamagasaki, the state tries to deny the possibility of antagonism in a major metropole and the visibility of this revolt, for fear of it spreading. This is why most news reports have blacked out the ongoing riots in Kamagasaki. The concreteness and universality of the Kamagasaki revolt truly threatens to expand beyond the borders of police violence. Visitors to Kamagasaki from near and far have over the past five days participated and found their own struggle in riots fought by total strangers. The ruling class fears and knows that it cannot control this horizontal sympathy and the real practice of revolt that accompanies it.



Japan can be described as a decaying high-tech quasi-corporatist island state, hostile to many of its neighbouring countries. Several Japanese companies which benefited from slave labour in WW2, Mitsubishi etc, still operate. Japan is re-arming itself militarily and has never firmly broke with its fascist & imperialist past, the state attempts to enforce a high level of social control but even so, there does remain tumultuous outbreaks of anarchy that no-one can predict occurring, moments of incredible beauty, like Osaka in 13-21 June 2008, when an incident of police brutality sparked fierce rioting in Kamagasaki, a working class district.

The government is very repressive against the social movements in no small part to the serious revolutionary disturbances of the 60's & 70's onwards, with some underground autonomous groups still existing in hiding today. Japan is not the stable, comfortable place that the media tries to portray, and there are many people living a very precarious life of poverty and exclusion.

Not only in violent response to repression was there was a stark difference between the 6 day riot in Osaka and the anti-G8 events which took place almost simultaneously in Hokkaido, northern most island of the Japanese archipelago.

In Hokkaido a tiny number of anti-globalisation activists, socialists, pacifists, environmentalists, NGOS, and of course, anarchists, were systematically suppressed in Sapporo from the onset of the entire organised counter-events. They were violently prevented on the most minor terms from having a peaceful street demo with a sound-system truck, the driver absurdly wrestled out by a posse of cops in a characteristic move of attacking vulnerable demos where the cops feel they can be aggressive and have the

sanction of the media to do so. The sound-demo in Tokyo was the usual suppressed event, despite the evident rage of some of the people against the police restrictions. Anti-globalisation academics flew in and flew out again, presentations and counter-conferences were organised, promoting this or that new book or hip social theory in venues where you usually had to pay to enter. The spectacle was maintained, commodities were sold, careers were trod.

The media build-up to the G8 was extremely questionable, with mainstream media meeting the German anti-G8 'Dissent' delegation in the months before the events at the air-port like movie-stars. Unfortunately the 'Dissent' delegation participated with the mainstream media, something we completely disagree with, viewing it as counter-productive and antagonistic to our hostility to the agenda of the corporations and government. The media was customarily both hysterically curious and dismissive, with the accompanying usual alerts to hold the image in the mind of terrorists like the



Japanese Red Army, Aum or Al-Qaeda. The base population simply got on with their lives.

In Osaka when a day-worker was discovered beaten and tortured by the inner-city police during the G8 clamp-down period, the whole area lit up with unmediated anti-police, anti-system

rage, it didn't matter so much that there was also a secondary G8 ministers meeting happening at the time in the city, we guess people were pretty angry. In addition the squatted parks around the city act as semi-autonomous areas of free space, with information and material distribution, so the news spread fast. There is a closeness to the people who have known each other in a collective fight for some time and they know the lay of the city to their advantage. Kamagasaki is a fighting working class neighbourhood, they do not need to be convinced by a street-party to *dance*.

The anti-G8 events were characterised by a strong focus on structure, on the logistics of organising an 'event'. The actions borrowed the structure of past anti-G8 action; in particular organisers in Japan used their experience of the G8 in Germany the previous year.

We don't doubt the sincerity of the people who spent so much time and effort in organising the resistance against the G8, but for us this structure was applied superficially. There was not much analysis of *how* and *why* people wanted to act against the summit, or what the *aims* of action were. There seemed to be a lack of preparation for an attack from the cops and lack of de-centralised actions outside the central sound-demo(s), which seemed to come from lack of initiatives and conflictual attitude of solidarity on the part of the Japanese groups and also internationals not sufficiently understanding the operating environment. The international anti-G8 infotour for the G8 was extensive, across many countries and continents, why was the mobilisation so weak? Did it rely too much on a dependency for 'outside' numbers and pose a logistical complexity beyond the capabilities of the organising initiative?

In contrast to the more spontaneously created, structureless rioting in Osaka, the G8 action involved hierarchical organising. While on the surface borrowing the structure of previous anti-G8 events, the idea of leadership was very present in the organisation. The only way out is to completely denounce their methods and their ambition, what exists of it. Space seems significant in this, the lack of autonomous spaces in Japan affected the mentality of organisation; without the actual physical space to situation oneself in, it's difficult



to practice and build non-hierarchical collective organising for a mass of people.

Although lacking in much action, the anti-G8 events did create some discussion around the methods of organisation. The challenge of a small, politically diverse, international group, trying to react against the G8 created an environment where there was no alternative but to engage as a group, and discuss political tactics.

In Hokkaido anti-G8 camp, internationals were separated from the decision making process and told that any action that was not approved by the organisers would result in certain arrest, job loss and prison (for the central organisers), therefore the usual putting pressure on everyone to toe the line. Also the inappropriate plan to march 20 Km in the countryside where there would be little chance to have any effect on the actual proceedings of the G8 is irritating to say the least. The lack of opportunity for discussion around the tactics chosen by the central activist clique was dis-empowering and shows the weakness in the adoption of structure without adequately thinking about content. Without a collective confrontational position to capitalism on our *own terms*, our 'resistance' appears to amount to nothing but words, a gesture, a trend, then back to our routines.

Unfortunately, as well as this superficial structure, the NoG8 action was without a sense of spontaneity, raw feeling, passion, anger, or catalyst for action, as was seen in Osaka. Combined with massive amounts of self-repression, and the reality of a huge police presence, the result was an event lacking in direction or power.

*"Coming nowhere near to the goal of 'shutting down the summit', the protests were largely characterized by complacent marches in the shadow of \$280 million dollars spent on security and 21,000 police goons lined up against a mere 1,000 or so protesters. From the beginning, the organizers formally negotiated with the police and paid the price: the marches passed nowhere near the meeting site and instead were forced into routes through the countryside at obscene distances, epitomized by a 22km daytime march through mountains and forest roads that only 100 people attended after the vast majority of participants denounced it and refused to attend. Despite the 'good behavior' of the organizers, four activists were nevertheless arrested for pathetically arbitrary reasons, such as having three people at a time on the sound system float (only two were allowed). Media coverage was mostly absent, even in 'independent media' despite the presence of hundreds of cameras. It is safe to say that the protests were not noticed at all, and even on their own limited terms were failures. Will there be people brave enough to admit this?"*  
**anonymous rebel/datacide**

This is not so much just a critique of some of our Japanese comrades as a critique of the Pavlovian activist mindset whereby a generic response is rolled out regardless of the specifics of people and place. What success the G8 protests achieved was found in bringing together new interactions between Japanese anti-capitalists and internationals.

What happened - or didn't happen - in Japan is no surprise. An international call out was produced because that is what was expected: that is the model - unreflected, insupportable (in terms of infrastructure) and inappropriate. The fact that Japan is, as a political, social and subcultural entity, so extremely different from those places where these summits have been held and attacked before simply threw the poverty of the ritual into sharp relief.

So, for us the anti-G8 protests were characterised by massive self-surveillance and self-repression, and difficulty in breaking out of a sense of isolation and individualization. The 'activist' response to the G8 was dis-empowering in contrast to the necessary, spontaneous chaotic rioting in Osaka which was grounded in a reality of social conflict against the conditions of a repressive daily life.



The G8 action and the Osaka riots highlighted a stark divide between people pushed to a point of necessary action, and the 'activist scene', where there is a feeling of having too much to lose to take action. Comparably, this situation in Japan is suggestive of where the organised 'activist scene' in United Kingdom is at from an outsiders perspective: revolving around structured events, without either a depth of analysis, spontaneity or position of conflict, leading to an inactive 'scene' and decaying 'sub-culture', without clear targets and ways to fight them.

Anarchists and other uncontrollables in Osaka felt it was pointless going to Hokkaido, the struggle is in their city, most certainly away from the concentrated forces of the enemy in a rural area. This is where only those who readily control mass access to transport and personnel can win the engagement due to the environment.



They felt that also there was an undiscovered element of 'white supremacy' in the assumption that imported Anglo-Atlantic models will be the best ones for the Japanese situation, and that 'activist' methods can be a symbolic theater that is not based on collective action in the face of a repressive system, but is a reaction to a temporary media event of authority. Also maybe only more financially solvent North American and European activists have a possibility to enter and this was not automatically available to closer comrades in East Asia. This effects not only the amount of people who come but also maybe the readiness for conflict, due to the heavy sentences given out by the Japanese state, which are a different reality, it is not a joke. Japanese prisons are notoriously harsh but they are nothing compared to the realities of life in many prisons of the majority world. When you add together the possibility of not clearing immigration because of problems with visas, money, -if you are an international-, and then heavy jail time for very minor actions, you have to think very clearly about the situation you find yourself in. If we face this much repression for centralized 'legal' 'pacifist' public actions, we have to seriously think about the social terrain we find ourselves in and how best to act.

In Japan, the problem is one of visibility, of having a visible anti-capitalist/anarchist infrastructure, as the resources available to the anti-capitalist movement are small, there are few infoshops, collective housing

projects, squats etc. The state uses media, secret police, surveillance, manipulation, judicial harassment and imprisonment in a thorough manner, anyone who is identified as a threat will find themselves constantly on minor charges, house searches, this amounts to personal harassment, stalking, it is intended to be injurious to the mentality and so on, to hold people into keeping respectful of the seemingly all-encompassing power of the

government. So, the G8 in Japan was difficult to react against. Obviously G8 summits are organised in a way that anyway tries to remove the possibility of sparks of conflict or catalyst, such as holding them in remote rural locations. The 'countryside' in the industrialised world is always a 'theme park' or an 'unforgiving advantage' to those with superior technology, logistics and control of movement.

Despite it's problems, Osaka benefits from having a long-running class struggle based practically on resisting the conditions of day-labour. The revolt against capitalism is already a potential in the tens of thousands of exploited who find themselves rolled over in this economy. It consists in recognizing that the currency crisis is a result of the search for capitalist value in the American markets since the fall of the Soviet Union, and not a result of the particular failures of bank policy in any one country. That's where new allies, new struggles and new praxis emerge from. The anti-globalization movement has been stone-cold dead for years. The G8 protests were so far distanced from actual on-the-ground praxis in Japan that it is difficult to think of them apart from something like an anime convention.

The revolt against the industrialised world will not come from the countryside now the majority of the world lives in cities, it comes from within the contradictions and excluded zones of the mega-metropolis' themselves, the most critical place to stop the economy, and seize control of the streets.

Kamagasaki has been rebelling since the 1960s, but only rarely have there been effective interventions there that have had the potential to get bigger (most notably the new left interventions of the 70s, but even that was really problematic). We have to find a way to overcome the limitations of riots, to destroy not only the police station but the economy, to push for a social war and the end of capitalism. To push a situation of disparate anger into a position of class strength and self-organisation.

Repeatedly going to places of conflict where the possibilities are defined by the agenda of the state we see as a dangerous mistake, the 'difficult' condition of modern warfare is 'urban' precisely because this is the arena where our everyday lives are made. Where the commodities are produced and sent forth, where the utilities are run, where the octopus of cables multiples and spreads, where the schools, hospitals, bureaucratic and financial houses are run.

*This is what is at stake.*

For a future without capital & coercion.

**Some anarchists always in exile.**

## Osaka comrade given prison term for riot

### Greetings with indomitable soul

19th Nov 2008, comrade Y-San received an unjust sentence of 2 years and 2 months despite our struggle for his rescue. He has already been in custody in Osaka prison, not knowing when and where he will be sent. He says he wants to get out and come back even if it is only one day earlier. We will continue to visit him with articles, keep a place for him to come back and prepare ourselves for revenge.

(ABC Osaka/Free Workers Union)

# Interview with Christian S, Anti-Fascist in German Prison [..Continued]



**Q: Firstly can you explain the general conditions inside prison?**

A: Berlin's justice system tries to make prisons run with the minimal possible effort of employees and at low costs. Investigations only take place in order to safeguard security. Soon the construction of a new jail will be started, with the intention of deterrence and separation as well as undermining the health of prisoners. Most of the prisoners are locked up in solitary cells between 18 and 23 hours per day, which depends on the safety standard of each department. Because of overcrowding some solitary cells are even occupied with two inmates. Food and medical care are both extremely bad. In some jails discipline is achieved by attacks of brutal commando-style beatings which sometimes lead to signs of solidarity between inmates. Other prisons, e.g. Ploetzensee, were able to create a form of internal surveillance, by recruiting captives as police spies.

**Q: You are refusing to work inside- what is the work in prison, what role does it play within the system, what are the consequences of not working and what are other prisoners attitudes to work and those who choose not to work?**

A: Because of not being supported from outside many prisoners want to work. Working enables them to order food and tobacco. Being exploited doesn't really matter for most of them. For the prison itself it is really important that prisoners work to avoid the upsurge of hungerstrikes or revolts for tobacco, and obviously for economic reasons. There is work, no self-respecting person can do, for example welding grates, repairing locks and generally all the construction and workshop work. I also refuse to clean staff rooms. Right winged prisoners especially like to take those jobs, and even assist with searching the belongings of newly arrived prisoners. I refused to work for one of these establishments, because I don't want to give profit to the justice system. My refusal hasn't been followed by any consequences, with others they try to enforce "Haftkosten" (inmates paying for the costs of their imprisonment). Some can't sleep at night, that's why they can't wake up the next morning for work. In the meantime I started working as a "Hausarbeiter" which means allocating the shop in my unit. This job means that I don't have to work for any employees, that I am able to get information and that I can have some effect on the other inmates.

**Q: Next I'd like to ask you about building a struggle within prison- do you identify yourself as a political prisoner to other prisoners, what is the political atmosphere within the prison?**

A: In prison you are questioned all the time for the reasons you are inside, and when I respond that I'm inside because of attacking Nazi demonstrations most of them take a position. 90% of the Germans in here are more or less rightwing, but many of the Arab and Polish people are antisemitic as well. Almost all hate gays. Certainly people in here realise when there's a solidarity demo for me taking place in front of the prison or one can read something in the newspaper. The criminal underclass isn't agitated enough by left radicals, we first have to pull them onto our side of the barricades again.

**Q: How do you think we could develop contact between those on the outside and those on the inside, what are the obstacles facing the anti-prison movement?**

A: An anti-prison movement should work on their perception inside of the prisons. Most of the prisoners don't even know that left radicals exist or what they want. There's a need for publications being sent into prison and one should communicate actions in a better way. When there are assaults against companies or public authorities because of their function within the penal system, prisoners should know as well. To be taken seriously by so-called criminals we should offer something, e.g. affordable lawyers, advice for relatives of prisoners, or solidarity actions like those that took place for the hungerstrike in August.

**Q: Do you think it is useful to turn prisons into a single issue or should it be addressed by the anarchist/anti-authoritarian movements as part of their general analysis and action?**

A: Prison is only the last brick in the chain of repression. It starts in school and at your place of employment. Repression has its exponents in caretakers, shop detectives and ticket inspectors. There are not only the cops but the sleuthhounds of the employment centre and the vigilantes. We should fight against this repression machinery as a whole and identify how

it all hangs together. People who have already demolished a surveillance camera in their housing area, wouldn't break that fast in prison. The governmental mosaic of oppression is made in such a complex way, that our only possibility to dismantle it is piece by piece, while strategically we must continue to see it in its full completeness.

**Q: What do you consider solidarity to mean, do you think it is productive for solidarity campaigns to be highly personalised and focused on one individual?**

A: I'd rather have stayed anonymous, but after the pigs ripped me apart the solidarity work had to become more focussed on me. Many people often become active for an individual rather than for an idea. I hope that solidarity for me or other prisoners is only the catalyst for those wanting to settle up with the penal system as a whole. Every movement should be measured by the way it treats those in prison.

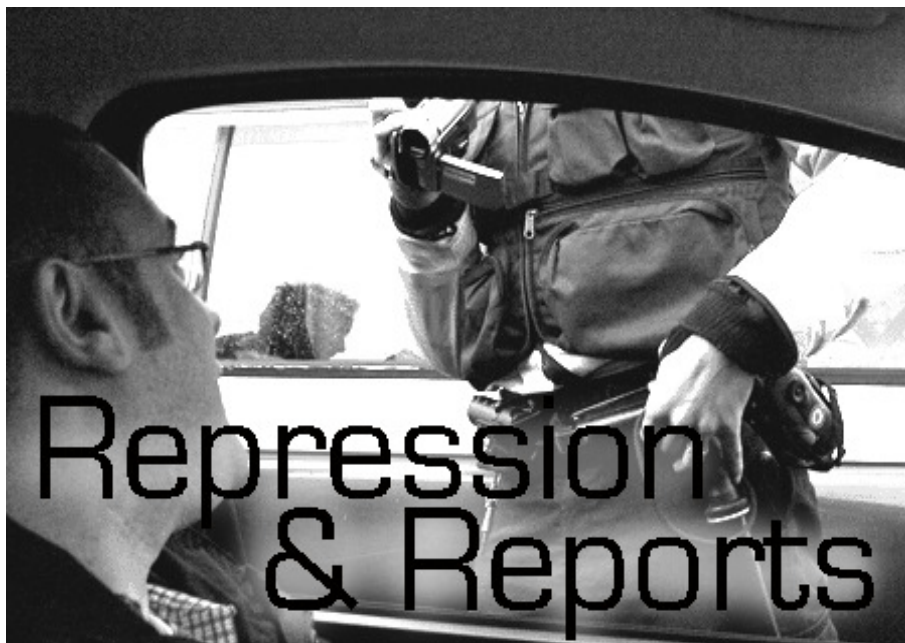
**Q: Do you find prisons become more technologised, are they becoming more on cameras, automated doors and technological control, what psychological impact do you think this has on prisoners and prison staff?**

A: Most of the prisons around Berlin and other districts are over 100 years old. Living there is like travelling through time into the past and you can feel the traditions of murder and oppression. The security of the prison is made ever more effective and there's hardly any breakouts. It leads prisoners to hopelessness. Employees are afraid, because hostage-taking would be the only chance for an escape. Only modern prisons are a bit more comfortable, but you feel alone anyway.

**Q: Is the prison you are being held in privatised in any way?**

A: One company manages the shopping for all of Berlin's prisons. Another one controls the equipment that's brought in, a third company hires TV's and cable connections. There's an extra company for phone calls and some specialists from outside installing alarms and paying attention to the barbed wire. Several companies exploit the workers. Public authorities and luxury hotels impose their dirty sheets on prisoners to clean.





**UK - Government black boxes will 'collect every email and web visit'.** Home Office says Internet "black boxes" will be used to collect every email and web visit in the UK under the Government's plans for a giant "big brother" database. Home Office officials have told senior figures from the internet and telecommunications industries that the "black box" technology could automatically retain and store raw data from the web before transferring it to a giant central database controlled by the Government. Plans to create a database holding information about every phone call, email and internet visit made in the UK have provoked a huge public outcry. Nevertheless, ministers have said they are committed to consulting on the new Communications Data Bill early this year. Further details of the database emerged on Monday at a meeting of internet service providers (ISPs) in London where representatives from BT, AOL Europe, O2 and BSkyB were given a PowerPoint presentation of the issues and the technology surrounding the Government's Interception Modernisation Programme (IMP), the name given by the Home Office to the database proposal. The state wants to return to a position they were in before the emergence of internet communication, when they were able to monitor all correspondence with a police suspect. The difference here is they will be in a much better position to spy on many more people on the basis of their internet behaviour. It is not clear where the records will be held but the government surveillance centre in Cheltenham, GCHQ may eventually be the project's home.

Source: *various*

**Catalonia - December 08 Communique from Amadeu Casellas.** *In this recent comunique the Catalonia anarchist prisoner Amadeu Casellas explains how and when he will be released from prison after dealing last September with the penitentiary system authorities in order to stop the hunger strike that he held for 76 days. It's important to spread this new writing because probably many comrades were already awaiting for news about his struggle.*

"I guess all of you who are supporting me would like to know how things are going and whether they are going to live up to their promises. Well, ten days

ago I signed a contract with the subdirector of treatments and the manager of the treatment team. This contract goes for six months, counting since I entered in this centre; so it will go until March, when I am due to get restricted permits and parole. On my return I will present them a job offer to be able to leave prison on a daily basis under the Penitentiary Regulation 100.2. As in this centre there is no module where they can have people in these circumstances, and also because of how far work would be from the prison and how costly it would be for me to have to go everyday up to the region of Osona (Vic), I guess I would have to move to the Barcelona area. I have sent the contract to both of my lawyers. Joan Tarda, MP of ERC (Left-wing republican party of Catalonia), knows about this contract because the last day he visited me the centre director told him. Now we need to make sure they adhere to the contract the same way I am. In regards to my recovery from the hunger strike, I feel much better. However, since I quit the hunger strike, they haven't facilitated me any kind of dietary reinforcement. The medical services, apart from preventing the doctor we trust to see me, haven't done anything. A big part of my recovery is owed to my prison mates, who have been giving me part of their meal, especially yogurts, fruit and pasta. The medical services have only given me vitamins in pills. Nevertheless, as I said, I feel quite recuperated and now it is only a matter of waiting for these 90 days to pass. On another matter, we cannot forget that both my lawyers, Diana Reig and Francesc Arnau, have a disciplinary file opened against them, due to the false accusations made against them by the prison guards from the penitentiary hospital in Terrassa. These files are in the Lawyers College in Lerida, Terrassa and Barcelona, for which I would like to ask you all to keep sending faxes, emails or whatever other thing as you find suitable in order to express your repulse against these false files. Our companero Franki is in the same situation, in the Modelo prison of Barcelona. We cannot allow that a fascist system wants to censor and intimidate those of us who express ourselves making

use of that freedom of expression that they have not been able to silence, nor they will ever be able to. They will have to kill us and we won't allow them to do so.

Salud and revolution." **Amadeu Casellas Ramon**

*Also, during late October 2008, four ATMs (bank cash points) have been burned in Barcelona, and a trainline temporarily blocked by a fire to an electrical apparatus, in solidarity with Amadeu.] In late October there was a provocation by the guards of the prison hospital against Amadeu, here is the statement:*

"New offensive by the guards at the prison wing of the hospital in Terrassa in the case of Amadeu Casellas. Where previously they waged a dirty war against Amadeu, his family, friends, and people in solidarity, now they are going for his lawyers, Diana Reig and Francesc Arnau.\* They are accusing his lawyers of trying to smuggle a banner in during the last visit they made while Amadeu was there, the day after he abandoned the hunger strike, and also they accuse the lawyers of using an inappropriate tone with the 'professionals' of this center. This accusation, which arrives via the College of Lawyers of Lleida, BCN, and Terrassa, which supposedly defends the lawyers, can end with a sanction prohibiting them from practicing law for a time period. We remark that although the accusation is completely false, lawyers have the right to bring all kinds of information to the people they are defending, including a banner. And they also have a right to be critical of the constant provocations of the jailers. This initiative by the Director of the prison hospital is a direct attack against Amadeu and those around him, as a response to the hunger strike and the support he won in the street throughout this summer. We don't forget that within the prison are working the most fascist and reactionary sectors. Specifically in this hospital wing are various complaints for denigrating treatment by the jailers against the prisoners and their visitors. This new aggression against the lawyers happens within a general context of repression. They have prohibited communication between Amadeu and specific people, are impeding the entrance a trusted doctor, they are making false accusations against people in solidarity, and they have punished our comrade Franki, restricting his leave time and permitted visits, and threatening to send him back to closed prison. We can't allow this attack to block the work of the lawyers defending us, because they are our indispensable legal weapons against attacks by the system, and secondly because their own laws recognize the free exercise of the legal profession. If they touch one, they touch all of us! Until all prisoners are free! Catalunya, 27 de Octubre de 2008 ":

**Support Groups of Amadeu Casellas**



**Chile - Black September actions for murdered anarchist Claudia López.** Ten years ago on September 11, Claudia López an anarchist woman, student and dancer was assassinated by police while she was on a barricade protesting in a commemoration

of the coup d'etat of 1973 which led to the military dictatorship of Pinochet. Under the slogan of Black September, the combatant youth fought now in 2008, in her name and all the assassinated in democracy, the bastards that killed her, making the world remember that we are living at war. Many direct actions happened, bannerdrops, manifestations, barricades etc.

Source: *ourwar.org*

#### **UK - Police set to step up hacking of home PCs.**

The Home Office has quietly adopted a new plan to allow police across Britain routinely to hack into people's personal computers without a warrant. The move, which follows a decision by the European Union's council of ministers in Brussels, will be rolled out across Europe. The hacking is known as "remote searching". It allows police or intelligence officers who may be hundreds of miles away to examine covertly the hard drive of someone's PC at his home, office or hotel room. Material gathered in this way includes the content of all e-mails, web-browsing habits and instant messaging. Under the Brussels edict, police across the EU have been given the green light to expand the implementation of a rarely used power involving warrantless intrusive surveillance of private property. The strategy will allow UK, French, German and other EU forces to collaborate in hacking into someone's computer and pass over any material gleaned. A remote search can be granted if a senior officer says he "believes" that it is "proportionate" and necessary to prevent or detect serious crime - defined as any offence attracting a jail sentence of more than three years. Richard Clayton, a researcher at Cambridge University's computer laboratory, said that remote searches had been possible since 1994, although they were very rare. He said the authorities could break into a suspect's home or office and insert a "key-logging" device into an individual's computer. This would collect and, if necessary, transmit details of all the suspect's keystrokes. "It's just like putting a secret camera in someone's living room," he said. Police might also send an e-mail to a suspect's computer. The message would include an attachment that contained a virus or "malware". If the attachment was opened, the remote search facility would be covertly activated. Alternatively, police could park outside a suspect's home and hack into his or her hard drive using the wireless network.. A UK police spokesman said police were already carrying out a small number of these operations which were among 194 clandestine searches last year of people's homes, offices and hotel bedrooms. Source: *various*

**Italy - High ranking police officers acquitted in sentence for brutal G8 Diaz school raid.** On 13 November 2008, Genoa tribunal acquitted 16 out of 29 defendants for the violent police raid against demonstrators in the Diaz school where they were staying during the G8 on the evening of 21 July 2001. After seven years, 13 officers were found guilty and received sentences of between one month and four years, for a total of 35 years and seven months. The entire sentences to ten of the officers have been confirmed, as have two years of the four-year sentence passed against Vincenzo Canterini, head of the unit to which most of those found guilty belonged. Canterini was found guilty of falsehood and defamation in association with others, whereas Michelangelo Fournier (two years) and eight others were found guilty of

causing personal and continued bodily harm, the latter eight receiving three-year sentences. Pietro Troiani and Michele Burgio were sentenced to three years and two-and-a-half years respectively. The higher echelons of the police involved in those events emerged unscathed with acquittals, including Giovanni Luperi, now head of the analysis department of Aisi (the internal intelligence service established following the latest reform of the secret services in August 2007) and Francesco Gratteri, head of the central directorate against crime. Source: *Statewatch*

**Canada, USA & Mexico - ID 'reading' machines on USA, Canada and Mexico borders.** Border guards along Mexico/US and Canada/US borders have begun use of machines that can remotely read biometric chips in ID cards of travellers. Border guards at US border crossings located at Blaine, Wash.; Buffalo; Detroit; Nogales, Ariz. and San Ysidro, Calif have already begun to use, or will within the next few months begin to operate, machines that can remotely 'read' information contained within government issued ID cards as travellers approach check points. By the time a vehicle reaches the check point the photographs and personal data of all occupants appear on a screen for the border guards to check, and anyone flagged on any 'watch list or database' is automatically taken in for questioning.

Source: *various*

**Sweden - Riots in Malmo over occupied youth house.** Fierce riots broke out in the district of Rosengård, after police attacked the young people who had occupied the basement of the mosque on Ramel road. The whole area is tired of police abuse and took to more drastic methods to be seen and heard, when they had not heard in any other way. In this, they have been helped and supported by activists from the Malmö autonomous environment. AFA Malmö put out a statement saying "We support the young people in the district just as we are committed ourselves in squatter fights in Malmö and Lund and fight for the youth house. Fight for forum is important, whether out of "young Muslims" or "Swedes." It is important that we ensure that we have common interests with other groups than other autonomous, and discrimination based on ethnicity and religion and abuse from authorities and the police is something we always have to fight." Riot police from Stockholm and Gothenburg had to be sent to provide back-up for their colleagues in Malmö as tensions in the southern city continued to flare. After two nights of intensive rioting, police in the city requested assistance from units specially trained to deal with mass violent demonstrations. "We don't think it's over yet. We think it's going to continue and we have to be prepared to work around the clock," said regional police spokesman Charley Nilsson. Emotions have been running high in Malmö's predominantly immigrant Rosengård district since police forcibly removed three squatters from the basement offices of an Islamic cultural centre. The premises had

been occupied since November 24th as part of a protest against the landlord's decision not to renew the association's lease for the space, which it had held for the past fifteen years. Thursday night saw the most extreme rioting in Rosengård since the disturbances began. Police were pelted with Molotov cocktails and bomb threats were issued against a local petrol station. Police spokeswoman Ewa-Gun Westford said she would not even hazard a guess as to how many police vehicles were damaged in the rioting, as locals were reportedly joined by left-wing extremists, or "autonomists", from outside the area. The city's fire and rescue services have been refusing to enter the area until their safety can be guaranteed. One person was arrested for rioting, while another was detained for disturbing the peace. By 3am on Friday the situation had stabilized somewhat and police were able to move in and remove burning trailers and other objects from the streets with the aid of a bulldozer. Source: <http://www.motkraft.net/>

#### **France & Germany - Anti-NATO protest: Proposal for an action day against the "European security architecture".**

NATO is planning to host their annual conference next year in France and Germany in the cities of Strasbourg and Baden-Baden. While the summit itself will take place in Strasbourg, the "working dinners" of the ministers of defence will be held in Baden-Baden, Germany, between Karlsruhe and Kehl, around 50 kilometres from Strasbourg. The summit will celebrate the 60th anniversary of this war alliance, when the member states will discuss NATO's new strategic direction. As in 1999 large changes are planned. In a strategy paper published in April 2007, five former generals stress the need for a more "proactive approach", in which the preemption and prevention of threats are central. To the NATO strategists an array of threats exist in today's uncertain world, from terrorism and transnational crime to unrests following food crises, social conflicts as a result of climate change and extensive migration to the countries of the NATO alliance. These are all central security risks that fall within NATO's remit. The paper maintains that proper "defence" requires the concept of "homeland security", which entails a "comprehensive approach" of the military, police, politics, research, academics and civil society and the continued blurring of internal and external security to build up a "global security architecture". Interior ministers of the European Union have also presented a wish list for changes in Home Affairs in the EU. For this, they formed the "Future Group" initiated by the German interior minister Schäuble and Frattini, the former EU commissioner of "Justice and Home affairs" (JHA), now the foreign minister in Berlusconi's government. In Autumn 2009, under Swedish presidency, interior ministers will meet in Stockholm to decide the next five year framework on internal security in the EU. In their paper they focus on more surveillance of the internet, common access to European police databases, more cross-border police collaboration to fight "illegal migration" and force countries outside the EU to take back their citizens who enter the EU without a visa, making border crossing for EU citizens easier through biometrics and RFID, enlarging the competencies of the police agency Europol and the migration police Frontex. Also, interior ministers see a "growing interdependence between internal and external security" and argue for more interventions of the EU in "third countries". To draw attention to and campaign against the ongoing melting of Home Affairs, war and defence and the logic of securitisation, we propose an action day around

the NATO summit in April 2009. The action day could take place on the opening day of the camps against the summit, planned for April 1st, two days before the summit.

Possible focuses could be:

- \* the border between Strasbourg and Kehl (to protest against the Schengen Information System (SIS) and Visa Information System (VIS), Frontex, border management, the use of drones and satellites to observe borders, the exchange of data prior to summit protests, the refusal of entry for people participating in protests)

- \* the Schengen Information System that is located in Strasbourg

- \* the European Commission that is responsible for the creation of a European police agency and a European migration police

- \* the Eurocorps, a European crisis reaction force that will be able to be deployed under NATO or EU command in future

In Strasbourg there is also a migrant detention centre located on military territory. There are also companies that are involved in biometrics, biotechnology and nanotechnology. The French military is running several bases and the "Legion Etrangère" is based in Strasbourg. We wish to organize an action day that focusses on the grave changes in the "security architecture" constructed by politicians, police and military. There is a shift towards "risk analyses", that want to foresee and predict dissent, social conflict and crime. In this logic, everyone is seen as a possible threat. We would like to get in contact with groups that are working on migration, filesharing networks, alternative providers, terrorism cases, data retention, the Lisbon treaty, antimilitarism, climate and environment and civil liberties to develop both a radical critique and strengthen a broad movement to intervene against the security architecture of globalised war and capitalism." We will present and discuss this proposal at a preparatory meeting for the anti-NATO protests on January 17th and 18th 2009. There we want to develop a proposal to present at the action conference on February 14th and 15th in Strasbourg. Source: *Gipfelsoli, dissent! France*



TRAINA station is one of the sets where firearms officers are trained to make split-second decisions

**UK - Lies unravel in police murder of Jean Charles de Menezes.** Explosive testimony has been presented to the inquest into the police killing of Jean Charles de Menezes, suggesting that he was shot even though he was known to be unarmed. Evidence was given that the innocent Brazilian was killed despite his not being clearly identified as a suspected terrorist. In addition, officers involved have said that they were prepared to kill de Menezes even without authorisation from commanding officer Cressida Dick. Jean Charles was fatally shot two weeks after the July 7

bombings in London, which killed 56 people and one day after an apparent failed second attempt to detonate devices. He was reportedly mistaken for Hussain Osman, one of the failed July 21, 2005, bombers. Anti-terror officers pinned him to the floor of a London underground train and pumped seven bullets into his head at point-blank range. In the recent inquest, a Special Branch officer revealed that he altered his notes because they indicated that police shot dead Jean Charles as he boarded a train at Stockwell tube station on July 22, 2005, even though he was known to be unarmed. The officer, referred to as "Owen," was giving evidence on October 8 2008. Owen was deputy surveillance coordinator in the Scotland Yard control room during the surveillance operation that resulted in the young electrician's death and had made notes about the day's events on his computer. After he had given his evidence at the inquest, Owen was asked for all his notes relating to the shooting. He claims he logged onto his computer to change the names of officers into the codenames given by the court to protect their identities, but then deleted a paragraph in which Dick, who is now deputy assistant commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, had told officers to allow Jean Charles to continue his journey because he was "not carrying anything." The full paragraph reads, "Management discussion. CD [Cressida Dick]: Can run on to tube as not carrying anything. Persuaded by unidentified male amongst management." It flatly contradicts Dick's own evidence at the inquest on October 7, the previous day, in which she claimed that she ordered her officers to "stop" Jean Charles because he was a "terrorist threat." Owen also made the startling revelation that he did not submit the crucial paragraph to the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) inquiry in 2006 or the health and safety trial last year into the shooting, at which he gave evidence, "because he wasn't asked to." Commander Dick also claimed she was informed "they think it's him" when Jean Charles left a building linked to Hussain Osman and made his way to Stockwell station. Chief Inspector Vince Esposito, a counter-terrorism expert advising Dick on the day of the shooting, said he believed, "without a shadow of doubt," that Jean Charles was failed bomber Hussain Osman and that a "critical shot" to the head was only administered if a suspect was identified and was carrying a device.

However, speaking at the inquest on October 10, "Pat," who acted as contact between Scotland Yard and the surveillance team, reported he had said only that Mr. de Menezes was "possibly identifiable with" the suspect. "I was always under the impression that the subject had been unidentified," he stated. Another senior officer, Detective Inspector Merrick Rose, revealed that he could not "recall" whether images of the real suspect, Osman, were discussed at a dawn briefing before Jean Charles's death—begging the question, was a comparison between the two men ever made? A tactical adviser and senior firearms advisor known as Trojan 84 made the extraordinary admission to the inquest that police were prepared to take a

"critical" shot without orders from their superiors. The inspector had been in charge of briefing the marksmen who shot dead Jean Charles. Giving evidence in open court for the first time, Trojan 84 said: "It was my job to tell the team they would be supported whatever decision they took because of the structures that were in place." Trojan 84 could only have conceivably issued such instructions if they had been already laid down at the highest possible level—much higher than the DSO Cressida Dick. The shoot-to-kill policy implemented against Jean Charles is known as "Operation Kratos," adopted in secret two years earlier in high-level discussions between top police officers and the government. Under its remit, a senior police officer is on standby 24 hours a day at Scotland Yard, the headquarters of the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), with the authority to deploy special armed squads to follow and, if deemed necessary, shoot dead suspected suicide bombers. It is now clear that, without any clear identification or indication of an imminent threat, the police were determined that someone would die that day in furtherance of the so-called "war on terror." Moreover, even the limited safeguard of accountability to a designated superior officer would not be allowed to interfere with what was a political and not a security-driven decision. There was a deliberate decision to kill, rather than arrest, de Menezes, taken at the highest level of the police force rather than by the officers immediately involved. Jean Charles was shot in cold blood primarily in order "to instill fear in the population and implement a shoot-to-kill policy that had been secretly decided on by Prime Minister Tony Blair and top officials two years previously." Source: *various*

**UK - Immigration raid leads to death of a man.** Frank Odame 36-year-old Ghanaian dies following raid by police and immigration. An investigation is underway as to how Frank Odame 36-year-old Ghanaian died following a raid by police and immigration officers at his home in Woodford Green, Essex on Tuesday 2nd September. Mr. Odame was found with head injuries below a block of flats. The flat he was in had just been raided by police and the UK Border Agency. He died in hospital eight hours later. A post mortem has been held and the cause of death was given as head and chest injuries. At least four other people are known to have died during similar incidents, Joy Gardner (1993); Joseph Nnalua (1994); Noorjahan Begum (1996) and Joseph Crensil (2001). All the deaths have occurred in the London area and all but one (Noorjahan Begum) involved the Metropolitan Police Service and immigration officers. Source: *various*

**Germany - Killer police officers found not guilty for the brutal murder of Oury Jalloh.** On December 8, 2008, the District Court of Dessau acquitted the two accused police officers Andreas Schubert and Hans-Ulrich März. As the trial began it was already evident that the formal accusation launched by the State Prosecutor was insufficient in terms of uncovering the factual circumstances surrounding Oury Jalloh's death. At the very least the two police officers should have been accused of murder after the several reconstructions of the fire carried out by the fire department proved that a person chained down on his back on a mattress in his cell by his hands and feet, like Oury Jalloh was, could not burn himself to death. Oury was killed by the police and there is no 'justice'! The 'Initiative in Memory of Oury Jalloh' calls for an

independent commission to investigate the circumstances of Oury Jalloh's death and the systematic cover-up orchestrated by the police during the entire court proceedings. Once again, the legal system has demonstrated just how little interest it has not only in ensuring truth and justice in the case of Oury Jalloh but in all other cases of racist police brutality. For many months the Initiative in Memory of Oury Jalloh has denounced the trial as a farce and warned of exactly such a court decision. Yet it is clear that the evident lies, false testimonies and esprit de corps on the part of the police was primarily responsible for the failure of the trial itself. When the court considers everything which happened prior to the outbreak of the fire to be irrelevant for the proceedings, when an entire police station participates in the cover-up and lies without being punished or even being required to provide sworn testimony, nothing more can be expected from the proceedings than that which Judge Steinhoff so accurately admitted: "This trial has been a failure." On December 8, 2008, the day of the acquittal, the Initiative in Memory of Oury Jalloh suffered several attempts by the police to detain activists on a demo in memory of Oury. On two separate occasions the police attempted to arrest 2 people, we see such actions and provocations on the part of the police as an attempt to intimidate the activists and to deter them from continuing their struggle for truth and justice. Until today, four years later, these attempts have not proved successful. Nor will they in the future. Almost four years after Oury Jalloh's bestial death in Cell No. 5 in Dessau and having been witness to a show trial we continue to maintain our denouncement: Oury Jalloh - It was murder! Source : *Initiative in Memory of Oury Jalloh*

**France - On the arrests of the Tarnac 9, by the Madrid Surrealist Group .** "... For some time, the information services of the French police had been warning about "the resurgence of a sort of terrorism carried out by far right-far left extremists", despite the fact of neither having any specific account on possible "threats" nor knowing anything about potentially "active groups"; However, there is "a small number of individuals" claiming to be involved within "the autonomist sphere of influence", which appears to justify every single "precaution". Earlier this year, the French Home Minister, Michele Alliot-Marie, insisted on "fears of far-left terrorism resurgence" before signs of such an alarming nature as graffiti painted on public buildings, or demonstrations and actions organised against the building of new prisons. No doubt that this explains that in June all investigations related to the "anarcho-autonomous area" were taken over by anti-terrorist judges, with the logical consequence of a wave of arrests of young people accused of being in possession of weapons of mass destruction, or at least "substances that could be used for the manufacturing of small explosives." Yet in April this year, an investigation about a highly suspicious group, settled in Tarnac, a town of 335 inhabitants in the department of Correze (Central France) had been open. In that city, these people had bought a farm to experiment with a way of life outside the capitalist rule and values. There, they got rid of their mobile phones, began to raise sheep and chickens, reopened the old grocery shop and gave a hand to the elders of the place, without forgetting to keep in touch with the revolutionary environment and participate in a variety of other revolutionary struggles. In the

meantime, as in the world nothing more interesting was happening, the sabotage of several lines of the TGV ("Train de Grand Vitesse/High Speed Train") occurred since late October and caused the outrage of the public opinion which started to demand "justice". This apparently forced to open a new investigation... anti-terrorist, of course, no matter at all that the SNCF has been maintaining for several years a tough conflict with rail trade-unions, and that back in 2007 still unascertained acts of sabotage had already happened. However this time, oh surprise!!! the police have a "certainty" that two members of that group from Tarnac "were in the vicinity of some of the places where the damage was made", and since the group was "potentially dangerous", the case was overnight solved: This way, on November the 11th, police broke into Tarnac farm and arrested nine people, "dismantling" what has been called an "invisible/sleeping cell", "an structure with terrorist vocation" in which there could be as far as 300 people involved more or less. Sure, but for the time being the investigation have acknowledged that "there is no material element that link these people directly with the acts of destruction (...) and so they can not be directly accused of this or that specific fact" (Le Point.fr 14-11 - 08), In fact there are no genetic marks or fingerprints on the rails, no weapons on the farm, just a train timetable and "various elements that could be used to produce and place the devices with which they render useless some sections of rail electrical network". Devices on the other hand that are not exactly easy to make and use. Certainly the dismantling of the "invisible cell" did not stop the sabotages: that very same afternoon at the 11th of November other "ghosts" paralyzed the rail line Caen-Tours placing really visible concrete blocks on the tracks. In Tarnac, the countrymen, who can be thought to be anything but gullible, have not swallowed the accusation of terrorism, and have soon organised a support committee to their young friends that has spread to other cities. The alleged "leader" of the group is called Julien Coupat, a young intellectual revolutionary and founding member of the collective Tiqqun, who enjoys certain reputation within the French radical environment and has recently published "L'Insurrection qui vien" ("The forthcoming insurrection"), a work in which he dissects with some ease the technological vulnerability of metropolises and the art of sabotage. It may be because of this that, as in the golden age of Metternich, the book has become "evidence" against its author, and its possession sufficient reason to get arrested these days.

Anyway, we will stop insisting on the obvious, since even the "Inspector Clouseau" would be able to smell the unmistakable aroma of media intoxication, the made up prosecution, the indecent amalgam between different investigations that have nothing in common but the rush to find someone to blame, and the willingness to terrorize and stigmatize the anarcho-autonomist political sphere by calling terrorism every moving thing under

the sun. The blatant connection between this manoeuvre and the present structural and widespread crisis that advises "organizing a gross operation of diversion because the power is lying to protect financial criminals", may have more interest, for these times that we are and we will be living in, if we note that it is with no doubt the status of "intellectual revolutionary" which has provided the right profile to incriminate Coupat and hence his friends, at the precise moment in which intellectual activity is increasingly joining the most belligerent revolutionary practice. A practice that is manifested not only in their contacts with the squatter movement or their participation in demonstrations against the G8 and EU summits, but also in that physical idea of the Revolution that seems to have led them, like others before them, to escape from the industrial prison and the wage slavery in search of a material autonomy which would allow them to experiment in its concrete existence the ins and outs of their utopia: the realization of a different way of life, and an actual release of its intensity and possibilities. As it happened in the case of Rene Riesel, different in substance and in form but similar in terms of repression, it is this coincidence of thinking and acting that must not be allowed to happen, and must therefore be prevented from transcending into a youth active in these two fields; because its spread by the force of example has to be impeded by the "democratic" power with even more reasons in a period of crisis susceptible of seeing the revolt to become something objective and, who knows if acquiring the character of a widespread and generalised insurrection (fingers crossed). ... Source: *Madrid Surrealist Group*

**Italy - Operation Brushwood: trial dates set up for accused of the FAI (Informal Anarchist Federation).** On the 26.9.08, the judge conceded the dayleave for Michele Fabiani who until that moment was under house arrest, so he had the permission to sleep at his parent's house in the night without leaving it and was forbidden to leave Spoleto, the town he is living in. On the 26.11.08, he finally came "free" without restrictions. The other three defendants are also "free". On the 29.9 there has been the pre-court for the four defendants (a fifth one, Fabrizio, has been spared by the authorities, the charges against him being cancelled), whereas the judge confirmed basically the thesis of the state attorney, especially one paragraph referred to, which represents the worst part of the indictment (which basically confirms the suspicions that the state is building a fit-up anti-terror charge of "subversive association"). The trial will begin on the 7.04.09 in Terni. Source : *various*

**US & UK - Unmanned aircraft market to soar.** The fastest-growing business area in defence is the market for small unmanned flying machines. The US already has 5,000, mainly on patrol in Afghanistan and Iraq. Israel makes and deploys them. And the UK is catching on fast. Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) are controlled remotely by "pilots", either guided elsewhere on the battlefield or invariably from far-away computer screens in Las Vegas or Arizona, for example. In terms of operation, it is not so different from playing a video game - though military-officials and corporations thoroughly dislike any such comparisons. What defence specialists all seem to agree on is that the military and business demand for UAVs is about to explode, just like the market for satellites in the 1970s. Jim Albaugh, president of Boeing Defence, says UAVs are nothing less than the future of warfare. "It is all about global situational

awareness," he says. "You are able to know where your assets are and where your enemies assets are. All this is driving the need for UAVs." The 'Reaper' and also the 'Predator', Unmanned Aerial Vehicles are a crucial tool for the US & UK military forces against insurgents. Future plans for unmanned battle forces contain situations when in congested airspace, manned and unmanned can fly together in swarms. What can be achieved in the coming years of the technological explosion is beyond what we see today in the market. Chris Ames, director of one of the UAV pioneers, the US company General Atomics, supplies the Predator and larger Reaper UAVs to the US and the UK. "They can stay airborne for over 30 hours at a time, their sensors gaining critical intelligence for surveillance and reconnaissance, he explains, describing the aircrafts capabilities. "This information can be acted on by commanders at higher HQ, and conveyed to others on the ground or in the air, so they know what they face and can do something about it." Scott Harris, president of Lockheed Martin, says one benefit of UAVs is that the information they glean can be fully integrated with everything from data from space to what is happening in the field, to form a complete picture. "UAVs are very interesting and complex," he says. "Everybody is working on them and deploying them. Militarists can't get enough of them. We have a broad range of programmes, most of which I can't talk about." One reason he is not talking about it is that UAVs are increasingly carrying specialised weapons, so developments remain secret. Yet it seems their increasing use on the battlefield - and in domestically for tasks such as traffic and crowd patrols - is now fully assured. Indeed during Hurricane Ike, U.S. Customs and Border Protection for the first time flew the 'Predator B' unmanned aerial vehicle in support of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's relief efforts, the 'Predator B' carries out "targeted assassinations" of "terrorist suspects" across Afghanistan, Iraq and Pakistan. The deployment of the robotic killing machines in the United States for "disaster management" is troubling to say the least and a harbinger of things to come.

**US – Space based surveillance networks extending.** The American government is rolling out plans to use satellite surveillance grids to extend their grip of control overseen by the National Applications Office. The Department of Homeland Security in close collaboration with the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), the agency that develops and maintains America's fleet of military spy satellites, and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) that analyzes military imagery and generates mapping tools, are proceeding with the first phase of a domestic spying program. NAO will coordinate how domestic law enforcement and "disaster relief" agencies such as FEMA will use satellite imagery intelligence generated by military spy satellites. As I wrote earlier this year, unlike commercial satellites, their military cousins are far more flexible, have greater resolution and therefore possess more power to monitor human activity, the plan will cost around \$634 billion, providing federal, state and local officials with extensive access to spy-satellite imagery. The initiative will rely heavily on private contractors including Boeing, BAE Systems, L-3 Communications and Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC). These companies already provide technology and personnel to U.S. agencies involved in foreign intelligence, and the NAO greatly expands their markets. Indeed, at an intelligence conference in San Antonio, Texas, the

titans of the industry were actively lobbying intelligence officials to buy products specifically designed for domestic surveillance. Three categories of classified satellite information are to be provided law enforcement by the National Applications Office:

\* Geospatial intelligence (GEOINT)– GEOINT is defined as "the exploitation and analysis of imagery and geospatial information to describe, assess, and visually depict physical features and geographically referenced activities on the Earth.

\* Measurement and signature intelligence (MASINT)–MASINT is defined as intelligence "derived from measurements of physical phenomena intrinsic to an object or event." These phenomena can include the following types:" electro-optical, infrared, laser, spectral, radar, polarimetric, high-power or unintentional radio frequency emanations, geophysical, chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear."

\* Electronic intelligence (ELINT)–ELINT is defined as "technical and geolocation intelligence derived from non-communications electromagnetic radiations emanating from other than nuclear detonations or radioactive sources." Source: *various*

**France - Jean-Marc Rouillan is inside prison again.** Jean-marc Rouillan is turning over a new leaf, not ripping the page out. Convicted of being a member of armed struggle group Action Directe, he spent over two decades in prison. Granted conditional liberty, once outside the prison he'd spoken out about turning over a new leaf and commented – albeit briefly – on the legal ban that prevents him from discussing the revolutionary strategy that saw him locked up for 22 years. The French state has responded by revoking his right to partial freedom. In fact, the "Rouillan Affair" lets the French state confirm its attack on the freedom of speech. Flaming media coverage and sordid interpretations of an interview published by the French magazine L'Express have been used by the French criminal justice system to gag the writer Jean-Marc Rouillan and punish any expression of his political opinions. His return to prison on "preventative remand" is proof of this. We consider that the conditions under which Jean-Marc Rouillan has been remanded in custody are really an attack on our freedom of speech. We hereby confirm that Jean-Marc Rouillan has in no way infringed the conditions applied to the partial freedom granted in December 2007. We are outraged at this move which is clearly part of a relentless quest to silence Jean-Marc Rouillan. It's his turn today – tomorrow it will be ours. We therefore demand the immediate and unconditional release of Jean-Marc Rouillan from prison. Source : *Support group of Jean Marc*

**Germany – New Years Eve anti-prison demonstrations against prisons.** Since several years there are demonstrations taking place on New Year's eve in a few German cities, against prisons and coercive institutions and in solidarity with all prisoners in struggle. While these demonstrations have been at first limited mainly to the cities of Berlin and Cologne, this year its number grew and the anti-prison virus spread in other cities as well. Here we present a short overlook about new year's eve in front of German prisons, wishing for the next year that anarchist and antiprison attitude keeps in spreading further on, in order to overthrow the present system of domination and its dungeons. Until all are free: *ABC Berlin*



**Berlin:** A demonstration of about 400 comrades gathered in icy new year's eve night to bring their rage against the prison system and their solidarity to prisoners in struggle on the streets, walking to the main pre-trial prison of the town, Moabit. The motto of the demonstration has been "let us tear down the walls that divide us – freedom for all prisoners, in solidarity with all prisoners in struggle and the hungerstrike in Italy!". The demonstration walked her way shortly past 11 pm, chanting slogans against prisons system, repression and cops. During all the demonstration, hundreds of firecrackers and fireworks have been exploded against the cops. Several speeches have been read from the soundsystem, against prisons, the police murder in Greece and one especially thematizing the ongoing struggle in Italian prisons. A speech by Thomas Meyer-Falk has been also read. There has been a rally at first in front of one wing of the prisons, where we greeted prisoners by exploding more fireworks and chanting slogans, until we reached the main prison entrance, where the demonstration ended. There we hosted the usual fireworks show punctually at midnight, to salute prisoners, who themselves were waiting on their windows for the traditional demonstration and lighted small fires and hit their bars-windows to show their excitement and communicate with us. Cops have been a bit uneasy for the continuous aggressive attitude of the demonstration against them and the firecrackers exploded against them, one of them tried to escalate the situation by storming into the demonstration but he got easily kicked out. Around 1am we left, clearly with the intention to come here soon again. The day after one could read on the media that between 500 to 1000 angry youths attacked a police station in the district of Prenzlauerberg, destroying some cars and a few windows. It seems as the rage against authorities would spread around as well, as such events show. You can read a call to the demonstration in English on the website of ABC Berlin.

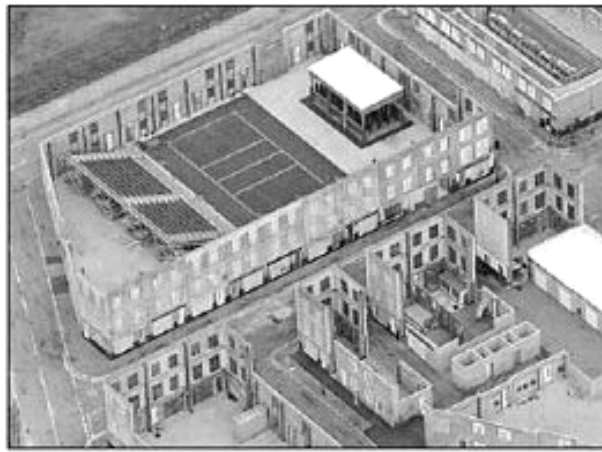
**Hamburg:** A demonstration took place to the local pre-trial prison of Holstenglacis. Around 250 gathered to form a demonstration. Speeches against prisons and in solidarity also with the

imprisoned French comrades (Tarnac 9) have been read. The cops made quite a lot of stress stopping the demonstration several times, while 3-4 people got arrested, accused of throwing bottles and firecrackers to the pigs. The demonstration managed to get to the prison at the end, where a speech has been read on the reasons why one demonstrated today and some relatives of prisoners also used the soundsystem to communicate with their dears. Fireworks have been exploded and firecrackers thrown at the cops.

**Cologne:** around 150 comrades gathered around 6pm to host a rally in front of the local prison. Speeches were read and then the comrades walked around the prison as a demonstration, reading speeches against prison and about the struggles in Greek and Italian prison, while several fireworks have been exploded against the prison itself.

**Frankfurt:** about 150 gathered to the local prison, to show their anger against the institution and establish a contact with the ones imprisoned therein. Some prison lights and signs have been damaged, some people climbed some of the lights and the prison fence in order to put a banner reading "freedom for all prisoners". No arrests have been made.

**Stuttgart:** about 50 comrades walked their way to the prison of Stammheim and made a round around it, chanting slogans. Prisoners responded shouting slogans against the pigs. One has to say that this demonstration was rather oriented for "supporting political prisoners" rather than underlining the uselessness of such a difference. Indeed it is organized mostly by communists who wanted to show their solidarity to some Turkish prisoner sitting there, accused of "international



**STADIUM** Public disorder including petrol bombings and riots are staged in a range of settings

terrorist association" being involved with some Turkish communist armed party. There has been some confrontations with the cops, who wanted to arrest some people because of exploding fireworks to the prison, a thing several people opposed to by exploding firecracker and defending themselves with flag sticks, which generated a few wounded on both sides. 12 people have been arrested afterwards, since the cops patrolled the area looking for suspects, but they all came free after 2 hours.

**UK - Revealed: One of the largest police training grounds in the world for fighting against 'anarchy'.** In Gravesend, Kent, England's Metropolitan Police force tackles hypothetical 'anarchy' in a purpose built area, a staging ground for urban unrest and abatement. The 9,250 square meter site

(38-hectare) was opened back in 2003 by the private company 'Equion' through the UK government's Private Finance Initiative (PFI), using both public and private money. Like several of its architectural relatives, this mock conflict training facility is in essence an entire town unto itself designed in true British fashion, with mock roads, houses, shops, a bank, a pub, a nightclub, a football stadium, a life-size section of a plane and train and underground stations with full-size carriages, as well as classrooms and lecture theatres, an abseil tower, stables for 10 police horses and accommodation for more than 300 people. For one purpose: to be rioted, hijacked, trashed, held hostage, sacked, and overrun by thousands of chaotic scenarios, only so that it can be

suppressed, retaken, re-propped in circuitous loops of more dazzling proto-militant exercise, stormed by a thousand coordinated boots for eternity, targeted by hundreds of synchronized crosshairs of both lethal and non-lethal weapons; it is a little city that lives to paradoxically sustain conflict and its own remedy. There is now apparently a new plan to add a £90 million firearms training center that would feature a larger mock-up airport terminal and new London Underground train carriages to the facility, clearly expanding the training capacity of this place, timed nicely as the 2012 London Olympics begins to climb over the horizon. The UK Police also have a National CBRN Training Centre at Winterbourne Gunner in Wiltshire. As for London, other secretive military citadels include the NATO/PJHQ Base at Northwood, and the PINDAR bunker constructed under the Ministry of Defence Building at a cost of £126.3 million in the 1990's. Source: *various*

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## Notes on Ketamine

**Disclaimer:** More none news about drugs. This isn't printed to tell people what to do with their lives, it is printed because some things need to be stated in very clear terms. There is a certain situation in Britain with the widespread use of this drug in the underground. We are very familiar with this situation, and we have had enough of it. *Cook Cops Not Ket.*

Ketamine (Ket, K, Special K, Breakfast) was invented by Calvin Stevens and patented in Belgium in 1963. It is a derivative of Phencyclidine (PCP) which is less potent with a shorter duration of action. It does not induce sleep but instead a state of apparent catatonia where patients seemed dissociated from the environment without classical unconsciousness. At present in the UK it is classified a "Class 'C'" restricted substance, with minor legal punishment for supply and possession. It is very dangerous when mixed with other tranquilizers and serious injuries can occur from accidents without feeling immediate pain, due to confusion and impaired vision and hearing. It can produce breathing and heart problems and it is likely that the greatest risk to the user and those around them comes from the raised possibility of a

tragic accident. If you allow it to become habitual then Ketamine can take an extremely heavy toll on you physically. It is a corrosive alkaline hydrochloride salt so your nose will slowly disintegrate from the inside out, and a good wake up call is if you blow your nose and big lumps of flat snot come out- it's not snot, it's your nasal lining! This is caused by the fact that when you snort it (in large amounts) it sits around waiting to be absorbed into the bloodstream, but while it there it is eating away at the soft tissue inside your head from the inside.

It also has a huge detrimental effect on your urinary/renal system, causing an extremely painful form of cystitis where you will suddenly need to urinate very badly, with strong burning pains in your bladder.



however when you attempt to urinate you will find that you are unable to immediately and will have to wait, whilst in the meantime it can be painful to walk. Once it does come you will feel like you are not be able to hold it in, but it will still not come out for a few minutes. When it does it can burn intensely. It is very important to drink lots and lots of water in order to flush the alkaline through your system as all the time it is burning and eating at your kidneys and bladder and can lead to infection in both.

In fact it attacks your whole water system as your body recognizes it for the poison that it is. Your nose also runs and your spit glands go into overdrive. It is extremely important to spit when you feel like it. Although this is not socially polite, if you swallow the spit you may find yourself with k-cramps as the alkaline burns your stomach lining- this is excruciatingly painful and can leave you doubled up in agony. It is important to make sure that you always have food in your stomach.

Excessive intake when ketamine is snorted can cause a build up of salts in the renal system leading to high blood pressure and hypertension. This causes anxiety and is detrimental to eyesight function. It is often said that there are no withdrawals from ketamine, but this view is mistaken. The level of ph is affected by ketamine as your blood becomes more astringent. This causes itches and rashes but is also highly dangerous as you have an alkaline coursing through your body destroying the cell walls. In effect you are burning your body from the inside out, corrosively degenerating your kidneys, liver, heart etc.

You almost feel as if your entire body is becoming alkaline and astringent, you can taste it in your saliva and you feel like you are becoming like the properties of an alkaline- astringent, sharp, edgy, tetchy, agitated: corrosive.

There may be no visible signs of physical withdrawal like those from heroin and other opiates, but there is a marked psychological withdrawal which entices you back to using.

Further consequences of ketamine abuse are increased anxiety, irrational social fear and self-enforced solitude. This has the effect of destroying your autonomy while offering insights and speculative scenarios, effectively removing you, psychically, from human community. At the time these insights are extremely enticing.

The psychedelic, infinite, death-like atmosphere of ketamine is a sure motif for this society of dislocated, injured individuals who can barely recognise their own broken conditions but carry on chasing a dream. Despite being around on the underground for many years, ketamine use recently exploded onto a whole new level in UK with widespread availability in the cities and suburbs. In France and Italy there are also places with a growing ketamine scene penetrating the squatter, nomadic, rave and anarchistic counter culture for a long time. From our perspective, this narcotic has done tremendous damage to ourselves and the counter-culture. In the UK over the last 10 years it has become very popular. Some people have reaped quite a lot of money from the widespread desperation to be put out of their misery

There should be a debate about the long-term consequences of this drug in the counter-culture, squat and rave scenes, because unlike the brief seconds of non-ordinary consciousness at the peak of an LSD high, ketamine enables the user to access this state

for minutes, which can become timeless, obsessive and addictive, and there is not yet a widespread understanding of the dangers to the body of this drug and also this crucial factor leading to psychological dependence. Taken over longer periods of time the psychedelic effects diminish as tolerance builds and the high is similar to amphetamines, with the possible accompanying psychosis, delusion and paranoia. It is no wonder the trauma of modern life chases people to the door of an addictive, dissociative pain-killing substance. It is a seductive pleasure which holds more problems than people commonly associate with it.

To those who have seen the effects of this drug, the destructive situation with ketamine in the UK counter-culture, particularly in London and Brighton, is a known problem for a long time. Ketamine has helped create an atmosphere for the acceptance of heroin and crack into areas it has been previously been denied. These virus -like, parasitic drugs operate as control mechanisms on social pressure, fueled by the tension, trauma and shock of our repression. It creates squalid, skitzo

atmospheres where the users are incapable of taking care of other people or think about anyone else but themselves. This is important when the drug is being constantly used in recreational social conditions where there is a risk of accidents & psychosis from unsuitable setting.

Ketamine is a seriously debilitating substance that is not to be under estimated. This drug has been encouraged and allowed to proliferate and help destroy the cohesion and creative rebellion of an entire generation of young people. For the state some tendencies are useful trends.

Every time these drugs provide some respite from grief, the state rejoices in our addiction and despair. Who amongst the users thinks they are exempt from the contract?

Let's be clear, these words are not for the

moralists who see nothing but trouble in these narcotics, those who seek to scapegoat others for their own lack of activity. Everything has its place in the medicine bag, everything contains it's opposite. We are against legalisation and criminalisation alike, and we recognise the value of this medical and exploratory substance, in the context it operates best in.

So people can do what they like, those who uphold limited values bind themselves to mediocrity and failure. All these people in the UK who are dealing and snorting ketamine, who think they are getting something for nothing, are deluding themselves,

because (unless we make anarchy!) there is always a price to be paid. We don't want to act like good little consumers and take the dope of the market.

We want something else.

Everyone must choose the means for the life they lead, but who benefits - you, the supplier, the consumer, the banks, the state, the prison industry? Those who refuse the wage economy and choose the black market, for them there is the situation, at best, of self-rule, or we can easily see the way which everyone is familiar with, the tragic consequences printed in the law & moral propaganda of the state day-by-day.

Either way, this is no part of the solution for the crisis at hand, to have comrades who

are addicted to drugs, addicting others, suffering, being victim to, and creating, relationships of organised crime of dubious consequence, being imprisoned, in hospital, dead.

Ketamine is a seriously debilitating drug that causes psychological dependence resulting in a loss of autonomy which is antithetical to the survival of the human spirit.

Ketamine offers a lot but produces nothing. It offers a vision of perfection but removes the tools with which you would need to get there.

Ultimately ketamine is a death drug: it kills your body, it kills your spirit and reduces your autonomy for the sake of a perceived artificial reality which only contributes to the social disintegration which is an endemic symptom of post-industrial, post-modern society.



# Let's block everything

*This leaflet was distributed in Milan (Italy) during spontaneous demos of students in struggle against the reform proposed by the education minister.*

**War breaks out and the show goes on  
The stock exchange collapses and the  
show goes on  
Ecosystems are being destroyed and  
the show goes on  
Markets set the price of our life  
And submit schools to their needs  
Let's block this mechanism starting  
from the universities.  
Let's block everything.  
Let's start from zero.**

## **9 POINTS ON WHY IT IS NECESSARY TO BLOCK EVERYTHING**

**1** - In a city whose life is based on commerce and exchange of goods, to block all commercial channels means to interrupt normality. You might say: 'This will bring about discomfort'.

We answer that we feel much more discomfort in pretending that all this is normal, when banks, multinationals and lobbies are deciding for our future. When insecurity about life is turning into fear. When the last fences of social and environmental desolation are about to be pulled down.

**2** - A spontaneous march of 1,000 people every day creates more disruption than a big planned event of 100,000 people once in a blue moon. This is the difference between efficiency and empty participation.

**3** - The multiplicity of forms of struggle and moments of conflicts from below make us less controllable. In this way we cannot be placed in prearranged channels nor can we be labelled as supporters of political parties or unions. On the contrary we become more agile and less predictable. We acquire a richness of thought and action.

**4** - We live in a frenetic society where the logic of companies scans the rhythm of life. Production-profit-rapidity at school, at work, in the supermarket. We human beings are like debris abandoned to the flow of commercial exchanges, like isolated bodies in virtual communication, unable to fully understand the sense of our movement. Engulfed by the consolatory waves of spectacle, busy with running after false needs and mirages of career promotion, we are by now unable to grab the possibility of real change. Therefore it is urgent that we stop. We must stop this wreck of ourselves.

**5** - Let's block everything (from the schools to the streets) in order to take a breath and stop this rush for profit, in order to look at things from a different perspective, a perspective of surprise and pleasure in experiencing with others some unexpected freedom. Let's create self-management and widespread conflict so that we can take back our strength and ideas before starting reverse the course.

**6** - An unexpected and joyful blockage is an instrument of provocation. It is an instrument for sabotaging the mechanisms of a social machinery that wants us to be indifferent to the world surrounding us and insensitive to our passions.

**7** - To go out in the streets also means to take back all urban space that has been denied to us, to go through the town and meet other realities without forming 'ghettos' and 'student' ideologies

**8** - If the economy blocks the free circulation of people and knowledge, we want to block the economy through free and wild circulation of people and knowledge. That is to say: if their economy is aimed at looting and destroying knowledge, our knowledge is aimed at destroying and looting their economy.

**9** - Blockage is only one of the means. There is no winning path, on the contrary there are many possible paths to be explored. We leave the drainpipes to those who will soon flow back in struggles compatible with power. We leave the sewers to those who will try to ride the wave of protest with the only aim of bringing water to their political basin.

We prefer the open sea.

*Our first imperative is to take back in our hands the helm of our drift.*



[an insurgent anti-prison  
zine of social war &  
anarchy]

*“Socially speaking, the day when the costs of protecting property are greater than the benefits it brings, property, that child of exploitation, will disappear.” - EMILE ARMAND (1872 - 1962)*