

A close-up photograph of a man with dark hair, smiling, wearing a dark police uniform with a badge on his chest. The image is partially obscured by text.

**ongoing
police
repression
in the**

**central
valley**

*Produced by Modesto
Anarcho Crew*

Timeline of



Modesto, 2000

Police shoot and kill 11 year old Alberto Sepulveda during a drug raid. Police officer still working the force.



Modesto, 2006

Police shoot deaf driver who they wrongfully believe has stolen a car. They shoot out his windows and then taser him. The victim screams "I'm deaf!" over and over again.



Modesto, 2004

Police shoot and kill Sammy Galvan, 22. Police claim that he tried to attack them with knives; eye witnesses and neighbors claim otherwise. Family organizes protests and files a lawsuit - police step up harassment of family.



Modesto, 2006

Police brutally beat, taser, and pepper spray young people leaving a DJ event in downtown Modesto. Police claim that youths got out of hand; all charges filed are later dropped.

Modesto, 2003

Police shoot and kill Eustolio Aguilar, 22. Was "reaching for a weapon," that turned out to be a cell phone while being detained.



Police shoot Melron Johnson, claiming that he tried to attack them with a knife. Later police admit that Johnson had no knife. Video of shooting is never shown.

Modesto, 2006



Ceres - Modesto, 2005

In the wake of the Andres Raya shooting, the police in Ceres and Modesto step up harassment. They raid homes without warrants, hold children at gunpoint, and label whole groups of young people 'gang members.' Community members organize a 'Copwatch' program in response to the repression.



Ceres, 2007

Ceres police shoot a man that is fleeing from them. While attempting escape, police claim that the man tried to 'reach for a weapon.' They proceeded to shoot him in the back. It is later found that he was unarmed.

POLICE REPRESSION



Police maced and attacked two black union Longshore dock workers. Police claimed that the workers were trespassing. The attack led to protests.

Sacramento, 2007



Fresno, 2008

Police kill a high school student who attacks an officer on campus with a bat. Police lock down the school and parents rattle gates outside. Police claim the action was 'standard' and 'heroic.'



Escalon, 2008

CHP Officers shoot and kill Joey Pinasco, 21, who was trying to outrun police. Police claim they fired in self-defense - witnesses claim that police opened fire quickly and without much warning.

Woodland, 2008

Police kill a mentally ill man by tasing him several times and beating him. Police began the attack when the man did not 'obey orders' from the officers.

Ceres, 2007

Police attack a party of college students; macing them while handcuffed and dragging people out of their home by their hair. Police also destroyed a cell phone in an attempt to stop pictures from being taken. Police officers involved had records of complaints, abuse, and steroid use.

Police beef up repression against the 'Most Envied' motorcycle club. Police harass members at work, at home, fly helicopters over them, assault riders, and even encourage other motorcycle groups to 'start a war' with them. Bikers organize protests and publicity for their case.

Modesto, 2008



Police in the Central Valley - like police everywhere, can kill, beat, harass, and get away with it. The city government and the police themselves encourage us to fill out complaint forms if we feel we are wronged, but this only amounts to the police policing themselves. It is only by organizing and fighting back as ordinary people that we will be able to find justice.



Merced, 2008

Police beat a man who wrote graffiti on a police car. Neighbors are woken by screams and begged police to stop. The man later had to be hospitalized.

HOW ONE TOWN FOUGHT BACK

TAKEN FROM MODESTO ANARCHO #1

Andres Raya shot and killed a police officer and wounded another in January 2005 after returning from Iraq. According to people in Ceres, Officer Stevenson, (the officer who was killed), reportedly once held Raya at gun point and accused him of being a gang member. Raya, who was returning from a tour in Iraq, supposedly did not want to go back and decided to end his life and those of a few others. His life ended one January night in a blaze of gunfire, as he ran towards Ceres, Modesto, Turlock, and other police officers in a dark alley as he ran out of ammo and then was shot to death. Soon after Andy's death, tags appeared such as "RIP Andy" and there was talk of a gang truce in order to act against police reprisals.

Soon, a crackdown began, as police went after those who knew Andy and those who were close to him. They targeted his friends, family, and those who fit the description of "gang members." If you were a Latino/a young person living in Ceres and Modesto after January 2005 and you had a certain hairstyle and wore certain clothing, you were police enemy number one. Police raided homes without warrants, stopped people in cars for no reason, and generally harassed various individuals all because they had some connection to Raya, (at least according to the police). They stopped young kids on the street, holding them at gunpoint, and took pictures of them. Ceres high school also forced Andy's younger brother to go home right after school, even though his family was still at work.

Facing the brunt of this oppression was the "El Campo" labor camp. The camp was a neighborhood connected by one curvy street in West Ceres, which was home to migrant farm workers and their families. It was there that Raya knew people and where some of his friends lived. It was in that area that police stepped up their repression and it was also there that people in the community began to self-organize a Copwatch program that helped to put an end to police incursions into the neighborhood.

Copwatch in the Camp first began as a way to stop the police from harassing and brutalizing people in Ceres. Made up of community members, Copwatchers were armed only with their eyes and video equipment. Organizing themselves into shifts, the group rotated turns in order to monitor the community on different nights. Several of those who worked and lived in the Camp also were involved in neighborhood based assemblies and would report on what Copwatch was

was doing to the rest of the community and also to see if people were having problems with the police. The idea of Copwatch was simple: people would police the police. They would watch for abuse and harassment and document it.

The group in Ceres was joined by Copwatchers from Modesto that formed a group to monitor police harassment in downtown Modesto. The Modesto group brought in new camera equipment, experience, and people. While middle class groups like the ACLU twiddled their thumbs - regular folks in Ceres were actually stopping police violence!

By the time of the one year anniversary of the Raya shooting, police only made their way into the community once while Copwatch was on guard. Police presence dropped off dramatically, and incursions into people's homes and against youths stopped. What is most powerful of all from this experience, is the fact that it shows that a small community of people that became fed up with police violence and harassment can come together and fight back.

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