

# Revolt in Edgewood

This zine is a compilation of information found online surrounding the anti-police riot that took place in the Edgewood neighborhood of Atlanta.

Found on Atlanta Indymedia published anonymously:

Today, April 9th 2013, there was a riot in Edgewood, a neighborhood northeast of downtown Atlanta. The area is almost entirely residential and is about a year behind in the ongoing gentrification of Atlanta.

Around fifty people gathered for a "March Against the Police" with drums, banners, and a desire for vengeance at the playground in Edgewood Courts, an apartment complex in the back of the neighborhood. Edgewood Courts contains some of the few remaining low income housing units in Atlanta. Yesterday, the police pepper sprayed a group of kids and beat and arrested a man grieving over his lost father.

The march started off slowly — a few people started chanting All cops are bastards / Fuck the police! as drumming began. As the crowd left the complex, some people lined the streets, looking on. People walked up behind the complex toward the front of the neighborhood. As the first cop car approached, more and more people joined in. At first, the crowd seemed apprehensive about what to do, but all of a sudden something clicked. Contrary to most situations, the presence of the police did not act as a deterrent. Instead, the crowd became more excited and angry as the cops approached. A bottle was thrown at a police car and the momentum and joy picked up. What ensued was something that we will never forget. People began kicking the cop car and chased it away when it began to retreat. One pig gone. Cheers and chants filled the air as the crowd, feeling emboldened, decided to keep going.

The riot proceeded away from the Courts and the police started to put more distance between themselves and the crowd. The intensity grew as numbers swelled, fluctuating between 75 and 100+. The crowd blocked off the main entrance to the Courts, refusing to let the police drive down. What happened next could not have been anticipated.

A cop car was stopped at one of the central intersections in Edgewood. People quickly approached the squad car, even going so far as to lean in the window to shout at the cops while others banged on the side of the car. More and more people drew closer, eventually circling the car. Once it was successfully blocked and the pigs inside were intimidated, they tried to leave. The crowd joyfully sent them off with rocks, sticks, and even basketballs to speed the process. People cried out in excitement, leaping into the air for high-fives and hugs. Throughout the event not a single person made a plea for the police. It was clear the police were our common enemy.

On the way back to the apartment complex, people noticed an unmarked car coming toward the crowd up a sidestreet. People immediately responded by running toward the car and letting loose a rainstorm of pebbles, and then rocks, and then bricks. The cops threw their car into reverse and exited the area as fast as they could. Laughing, the crowd ran back down to the Courts and broke apart. A number of cop cars began circling throughout the apartments but left after people continued to throw projectiles, including a hammer, at the cops. Some kids, who had to be under 10, were even letting stones fly at cops.

All in all the police were forced to retreat 4 times — leaving the neighborhood completely. The crowd of people never backed down. An arrest occurred just outside of the neighborhood after the event; it is unclear if it is related.

There's a war on between the Edgewood residents and the cops, and the conflict is only escalating. Anger and riotous joy is the response to frequent harrassment. The day before this event the police

attempted to manage a crowd of people outside the apartment complex and were met with rowdy resistance. Three people were arrested, but not one went down easy. The cops have been upping their patrols around Edgewood recently, but tonight, there aren't any squad cars on the street.

#### Mainstream Media Coverage:

"Neighbors throw bricks, hammers at police cars over alleged brutality," WSB-TV Channel 2 Atlanta - <http://www.wsbtv.com/news/news/local/neighbors-throw-bricks-hammers-poli...>

"APD police cruisers pummeled with bricks during protest," 11 Alive Atlanta - <http://www.11alive.com/news/article/287484/40/Police-cruisers-pummeled-w...>

"Two Atlanta police cruisers hit by bricks, rocks," CBS Atlanta - <http://www.cbsatlanta.com/story/21926610/two-atlanta-police-cruisers-hit...>

"Protesters throw items at police cars in NE Atlanta," The Atlanta Journal-Constitution - <http://www.ajc.com/news/news/local/protesters-throw-items-at-police-cars...>

"Residents protest physical arrest in NE Atlanta," Fox 5 Atlanta - <http://www.myfoxatlanta.com/story/21926137/protester>

#### Background:

"Cop Threatens Kids With Shotgun," CopWatch footage from March 19th shot at the Edgewood Courts Apartment, Edgewood, Atlanta, GA - <http://atlanta.indymedia.org/local/cop-threatens-kids-shotgun>

We've included some posters that were floating around after the revolt

# IT'S HOT OUT IN EDGE- WOOD

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## FUCK THE HEAT

**F**OR THE SECOND NIGHT IN A ROW, people confronted the police in Edgewood Courts in response to endless repression, raids, and harrassment. The march at 5pm took on a different character than the previous standoffs with the police in Edgewood. This time, instead of waiting for the police to attack, people went out on their own terms.

After folks gathered for a few minutes at the playground, drumming began and chanting started up. *All cops are bastards / Fuck the police!* The march went on for just a block, picking up people on the way, before confronting the first cop car. People quickly pulled tshirts over their faces and everyone began screaming, throwing objects at the cops, and kicking the car until it drove away. Laughing, everyone kept going.

People forced cop cars to speed away (one time even in reverse!) three times throughout the march by throwing bricks and rocks at them and surrounding their cars.

There weren't cops in the neighborhood after the conflict dispersed, but that wasn't for no reason. Word on the street is that everyone -- people of all ages, the youngest being 4 years old -- threw rocks at the cops every time they drove past. Someone even threw a hammer.

*What's next? How do we spread the revolt? How do defend we ourselves? How do we keep it growing?*

*for more info check [atlanta.indymedia.org](http://atlanta.indymedia.org)*

#AtlantaRiot #Zone6

# WAR IN THE NEIGH- BORHOOD

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## #AtlantaRiot?

**O**N APRIL 8TH, residents at Edgewood Courts apartments confronted dozens of Atlanta police officers who were attacking a crowd of people. What made this event remarkable was not the repression -- beatings and arrests are standard police behavior -- but that people fought back.

The specific events are not clear to us, but we understand this struggle as another moment of the endless conflict between populations and the police designed to control them: *Oakland 2010, Seattle 2011, Anaheim 2012, and East Flatbush, Brooklyn a few weeks ago.* All over the country, neighborhoods have organized to resist their common enemy: the cops.

The recent repression in Edgewood Courts, however, must be seen in its unique context. The City of Atlanta has begun a process of "revitalization" and redevelopment of large parts of the city. But for whom?

Developers, capitalists, businessmen, and tourists. Their goal is not to eradicate drugs or crime from the area, but to annihilate the people who stand in their way, the forces that are obstacles to the growth of profit and the escalation of control.

*This was not the first time the people living in Edgewood Courts fought the police and we do not expect it to be the last.* A week ago, youth congregating at the Edgewood playground were instructed to disperse by the police and refused to follow orders. Rumor has it that someone threw a brick at a cop who drew his shotgun on the crowd of kids.

We are excited by these events and inspired by the courage of the neighborhood. We know that the first step is always the hardest, but we hope to see uncontrollable situations continue to emerge from the self-organized struggle against the police.

**What will it take to get the  
police out of this neighborhood  
for good?**

For information about other recent anti-police sentiments we recommend “Don't Die Wandering: Atlanta Against Police Winter 2011-2012”  
<http://theanarchistlibrary.org/library/anonymous-don-t-die-wondering>

To connect with others moving toward revolt in Atlanta check out:  
<http://atlanta.indymedia.org/>  
<http://blackdoordistro.wordpress.com>  
<http://www.heatindexatl.info/>