

RESOURCES



ANARCHIST PRISONERS

CLEVELAND 4
cleveland4solidarity.org
ERIC KING
supportericking.wordpress.com
JENNIFER GANN
babygirlgann.noblogs.org
JEREMY HAMMOND
freejeremy.net
MARIUS MASON
supportmariusmason.org
MICHAEL KIMBLE
anarchylive.noblogs.org
NATO 3
freethenato3.wordpress.com
SEAN SWAIN
seanswain.org

PRISONER SUPPORT

ABC FEDERATION
abcf.net
DENVER ABC
denverabc.wordpress.com
THE DIRT
thedirt.noblogs.org
GUELPH ABC
guelphabc.noblogs.org

HOUSTON ABC
houstonabc.wordpress.com
KANSAS CITY ABC
kansascityabc.wordpress.com
NYC ABC
NYCABC.WORDPRESS.COM
PRISON BOOKS COLLECTIVE
prisonbooks.info
SACRAMENTO PRISONER SUPPORT
sacprisonersupport.wordpress.com
SOUTH BROOKLYN ABC
sbrooklynabcf.wordpress.com
SUPPORT PRISONER RESISTANCE
supportprisonerresistance.noblogs.org
TORONTO ABC
torontoabc.wordpress.com
TUCSON ABC
tucsonabc.wordpress.com
UNSTOPPABLE
unstoppable.noblogs.org
WINNIPEG ABC
winnipegabc.wordpress.com

COUNTER-INFORMATION

325
325.nostate.net

ACT FOR FREEDOM NOW!
actforfree.nostate.net
ANARCHIST NEWS
anarchistnews.org
ANTI-STATE STL
antistatestl.noblogs.org
BITE BACK
directaction.info
CONFLICT MN
conflictmn.blackblogs.org
CONTRAINFO
en.contrainfo.espiv.net
INSURRECTION NEWS
insurrectionnewsworldwide.com
INTER ARMA
interarma.info/?lang=en
IT'S GOING DOWN
itsgoingdown.org
PUGET SOUND ANARCHISTS
pugetsoundanarchists.org
RIFI FI
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TAKKU
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WAR ON SOCIETY
waronsociety.noblogs.org

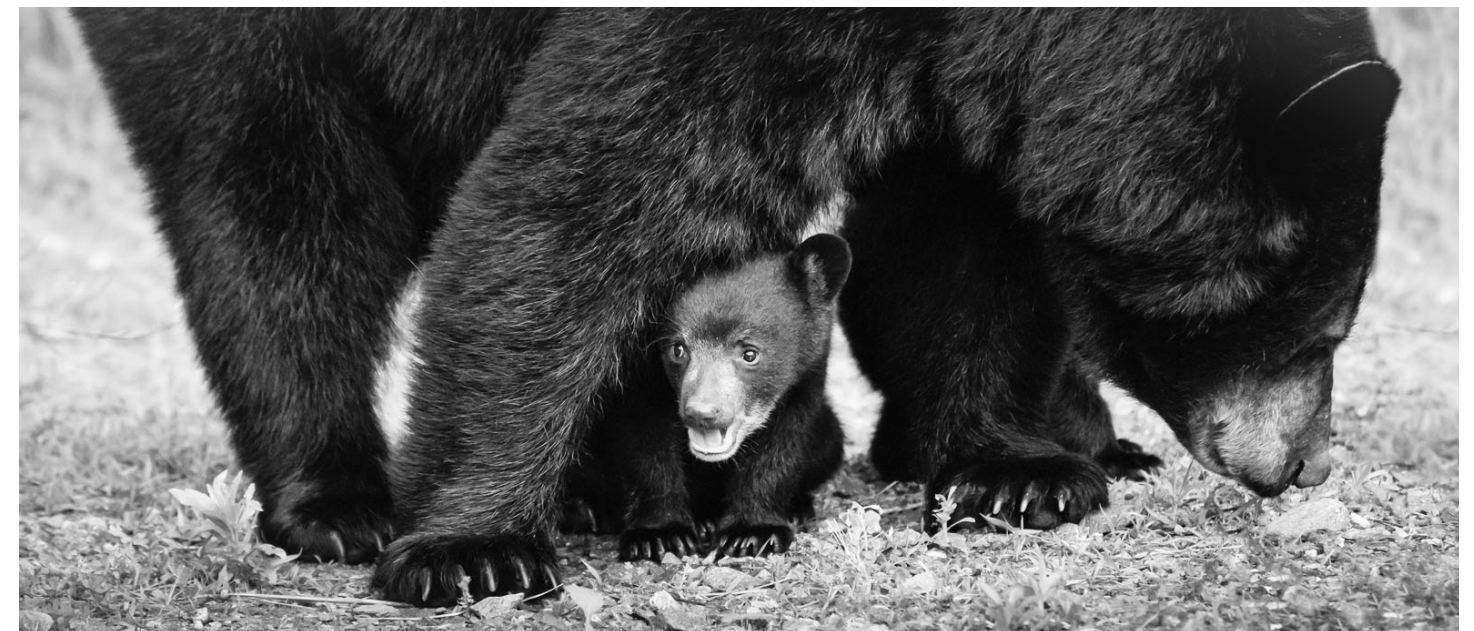
For an up-to-date listing of addresses for anarchist prisoners in the United States, please visit:
wildfire.noblogs.org



WILDFIRE

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CONTRIBUTE

If you are an anarchist/anti-authoritarian prisoner, we would love to read and publish your writing. Updates on your situation, book or zine reviews, your thoughts on current struggles, criticism, theory, and anything else are welcome.

For submissions, please include:

1. Your name if you wish for it to appear in print, or indication that you would like the text to appear anonymously or under a pseudonym.
2. Clear indication that you would like the piece to be printed.

Deadline for issue #5 is JULY 15th

FREE LITERATURE

All prisoners may request any number of these publications via a letter to our PO box. We will send them out as quickly as we can.

SELECTIONS FOR ISSUE #4

- ADDRESS TO THE COURT - LOUIS LINGG
Statement by Haymarket martyr. The real voice of May Day!
- AGAINST DEMOCRACY - COORDINATION OF ANARCHIST GROUPS
Recent critique of democracy from Spanish anarchists.
- IT'S GOING DOWN
Anarchist news and analyses from so-called "North America."
- PRISONER HOTSHEET
Some news on recent prison rebellion in Alabama.
- SEVERINO DI GIOVANNI IN ARGENTINA
Biography of an anarchist printer and insurgent, who engaged in insurrectional struggle and acts of solidarity with prisoners in the early 20th century.

ANARCHIST PRISON WRITINGS

- ANARCHY LIVE - MICHAEL KIMBLE
- LOCKED UP - ALFREDO M. BONANNO
- PRISON LETTERS - KUWASI BALAGOON
- PRISON LETTERS - LUCIANO "TORTUGA" PITRONELLO
- REQUIEM FOR THE PASSING MOON - HANS NIEMEYER

INTRODUCTIONS TO ANARCHISM

- ANARCHISM AND THE BLACK REVOLUTION - LORENZO KOMBOA ERVIN
A three-part manifesto outlining historical conditions of racism, ideas on the future of black liberation actions, and an overview of anarchism as theory and practice.
- ANARCHY WORKS - PETER GELDERLOOS
A comprehensive overview of anarchy and its application in life.
- INSURRECTIONARY ANARCHISM
- WHAT IS GREEN ANARCHY?

ANARCHIST PERIODICALS

- 325
Journal of anarchist attack, subversion, and war.
- AVALANCHE: ANARCHIST CORRESPONDENCE
Anarchist writings from the front lines of social struggle.
- BLACK SEED
A green anarchist periodical.
- DARK NIGHTS
News of anarchist and anti-prison struggle.
- THE DIRT
An anarchist publication of prisoners' writings and "the dirt" on those who maintain the prison system.
- FIRE TO THE PRISONS
Anarchist publication of social war, prison struggle, and analysis.
- UNSTOPPABLE
Anti-authoritarian newsletter by women, transgender, and gender-variant prisoners.

WILDFIRE
c/o The Future
PO Box 3133
Bloomington, IN 47402

CRITICAL RESISTANCE OF THE YEAST VARIETY

BY LACINO HAMILTON



Some mornings I wake up with a pain between the fourth and fifth rib so intense, I wince. Got to dig deep those mornings. I have been punched hard: 52 to 80 years, first time, for a crime I am 100 percent factually innocent of. Some mornings I rise feeling superior to the task. Any task: this morning I am somewhere in between. Nonetheless, determined to serve those who benefit from all this misery, the proverbial coup de grace.

I was born and brought up where there is no grey area. No mountain top experiences. Just the valleys, and low places where you feel and know you are vulnerable. Where you either succumb to the attendant activities characteristic of making do with thread when rope is needed, or you prove Fannie Lou Hamer correct: performing our daily rounds, honing social justice ideas, inevitable is the transition from political commitment to political action, i.e. war ready.

The 1980s crack economy made savages out of a lot of us in Detroit. North American racism toward Blacks was quite well entrenched, and internalized by Blacks themselves. Ronald Wilson Reagan and the CIA spit on the working class and poor who spit on those similarly situated who spit on those who had a right to expect something better from us.

The racism was habitual; it was unperturbed, accepted, and viewed as entirely natural. Anyone who takes the time to dialogue with prisoners, Michigan in particular, will discover that that racist climate, in its paternalistic as well as in its more aggressive forms, is encoded in prison policies and practices. A system that sustains itself by oppression, repression, and torture. Obedience and unabbreviated control of prison is not obtained by seeking permission from those forced into this cramped space. Prison staff believe in get down or lay down, mob tactics.

It is more than the body that has been arrested and detained. There is an emotional, psychological, and social caging

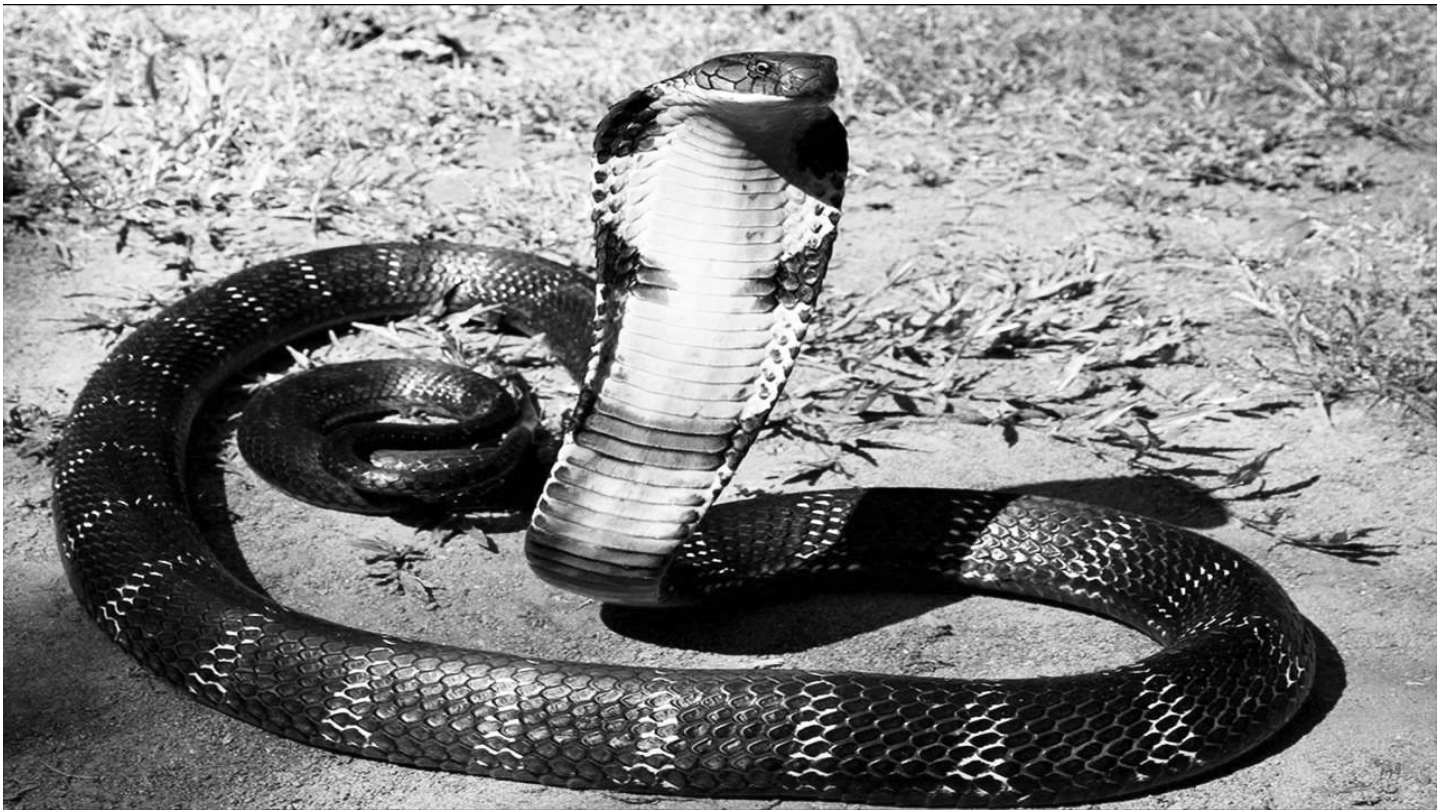
too. Mind and body subject to domination becomes fossilized. Only a struggle for spiritual and political liberation can ensure the emergence of new and different social dynamics. Radically different from the status quo – hardened, obsolete, and oppressive absurdity and arbitrariness to which prison is.

And I am not referring to some theory of progress which requires a brand of sacrifice that strips prisoners of resistance. Which ultimately amounts to the absolute advantage of staff and facility. We must never forget that any effort toward abolishing prison is preceded by a persistent, concrete, and genuine effort to abolish capitalism. As long as capitalism exists, prison will be required to further marginalize those who refuse to bend when faced with denial.

The description of how I feel some mornings may seem quaint in a world saturated with verbiage about capitalism, imperialism, racism, poverty, hunger, homelessness, gender discrimination, exploitation of labor, and mistreatment of children. Within this framework oppression is more than ever present. So present, in fact, as to merit critical resistance. Its variety and proliferation like yeast, i.e. to accomplish anything we must react to oppression like yeast. Once yeast is stirred into dough it cannot be detected, but highly effective when the heat is on. The warmer the circumstances, the greater the reaction.

Lacino has been incarcerated since July of 1994 for second degree murder, having always maintained his innocence. He describes himself as a public sociologist who endeavors to bring sociology into dialogue with audiences beyond the academy, and open dialogue which deepens understanding of public issues. He can be reached at: Lacino Hamilton #247310, 3226 John Conley Dr., Lapeer, MI 48446; or www.jpap.com and entering his name and 6-digit prison number.

A LETTER
FROM BRANDON GRAY



I haven’t done a rough draft, I am just letting the pen hit the paper and sending what comes.

There is no forward movement for us without violence, and I hate to say that. But the oppressors understand nothing else. But for all the comrades that have just been awakened, start small. Every voice counts. If you are incarcerated, welcome to slave labor. Twelve cents an hour! Unfortunately they do not provide what we are in need of such as shoes and basic hygiene. They know if you receive no income from family and friends then you are forced to “work” for them. They give you incident reports if you refuse. I just want to break down UNICOR real quick. They pay an average of \$0.55 and hour. They make an average of \$25.00 an hour off each one of us. *Don’t do it!* I know to some, it is the only means of income. I receive no money from the world but I refuse to let them exploit me any further than they do already. I make nothing on the captain’s crew. I try to hussle. I make enough for basic necessities. Barely enough but enough. I get second hand shoes. They work. I repeat: stop letting them exploit us anymore. Be the worst employee possible. Break every tool, everything they put in our hands. Be as uncooperative as possible. Make their shifts as frustrating and hard as possible. Stop fighting each other. We are comrades, fight our captors! No matter what, it is *us* against them. Black, white, Mexican, Latino, gay, straight, it’s all the same. We are *comrades against oppressors!* Right now we are idle, just a statistic. Upon our release we become soldiers, with a hell of a lot of knowledge of our enemies. For the comrades who have no date, know that we fight for the end of this prison system! They call me a commie, a traitor, anti-

american. No, I just strive to help the day come when humanity is *free!* The revolution is here comrades. Don’t be a sheep!

A little about me. 31, white, male. Have been in prison since I was 24. Have a few years to go. But receiving things from ABC and Wildfire helps me stay strong. I know nobody can take that from me. I may be beaten down but these pigs will never break me. I am too strong for them. I know I have too much support. They have no idea the weapon I have become. If anyone wants to correspond, please don’t hesitate to send some words! Thanks for staying strong! We will overcome these people. Be there to see their broken looks as we do.

In Solidarity,
Brandon Gray

Brandon Gray #57511-280
Federal Correctional Institution Elkton
P.O. Box 10
Lisbon, OH 44432

9 March (Helsinki, Finland): Ten luxury cars sabotaged.

11 March (Asturias, Spain): Trains sabotaged and graffiti written in solidarity with Mónica and Francisco.

11-14 March (Alabama, USA): Guard and warden of Holman Correctional Facility stabbed, setting off a riot. Windows busted, mesh wire kicked out, control units seized, dorms opened up, fires set, barricades set up. Riot team regains control, only to see another riot break out.

12 March (Santiago, Chile): Cell of Individualists and Anarchic Nihilists for Anti-authoritarian Insurrection (FAI/IRF) detonate a noise bomb outside a building of highway management Vespucio Sur in solidarity with anarchist prisoners.

13 March (Valence, France): Anarchists tag two churches.

13 March (Boston, USA): Banner in solidarity with Calais.

13 March (Chile): Joaquin Garcia, imprisoned November 2015 on charges of bomb attacks on a school for prison guards and a police station, attacks the former boss of the dictatorship’s intelligence police.

14 March (Montreal, Canada): Luxury car dealership attacked with incendiary devices in solidarity with the imprisoned anarchists of Revolutionary Struggle and the Conspiracy of Cells of Fire.

15 March (Minneapolis, USA): Banner dropped in solidarity with the Holman prison rebels. From the reportback: “May the fires in Holman spread across the country with countless diverse and uncontrollable actions. The inmates rebelling inside prison walls cannot be left to fight alone.”

15 March (California, USA): Anarchist prisoner Jennifer Gann releases statement in solidarity with the CCF, FAI/IRF, and anarchist prisoners worldwide.

15 March (Athens, Greece): Incendiary Disobedience Cell torches a van and an ATM of the Hellenic Post in solidarity with imprisoned anarchists.

15 March (Santiago, Chile): Flyers scattered at the site where Javier Recabarren, an 11-year-old anarchist comrade, was killed.

15 March (Ireland): Animal Liberation Front destroys 80 circus signs.

16 March (USA): An anonymous call for actions in solidarity with the Holman prison rebellion is released.

16 March (Marseille, France): Week of actions in solidarity with the resistance in Calais: stickering, spray painting of slogans, nationalist propaganda destroyed, tires of deportation collaborators slashed, cash points attacked, cameras sabotaged, posters pasted, banners dropped, Red Cross building attacked with rocks and has its locks sabotaged, paint bombs against 3 other Red Cross buildings.

17 March (Greece): Imprisoned anarchist comrades in Greece release statement in solidarity with Osman Evcan, anarchist imprisoned in Turkey.

18 March (Paris, France): Eight ATMs sabotaged in solidarity with the anarchists in Koridallos prison.

18 March (Marseille, France): Banner drop in solidarity with Osman Evcan.

20 March (Hamburg, Germany): Three churches desecrated with paint in solidarity with Mónica and Francisco.

21 March (Montevideo, Uruguay): Graffiti in remembrance of Javier Recabarren. “Javier Recabarren present in every indomitable, free and wild heart - No cage, No zoo.”

22 March (Philadelphia, USA): Posters thrown up in solidarity with the Holman prison rebellion. From the posters: “We want to spread their struggle & let them know they have friends outside the prison who support their fight.”

22 March (Lara, Venezuela): Fourteen prison employees held hostage and one guard killed in prison riot.

22 March (Bolivia): Rooftop prison riot.

22 March (Nebraska, USA): Riot at a youth facility in Kearney. Prisoners there break windows, doors, and sprinkler heads; throw ceiling tiles around the living unit; and assault guards. Damage is estimated to be around \$3,000. The revolt started as a dispute over food.

24 March (Paris, France): CGT union has its windows smashed in retaliation for the CGT security attacking protesters and handing them over to the cops.

24 March (Athens, Greece): Police car and guard booth attacked with fire in memory of murdered anarchist Lambros Foundas.

25 March (Bern, Switzerland): Federal Department for the Environment attacked with paint in solidarity with Silvia, Billy, and Costa.

30 March (Spain): Anarchist comrades Mónica Caballero and Francisco Solar sentenced to 12 years in prison for “causing injuries” and “causing damage with terrorist intent” for an attack on a church.

30 March (Brussels, Belgium): Two cars at the foot of a prison wall set on fire in solidarity with Mónica and Francisco.

31 March (France): Mobilization against labor reforms. Colleges blockaded, schools on strike, demonstrations clash with cops, banks attacked with hammers and paint, streets barricaded.

11 February (Santiago, Chile): Bomb left at the gendarmerie center by the December 11th Insurrectional Cell (FAI/IRF) in solidarity with anarchist prisoners and fallen anarchist warriors.

11 February (UK): Over 100 hens liberated.

12 February (Tucson, USA): Queer anarchists march in response to the murder of Kayden Clarke by the police.

13 February (Athens, Greece): Explosive attack on tax office by Insurgent Individuals (FAI/IRF).

14 February (Mulheim, Germany): Nine cars burnt by Wildfire Cell (Animal Liberation Front/Earth Liberation Front/Informal Anarchist Federation), in solidarity with anarchist prisoners.

14 February (Prague, Czech Republic): Network of Revolutionary Cells attack police vehicles with incendiary devices in solidarity with anarchist prisoner Martin Ignačák.

15 February (Volos, Greece): Two ATMs burned in solidarity with anarchist prisoner Panagiotis Aspiotis.

18 February (Bloomington, USA): Banner dropped in solidarity with Mexican anarchist prisoner Fernando Bárcenas.

21 February (Greece): Fugitive member of anarchist guerrilla group Revolutionary Struggle, Pola Roupa, attempts to hijack a helicopter in a plot to break anarchist and rebel prisoners out of prison. Her plan is foiled by an ex-cop helicopter pilot. Pola escapes and remains free.

22 February (Santiago, Chile): University research building burned by Circle of Individuals for Anarky and Kapibara Group (FAI/IRF), in solidarity with anarchist prisoners Marius Mason and Natalia Collado.

24 February (Rennes, France): Migrants declare hunger strike after a miscarraige and suicide attempt.

25 February (Montreal, Canada): Businesses have their windows smashed and paint thrown everywhere.

26 February (Marseille, France): Two luxury cars set on fire in solidarity with four comrades imprisoned for revolt against maxi-prisons.

27 February (Philadelphia, USA): Posters thrown up in solidarity with the anti-airport resistance of the ZAD in France.

27 February (Toulouse, France): Several trucks at a Vinci construction site burned by ‘Some rascals.’

28 February (Beaver Creek, USA): 50 pheasants liberated from a game farm in memory of Clément Méric, an anti-fascist vegan who was murdered by neo-nazi skinheads in Paris, France in 2013.

29 February (Tijuana, Mexico): Graffiti for Fernando Bárcenas.

MARCH 2016

1 March (Chile): Anarchist prisoners Juan Aliste, Marcelo Villarroel, and Freddy Fuentesvilla release statement in solidarity with Chilean anarchist prisoners Mónica and Francisco, held captive in Spain.

2 March (Athens, Greece): French Institute attacked with molotovs in solidarity with migrants and fighters against the French state in the Calais region.

3 March (Philadelphia, USA): Four University City District buildings have their locks glued and anti-cop/anti-gentrification slogans spray painted. A camera is also removed.

3 March (Athens, Greece): Members of Revolutionary Struggle sentenced for a car bomb attack, a shootout with police, and bank expropriations: Nikos Maziotis (life in prison plus 129 years); Antonis Stamboulos (13 years); Giorgos Petrakakos (36 years); Pola Roupa, currently on the run (11 years).

4 March (Georgetown, Guyana): Prisoners riot, set fires, and battle guards.

4 March (Marseille, France): Insomniac Owls with Internationalist Mood and Incandescent Humour burn a van of GDF Suez, who profit from the detention of “migrants.”

5 March (Montreal, Canada): Anarchists smash the windows and slash the tires of a police cruiser.

6 March (Besançon, France): Church tagged in solidarity with Mónica and Francisco.

6 March (Euskal Herria): Flyposting for Mónica and Francisco.

6 March (Avon Gorge, UK): Coal rail lines sabotaged by sabotage group “Sand in the Gears.”

7 March (Buenos Aires, Argentina): Several bank ATMs sabotaged in solidarity with Mónica and Francisco.

7 March (Italy): Animal Liberation Front frees forty-nine lambs and destroys documents and equipment.

7 March (Melbourne, Australia): Six youths riot on youth prison roof for 7 hours.

8 March (Athens, Greece): Banners, flyers, and spray paint at the Spanish Embassy in solidarity with Mónica and Francisco.

9 March (Montreuil-sous-Bois, France): Prison architect’s studio set on fire in solidarity with Mónica, Francisco, and all freedom fighters.

9 March (Wellington, New Zealand): Cells set on fire in prison riot.

9 March (Porto Alegre, Brazil): Arson attack on Santander bank in solidarity with Mónica, Francisco, and the CCF.

REINTRODUCTION & SOME THOUGHTS ON TERRORISM, LANGUAGE, CONTEXT & STRATEGY

BY BRANDON BAXTER



Since our arrest in 2012 I have maintained a near radio silence public profile despite regular and sincere encouragement to share my thoughts and ideas through mediums such as this. This was done intentionally as I had, until this point, maintained a glimmer of hope that I’d be able to fight my case in court. Today I received notice that my latest efforts to appeal my conviction were shut down by the court. There still remains a few avenues of recourse, but the prospects of a bright horizon, in those regards, are abysmal. Therefore, no longer will I be concerned with what I think and say being misconstrued and used against me in a court of law.

I’ll begin by sharing that I do not accept the United States’ designation of myself or any other dissident as a terrorist. In fact, I do not recognize the right to designate anyone as a terrorist as a right possessed by the United States, which is itself a terrorist State and member of the largest terrorist alliance on the globe—NATO. By the United States’ own definition of terrorism, that any act or threat that can be construed as violent which is calculated to influence or retaliate (or support such actions) against a government, every so-called “police action” and act of war perpetrated by the United States is an act of terrorism.

But simply because the United States’ acts of violence are by their own definition terrorism does not mean that I accept their definition. I definitely do not accept the United States’ notion that it has a right to define words, especially since when it chooses to do so it has a tendency to define words arbitrarily and in contradiction to popularly understood meaning in order to suit its own agenda. Murder, for instance, is a crime, so according to United States it

is not murder when a police officer murders an unarmed child; or when a remote drone pilot murders unarmed non-combatants. In these sorts of cases innocent people are killed, not murdered, because if they were murdered it would undermine the United States’ use of terrorism to maintain its power.

You see, when we accept their control of language how can we ever hope to truly establish our own narrative: they control the context.

With this in mind, I am proposing a definition of terrorism for you to ponder and encourage you to put it in to common use. Terrorism is: the systemic use of terror intended to coerce a certain behavior. Basically, any act that can be construed as carrying the meaning, “do this...” or “don’t do that...or else,” is terrorism.

Within this context we can begin to see more clearly that the existence of the State is itself an act of terrorism. The State exists through the systemic use and threat of force and prisons to coerce compliance to a never ending list of laws and regulations crafted to keep and expand the power of those who have it. The existence of a military is an implied threat to all sovereigns to not interfere with United States interests, whether political or economic, and is an act of terrorism. The existence of prisons is an implied threat against the powerless that they better comply with dictates of power, or else be taken away from everyone they love to be thrown in a dangerous environment where they will be dehumanized, brutalized, and have to defend themselves from other people under the same circumstances for years at a time, and is an act of terrorism. The existence of the police is an implied threat to everyone within their

territorial jurisdiction, a constant reminder that at any moment they can be killed (but not murdered) with impunity or sent to prison on fabricated charges, and is an act of terrorism. Within this context we can give teeth to the narrative of those without power.

Next, I denounce the modern incarnation of terrorism as either a revolutionary or liberatory strategy in our postmodern era. As a strategy, what modern terrorism has achieved is a tightening grip of power in the hands of the security state with no tangible benefit to revolutionary movements. While some proponents of this strategy might argue that the growth of the security state was the intended consequence of modern terrorism campaigns and a significant burden upon the United States economy totaling hundred of billions of dollars in security costs, which are in large part to blame for the economic decline of the United States as an empire, such arguments still fail to take into account that the United States Federal Reserve has been printing money backed by nothing (except debt) since 1933. When they print money from thin air, what meaning does an economy have to those in power—when power is the only real currency with any real value?

What I mean by the modern incarnation of terrorism within the context as a revolutionary strategy is acts or threats of violence against non-combatants with the intent to draw State forces into protracted conflict in order to drain their economy. Violence targeted against non-combatants is simply unconscionable, especially when the non-combatants have no relationship to the State aside from, maybe, citizenship. But more to the point, modern terrorism is ineffectual as a revolutionary strategy and serves only to further consolidate power into fewer and fewer hands.

A few side notes on definitions: property destruction is not violence unless it affirmatively impedes the ability to maintain life (i.e. the Israeli military bulldozing Palestinian homes or burning people’s food supply are acts of violence. Sabotaging mining

equipment or burning a flag are not.), and sabotage is not terrorism within a revolutionary context. It may be worthwhile to note that the strategic intent of terrorism is to terrorize, typically a state, and thereby attack their economy indirectly. On the other hand, direct action, which is calculated to exact direct results, seeks to affect change directly, not through fear or terror, and is therefore not terrorism. To be fair, certain forms of violently executed direct action can be fairly construed as acts of war. I would neither condone nor oppose such direct action, though at this point I would consider it unwise, and would ultimately prefer they be avoided, but cautiously accept that they might, at some point, be a necessity.

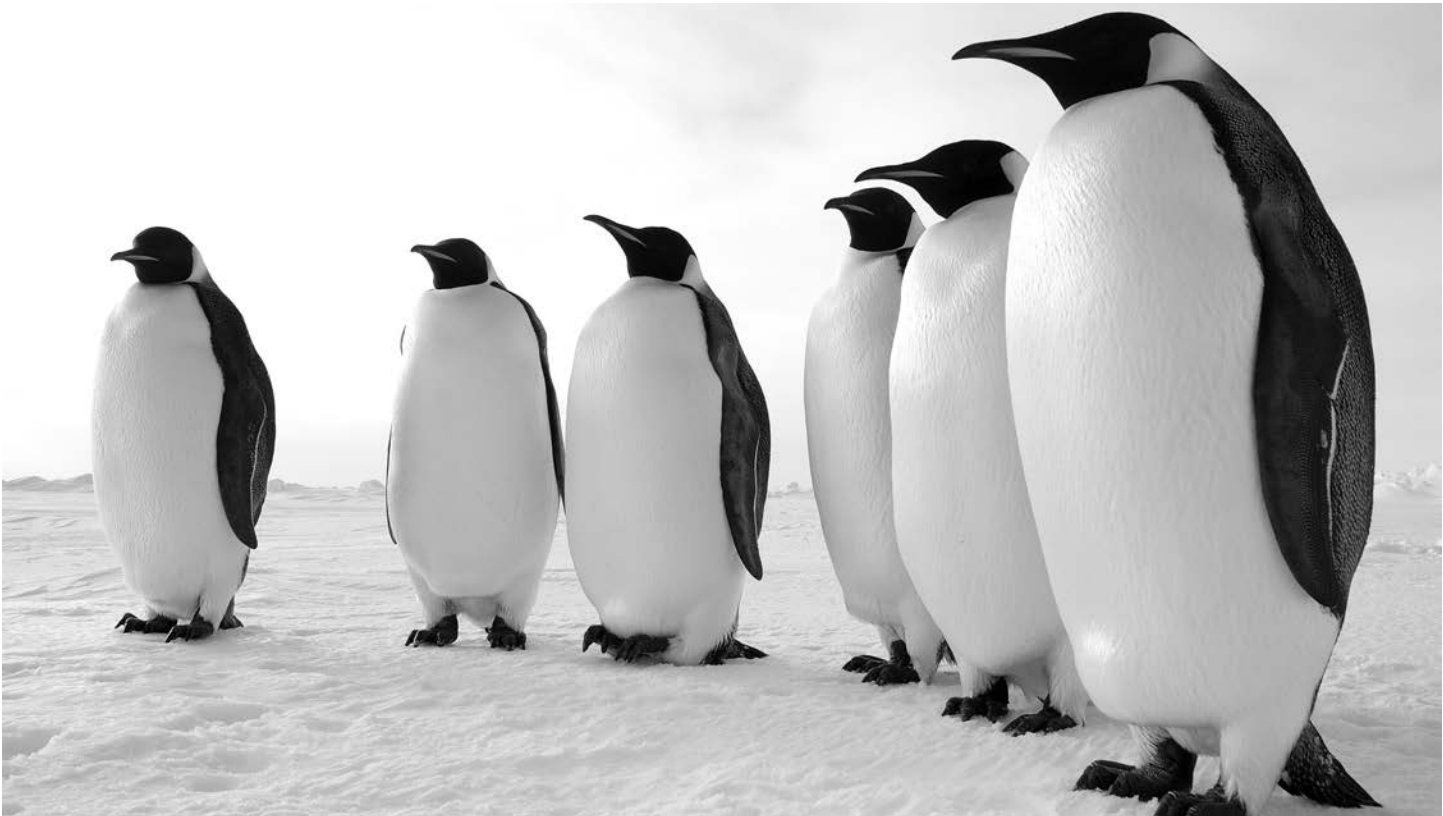
Finally, I’d like to promote building egalitarian infrastructure based on anarchist horizontalism as the liberatory strategy pragmatically appropriate for our time. So many of the ongoing projects have so much potential to create their own power if only they would take themselves more seriously and think in terms of breaking community dependence on State and incorporated institutions instead of partaking in symbolic acts and demonstrations. I have a lot of ideas I intend to share and invite discussion on in the near future.

For those of you already laying this foundation, I give you my most sincere gratitude and wishes for further progress.

Expect to hear from me more often.

Feel free to write me with comments. I appreciate hate mail, too, if you got beef. You can find an up-to-date mailing address at Facebook.com/freethe4, and @FreeCleveland4 on Twitter.

Love & Rage,
Brandon Baxter
2 January 2016



7 January (Massachusetts, USA): Two guards injured in prison riot.

9 January (Lukulu, Zambia): Twenty-seven prisoners escape when a crowd attacks police station after a man dies in police custody.

11 January (Guatemala): Warden and 19 security guards taken hostage in prison riot.

14 January (Trento, Italy): Two repeaters burned and destroyed in solidarity with Billy, Sylvia, and Costa, Italian anarchists on trial for a planned bombing of a technological research facility.

16 January (Huntington, USA): Hundreds demonstration outside of the home of Skanska CEO Richard Cavallero, in opposition to his company’s plans to build an underground animal testing lab in Seattle.

16 January (Okere, Nigeria): Hunger strike by inmates is followed by a riot.

17 January (Spain): Anarchist comrade Gabriel Pombo da Silva goes on hunger strike demanding a single cell, a demand he wins two days later.

17 January (Seine-at-Marne): Two guards deliberately hit by a car and badly wounded in a prison car park.

17 January (Christmas Island, Australia): Detainees at a migrant detention center set buildings alight and arm themselves with baseball bats in a riot.

18-24 January (Helsinki, Finland): Bus stops painted with slogans in support of the ZAD anti-airport resistance.

20 January (Argentina): Two birds rescued and cages smashed in memory of fallen anarchist Sebastián “Angry” Oversluij.

22 January (Worldwide): International Day of Action in Solidarity with Trans Prisoners.

22 January (Minneapolis, USA): Antagonistic queers set off fireworks outside of the youth jail in solidarity with trans prisoners.

22 January (Montreal, Canada): Graffiti in solidarity with trans prisoners.

22 January (Philadelphia, USA): Noise demo outside the Federal Detention Center in solidarity with trans prisoners. Some police cruisers spray painted.

22 January (Marseille, France): Banner drop for trans prisoners.

22 January (Melbourne, Australia): Anarchists attack the French consulate and offices of the VINCI company in solidarity with the ZAD.

23 January (Athens, Greece): Banners hung in solidarity with trans prisoners, and in particular, anarchist prisoner Marius Mason.

“Trans and cis abnormals; we set up gallows for every authoritarian. Freedom for the anarchist comrade Marius Mason.”

23 January (Johannesburg, South Africa): 500 riot outside hospital in response to death in police custody.

25 January (Ontario, Canada): Enbridge pipeline sabotaged again.

26 January (Axapusco, Mexico): 300 locals try to lynch a cop in response to the death of a 15-year-old in custody.

27 January (Kalmar, Sweden): Youth in refugee detention center riot.

29 January (Italy): Ducks liberated and cages smashed.

29 January (Saronno, Italy): Molotov attack on the headquarters of Rotodyne, developers of war machinery.

30 January (Southern France): 37 hens liberated.

30 January (Durham, USA): Over 100 people protest outside of the jail in response to the death of Matthew McCain and Dennis McMurray at the hands of the Durham jail and Sheriff’s department.

31 Janaury (Mexico City, Mexico): Banner dropped and TELMEX car burned in solidarity with prisoners.

FEBRUARY 2016

5 February (Bloomington, USA): Banner hung in solidarity with Sean Swain. From the text: “Sean remains uncompromising in his pursuit of freedom, putting his life on the line in struggle against the state. We keep his words and deeds with us as we carry out our own struggles against prison society.”

5 February (Greece): Anarchists destroy mobile phone infrastructure in solidarity with Greek anarchist prisoners T. Theofilou and G. Tsironis.

6 February (Marseille, France): Spanish consulate attacked with paint in response to assassination of migrants by the Spanish guardia civil.

7 February (Civitavecchia, Italy): Explosive device placed at the city court by “Fireworks committee for an extraordinary year’ (FAI/IRF) in solidarity with anarchist prisoners worldwide.

7 February (Athens, Greece): Incendiary Foci of Deregulation (FAI) firebomb Hellenic Post branch and a diplomatic vehicle in solidarity with anarchist prisoners.

10 February (Montevideo, Uruguay): Home of Carlos Rossel, torturer during the ‘73-’85 dictatorship, attacked with molotov cocktails.

10 February (Scorze, Italy): Thousands of mink freed from fur farm by the Animal Liberation Front.

of Chaos” with solidarity to anarchist prisoners and Black December.

22 December (USA): Radio interview by The Final Straw with anarchist prisoner Michael Kimble.

22 December (St. Louis, USA): Individuals tag militant anti-police & anti-prison slogans, deface multiple billboards, and stencil black roses all over the metro area for Black December.

22 December (Burlington, USA): March against police in coordination with Black December.

22 December (Montreal, Canada): In response to Black December, a yuppie boutique has its windows broken and a re-purposed fire extinguisher is used to spray paint inside, ruining the merchandise.

23 December (Bloomington, USA): Banner hung for Black December and in solidarity with anarchist prisoners.

23 December (Amsterdam, Netherlands): Demonstration for Black December. Shops attacked with paint and flyers spread.

23 December (Mexico City, Mexico): Informal Anti-authoritarian Feminist Action Commando places an explosive device placed at a church for Black December. From the reportback: “No God, no state, no husband or master! Death to the church, the judges and the military! Fire to the prisons! Solidarity with every prisoner kidnapped in the prisons of the state.”

24 December (Mons, Belgium): Cars of prison guards vandalized by masked attackers.

25 December (Utrecht, Netherlands): Vehicle of Otto Workforce job agency is burned for Black December.

25 December (Den Haag, Netherlands): ATM sabotaged and bank spray painted for Black December.

28 December (Prague, Czech Republic): 492 Cell / Network of Revolutionary Cells stink bomb the Řízkárna restaurant, target of numerous attacks over the past year for its owner’s theft of wages and exploitation of workers.

26 December (Brussels, Belgium): Tires of prison construction company Eiffage slashed for Black December.

28 December (Turkey): Partridges rescued by the ALF.

29 December (Berlin, Germany): “Informal pyromaniac conspiracy” burns ThyssenKrupp vehicle for Black December.

30 December (Argentina): Twenty-seven rabbits rescued and research destroyed at a campus animal experimentation lab.

30 December (Loire-Atlantique, France): Several fires in juvenile prison.

31 December (Melbourne, Australia): Anarchist Office

Refurbishment Cell attacks the offices of defense contractor BAE Systems with paint and sledge hammers for Black December.

31 December (Worldwide): Prison/jail noise demonstrations globally in solidarity with prisoners.

31 December (Minneapolis, USA): Noise demonstration outside of the youth jail in coordination with Black December.

31 December (New York City, NY): Over 100 individuals in the streets for a noise demonstration.

31 December (Southern Ontario, Canada): Noise demonstrations at multiple jails and prisons. Graffiti is spray painted on numerous buildings, including tags about Black December.

31 December (Quebec, Canada): Noise demonstration outside the prison of Rimouski, and another at Joliette Women’s Prison.

31 December (Bloomington, USA): Noise demonstration outside of the local jail in coordination with Black December. Fireworks and smoke bombs are set off and a dumpster is pulled into the street and set on fire.

31 December (Montreal, Canada): Over 100 people hold a noise demonstration, with fireworks, outside of multiple prisons.

31 December (Ft. Lauderdale, USA): Noise demonstration outside of Broward County Jail.

31 December (Montreal, Canada): A BMW firebombed in coordination with Black December, and in solidarity with Michael Kimble and all other prison rebels in Alabama, Sean Swain, Marius Mason, Emma Shepard, and Nikos Romanos.

31 December (Leipzig, Germany): Federal Customs Administration vehicles torched for Black December.

31 December (Montevideo, Uruguay): Porsche car dealership attacked with molotov cocktails for Black December.

31 December (Hambacher Forest, Germany): Arson and sabotage against mining operations for Black December. Stingers set on the mine road to disable security forces while wires of coal trains attacked with fire. Telecommunications mast torched. Later, burning barricade set.

JANUARY 2016

January (Ohio, USA): Sean Swain goes on medication strike demanding restoration of his communications.

3 January (Cambridge, Canada): Enbridge pipeline and valve sabotaged in the night.

4 January (Athens, Greece): FAI/IRF cell burns two banks for Black December.

**A MESSAGE
FROM TODD SHEPARD**



Wildfire is hands down the best anti-state prison newsletter around. The prisoners who contribute their writings are well-informed, articulate, and dedicated to change. The critiques of the opinions and activities of fellow comrades are well thought out as well as constructive. I must respond to Wildfire No. 3.

This is a message to all the comrades as well as a response to Comrade Anarcho Faheem’s bitter and scathing attack on the trill O.G. veteran of prison struggle, the brilliant and dedicated Comrade Sean Swain.

Anarcho Faheem: first you accuse Comrade Swain of putting water on a spark before it can turn into a full blaze and then you turn around and do the same thing by telling him it “isn’t practical” to attempt to deal a death blow to slave camps from inside prison. Comrade, Revolution itself is not practical. Revolution flies in the face of logic and goes against all odds.

Revolutionaries are strong-willed visionaries who bust through mental road blocks and see beyond intellectual barriers. For example: is it impossible to see that with the proper use of sabotage one slave camp at one institution can be rendered unable to turn a profit? If the factory has to constantly shut down in order to repair or replace machinery, it won’t be long before the capitalist owner of the prison industry who, unlike the warden isn’t seeking to control the inmates but rather exploit their labor, pulls out and begins to seek slaves and profits elsewhere. If it can be done at one institution, why not two, three...?

Sabotage is a direct action revolutionary tactic with which we can meet our objectives without making demands or having to deal with the enemy’s repressive forces with their pepper sprays and

rubber bullets. Sabotage requires neither the participation of a soft majority nor the special skills and assistance of trained-to-go killers. Just a tightly clenched fist of conscious, dedicated guerrillas. This is not only a theory but also an example of how we should be thinking.

Anarcho Faheem, on at least two occasions you have put theory into practice and not only did they both end in failure but you also caught more time behind it. And you feel that this qualifies you to criticize others. My New Afrikan brother, the highest form of criticism is self-criticism. The struggle behind these walls is not one of life or death, unless you have already decided to die here in prison. To me ain’t nothing back here worth dying for. If I am to die in this revolutionary struggle against the fascist American state then let my death be for the people, for the single mothers and fatherless children who suffer most in this evil, wicked country. For the families who have lost a sibling or a child at the hands of racist, trigger happy cops.

And since we very well may have to die in our fight for justice, let us then construct a situation in which those who deny us our humanity join in the dying. Let us reciprocate death. Whether we use retaliatory violence or become the aggressors ourselves, we are never wrong in killing oppressors. It’s always open season on pigs. The distance between you and an enemy solider is a free fire zone. And it was putting this theory into practice that led to my capture and life sentence. Whether my attempt to resurrect the revolution fails or yields fruit, as of today I stand tall within the ranks.

So my brother I am not speaking to you from the perspective of someone who does not want you to fight. This is coming from a stomp down Black guerrilla who recognizes you as

a talented organizer and fearless leader. We need you free Comrade. We need you to save your best moves, and possibly last move, for the streets. You have what it takes to re-direct history. But I know, it’s in your blood to fight the power. I’m in solitary confinement now on my way to ADX because, after putting up with administrative bullshit and disrespectful C.O.s for five years in open population, I finally heard from the streets: “Justice or Else!” And with inspiration from the resurrected spirit of a long dead revolutionary convict named George Jackson and under the authority of the great fore-father Malcolm X, I picked up my sharpened piece of iron and with the backing of the whole Third World I swung my sword toward the throat of the enemy swine and sent him squealing through the unit like a stuck pig. I may not ever seen the sun again, but the Black Guerrilla lives!

We ask you for now to bring us just a small victory, a theory our comrades can put into practice and make spread like wildfire.

To my brother Sean Swain I say: “Keep on pushin’ Comrade, you can accomplish what you will!”

Dear Comrades, unless you have a life sentence (like me) and won’t be going home barring a great revolution in America, you should never engage in any activity that will get additional time tacked on to the end of your sentence. In the streets this is called “hustling backwards.” It is self-destruction. Reckless behavior must be rejected. Our primary objective is to make it back home. Now

BUCKIN IN THE BOP

BY ANONYMOUS



Rebel greetings! Another day in the feds, deep in the struggle, and you know we still Buckin!

Last issue of *Wildfire* we reported on the FCC capping interstate phone rates to \$0.11/minute in all federal prisons. After years of struggle thanks to groups like the Human Rights Defense Center, at last we scored a victory against prison profiteering and kickback schemes. Apparently those dirty bastards aren’t going down without a fight: a week before the rate cap was set to take effect, capitalist giants Global Tel*Link and Securus and their pig brethren in the DOCs and Sheriff Associations sued the FCC, and the DC Court of Appeals issued a temporary hold preventing the ruling from taking effect until they make a final decision.

The whole episode is infuriating but not surprising – we’re

is the time to prepare our battle plans for the streets. It would be ridiculous for us to walk back into our former lumpen lifestyles and risk coming back “for a few dollars more.” And stop glorifying the lumpen. Most of them are enemies of the people whose only concern is Western money making. Reach out to the lumpen. Each one teach one. But consider joining the ranks of the proletariat. We need to keep ourselves in a position to make moves.

True political prisoners, whether they were conscious on the street or were awakened in prison are trying to get FREE. And stay FREE. So that the individual struggle can move into the greater struggle. As we educate ourselves and work on changing the conditions we are in let us not neglect the law library. Many battles are being won in court.

Some may think that I’ve only stated the obvious, that what I’ve just mentioned is a given. But 90% of prison comrades are just that – *prison comrades*. As soon as they walk out of these gates they leave the struggle behind and take up right where they left off in society. Only to return to prison and once again talk the talk. Don’t you be a prison comrade. Be for real. Take it to the streets.

Get atta Guerrilla:
Todd Shepard #35616-044
Federal Correctional Complex U.S.P. 2
P.O. Box 1034
Coleman, FL 33521-1034

skeptical of any supposed prison reforms in the works. It’s too good to be true, I’ll believe it when I see it, or it comes with strings attached, strings that sting like a whip.

Like the good news here: they are finally eliminating 3-person cells at this medium security gulag, and possible across the BOP. Three people in the cell?! Yes, imagine your typical prison cell the size of your bathroom, then imagine sharing it with two other prisoners, so horrifically overcrowded that you need to take turns standing up. They’ve been getting it off for years, despite constant administrative grievances and lawsuits claiming it is cruel and unusual. To our great relief, at least at this spot, they are removing the extra bunk, at least deciding to comply with the UN standard minimum conditions of imprisonment.

Marco Camenisch, Alfredo Cospito and Nicola Gai, Juan Aliste, Freddy Fuentesvilla and Marcelo Villarroel, Juan Flores, Guillermo Durán, Nataly Casanova, Enrique Guzmán, Thomas Meyer-Falk, Ignacio Muñoz, Tamara Sol, Michael Kimble, and all other captive comrades.

5 December (Turkey): Demonstration outside of Kandıra F Type Prison in solidarity with hunger striking vegan anarchist prisoner Osman Evcan, held captive there.

6 December (Berlin, Germany): Two vehicles at a Suzuki dealership torched for Black December and in memory of Alexandros Grigoropoulos. Suzuki provides Greek police with new vehicles for their counterinsurgency Delta Squad.

6 December (Greece): Demonstrations in Thessaloniki, Komotini, Ionnina, Karditsa, Lamia, Volos, Larissa, Trikala, Agrinio, Patros, Kalamata, Herklion & Rethymno, Mytilini, and central Athens in memory of murdered anarchist Alexandros Grigoropolous. Late evening rioting in multiple cities.

6 December (Toulouse, France): Five vehicles of company complicit in nuclear power burned.

Early December (Barcelona, Spain): Individualities for the Diffusion of Chaos (FAI/IRF) burn security vehicles, attack banks and ATMs, and set fire to urban structures for Black December and in solidarity with anarchist prisoners.

7 December (Greece): Banner drops in Koridallios men’s prisons for Black December: “Insurrection is always timely” and “For the anarchist offensive against the social machine.”

8 December (Hildesheim, Germany): Foxes freed from a hunting dog training facility and associated clubhouse burned down by the Animal Liberation Front.

9 December (Montreal, Canada): Black bloc attacks cops with rocks; smashes the windows of Citizenship & Immigration Canada, construction conglomerate and defense contractor SNC-Lavelin, several banks, and other buildings; breaks the windows of a police van.

9 December (Greece): Posters pasted for Black December.

9 December (Greece): Sebastián Oversluij Cell (FAI-IRF) burns the vehicle of a cop at his home, for Black December and in solidarity with all imprisoned and fugitive anarchists.

10 December (Berlin, Germany): Display window damaged at shop that sells fur products.

10 December (Canossa, Italy): Several hundred hares freed from a farm by the Animal Liberation Front. The hares were to used in the training of hunting dogs.

11 December (Durham, USA): About 35 individuals march to the local jail in solidarity with recent clashes with police in US cities.

11 December (Athens, Greece): Incendiary attack on a security systems store for Black December.

12 December (Athens, Greece): Banner action for Black December.

12 December (Athens, Greece): For Black December, anarchists torch a car belonging to a company which produces police and military uniforms.

13 December (Crete): Combatant Anarchist Assault Group carries out an incendiary attack against a military officer’s club for Black December.

13 December (Minneapolis, USA): Banner hung for Black December. From the reportback: “The mantra that ‘nothing happens here’ is a self-fulfilling prophecy. Insurrection is always timely!”

13 December (Osny, France): Eight prison vans completely burnt.

13 December (Winchester, UK): Five guards and a nurse injured in a prison riot.

14 December (Athens, Greece): Five minivans of AB supermarket chain burned.

17 December (Brescia, Italy): Anarchist Cell Acca places explosive device at a police training center for Black December and in solidarity with anarchist prisoners.

17 December (Beauvais, France): Prisoners destroy their prison before transfer.

18 December (Heraklion, Crete): Incendiary attack against National Bank for Black December, and in solidarity with imprisoned fighters and refugees.

19 December (Istanbul, Turkey): Demonstration in solidarity with hunger striking anarchist Osman Evcan.

19 December (Bilbao, Spain): Fur shop attacked.

20 December (Huxquilucan, Mexico): Patrol car burned for Black December and in solidarity with imprisoned comrades.

20 December (Thessaloniki, Greece): MAT anti-riot squad attacked by anarchists outside the Turkish embassy for Black December.

21 December (USA): The tenth anniversary of the death of William Avalon Rogers. Avalon took his life in a jail cell while awaiting charges for actions claimed by the Earth Liberation Front.

21 December (Komotini, Greece): Church sites desecrated, ATMs attacked, and CCTV cameras sabotaged for Black December.

21 December (Iquique, Chile): Flaming barricades and street clashes for Black December.

22 December (Edinburgh, Scotland): ATMs sabotaged by “Falcon

CHRONOLOGY



The following is a list of some actions and instances of revolt that have taken place over the past few months. As a publication, we focus largely on prison struggles happening worldwide and anarchist combat against the state and capital. We believe in a multiform struggle against power, which may or may not call itself anarchist

DECEMBER 2015

December (everywhere): Following a call by Greek anarchist prisoners for a month of action honoring fallen and imprisoned comrades, December is deemed Black December and actions proliferate worldwide. This is coordinated to commemorate the murder of teen anarchist Alexandros Grigoropoulos by Greek police on the night of December 6, 2008. All actions claimed as part of Black December will be noted as such in the chronology that follows.

December (Alabama, USA): Anarchist prisoner Michael Kimble releases a statement for Black December, honoring fallen anarchists Alexandros Grigoropoulos and Kuwasi Balagoon.

December (Ohio, USA): Anarchist prisoner Sean Swain issues a statement for Black December calling for action against prison society.

December (Chile): Anarchist prisoner Nataly Casanova issues a statement for Black December: “Combative memory defines us as individuals taking a stand in our negation of the existent, forces us to push the memory of our fallen comrades beyond reflecting on how they were snatched from us, bringing them into our everyday lives in many forms and individual initiatives without giving in to resignation in the face of death or to oblivion.”

at different times, but which always remains uncontrollable and uncompromising. All actions reported below are taken from public websites and have no connection to anyone who writes for or produces Wildfire.

December (Tijuana, Mexico): Actions throughout the month for Black December. Graffiti is written, and incendiary attacks occur against McDonalds and an ATM.

1 December (Chile): Locks glued at exotic pet shop by Nocturnal Disorder Cell (FAI/IRF) for Black December and in solidarity with anarchist prisoners.

1 December (Mexico City, Mexico): Non Terrae Plus Ultra Destructive Cell leaves an incendiary device in the parking lot of Xochimilco Borough Building for Black December.

2 December (Montreal, Canada): Private patrol car sabotaged for Black December, and in “criminal complicity with all fugitive and incarcerated anarchist comrades around the world.”

3 December (Greece): Imprisoned anarchists Giorgos Karagiannidis, Yannis Michailidis, Fivos Harisis, Argyris Ntalios, and Grigoris Sarafoudis release a statement for Black December.

4 December (Athens, Greece): Incendiary attack on ministry of culture for Black December.

4 December (Athens, Greece): Alexandros Grigoropoulos Cell (FAI-IRF) places incendiary devices at the home entrance and car of a former minister of the PASOK party. Action claimed for Black December and in solidarity with Mónica Caballero, Francisco Solar,

Why the change of heart? Is it because the BOP is finally letting people go? No. For all the talk of sentencing reforms and presidential pardons, the federal prison population is still at 138% capacity, not decreasing significantly since Obama took office. Instead of letting everybody go en masse, which is what they need to do, their solution is always to build new prisons.

New prisons like the new \$400 million dollar USP planned in Letcher County, Kentucky in the old-growth forests of Lily Cornett Woods. The southeast Appalachian mountain region is already home to several federal prisons like Big Sandy, McCreary, Ashland, Manchester, and Lexington, prisons sold to communities in the diminishing coal industry with promises of jobs, revenue, and other lies. Lies like the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), produced by the same dirty PR firm Cardno who signed off on the Keystone XL pipeline, saying that there would be no significant health or environmental concerns building this prison just a few miles away from active mountaintop removal sites and coal slurry ponds. Plans are being made for a DC convergence to fight this prison on June 11-13 in solidarity with long-term anarchist prisoners.

Or the new federal “Administrative USP” in Thomson, Illinois. Though Florence ADX and Lewisburg SMU is operating under capacity as compared to the rest of the BOP, they propose “easing overcrowding” by opening another supermax long-term solitary confinement, a practice widely condemned by the UN and most developed countries (but received glowing reviews in the recent “independent” BOP SHU audit by defense contractor CNA Analysis & Solutions). The site is also being considered for hosting dozens of prisoners from Guantanamo Bay, many of whom have never faced any charges at trial, who have already been cleared for release, who have already endured a decade of waterboarding and “rectal infusing,” now they want to put them in supermax so they can experience the American tradition of torture-through-solitary-confinement. Obama has postured against solitary, recently capitulating to public pressure by severely reducing the barbaric practice against juveniles, but there has been no observable changes in SHU conditions across the BOP – we still pacing the cell in dirty orange jumpsuits, peeling the paint off walls, taking showers in the sink, rotting on some dead time.

Conditions are often worse at the network of private immigration prisons the BOP contracts out to corporations like GEO, CCA, and MTC, who are not bound by the same BOP Program Statements, nor are they subject to Freedom of Information Act requests. As reported in a scathing investigative article in *The Nation*, this has resulted in dozens of preventable deaths and suicides of people who the BOP not only believes should be imprisoned for bogus “crimes” like “illegal reentry,” but that their lives are not even worth saving through the same level of healthcare and mental health services afforded to the rest of the federal prison population.

Democrats like Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders have criticized private prisons, even proposing bills to ban the practice, but these are not likely to pass – the corporations who profit from mass incarceration have well-funded lawyers, PR firms, and even congressmen in their pockets who regularly lobby against prison reform (like this recent FCC phone rate cap ruling). For all Hillary’s recent change of heart regarding criminal justice reform, she is the same pro-war, pro-death penalty Clinton who in the 90s supported the expansion of the police state through billion dollar anti-crime

bills, militarizing local police departments, the 100-to-1 crack/cocaine sentencing disparities, and the Prison Litigation Reform Act – never mind NAFTA and the gutting of welfare and social aid programs, creating the conditions that leave many people with no choice but criminality to survive.

Their election system offering us the false choice of which corporate overlord will whip us, between openly fascist Republicans or establishment Democrat sellouts, where millions of felons and immigrants can’t even vote regardless, exposes the fraudulent nature of their so-called democracy. Whoever wins, the law enforcement unions, prosecutors, private prison contractors, politicians of both parties will continue conspiring together to maintain the prison industrial complex, for profit, for social control. Therefore any meaningful change must come from outside their reformist frameworks and elections: it must come from militant struggle, behind the walls, and in the streets.

Companies like GEO/G4S, CCA, Global Tel*Link, Securus, Keefe, Cardno, and CNA Analysis & Solutions need to be aggressively and mercilessly targeted. The Fraternal Order of Police, BOP Regional Offices, UNICOR stockholders, wardens, administrators, and other bureaucrats high up the food chain. They’re not hard to find: they have names and addresses, and regularly appear at trade conferences, city hall meetings, press events. Their office buildings, websites, homes, and cars stand unbothered night and day, practically begging for trouble: we’re counting on yall to tear shut up like Ferguson.

Behind the walls, it’s up to us to transform the culture in prisons everywhere, from one of submission, distrust, rivalry, and powerless despair, into a community of resistance, of unity and rebellion, where the pigs no longer think they can push us around. Whether it’s handing out pamphlets or smalltime vandalism, starting radical book study groups or hunger strikes, writing grievances or cussing the bigwigs out at mainline, starting an IWW Incarcerated Workers Union chapter or informal, generalized resistance. Local conditions differ so you’ll have to scope out the scene to find the most appropriate strategy, but one thing’s for sure, we got to get organized so next time they try to get one over on us, we won’t take it sitting down, we’ll take this shit over like Attica.

SOME THOUGHTS FROM ANASTAZIA SCHMID



I'd like to generate thought and spark a dialog on two simple yet often unacknowledged points of reference: labels and images. The first step to abolish prisons comes from changing the vernacular associated with the people confined within the system and its institutions. Words evoke thoughts and images that trigger automatic subconscious images and associations, visceral feelings, and then conscious judgments – either positive or negative according to conditioning, learned association, and pre-conceived ideologies of what that word means and represents.

Prisons, the system and institutions they are founded upon and operate through, have a long history of conditioning society's beliefs, views, and opinions to coincide with those hegemonic power structures based on instilling fear, hate, resentment, righteous indignation, justification, even subservient compliance – which have become automatic associations with the words and images attached to prisons and those they confine.

No matter how liberal or radical a person may think they are, words like “prisoner,” “convict,” “criminal,” “felon,” “offender,” or any other commonly used term to describe people ensnared within state-sanctioned (and now also privatized) institutions and systems of confinement and surveillance assert negative associations whether one is able to consciously acknowledge them or not. Every aspect of this system is designed to dehumanize.

We are bombarded by media and political commentary and images to solidify this reality. When we continue to use those automatic negatively associated words we continue to perpetuate that system of dehumanization that asserts permanent inferiority and lasting stigmatization.

A new breed of the lowliest “inferiors” on the fallacious hierarchy of humanity is created. What I call the “convict race.” This new breed encapsulates all who fall beneath its label regardless of race, class, gender, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, or creed, asserting a permanent non-human status impossible to rise above. The bearer of this neo-Scarlet Letter is doomed to be feared, loathed, shunned, excluded, disenfranchised, enslaved, inhumanely treated, and any number of other oppressed and subjugated forms

of existence.

This system and its institutions have survived and can only continue to exist based on the erroneous ideology and all it evokes, that those who bear the labels and images are not human, not “real” people, and therefore are unworthy to be treated and related to as such.

I write with the simple request of changing the vernacular in order to take the first step in changing the automatic associated imagery attached to it – please refer to those of us within these institutions/system as *people*, because that is what we are. Be it incarcerated or formerly incarcerated people – people nonetheless. Until the world shifts their beliefs and begins to see us in this *human* light – prisons and systems of surveillance, and all the dehumanizing horrors associated with them, will continue to exist unabated.

In Solidarity,
Anastazia

**Anastazia Schmid #133585
Indiana Women's Prison
2596 Girls School Rd
Indianapolis, IN 46214**

broaden participation in struggle, and (3) build solidarity. All of these points are true. But, engaging in reformist tactics will only lead to raising reformist consciousness, broaden participation in reformist struggle, and build solidarity with reformists who are only seeking to alter the way the system works, not destroy it.

Back to the analogy, teaching someone to use a screwdriver does not make them proficient with a hammer.

Practicing reformist tactics “raises consciousness” that we can struggle and get the system to change and accommodate us. Someone under that false consciousness can never be motivated to topple the system that they falsely believe to be responsive (if only enough of us sign a petition to vote or march or hungerstrike). So, building “reformist consciousness” arrests “revolutionary consciousness” and detracts from the potential for revolution.

Employing reformist tactics also broadens participation in the struggle – in the reformist struggle. It creates greater numbers of folks who believe that they can devote their energies to getting the existing system to work for them. It does not, however, pull more people into the revolutionary struggle of attempting to topple the system.

Also, let's keep in mind that no revolution in history ever secured more than 5% of the population's participation. In every revolution in history, 95% of the population sat on the sidelines and watched. So, that being the case, attempting to broaden participation is a reformist approach in itself. I would gladly trade a million committed reformists for just a dozen die-hard revolutionaries dedicated to bringing the system down. The numbers argument is a reformist red herring.

Lastly, reformist action increases solidarity with other reformists and gets more folks intellectually oriented into running on that same hamster wheel, increasing the number of people who are deluded into thinking that the answer is not to topple the system but to strive to fix it, to achieve a kinder, gentler slavery complex.

Let's not pretend reformism corners the market on consciousness-raising or on broadening the movement or on increasing solidarity. Direct action strategies do that too, only direct action strategies inspire others to direct action. Tactics like

sabotage and rioting and insurrection do not result in concessions or improvement in conditions. Revolutionary tactics are not geared for such outcomes, just as hammers are not geared for installing screws.

In the case of the 12 Monkey rebellion, the 12 Monkeys promoted sabotage like clogging drains and jamming locks, and the rebellion began with an incredibly small number of rebels. It grew quickly and escalated to smashing windows and lighting fires – which are *tactics the 12 Monkeys never promoted*. That is, with mass participation in direct action rebellion, the action quickly went beyond the designs of those who had issued the initial invitation. So, direct action can promote revolutionary consciousness, broaden participation, and strengthen solidarity.

Prisoners can employ tactics that throw the prison complex into a constant state of conflict and crisis that builds and spreads. And contrary to the criticism that prison rebellion alone cannot take down the larger system of control, the fact is that no state can exist for long without the power to punish, and if the prisons are taken away from the state, the state cannot remain the state for long. But, the point is immaterial because widespread prison rebellion would spread and would consume so much of the state's energy and resources and personnel that nobody would be guarding the proverbial hen-house. Then rebels beyond the fences would have an open invitation to get just as rowdy.

The death of the hierarch program will not come about as a consequence of reformist actions or a series of reformist actions, not even a million reformist actions involving a million participants. The system will only be toppled by rebels who dedicate themselves to actions that are designed to topple the system. We are not excused from participation just because we're locked in cages. That does not absolve us, but provides us an even greater incentive, a stronger motive, a deeper resolve.

Our love and fury cannot be expressed through the lexicon of the reformist but need to be articulated in blood and smoke. Since the privileged few of the world have relegated us to butchered lives, have made it clear that in the final analysis it is us or them, I say let the smoke rise now and let the blood be theirs.



**IN DEFENSE OF FIRE & SMOKE:
ANOTHER RESPONSE IN THE ONGOING DEBATE ON
WHAT CONSTITUTES REFORMIST TACTIC
BY SEAN SWAIN**



Until Issue #3 of Wildfire came out, I intended to write on a new topic, expecting the debate over reformism versus revolutionary action to have run its course. But from the lively debate in the last issue, I think would be remiss not to address the topic one more time, in light of all the responses.

As I have used the terms, “revolutionary action” seeks to topple the existing system rather than change the way it operates. “Reformist action” on the other hand does not seek to topple the system but is geared to modifying or “reforming” the way the existing power operates.

To make an analogy, a hammer is a tool that pounds nails. A screwdriver is a tool that installs screws. Hammers and screwdrivers are not interchangeable but perform different jobs. Same with revolutionary and reformist actions.

So the question regarding hungerstrikes is: Does the act of hungerstriking seek to topple power or does it seek to establish new terms as to how power operates? However I may feel about hungerstrikes, and however anyone else may feel about them, hungerstrikes seek to leverage the existing powers to exercise authority differently, to give concessions. With a hungerstrike, no matter how many of us do it, and no matter how long we do it, a hungerstrike will never bring down the power structure.

If your goal is to topple power, a hungerstrike is never the tool you can use to accomplish that job, any more than you can effectively use a hammer to insert screws. The hungerstrike is a tool

from the reformist toolbox.

Now, I have had to alter my position on work stoppages a bit. Michael Kimble has presented a scenario where work stoppages could be used for a revolutionary outcome – that is, that rebels who seek no compromise with the power structure could employ a work stoppage, not with the goal of making demands or gaining concessions, but with the goal of never going back to work, with the goal of shutting down the system all together. Such a scenario is clearly revolutionary. But, having said that, every work stoppage in history has devolved into reformism. This is due to the fact that not every single rebel is dead-set to bring the system down, and will instead return to work for the promise of concessions, for a handful of rewards.

Sad, but true.

It occurs to me that particularly in a prison setting, for practical reasons, it would probably make sense not to begin any rebellion by proposing a statewide work stoppage, one designed to continue forever until the system collapses and we all go home. I don’t see that working. Probably, that would be something to build up to, through other actions that develop the practice of rebellion.

That’s why I maintain that hungerstrikes are a tool in the reformist toolbox and work stoppages, until they prove to be used for a revolutionary outcome, are also, unfortunately, a reformist tool. Now, having said all of that, others have made points that employing reformist tools like hungerstrikes serve to (1) raise consciousness, (2)

**SOLITARY AS A WEAPON
BY JOSE VILLARREAL**



Many within U.\$. borders – including many within U.\$. prisons, have become used to the reality of solitary confinement. It has become part of the furniture in the dungeons, not only in how we accept it, but in how we respond to it. But we need to understand that solitary is, and always has been, a weapon.

Most people do not see solitary and these prisons built entirely for a population to be held in solitary such as the SHU, SMU, etc. as weapons, but they are. In my Oxford Dictionary, it defines a weapon as: “A thing designed or used to cause physical harm or damage.” This is exactly what these facilities are created for, to physically harm our minds and to do as much damage to our resistance as possible. The state certainly knew what keeping someone in a windowless cell for years or decades would do to a person because they set their media in an uproar when a U.\$. soldier is ever held in solitary anywhere in the world. They know that this form of treatment is an assault on everything that it means to be human and yet they built entire prisons to do just that.

WHY THE STATE USES WEAPONS ON THE PEOPLE

Some many be confused as to why a state would use a weapon such as solitary on the people in its prisons. Those who are confused are only confused because they do not know their place in this society. The colonized mentality would have someone believe that they are one with the oppressor. Back in the days the slave sometimes thought her or himself to be a part of the slave-owning class. They really believed this to the point where they would actually attack other slaves who attempted to rise up. Or ran to the slave master to let them know what *those* slaves were planning to do to the slave master. The oppressor had them so brainwashed that they did not know their friends from their enemies. This type of confusion

only means that there is a need to decolonize those minds.

The first step in understanding why the state uses weapons on the people is that one only uses weapons on those it sees as enemies. The oppressor never oppresses people it loves or cares for. Look to history and see if any oppressor ever oppressed those it felt were its own. The oppressor only oppresses those that it is detached from, who it sees as inhuman or a scourge to the Earth. It only oppresses its enemies. It only uses weapons on its enemies.

So this begs the question, when weapons are used, what can be the goal of such an act? If the definition of a weapon is to cause physical harm or damage, then we can safely assume that to use weapons is attempting to cause our demise. Solitary can then be seen as the state’s attempt to employ a “clean” extermination of those it targets.

WHO IS SOLITARY BEING USED ON?

In California where some have said the highest rates of imprisonment exist, where the state has no less than five entire prisons devoted to solitary confinement, these architectural weapons are being used on the Chican@ people by overwhelming numbers (approximately 80% of solitary population) and yet there is little to no mention of this, not just in the bourgeois media, but even the Left-wing media has been pretty much silent on this.

When I first began writing about this phenomenon (see my article *The New Greaser Laws*, 2014), I got little positive feedback for highlighting this reality. It was almost as if this mass Chican@ psychological lynching did not matter. And it had many of us in these dungeons question if in the U.\$. Left’s eyes we Chican@s were only useful to support its determined struggles. I always thought that activist people were supposed to be against torture, genocide,

oppression, and “racism” yet all we heard was crickets on these attacks on imprisoned Aztlan.

The fact that Chican@s are being psychologically assaulted in this way in Califas is something serious. There is a real lesson in all of this. Don’t forget that Califas is also the state with the largest population of Chican@s and currently leads Aztlan (SouthWest U.\$.) in growth of population as well as in the ideological realm. It can then be said that Califas is the leading force within Aztlan at this time and it would also explain why the state would then target Califas prisoners the most.

Some may not understand why *prisoners* would be targeted in this way and not people, not Chican@s outside of prison. This is because prisoners of any people are those with nothing to lose and everything to gain from a true revolution. They are those less bought

off or bribed from the state. They face more unvarnished repression than those outside the tombs. In a nut shell, the prisoner is more of a potential revolutionary.

CONCLUSION

The first step in transforming any phenomenon is in first understanding it. Likewise the first step in decolonizing your mind is in understanding you are colonized. The first step in combating solitary in ways that win is in first understanding why it is employed.

Jose Villarreal #H84098
PBSP
PO Box 7500
Crescent City, CA 95532

**A LETTER
FROM STEPHEN O. SWARTZ**



I’m a prisoner here in Arizona and this state is absolutely horrible, the system and the “inmates.” The powers in this state have proven the effectiveness of the strategy of divide and conquer as there is absolutely NO type of unity of any kind and those that go against the guards/system are labeled as heatwaves and troublemakers by the other prisoners. It’s truly a shame as the prisoners here are more interested in terrorizing and harming each other than fighting against those that have us caged.

This system is inordinately flooded with drugs and that takes a large toll and is mainly overlooked by the authorities as they use that also as a means of keeping us under control.

My means of fighting is through this very pen and paper, grievances, lawsuits, etc., anything I can do to not only expose the treatment and conditions imposed upon us but also anything I can do to cost the system money! Financial anarchy and I’ve found out that causing them expenses not only makes big waves but also keeps them from making any kind of profit off my skin!

Out of all the articles in Issue #3 I most agree with Anarcho-Faheem that any type of harm caused to the system/oppressor is

good and that no one should be criticized for the manner in which they express their resistance, because some resistance is better than no resistance at all. Furthermore, any act, no matter how small, that costs the system man-hours, expense, or use of materials is good as that’s just a little bit less money the state has to oppress the people, in or out!

Arizona prisoners and their ability to just “suck it up” amazes me and these prisoners will accept any deprivation this system imposes with no resistance at all. From cold, spoiled, and small food portions, to being forced to buy your own clothing, no one does anything and condemns those who do for bringing heat on them getting their next fix in, which little do they realize is the system playing them like a fine fiddle. It’s absolutely disgusting!

Stephen O. Swartz
A.S.P.C. Lewis – Buckley
PO Box 3400
Buckeye, AZ 85326

**RESPONSE TO ISSUE #3
BY SAYF**



I’ve been thinking about your polemic dealing with a general strike within the P.I.C. and though I do believe it’s a long shot – especially within the I.D.O.C. (Illinois Department of Corrections), mostly due to their scab workers from the protective custody unit/ population – I do think it’s possible. To use other forms such as the ‘good work strike,’ where kitchen workers can beef up trays and laundry porters can give out extra detergent, and though I don’t think this would “shake the system to its core,” it could possible be a means of building solidarity and unity amongst prisoners.

We really need to reanalyze our tactic and what direct action is and construct an outline on how to incorporate these methods on a prison scale. Revolution may not be in the near future, but it’s our duty to build the conditions or infrastructure inside of the shell of this decaying society. Sometimes we are self-contained to ideal situations and what ifs and we forget, as we hope for things to take place in the future, the actual struggle is right now as we speak. We need to build resistance that connects our struggle with the oppressed struggles on the outside. So when we talk about tactic and strategy, we must build further than immediate, while still effecting the immediate if that makes any sense.

On another riff, do anyone have any ideas on building a Boycott Divestment Sanction movement similar to the BDS movements in South Africa and Palestine? I think that if we can expose who are invested in the P.I.C. – what mutual funds, businesses, politicians, celebrities, organization who doesn’t know they are through indirect association, etc. – I think if we can start to expose who is invested in slavery and shame them publicly and get people to boycott and divest, we can if anything piss them off. Let

me know what you think.

In struggle and strength,
Sayf
representing
The Anarchist Resistance Movement
& the Black Sheep/Lone Wolf Collective

Timothy Smith #M29880
PO Box 99
Pontiac, IL 61764