



SOCIETY!

What is Anarchistnews? - an editorial

At best, anarchists are heterodox. They share a few simple ideas with each other and run with them in a thousand different directions.

Those anarchists who strive for a pedagogical unity--in the name of a revolutionary program or idealized revolutionary subject--are missing a serious point. It is the vibrancy of anarchism that continues to draw people to it (and to the effort of attaching it to more and more attitudes and projects). A hundred years ago, who would have imagined healthy explicit anarchist attempts towards collaboration with Christianity, the Academy, or political theater?

Clearly there are arguments that this diffusion of traditional revolutionary anarchism is not a Good Thing; and many of those arguments are fair. The question here, as with many other elements of our revolutionary tradition, is: should we act as canaries in a coal mine or as travelers into an unknown future? Do we react to the world we live in, chirping at every indignity and offense, or are we creating our own world, stumbling and fitful?

In this way anarchism is changing, not just from the time of the first International, or the labor struggles of the early twentieth century, or the counter-cultural anarchism of the sixties and punk, but from the Globalization Movement (which many of us use as the modern marker of where we are). Where we are has changed. Not entirely, nor even cruelly, but enough that the assumptions of the past no longer hold. It is as likely that we will find inspiration in the act of one courageous young person as in a community's response to bad news.

Anarchism, to remain vibrant and relevant, needs to be in self-critical dialogue about its role, as an explicit political tendency, and as an outside agitator of pivotal events. It cannot stand alone as a sin-

gular answer to every problem and will never be the flag beneath which the bulk of humanity rallies. Until we can answer, in compelling ways, the slander of *anarchism = chaos* and the limitations of those who believe *anarchism = total freedom to act like a jerk*, we will continue to be what we are now, a historical tradition that is modern and vibrant but ultimately marginal.

What is anarchist news then? It is everything that speaks to this set of histories, actions, and possibilities. It often-times is the hostile reporting on us by our explicit enemies (but more typically by our de facto enemies in the press & academia). It is a variety of counter-cultural stories that relate to anarchist practice. It is the stories of labor and conflicts with the other remnants of the First Internationale. It is mostly explicit but sometimes implicit information about and of concern to anarchists that, on occasion, requires context (and a pause) to correlate to the general project of anarchy.

Greek General Strike on December 15th

Tens of thousands of people have entered the demonstration for the general strike today, with some prediction estimating the demonstration in Athens being up to 100,000 people. Clashes with police have begun already in the early afternoon in Athens and Thessaloniki, with protesters throwing molotovs at police in front of Parliament in Syntagma square in Athens, a riot police bus burned near Parliament, and a government building as well as hotels attacked with molotovs.

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/12962>

Scott DeMuth's Sentencing Postponed Again

From Davenport Grand Jury

Scott DeMuth's pre-sentencing hearing, which had been scheduled for December 29 after getting postponed once already, got canceled today because of bureaucratic issues in the court system. His actual sentencing is now scheduled for January 14th in Iowa.

Because of the lack of a pre-sentencing hearing (in which pre-sentencing motions and sentencing details were to be discussed), we have no new information about issues regarding restitution, probation, or when and where Scott will be doing time. Scott's lawyers are now trying to schedule another phone hearing; if this does not happen, we will not know about these things until the sentencing itself.

We are still in need of commissary money, so please donate to support Scott for his time in prison if you can! You can find a Paypal button and other donation information at <http://davenportgrandjury.wordpress.com/what-you-can-do>.

We will post updates as we get them, so please watch for them in the future.

Thank you all for your support so far! In solidarity,
the Scott and Carrie Support Committee (SCSC)
<http://davenportgrandjury.wordpress.com>

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/13092>

Anarchists Set Off Smoke Bomb in Cop Bar-- Portland, OR

In the predawn hours of December, 6th 2010, to mark the two year anniversary of the murder of Alexandros Grigoriopoulos in Exarchia, a smoke bomb was ignited inside the Portland Metro Police Club (618 SE Alder st.)--a private bar, ballroom, and athletic facility operated by the Portland Police Association. We did this to articulate our utter contempt towards the police, and our hatred of the state and capitalism in general.

This act of sabotage was a gesture of revolutionary solidarity with the imprisoned anarchists of the Conspiracy Cells of Fire in Greece, The Asheville 11, Christos Stratigopolous, the recently released Alfredo Bonanno and all those resisting state repression everywhere.

Fire to the cops, bosses, and politicians!

For anarchy and communism!

-some anarchists

Russian Anarchist Artists Arrested

From Free Voina

Two activists from Russian Art Group Voina ("War"), Oleg Vorotnikov and Lenja Nikolaev, have been detained by the authorities in Moscow after the group completed several highly publicized actions in St. Petersburg (see documentation below).

Instead of being charged with destruction of public property, members of the Group War are currently facing charges of what amounts to a hate crime directed at a specific social group... Russian Police. The irony of this charge is of course, inescapable but the grim reality is that it carries a penalty of up to seven years in Russia's overcrowded and disease-ridden prison system.

For further information and updates please visit <http://en.free-voina.org/> (An English version of the site is now up and running)

more at:

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/12887>

Asheville 11 December 6th Plea Hearing Update

This is an update on the December 6th plea hearing.

It was snowing little flurries and ice was already on the ground as people were told to line up outside of the courthouse. Once everyone was able to find their seats the superior court calendar was called. Beside the cold weather settling in Asheville, it seems that this is all beginning to feel uncomfortably familiar for those being forced to attend.

This morning, the 6th of December, was a plea hearing for which each of the defendants were to give a 'not-guilty' or 'guilty' plea. The main outcome of this morning though was that all eleven defendants now have a new trial date of January 24th. This date seems more likely rather than the last date of the 17th but it is still not confirmed. As of now it is unclear as to how many lawyers and defendants will be able to go to trial that soon. It is best to assume that this could be a definitive trial date. Any changes to that date will be updated on asheville11defense.com

more at:

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/12891>

Eric McDavid Update

On Wednesday, December 8, the 9th circuit court of appeals denied Eric's request for a rehearing en banc. This means, in theory, that 11 judges reviewed Eric's petition for a rehearing and not a single one of them found any merit in the arguments detailed within. After nearly 5 years of political maneuvering on the part of the government and a complete and total lack of any sanity or logic in the court's decisions, this came as no surprise to Eric and his loved ones.

more at:

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/12944>

G-20: Early release on parole for David Japenga

From Pittsburgh Examiner

Sources have confirmed that David Japenga, the Lawrenceville resident jailed for the unrest during the 2009 G-20 photo-op/summit has been released on

parole, earlier today.

When asked about the proceedings, Patrick K. Nightingale, Mr. Japenga's defense attorney, stated the following:

I have a great deal of respect for Judge Borkowski and I had the privilege of working with him in the District Attorney's Office for a number of years. That said, I honestly believe the sentence he handed down to my client, though within the standard range of the sentencing guidelines, was far too harsh considering the nature of the criminal conduct. Judge Borkowski opined at sentencing that my client's actions placed police officers at risk of bodily injury. The video of the protest which was played during the trial shows protesters walking peacefully past Canine Units that had been deployed to Oakland. Additionally, when my client was arrested he cooperated and did not resist in any way. That said, I am very grateful on David's behalf that Judge Borkowski granted him early parole so that he may have the opportunity to spend the holidays with family and friends. In the meantime we have filed post-sentencing motions challenging his convictions and will file a Direct Appeal to the Superior Court once those motions are denied.

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/12947>

Marie Mason's Appeal Denied

From Support Marie Mason

We found out this morning (December 16, 2010) Marie Mason's appeal for a re-sentencing has been denied by a federal appeals court.

Coming immediately after fellow Green Scare prisoner Eric McDavid's appeals have been exhausted, it is just another sign that the Obama administration will not be changing Bush-era policies regarding the witch hunts against environmental and animal rights activists.

Mason's family will be deciding on the next course of action. In the meantime, we ask all supporters to drop her a line in prison to boost her spirits.

Marie Mason #04672-061

FMC Carswell/Federal Medical Center
P.O. Box 27137/Fort Worth, TX 76127

more at:

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/12972>

PRISONERS: GOOD NEWS & BAD (WRITE THEM!)

Solidarity with the Asheville 11; Dec 1 Demonstration

From Act for Freedom Now

Downtown Asheville's police and business associations encountered yet another outrage on the evening of Wednesday, December 1st. Following a call for solidarity with the Asheville may day defendants, a group of fifty or so anarchists gathered at the notoriously phallic Vance Monument at dusk, holding banners that stated "Police Are the Absolute Enemy" and "We Still Love the Asheville 11!". The small crowd, fed up with an abundance of pigs, yuppies, and Obama fans, made the busy Pack Square echo with irregular drumbeats, foghorns, and chants that taunted nearby pigs. The uniformed officers couldn't help but nod their heads to the catchy beats of "Smash the banks, burn the prisons! Anarchy and communism!" and "Cops! Pigs! Murderers!". Meanwhile, various parasites of the media encircled the small group as they made their way to the county jail, drooling all over themselves in hope of catching some chaos on film that would guarantee sensational headlines.

...

Upon arriving at the county jail, the group began making noise. Looking up at the cells, silhouettes could be seen at the small rectangular windows and when the crowd got louder, lights began to flick on and off quickly on various parts of the building, which was met with foghorns and cheering. This back and forth of noisy disturbance and flickering lights went on for a few minutes, and although it is unclear if the prisoners were waving sheets in front of lights, or were able to turn them on and off, we would like to believe that there was some sort of communication between their cells and us on the outside. Believing in this possibility made the entire crowd beam with delight, and the debilitating force of repression withered away for just a moment. The march then continued on to Pritchard Park, with police tagging along the whole way, shivering and bored.

more at:

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/12848>

A N. American Callout for A Day of Action against Prisons in 2011

From 4 Shared (poster)

Noise demos outside of prisons in some countries are a continuing tradition. A way of expressing solidarity for people imprisoned during the New Year, remembering those held captive by the state. A noise demo breaks the isolation and alienation of the cells our enemies create, but it does not have to stop at that.

Prison has a long history within capital, being one of the most archaic forms of prolonged torture and punishment. It has been used to kill some slowly and torture those unwanted - delinquents to the reigning order - who have no need of fitting within the predetermined mold of society.

Prison is used not only as an institution, but a whole apparatus, constructed externally from outside of the prison walls. Which our enemies by way of defining our everyday life as a prison, manifest themselves in many places, with banks that finance prison development (like Wells Fargo, Bank of America, BNP Paribas, Bank of the West, and Barclays), companies that are contracted for the development of prisons (like Bergelectric Corporation, SASCO Electric, Engineered Control Systems, MacDonald Miller Facility SLTNS and Kane MFG Corp.), investors in prison development (like Barclays Intl. and Merrill Lynch) to the police and guards who hide behind their badges and the power of the state.

Solidarity is not only an expression by way of our own revolutionary poetry which is defined by a developing anarchist analysis, but as an expression of actions put into practice within the social war daily. That is why we propose to others who have a certain reciprocal understanding of the prison world and the conditions it creates to remember this day, to mark it on their calendars.

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more at:

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/12897>

Royal Bank Firebomber Sentenced to Four Years

From Ottawa Citizen - By Andrew Seymour

Judge lashes out at retired civil servant for 'selfish act'

An Ottawa judge said she was no closer to understanding why a retired civil servant described by his friends as a generous man and principled humanitarian ended up firebombing a Glebe bank before sentencing him Tuesday to a further three and a half years in prison.

Ontario Court Justice Celynne Dorval also lashed out at Roger Clement's decision to put his own political motives ahead of the safety and security of the community when he set the \$1.6-million early morning fire on May 18 that destroyed the Royal Bank branch at 745 Bank St.

"Crimes of urban intimidation infringe on the rights of the majority," Dorval told Clement, who pleaded guilty last month to arson causing property damage as well as mischief for a rock-and-hammer attack on the windows and automated teller machines of another RBC branch in February.

"It is a selfish act born at times out of frustration. It illustrates one's decision to break the social contract because that person decides his or her opinions are more important than the majority's sense of safety, security or respect for the law," Dorval said to a room crowded with Clement's supporters and fellow activists.

more at

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/12893>

The SafeHouse Snafu

Recently, a squat in Oakland called the SafeHouse was raided by a group of the owners of the property. After several hours of highly dramatized conflict, the Oakland police were eventually called and one of the owners was arrested. I would rather not go over the many subjective details of the event in this piece, and would suggest that further information about the situation, including any pretext, should be sought from other people who know more. I was there with friends to witness much of the proceedings and later, I saw the following on the internet, which I am quoting here due to the fact that this pretty much sums up my feelings about the near eviction of the SafeHouse:

“while i totally support the act of not paying rent and what not, people (occupiers) have to understand that that neighborhood/community isn't yours. you have no history there and the people that live there don't want you there. for all the talk about 'social justice' it means nothing because to the neighborhood you are just another person gentrifying the block. when YOU called the cops, you backstabbed that neighborhood. that neighborhood didn't ask for your help so stop trying to play 'guilty white person who comes [and] saves the day' ... you obviously have very little common sense when it comes to race when you make statements about gold and 'your people'.”

[The last sentence is a reference to an argument between one of the people in the group of owners and one of the SafeHousers. I am pretty sure I heard the exact quote as, “Oh yeah, well that jewelry you are wearing enslaves your people!” (snotty emphasis theirs)]

As an anarchist, I am opposed to the concept of private property. Yes, fuck every landlord. I am 100 percent down with squatting, and feel like it is one of few things that anarchists can actually “do” to improve their own conditions. The free time resulting from a rent-free lifestyle has the ability to encourage an unparalleled closeness among friends, and living in a squat together reflects the essence of an ethic of sharing that demands that “everything be free”. However, as a person of color, I want to consider the direct action of the owners seriously and point out that their actions are, in a

sense, commendable, or at least interesting. I think it's fucking cool to see a multi-generational group of black people come together to: a) accomplish a mutually desired goal, b) break the law and c) kick some annoying white kids' asses. “Why don't you go home to your mommas' house, or your grandmommas' house!” was yelled among so many other hilarious, and poignant, things. A lot of really crazy stuff happened during that afternoon. In an act of “total war”, an owner ripped up the backyard garden, throwing lettuce and kale high into the air. A plate of spaghetti was smashed over someone's head (!) and someone was slapped in the face (Smack a White Boy part 3?).

...
much more at:
<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/12901>

responder a:

The way i heard it, the kids at the safe house made a phonetree and used it. Then one of the p[er]ople on the phone tree calle dthe cops and tarnished their reputation. And you were on call to decide that they are “over socialized fucks” and dandy white people, since they obviously are, because someone who lived at that house knew someone who would call the cops in the event of having a knife thrown at them by screaming goons. Fuck you. and find a better internet name, ed norton.

This situation was socially unwinnable, being black locals trump white foreigners. But that doesn't mean the squatters did anything wrong. Should they have beaten the shit out of the landlord? How would the neighborhood think of them then? Not just junkies, violent junkies, a threat to everyone. Thats a hell of a community builder, that is. We lose. Oh well. It was ugly, and we lose. The people who live at the safe hosue know what they should do abut the idiot who called the cops to a squat. I know them, and i trust them, and that fool is fucked.

responder b:

I agree with most of your observations. but here is what the white kids “did wrong”. The solution is not to out-fistfight or overwhelm antagonists from the community. They missed their opportunity to get this right in the months/years of being in the community and NOT proving themselves useful or exciting. Had the kids at this squat really made the neighborhood a stronger, more autonomous space, they would be recognized as valuable members of the community.

There is an undertone of racism and ignorance present (obviously) but it is subtle, so i'll spell it out. Black communities and communities of color are never “too oppressed to know who to trust”. It is clear. SH was not exciting. Had they been valuable, instead of useless, other neighbors would have intervened on your behalf. The safest thing for them to do would have been spend their lives differently

for months before the conflict.

Sorry to be harsh, but this isn't Landlords vs. Anarchists. It is marginalized/oppressed-community-of-color versus subculture-without-broader-value. Some black people hate their black landlords! The point is that people defend each other based on social connections and mutually-beneficial relationships. Not justice. Justice is a white phenomenon, and if the kids at SH thought what happened to them was unfair, they should probably think hard about the not-justice stuff. That is to say, the social connections and mutually beneficial relationships they failed to forge.

-- “The” Tyler Durden

responder c:

What if there was no chance to get it right, no perfect way to open a squat or social center in that area, and no hope that those kids could have ever conformed to the desires of the community? This seems more likely to me than some error of strategy, more likely it never would have worked regardless of this incident. To just assume that because we see squats as good that there should then have been a “right” way to do it is just covering our own ideological asses. Although I will say, these guys failed pretty bad.

Olympia, WA: Vandals Attack over Proposed Biomass Project

From The Olympian

Vandals glued all the doors shut at the Olympic Region Clean Air Agency's building on Limited Lane and threw a brick through a glass door overnight Monday, an agency official said.

The agency is considering a permit for a controversial biomass project near Shelton. Opponents of Adage's plan to build a wood-burning power plant in Mason County say it would degrade the environment and pollute the air.

They had scheduled a protest for this afternoon at the agency's offices on Olympia's west side. At 3 p.m., the only sign of an anti-biomass protest was two people holding signs in the rain at Cooper Point Road and Harrison Avenue.

This is the second time vandals have glued the building's doors shut, agency spokesman Dan Nelson said. It also happened in October, a day on which a biomass protest was scheduled, he said.

more at:
<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/12892>

On our chaotic swarm - Edinburgh University Occupation

From Libcom

Edinburgh University Occupation was invited to sign a national "occupation manifesto" at the start of December 2010. As a non-hierarchical collective, we explain why we are stronger without centralised leadership.

Edinburgh is a non-hierarchical occupation. Entirely leaderless. And as such have decided that we cannot back a national occupations manifesto. I'll explain why we have taken this stance.

The occupations have formed a swarm network. This network is very hard to destroy. For every occupation that is forcibly evicted, five more have sprung up. We do not rely on leaders or student unions. And in doing so we lack weak links. We can afford to lose connections and nodes in this network, for new ones are continuously forming in their place.

An overarching manifesto is one such weak link. It is easy to discredit a document, and in doing so, discredit all the signatories. We have to remain unquantifiable and chaotic. We act independently, and are hard to track definitively. We can leak rumours, and form truths.

In 1960, 4 black students staged a sit in. Within two months, the Southern states had seen the birth of an inspirational, powerful student movement. The first significant student movement in the US. They'd previously, similarly, been apathetic. Unlike the civil rights movement of the mid-50s this new movement was not borne of existing organisations or established groups. These students acted entirely on reports they had read in the papers, heard on the radio. They were hard to keep track of. They spawned random. A true grass roots movement.

Greensboro was arguably the spark that set off the symbolic civil rights movement of the 60s and the activism we so associate with the 60s and 70s. It was going to happen. It just had to find its spark. Millbank, whether you support it or not, was our spark....

more at:

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/12852>

CNT Holds 10th Congress

From CNT

More than 500 delegates, representing approximately 120 unions of the Confederation, will meet in the Andalucian capital to discuss proposals and alternatives for the new challenges imposed by the the starkest version of Capital, which is hitting the rights and basic needs of the working class with full force.

For the CNT, this conference is particularly significant, thus it is not in vain that it will be held when this anarcho-syndicalist organization celebrates one hundred years its existence. A century of struggle, full of comrades who have built the libertarian ideal with their lives and efforts. A century of successes and also of mistakes, but always filled with the conviction that the working class can create a different society through direct action, solidarity and self management. A society for the people, not for money.

The Congress X is the ascertainment that the CNT is still alive and fighting one hundred years later, as demonstrated daily in the workplace and in the street. It was the protagonist of many struggles last year: Flightcare, FCC, Casolo, SEAGA, Atento, EULEN, SGAE, Mercadona, ISS, Ryanair, PRASUR, ACSA, CESPA It has also expanded into sectors hitherto neglected or only slightly touched by the official unions: archaeology, social Intervention, forestry (where CNT called a strike on its own in Galicia last summer) and has taken a leading role in promoting assemblies of the unemployed or general strikes in places like Lebrija for the fair division of labor. And CNT is always true to its principles.

Because, despite the time which has passed, the premises of anarcho-syndicalism and its analysis of society and labor are still valid; even if there are those who have an interest in claiming we don't exist, we keep on working day after day to put our principles into practice. The industrial action we do shows that despite the constraints imposed on us, a trade unionism beyond the trap of union elections, without unionists released from work duties, without subsidies, based on mutual aid and solidarity and not on inert "representativity" is possible.

more at:

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/12850>

Direct Action in Mississauga, Ontario

Friday night a group of anarchist in Mississauga decided that the Winners nearby needed to be explored so they climbed to the top of the roof scaling the yellow gas pipe, they where well rewarded to see a amazing view but hated the corporate pricing and profit made from Winners so instead of normally shoplifting and since the store was closed they took out the spray paint and wrote Anarchy on the top part of a wall, continuing their journey into the night they found the building of sunshine grill and a mortgage place knowing well both businesses contribute to wage slavery they climbed on top using a ladder in the back and holding each other upside down dangling over the roof managed to do a circle A on the northwestern wall management will freak when they try to get it erased, at last they stopped near a warehouse being tired and bored they left a message again leaning over the edge and wrote "GET INTO TROUBLE BEFORE ITS TOO L@TE!" @ representing a circle A, ten headed home for warm tea, these buildings are located near the dundas/winston churchill area

These anarchists hate corporations that promote getting in dept paying there workers too little and want others to follow in there footsteps of direct action

signed,

your rooftop neighborhood anarchists!

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/12870>

Parcel bombs hit embassies in Rome

From Al Jazeera

Separate blasts at the Chilean and Swiss embassies in Rome, the Italian capital, have wounded two people, Italian police say.

The blast at the Chilean embassy came just hours after the explosion in the mail-room of the Swiss mission on Thursday. Both of the injured were wounded while opening the packages.

A third suspect package was found at the Ukrainian embassy, but was did not appear to contain explosive materials, Yevhen Mitskevich, an embassy spokesman, said.

Police are now checking all embassies in the capital for dangerous materials.

Gianni Alemanno, Rome's mayor, referred to the blasts as a "wave of terrorism against embassies" and said this was "much more worrisome than a single attack".

"We are working with bomb disposal experts to ensure that no packages can be opened by inexperienced people," Francesco Tagliente, Rome's chief of police, told the Reuters news agency.

First blast

Sabina Castelfranco, Al Jazeera's correspondent in Rome, said there was an idea that anarchists could be behind the bombs "but the information is very very sketchy at the moment".

more at

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/13038>

Sabotage in (Vancouver) Coast Salish Territory 18/12/10

18/12/10

In the early morning hours --

The community policing station on Commercial Drive had its locks glued.

The probation office on Commercial Drive had its locks glued. (Incidentally the same one John Graham was forced to report to before his extradition to the United States.

The TD Bank on Broadway and Naniamo had its ATM'S smashed out.

These small acts of sabotage were in-

Thoughts on 14th Dec. protests in Italy

From Libcom

In the last few days I've read, listened to and watched a lot of stuff about the student protests in Italy, and especially the huge demonstrations of 14th December, when Rome was set on fire by thousands of beautiful, angry youth. With few exceptions, the Italian media have been doing what they do best: Attacking, twisting, distorting, diminishing, LYING. No surprise there. I can't see a reason why the Videocrat and his court would like to have angry people on the streets, unless it was the new generation of Black Shirts they've been breeding during the last few years. There have been attacks from other sides too, unfortunately. Roberto Saviano, the writer of the bestseller "Gomorrhah" (you'll have heard of the movie!), wrote a letter to the "left-wing" newspaper La Repubblica, in which he attacked the students using the same old refrain we already know: The police' violence was horrible, but it was the violent protesters' fault. A few black sheep ruined the whole peaceful movement, and so on...

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So...of all the brilliant stuff I found, I decided to translate this article published by the Red Net (Network of Self-managed Universities). There was lots of stuff to choose from, but this one struck a chord with me. I felt these were the voices that I wanted to give space to. No big words, no pretence, no intellectualism. These are the voices of the streets.

"The 14th December has been an historical day. After years of passivity and resignation thousands of young people decided to take their future back and get out on the streets to vote no confidence – against this government and all the governments that during the years have contributed to a methodical destruction of social rights. For us students, to get out on the streets that day was an obvious choice. Protests against the Gelmini reform without awareness of the bigger picture would have led us to make the same mistakes we made during the Wave of 2008. It is only the extension of the struggle beyond the single reform that can bring real change.

There were more than 100,000 people at the demo. Despite the criticism of politicians and self-proclaimed intellectuals (Saviano's article is a significant example), we know that the reality is very different. We were there. We were behind the shields. We were there with our helmets, demanding the future that they're taking from us day after day. And we clearly remember that, every time we charged the police vans in Via del Corso, and every time the vans had to draw back, the whole Piazza del Popolo applauded. People who weren't on the front line, people up on the Pincio watching what was going on, people on the obelisk: They were applauding, they were all feeling that moment was theirs too.

more at:

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/13049>

spired by the street revolts all over Europe. How much we all yearn to express our desires and solidarity openly on the streets.

Also by our collective anger for the existence and imposition of prison and prison world on our comrades.

Destroy the banks! sabotage the systems of social control!

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/13035>

Georgia Prisoners Continue Strike for a Fifth Day

From Denver Anarchist Black Cross

DABC Note: *This is one of the most comprehensive articles we've found about the strike, and confirms that it has been ongoing since Thursday until at least yesterday. There has been no word yet if prisoners are still participating today, on what would be day 6 of the strike. Solidarity to the Georgia rebels!*

From the *Irish Times*:

THOUSANDS OF prisoners in at least four penitentiaries across the state of Georgia continued a non-violent strike for the fifth consecutive day yesterday in a showdown between the Department of Corrections and inmates over forced labour and poor living conditions.

The strike is unprecedented in at least two ways: it was organised by mobile phones that were smuggled into the prisons, and it has united prisoners across ethnic and religious lines, in an environment where racially-based gangs often fight each other.

"They have set aside their differences," said Elaine Brown, a former Black Panther leader and adviser to the prisoners, whose 27-year-old adopted son is incarcerated at Macon State prison.

"You have blacks, Mexicans, whites, Muslims, Christians, Rastafarians, you name it. They are all united and they are conscious that they are united around their common interests."

The department of corrections yesterday issued a two-paragraph statement saying that "four facilities still remain in a lockdown status and there have been no major incidents or issues reported".

A spokeswoman reached by telephone refused to comment on reports that at least six prisoners were beaten at Augusta State Prison, that several suffered broken ribs and that one was beaten "beyond recognition".

Ms Brown spoke to *The Irish Times* by telephone from Oakland, California. She fielded incoming calls and text messages from prisoners as we talked.

"Mostly what they're saying is: 'We're still here. What's going on out there?'" she said. "They're all right with them-

selves. They stay in the cells, read, call me, hide their phones and tell the guards they're not coming out. They're pretty much on a pattern now."

The strike has diminished since it started on December 9th. "They're tired, dirty, in a trash-filled environment," Ms Brown said. "The situation is certainly going to deteriorate. The greatest fear we have is that the guards will trigger an escalation to a violent confrontation . . . They know they can put it down, because they can start killing people."

Since the strike started, guards have cut heat and hot water. "They sent swat teams into cells to destroy people's property, pushed people around, put dogs on people," Ms Brown said.

"They have even gone so far as to try to make people urinate in cups so they can allegedly check for drugs. They've done it out in the cold. The men have to stand outside and are being told to drop their pants so the guards can manhandle them and force them to urinate."

The strike is total in affected prisons, Ms Brown said. "If you're at Macon or Smith or Hayes, you're participating in the strike. It's not five people. This isn't rabble-rousing. It's a universal, unified effort on the part of men who have been treated like slaves, whether they are black, white or Latino."

Prisoners began planning the strike at the end of the summer, when prison authorities cut the cigarette supply. For the past three months, they have organised by word of mouth and mobile phone. One prisoner told the *New York Times* that 10 per cent of inmates had contraband mobile phones.

The prisoners' main demand is an end to forced labour without pay, which they say is a violation of the 13th amendment of the constitution banning slavery and involuntary servitude. Georgia state law prohibits paying them. Inmates are required to do prison chores, cook and serve meals and are sent out to maintain other government buildings. On release, they are given \$25 and a bus ticket.

With 60,000 prisoners and 150,000 people on probation, Georgia has the high-

est prisoner-to-resident ratio in the US. African-Americans comprise 63 per cent of the prison population but only 30 per cent of state residents. The striking prisoners are also demanding educational opportunities beyond the General Equivalency Diploma certificate.

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more at:

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/12963>

For Riotous Assemblies not Reasonable Dissent

From Act For Freedom Now

The roof-top scenes of occupation and property destruction dispelled the long-held belief that the cops have the upper hand on the streets of the United Kingdom, and especially in the open-CCTV-prison of London. Something much more occurred that day than the complete trashing of the ruling political party's headquarters in the capital city - an aching festive class violence was openly expressed and transmitted everywhere via global media, to all others in resistance around the world.

Again this incredible force was experienced on 9 December, and it still only felt like the beginning.

The opportunity of this moment is the opportunity for mass social rebellion. And within this is the necessity for those that consider themselves already a 'politically conscious' and 'active' class to know when to keep silent, when to step aside and to recognise that the opportunity being presented to them is to divest themselves of their own redundant, prescriptive and obstructive attachment to their own models of theory and action.

more at:

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/12979>
