



SOCIETY!

Respect Yourself - an editorial

It is true that anarchists are perennial losers. Every revolution we join, nearly every campaign we join, or project we create, ends in a failure for us to gain serious traction. At worst we end up lined against the wall facing our former comrades; at best we exit the scene early so that we can re-stage on better terms. This seems like a logical consequence of our political philosophy, one that for all its possible weaknesses, at least does not negate the humanity of its opposition.

The fact of our continuing failure has embedded many of our projects with a certain aroma, one that can be confused with the scent of liberalism (when we state our goals as conservatively as possible on the off chance that a meager gain, or concession, can occur). Other times we just smell like failure, and as a result chase away people who are probably interested in what we have to say and show them.

This has been said a million times before, of course. But we don't seem to be learning good lessons from the observation. For example, we rarely turn the tables and examine the so-called successes of our political opposition. The track record of most of the political philosophies that have crushed anarchists isn't particularly that of incredible success but of losing more slowly. Right now the vitality of dictatorships, state socialism, and even so-called democracy is on the wane. The energy of populations of interconnected people is on the increase. There isn't a whiff of failure to be found. Even if/when the end game of the recent union struggle in Wisconsin is concession--or the changes of regimes in north Africa ends in dictatorship-lite --the energy itself is, and/or should be acted on as if it is, life.

This energy--call it rebellion, resistance, or struggle--is at the very center of libertarian ideas about what human capacity (without the state or capital-

ism) looks like.

It is easy, and fair, to criticize anarchists for our failures, particularly when we insist that the groups we join use methods and terminologies that we have invested a lot of mythological power into (consensus, particular jargons around power and identity). It makes sense for us to rigorously engage each other in how we best express, and achieve, anarchy, and how in the pursuit of that, we can end up enforcing something else entirely.

Anarchists, respect yourself! Anarchy is not about grudging admissions of worthy ideas, but about a joy of freedom, and a respect for desire, in the face of all opposition, , in the face of the people who try to suppress and destroy us, in times of fear and times of celebration.

With each other we can laugh at our impossible dream but we should never disrespect it. This dream continues to be a glorious will-o-wisp guiding us toward a future worth living.

Anarchists Attack Seattle Cops during Riot

From KOMO News

SEATTLE - A roving gang of rioters smashed property and attacked Seattle police with fireworks, flares and fire extinguishers Saturday night near the site where an officer shot a woodcarver to death last August.

The incident began at about 9 p.m. as an officer drove through the intersection at Boren Avenue and Howell Street and came upon a group of what appeared to be anarchists gathering there.

As the officer passed through, the group discharged a fire extinguisher at his vehicle.

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/14125>

On Summit Demonstrations, Solidarity Actions and the Necessity of Consistency

A Position Paper From the IMF Resistance Network

The problematic aspects of summit demonstrations have been made clear. In the current climate of action in anti-authoritarian circles we have run into a little bit of a bind, both conceptually and practically. Militant demonstrations at the sites of trade summits have done a lot to break the image of the "Washington Consensus" as well as mount actual destabilizations in the functioning of the apparatus of the State in certain areas for periods of time. But summit demos have become something of an abstract anarchist threat that comes to take up a lot of energy and only engages for a short period of time, only to see that energy dispersed after the last dumpsters are rolled back down their respective alleys and the last windows replaced.

But we want to push beyond the absurdities of the recent debates around large scale confrontation. The absurdities of claims to our addictions or speculation about the psychological motivations beyond confrontation aside, we need to move beyond understanding our actions within the borders of spatial divisions of local and global. If we can say one thing about capitalist globalization it is that these divisions have been eliminated and have become part of global commodity flows.

But most recent debates around how to engage in anticapitalist actions have fallen either into an understanding of attacking capitalism as some sort of entity or focus on the local level where it is actually enacted.

much more at:
<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/14097>

We ain't takin this no mo': The streets fill with rage against the Denver cops

From Queen City Antifa:

We ain't takin this no mo'!

The Action

In a third round of street demonstrations against police terror in the Denver metro area in the last six months, hundreds took to the streets of downtown Denver on the night of January 29th. A crowd that started as 150 and at times fluctuated to almost twice that number stormed the 16th Street Mall, a commercial epicenter of downtown Denver in a display of rage that hasn't been seen in Denver in quite some time.

The actions come on the heels of an endless series of police misconduct incidents, including the killing of a prisoner named Marvin Booker by Denver County Sheriffs at the Van Cise-Simonet Detention Center in July 2010. A laundry list of beatings, rapes, child pornography and drug charges has marked police activity in the metro area. Lawsuit after lawsuit has been filed, with the city of Denver paying out millions of dollars over the last several years.

The crowd gathered at the Denver Skatepark at 19th and Little Raven Streets at 6pm. Because of its proximity to downtown and the locations of several high profile police misconduct cases, the Skatepark has been the launching site of two of the three street actions that have happened since the murder of Marvin.

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more at:

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/13731>

Account from Ground of Seattle Actions

From Portland Indymedia

This is a very short, incomplete recap of the most recent events in Seattle. It concerns only the anarchists, not the protests organized by the family of the deceased. Undoubtedly, someone else will write a more thorough analysis for those of you who don't live in Seattle.

FIRST NIGHT

On the night of Tuesday, February 15, the media began reporting that the City Prosecutor had decided not to prosecute police officer Ian Birk for the murder of John T. Williams. Soon after, an event appeared on Facebook, calling for people to meet at 6pm on Wednesday, February 16, for a night of protest at Westlake Plaza, a busy shopping district in the heart of Downtown Seattle. The next day, anarchists leafletted for the demonstration throughout Capitol Hill and into downtown. The first protest brought 600-700 people into the street, all marching without a permit. The crowd marched up to Capitol Hill and met a line of riot police guarding the East Precinct. The crowd was angry and volatile but there were no major incidents that evening, and the march was unable/unwilling to break the police line.

more at:

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/14071>

St. Louis: Liebig 14 Solidarity Attack Against Developers

On the night of February 6, the office of Millennium Restoration and Development on the corner of Arsenal and Arkansas was attacked. The developer's windows were smashed. This action was taken in solidarity with and to mourn the loss of Liebig 14, one of Berlin's autonomous, squatted housing complexes.

Keep your head up.

Keep dreaming.

Keep plotting ways out of this mess.

more at:

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/13797>

Berlin Eviction Prompts Clashes at Former Squat

From Green Anarchy (blog)

Around 2,500 police officers were deployed across Berlin to evict squatters from one of the city's last surviving squats. Police used an axe and a battering ram to break down the door of Liebigstrasse 14, in East Berlin.

Disturbances broke out around the building, Liebigstrasse 14, as the 25 residents refused to leave.

It took over five hours before police were able to fully reclaim the property because squatters had ripped out staircases and built extra walls to prevent police from reaching them.

People arresting six men and five women inside. 8 officers were injured after scuffles with protesters as hundreds of supporters participated in violent protests in solidarity with the squatters. Protesters, some of them with their faces covered, threw bottles and stones at riot police. A number of people were arrested for spraying the police, Berlin news website Tageszeitung reported, and at one point, a TV-truck was sprayed with shaving foam.

Squatters had originally occupied Liebigstrasse 14 in 1990 and it later became a major housing project.

Situated in the Friedrichshain area of former communist east Berlin, the former squat has since become a symbol of the dispute between housing developers and largely leftist residents.

It has been at the centre of a lengthy court battle.

Its status has changed repeatedly over the years as residents have tried to gain some sort of legal status or even buy the building.

An earlier demonstration on Saturday was said to have left around 40 police hurt and a number of the officers at the scene early on Wednesday were in riot gear.

A number of people were arrested for spraying the police, Berlin news website Tageszeitung reported, and at one point, a TV-truck was sprayed with shaving foam.

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more at:

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/13740>

Statement from Maximum Security Section: Regarding Hunger Strike (Chile)

It's difficult to summarize the events of the recent wave of repression, the coarse televised spectacle cements itself in the political-judicial-police machine, reproducing and drawing from the Italian process known as "Marini" and "Cervantes" during which various social centers and squatted houses were raided and the inhabitants charged with being an "Armed Gang." Operation Salamander (a similar Chilean species) captured 14 people under the charges of Illicit Terrorist Association, and of transportation or placing of explosive devices.

Affectionate friendships were transformed and mutated into a hierarchical structure. Many of the arrested never even knew each other.

Who would have guessed that the idea of living without reproducing power would lead to us being judged as an Illicit Association? The political functionaries maintain that the squatted houses were utilized as conspiracy centers to manufacture bombs; they say nothing of the libraries for whomever might have interest in engaging in solidarity. Now these books are mere articles strewn among "so much proof". The prosecutor speaks of organic proof found in areas where there were indeed some attacks, motherboards would be the certainty such of scientific proof, another swift kick to the ass of the oppressors: for all the biological proof, none of it implicates those charged on the 14th of August. All of the DNA tests were done by force by the prison guards and police

The wiles of the prosecutor reach absurd heights exemplified by the "Pakistani Case" surrounding the complicity of mediums of mass communication, which for years have cemented the anti-terrorist discourse, setting the stage for the hunt that August 14th. Besides bringing the weight of an investigation spanning over five years, the accusers are asking for 180 days of preventative detention, arguing for an even more exhaustive investigation, which will not stop with the testimony of Gustavo Fuentes Aliaga. Normally, under due process the defense would get the investigative folder prior to the formalization of the charges, within the "Bombs

Case" said folder was given to the defense after almost 3 months of incarceration, and was also incomplete. Recently after over 170 days in prison the prosecutor has delivered the "classified pages."

Modesty cannot exist among intrusions into the intimate life of the accused, from intimidating small children to hundreds of electronically monitored phone calls which only prove friendly ties among the co-accused.

Inside this prison (CPF) we have been faced with many different types of interrogations- formal and informal- on behalf of different functionaries of the prison; vigilantes, criminal sociologists, social workers, etc. They search for a declaration or the appropriate delinquent profile. We disclose this information not with a feeling of victimization, but in order to warn those who can see themselves in a similar position, power use all of its tentacles to prolong incarceration. Harassment effects all of our brothers and sisters, friends, comrades, proud families, who have never bent their heads before a jailer.

We are to be processed under the law inherited from the Dictatorship, that has as one of its attributes secret witnesses, who have been used in the judicial processes of the Mapuche people, whether civil or military. In addition, this law gives increased sentences for common crimes. Lifting the preventative detention would not be enough because if the prosecutor or Superior Court wanted to change this decision its needs a unanimous vote, whereas normally it only needs a majority, this is another pitfall of the legal system.

It is by this that today Monday February 21st, it has been more than 180 days since the raids and investigation, we begin a mobilization with characteristics of an indefinite hunger strike. Using our bodies as a means of demands...

more at:

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/14093>

Chile-The Comrades Kidnapped by the Chilean State since August 14th- Begin a Hunger Strike

From Libertada los 14a

Developing news:

After six months months of investigation and imprisonment, the prosecutor seeks to reform and extend the "preventative detention" for another six months based on no more evidence then the lies they vomit, the comrades have decided to start an indefinite hunger strike.

1. Immediate release.
2. End to the juristic police.
3. End to the anti-terrorist law, created by the dictatorship, perfected by the democracy.
4. End to the investigation and for an immediate fair trial.

More information to come.

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/14090>

Introducing "Santiasko Anarquista"

From Santiasko Anarquista

Santiasko Anarquista serves as an English language resource for the English-speaking world. The translations will be solely focused on the anarchist struggle in Santiago, Chile. It was prompted by the recent initiation (Feb 21st) of a hunger strike by the compañerxs arrested during the August 14th raids. Expect sporadic updates.

"War on society...Vengeance for the fallen!!!!..."

For reference:

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/12145>
(Updates on Solidarity for the Arrested Anarchists in Chile)

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/14108>

Daniel McGowan Transferred; Back in CMU

From supportdaniel.org

We are writing with some bad news. Daniel was moved back into a CMU this week, this time at Terre Haute. We aren't really sure why at this time, but we are sure we will fight the move. Daniel's holding up as well as can be expected. He's stressed out, of course, and he would appreciate your letters, especially at this time. Please write him at:

Daniel McGowan #63794-053
FCI Terre Haute - CMU
Post Office Box 33
Terre Haute, Indiana 47408

We know people will have a lot of questions about this. We do, too. At this moment, we don't have any answers. We will update you again as soon as we do.

For updates and ways to help, visit
supportdaniel.org
<http://nycabc.wordpress.com/>

Write Anti-fascist prisoner Rinat Sultanov

From Avtonom

Rinat Sultanov was arrested in Saint-Petersburg of Russia 3rd of November, in eve of yet another "Day of People's Unity", most favourite Russian state holiday of the fascists, after a siege of apartment of anti-fascists which lasted several hours. He is accused according to statute 111 of Russian criminal codex, "Grievous bodily harm, caused with an intent", for a fight with local fascists, which took place in autumn of year 2008.

Rinat is born from the city of Labytnangi of the far-northern Siberia. ...He considers himself as an anarchist and RASH-skinhead.

Right now support group does not need material help, however it is important to support Rinat with letters during the remand imprisonment!

Write to: Rinat Sultanov
FBU IZ-47\4
ul. Lebedeva d. 39
195009 Saint-Petersburg Russia

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/13790>

Shorts Updates of the Recent Repressions against Anarchists in Belarus

As of right now four Belarussian anarchists are under arrest, accused of having organised a series of direct actions 2009-2010.

Everything started long before this past September(2010). The years 2009-2010 were rich in radical actions claimed by Belarussian anarchists. Such as:

- *an illegal anti-militarist demonstration in September 2009 against a mutual Russian-Belarussian war exercise, when a Joint Staff was attacked with a smoke grenade.

- * an attack on a Minsk casino using paint bulbs and flares in protest of the relocation of most Russian casinos to Belarus after the law banning casinos in Russia was passed.

- * an attack on a police station in Soligorsk during the days of common action against the police (windows were broken and a flare was thrown inside)

- * an attack on the Headquarters of the Trade Union Federation on the 1st May with the statement that the state and this formal organisation uses workers in its interests, and doesn't defend their rights, often preventing workers from cooperating with each other and organizing strikes.

much more at:
<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/13847>

Athens, Greece - Anarchist comrade Fee Marie Meyer arrested

From Angry News (blog) - by
fromthegreekstreets

Wednesday, February 9, 2011 - This evening, our anarchist comrade Fee Marie Meyer was ordered to pre-trial detention. Fee had been arrested on January 14th by men of the anti-terrorist unit in Athens. From the moment of her arrest, media and police launched a coordinated slander attempt against her, coming up with an incredible scenario of a supposed involvement of her parents with the RAF in Germany, and so on and so forth.

more at:
<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/13803>

RIP Don LaCoss

It is with great sorrow that we have to report the death of our dear friend and comrade, Don LaCoss on January 31. He had been terribly sick for several months with a relentless respiratory illness that finally morphed into pneumonia. Don was the editor of the as of yet unfinished next edition of our publication and was literally at work on it the night of his death.

His issue, with the theme of DIY, which he swore would be printed on Feb. 15, will probably be delayed a few more weeks, but it is still Don's issue, and we will complete it in the manner he intended. Below is a very short appreciation of him by his friend in the Surrealist movement, Ron Sakolsky.

"One of Don's last research projects was on the history of Egyptian surrealism, so it is fitting that his death was poetically heralded by a popular insurrection in the streets of Cairo. As the founding manifesto of the 1973 Arab Surrealist Movement in Exile exclaimed as if in anticipation of the possibilities opened up by recent events in Tunisia and Egypt: 'We call upon individuals and the masses to unleash their instincts against all forms of repression, including the repressive 'reason' of the bourgeois order. We poison the intellectual atmosphere with the elixir of the imagination, so that the poet will realize himself in realizing the historical transformation of poetry. We liberate language from the prisons and stock markets of capitalist confusion.'

more at:
<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/13741>

Breaking News from the Greek General Strike

From Occupied London

Athens Indymedia, Occupied London, and Contrainfo are all posting breaking news in English from today's general strike and will be throughout the day.

18:35 (GMT+2) Athens: A crowd of hundreds ripped up the benches from Syntagma Square to feed a fire they had built in front of the Parliament. The police had tried to disperse the gathering by circling around the protesters menacingly, but people stayed their ground. After a while, the police dispersed the crowd by forming a cordon around them and then chasing them aggressively away, attacking them with teargas and beating them.

17:37 (GMT+2) Athens: After a respite, there has been at least one more clash at Syntagma Square. The police attempted to disperse the calm crowd, and at least one person was beaten by as many as 10 police and has been detained. The situation has grown tense once more, and Syntagma Metro station is closed again.

16:50 (GMT+2) Athens: There is a call for a gathering at Syntagma Square at 19:00. So far there, six protesters have been confirmed as injured. Numerous police motorcycles and riot police are gathered along Alexandras Avenue.

Volos: There were three lively demos for a total of 3,000-4,000 people.

16:30 (GMT+2) Athens: One protester was seriously burned by a teargas canister and has been transferred to the hospital. His knee is hurt badly. As of now, there are at least 20 confirmed detentions and 4 or 5 confirmed arrests. A police motorcycle tried to hurt a protester near Syntagma Sq. but the two cops were attacked with a molotov and their bike was consumed by flames. People are attempting to organize an evening concert at Syntagma Square. Most people will stay until then.

Thessaloniki: 100-200 protesters are marching to the aristotelous police station in solidarity with the person who was arrested taken there.

...

much more at:

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/14099>

Greek letter bomb 'could have killed me': minister

From Gulf Times

Greek police on 2 February, defused the bomb addressed to Kastanidis after ministry staff raised the alarm, the day before the resumption of the trial of 13 suspected members of the Conspiracy of Fire Nuclei.

Kastanidis said the explosive contained in the package, supposedly sent from an association of trainee lawyers, was more powerful than the one that killed a body-guard of former police minister Michalis Chryssohoidis in June last year.

"According to investigators the assembly of the device points probably to the Conspiracy of Fire Nuclei," Kastanidis said, adding that "justice will not bend" and the trial would continue.

The hearings reopened February 3, but were boycotted by both the accused and defence lawyers, who have refused to cooperate with the court, with the prosecutor reading the indictment.

The suspects, aged between 19 and 30, face charges of belonging to a terrorist organisation, punishable by 10 to 25 years in prison.

The organisation has shown a growing aptitude in handling explosives and, unlike other Greek groups that were silenced by police arrests, it has apparently survived two waves of roundups to continue its attacks.

It sent a wave of parcel bombs to foreign missions in Athens and a trio of European leaders abroad in November, and the following month placed a time bomb outside a court in Athens to threaten justice officials ahead of the opening of the current trial.

The proceedings were halted shortly after they first opened on January 17 when the accused protested entry controls to the courtroom set up in the Korydallos prison near Athens.

The second time fighting broke out between police and dozens of supporters of the defendants after they were again sent back to their cells.

much more at:

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/13770>

Regarding the arrest of the anarchist Lida Sofianou

From Occupied London

Regarding the arrest of the anarchist Lida Sofianou at the general strike demonstration of February 23

Tens of thousands of people took to the streets of Athens on the day of the general strike on February 23

...

This is where comrade Lida Sofianou, who participated in the demonstration with the block of the Assembly of Kipseli/Patision, was arrested. Policemen of the DELTA force threw her to the street, dragged her toward the finance ministry, and tried to set up a fabrication against her, in order to frame her up her with crushing charges. More specifically they grabbed her bag, which contained texts of the Assembly, and attempted to place within it another bag with molotovs which they themselves were holding. The comrade reacted instantly, denouncing to the demonstrators and passers-by present the taking away of her bag and the police attempt to incriminate her.

much more at:

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/14117>

Police Hurt, Five Arrested in Greek Landfill Clash

From Mysinchew

Two police officers were hurt and five people were arrested after late night clashes near Athens between riot police and rural residents opposing a planned waste landfill, officials said on Wednesday.

The clashes late on Tuesday broke out after police began searching homes in the town of Keratea, some 40 kilometres (25 miles) southeast of the capital.

more at:

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/13819>

Interview with an anarcho-communist activist in Freedom Square in Cairo

From Anarkismo.net

Can you please tell me your name and what movement you are from?

I'm Nidal Tahrir, from Black Flag, a small group of Anarcho-Communists in Egypt.

The world is watching Egypt, and even moving in solidarity. However, due to the internet being cut, information was difficult to find. Can you tell me about what has happened in Egypt in the past week? What did it look like from your perspective?

The situation in Egypt is so crucial right now. It began with an invitation to the day of rage against the Mubarak regime on January 25th. No-one expected that an invitation to a day of rage from a loose group, a Facebook page, not really organized, called "We are all Khalid Said" (Khalid Said is a young Egyptian who was killed by Mubarak's police in Alexandria last summer), it was that Tuesday that began everything, it was the spark for the whole fire.

...

What will the main tasks be, once Mubarak leaves? Has there been much planning about this on the street level? What have anti-capitalist revolutionaries proposed?

The main task now, speaking about the street demands, is new constitution and provisional government, and then new elections. There's much planning about this issue by many political trends here, especially the Muslim Brotherhood. Anti-capitalist revolutionaries are not very numerous in Cairo - the communists, democratic left and Trotskyites are calling for the same demands about the constitution and new elections, but for us as anarchists - anti-capital, anti-State too - we will try to ensure that the committees that have been formed protect and secure the streets, make them stronger and try to turn them into real councils.

more at:

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/13760>

NEFAC.net Interview a Tahir Square Revolutionary

From NEFAC.net

NEFAC's International Secretary briefly interviewed A, a participant in the Egyptian uprising and witness to the Baltagayyah attacks on the Tahrir Square demonstrations.

download:

http://electricrnb.podomatic.com/entry/2011-02-03T00_56_54-08_00

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/13748>

Full Text Interview with an Egyptian Protestor

From Vanzetti's Ghost (blog)

Vanzetti My question from your experience, how are these demos being organized? Are they spontaneous or more planned or a mix? And also how does a free or unfree Internet play into that?

...

Al Masry: the internet is never free, never in Egypt, its all censored and watched constantly, in the past people have been arrested for downloading human rights documents and tortured accordingly. we try to make the best use out of what we can do on the internet these days.

How did you get involved with anon?

Only last night the news about anon spread all over Egypt that they are helping us with our struggle and they are not known and they are not looking for any credits or personal gaining from this. Egyptians immediately fell in love with anon and something as small as bringing governmental websites down and black faxing and emails bombing them have planted a seed in us telling us that we are actually not alone. and so as a result, I and many others of my fellow Egyptians want to show our gratitude and at the same time try to help in anyway.

much much more at:

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/13756>

An Anarchist Report from Egypt

Last night an anarchist from Lebanon gave a report on the situation in Egypt at our social center. This is a series of notes extracted from the talk.

The person who gave the talk has been involved in organizing solidarity with people in Egypt, and as a part of the talk he skyped a friend in Tahir Square so we could ask her some questions directly.

The revolution in Egypt has been spontaneous and self-organizing, spreading from Cairo and other major cities to the countryside, where in some areas Bedouins took up arms against the police and the military. The revolution has not been peaceful, but in most cases it has been unarmed, owing to the simple fact that most people don't have recourse to weapons beyond stones, clubs, spray paint, and molotov cocktails, all of which have been used against police forces in abundance. (The spraypaint is for the cops' visors, and once they have to lift those up in order to see, for their eyes). When government paramilitary thugs attacked the protestors on Tahir Square (the incident initially described by Western media as a clash between Mubarak supporters and Mubarak opponents), they were expelled with violent force.

Because Egyptians have lived under dictatorship for so long, only the elderly have any experience street fighting, so a major form of solidarity by comrades in other countries has been the creation of informational flyers in Arabic explaining what are essentially Black Bloc street tactics. Given the participation by anarchists and anti-globalization activists in this direct aid, the reference to the Black Bloc is not intended as metaphor or exaggeration.

...

Participation in the uprising has been general and multigenerational. In a country of 80 million, 3 million have regularly come out in Cairo and many millions more in other major cities. The rural population is less likely to mobilize in central locations but they have participated in the uprising in other ways.

much more at:

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/13833>

A Message to Wisconsin's Insatiable Workers and Students

From Burnt Bookmobile

We're watching the RSS feeds and news sites like we watched Al Jazeera during the Egyptian Uprising. We're looking for a sign. Hoping that the rage we share cuts through our daily routine. We're hoping that what's transpiring in Wisconsin is an internal error in their system, and that it's irreparable. We're praying at our grandparents graves that they, who fought for dignity or who bowed shamefully, will give us all the strength and resolve to push ourselves beyond our limits of politeness. Wisconsin, we're looking to you like we looked to Egypt, like we looked to all the places that have recently flared up. We want you to say it's on. To say we don't have to be afraid anymore, and we don't have to take shit. We want to be forced to stop watching, take sides, and join up.

What we need from you:

Never go back to work. Never go back to school. Spread the occupation beyond the symbols of power. Occupy and block what counts. Attack symbols, occupy infrastructure. Extend the scale and scope of the struggle by attacking what links the governor's position with the misery of daily life. Fight, with all means, and through fighting make connections with others you never knew.

Teachers, elaborate your teach-ins. Tell your story, encourage everyone you touch to say why collective struggle (not just bargaining) is a necessary part of our position in this world. Talk about your dying grandmother. Talk about your difficult addictions. Talk about history. This law is an attempt to conceal the realities of our daily lives and to liquidate those stories from the future. Reveal this, and make possible the education that was never allowed in school.

much more at:

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/14077>

Why You Should Start a Solidarity Network

From the Trial by Fire

"People often accuse anarchists of being opposed to all forms of organization. Some of us are quick to point out, however, that it's not all organization we are opposed to - just apparently the effective ones."

When I first became interested in Anarchist politics, there weren't many groups for me to get involved with. All of the collectives I joined seemed to form, fall apart, and reform - always the same people reshuffling into new groups, disbanding, and starting over again. If they took part in any discernible action at all, it was normally because some other group had organized it.

All over the U.S., in fact, the Anarchist organizations I had worked with could be summed up in one word - they were aimless.

They had vague objectives. They had no discernable, immediate goals. Actually, if you asked most of them what they were doing, I'm not sure you could get a straight answer.

Sound familiar?

These are chronic issues in much of the Anarchist movement today, and if my experience is any indicator, you've probably run into similar problems.

There is, however, a way to get around these issues: with perseverance and a little bit of elbow grease, you can start your own solidarity network.

Although by no means does this model offer the only solutions to these common problems, the solidarity network model, nonetheless, does offer some practical insights and examples of how we can:

1. Win fights against our bosses and landlords,
2. Attract new workers to our organizations, many of whom will have never even heard of Anarchism before,
3. Empower ourselves and our fellow workers, and
4. Establish a stable and positive presence in our community, off of which we may continue to grow in new directions.

To Begin:

The Seattle Solidarity Network, or SeaSol for short, started in 2008 with

only a handful of activists, from a variety of backgrounds. Some had experience in labor organizing, others in anti-summit work against the G8, and others still in various anti-war campaigns.

In part, the intention of the first organizers was to build off of the great work of people who had come before them. The vision for SeaSol, in fact, might best be described as a blending of the "direct action casework" of the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty and the "solidarity unionism" of the Industrial Workers of the World.

Since its founding, SeaSol has grown to encompass a membership of over 100 people, and an organizing committee of 15. These fifteen organizers, moreover, can rely on a mobilizing list of 400 supporters to call out to actions when needed, of whom we can reliably count on perhaps 20 - 30 people to turn out.

Largely, SeaSol's growth can be attributed to its success rate. Out of 25 fights SeaSol has taken on, we have won 22.

Further still, SeaSol's success rate can be attributed to its organizing model - which brings us to the first reason to start a solidarity network in your home town:

1. Winning Fights Against Bosses and Landlords:

"Winning," a SeaSol organizer once said, "is like a drug." A very intoxicating and empowering drug.

For those of us who have poured our hearts into a lot of "symbolic" anarchist projects - a lot of anti-police brutality work, anti-war organizing, anti-G8 campaigns, and so on - for those of us who have spent time around these campaigns, we have often felt extremely demoralized.

more at:

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/13746>

ANONYMOUS: TACTICS & STRATEGIES

The Strategy of Anonymity

From Vanzetti's Ghost (blog)

"[The hackers] attack from the shadows and they have no fear of retaliation. There are no rules of engagement in this kind of emerging warfare."

Charles Dodd, US government consultant on IT security

Recent events warrant this discussion to say the least. Recently there have been the uprisings in Egypt and Tunisia, as well as internet censorship by a list of other countries. Also there was security firm HBGARY's (pretty much failed) attempt at doxing or finding and revealing the personal information of members of Anonymous. Not to mention the grand jury that has just started reviewing evidence against "members of Anonymous". And a certain government consultant's statement about the "cyber-

war". People who stay anonymous and do something are generally considered cowards and immoral etc... And of course the eternal response...

But if you have nothing to hide, you have nothing to fear... right?:

"Hence the major effect of the Panopticon: to induce in the inmate a state of conscious and permanent visibility that assures the automatic functioning of power. So to arrange things that the surveillance is permanent in its effects, even if it is discontinuous in its action; that the perfection of power should tend to render its actual exercise unnecessary; that this architectural apparatus should be a machine for creating and sustaining a power relation independent of the person who exercises it; in short, that the inmates should be caught up in a power situation of which they are themselves the bearers."

from *Panopticism* by Michel Foucault

From talking to people about the world and society, there seems to be two things preventing the formation of a really effective social movement in the US. Apathy and fear seem to be the two things stopping people from actually taking action, from trying to change things for the better. The apathy is easy to solve. By taking visible and effective action we can convince the apathetic people that it's worth it to TRY. A successful action, uprising, strike or occupation expands the notion of what is possible and also shows the immediate benefits of becoming involved with a movement. So all we're left with then is overcoming fear, or gaining a better relationship to fear and what causes fear. ...

much more at:

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/13842>

Status on Protests in Iran, Algeria, Italy and Spain and Their Corresponding Anonymous Operations

From Vanzetti's Ghost (blog)

Iran:

...
Anonymous (the online activist group) continues their #OpIran, or Operation Iran. As I write this their current target for the DDOS (distributed denial of service) sit-in is www.iribnews.ir. This phase DDOS began at 5am GMT. Along with DDOS members of Anonymous have started a sub-op, operation iran fax, which involves supporters sending black faxes and white faxes to certain fax machines inside Iran. Here are the instructions for the Op gleaned from the topic in channel #opiran on the irc.anonops.ru IRC server.

Algeria:

...
I feel safe in assuming the successes of Tunisia and Egypt have something to do with this... As far as Anonymous goes, #OpAlgeria is still swinging, with the target at the time of this post being <http://www.interieur.gov.dz> (Pictures from al-

gerian demos are not mine. all copyright and credit to AP and daniel lee who put together the gallery here)

Italy:

The anti-Berlusconi opposition in Italy demonstrated yesterday drawing hundreds of thousands! of women to over 230 cities to call for better treatment of women in Italy as well as Berlusconi's resignation. (This of course after Berlusconi's new scandal involving him paying a 17 year old for sex). There is no current target for the #OpItaly DDOS but the channel is still active.

Spain and #OpGoya:

"Dear Anonymous from around the World:

Once again, we at Anonymous Spain, are forced to ask for your help regarding a subject that affects us in Spain directly.

On January 16th, 2011, we asked for help from Anons around the world, to participate in a DDOS attack as a sign of protest against the "Synde Law", which is intended to close any web page which

they considered illegal without the need to go through a judge.

...
On February 13th hundreds of us will attend the Goya awards, and invade the red carpet as a sign of protest against the Sinde Law with our masks and suits.

A DDOS attack has also been scheduled against the Cinema Academy website. "~from #OpGoya press release

This op seems to have two parts, a real life and a virtual component. The physical demonstration seems to already have happened at Spain's Goya (film) awards.

Operation Dogfight:

And to finish off, here's an Anonymous op I feel like a lot of people can support. Operation Dogfight in short is the effort to find the asshole who tortured two dogs and fucking posted it online.

much more at:

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/13838>

Why More Anarchists Should Get Involved With #Anonymous

From Ghost of Vanzetti

Of course I can only ever give my personal opinion about this subject, a subject which is changing all the time. I'll try not to abstract too much and speak from my personal experience and observations of anonymous...

It's like this. I didn't find the Anonymous IRC (internet relay chat) server until after "participants" in Operation Payback had taken down websites like Mastercard, Paypal and others. I had known about known about Anonymous before that but seeking them out had never really appealed to me until I saw them in the news for "defending wikileaks". It took a while before I was able to navigate to their IRC, but once I was able to, I started looking around and realized a bunch of things...

...

Reasons why more Anarchists should get involved with Anon:

1) Anonymous is anarchist in form, the people involved are amenable to the idea if not already there:

Despite the trashy journalism put out by some mainstream outlets about Anonymous, there's no "secret" power structure in the group. Although some people complain the people running the IRC server are the "leaders" that's not true. How do things get done in the group? Anyone with an idea for a project or "operation" can start a channel on the server, gather people there and if enough people like the idea, boom, that's an Op(eration). For those familiar, imagine a crimethinc where people actually plan and execute actions under the name. There's also the international nature of the thing, the ability for anyone so inclined to hop on the server and start a channel. I'll let the words of some people I interviewed speak for themselves:

...

And while the aims, press releases, and interviews of some "members" of anonymous may be more liberal and less radical, that does not mean there are no signs of revolutionary thought present even in those who aren't explicitly anarchist.

An Open Letter To The World

From Anon News

We stand at a unique time in our history, the rise of the internet and computer technology have contributed to an unparalleled rate of prosperity for the First World. We have created for ourselves an empire unlike any other, a global network of constant trade and communication, a new age of technological advancement. We have come a long way from our humble roots in the Industrial Revolution and the days of Manifest Destiny. We are now pioneers on new digital frontiers expanding our domain from the quantum world to the far reaches of space.

And yet, the empire faces a crisis, a global recession, growing poverty, rampant violence, corruption in politics, and threats to personal freedom. As it was before in other times of crisis, the old stories have begun to repeat themselves. The half truths, this time repeated nightly on cable news and echoed through a series of tubes onto the internet: the empire is strong, change is unwise, business as usual is the answer. In times of uncertainty there are those who seek to add to the confusion, to prey on our insecurities and fears. Those who would seek to keep us divided for their own gain. The pervasive strategy takes many very convincing forms: Liberals and Conservatives, Christians and Muslims, Black and White, Saved and sinner.

But something unexpected is happening. We have begun telling each other our own stories. Sharing our lives, our hopes, our dreams, our demons. ... As we see the lives of others played out in our living rooms we are beginning to understand the consequences of our actions and the error of the old ways. We are questioning the old assumptions that we are made to consume not to create, that the world was made for our taking, that wars are inevitable, that poverty is unavoidable. As we learn more about our global community a fundamental truth has been rediscovered: We are not so different as we may seem. ... We crave love, love laughter, fear being alone and dream for a better life. You must create a better life.

more at:

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/14122>

2) The immediate necessity of working with others for solidarity's sake:

It's not so much a "The Enemy of my enemy is my friend" type thing as much as a practical thing. There's a great piece of writing by David Graeber which deals with this subject in the context of the anti-globalization movement. To use his idea, two people can work together without the same ideology if their short and medium term goals line up, even if the long term goals differ. There's a great history of anarchists showing solidarity to other struggles, the social insertionism idea, and there's some criticism of this. But really I think it benefits us (anarchists) by acknowledging our common cause with other movements and people. We can't be too puritanical about our ideas without risking total isolation, irrelevance and inefficacy. Not to say we compromise what we believe. What I mean, if there's a good reason for us to work with others in such a way that we don't sacrifice our way of doing things, I see no reason not to participate.

3) At best there is direct action happening, at worst the internet "protests" support the real life ones and teach us skills for the future:

Of course online action will never replace real life action. But we're seeing more and more the insane potential of this online field of struggle

...

5) Last but not least, a new anarchist group within Anonymous has formed... Introducing Anonymous (A) anarchist Action or A(A)A

much more at:

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/14128>

more at:
<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/14122>

Anarchists Against the Wall involved with various initiatives

From Ilan Is Agasint Walls

There are four main areas of struggles the AAtW activists are involved with: Joint struggle with communities that invite us to join like Bil'in and other struggles against the separation fence. Other joint struggles against occupation and settler colonialists like Nabi Saleh. Joint struggles with wider coalitions like Shekh Jarah coalition and South Hebron. The fourth is within Israel like prison and jail solidarity, Al Arakib and Lod. It seems that our confrontational and direct action mode of struggle is adopted by more and more Israeli radicals.

Al Arakib

More and more frequent the state forces come early in the morning to destroy the village and harass the Bedouins and Israeli activists who join them. After the state force leave - temporary dwellings are built.

Often, like this week Wednesday activists are arrested and prison solidarity activity is done the next day in Beer Sheva court house.

Updates from El Arakiv

The village of El Arakiv was destroyed on Feb. 7 2011 for the 13th time, and again on Feb.8

Yesterday and today bulldozers arrived from the Israeli Lands Administration and a large number of vans. They destroyed the village and took everything with them that could remind of the village. JNF workers continued to work on the site of the former houses to prepare planting a forest. At the site of the village there are now dams and terraces. Most of the inhabitants of the village are now at the ancient graveyard, which is not destroyed, and run there their daily life.

Protest watches

Every Sunday the inhabitants protest against the destruction of their village at Lehavim Junction at 15.30 Everyone is invited to participate and show solidarity.

Beit Ummar

Sat. 5-2-11 - Israel Puterman video at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LXMiNOKRI2Y>

Reminder: Register for Transportation to Saturday February 12 Weekly Demonstrations Against the Wall and the Settlements

Bil'in

29 Israelis and a bunch of internationals joined the Palestinian men and women of Bil'in for the weekly demo for peace and independence. This time the soldiers waited behind the fence. The shabab confronted them on the northern stretch, while the processions carried on westward. The soldiers retreated from the shabab on the north, but waited only a couple of minutes before they gassed the demonstrators on the west and charged across the fence. Most demonstrators retreated, but some remained amidst the soldiers, effectively serving as human shields for the soldiers facing the shabab. The soldiers continued to shoot gas at demonstrators who tried to advance, including, as usual, some potentially lethal shots aimed directly at demonstrators. Then the demo was declared over, and

the shabab remained to try and disperse the army with stones and be shot at with live bullets.

On Saturday night Israel's most-watched news program on Channel 2, aired a 10-minute "Special Report" on the weekly demonstrations in the Palestinian village of Bil'in. Every Friday, Palestinians of the village demonstrate against the separation fence which was built on their lands, and are joined by Israeli and international activists. Haggai Matar, of Anarchists Against the Wall, was a key figure in the news piece. His reaction can be read at: <http://972mag.com/israels-channel-2-covers-bilin-palestinians-are-nowhere-to-be-seen...>

much more at:

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/13862>

Update on Scott DeMuth and why he needs a letter from you!

We were able to hear from Scott earlier this evening and have some updates on his situation to share with you. After he was booked last night, he was put into a holding cell with 12 other people but only 2 beds. He was stuck there until about 6pm today, when he was finally moved to a temporary housing unit. Now he's sharing a cell area with about 4 other people and has his own bed.

He doesn't think he'll be able to go to the library because he's in a temporary housing unit. He also doesn't think he'll be able to access his commissary account until Tuesday, Feb. 22 to buy paper, pens and envelopes.

Since we can't send him books and he can't go to the library, our letters are especially important. If you haven't already, please take a moment to write him a note of support. You can send letters to him at:

Scott DeMuth
Polk County Jail
1985 - NE 51st Place
Des Moines, IA 50313-2517

more at:

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/13860>

Marie Mason's mail delivery disrupted, most visitors refused

From supportmariemason.org

Unfortunately, it seems that numerous letters and packages which have been mailed to Marie Mason have never arrived. They have neither been returned to the senders, nor officially refused by the prison (Carswell has denied that this disruption has been on their side). This seems to be a repeat of what happened at one time at Waseca prison, where Mason was held before her transfer.

If you have written Mason and are not sure if she has received your communication, please contact supportmariemason@gmail.com.

Additionally, Carswell has refused every single request to visit Mason in prison, with the sole exception of her direct family. This attempt to isolate Mason is even more draconian than what happened to Green Scare prisoners like Daniel McGowan when he was held in a CMU (Communications Management Unit); even then he was allowed visitors who were not relatives.

For updates, visit supportmariemason.org

<http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/14057>