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*Fire to the prisons  
(Outside the prison of Rouen, France, September 2, 2008)*

# ***Solidarity & Revolt Across Borders***

*Letters from prisoners, solidarity statements and action chronologies  
from France and other countries (January 2008 to March 2009)*



*Long live solidarity with undocumented immigrants  
Freedom for Bruno, Ivan and the others  
(Paris, France, April 5, 2008)*

# Letter from Ivan and Bruno from the Prisons of Fresnes and Villepinte in France

Greetings to all friends, to all those who are not resigned to the situation in which we live: police occupation of the streets, of the cities, raids, deportations, arrests, daily difficulties, the dispossession of our lives; the situation that pushes us to cede a major part of our lives to the bosses of every genre, to those who preside over our destinies, to power. If we've taken the road of revolt, it's for all these reasons, to retake the power over our lives, for the freedom to live.

We were arrested on January 19. Two of us are in prison, the third is under judicial control (he passed by and had the bad luck of knowing us). We had in our possession a smoke-bomb that we made with a mixture of sodium chlorate, sugar and flour. When burned, this mixture produces a lot of smoke. We were going to use it at the end of the demonstration which took place that day in front of the detention centre of Vincennes. Our idea: to be visible near the imprisoned undocumented immigrants, knowing that the police would surely try to prevent us from getting near the centre. We also had firecrackers for making noise and tire-poppers (bent nails) which can be put on the road to block cars from passing.

For the police and justice, the pretext is always found; we had the elements for a nail bomb. Here is what we're accused of:

Transport and possession, in an organized gang, of incendiary or explosive substances or products composing an incendiary or explosive device for the preparing of an act of destruction, degradation or assault on persons.

Association of criminals intending to commit a crime of voluntary destruction by the effect of a fire, an explosive substance or any other means to create a danger for persons, committed by an organized gang.

Refusal to give digital prints or photographs to verify identity. Refusal by persons suspected of a crime or offense to submit to biological sampling for the identification of a genetic imprint.

It causes a chill on the back. These are the facts, now we'll try to contribute a reflection.

It's obvious to see that we didn't end up this way because of what we had or because of what we planned to do with what we had. The State criminalizes revolt and tries to smother all "unauthorized" dissidence. What's targeted is our ideas and our method of struggle, outside of parties, unions or other organizations. Faced with this anger that the State can neither reach, nor manage, nor recuperate, it isolates and designates the internal enemy. The police use their files and general information to construct "profile types". The figure used in our case is an "anarcho-autonomist" cell. Power assimilates this figure as terrorist. Constructing a danger for creating a consensus for its population, reinforcing its control and justifying repression.



*We're still in resistance  
(Occupied Museum of Resistance, Grenoble, France, June 11, 2008)*

January 24, Paris (France) – 300 people attend a demonstration in support of Isa and all prisoners but are surrounded by police. People in the area show their support for the demonstration and face-down the police. The cops throw teargas in the street and the subway and charge with batons against the demonstrators, who respond with bottles, fireworks and smoke-bombs. Police arrest 120 people randomly, demonstrators and bystanders, and take them to different police stations.

January 24, Paris (France) – A real estate agency and insurance agency on Condorcet Street have their windows smashed, in an “action of solidarity after the demonstration” and the arrests of 120 people earlier in the day.

January 25, Geneva (Switzerland) – 70 people demonstrate outside the French consulate in solidarity with those arrested at Tarnac.

January 26, Paris (France) – Windows are smashed at the Socialist Party (PS) offices on Gergovie Street and the Union for a Popular Movement (UMP) party offices on Plevel Street. “Solidarity with Isa, Juan, Damien and all the prisoners in struggle. Solidarity with all who revolt, from the demo on January 24 to elsewhere.”

January 26, Brussels (Belgium) – “We burned three police cars at the station at Bailli and Ixelles Street. Solidarity with the companions that defended themselves from the police at the demonstration at Steenokkerzeel last week and the prisoners in revolt who set fires. Solidarity with Isa, Juan, Damien, Bruno and all those jailed in the social war.”

January 29, Paris (France) – During a massive union demonstration, tens of thousands march under a banner strung across the street that reads, “Solidarity with the prisoners in revolt. Freedom for Isa, Juan, Damien, those of Vincennes and Villiers-le-Bel (an area where riots took place), Julien and the 63,903 others”.

January 29-30, Barcelona (Spain) – During the night, as an action of solidarity with the companions in struggle imprisoned in France, all the windows were smashed at the French Institute, located in a luxurious area.

January 31, Paris (France) – Eight police are injured and 15 people are arrested during clashes at a demonstration of more than 1,000 people in solidarity with Julien Coupat.

January 31, Bordeaux (France) – 200 people attend a demonstration called by the committee to “directly sabotage anti-terrorism”. Nine people are detained by police.

February 9, Paris (France) – After one year in prison, Isa is released under judicial control, while Juan and Damien remain incarcerated.

March 3, Athens (Greece) – The anarchist group “Gangs of Conscience – Extremists of Perema” sets aflame six units on a commuter train in solidarity with Konstantina Kuneva, a union organizer who worked cleaning for the company that runs the trains and who was attacked with acid thrown on her face, and in solidarity with “comrade Julien Coupat”.

This is why we are in prison today. This is the solution chosen by the State for the management of illegalities, of “risk populations”. Today it imprisons for longer and longer terms. The controls [random identity checks by police], each time more effective, and the sanctions that create fear also ensures to those who have or profit from power a society where each individual has its place and knows the lines laid out that encircle and repress, that can't be crossed without paying the price.

If we struggle on the side of the undocumented immigrants, it's because we know that it's the same police who control, the same boss who exploits, the same walls that imprison. In going to the demonstration, we wanted to yell “Freedom” in echo with the prisoners, to show that there are many who understand the revolt that they led for many months. Lighting a smoke-bomb, trying to get as close as possible to the gates of the prison, yelling “close the detention centers”, with the determination of wanting to live free. This struggle, within which one can recognize oneself, is a terrain for building complicities, a place for the possible expression of our own revolt.

We don't consider ourselves “victims of repression”. There is no just repression, no just imprisonment. There is repression and its function of management, its role of maintaining the order of things: the power of those who possess facing the dispossessed.

When the whole world marches in line, it is much easier to hit those who leave the ranks. We hope that there are many of us who want to fully control our lives, who have this rage in our hearts, who want to build and weave solidarities that build revolts.

Bruno and Ivan  
April 2008



*Destroy the (immigration) detention centres*

# Who are the terrorists?

The every day more unbearable living conditions that are imposed on us rely on fear. Fear of not having a job and of not making ends meet at the end of the month. Fear of the police, fear of prison. Because at its foundation, the cop's billy-club and its acceptance are what guarantee social relations.

In this upside-down world, terrorism is not forcing billions of human beings to survive under unacceptable conditions, it's not poisoning the earth. It's not continuing a scientific and technological research that everyday further subjugates our lives, penetrates our bodies and modifies nature in an irreversible way. It's not imprisoning and deporting human beings because they don't have an adequate little scrap of paper. It's not killing and mutilating at work for the enrichment to infinity of the bosses. All that is called economy, civilization, democracy, progress, public order.

Politics is in reality the art of disguising facts by changing words. Their planetary scale "war on terror" is just a propaganda weapon to legitimize all exterior military aggression and all interior repression of rebels.

In a mirror effect, the State wants all of us to be obliged to be the reflection of what comes out of its dirty authoritarian mouth. Friendships, affinities and sharing an idea of freedom become an "association of criminals in relation to a terrorist enterprise". The links woven within struggles become an "anarcho-autonomist movement". A smoke-bomb becomes a bomb.

And still, to organize isn't necessarily to constitute an Organization, just like a strike is not a hostage-taking. An attack against a bank, a prison, an office of the National Employment Agency, an election office, a detention center, or an act of sabotage against the circulation of trains or the machinery in a factory, is not "terrorism". An abyss separates those who insurge for freedom and those who strike out randomly to defend, consolidate or conquer power, namely the States and their competitors, the bosses, their mercenaries and their laboratories of death.

In this social war that unfolds at work as in the streets, at night as in the day, the enemy is every individual who puts an obstacle in the way of the radiant march of capital.

May everyone, in the manner one finds most adequate, oppose the terrorism of the State and democratic totalitarianism. We won't take this declaration of war with our heads down.

MAY THE BEST OF POSSIBLE WORLDS DIE!

[A poster put up on the walls of many French cities in April of 2008]

January 21, Brussels (Belgium) – A demonstration with firecrackers, smoke-bombs, and chants of "solidarity" outside an immigrant detention centre at Steenokkerzeel ends in clashes with the police, several arrests and one comrade hospitalized. The demonstration was also organized as part of the week of solidarity with Isa and all the prisoners in struggle.

January 21-22, Alès, Nîmes, Sète and Montpellier (France) – Bouygues and several companies and institutions that collaborate with it in deportations and exploitation suffer damages in the night. "Solidarity with the prisoners, undocumented immigrants and all the enraged people of the entire world!"

January 22, Berlin (Germany) – Five vehicles belonging to a German train company that transports nuclear waste are set on fire in solidarity with those arrested at Tarnac, those arrested in January of 2008 in Paris, those on trial in Germany as presumed members of the Militant Group, and 13 young Greeks arrested during the uprising of December.

January 22-23, Gand/Ghent (Belgium) – Windows are broken and paint-bombs are thrown at a police station and the word "vengeance" is spray-painted there, "in solidarity with our companions brutalized by the police at Steenokkerzeel. No justice no peace, fuck the police!!!"

January 23, Paris (France) – A demonstration is held in solidarity with the immigrant prisoners charged with burning Vincennes as well as Isa, Juan, Damien, Julien and all the prisoners. A huge banner reads, "Freedom for those arrested at Vincennes, close the detention centers", and information is distributed.

January 22-23, Montpellier (France) – "On the night of January 22-23, many walls in downtown Montpellier were tagged with graffiti slogans; "Prisons on fire, guards in the middle", "Fire to the prisons", "Death to power", "Free Isa, Juan, Damien and the others"... as well as "Generalize Greece".



*Cleaning up after the bombing of the France Press Agency (AFP)  
(Athens, Greece, December 3, 2008)*

December 5, Hamburg (Germany) – The French consulate is splattered with black paint-bombs.

December 9, Warsaw (Poland) – Anarchists demonstrate in front of the Greek and French embassies in solidarity with Alex, assassinated by the cops in Athens, and those arrested in Tarnac.

December 16, Berlin (Germany) – Rocks and bottles full of paint are thrown at a police station and its vehicles in solidarity with those on trial in Germany as presumed members of the Militant Group and those arrested in France, and in response to the cops' murder of Alex in Greece and Oury Jalloh in Germany.

December 23, Paris (France) – 40 people gather with banners and chanted slogans to demand Isa's freedom at the palace of justice, but Isa's release demand is rejected.

January 14, Paris (France) – A small group of people take over the radio broadcast of France Culture to talk about the situations of Ivan, Bruno, Isa, Juan, Damien and those arrested on November 11, as well as to make an announcement about the two solidarity demonstration to be held on January 24 and 31.

January 14, Trento (Italy) – A BNL bank branch's cash machine is damaged and graffiti tags around it declare solidarity with French comrades arrested in November.

January 18, Paris (France) – Within the scope of the callout for a new Week of Solidarity Without Borders for Isa and all prisoners, about 100 people gather outside the prison of Versailles with smoke-bombs, fireworks and banners that declare, "Destroy all the prisons" and "Freedom for Isa, Juan, Damien and all the prisoners." The prisoners wave their hands and shout "We want freedom" to the demonstrators.

January 18-19, Grenoble (France) – With super-glue and paint-bombs, seven banks have their windows tarnished and their cash machines sabotaged. Several government buildings are tagged with the graffiti slogan, "Freedom for Isa, Juan, Damien, Yildune and Julien! We sabotage anti-terrorism with rage and joy!"

January 18-19, Paris (France) – "On the night of January 18 to 19, the cash machine of the Popular Bank on Alesia Street, the cash machine and all the windows of the *Société Générale* [a financial company] on Sarrette Street and all the windows of the Adecco [temp labor] agency on Alembert Street were demolished. From banks to work, we destroy what destroys us. Solidarity with Isa, Juan, Damien and all who revolt."

January 19-21, Lille (France) – "On the night of the 19th to 20th and of 20th to the 21st of January, we sabotaged 9 bank machines. Like the Greeks in revolt, we have more than enough justifications to attack the structures of capital. As part of the week of international solidarity, we show our solidarity with our companions arrested under the anti-terrorist laws. Freedom for everyone always. Revolt without borders."

## Chronology of Events & Solidarity in France from January to June of 2008

January 19, Paris – Ivan, Bruno and Damien are arrested by a police patrol before a demonstration outside the immigrant detention center of Vincennes where immigrants had been in revolt for a month, engaging in a hunger strike and refusing to go back to their cells. Damien is released under judicial control (he's forbidden from leaving the country) but Ivan and Bruno are taken to prison.

January 23, Paris – Isa and Farid are arrested during a road check/control by the police near Vierzon. In the trunk, the police find sodium chlorate, plans for a juvenile prison (EPM) and manuals for sabotage. Isa and Farid are imprisoned under a special anti-terrorism jurisdiction. The cops accuse them of planning to attack an EPM and Isa is also accused of trying to sabotage a police vehicle.

April 5, Paris – Tens of thousands of people demonstrate in the streets against the repression of immigrants. Smoke-bombs and a huge banner declare "Long live solidarity with undocumented immigrants, Freedom for Bruno, Ivan and all the others". The demonstration continues in a wild form, going to Vincennes and Joinville where undocumented immigrants had been assassinated by the police. There are graffiti slogans left behind, a municipal police car is attacked, advertising signs are torn down, and surveillance cameras are obscured in the train station of the Vincennes area.



*Long live solidarity with undocumented immigrants  
Freedom for Bruno, Ivan and the others  
(Paris, France, April 21, 2008)*

April 11, Dijon – In front of the prefecture (a government building), a solidarity gathering is held for undocumented immigrants and Ivan and Bruno. About 80 people block the road with two big banners reading, "Free Ivan, Bruno and the others, long live solidarity with the undocumented," and "Neither selection nor deportation!". Many smoke-bombs are set off.

April 17, Paris – The Hotel Ibis of *Porte Dorée* has its surveillance cameras obscured and graffiti is written on it reading, "Fire to the prisons!" and "ACCOR collaborates". An internet communication explains that the Ibis is part of the ACCOR hotel group which is part of the deportation machine at the ports and is helping with construction at the Roissy ZAPI 3 immigrant detention center.

April 21, Paris – 50 people are present at the court date for Bruno's demand for release and yell "Freedom for Bruno, freedom for the undocumented," and "Power assassinates, justice is complicit." On the sidewalk outside, a banner is brought out reading, "Long live solidarity with the undocumented; Freedom for Bruno, Ivan and the others." Bruno's demand for release is rejected, just as his and Ivan's previous demand on April 4 was.

April 21, Lille – According to a communication, the BNP bank branch at 84th Street and Gambetta is attacked, its cash machines broken and a dozen of its windows are smashed. "Solidarity with all the prisoners, with or without papers, with or without chlorate. Freedom for all!"

April 22, Grenoble – The bureau of the CROUS (Regional Centre for University Enterprises) is occupied for five hours to protest the collaboration of the institution with the police in the arrest of an undocumented student immigrant on April 8. The collective "Smoke-bombs for everyone always" is there to also call for solidarity with Bruno and Ivan. Two smoke-bombs are set off by a window on the last floor of the building and leaflets are thrown down to bystanders.

April 26, Paris – A solidarity concert is held for those charged and imprisoned in the struggle against the deportation machine. A banner for Ivan and Bruno is present and a dossier of texts on the recent repression called "Bad Intentions" is widely distributed.

April 28, Paris – A demonstration demands freedom for Ivan. About 70 people yell "freedom for the undocumented, freedom for Ivan" in front of the court of appeal. When leaving by the stairs, people are pushed and hit by police, but defend themselves. Outside, people are surrounded and chased by police, who receive the help of cafe owners in making arrests. 28 people are arrested and released except for one comrade who didn't have her papers and who is insulted and hit by police and kept over night in jail.

April 29, Paris – In the night, an Air France agency is attacked. Six windows are broken and a graffiti tag is left reading, "Air France Departs, Break Air France". A communication ends with "Freedom for all the prisoners, with or without documents, with or without chlorate."

April 30, Paris – Two BNP bank cash machines are attacked, all the windows of a Red Cross building are broken and a Mercedes registered to some

## Chronology of Events & Solidarity from November 2008 to March 2009

November 11, Tarnac, Rouen, Paris & Nancy (France) – 10 people are arrested and nine are held under investigation for "association of criminals with terrorist aims" ("the invisible cell"), accused of sabotaging the high-tension electrical wires of French National Railway (SNCF) train lines on November 8. After a month, some are released under judicial control and eventually only Julien Coupat is kept in prison.

November 13 & 15, Zurich (Switzerland) – The "anarchist barbecue-commando" claims responsibility for burning four luxury cars in solidarity with comrades under repression in France.

November 27, Moscow (Russia) – Anarchists demonstrate, distribute pamphlets and shout slogans outside the French embassy. "Solidarity with those arrested in Tarnac."

November 28, Paris (France) – 50 people gather at the palace of justice to demand freedom for those arrested at Tarnac. 47 people are stopped by the cops for identity checks and one person is arrested and taken to jail.

December 3, Athens (Greece) – The offices of the France Press Agency (AFP) are attacked with explosives. In a telephone call, the Conspiracy of Cells of Fire claims responsibility, "as a show of solidarity with French comrades".



*"Anarcho-autonomist movement" returns  
(Moscow, Russia, November 27, 2008)*

## On Sabotage as One of the Fine Arts

You'd have to truly be blind not to see sabotage as a classic weapon of the exploited. And you'd have to truly have a short memory to forget that in every social war, many rebels refuse to wait for everyone to move before expressing their own anger.

From the riots of November 2005 to the First Employment Contract (CPE) riots of Spring 2006, from factory occupations and kidnappings of bosses to the numerous acts of sabotage during the railway workers' movement of November 2007, it's clear to many people that we can't bring an end to our situation of misery and exploitation by begging for it.

In this prison society, we're expected to believe, as we're hit with tazer shocks or given election ballots, that we're in the best of possible worlds: commodity democracy. But wars and the poisoning of the planet in the name of money are still a clear reminder that capitalism is a system of death and that the State is an enemy.

And so we must fight to destroy what destroys us. Struggle individually and collectively wherever we are for a world freed from the bonds of exploitation and domination. And it's not their legal codes nor their morality that dictates what we'll do, but the rage and ethics of each and every one of us.

On November 11th, ten people were arrested after a new operation by the Ministry of Terror and accused of sabotaging the high-tension electrical wires of French National Railway (SNCF) train lines over the past weekend. Journalist-cops, politicians, and jackals came from all sides to hurriedly denounce an imaginary "anarcho-autonomist" movement. On the same pretext of an "association of criminals with terrorist aims," three comrades had already been arrested, and some held for over nine months, accused of an attempt to burn a police vehicle in Paris in May 2007, during the explosions of anger that arose to greet the last presidential election.

In a time of "crisis," when the State is showering the capitalists with billions of dollars, it's also attempting once more to isolate a few "bad rebels" to better eliminate them all. But it's of little importance whether they're guilty or innocent; we'll leave those categories to the robe-wearing toads and their supporters.

Because in the same way that the passion for freedom can't be captured in an acronym, what domination fears is a diffuse and anonymous multiplication of these attacks. Solidarity against State terrorism, with the means that each and every one considers adequate.

Let's derail the train of everyday routine,  
November 12, 2008

[Text that appeared on a French Indymedia website]

embassy vehicle is attacked, "against all states". A communication explains that BNP supports the cops against the undocumented and the Red Cross helps deportations in France and manages detention centers in Italy and Belgium. That same night, the office of ANAEM (foreigner and migration agency) has its windows shattered. "Solidarity with those who rebel in the prisons, detention centers and police stations."

May 4, Grenoble – There is a concert in support of Bruno and Ivan at the Palm Bitch squat.

May 4, Paris – Hundreds of people demonstrate at the Vincennes detention center where the detained are on hunger strike. Demonstrators yell "social collaborators" at the socialist deputy of Paris, George Pau-Langevin who attempted to speak and was forced to escape with the help of the police and a member of the "9th" *Sans Papiers* (undocumented immigrants) collective. Keny Arkana and Kalash perform music outside the center.

May 8, Toulouse – 30 to 40 people gather behind the Tribunal of *Grande Instance* in solidarity with all prisoners, including Ivan and Bruno, whose public letter is given out.

May 10, Paris – The radio broadcast of France Culture is interrupted and a text is read aloud ending with "Solidarity with Ivan and Bruno and all the imprisoned. Shit to the undertakers."

May 13, Grenoble – A demonstration takes place outside the Administrative Tribunal in solidarity with all undocumented immigrants and Ivan and Bruno. About 80 people distribute leaflets and the public letter from Ivan and Bruno. Smoke-bombs are set off and the group meets up with demonstrating high-school students.



Long live solidarity with undocumented immigrants  
Free Bruno, Ivan and the others  
(Grenoble, France, May 13, 2008)

May 21, Paris – Isa's brother Juan is arrested as part of a supposed anti-terrorism investigation, but is released after 48 hours.

May 23, Paris – A call-out is made for a week of solidarity without borders from June 9 to 16, in solidarity with Ivan, Bruno, Damien, Isa and Farid, and all undocumented immigrants and prisoners.

May 24, Paris – A hip hop night is held "against the deportation machine, for Ivan, Bruno and all the others."

May 26, Paris – Farid is released from prison but put under judicial control (obligation to work, to give notice if he leaves Paris and to check in weekly for a criminal inspection and monthly for a judicial inspection.) Meanwhile, an apartment is raided in the city and three comrades are imprisoned for three days under the pretext of anti-terrorist and drug trafficking investigations.

May 28, Rennes – A demonstration is attended by 80 people in solidarity with Ivan and Bruno.

June 3, Paris – Police from Rennes raid two apartments in Paris and jail three comrades for 24 hours. One comrade, Gwenola, is under investigation for an arson attack on a prison construction site in Rennes in 2004 that caused 200,000 Euros in damage.

June 6, Paris – After four months in prison, Ivan and Bruno are released from prison but put under strict judicial control (they are obligated to look for work, to check in with the cops once a week and with the probation service twice a month, and they're forbidden from leaving their respective counties in the west and east of France). Isa remains in the prison of Lille-Séquedin.

June 7, Lyon (France) – Around a hundred people gather in front of the prefecture with a banner saying "Long live solidarity with undocumented immigrants, Freedom for Bruno and Ivan". A letter from the comrades in prison is read, smoke-bombs are lit and slogans are shouted against prisons, borders, in solidarity with undocumented immigrants and freedom for Bruno and Ivan.



*Sabotage the deportation machine  
(Paris, France, June 9, 2008)*

July 29, Paris (France) – Police arrest "G." on the street, do an interrogation and take DNA by force, and also raid an apartment, interrogating the occupants.

August 8, Berlin (Germany) – A radio show is broadcasted on the situation of Bruno, Ivan, Isa, Juan and Farid. Bruno's letter is read out in French and German.

August 21, Hamburg (Germany) – The French consulate is occupied in solidarity with Bruno, Ivan, Damien, Farid, Isa and G., and undocumented immigrants. "Close the detention centers!"

September 2, Rouen (France) – Banners are hung from an overpass reading, "Down with the Prisons", while a banner reading, "Fire to the Prisons", is floated in the air with balloons in solidarity with those arrested after the anti-prison demonstration in Fresnes on July 2 and facing a court date on September 4.

September 2-3, Angers (France) – "Solidarity" is written on the side of a prison in solidarity with all prisoners and those facing a court date on September 4 for the anti-prison demonstration in Fresnes on July 2.

October 14, Fresnes (France) – Those charged in relation to the July 2 demonstration at the prison of Fresnes are in the end fined 3,000 Euros for displaying their banner, "Fire to the prisons", and for having a smoke-bomb.



*Vincennes immigration detention center torched by prisoners  
(Paris, France, June 22, 2008)*



June 23, Montevideo (Uruguay) – “On the night of June 23, 2008, an explosive device of low intensity blew-up in the Uruguay-France chamber of commerce in Montevideo. Greeting our companions and all who resist repression, and those who are sequestered by the French State. Because freedom is more than a written word. For the freedom of all always.”

June 24, Paris (France) – At the University of Paris V, the beginning of the conference of psychiatric geneticist Philip Gorwood was delayed by a dozen disrupters who distributed a tract and spoke in solidarity with Isa and Juan, repressed in part because of not handing over their DNA.

June 26, Rennes (France) – A wild demonstration takes place outside the immigrant detention center of St-Jacques, two smoke-bombs are lit and 22 people are arrested and held over night for “transport and possession of non-explosive devices” (smoke-bombs).

June 27, Lille (France) – A banner is hung over a roadway reading, “Solidarity with the jailed”.

June 28, Sète (France) – A demonstration begins at the city center and proceeds toward the immigrant detention center, passing through an immigrant neighborhood and gathering about 150 people. Slogans are shouted, firecrackers are set off, graffiti tags are left behind and tracts are distributed.

July 2, Paris & Fresnes (France) – About 20 people demonstrate outside the prison of Fresnes, where Juan has been incarcerated since June 21. A banner is held reading, “Like at Vincennes, fire to the prisons”, and a dozen smoke-bombs are set off. “Freedom for Juan, freedom for all”; “Wall by wall, brick by brick, let’s destroy all the prisons”; and “Freedom for all the prisoners, fire to the prisons” are chanted for a quarter of an hour, provoking cries and waved t-shirts from the windows of many cells. The solidarity group returns to Paris and is subjected to police intimidation and identity controls. Six people are arrested, two are quickly released and the other four are hauled-in. They refuse to make a declaration and hand over their DNA, fingerprints and mug-shots. They’re released on July 4, charged with provoking theft, extortion, destruction, degradation and deterioration at the prison of Fresnes with the words on their banner, “fire to the prisons”, and for refusing to hand over DNA, fingerprints and mug-shots. One of them is also charged with illegitimate possession or transport of a non-explosive device, meaning smoke-bombs.

July 2-3, Paris (France) – “All the windows of the BNP bank branch of Dugommier were smashed and its cash machines were burned. Specially dedicated to the arsonists of the Vincennes detention center (the BNP works with the police against the undocumented immigrants). Freedom for Isa, Juan and all the others. Freedom for all the prisoners of Fresnes and its surroundings. Freedom for all always. Fire to the prisons!”

July 4, France – In rejection of judicial control, a kind of house arrest, Bruno declares that he has instead chosen to take the road of illegality and escape, that he’s ‘gone on the run’.

## Letter from Isa from the Prison of Lille-Séquedin

Finally I’ve decided to write, four and a half months after my arrest and imprisonment, because I’ve become incredibly sick of this giant, yet suffocating cage that haunts us, outside and inside. How can we not think about the hunts organized against us by police on the outside, like a poison that spreads, determined to choke revolt and suffocate solidarity? How can we forget our friends that are being followed and spied upon, arrested and controlled? How can we ignore a politics of power that seeks the survival of its own rottenness and mediocrity, that builds the legitimacy of its governance on the feeling of fear and separation amongst its subjects?

The fear of macabre crime and hordes of barbarians, sometimes spontaneous sometimes organized, is indispensable for the State to justify a repressive strategy of security and policing that perpetuates its complete power. Citizens can sleep soundly, knowing that the State watches and condemns the criminal pedophiles, the murdering terrorists, the bloodthirsty bandits that nest in our neighborhoods... The threat is everywhere. And words are powerful for creating a danger.

The reality is that the economy of fear is a fertile and blooming market. Surveillance cameras are sprouting around, as are private security companies. New technologies excel when it comes to security and snitching. And the police swarm our streets and our transit stations, justice is mechanical and brisk, the prison of all kinds are flourishing and overpopulated.

It is clear that the world is divided between honest people on the one side, and then on the other side the poor, unemployed, documented and undocumented immigrants, youth, strikers, people without permits, cons of social welfare, frauds, small traders of the black market, petty thieves, agitated people who offend and rebel, unruly people who refuse identification and data profiling, alcoholics, drug users, partisans of fireworks and smoke-bombs, prostitutes, depressed people, bruised people, *casseurs* (hooligans), saboteurs, lazy people, people interested in subversive readings, vagabonds... In a world that is governed in favor of honest people, different and guilty behaviour is not acceptable, and the struggle to be part of the honest class is admirable and worthy of merit. Work hard, denounce your neighbors, raise your children to the grandeur of the national identity and be obedient to the rules of the “party”.

Does such a servile and narrow consciousness of the world really exist? Is that the sad order that governs us? We’re not dupes and do not play along with that game. We will not embody these horrors. We will not be scapegoats nor martyrs. In a society where it’s good to remain silent and stay in one’s place, revolt can be fought with beatings, walls and barbed wire, and irradiated with the dominant and false discourse, but will not be stopped. Ideas and critical thought know neither masters nor boundaries and free spirits will always remain outraged over having to live under the eternal constraint of the exploiting oppressors and oppressed exploited.

In four months, I've explored the female penitentiary of Fleury-Mérogis and the women's section of Lille-Séquedin. In a month, I'll enter the prison of Rouen... What to say about this unexpected dislocation that jerks our feet off the ground and our heads out of the clouds to compartmentalize us, to divide us, to reduce us to a thousand times and spaces, to a thousand places and realities, in a jumble of "self", of self image, of multiple misshaped and amnesic faces?... How to define my uncertain paths between police, justice and prison?... Every step is a step forward in a jungle of cages that interlock like Russian dolls, silent and censored. Every step has to be a return to yourself in order to bring back together the dispersed pieces of your mind, and to destroy the bars that slowly take shape inside your body. It would be ridiculous if my prison situation was getting under my skin! To deny our own consciousness for a paranoia of the State is an act of suicide!

I don't know exactly how to articulate the power and responsibilities between judicial and penitentiary authorities. The fact is that my transfer to Séquedin was "officially" motivated by the drawings I made of my cell and the yard, with the possibility of damaging the safety of the institution (as a pretext)... So, a dream of escape is probably the most just reason to keep a prisoner awake (but anyway, going from there to actually taking that step is a complicated reality...!) Apparently my immediate transfer to the Parisian region would be disturbed by this kind of complication: the delicate question of specially surveilled prisoners (DPS)... Well, if I'm not free by then, there's a transfer scheduled to Fresnes in September... In the meanwhile, Rouen is the only temporary solution that is proposed to me on the way to Paris, which I've accepted because that penitentiary is more accessible to my relatives. But I won't forget the precariousness and the illusion of my rights as a defendant presumed innocent, which until now seem to be concordant with imprisonment, an investigation on accusations and then my supposed dangerousness. This implies a reinforced control and justifies my removal and isolation from my relatives and from my defense.

To illustrate the insignificance of this condition I could for example recount how I spent two and a half hours in a cage in a police truck, with my hands cuffed, a few air holes, hardly any daylight, without food or water, until my arrival at the court in Paris. There I spoke for a few minutes with the lawyer whom I had not seen since my last transfer and then with an unbearable headache I was finally interrogated by the judge, knowing I had to look forward to the same thing on the way back again. That is a thorough and precise representation of our rights. And that is well known.

To go back a little, arriving in the prison was an terrible shock. After a nightmare of five days under pressure, under arrest and observation, with heavy accusations and in proportions which I could not have suspected, the never ending waiting has started... Until when? After two months I found a certain balance, linking experiences... But they preferred to break me a bit more, in a logic of punishment and revenge, and I've ended up in Lille-Séquedin, a modern prison that arose from the earth five years ago.

Once again, I lost my bearings. I ended up in an environment with more apparent security, smooth, clean, but icy. Long lit-up hallways filled by cameras behind protective covers, a small soulless yard under video surveillance, covered in tar and surrounded by a double row of fences and

and possession of incendiary or explosive substances" and is still in the prison of Lille-Séquedin.

June 22, Paris (France) – The day after a Tunisian prisoner dies in the detention center of Vincennes a riot breaks out there. Two wings of the center are simultaneously set on fire and completely destroyed. All the prisoners are evacuated to a nearby police school. Some people pass-out from the fire and at least one person has his arm broken in the intervention of the cops. Around 200 people gather in solidarity in front of the center and some are pushed away with the cop's CS tear gas.



*Resist the (police) controls, no (government) documents at all  
(Paris, France, June 9, 2008)*

June 13-14, Paris (France) – Three vehicles are simultaneously set on fire: a diplomatic car in front of the Ministry of the Economy, a Forclum van (belonging to the Eiffage group, a prison builder) and a city council truck (and a BMW is trashed).

June 13-14, Brussels (Belgium) – The entrance of the Ossegem metro station is completely destroyed: ticket distributors, ticket-stampers, surveillance cameras and all the big windows. “Stop the [police] raids” is painted inside.

June 14, Moscow (Russia) – The offices of Air France are painted with slogans: “Solidarity with undocumented immigrants” (in French) and “no states, no borders, no races” (in English).

June 14, Vigan (France) – A solidarity gathering is held at the market place with an information table and a meal. Posters are put up all over the city.

June 15, Paris (France) – A solidarity gathering is held at the metro station of *La Chapelle*, in a neighborhood that is being ‘restructured’ with the eviction of poor people and arrests of undocumented immigrants.

June 16-17, Brussels (Belgium) – A van of ISS Cleaning is set on fire. The company does the cleaning in the detention centers.

June 16, Vancouver (Canada) – As part of the solidarity week, two surveillance cameras on Commercial Drive are visibly obscured with paint. The roof and the doors of the Ministry of Public Safety (probation office) also on Commercial Drive are tagged: “fuck probation”, “Break the prisons now”, “Solidarity without borders - Freedom is our crime!”.

June 9-16, Grenoble (France) – During the solidarity week, buildings belonging to different institutions that participate in the hunting and the deportation of undocumented immigrants are attacked. Their windows are tagged, paint-bombed or smashed: Air France; Bouygues; BNP; the Red Cross that constructs detention centers in Belgium and Italy and gives them a ‘human face’ in France; the TAG (Transport Company) which hands over undocumented immigrants to the cops, the CGT (Leftist union) which recently attacked the undocumented immigrants who occupied the *Bourse du Travail* (a building where different unions have their headquarters) in Paris during a demonstration.

June 9-16, Bizkaia (Basque Country) – Banners are hung each day of the week in Algorta and Errorno supporting the five French comrades. In Astrabadua, faxes are sent to the embassies of France and Spain, demanding freedom of Isa, Bruno, Ivan and Farid.

June 17-18, Lille (France) – The windows of a BNP bank branch are smashed. “No to raids, BNP collaborates” is tagged nearby.

June 20, Fresnes (France) – The anti-terrorist brigade enters the home of Juan, Isa’s brother. Juan had been stopped weeks before by police who took his DNA by force for analysis. He’s now in the prison of Fresnes, charged, like his sister, with trying to burn a police car. Isa is also charged with “transport

barbwire, a cell with a shower, a television from the State and five electric power boxes! And to populate this bleak place with ghosts, a rationalization and discipline of movement, meant to repress life to every extent. The spirit of this place has strongly combined comfort and cleanliness in the service of order. The flux and numbers are brought down to a minimum and are strictly regulated (three walks in the yard for 150 prisoners, limited activities in small groups). The time in the yard does not exceed the obligatory maximum per day (one hour and fifteen minutes per half a day). Exchange and solidarity between prisoners (besides the trade in stamps) are particularly complicated to develop in an atmosphere where repression is widespread (even pen and paper are not allowed during yard time)... And not to be confused, when laundry service is offered it is to avoid disorder and confusion with clothes hanging from the windows; to avoid the possibility that prisoners could “re-appropriate” and reshape the place within which they’re trying to survive...

Elsewhere in this new prison, that is partly managed by a private company (SIGES - a branch of SODEXHO) that organizes prison labor, the laundry shift is an essential activity for the women. I think that 1.5 tons of laundry is washed per day, coming from different prisons in the region. The men have to work in the kitchen. According to the same principle, Séquedin delivers meals in trays to all prisons in this zone. The wages are less than 200 Euros for the women (for a full time job) and 100 Euros more for the men.

Since the opening of a juvenile prison in Quiévrechain, the juvenile wing of Séquedin has been closed. Now they are working to make it an ultra-secure wing. The security network progresses blindly: a new row of barbwire was recently added to the outside wall, the underground piping for the sewer was equipped with bars, etc... I compare this pacified banality with the penitentiary institution for women in Fleury, which has its history, its struggles, its evolutions, its accomplishments... And what characterizes the old prisons, like “collective” showers or the distribution of warm water in the morning... Sunday afternoon the yard time is extended to three hours with the authorization of a “picnic”. And never will a guard set foot in the yard... In fact, the façade is more apparent in the absolute.

At Séquedin, it’s like separation and erasure work on their own. Seldom do you hear prisoners banging in unison on the doors. But I hope that the women’s wing will be shaken in the future by the refusal of resignation, conquering new “rights” and freedoms, here and elsewhere. And finally, that these institutions of imprisonment everywhere are torn down. At this moment I am still waiting, but with more confidence and a progressive understanding of the mechanisms used to try to control us... The struggle continues!

Isa  
May 2008

\* After Isa was transferred from Lille-Séquedin to the prison of Rouen, she spent 10 days in total isolation in mid July of 2008 as a result of being pointed out by the prison administration as being the “leader” of a yard occupation in response to the brutal beating of a prisoner.

## Chronology of the Week of Solidarity Without Borders from June 9 to 16 of 2008 and beyond

June 8-9, Paris (France) – Three banners are put up in the 18th district of Paris (a working class neighborhood): "Let's resist the controls, no papers at all"; "Riots in the detention centers, solidarity"; and "Solidarity with undocumented immigrants in struggle".

June 8-9, Lyon (France) – Five institutions that actively participate in the hunting and the 'managing' of undocumented immigrants are attacked, their windows are smashed and their façades are painted with slogans. The ANAEM (National Agency for Receiving Foreigners and Migrants) that manages the foreign work force and organizes the 'voluntary returns' to countries of origin. "L'ANAEM deports and humiliates". Air France that allows the daily deportations of undocumented immigrants. "No to the deportation of undocumented immigrants". The Air and Border police (PAF) that repress, control and deport undocumented immigrants. "PAF=NAZI". An office of Bouygues Real Estate that constructs prisons and detention centers: "no to prisons". A BNP bank branch that exploits and helps deport undocumented immigrants. "Solidarity with the imprisoned, with or without chlorate!".

June 9, Geneva (Switzerland) – The poster entitled, "who are the terrorists?", is put up on a dozen squats that had been evicted since last summer.

June 9-10, Brest (France) – As part of the week of solidarity and against all prisons, graffiti tags appear on the walls of the city reading, "social war"; "the state assassinates, re-appropriate violence"; "better unemployed than military"; "free the others"; "our revolt makes our solidarity and vice versa"; "under the paving stones, the cops"; "death to the pigs"; and a banner is hung from an express train bridge, "Against all prisons".

June 9 & 11, Moscow (Russia) – Gathering of 30 anarchists in front of the French embassy. They distribute pamphlets and shout slogans in Russian and French. A banner is put up at the embassy with the slogan, "Solidarity with undocumented immigrants and the anarchists that face repression". Smoke-bombs are set off.

June 11, Rouen (France) – A banner is put up on the Art Theatre where a concert is taking place. It reads: "Destroy the detention centers, Freedom for Isa and all the prisoners". Pamphlets about the solidarity week and copies of the letter from Bruno and Ivan are thrown off the roof.

June 11, Grenoble (France) – A gathering is held in front of the prefecture. Later, the Museum of the Resistance is occupied for a couple of hours by 50 people. Banners are put up reading, "Solidarity with undocumented immigrants, we're still in resistance, no prisons, no borders, no guards, no charters (deportations)". Numerous tracts are distributed.

June 12, Paris (France) – Around 30 people attack the APIJ (Public Agency of Justice Real Estate) which primarily constructs prisons. A big quantity of trash was thrown in the hall and on the façade: paint bombs, oil, stink bombs, litter, flour, and other trash. Slogans are tagged at the entrance: "social war", "fire to the prisons", "state terror is here".

June 12-13, Paris (France) – Two companies that collaborate with the State are attacked. Air France had all its windows smashed and a slogan was tagged: "Let's sabotage the deportation machine". An agency of Bouygues Telecom had its windows smashed and a slogan is tagged: "fire to the prisons".

June 13, Thessaloniki (Greece) – Around 60 anarchists, anti-authoritarians and autonomists gather in front of the French consulate for half an hour and continue on with a small demonstration.

June 13, Turin (Italy) – The Black Out pirate radio show talks about the situation in France (the struggle in detention centers, the taking of DNA and anti-terrorist operations), and the letters from Bruno and Ivan and other documents from the brochure, "Bad Intentions", are read out.

June 13-14, Santa Cruz, California (United States) – Some windows of the Court House are smashed in solidarity with all prisoners and specifically with some imprisoned comrades in the US, Canada, Germany and France: Eric McDavid; Marie Mason; Daniel McGowan; Leonard Peltier; John Graham; Mohawk warriors of Tyendinaga and Six Nations; rioters in Olympia Washington; Lukas Winkler, Stephanie Trager, and Sven Maurer (squatters in Munich); and Isa, Farid, Damien, Bruno and Ivan (of France).



*Freedom for the comrades prosecuted under the anti-terrorist law (Thessaloniki, Greece, June 13, 2008)*