

# Bulletin /

unbroken by repression,  
insurgent for freedom,  
from the belgian territory,  
and beyond the borders



From 2008, the Belgian State started a large investigation aiming at different struggles – but always without concessions – against detention centres, borders, prisons and the world of authority and exploitation. In its viewfinder: the anarchist library *Acrata*, anarchist and anti-authoritarian publications (*Hors Service*, *La Cavale* and *Tout doit partir*), dozens of flyers and posters, more than a hundred actions, attacks and sabotages...in other words the fight against Power in all its different expressions.

Initially charged with “participation to a terrorist group”, it is **finally under the accusation of “criminal association”** that 12 comrades will be on trial during the week of 29th April 2019.

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## Context

In late 2008, amidst diffuse hostilities triggered by the revolt in Greece following the assassination of Alexis by police, the Belgian Federal Prosecutor launches an investigation of anarchists and anti-authoritarians. In 2010, on the basis of a list of actions that the police attribute to the “anarchist movement” and while the struggle against the construction of a new detention centre in Steenokkerzeel is underway, examining judge Isabelle Panou is assigned to the investigation, which has now fallen under anti-terrorist directive. In May, then in September 2013, a dozen house searches took place within this investigation, targeting different homes as well as the anarchist library *Acrata* in Brussels. It is on this occasion that the existence of an anti-terrorist investigation first emerges. This investigation is led by the anti-terrorist branch of the Federal Judicial Police backed by the State Security and the General Intelligence and Security Agency of the army as well as various anti-terrorist branches of other European countries. The investigation is closed in 2014, culminating in the referral of twelve anarchists and anti-authoritarians to the Court Chambers.

In this investigation, the Federal Prosecutor has attempted to draw up no less than 29 individualized charges. Nine comrades are accused of belonging to a terrorist organization and involvement in terrorist activities for more or less extended periods. Three of them are also accused of being the “leaders”. In addition, three other people arrested in the wake of an

attack on the police station of Marolles, Brussels are accused of belonging to this terrorist group for a day, as well as various charges related to the attack. This is as far as concerns the general accusation.

This is then complemented by more specific charges such as participation in a non-authorized demonstration outside the detention centre 127bis in Steenokkerzeel (transformed into “attempted arson” and a “terrorist offence” by the prosecutors), preparation and participation in an attack on the police station in Marolles (qualified by the prosecution as a “terrorist act”), assault and wounding of police officers on several occasions, obstruction of the public road, damage in various forms, shoplifting, arson of prison guards’ cars in the Ittre prison car park, incitement to commit terrorist offences... It should be noted that these specific allegations are each aimed at specific comrades, that is to say not everyone has been charged with all the allegations.

The backdrop to this investigation that has gone on for several years and produced no fewer than 32 boxes of case files, is that the Federal Prosecutor hypothesizes that an “anarchist terrorist group” would be active, in particular in Brussels, and that the accused would have “participated” in or “favoured” those activities. For example it has produced a list of about 150 attacks, a good number of which incendiary, against the structures of domination, police stations, courts, banks, companies that enrich themselves in the business of incarceration, con-

struction sites, cars of diplomats, Eurocrats and NATO officials, mobile phone antennas... All these attacks took place in Brussels and surrounding area between 2008 and 2013.

The invention of a terrorist group that would be responsible for all of these facts (if only by the fact of "having rendered them possible") allows far-fetched acrobatics for the prosecution: a library becomes a place of recruitment, discussions become clandestine meetings, leaflets and newspapers of anarchist critique become urban guerrilla manuals, demos and rallies become calls to terrorism, the affinity ties between people in struggle and the resulting self-organization become "a structured terrorist group." The invention of an "anarchist terrorist group" is obviously a rather clumsy attempt by the State to reduce anti-authoritarian and revolutionary subversion to the work of a single "structured group". In trying to put a handful of inconvenient anarchists behind bars the State is seeking to discourage the refractory from taking direct action against what oppresses and exploits us and impose absolute silence on any desires, possibilities and critical reflections that clash with this authoritarian world.

What stands trial therefore is a mosaic of struggles, revolts, ideas, direct actions, critique, revolutionary imaginaries, agitations that have been attempting to attack dominion for years. In this, the possible trial concerns not only the comrades accused, but also each individual, every anarchist, every revolutionary, every rebel against order, every insubordinate to authority who refuses to stand idly by in the face of exploitation and oppression. What is being targeted is the search

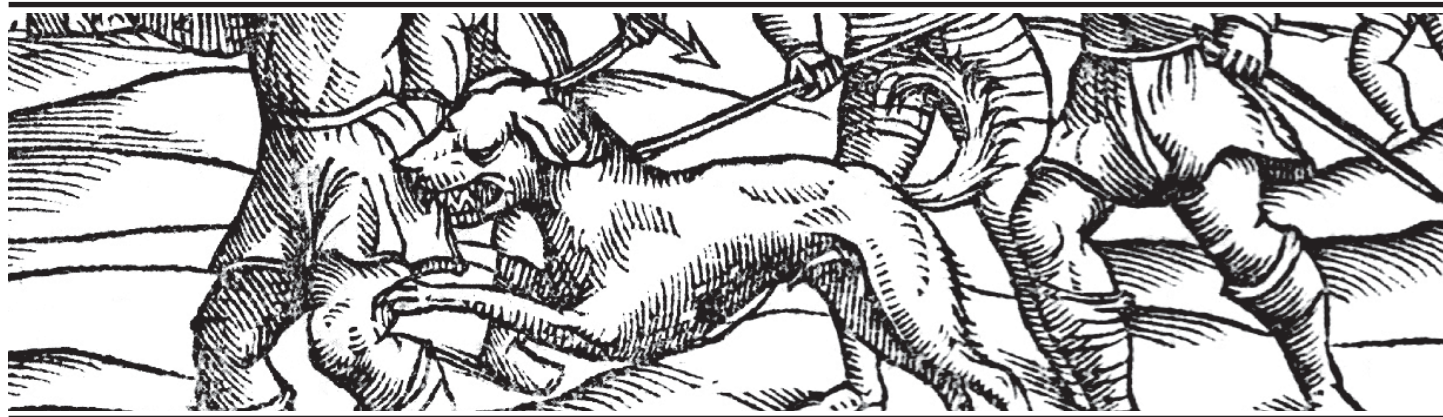
for autonomy in action, self-organization in the struggle, direct action in all its diversity, the choice to defend and spread anarchist and revolutionary ideas, to participate along with other rebels in self-organized and autonomous fights. And finally, without any doubt, a combative approach of anarchism that starts from the individual, affinity, informality.

It would be absurd to separate the repression that is striking some anarchists and anti-authoritarians today from all the repression that is seeking to subdue (often preventively) any criticism of the established order and revolt. By dint of "terrorist threats", refugee crisis, the fight against crime and very real wars, State repression today is going into top gear. At a time when change and restructuring is shifting the grounds of social conflict faster and faster, neutralizing those who disturb their thinking and their plans is part of a process that targets the exploited and oppressed: the hardening of the conditions of survival, the militarization of borders, the imposition of massive technological control, the construction of new detention camps, etc.

To defend oneself against this repressive blow that wants to take to trial comrades on charges of terrorism is to defend any possibility and space of anarchist and anti-authoritarian action. And, through the solidarity with the accused comrades, is to resist State repression aimed at paralyzing all subversive action.

*If fighting for freedom is a crime, innocence would be really the worst of all.*

April 2016



## Contact

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Meeting each first monday of the month at 19h in Acrata

Bank number for financial support:

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BIC BPOT BE B1 (Bpost Bank)

**Acrata** – Anarchist library

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## Info

For more reading material about that period:

**Tout doit partir.** *Pour la liquidation totale de ce qui nous détruit.* The issues of this magazine are retrievable in different anti-authoritarian libraries. They also exist on the web.

**Brique par brique.** *Se battre contre la prison et son monde (Belgique, 2006-2011).* Edited by Tumult ([tumult.noblogs.org](http://tumult.noblogs.org))

**Éclats de liberté.** *La lutte contre la construction d'un nouveau centre fermé pour clandestins à Steenokkerzeel (Belgique, 2009-2010).* Edited by Tumult ([tumult.noblogs.org](http://tumult.noblogs.org))

**Hors Service.** *Recueil de textes du journal anarchiste 2010-2014.* Edited by Tumult ([tumult.noblogs.org](http://tumult.noblogs.org))

After a hearing for the approval of the special investigation measures used in the context of this inquiry (tailing, phone tapping, microphones in a comrades' house, secret house searches, infiltration attempts, placing surveillance cameras outside of comrades' houses and in one case, inside), in October 2015, the file was examined by the *Chambre du Conseil*. The hearing of this Chamber – whose objective was to decide if there would be grounds to proceed with a trial and which accusation would stand – is fixed for May 2016. During this occasion the judge decides to postpone the hearing in order to clarify the issue of language, whether the court will be in French or in Dutch. It is thus decided that the official language will be French, and a new appointment before the *Chambre du Conseil* is announced for May 2017, while the final decision about proceeding with the trial and the eventual accusations would take place in August of the same year. Finally on the 22nd of October 2018, the official date for the trial is set for the 29th April, 2019.

On the 1st of August 2018, the *Chambre du Conseil* of Brussels pronounced itself in favour of the continuation of the trial and which accusations would be prosecuted. Before the accused were even informed of the outcome, a prosecutor's press statement was already circulating. Immediately echoed by journalists, the articles that followed contained nothing but mistakes, mixing this investigation with the one about the struggle against the maxi-prison, referring to facts that took place outside of the investigation period and getting all the accusations that would be brought to trial completely wrong.

First of all the *Chambre* withdrew from the case the aggravation "terrorist organization", which the prosecution had attributed to a precise crime, eliminating entirely the accusation of participation to a terrorist group. Then the *Chambre* also dropped other accusations, for which it found insufficient proof, especially in the charges regarding the attack on a police station in Marolles (Brussels neighbourhood) on the 1st of October 2010, the arson of several prison guard cars in front of the prison of Ittre the 28th May 2011, the forgery of payslips, shoplifting, incitement to commit terrorist acts (which in first instance it was changed into "incitement to commit crimes and offences" but that was later dropped due to prescription).

On the other hand the *Chambre du Conseil* changed "participation to a terrorist group" into "members of an association formed for the purposes of attacking people or property, through the perpetration of crimes or offences" (9 people accused) and changing "leaders of a terrorist group" into "provocateurs or leaders of an association formed for the purpose of attacking people or property, through the perpetration of crimes and offences" (3 people accused). The other accusations that will stand to trial are:

- Attempted arson of a detention centre for migrants in Steenokkerzeel during a demonstration outside the centre on 21st January 2009 (a charge against 8 people)
- Having assaulted or resisted with violence and threats six policemen during the demonstration outside the Steenokkerzeel detention centre for migrants on 21st January 2009 (8 accused)
- Having threatened a neighbour who called the police during a gathering with fireworks outside the prison of Forest on 4th October 2010 (a charge against 3 people)
- Property damage (or attempt to) of two limousines in the vicinity of the 'Subversive books gathering' in Saint-Josse-ten-Noode on 15th October 2011, with the aggravating circumstance of 'being motivated by hate' (in this case, against the rich) (a charge against 3 people)
- Bodily harm to two limousine drivers during the same fight on 15th October 2011 (a charge against 3 people)
- Bodily harm on a police officer during the night of 1st October 2010 in Brussels (a charge against 1 person)
- Having attacked or resisted with violence and threats two policemen during a demonstration in Anderlecht on 12th November 2010 (a charge against 2 people)
- Fabrication and transport of weapons, in particular bent nails and iron bars, on 1st October 2010 and on 12th November 2010 (a charge against 4 people)
- Having insulted European Union civil servants in the Schuman metro station, with the aggravating circumstance of 'being motivated by hate' (a charge against 3 people)
- Graffiti on three occasions (Molenbeek, Saint-Josse and Schuman), for some with the aggravating circumstance of 'being motivated by hate' (against the rich and European Union civil servants) (a charge against 7 people)
- Blocking of the traffic during the fight on 15th October 2011 and during the demonstration in Anderlecht on 12th November 2010 (a charge against 4 people)
- Having publicly self-attributed the title of honorary lawyer (a charge against 2 people)

## *In line and in silence*

To get up at 7am and find oneself in front of doors still closed, take one's place in the already formed line, in anticipation of the hours that will follow, each one with their own worries (are you going to complain? Let's not forget you are on welfare though...)

An endless line that stretches to the sidewalk, on the two days it is open you have to wait almost the entire day to have access to the "welcoming" windows, which give out answers and numbers in preparation for the next line, even longer, which already claims a completely full waiting room. These small tickets with the who-can-we-help-next numbers are anxiously clenched like the possibly winning numbers of an imaginary lottery, charged with hope, the solution to problems, rent, bills, and with the sadness of an eventual disappointment.

No one speaks to each other, or almost, protecting their place in the ranks. Silence and waiting. However this morning, as the clock keeps making its rounds, some voices speak up, who cry : "it has already been hours that we are waiting! This is not possible! You should do your jobs for fuck's sake! Why are there so many windows empty and only two people in the welcoming windows? I might be on welfare, but that does not mean I'm here to justify your paycheck..."

Some low voices agree, support or approve in silence, emotions start to up, while the workers appeal to calm, to dialogue, to silence...to go away. Nothing to do about it, the voice persists and continues to shout and will be eventually escorted outside by uniforms, the police! With their bullet-proof vests. What a picture to see a public servant being able to continue his job protected by a cop on each side.

Just like in prison, when a screw's strike succeeded in rendering a situation of detention deemed "normal" even more unbearable, without air time, nor

showers, not even food, those who chose to rebel for the immediate and violent destruction of the infrastructures that held them hostage, would be quickly brought back to order by the presence of the army... An image of order, silence, calm... no questions allowed about the legitimacy of an order that needs so many uniforms to be enforced. The problem must lie in those who criticize, those who scream; the violent, or the undesirables, or the refugees that the State doesn't know what to do with and that it keeps pushing far away from all borders or lock up in all these new prisons or detention centres, no more criticism on the maintenance of order that multiplies walls and barbed wire on the four corners of the country.

And when again voices are raised and acts of revolt multiply, breaking through imposed silences and unleashing itself against all those responsible, the actors, and entrepreneurs of public order through material destruction, demonstrations, newspapers, posters, graffiti, etc, judicial consequences will be imposed. Just like in the trial against twelve anarchists and anti-authoritarians, accused among other things of participating in a terrorist organization and of different acts of vandalism within the context of struggles against borders and prisons.

Are terrorists those who scream when life is suffocating, when humiliation belittles them, when misery is inflicted on them? Are terrorists those who join them in solidarity? Are terrorists those who refuse to patiently wait their assigned turn in line, who refuse to accept that "it's normal and we should be thankful! It could be so much worse..."?

No! the silence is the real terrorism.

*In solidarity with those in revolt against this order and its structures, on the streets, in the prisons and elsewhere.*

[Text pasted on the walls of Brussels in 2016.]

