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## Digest of the Anarchist Tubes

compiled from March 2017

volume 3, #5

# ATUBES

*Welcome to volume 3, issue #5 of ATUBES. This month we're taking a different approach to the medium and only highlighting comments from the site over the last 31 days, along with a brief introduction for context. The website anarchistnews dot org of which these comments come, has been a source of contention for many readers over the years due to the lightly moderated anonymous comments often found there. Here is a look at some of the most readable comments from this past month.*

*- editor of "\\_(ATUBES)\_/"*

*context:* In response to a previous comment that had been moderated by a different frequent commentator, Emile, infamous long form @news commenter, wrote in "re anon 20:12's quote of le way,..., where's the problem?" and a member of thecollective responded :

### **a member of the collective responds**

From *IWD 2017: Celebrating a new revolution* <https://tinyurl.com/mv2naj4>

By thecollective

emile, i have not a single expectation that you will hear this, since you have proven yourself incapable over the years, but communication is between people, not within your own head. therefore one speaks, if one cares to be heard, in ways that are sensitive to context. you insist on your way being the context, and le way is going in that direction. thecollective seems to disagree. it doesn't mean we necessarily disagree with a specific point you make, or even all the points you make, it means that you make them in ways that (i think) self-sabotage.

not attempting to engage in a conversation. have other things to do today.

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*context:* Anonymous author of text responds to a comment on their text about Standing Rock

### **Author of the original piece here...**

From *Is it Fascism Yet?* <https://tinyurl.com/n635at3>

By Anonymous

While I generally agree with what you're saying here, the Standing Rock example is not a very good one. Having been to Standing Rock, I can tell you that the last thing the Standing Rock people wanted would be an outright antifa or anarchist presence. While I met plenty of antifa and anarchists there...people were generally told to keep their ideologies to themselves. Also, I'm not sure if the antagonistic nature of many antifas would even be welcome. The tribes were not looking for frontline confrontation, and generally wanted to stay away from violence.

Where were antifa and anarchists while Standing Rock was going on and getting raided? Many were there, but they respected the native people enough to not make their presence about anarchism or antifa. Most of the anarchists were content to help out, shut up, and leave the indigenous resistance to the indigenous people. As Bakunin said - " In the matter of boots, I refer to the authority of the bootmaker; concerning houses, canals, or railroads, I consult that of the architect or engineer."

In the matter of native resistance, anarchists should be deferring to natives. To show up at Standing Rock outright repping antifa and anarchism would be unwelcome, and honestly sort of western chauvanism.

*context:* Context: Long time @news commenter Mister Grumpy, known for meticulously correcting grammar in spots, responds to an open letter that denounces anti-fascist action in the Bay Area.

## **Your foreign experience was**

From *Anti-fa Fuck Off!* <https://tinyurl.com/k9r8qe7>

By Mister Grumpy

Your foreign experience was with a \*minority faction\* of Antifa who became Anti-Deutsch, which predictably split the antifa scene in Germany. None of my German antifa comrades and friends (most of whom began their activism in the 80s and who self-identify as Marxist by the way) have anything good to say about the pro-Israel anti-Anti-Semitic faction -- the same faction that refused to protest Bush on his last trip to Berlin, using the same strained mental gymnastics (their so-called logic) that led to them flying the Israeli flag at demos. If you really think that this \*minority faction\* of Anti-Deuschists is representative of the autonomous antifascist scene in Germany, you're an even bigger fool than your screed indicates.

Antifascists certainly deserve criticisms for their ideological and practical shortcomings and near-obsessive tunnel vision concerning their targets. But your clumsy guilt-by-association is transparently absurd, not based on any documented connection between the Anti-Deutsch practices of a \*minority faction\* of German Antifa and the self-organized Bay Area chapter -- how nifty that you conveniently ignore the various Antifas in other parts of Europe, who are pretty much immune from the deleterious excesses of the Anti-Deutsch discourse.

Also clumsy is your pro-worker essentialism that transcends anything resembling an actual class analysis; wage-earners are Good precisely and only because they are Workers. But that's par for the course for a pro-RCP clown.

I guess you never picked up any analysis of how police function when you were a stooge of the October 22 clumsy RCP front. If you had paid any attention to an anti-authoritarian critique of how the cops operate, then you might have picked up on the fact that the cops don't need some excuse to target people and projects for surveillance and repression. They don't rely on IGD's website to make policy or to exercise their class-based function to stifle any and all forms of deviance relevant to property relations and hierarchical institutions. The police will be police in the absence of IGD and other "insurrectionary" websites.

The code words you deploy are straight out of the Marxist anti-anarchist playbook: "racist" "reactionary" "reductive" "counter-revolutionary" "nihilist"... These are the same canards (except "racist") deployed since the days of the Marxist coup in the First International. You'll have to try harder if you want your insults to have any weight. You know, things like facts instead of sectarian opinions.

Your insinuation that the SF Bay Area Anarchist Bookfair canceled their event because of what Bay Area Antifa did is just stupid; look at the statement from the organizers elsewhere on this site (and plenty of other places). Oh, and you're not "asking" -- you're making demands. Don't you know that since Occupy, we aren't interested in demands?

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*context:* The Void Network from Greece shares an international message of solidarity with anarchists in Belarus

## **Solidarity from Athens**

From *Dozens of anarchists arrested in Belarus after anti-government protests* <https://tinyurl.com/n2drulr>

By Void Network

From the South to the North side of Europe,...we are everywhere fighting against exploitation  
Share the news / Global movement section: <http://voidnetwork.gr/2017/03/18/14305/>

*context:* In response to working with the authoritarian left

### **Very good points. Im not**

From *Left Unity is A Suicide Pact: For An Anarchist Antifascism* <https://tinyurl.com/kkmmtq4>

By Chaz

Very good points. Im not working with statists or any top down structures. Am willing to work with antistate marxists. The elites are the state and changing rulers has never worked for the people. This is a class war and the power structures and social stratification as old as the city states of Mesopotamia must be dismantled and replaced by collectivism.

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*context:* in response to the above comment fauvenoir responds

### **This world is already excessively collectivist, DUH!**

From *Left Unity is A Suicide Pact: For An Anarchist Antifascism* <https://tinyurl.com/kxa72jl>

By fauvenoir

And I think Graeber would agree with me, but fuck him, he's got a better paycheck than mine! But all of what you anarcho-lefties are attempting to do is to reify society at micro-scale. Maybe you're not aware of it... or not care too much about it. Of course, since that ain't very easy to make friends and especially keep them in this world, I can forgive you for it... and why not myself too. Yet still ain't very revolutionary.

On that weird, shortsighted statement you did about Mesopotamia... if you'd know some history, you'd also know that there have been a few big changes in State politics since ancient Mesopotamia. Magna Carta and secularism being the biggest, but there was also capitalism as a new religion, unequaled in diffuse might throughout human history. The difference between priests classes sanctioned and safeguarded by a self-serving set of esoterical beliefs is that YOU can possibly make your way through the capitalist establishment these days, no matter how disgusting that may be.

Capitalism for Dummies...

Instead of studying anthropology, philosophy, or visual arts, you could do instead business management, engineering, actuary, medicine, or hey let's not forget good ol' Law School. Then you hang out at the right clubs downtown, and golf clubs, join the right business networks or secret societies/religious groups, stop caring about your individuality, go with the flow, conform... then you're good to go! :-D

Most likely not as easy if you're Black or Hispanic, sure... but who knows, you might have more luck in the prison bureaucracy or the private security sector.

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*context:* In response to an article on identity politics, Willow shares their thoughts on the subject

### **In a similar theme, I came**

From *Floodgates: The Urge to Obey, A Flight from Initiative, and Identity Politics* <https://tinyurl.com/kybqm8n>

By Willow

In a similar theme, I came across an article out of Olympia, Washington on this site talking about how certain activists there believe that only black people should be allowed to lead or organize resistance efforts against police brutality. (???)

Just full-on insanity.

Police kill more white people every year than any other race, but white people are not considered legitimate leaders on this issue?

ANYONE from ANY RACE who despises the brutality and murders committed by police/the state is legitimate, and fuck those people who think they can police who is a legit resister and who is not.

It's a similar insanity taking hold with this Black Bloc "white people shouldn't wear black masks" stuff, and it should not be given a lick of legitimacy, in my mind.

Fuck identity politics! Fuck the intentional division of people along identity lines!

This is not anarchist. It's liberal, pseudo-progressive bunk.

*context:* Context: Anonymous responds to the new William Gillis and friends podcast regarding the lack of indepth discussion re: GPG/PGP

## **I was fairly disappointed in**

From *Horizontal Hostility: Episode 1* <https://tinyurl.com/jw93egz>

By Anonymous

I was fairly disappointed in the lack of critique of the usability of GPG/PGP on this podcast. The segments talking about GPG could have been made yesterday or 7 years ago and the conversation would be exactly the same. There's no evident evolution in thinking on this from the speakers who seem to exist in a techno-geek bubble that mocks people's inability to use GPG. I use GPG, I've taught many people to use GPG, and given workshops on GPG. I work as a programmer and am a very technically literate person. Having said all that, I am convinced that GPG is too complicated for the average anarchist (or person) to use and will remain so forever. I still learn new aspects of how GPG works after years of using it when I have conversations about it with people BECAUSE it's so complicated. I used to apologize for GPG ("It's easy!") and think that we just needed enough workshops and people would, as one speaker on the podcast says "step up" collectively and learn GPG. This is unrealistic and I think it's harmful to keep parroting this opinion. GPG will continue to be used by a small minority of the anarchist movement. I think it's great that the people that use GPG use it but the discussion around usability with GPG is very relevant and is wholly dismissed in this podcast. Furthermore (never claimed to be objective), while there is basically zero criticism of GPG's usability and lack of evolution, there is a good amount of attempts to criticize Signal has being inadequately secure, with a good amount of non-factual information thrown in that is partially caught and corrected by other speakers on the show but not entirely. A non-technical user listening comes away with the conclusion (IMO) that Signal is imperfect and GPG is perfect. So let's dissect the actual facts and limitations of GPG and Signal: Mass surveillance:- Both GPG and Signal will secure the contents of your messages.- Metadata (who's messaging who) will always be exposed with GPG, but never with Signal Targeted remote surveillance:- GPG lives on your computer and Signal lives on your phone. Which is more inherently secure is debateable depending on the operating system, updatedness, and configuration. It certainly could be argued well that your computer is easier to secure comparatively. In the end, if the government is able to exploit a vulnerability on your phone or computer or trick you into installing malware, they can get around either GPG or Signal.- If the government seizes or intercepts your e-mails encrypted with GPG, they have all your metadata and can still map networks of who's talking to who with what frequency and unless you're using Tor or a VPN, they will likely have the IP addresses of those communicating. By contrast, if the maintainers of Signal "cooperate" they have no real useful information to give (no metadata, IP addresses, or even the encrypted messages themselves). They have been tested on this claim recently: <https://whispersystems.org/bigbrother/eastern-virginia-grand-jury/Targeted> in-person surveillance (cops seize your phone or computer)- If both your phone and your computer are unencrypted, the situation is bad, but probably worse with your phone. Phone disk encryption is unfortunately terribly designed and encourages users to choose bad passwords because you have to enter it every time to open your phone and typing is way slower on a touchscreen than a keyboard so a very long password would make your phone unusable. Apple is trying to solve this problem by the security features (hardware and software) they are constantly working on and we heard about with their drama with the FBI, which was encouraging. But even so, Apple's software is not open source so it's hard to ever totally trust it, although they do get some credibility points in my opinion after the FBI affair.- Signal does provide the option to enable a passphrase on your Signal app to encrypt your message database on your phone so that if your phone is seized, they can't access your messages without the password (if it's locked). This is also more usable in that you typically only have to enter your passphrase once and then it stays unlocked so you don't have to enter it every time you get a message. However in this situation it is only your message contents that is encrypted, the metadata is still exposed if there isn't a full device encryption enabled (and locked with a good passphrase). In my opinion, the lack of metadata exposed with Signal and its supreme usability are major factors in its favor over GPG. The negative aspects of

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Signal...aren't really negative aspects of Signal specifically but rather negative aspects of phones. And of course your phone is tracking you wherever you go, but this point has already been made abundantly clear to everyone in the anarchist community. All of these people are still using phones and bringing them (almost) everywhere because it's 2017 and that is the reality of modern communication. And within that context, Signal is absolutely the most secure thing you could possibly use, especially if your alternative is STILL making calls, STILL sending texts, but completely insecurely. There is no choice between only communicating with GPG on your computer or only communicating with Signal. One is completely not an option and the other actually is (I'll leave it to you to decide which one). Being targeted because of who you know or who you're talking to is a real thing, especially with anarchists, so that information being substantially harder to gather (with Signal) is a huge advantage for anarchists that also aren't using Facebook or some similar network tracking service (wishful thinking but hey, there are some holdouts). The podcast simultaneously tries to make the point that if you're committing serious crimes or are a less "wanted" anarchist, GPG is the best solution in both situations. These are actually two different situations. Depending on the severity of your "underground"ness, you may not even want to have a phone at all to avoid location tracking so in that situation GPG won't necessarily be a better option, but rather your only option. And sure, you can easily make new e-mails but generally e-mails don't stay very "anonymous" for long. Not to say that a phone number is anonymous, far from it. But while it's easy for any dedicated adversary to find out who's behind a phone number, it's not easy for that same adversary to see the metadata of all your messages in which your phone number is exposed, leading to that second stage where they ask "So who is this phone number?" The more protected you are from mass surveillance, the harder a time the government has filtering down to the people they're "really" interested in.

The speakers on this podcast also object to the "centralization" of Signal and the ability of the government to shut down the servers Signal uses. If such an attempt were made, it would be rather trivial to set up new servers in a less hostile environment and continue routing all traffic over that. Signal has already been implementing measures to thwart government interference with their service in the Middle East quite successfully. And additionally, Signal has gained quite a lot of support from other powerful tech companies, news agencies, and members of the public to such an extent that an attempt by the u.s. government to shut them down completely or imprison their administrators would cause enormous outcry. This is why I find the idea of it being "shut down" so easily as rather unlikely. It's not the same as shutting down Napster. There was open acknowledgement that the purpose of Napster was copyright infringement. To criminalize Signal would require encryption to be outlawed which seems very unlikely.

I'd like to see e-mail encryption become as usable as Signal. The LEAP project and Darkmail/Lavabit were both looking promising but it's unclear what the future of those projects are. Darkmail is particularly interesting because it's promising a whole new e-mail protocol that will make metadata harvesting very difficult and has usability as a top goal. I gotta say though when I evaluate the evidence, I find little fault with Signal (certainly less than this podcast implies) and a lot of issues with GPG. I still use GPG, but I'm having fewer and fewer people to use it with because more people are gravitating toward easier, better designed, and very secure alternatives. Seriously, you can't say shit about Signal's integrity, it's rock solid. Phones aren't rock solid but hey, hopefully they get more so every day and allegedly all known CIA exploits are being patched as we speak so that's a step in the right direction.

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*context:* After the largest snowstorm of the year in Montreal, a black bloc took time and space away from the police who had year time to prepare, evading police controls and bringing the metaphorical newspaper boxes to the street. Iron Snowflake responds with a technical comment about images and such.

## **Totally black out faces when it really counts**

*From March 15 in Montreal: police attacked, kettle broken <https://tinyurl.com/lubfzpn>*

*By Iron Snowflake*

If faces in video or photos are covered over with solid black and not pixelated, Google can't take footage submitted by the cops and reverse that. The exception would be any format (as in some poorly redacted PDF's) that  
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supported exporting to a multilayered image, which so far as I know is a still photo problem. In GIMP merging an image down to a single layer prior to export will guarantee nobody can remove your black spot covering someone's face, pack, shoes, or whatever.

Still, the safest rule when the overall image needs to be published is "when in doubt, crop it out." This goes double after something like J20 where pigs are trying to match shoes in one photo with packs in another, and eventually to faces in yet other images. Sometimes it is necessary to show only the deeds and not the doers. You might have a raw clip shot diagonally towards the Nazis down a front line when the rocks began to fly. Great clip of Nazis cowering behind cops as the rocks rain down-but the camera caught some of the throwers at the edge of the frame. If you zoom in so not all the image fits anymore, then slide it over and crop it down to focus on the Nazis and keep all of your own crew out of the scene, you now have that perfect scene. When you are done. DESTROY the camera card, and overwrite those kind of raw clips with random numbers. If you do this kind of video at all, use only encrypted computers for editing as a further defense.

Make sure to get out of the action with those raw clips too, and never use cameras with storage you can't quickly remove and destroy where kettles and arrests are risks. If it's really hot, get out with the clips as soon as you can.

### **Also full-disk encrypting**

(continued comment from Iron Snowflake <https://tinyurl.com/l62y9jl> )

Also full-disk encrypting your device, if smartphone/tablet, is a no-brainer. Be sure to also change the passphrase once encrypted, so that it's not the same as used to log into your session. Not sure how much that last part helps, but it might, possibly.

### **Video editing computer also must be encrypted**

(another continued comment from Iron Snowflake <https://tinyurl.com/l4a43w5> )

The computer that edits the video files must also use full disk encryption, and that goes double if any raw clips of anything are retained. Even if they are not retained, "deleted" files remain a risk and overwriting a 2TB disk with random numbers in a video editing computer is so time consuming as to be impractical to do every time you release a video. Even cleaning camera cards this way can take half an hour, and that's for only 16GB or so.

This brings up an interesting and related point: smartphones are among the only cameras that can be encrypted, but have the potential vulnerability to attack software written to stream the video right to the cops. I do not know if any such software now exists, and shooting at the highest resolution would make the cell carriers scream about the bandwidth requires to export multi-GB files. The cops would have to work with the carriers on the bandwidth issue to make that attack successful.

Removing the sim card so the phone is not activated, or using a brand-new burnphone would make such an attack more difficult. Possibly a bigger risk is software or hardware now known to be under development to forcibly turn off phone cameras, which the cops would love to use while beating people up.

A camera with encryption but no network access would be best of all. A tablet that does not support connecting to the cellphone system at all (no cellular radio), has wi-fi turned off, runs Android 5.0 or later, and is full disk encrypted might be the most secure camera of all. Be aware that many (maybe all?) Android 5.0 devices cannot encrypt camera cards so would need to shoot to internal storage only, while the newest devices can also encrypt the camera card. This does complicate moving the files to a desktop for editing of course.

With a camera that does not support encryption (almost all devices that are only cameras), camera cards that can be quickly removed become the defense. Even mainstream media videographers learned decades ago to quickly change tapes (used at that time) after filming anything where the cops were expected to go after the raw footage.

Lastly, if you get an encrypted phone or computer stolen and then returned by police, never boot it again to the encrypted system, as it may have been modified to export the passphrase and send it over the network to the cops. If they made a copy of the encrypted filesystem, they can then unlock it. Destroy the device or factory reset/reinstall from scratch and never use it again for anything requiring security or encryption,[sic]

*context:* Anonymous response to TOTW re:disaster and on working in emergency services

## **I worked in emergency**

From *TOTW: Natural disasters and other trouble* <https://tinyurl.com/lwwyw9g>

By Anonymous

I worked in emergency services for years as an anarchist, laughing at the contradiction while I got paid (not that much) and thousands of dollars in free training in exchange for only a few hours a week. Obviously I helped people in my rural community and the whole thing was very surreal and problematic at times but I don't regret it. Never had to compromise on a practical level, only a theoretical one (I was technically an agent of the state, swallowing my pride to acquire things, as one does).

The interesting part is I got an insider-look at the limitations of emergency response infrastructure and I'm here to tell you it is very fucking thin. To suggest that people shouldn't build parallel organizing projects because they're "doing the state's job for free" or whatever is mostly demonstrating that you're an idiot.

Even as the worst kind of pompous, selfish, egoist who enjoys laughing at what you perceive to be "do-gooder liberal" organizing, I'd say to you - hope you have a lot of friends with practical skills and you've laid down some plans with them. Also, hope those same ferocious, skilled and savy folks don't realize you're a piece of shit and kill you for the meat haha!

Fucking egoist peanut gallery, amirite? Stirner this, stirner that, spook, spook, spook, blah blah blah!

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*context:* Like the call trees of old, a new project re: txt msg for anarchist support

## **Citywide autonomous SMS service**

From *TOTW: What's Your Pending (or not) Marginal Project?* <https://tinyurl.com/k354zwt>

By Ethics Gradient

My pet project (and I've worked on it intermittently for 2 years) is to establish a citywide autonomous SMS service in the town (about 500 000 inhabitants, somewhere in Eastern Europe) where I live. It requires hardware and software, and lots of testing. Nothing daunting. Radio modems: found a company in South China (oh the irony) supplying cheap and reliable ones with lots and lots of range. :D Terminal device? Well, I currently I think Raspberry Pi v3 will manage. The main requirement is to compress audio from the USB sound card into a 1.2 kbit stream without major delay (not in real time). User interface? Audio and buttons, to be specific, an USB sound card with buttons (tested: I can listen for button presses from "/dev/hidraw0" while an audio file is playing). Basically, it would be something you carry in your pocket, which is battery powered, which has a range of maybe 2 km in a city environment (up to 8 km in countryside), and which encrypts its messages using one time pad (meaning: you must meet and generate key material to talk with anyone), and which lets you browse contacts using two buttons, while the third button is "push to talk".

The history? The motivation? Well, you can't do even basic illegal things if you can't keep your communications secure. These days, too many communications devices are highly insecure. So I wanted a device into which there is only one remote channel of entry - a serial line. A serial line managed by a highly paranoid application which only trusts material it can fully decrypt.

It was supposed to have a visual (AWT) user interface first, but I realized that we need to have something for people who get into fast-developing situations, so priority no. 1 became an audio user interface.

The added bonus is that you can crush microSD cards with your ordinary teeth before the cops get them. :P

**P.S.** *from* <https://tinyurl.com/le5lxku>

P.S. Start an autonomous social center that is neither squatted nor rented. The problem in my eyes is that rented and squatted centers often face eviction at the worst possible moment. Solution? I want to buy one, create a foundation to run it, and see what happens. Unfortunately, my current resources only suffice to buy "bomb crater" class real estate. :P Maybe later. :P

*context:* The slasher responds re: the struggle on an article announcing a new distro in Montréal:

## **Struggle is appropriation**

From *Announcing underHILL distro* <https://tinyurl.com/k7x63pz>

By ///\///

People who choose to struggle are trying to emulate people they perceive as struggling, or who may actually be struggling. To be struggling is not something one chooses to do, it is an unfortunate condition which befalls a person. If you've actually struggled you know it's something you want to be out of, away from, not something to brag about, nor valorize, nor try to attain. Struggle fetishists aren't struggling and often don't know what struggling is, as such they approach it like anything else in the consumer realm—appropriation, temporary consumption, referential garb, vocabulary. You end up with a cartoon version of the authentic struggle subject being replicated en masse by academics, fringe scenesters, left ladder-climbers & social media pariahs.

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*context:* On working on counter-information projects and republishing their communiques, an anonymous commenter asked about "Providing material support for designated "terror" orgs is a crime in the US I'm sure, but what are the illegalities of hosting/distributing information/communiques etc? I'm sure everyone here are fantastic lawyers. Asking for a friend. . ." And Atassa responded

## **The most pertinent case in**

From *Twenty-Fifth Communique of the Individualists Tending Toward the Wild* <https://tinyurl.com/m4znv85>

By Atassa

The most pertinent case in this sense is the one of Tarek Mehanna, But it is arguable that the foundation of the government's case against him was built on his going to Yemen to try to join Al-Qaeda (but being unsuccessful). He also translated and disseminated their literature, but that was only part of the case. As one person summarized it:

"Second, in what many expected to be a key issue in the case, Mehanna claims that the jury lacked sufficient evidence to find that his translation activities were in coordination with al-Qaeda; however, the court finds that "the cluster of activities surrounding the defendant's Yemen trip supplied an independently sufficient evidentiary predicate for the convictions on the terrorism-related counts." Thus, by finding that the conviction could rest solely on Mehanna's trip to Yemen, the court avoids any deeper discussion of the interesting First Amendment questions that Peter Margulies and David Cole raised last year."

<https://www.lawfareblog.com/tarek-mehanna-decision-brief-summary>

So considering that CCF-FAI communiques have been disseminated on this site and others, it's somewhat unlikely that, even if the organization in this post were to be placed on the DOS list of terrorist organizations (it hasn't to my knowledge), legal consequences would only occur if the hypothetical individuals take positive steps to materially support that organization in some sort of coordinated manner (i.e not independently advocating the ideas). Well, things could always change, and there are always risks of course. Then again, the only radicals in the Feds' sights now are people who've knocked over trash cans and taken pictures of themselves turning pipelines off. So that's which way the wind's blowing, but when it changes, sure, we might have to close up shop. When the party's over, it's over.



*context:* fauvenoir is summoned to comment section by hostile comments directed towards them that were moderated by the collective before their reply had went live. Their response includes ideas for @news and the latest gossip from the most anarchist city in North America, Montréal.

## **Since I have been summoned**

From *Putting into practice: adding to the conversation on anarchist activity in Montreal* <https://tinyurl.com/lpgh48k>

By fauvenoir

Since I have been summoned here in some way (...), there's a few constructive things I could say in response to this text, as if it matters to anyone of course. But let's first say that I mostly dig that text.

There's my concern regarding the channel and shape this attempt at communication is taking, that is somewhat improper for a dialogue to be engaged. Don't wanna be pissy, but realize that you're posting a really long text with many ideas to reflect upon, and you're doing that on Anews, where the lifespan of a text, comment section-wise, is measured with a ruler that spans over a few days. Fuck rulers, I knows... but that's the problematic press roll structure of this site (I've suggested long ago that they could be having a way to bring back to frontpage old articles, or having a more flattened archive section of sorts). So much great texts have been posted among the massive loads of fudge and toxic waste -often not much replied to- only to be disappeared in that shit-mass over the weeks and months.

SO to say, I might produce a counter-critique sometime soon, or give a more pragmatic answer to it, tho I'm wondering -though not being really negatively doubtful- how this type of communication -in itself- helps bringing insurrectos out of their isolation and create solidarity, even between that rather small and disparate crowd that insurgents are. As it is said somewhere in the text -and that's one of the major points I'd also like to highlight- we could make better use of open autonomous assemblies (that is a much better term than "popular assemblies"), assuming they'd be happening... Or why wouldn't the authors be calling for an assembly, or at least a reading group, on it?

(yes, that's right, that last sentence was a proposal to the authors, or maybe the authors of that other text, or at last resort any local collective with enough guts to get out of their bubble, at least for a moment, to discuss these matters openly, and please not at some infamous, highly-politicized and equally-policed hotspot of the "milieu") Then, I especially like the criticism leveled at those social anarchists who've been fronting for the anti-gentrification struggle in the East, yet a criticism that has been done several times before; just as this same crowd, forever tied unshakingly to the legalist, institutional (and shall I say bureaucratic) communautarian politics, has just kept doing this shit no matter what. There doesn't seem to be any line of self-criticism for some groups, and this may be another lead to the claim that they're being led by authoritarian or sectarian Left elements (like those RC(M)P clowns, or to a lesser problematic extent the socialists... assuming they're not the same crowd, I hope not).

I second the accusation seen above -that is gross yet truthful- about the privileged social background of a vast majority of those organizers that've been pushing the anti-gentrification chariot over the last few years. That also adds to the questioning of the true intents of the activists pushing this struggle. This may appear to be slanderous bile to some (as if it's the only form of slander we're seeing happening in this milieu, or anything new...), and maybe not too relevant. But doesn't it mean something when the same agency opposed to gentrification have been those who were brought in a neighborhood by this very same gentrification? Isn't there anything sketchy with activists living in nice communal apartments in the best parts of «chlag», promoting more social housing for the poor?

I'm somewhat dubious with the whole anti-gentrification struggle. Not that it ain't an issue that isolated, unprivileged people like me are continuously being pushed away from those trendy parts of town, but isn't that, at the bottom level, just some turf war of aesthetics and sensibilities, part of a political smokescreen, raised by those claiming to be opposing this through their activism? As the text says... what is the intent here? What is your true goal?

Even if we succeed countering the process of gentrification in some neighborhood (obviously, forget about Hochelag' or Saint-Henri by now...), what then? *[continued on next page]*

I don't think it takes a PhD at UQAM to realize how this is tied to the diffuse and sprawling dynamics of capitalism. Dynamics that are -unlike in the historically outdated analysis of these social anarchist this text is referring to- incredibly horizontal and pervasive. Let's consider how within the same network of those «chlagians» in the East you will find many artists who've been doing nothing else than taking part over the years, in that very same process of tertiary capitalist economy in Centre Sud and Hochelag, just as they've been doing it in Saint-Henri and previously on the Plateau/Mile End.

As for Hochelag, particularly I know the fucking place.... I was raised there, when it was still welfareland. I've seen the before/after of gentrification in the area. I've seen the first '80s liberal artists moving to early condos and vast apartments/lofts. Back then they weren't as much economically predominant as they've been over the last 15 years, so now we can see how well this capital has grown. I've also known, personally... even lived under the same roof at some point, with a few of those influential anti-gentrification actors, during the very period where the process was in full swing, with yuppie hotspots like the Atomic Café and that Place Valois bistro appearing on Ontario St. That struggle is very LATE... all of the windows smashing and painting is cool, but this is done in a social context where most of the neighborhood is already filled with suburbans, Plateau ex-pats and worse. That iron... isn't really hot in there. Yet that doesn't mean that, just like in Plateau, there isn't a potential for social subversion, and even uprisings. Bougie areas have their interest... especially for how the gullible yuppies are easily fooled, their luxury is quite easy to pirate, or how subversion can be economically-costly for their neat-looking rat economy. But petty bougies don't disrupt their very social background (duh), it's the lesser-privileged who're doing that. People like me and a few others I sadly don't hang out with. So hey... I won't be expecting much of this shit coming from our beloved local social anarchists. ;-D

But I'd very much like, also, to open a discussion on what "privilege" means in this city. Or in any other trendy Western city. As I have been attempting to be expressing here, life a few others did here, it is far from being only a matter of economically-defined status. It is definitely more a matter of confluence, than affluence, even if social background plays a role. It's a matter of being in the right gang and having the right etiquette/culture. More on that later, hopefully.

[ps <https://tinyurl.com/n5937yv> ]

Sorry in that last paragraph, I wanted to write "crowd" instead of "gang". This isn't about specific gangs. It's more herds and hive-minds.

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*context:* Some anarchists in Portland, OR recently filled in some pot holes in the city. Here are some of the remarks on the action from two different texts posted on the subject

### **If we don't fix the potholes...**

From *Portland, OR: Anarchists Are Fixing Potholes On City Streets* <https://tinyurl.com/lgc5rr3>

By Luke from DC

Noone will. I too spend a lot of time on a bike, and hitting one of these chasms on a loaded bike is no fun at all. Neither is having to very quickly verify that you have room to pull farther out in the street without being flattened by an SUV full of Trump supporters.

A related issue is all the broken glass left in the streets not from riots (that shit gets cleaned up fast at least in DC) but from car crashes, car break-ins, and worst of all, bottles tossed by drunks. Real worst case is the bottom of a broken bottle, edges facing up. That's why any glass bottle I see in the streets while biking is removed-so bikers like me don't get flats there for the next three months.

## **This is seriously**

From *Portland, OR: Anarchists Are Fixing Potholes On City Streets* <https://tinyurl.com/mwfb6h8>

By Anonymous

This is seriously disappointing and becomes depressing in the current state of the world.

Why are anarchists working to repair and revive the failing welfare state!? Deteriorating infrastructure should prove a time for experimentation, an opportunity for transformation and creating new relationships as well as functions.

Why not start organizing community gardens or new public spaces, etc?

I guess it is easier to patch asphalt holes and get called heroes for doing what the city use to pay people to do. Is radical social welfare the new labor scabs under neoliberalism? Why pay someone if the community and anarchists will do the same as the state? What is anarchist about this other than self-organized work that the city of Portland takes advantage of? Is the anything different, autonomous zones, anti-police programs, transforming toxic waste (roads) into projects of community gardens and spaces to converse about rejecting laws when the state fails in providing? If there are no consequences for the states neglect, why would it do anything except keep taking (taxes, subjecting people to police control and zoning regulations) and the (lefts) anarchist keep giving like the poor giving tree, where city and neighborhood will keep taking and when other anarchists attack they will either turn their backs on them or talk about the good (slave) anarchists who do civil works instead of riot and attack city infrastructure that facilitate the political and economic system they claim to despise.

Radical social work with refugees and roads creates the possibility to talk to people and directly alleviate abhorrent situations, but in no way does this challenge the state, its trajectory of (Snowpiercer) progress or structurally address the systemic immiseration by these structures. Instead it aids it, facilitates in on 'good will'/charity and promotes assimilation into a politically and structurally violent system. In other countries this is called missionary or development work.

## **Fixing potholes in a time**

From *Portland, OR: Anarchists Are Fixing Potholes On City Streets* <https://tinyurl.com/l4jmmz5>

By Anonymous

Fixing potholes in a time when the most important objective for business is maintaining an infrastructure that can facilitate the mined and assembled goods to ports and commercial centers-- otherwise minning and manufacturing is pointless if it cannot get to the ports, factories and commercial centers. If one was against megaprojects, in 'solidarity' with Indigenous groups fighting these projects around the world (the materials of which go through Portland and the NW) then road sabotage is crucial for disruption and incurring costs and is why people make barricades and block highways... So there is a lot to say that potholes are an inconvenience and have the potential to be a disruptive element that anarchists would encourage and not repress or fix (the social disorder) . However, we are talking about a residential street in Portland, does that apply especieally when those goods want to go to work so they can survive/assimilate/be comfortable? Or is it oddest part about this that some anarchists posted pictures of themselves doing (community) maintenance work on the internet for public relations? Taking over a street to expand community space, gardens, skateparks or whatever would make sense to talk about, but filling potholes? This is nuts, I do not know why @news would even post this other than mimicking the liberal media that loves this type of volunteer work. Fix potholes if you so desire, but why publicize it/brag about it, especially at a time when road infrastructure is an enemy (or more accurately frendemey) that is key to violent extraction projects, corporations and police logistics and so on?

## **Yes, it does - unless you want to use centralized force.**

From *Portland, OR: Anarchists Are Fixing Potholes On City Streets* <https://tinyurl.com/kuuhlpw>

By Nyarlathotep

Good luck maintaining civilized infrastructure without physical or psychic coercion. You'd at least need the old dispossess-people-from-the-ability-to-feed-themselves-without-participating-in-society trick. And, yes, a Graeber or Chomsky-style "highly organized anarchist society" would involve coercion to make people work. Chomsky even sort of acknowledges it when he isn't being careful.

This is why anti-civ anarchism is really something categorically different from Left-wing or Right-wing anarchism - Left and Right anarchism have much more in common with each other than we do with either of them, even though they of course have major differences with one another. Many @s say Right-wing anarchism \*isn't\* anarchism (and it certainly is very different from the Left-wing types), yet somehow anti-civ anarchism and Left-wing anarchism have the same name. Should they?

I know "anarch" and such is a bit of a clunky word, but it seems like we might need something. We anti-civ @s clearly have a totally different, mutually-exclusive set of visions and correspondingly totally different tactics from most @s, and the fiery back-and-forth on this fairly silly and minor topic is just another case showing it.

## **potty wholesome**

From *The Potholes in Portland* <https://tinyurl.com/ltls6qc>

By SamFantoSamotnaf

There'd be nothing wrong with fixing a pothole in your own street with your neighbours - nothing wrong but not particularly interesting, and even less something to be considered as "radical" in some way. Almost everybody does something like this (eg binning some stray rubbish) yet, thankfully, doesn't ideologise it. But pumping it up as "anarchist" is pathetic. And doing it for other people outside of your own area is Boy Scoutish Propaganda of the Good Deed. Substitutionism. Just to show how wholesome and innocuous you are. Jolly Good Show.

## **Just get a can of spray paint**

From *The Potholes in Portland* <https://tinyurl.com/n3ycr85>

By Dick

Just get a can of spray paint and draw a dick around it. The city will be around to fix it. Much easier, more time efficient, less exposure to local fuzz and other buzzkillers -- and more fun!

## **About ATUBES**

ATUBES is a sporadically produced digest of some of the articles and commentary featured on [anarchistnews.org](http://anarchistnews.org), illustrating some of the breadth of anarchist thinking

**<https://anarchistnews.org/>**

