

# NIGHTFALL

FREE

An Agitational Newspaper

July 2016



## BEYOND JUSTICE

By now everyone is familiar with some version of this story. Jamar Clark was shot by the police on the morning of November 15th and died a few days later in the hospital. What occurred leading up to the shooting is something else entirely and will not be explored here. Most are likely familiar with what followed: an occupation of the 4th Precinct's lawn, a night of rioting, a white supremacist shooting, and more. Eventually the cold set in and the occupation was cleared, leaving many waiting to hear whether or not the officers would be indicted for their actions.

Participation in these actions was diverse; a variety of perspectives came together in one place. However, the most dominant voices were those calling for the officers to be prosecuted. Smaller demonstrations centered around this demand took place regularly after the removal of the encampment.

On March 30th it was announced that the officers who had killed Jamar Clark would not be charged. This sparked a day of protests across the city. Remarkably, the tone of these demonstrations had changed very little, as the crowds continued to chant "prosecute the police!" On June 1st, the FBI

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announced they would not indict the officers either. Protests have taken place since then and have remained faithful to this slogan, demanding what has already been unquestionably denied.

This brings certain tensions to the forefront: we cannot appeal to one part of the system for justice against another part; it is all the same system. Putting the police on trial and even behind bars will never dismantle the entire structure of cops, courts, and prisons—in fact, one might argue it actually supports that structure. Yet protesters continue to demand such a thing.

It is important to remember that from the beginning the call to “prosecute the police” did not speak for everyone. Especially within the first few days following the shooting, the chant was commonly interrupted with “fuck the police.” From this perspective, the demand for prosecution is less about actually prosecuting the officers and more about bringing into the political system those who previously existed outside of it. To say “fuck the police” is to say to the government: ‘there is nothing you can do for us.’ By channeling this sentiment into a political demand (for prosecution, something the government can do) it lowers the possibility of destabilizing unrest, the likes of which was seen on the night of November 18th. If people believe that there is something the government can do for them they can easily be bought off with a small carrot, and ultimately, swept under the rug while self-appointed leaders consolidate their power.

This would explain why there are still protests for prosecution despite its impossibility. People are still angry, as are we, that police officers get away with murder. But this is nothing new. The state has always had a monopoly on violence and the police are the armed guards of the social order. Let us not forget that in this country the police evolved from slave patrols. In many of these past instances, people

# EDITORIAL

Why a paper? Why now? The past few years have been turbulent, not simply for the Twin Cities but for the planet. The fire sparked in Ferguson spread to Minneapolis last November as insurgent youth laid siege to the 4th Precinct on the Northside, but the police continue to kill with impunity. A blatant neo-fascist has been nominated for president of the United States. The current president continues to deport friends and loved ones while assassinating whole families with drones overseas. Every week brings chilling new reports from climate scientists that pretty much assure us that we are all doomed.

In the face of this a newspaper seems quite insignificant. However, in order to adequately confront these problems we need to reevaluate our approach. We are sick of remaining silent while politicians and activists monopolize resistance, incessantly assuring us that the structures of power will listen to our complaints so long as we stay passive. *Please please don't try to take things into your own hands.* Fuck that. If we want something done we need to do it ourselves.

So expect perspectives from rebellions near and far. Expect takedowns of the myriad ways that people are kept isolated and afraid, from overt repression to more subtle forms of social management. Expect dives into the vibrant if often-suppressed history of resistance right here in the land of ten thousand lakes. Expect jokes, if we can work up the nerve.

Until next time, stay free.

Keep up with future issues at:

*[nightfall.blackblogs.org](http://nightfall.blackblogs.org)*



Tires punctured and windows smashed on MPD squad car.  
November 16th, 2015



# FEELING BERNT OUT?

You know that Trump is a scary fascist stirring up xenophobia and that Hillary is a war monger co-opting “feminism.” But here’s the thing: Bernie effectively served as the establishment’s sponge, soaking up the mess of Occupy Wall Street and Black Lives Matter. Bernie Sanders channeled the energy from these movements and campaigns into the mire of electoral politics, where despite Bernie’s best intentions, no consequential change will ever occur. Rather than bringing the “political revolution,” his campaign reigned in radical activity by reducing us to deferring to the state for change. Had Bernie won, any changes we got would have been too little, too late.

Now that Sanders’ moment has passed, you may be feeling disillusioned. Many of us have held hope in progressive politicians—Nader or otherwise—at one point in our lives only to have that hope dashed. The question is, where to go from here? There are a number of directions the anti-establishment energy upon which Sanders has capitalized within the US will flow. Some will

resign themselves to attempting to push the Democrats to the left, supporting Clinton while gearing up to run another social democrat such as Elizabeth Warren next time around. Others, inspired by examples such as SYRIZA in Greece and Podemos in Spain, will try to build a new progressive party to challenge the stranglehold the two major parties have on political power in this country. Many will lapse back into apathy or despair and return to bingeing on Netflix. And some who are fed up with petitioning the government to stop being so terrible and who yearn for a life worth living will instead set out not to reform governance but rather to oppose it in all its manifestations, from the parties to the cops to the seemingly benevolent social workers.

We want to lay out why the latter approach is vital. If there’s one thing we know it’s that we have nothing but contempt for this world of environmental destruction, continuous war and racial apartheid.

Agitating for the reform of the American state demonstrates a fundamental misunderstanding of the history of this world we inhabit. The economy, as well as the states and corporations which compete for control of it, was birthed by the extermination and enslavement of hundreds of millions across every inhabited continent on earth. Furthermore this destruction has never ceased, as it is necessary to continuously deploy new waves of expropriation and violence to resuscitate the economy during the

periodic crises of capitalism. In this context, arguing that positive social change will come through electing a president who will more generously distribute the spoils of this destruction among the citizens of a single country is naive at best and incredibly self-serving at worst, ignoring all the past, present and future suffering upon which this wealth is based.



Crossed out Bernie Sanders sign near Powderhorn Park.  
June 2016

Aside from this, recent events in Greece clearly show that running so-called ‘movement friendly’ candidates in elections is a waste of valuable time and energy. In 2015 Greek citizens voted the party SYRIZA (an acronym standing for Coalition of the Radical Left) into power based on their promises to end austerity and confront the bureaucrats of the IMF and the EU, who were looting the country as payment for unsustainable loans that the Greek government had taken out (under pressure from these same institutions) back in 2008 in order to bail out the private banks. SYRIZA promised to play hardball in order to force these institutions to agree to write-off some of the debt. However, sev-

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have recognized that there is no justice to be found from the same system that deals us injustice—and so they burnt everything down. The fires of Baltimore and Ferguson still burn fresh in our memories, but we can't forget Los Angeles in 1992 or the countless revolts of the 60's and 70's.

In these cities, however, police continue to kill with impunity. So the answer is not simply to burn everything down, although perhaps that is a good start. We must simultaneously destroy the structures that dominate and oppress us (such as the police) as well as build our communities so that we don't need things like police anymore. It is important in this process that we do not replicate what the police do, but instead reevaluate our understandings of law, crime, justice, and pretty much everything. A small glimpse of this world could be seen during the 4th precinct occupation in November, when everyone was given food and shelter for a short time. It was far from perfect, but it is crucial to know that these are not fantasies in our heads but realities that we create.

**FOR A WORLD WITHOUT POLICE!**

## **RAPIST ALERT**



Word has spread rather quickly about a serial rapist living in Minneapolis. His name is Alexander Blanchette Askelin, and is alleged to target women at 12-step meetings. Alex works at the Wedge Table at 2412 Nicollet Ave, which has steadfastly defended his employment despite the information that has now come to light. Within days of the news first being spread, warning posters were distributed across town and stickers declaring "Alex Askelin = RAPIST" have been put up all over.

## **ON THE SLOWDOWN**

A news story made the rounds this spring about rumors of a slowdown in the Minneapolis Police Department's 4th precinct. The story alleged that during the month of April there had been a 51% drop in stops in the precinct, a 45% drop in arrests, and a 32% drop in stop and frisks. We are told that the slowdown is because officers are reluctant to do their jobs if they will be chastised for it, supposedly related to some bad publicity MPD received after officers pulled over a Target executive. However, it is obvious to anyone that the heightened hostility between MPD and the local population sparked by the shooting of Jamar Clark is at least partly responsible.

Some community groups have spoken out against the officers' unwillingness to "protect and serve." We will join no such chorus. In fact, we would like to encourage MPD to do their jobs less, or not at all. We consider this slowdown to be a regrettably missed opportunity—just imagine how much more we could have gotten away with while the police took the scenic route to answer 911 calls! Squatters could have cracked a new home while MPD ignored a report of potential trespassing. A suspicious person or two walking down the street would be saved the frisk while out writing anti-police slogans that demoralized the officers even more, extending the slowdown. Unfortunately, not everyone missed the opportunity to capitalize on the strike; shootings have proliferated in the area so far this year. It's important to emphasize that this occurs not because of the police's absence, but due to the conditions imposed on these communities (often via police).

In any case, the residents of north Minneapolis were subjected to a few less interactions with the pigs this year. This slowdown simply directs our attention to the importance of conceiving of police not as a mythical entity but instead as a group of individuals who are tasked with controlling populations. We don't say that to inspire empathy—the opposite, in fact—but to point out that as humans their control is not infinite. They utilize cameras, cars, and snitches to expand their reach but it is still far from total. Minimizing their capacity to function is in our best interest, not as a goal in and of itself but rather as a means to facilitate the transformation of life and the creation of new worlds.

**Bernie, continued from pg 3.**

en months into their reign, following an exodus of capital from the already emaciated Greek economy, SYRIZA signed on to a new round of austerity including further slashes to pensions and public spending and a massive fire-sale of public property, including priceless historic and environmental sites. All of these conditions were mandated by the IMF and the EU in exchange for further loans to keep the government solvent, even though the IMF's own research clearly showed that these further cuts would cause the economy to contract even further, inevitably precipitating another crisis (leading to another round of loans and another round of cuts) a few years down the line. Many have argued that the reason these institutions pushed and continue to push loans they know are toxic is because they have never been primarily concerned with being paid the money "owed" them by the people of Greece. Rather they are carrying out their assault on the living standards of these people in order to discipline them for the fierce rebellions of the past eight years and in order to demonstrate to the much larger populations of states like Spain, Italy and France, all facing impending debt crises of their own, that resistance will not be tolerated.

Just as the IMF predicted, the policies implemented "with reluctance" by SYRIZA have

proven to be even more destructive for the people and environment of Greece than the policies of the previous government which SYRIZA came to power by opposing. The reason SYRIZA was forced into going against its stated ideals is that it simply had no bargaining power with which to bring about the changes it promised. Heads of state are powerless to challenge the inherently violent logic of the capitalist power structure from within and devoid of any vision for life outside of the miserable train which they find themselves piloting. Every second we spend paying attention to them is a second we could spend talking to each other. Now, as before, the only real threats to capitalist hegemony in Greece lie in the street-based movements that are

fighting borders, looting supermarkets to give away the food and attacking destructive industrial projects such as mining and logging operations. The only difference is that now the militarized police that are deployed against them are commanded by a party 'of the radical left.'

At the end of the day the actions of governments are not expressions of "the will of the people" or any such nonsense. Governments, whether totalitarian or democratic, always have been and always will be tools by which to manage the inherently unstable process of accumulation, keeping it from overextending itself and bringing about the collapse of the whole tower of bullshit. Governments do this by channeling popular discontent into ineffective forms of resistance, granting cosmetic changes that do nothing to alter the underlying structures of domination and violently crushing those who persist in rebelling. Contrary to what we are taught in

school, positive changes that have occurred since the founding of this country have not taken place because of the benevolence of patriarchs like Jefferson, Lincoln, FDR or LBJ. Governments adjust their oppressive structures only when they are forced to by the threat of insurrection. We should oppose them not in order to force them to give

concessions or govern more humanely but instead to destroy the power that gives them the ability to so thoroughly fuck our lives over in the first place. The more we do this the more we will open space to live our lives as we wish.

There is no concrete program of how we should go about doing this. There is no one-size-fits-all solution. It's not as simple as joining an organization or signing a petition. An autonomous and anti-hierarchical oppositional practice will take patience, experimentation, and a willingness to learn and be challenged on the part of each of us. There will be as many different practices of rebelling as there are rebels.

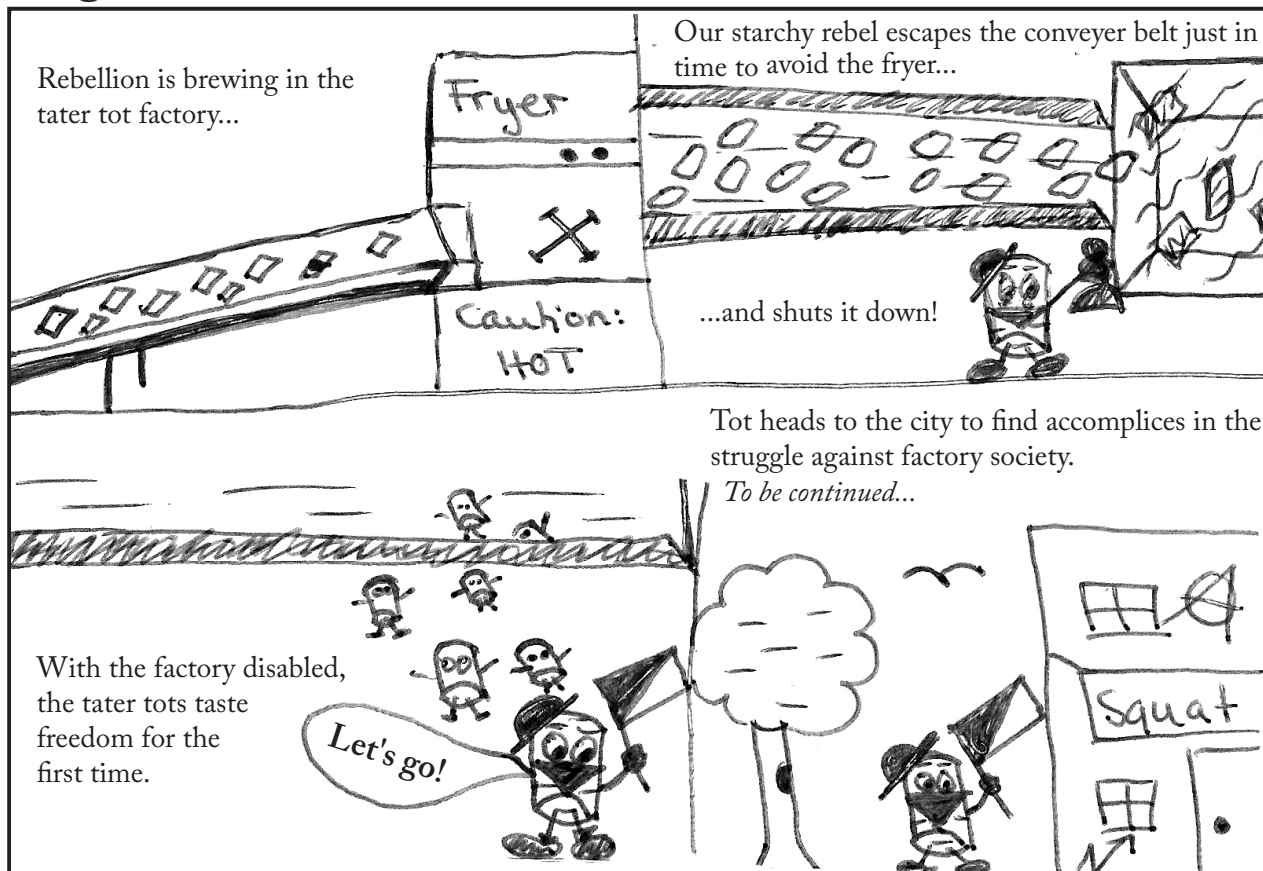


Greek comrades discovered left-wing tear gas is still tear gas  
*July 2015*



Introducing the adventures of...

## The AgiTater Tot

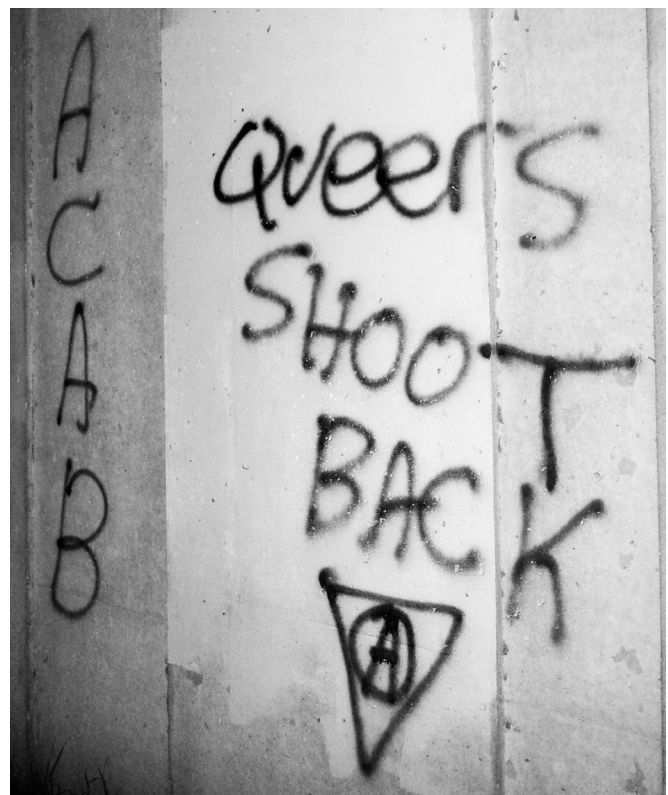


## SACRED STONE CAMP

On April 1st, the Sacred Stone Camp was established as a Spirit Camp in the territory known as North Dakota by members of the Standing Rock Lakota Nation and allies to defend against the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline. The pipeline would run from the Bakken Fields in North Dakota all the way to southern Illinois. The camp is located at a critical juncture where the pipeline is planned to cross the Missouri River and the Cannonball River. Construction has already begun nearby despite the permit from the Army Corps of Engineers not yet being approved. If completed, the pipeline would transport 450,000 barrels of fracked crude oil per day. Today the camp is still going strong, thanks in part to the strong support provided in both donations of money and supplies as well as the tireless efforts of comrades helping at the camp and spreading the word. Stay tuned for an in-depth report from the camp in the future.

Find more information at their website:

[sacredstonecamp.org](http://sacredstonecamp.org)



ACAB (All Cops Are Bastards) and *Queers Shoot Back*. Just a few of many slogans painted in Minneapolis after the Orlando shooting, when a gunman massacred nearly fifty in a gay club, mostly people of color.

# GLOBAL NEWS OF RESISTANCE

## JUNE 11TH

June 11th is the International Day of Solidarity with Long-Term Anarchist and Eco Prisoners. June 11th was originally the annual day of solidarity with eco-prisoner Jeff Luers when he was serving a 23 year sentence for torching some SUVs. It was revived in 2010 as a day of solidarity with all long-term anarchist and eco prisoners, but specifically focused on Eric McDavid and Marius Mason, both anarchist and eco-prisoners in the US each serving over 20 years in prison. Eric was released in 2015 and the list of prisoners associated with June 11th has greatly expanded. See the June 11th website below for a list of prisoners, information about them, and contact info for writing letters.

Each year June 11th has a theme. This year's was the restructuring of the prison system and opposition to Maximum Security, isolation, and Communication Management Units both in the US and abroad (i.e. C type prisons in Greece and FIES regime in Spain). As we all know, control units in the US are primarily populated by Muslim "extremists" (mostly young men entrapped by the FBI) and black and brown people labeled as gang members. There are also politically outspoken prisoners and rebellious "troublemakers." What they have in common is that these are the people the state does not want communicating: with each other, or with the outside. But while these facilities are intended to isolate and control rebellious populations, the inverse often happens: instead of dampening the fires of rebellion, high security facilities spark powerful resistance.

Every June 11th there are fundraisers, letter writing events, and a variety of actions around the world. This year in Minneapolis we had a vegan ice cream social with postcards to write and send to our comrades behind bars, and literature to share. With over 90° weather, it ended up being the perfect day for ice cream with friends. Elsewhere, actions this year ranged from potlucks to noise demos to banner drops to clandestine attacks, such as tree spiking at an old growth logging mill and smashing the windows of a probation office. In Washington DC, there was a convergence seeking to find common ground between environmentalist movements and prison abolition groups to oppose prisons on environmental justice grounds. They are specifically attempting to stop the construction of a new prison in Letcher County, Kentucky. More info:

June 11th

[june11.org](http://june11.org)

The DC campaign

[fighttoxicprisons.wordpress.com](http://fighttoxicprisons.wordpress.com)

## ANTI-COAL ACTIONS IN GERMANY

Germany is the biggest producer for lignite coal with 17.4% of the entire world's lignite extraction. At the moment Germany has two active open cast coal mines, one in West Germany near Cologne (the Rhineland) and one in East Germany in Lusatia. For years people rallied in both regions against RWE, Germany's biggest energy company, and Vattenfall, a Swedish company, to stop the expansion of the existing coal mines and eventually shut them down entirely.

In 2016 the climate camp was set to happen in East Germany in Lusatia, because of the recent events in the area. Vattenfall, who is running the lignite mine in Lusatia is planning on selling the mine to a Czech investor who is planning to expand the mine and evict and destroy several villages surrounding the mine. In March 2016 a group of activists occupied a part of a forest to protest Vattenfall's new plans of selling the mine and the planned expansion. To support the occupation, the climate camp was set to happen there, and to draw even more activists to the region organizers called for a week of action called "Ende Gelaende". The idea behind the action days was to let actions follow words and put pressure on Vattenfall to shut down the mine instead of selling it to a foreign investor.

The action days started off with a blockade of the southern part of the mine, when about 1,500 people walked right down into the mine and squatted several excavators to prevent Vattenfall from extracting lignite that day. On Saturday morning over 2,000 people marched to the train tracks that allow trains to transport the coal to the power plants and blocked the trains by camping out on the tracks. Because so many people participated in the actions Vattenfall had to shut down parts of its power plant and the police didn't have enough officers to evict activists from the tracks. Activists blocked the train tracks until Sunday afternoon, when most people left the tracks voluntarily, and activists who locked themselves to the tracks were evicted by police and arrested. Several excavators in the mine were blocked until early Monday morning, when the police were finally able to evict the remaining activists.

The protest will continue this summer with the climate camp in West Germany in the Rhineland to protest RWE's expansion plans for their open cast coal mine and their effort to destroy Europe's last rain forest.

More info:

[ende-gelaende.org/en](http://ende-gelaende.org/en)

## LOCAL ACTIONS

**March 15th:** A banner is hung in solidarity with prison rebels in Holman Prison in Alabama, and flyers about the recent riots that had taken place there are distributed in the area.

**March 27th:** Anti-police posters are wheatpasted around the Powderhorn Park neighborhood.

**March 30th:** It is announced that the police officers who murdered Jamar Clark will not be charged, which spurs multiple protests across the city. Two marches, from Elliot Park and Plymouth Ave, converge on Government Plaza where speakers address the crowd before it returns to the spot Jamar was shot on James & Plymouth. Despite a wild feeling amongst the marchers, control is ultimately reimposed by protest marshals.

**April 6th:** Anti-police slogans are spray painted in solidarity with all those who have lost their lives at the hands of the cops.

**April 10th:** A mask is placed on the Emiliano Zapata statue to mark the anniversary of his assassination as well as an international day of action for political prisoners in Mexico.

**April 24th:** A banner is dropped in solidarity with anti-fascists who confronted the KKK in Stone Mountain, Georgia.

**April 30th:** Posters are wheatpasted along the May Day Parade route against white supremacy and the police.

**May 1st:** Anti-police and anti-capitalist slogans are spray painted in solidarity with May Day demonstrators facing repression in Chicago and Seattle.

**June 7th:** Feminist slogans are spray painted.

**June 11th:** Anti-colonial posters are wheatpasted in solidarity with the Sacred Stone camp against the Dakota Access Pipeline.

**June 17th:** Queer anarchist slogans are spray painted in solidarity with the victims of the Orlando shooting.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**July 5th:** The weekly anti-authoritarian BBQ will have a special "Fuck the Fourth" theme. Everyone is encouraged to bring any and all flags they have acquired during the 4th of July season—for burning, of course. *Southwest of Powderhorn Lake at 7:00 PM.*

**July 6th:** Fundraiser for anti-fascists injured in Sacramento while shutting down a white nationalist rally. Screening the movie "Welcome to Leith" about an attempted neo-nazi takeover of a small North Dakota town. *Minnehaha Free Space - 3747 Minnehaha Ave S at 7:00 PM.*

**July 7th:** Monthly prisoner letter writing night. Fill out birthday cards and write letters to political prisoners. This month's featured prisoner is Kara Wild, a transwoman from the U.S. who is currently imprisoned in France after an anti-police demonstration. *Walker Church - 3104 16th Ave S at 7:00 PM.*

**July 14th:** Midwest Trans Prisoner Pen Pal Project twice-monthly letter writing night. Write letters to and potentially start friendships with queer/trans prisoners in the Midwest. *Boneshaker Books - 2002 23rd Ave S at 6:00 PM.*

**July 25th:** The second annual International Day of Solidarity with Anti-Fascist Prisoners. Look out for events being planned, and/or come up with something yourself! Fundraisers, letter writings, social events, demonstrations, clandestine attacks—these all form a beautiful tapestry of revolt.

**August 2nd:** The annual "National Night Out" is an evening filled with neighborhood block parties that encourage the creation of neighborhood watch patrols and increased cooperation between businesses, citizens, and police. Minnesota actually leads the entire country in participation in these celebrations of law enforcement. Instead, meet with your neighbors about why the police aren't the solution—or antagonize a nearby event!



## LINKS

CONFLICT MN

[conflictmn.blackblogs.org](http://conflictmn.blackblogs.org)

TC RADICAL CALENDAR

[tcradical.wordpress.com](http://tcradical.wordpress.com)

IT'S GOING DOWN

[itsgoingdown.org](http://itsgoingdown.org)

CONTRA INFO

[en-contrainfo.espiiv.net](http://en-contrainfo.espiiv.net)