

**EDUCATE - ORGANIZE - REBEL**

ISSUE # 32 Excitingly Irregular May 2008

# ABOLISHING THE BORDERS FROM BELOW

*3rd Balkan Anarchist Book Fair  
May 31 - June 2, Sofia - Bulgaria*

*Resistance Against Frontex  
(in front of its Headquarters) June 6, Warsaw - Poland*

*Alternative Culture and Activism ProtestFest  
June 13-21, Brno - Slovakia*

*Anarchist Summer Camp  
July 18-27, Northern Lower Austria (near Vienna)*

*Putting an End to  
their Democracy  
by the Fist*



**ANALYSE - RESIST - CREATE NEW**

**Anarchist Journal from Eastern Europe**

There is a justifiable need to abolish the borders between nations, societies, cultures and whatever else separates and defines us. In order that this process does not lead to the formation of new borders or other types of segregation, like those established by elitist institutions such as the EU, NATO or UN, it has to be done from below, by the people. There is an enduring need to immediately abolish all states, governments and authoritarian institutions so that communities based on common values such as freedom, respect, cooperation and solidarity can be formed. These communities in turn can lead to the transformation of the world order into one based on the above mentioned values. In order to push that process forward with support for the development of the anarchist movement over the borders we have created ...

**Abolishing the Borders from Below:  
An Anarchist Journal from  
Eastern Europe**

There are many reasons why it is necessary to put out this type of publication on a regular basis. There are a large number of anarchist groups in EE which could operate much more effectively with a continual exchange of ideas, tactics, experiences and materials with similarly minded groups from all over Europe and the World. It is clear that many western activists are also interested in the ideas and actions of the "eastern anarchists". We believe it to be necessary to tighten the cooperation between east and west in resisting Fortress Europe, the globalization of the world economy, and above all capitalism and its effects on our life. A mutual exchange of inspirations, motivations, and cooperation from anarchist communities all over Europe is needed on a day to day basis not only in times of international protests like the ones in Prague, Gothenburg and Genoa. The intent of this paper is to set up a better network of communication between groups and individuals from different parts of this continent. It is also a platform for regular presentation and exchange for various anarchist groups from EE itself, as well as helping to strengthen contacts between them and will hopefully lead to mutual inspiration. It also gives an opportunity for effectively organizing common campaigns and struggles. The process of creating an editorial team for AbolishingBB was a great step toward this so we appeal to everyone to make the most of the information here as effectively as possible. Finally this paper can be seen also as a mirror of our movement so every positive development in EE is coming back to us in form of motivation for further work on this magazine ...

**"Abolishing the Borders  
from Below"  
An Anarchist Journal from Eastern Europe**

**AN ANARCHIST JOURNAL**

"AbolishingBB" is a bi-monthly magazine with information on different political and cultural processes and activities in Eastern Europe seen, commented on and analysed from an anarchist perspective.

**EDITORIAL TEAM & ABB  
COLLECTIVE**

ABB is an international collective of migrant anarchist activists living in Berlin. The collective was formed in Autumn 2001 by a group of east-european migrant activists and was later joined by other migrant activists from other parts of the world. As well as this publication the collective also organizes a radio-show, a libertarian library, various solidarity actions, informative meetings and cultural events. We also cooperate with other anarchist groups, projects and campaigns (mostly in EE but not only) and support local and global struggles against all kinds of oppression and for a free-society.

**CORRESPONDENTS**

Our work would not be possible without the great contributions of our correspondents from around EE. The work is based on a relatively stable network of correspondents from different regions of EE which cover the most current, important and interesting issues. All people involved in AbolishingBB work on a non-profit basis.

**EXECUTORS**

Publishing, editing, text treatment, translation, photos & graphics treatment, layout, cover concept, english-proof, distribution to the local distributors, website design ... all done by ABB Collective, Print: DreiGroschenDruck & ABB

**COOPERATION**

If you operate in Eastern Europe you can send to us info about protests, manifestations and other actions going on in your region ... you can present activities of groups, collectives and projects working in your neighbourhood ... you can inform us about up-coming political and cultural events ... you can present statements of your group on local or global issues, you can express your ideas, opinions or criticism ... everything from anarchist perspective. You can join our redaction collective

as a correspondent sending regular reports covering different forms of activities in your region. If you operate in other parts of the world you can help with distribution. You can spread information about this publication or just make the most of the information here as effectively as possible.

**FREE COPIES / PRINT RUN**

Free copies go to prisoners, all info-shops and libertarian libraries in Eastern Europe (who get in touch with us) as well as to our correspondents. At the moment we print by ourselves 1500 copies of each issue, and there are some local groups which make more copies by themselves after our agreement on that.

**FINANCES**

Unfortunately until now we were not able to cover our costs only through selling the newspaper so we would appreciate, if possible, benefits from outside

**BAD ENGLISH REPUTATION**

As you probably noticed *THE ENGLISH* which is used in this newspaper is very far from its gramatical and stylistic ideals. It is mostly because this is *ENGLISH* in which most of our correspondents, big part of our readers and most of us (as the editors) are communicating. So obviously we choose to use *ENGLISH* which is understandable for ourselves. Secondly, we decided to be rather "BAD ENGLISH REPUTATION" newspaper as to rise a level of language and this way eliminate probably 30-60% of our regular readers, especially in south and eastern Europe.

**ABOLISHINGBB ONLINE**

[www.abb.hardcore.lt](http://www.abb.hardcore.lt)

This website is from one side a source of information about our collective but basicly - an archive of texts which appeared in our newspaper in the past. Check it out (some chapters are still under construction).

**NOT 100%**

We do not necessarily agree 100% with all opinions expressed in the journal, but all here we found worth printing (for various reasons) !!!

Contact Details for AbolishingBB and Distributors you'll find on Page 67  
We are looking for correspondents from the regions of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus, Hungary, Bulgaria, Serbia, Macedonia, Kosovo, Albania, Turkey, Armenia und Georgia.

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A 7001

# EDITORIAL: PUTTING AN END TO THEIR DEMOCRACY BY THE FIST

Collaboration of anarchists from around eastern Europe have made it possible to again bring a few dozen printed pages related to peoples struggles against all forms of oppression. Struggles going on in this part of the globe, seen, reported, commented and analysed from an anarchist perspective. AbolishingBB#32 is out and in your hands, so make the best use of it, comrade.

## Anarchist Aquarium...

We will start this editorial with some project related information, however, of an international character. First of all, we are glad to inform you that the "Aquarium", the room used since over the last couple of years by the ABB editorial collective, which is part of Berlin anarchist and autonomous centre called "Köpi", can be considered as finally saved after many months, or actually years, of unstable situation. Due to various reasons, among which are a wide spectrum of actions and solidarity support, should definitely be mentioned, new capitalist owners of the house finally gave up their plans on demolishing, or changing the social role of the building. The house seems to not be in danger anymore. This means quite a future for all projects using "Köpi" as infrastructure for their activities, among them, our modest anarchist collective. This has actually an even more deeper meaning for our group, as the "Aquarium" in which we are working now for about 4-5 years was built up literally, stone by stone, nail by nail, with our hands, from the post-2WW-ruins

into quite comfortable office conditions in which one can finally work on something like what you are holding in your hands. Long live Köpi!

## ...needs some more anarchist fish!

When we are already by "Aquarium" we would like to announce that we are actually looking for more fish... It means: while we have at the moment a pretty good working editorial team here in Berlin, we are facing the lack of anarchist correspondents from some regions in EE as some activists can not contribute for various reasons to ABB anymore. So comrades from regions (using here state administrative terminology) of

looking for more regular correspondents from these regions.

## While in faraway Romania...

At the same time we have to mention that many of comrades contributing to the ABB-project are facing, due to their daily activities, serious state-repression. From recent developments, one of our Warsaw correspondents is facing problems due to his syndicalist activities while our good friend, comrade and correspondent for ABB from Moldavia, was brutally arrested and beaten by police bastards during the storming on the anarchist convergence space in Bucharest during the NATO-summit in Romania. However, it has to be mentioned that the authorities

are completely mistaken if they believe that they have managed to break the passion for struggle for social justice and freedom of any of them. One of the first things we heard from our Moldovian comrade after getting out from the police station in Bucharest was about his plans of intensifying anarchist activities in his home town and strengthening contacts with international anarchists.

## ... Anarchists Against the Wall have been created!

By the way, this famous aggression of Romanian anti-terror police forces on anarchists gathering in Bucharest marked the born of Romanian section of "anarchists against the wall"... A Romanian police officer,

Eastland, Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus, Armenia, Georgia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Serbia, Macedonia, Albania Turkey... please contact us - we are urgently

cer, when asked by journalists what happened in the convergence centre during police "intervention", why so many activists who were arrested had such beaten heads,



answered that when the police forces entered the room many anarchists started to hit their heads against the walls as well as beat themselves with their fists in the face. "Anarchists against the wall" made in Romania! Ceausescu would be so proud of his sons on duty! Fortunately, some fed up people sent him already to the ground. However the same ground seems to fill up the brains of the Romanian cops. Well, sorry for this ironic commentary, we have a total respect for the struggle lead by "Anarchists Against the Wall" (AATW) network in Nah East, but how you can remain serious while facing such level of stupidity of the authorities and their bloody puppets.

Anyway, as you can imagine, events in Bucharest and state repression in general (especially, in Russia, Belarus and Poland is support needed) are big issues in this edition. The events in Bucharest also gave us a good opportunity to take a closer look at the process of the birth of the anarchist movement in Romania, and you can find quite long interview with three Romanian comrades in the issue.

## We are for abolishing some workplaces by force!

This issue starts with the call for action against FRONTEX, the migrant hunters' institution with its headquarters in Warsaw, which action will be conducted by polish anarchists in the beginning of June. Traditionally you will find in the May edition of ABB a number of short reports from Mayday manifestations and confrontations around Eastern Europe. In Belgrade for example, the Serbian president and labour minister have been trying to join the workers mayday manifestation... How this attempt ended you will find inside the issue. We are asking: do these fuckers consider themselves really as workers?! If yes, we are calling for instantly abolishing of the whole sector of labour they pretend to be employed in. Yeah! Let's make them unemployed, by force!

When we are by Mayday reports - we are glad to give proof on our pages to the fact of in fact there is a slow but growing resistance of working people in the region. Especially a radicalisation of the mood and supposedly upcoming wave of strikes in Romania is inter-

esting news. Check the reports on the strike in Dacia-Renault factory and other articles related to labour struggles.

## More Nazi-assassinations and self-criticism by some antifascists in ex-USSR

Anti-fascist resistance taking place in Russia is another main topic in this issue. Additional to the reports on Nazi-attacks (with another murdered victim!) and anti-fascist responses to it, we would like to turn your attention to three short texts from Russia that deal critically with the very circumstances of anti-fascist structures and attitudes there. It seems to us as the beginning of a very long and important debate which the anarchist and anti-fascist movement in ex-USSR has to go through, while we have been asked to spread the issue out of the local scene through our publication. As we understand our journal as a mirror of the anarchist-related processes in Eastern Europe, we consequently gave our anti-fascist comrades from Russia the possibility to spread their frustration and criticism here. However it took us a bit time to take this decision...

## "Putting an end to their democracy by the fist" and "putting an end to their democracy - by the fist" ... both options welcome!

Finally we are coming to the cover of this issue. The most massive building on the European continent, at the same time a symbol of state power and state terror, heart of the communist regime in the past, nowadays a complex of luxury saloons for developing capitalist exploitation and capitalist wars against people... the Ceausescu palace in the centre of Bucharest. There are only two things we can think of about this place: on the one side is completely demolishing and removing this monstrosity and setting up a huge green Hyde-park-type area instead. The second idea is squatting the building and finally giving it a social character, furnish firstly for the needs and secondly with the fantasy, of the various social move-

ments. And we decided to visualise the second idea on our cover for this issue.

There is a direct link to the new established network of autonomous spaces around the continent: squats, autonomous centres and anarchist spaces setting up a common front against the capitalist and state front of putting an end to their existence. Related to these network spaces, free spaces in Eastern Europe are also active in this network. They gave their expression to it during the international action days of autonomous spaces at the end of April. Reports from these activities are also of course to be found inside the issue.

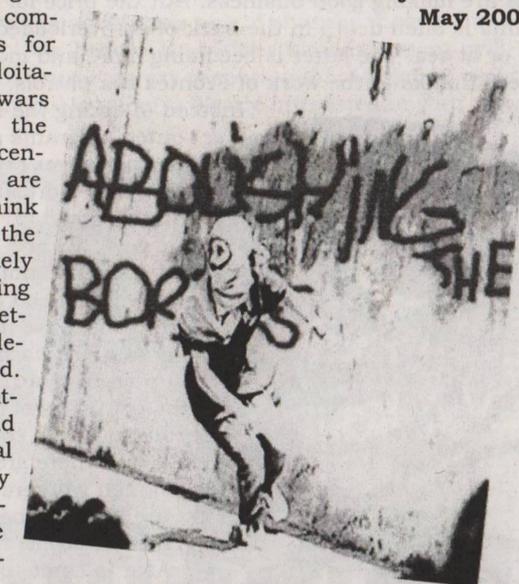
Finally, the slogan on the cover, "Putting an end to their democracy by the fist", which is inspired by the title of one article written by a Romanian activist which you can find in the journal, can be however read in two different ways. No problem: in both cases we like the meaning as far as it is understood from an anarchist perspective!

Yeah, we want to see more fire being set against the authoritarian democracies run by the fist!

Yeah, we want to see more angry fists raised for true justice and freedom and against capitalist and parliamentary democracy!

Black and black-red flags are waving... at first in our hearts and on our actions, and hopefully soon above all governmental institutions after being closed by popular solidarity movements!

Abolishing the Borders from Below  
May 2008



## Resistance Against Frontex

Protest on June 6 in Front of Frontex Headquarters in Warsaw

**6 June we will show our opposition to the border regime with a demonstration in front of Frontex headquarters in Warsaw.**

War, economic imperialism, civil conflict, environmental degradation and a host of other factors, combined with the increased technological monitoring and militarization of the borders, means that people will take even great risks to exercise the freedom of movement and settlement, to find safe homes or jobs with even a bit of economic perspective if they otherwise have none.

The European Union has made itself a fortress and seeks to control immigration to fit its demands and the demands of world capital. It is, after all, in the interest of business to have captive labour markets in countries with poor wages and no labour organizing, to allow their capital and movement of goods to be mobile but to keep people immobile. In order to better control the flow of immigration, the European Union created Frontex.

### What is Frontex?

Frontex is an EU agency with coordinates the activity, training and operations of the EU's border control. It also coordinates this activity with police, the military and secret services.

The Frontex-run RABITs (rapid border intervention teams) carry out military-like exercises with weaponry in preparation for operations against groups of migrants. There is growing likelihood that somebody will be shot dead for trying to cross the border.

### Murder by Accident

As migrants are forced into more and more dangerous ways of crossing borders, the people smugglers and mafias are making good business. But the price for migrants is often death in the back of an overloaded truck or at sea. The latter is becoming more and more frequent thanks to the work of Frontex sea patrols.

Instead of taking the shorter routes, migrants are choosing longer routes at sea and more are dying.

At the same time that dozens of dead bodies of prospective immigrants are washing up on beaches, many of the countries of the European Union complain that there are not enough workers and are busy trying to recruit people from Asia to come to work. By criminaliz-

ing migration, the authorities treat these deaths as the responsibility of the people themselves, those who chose to put themselves in danger and who broke the law. But it is the system itself which is murderous.

### No One is Illegal

We maintain the idea that the resources of the earth belong to humanity collectively and that people must be free to live, work and to divide the products of their labour, as well as natural resources which must be used, in an egalitarian manner. The borders drawn on the earth to artificially divide us most often serve to protect the interests of those in power, not normal people. People must be free to go where they wish, or to stay home, free from the invasive and predatory policies of the state and businesses which drive people from their land and try to monopolize natural resources for their profits. For hundreds of years, business has gone everywhere, setting up plantations, sweatshops and mines, destroying communities, upsetting local economies, using people for slave or cheap labour. All of these things, and to a lesser extent, natural factors (sometimes caused by excessive use of natural resources), has created a world order with billions of the worlds population inhabiting places of exploitation-induced poverty. Nobody can wonder why anybody would like to leave these places.

We mustn't allow people to bear the brunt of all of these problems, we must not allow the continual criminalization, repression and deportation of migrants. What needs to be changed is the root of the problem.

We will go to the Frontex office with the slogans "No one is Illegal" and "No Borders, No Nations" to confront the migrant hunters with the consequences of their policies and show what it is that this institution is really protecting: misery, poverty, exploitation, racism, imperialism and global capitalism.

### SHUT DOWN FRONTEx!

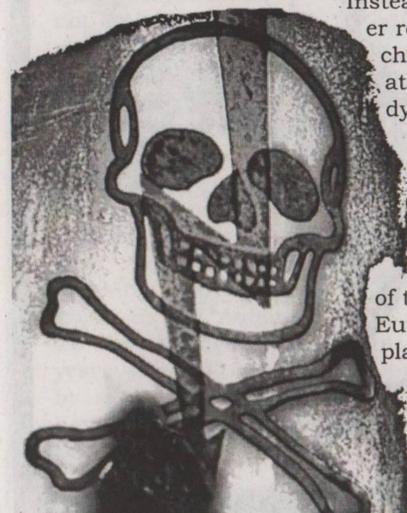
#### No Borders Poland

**Protest:  
Friday June 6  
at 2PM**

**Frontex Headquarters  
in Warsaw**

**(Address: Rondo ONZ 1  
- corner of  
Swietokrzyska and  
Jana Pawla streets)**

**Contact:  
bezgranic@bzzz.net**



## Mayday! Mayday!

### Barnaul, Russia

Anarchists handed out leaflets in general Mayday demonstration.

### Belgrade, Serbia

Prezydent Tadic i Minister of Labour, Ljajic, came out on the idea to join the mayday unionist manifestation in Belgrade but the workers kicked them immediately out of the lines. The leader of the biggest trade union tried to apologise for the incident and blamed it on the anarchists. As we can see, in Belgrade, everybody played perfectly his role. However the workers seemed to be the most successful in it.

### Brest, Belarus

Activists from Brest "Free Theatre", antifascist and anarcho-punks organized critical mass on May Day in Brest. About 15 persons garbed in clown clothes on bicycles and rollers travelled through the city in order to colour "grey reality" of Brest society. Participants chose long route throughout the city. On the way we congratulated people with May Day, presented smiles for by-passers and candies for children. Before entry to city centre we were stopped by cops. They looked through our papers, didn't allow us to go on and followed us to meeting point. After action we came together and discuss all the good and bad points of this critical mass.

### Cisarská Louka, Czech

Festival against racism organized by Czech Antifa on Mayday "We have the laugh of capitalist logic of maximizing profit and we realized whole festival with our own forces, without advertisements, sponsors but nevertheless with free entry" Thanks to all for 1st May on Cisarská Louka. We're still little bit tired and sleepy, but we want briefly give thanks to all, who helped us with realization, for great action. We hope that you enjoyed the festival and you are full of positive energy from it, like we are. We didn't expect so great interest and atmosphere of solidarity. We want to thank to all, who helped with the disposition and organization of festival, to all, who upheld the anti-fascist idea and freedom. That's no matter if you support it as a musicians, volunteers, protection, and people in info-stalls or possibly

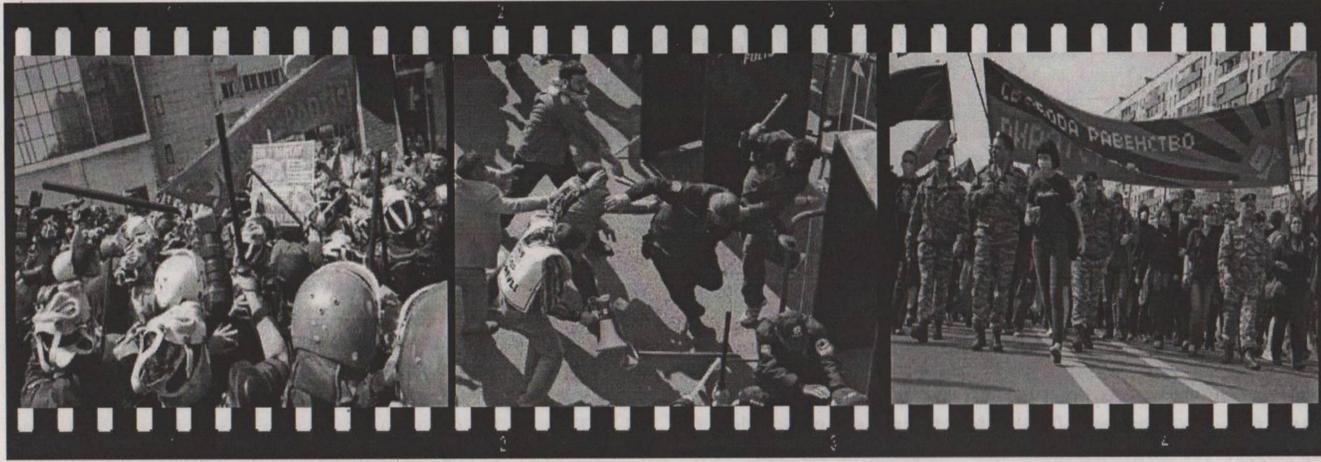
as a vegan cook. And also we want to thank primarily to all visitors. It couldn't be realized without you! You were much over 3000. You can be amusing, listening and thinking, while group of nazi sociopaths marches through empty streets and tries to impress powers with their stolen image and mendacious slogans. Festival was for us connection of policy and entertainment; it was also remembrance on matters from year 1886 in Chicago. We think that not forgetting people, that fought against oppression has always its sense.

"There are WE" organizers, and YOU visitors" We would also say that there are no "We" organizers, and "You" visitors. There is only "We". Why? Festival was organized on totally voluntary base and everyone, who came, was part of it. We have the laugh of capitalist logic of maximizing profit and we realized whole festival with our own forces, without advertisements, sponsors and nevertheless with free entry. All bands played for free, also all the work of realization team was unpaid. There are no charges for stalls, which is established practice on similar festivals. It is impossible to forget the helpfulness of people who handled arrangements like lease and platform construction, lending of apparatus and transport. This attitude should be the main message.

"If you know, that the world is possible without necessity to be guarded with police cameras, without artificial authorities, bosses and politicians and without barriers, that designates this system, you are with us"

It doesn't matter if you do the festival, if you are pasting-up the posters, standing against racist opinions in your neighbourhood, if you stand against the neo-nazi violence or if you physically fight it - important is, that you aren't inert in common life and you are active! It isn't important, what you do, but that you are ready to stand against that, what wants to bind us all, what wants to alienate and urges us to tilt our heads and shut our mouth. If you know, that the world is possible without idiots declaring lies like: "there was no holocaust, but it will be", without necessity to be guarded with police cameras, without artificial authorities, bosses and politicians and without barriers, that designates this system, you are with us. "You" are "We". Not only Do It Yourself, but Do It Together! Yesterday's action was one of chances, how to say together WE. We believe that other similar actions will follow this. Of course we are preparing more detailed report with wealthy photo-gallery. We are interested in your views and





perceptions; you can send them to our e-mail: info@festival-proti-rasismu.cz  
Thank you once more! Stand (not only) against fascism!  
Not only Do It Yourself, but Do It Together!

**Irkutsk, Russia**

In Irkutsk, anarchists from local group of Autonomous Action joined the common Mayday demonstration, first year KPRF was marching together with pro-Kremlin "Rightful Russia" and trade unions (mainstream FNPR and alternative Socprof), altogether there were around 1000 people in the meeting, rather obviously "Rightful Russia" had paid rentamob. Anarchists gathered at statue of Red partisans and went to Sport Palace from there. ---- Anarchist raised red and black diagonal flags and banners "Autonomous Action", "Self-government is a way to freedom" and "Capital is killing lake Baikal". Papers "Free Siberia" and "Avtonom" were distributed. During march, anarchists chanted "Raise the black flag higher, state is the main enemy!", "Be realists - demand impossible!", and other slogans. No arrests were made.

**Istanbul, Turkey**

Unionist as well as anarchists fought street battles with police on May 1 in Istanbul. Authorities tried to shut down non-permitted MayDay observances that were planned to take place in Taksim Square. The May Day holiday has banned in Turkey since the Taksim Square massacre of 1977. Turkish riot police fired tear gas and sprayed water to disperse groups who gathered and tried to march onto the square. Police stopped and broke up the groups who blocked the streets with barricades. According to police sources 467 demonstrators were detained, 6 police officers and 2 civilians were injured. Earlier this week, the government decided to stick to banning celebrations on the Taksim square citing security concerns, but labour unions strongly opposed government's decision.

**Izhevsk, Russia**

In Izhevsk, Autonomous Action decided to take struggle against reform of the educational system as their main theme. Libertarian communists joined block of Coordinationary Council of Civil Movements of Izhevsk (KSGD), altogether some 15 anarchists joined block of 150 activists of KSGD. Anarchists had banner "Students and pupils against education reform" and raised red and black flags. Police got immediately alarmed by anarchists. March moved by Lenin street, people shouted "No to destruction of free education!", "Bureaucrats and oligarchs - hands off

free education!", "Long live fighting student unions and student autonomy!". There was a strange episode when a group of drunken people of tried to provoke a fight, as police just stood by this was a likely attempted police provocation. Eventually anarchists managed to get rid of the provocateurs on their own. In Pushkin street anarchists also chanted more general slogans - "Working people, enough of poverty - organise, strike and win!", "Strike is an arm of the working class!", "Worker - strike is your weapon!". "Down with the sell-out bureaucrats of the FNPR (official trade union), long live fighting unions of the workers and a general strike!". Anarchists left the colon at administration of president in Udmurtia, as they did not wanted to join the official Mayday event of ruling United Russia party. 10:30 a protest meeting started at the administration of the president. 11:00, after meeting, some more police harassments followed but eventually anarchists stood firm and could do without arrests.

**Kazan, Russia**

This year anarchists did not join any of the reformist demonstrations, as they considered them pointless. Instead of it some graffiti was made. During the week, anarchists also organised a campaign against police brutality, which included a Gallup and spreading information about rights of the people.

**Kiev, Ukraine**

1st may demo finally took place in Kiev. In spite of controversy different anarchist and left initiatives from several regions of Ukraine and from other CIS countries went out in one block. In contrast to official communists and socialists which traditionally try to monopolize International workers' day there were many youth in our ranks and not hackneyed slogans were chanting by us. Official media told about strange young people in black masks who were walking fast by central street with demands of workers' rights improvement. "They were chanting unintelligible slogans". It's a pity such slogans as "Consume! Work! Die!", "Fascism shall not pass", "Forget about constitution! Make a revolution!", "Higher, higher black flag, the state is the first enemy" and others are still not understandable in Ukraine... Except for antifa and anarchists, trade unions activists, Revolutionary anarcho-sindicalists confederation, "New leftists", LGBT, ecological, animal rights activists, alterglobalists, gender balanced Kiev initiative and other activists took part in demo. Like last year the route was: from Besarabska square to monument of Ivan Franko (1856-1916, socialist revolutionary poet), through Hreschtyk street passing by Kiev's city hall/Kiev administration and MacDonald's. So we

made 2 stops during our march. Near the city hall we called not to vote and organize oneself. And then we asked MacDonald's to eat their own shit. We were marching cheerfully the whole distance with drums sounds and under back and red flags. Near the monument black-red demo stopped for half an hour. Different activists delivered speeches. Among the others the member of Zhytniy market trade union and guest from Iraq spoke. After the demo people went to the 1st Ukrainian social forum which took place in Kiev 1-2 may.

**Krasnoyarsk, Russia**

In Krasnoyarsk, 9 anarchists joined Mayday demonstration of KPRF, which started 10:00 at TTs Khameleon. Anarchists had a black flag and red and black diagonal flags, and leaflets "40 years from red may" and "there is no reason for workers to celebrate". People were intrigued by anarchists and asked many questions. During march, anarchist chanted "Freedom, equality and solidarity". FSB and UBOP officers followed anarchists, but eventually they did not do any provocations.

**Minsk, Belarus**

Anarchists decided to ignore both pro-Lukashenko demonstration in national library and oppositional spectacle in Bangalore square, instead they organized their own illegal demonstration. Some 40 anarchists under red and black flags and two banners moved from shop "Riga" to Kuybyshev square. 400 leaflets "Fire your boss" were distributed. Lead banner stated "Fight for your rights!". Passers by reacted positively. Demonstration lasted some 10 minutes. Conspiracy preparation made it possible to avoid arrests, but adverse side was small number of participants.

**Moscow, Russia**

In Moscow, there were number of decentralized actions - in previous night one group made graffiti at VDNKh, where Nazis from Movement Against Illegal Migration (DPNI) were to gather for "Russian mayday". In morning, other group was dropping banners around the city. On banner which was dropped from bridge over Frunzenskaya it was written "Freedom to people - death to capital", on banner at square of three stations it was written "No to police brutality". Eventually there were two main actions - first anarchists were to join general KPRF demonstration at Oktyabrskaya. This was for many a controversial issue - since 2002 anarchists they have preferred to organise their own autonomous actions, and there have not been visible anarchist presence in Bolshevik Mayday demonstrations for at least a decade in Moscow. In another hand, marching with

KPRF gives an opportunity to agitate to up to 10 000 people who are there, and show strength of anarchists - this year media favourite National-Bolshevik Party gathered perhaps 100 people and Vanguard of Red Youth perhaps 40, whereas anarchist block had 250 people, not including 35 people who got arrested by OMON on their way to demonstration without any legal pretext. This was the biggest anarchist demonstration in Moscow since 1920's. Anarchist bloc was quite energetic with a sound system and red and black flags, anti-copyright activists brought banner "Freedom, Equality, Piracy" and LGBT activists brought banner "No to discrimination of LGBT in workplaces". Other banners included "Capitalism kills" and "Give us liberty". Redskins had their own banner. Numbers of banners were confiscated by police in prior to actions. Traditional anarchist slogans were chanted. Anarchist bloc was kept from a distance of 150-200 metres from the main demonstration, and was it agreed to disperse at metro Borovitskaya, before end of the main demonstration.

After action, anarchist gathered to illegal picnic in Metro Sokolniki, where some youth was illegally detained and tortured 4 weeks before. Apparently police had received a hint of the action, as they were heavily present, videotaping participators. Few people were detained, but apparently public pressure and solidarity actions around the world had worked - all of them were soon released and nobody was tortured. Eventually anarchists managed to have a picnic with acoustic anti-establishment music under tight police surveillance.

**Murmansk, Russia**

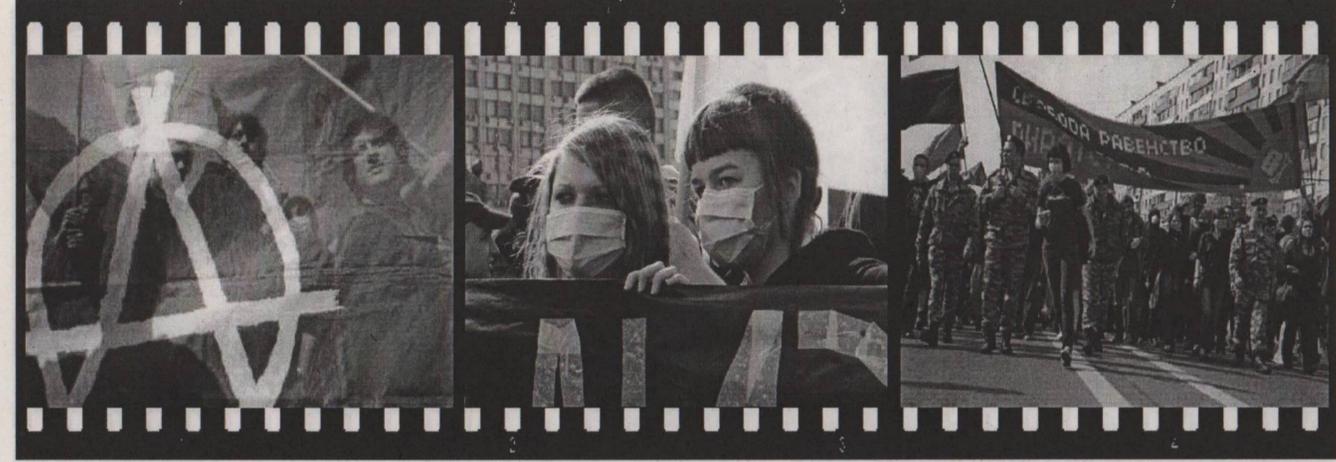
Around 30 anarchists and antifascists marched with banner "No to police state" in the general Mayday march. A group of anti-fascists from Apatity also joined the block. Leaflets were distributed, no-one was arrested.

**Nizhni Novgorod, Russia**

In Nizhni Novgorod, some 40 anarchists marched by central street of the city, Bolshoy Pokrovskoy. Besides Autonomous Action, many unaligned anarchist and sub-cultural people joined. Front banner had written on it "Take the streets - reclaim the city!", in the sides "We are your future" and "No to police brutality". Sea torches were lit, people made noise with whistlers and by shouting "Freedom, equality, anarcho-communism" and other slogans. Upon arrival to Gorky square, march turned to Zbezdinka street and dispersed without arrests.

**Novosibirsk, Russia**

Fifth "Monstration" gathered 800 people marched with slo-



gans "Watch ballet %username%". "I will help you to conquer world. Trainings. Consultations. Expensive". "To disabled and those who passed state student examination - free travel on public transport" (this was a pun on reform of education) and others which may hardly be translated. March was legalised and did not broke the deal with the city administration, but nevertheless unidentified plain clothes people kidnapped 5 organisers during action. They soon learned that they were arrested by UBOP officials, arrested were released the same day but they were not even given any protocols as police themselves knew illegal nature of the arrests. During 5 years of monstration, it has proven that youth is able to self-organise for development of the culture in the city, fliers distributed listed examples of other cultural events organised by monstrators during recent years.

**Omsk, Russia**

This year syndicalists from SKT joined colon of KPRF. They had a big banner "Two in one: cross out miserable wages! General strike!", red and black diagonal flags were raised. Group of SKT was joined by young punks and RASH skinheads. Five anti-fascists, who tried to wear masks to protect themselves from photographing Nazis were arrested by police. Police tried to harass some punks as well but they found refuge behind banner of SKT. In general, KPRF march was lacking spirit but SKT group was scanning loudly "We prohibit to prohibit!", "Long live to imagination!", "Everything is going after the plan, after the plan - workers are sweating, bourgeois are relaxing!", "Land to peasants, factories to workers, streets to lovers!", "Houses to orphans, flush officials!" (Last slogan was related to longstanding campaign of SKT to win housing for those raised in orphanages - trans. note). During demonstration, syndicalists distributed leaflets "A day of riot of the imagination - first mayday 1886 and 40 years from May in Paris 1968".

**Petrozhavodsk, Russia**

Anarchists joined demonstration of official trade unions. During demonstration police tried to stop anarchists and take them to police station, but participators of the anarchist bloc managed to resist the attempts, as other, mostly elderly demonstrators were supporting them.

**Prague, Czech**

"Resistance lives, struggle continues! Chicago 1886 - Prague 2008"

Anarchists assembled on Strelecký ostrov, to celebrate the tradition of Mayday. People from initiatives of A- Kontra,

Anarchofeminist Group and Czechoslovak Anarchist Federation (CSAF) gather at this traditional place on 1st of May anarchist meetings. About 130 visitors overheard the speech about the tradition of 1st May and effort of neo-nazis and fascists to abuse this day. Short workshop in making of paper flowers is done after the speech. These flowers were in the end laid together with lilac wreath to improvised memorial to those, who stood on beginning of 1st May working-class tradition. With a time the number of anarchist flags increased. Finally, about 200 people started for march. March had peaceful spirit. Banners with signs like: "Resistance lives, struggle continues! Chicago 1886 - Prague 2008", or "Capitalism against people - people against capitalism", appeared in front of the march. At times people were also yelling the slogans: „Viva Anarchia“, „Against state, capitalism - for freedom and autonomy“, „Our lives to our hands" etc. The march reached Palacký square, where the demonstrators broke up after short farewell. But not totally, most of people went to the Festival against racism, which began in the afternoon on Cisarská louka and gathered many hundreds of people. Report from this festival you can read above.

**Sochi, Russia**

Anti-authoritarians joined the usual Mayday march, holding banner "People are more important than profit". Leaflets against police brutality and some numbers of paper "Situation" of Autonomous Action were distributed.

**St. Petersburg, Russia**

Anarchist bloc of some 200 people marched together with KSD (Committee of Solidarity Actions, organised by some alternative unions and other social movements). People came fro different anarchist and anti-authoritarian initiatives, such as Association of Libertarian Initiatives, Association of Anarchist Movements, Autonomous Action, RASH, Antifa, KRAS, FNB and Pyotr Alekseyev Solidarity Movement. March went from BKZ Oktyabrskiy in Ligovskiy prospekt through Uprising square, by Nevskiy prospekt to Malaya Morskaya street, finishing point was Isaak square. Unfortunately, Nazis were also allowed to march in Mayday in a partly different route and they received a rather warm welcome from the police. There was a bloc of African students in the general queue in front of anarchists, but apparently they faced some police pressure and were forced to leave the march. Anarchist bloc had black flags, red and black diagonal flags, there were also banners "We do not want a piece from your cake, we want the whole bakery", "Unite, resist" "Freedom to people, death to empires" and "Rights are not given, rights are taken".



**Ufa, Russia**

In Ufa, Autonomous Action and some supporters of the movement organised an illegal March under red and black flags. More than 400 leaflets were distributed, as well as 200 red balloons with red and black stars and text avtonom.org. March went on for more than 3 hours, route was 10 kilometres long all together. After march anarchists went to place where workers of Ufa had organised their first Mayday party in 1905 to commemorate revolutionaries of the past.

**Vladivostok, Russia**

First of May in Vladivostok anarchists and autonomists organised a legalized anti-fascist and anti-authoritarian picket, 3 PM at statue of Lenin in a square next to railway station. Some 20 people joined action, they raised banner "We destroy capitalism, we win fascism" and red and black diagonal flags. Some 7 boneheads showed up in the opposite side of the street, they were met with shouts "fascism won't trespass" and "antifa", soon boneheads decided to move to railway station, one of them attempted to throw picket with a bottle. Traditional anarchist and anti-fascists slogans were chanted. As many people were coming late towards the end number of participators was 40. Organisers considered action as a success, as it proved to

public that anti-fascists exist in Vladivostok and they are not going to be silent.

**Warsaw, Poland**

On May 1 an anarchist demonstration took place in Warsaw. About 200 people came from all the different anarchist groups. The demo went to the Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, to the State Labour Inspectorate, a temp agency and to the pro-business lobbies headquarters.

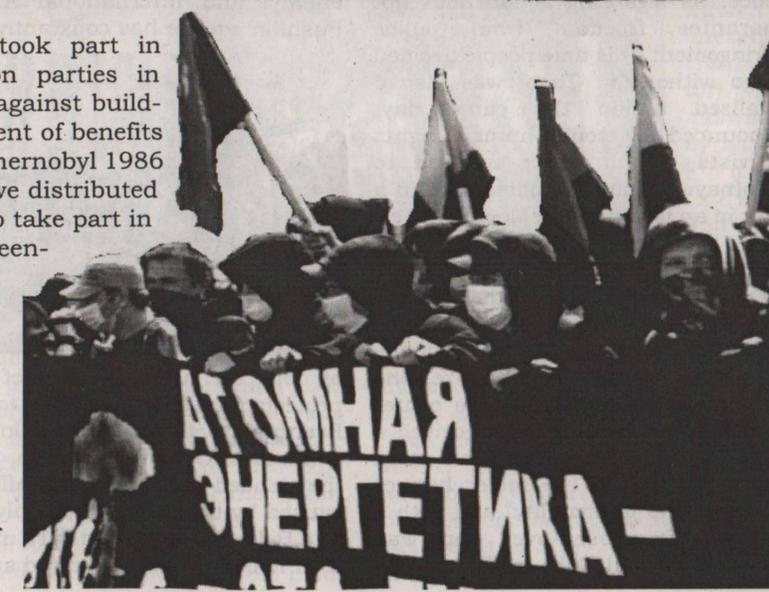
Many topics were raised, including the amendment of the Labour Code, discrimination in the workplace, the topic of casual work, firing of unionists and capitalist brainwashing.

A happening about discrimination in the workplace was organized by anarcho-feminists from A-Fe. Other groups that took part in the demo included the Anarchist Federation, Left Alternative, Workers' Initiative, Union of Syndicalists, "Freedom, Equality and Solidarity" and Green Collective.

A pathetic counterdemonstration was organized by fascists. The night before, a talk organized by "Freedom, Equality and Solidarity" was attacked by fascists who threw some incendiary devices into the meeting place. Nobody was hurt.

*Chernobyl March in Minsk on 26th of April*

About 120 anarchists and antifascists took part in Chernobyl March organized by opposition parties in Minsk on 26th of April in order to protest against building of new nuclear power station, abolishment of benefits for people suffered because of accident in Chernobyl 1986 and for alternative energies. Before March we distributed about 5000 leaflets in order to call people to take part in action. Anarchists with red-black and green-black flags and banners distributed about 500 leaflets explaining "Why do anarchist go against nuclear power stations?" On all the way of march our Black Block continuously chanted antinuclear slogans supported by own samba-band. By that we attracted attention of mass media, opposition parties and plain-clothes cops. When the demonstration came to the end point we decided not to take part in mourning part of action and reached bus stops to go home.





# Facing Repression

## Russia, A Meeting Against Police Brutality in Moscow Ends in Police Brutality

On April 11, there was a meeting in Slavyanskiy square of Moscow, exactly one week after some youth was brutally tortured in Sokolniki police station. Meeting was organized by a spontaneous initiative, but leaflets distributed linked to website of Anarchist Black Cross - ABC Moscow. Action was legal but ended up in chaos. It was well attended, up to 300 participators, but cops let only 200 inside riot fences, announcing that "organizers had requested a permission for merely 200 participators". Tensions immediately raised, and demonstrators surrounded police who were controlling the entrance, shouting among other slogans "Follow your

own laws!", as there is no legal pretext in Russia for police to limit entrance to demonstrations.

Police also did not liked huge "Stop police brutality"-banner, and soon about dozen OMON riot police attacked against people holding the banner, beating them with truncheons and electro-shockers.

What followed was a mini-riot during which some bottles landed to heads of some police. Eventually 25 persons were arrested, as far as we know all of them were released today with misdemeanor charges, with an order to show up in court in Monday, and none of them was tortured in the police station. Although torture in

Sokolniki police station was completely shunned in almost all Russian media, apparently we managed to make so much noise that police made efforts to avoid torture yesterday.



## Actions Against Police Brutality Continue in Moscow and Around the World

On April 18, a demonstration from Pushkin square towards Belarus Railway station blocked Tverskaya street between 7:40 and 20:10 PM in Moscow. This was a continuation of reaction to brutal torture at Sokolniki police station 4th of April legalized action 11th of April finished in a confrontation, provoked by OMON riot police. As legalizing action does not guarantee freedom from police infringement, this time people decided to go without it. There was also a legalized action the same day, announced by some human rights activists, which police ordered to Bolotnaya Square - isolated spot in a park in an island in the Moscow River, where there were no any passers by at 300 meter radius.

Eventually up to 100 mostly old school liberal activists gathered there.

But lack of passers by was not the case with Pushkinskaya square, one of the main hang-arounds the center of Moscow. Police had not received a hint of the alternative plan, and march with huge 10+ meter banner with text "No to brutality" and with a picture of crossed-over cop was unrolled to halt all traffic of the

Tverskaya street to exit direction from Moscow. Some 200 demonstrators lit sea torches and other fireworks and shouted anti-police slogans - Our cops are "protecting us", first they frame us up and then they beat us up!, This is our city!, Get to the streets - reclaim the city!, Antifa!, Raise the black flag higher - state is our main enemy! and international A.C.A.B! Pushkin square has constantly a van



of cops on guard in case of illegal protests, but they were slow to react. Eventually action was also followed by 3 buses of OMON riot police, but as they ended up to huge traffic jam caused by the action, they only made it to Belorussian station 5-10 minutes after marchers had dispersed and dis-

appeared. Good, as blocking a road of federal importance may result felony charges in Russia.

Although not all participators were anarchists, this was definitely among the most significant actions initiated by anti-authoritarian scene in Moscow during the last 20 years. Information agency "RIA-Novosti" was relying solely on police sources, and they announced that "huge traffic jam in the center was due to 20 football hooligans crossing the road". This claim was widely ridiculed in the internet, but published by surprisingly many mainstream sources - apparently these days there is not much free media in Russia left outside internet.

Besides Moscow, last two weeks have seen solidarity actions in Arkhangelsk, Samara, Tyumen and St. Petersburg of Russia and in Helsinki and Kiev abroad. Actions are also planned at least in Paris and Sidney.

## The Struggle Continues!

## Eye-Witness Report of one Victim of the Torturing at Sokolniki Police Station in Moscow on April 4 2008

It was a warm April day, and the first thing I saw when leaving Sokolniki metro station was the clear spring sky. Little did I know that in less than an hour I would be both witness and victim of most cruel torture.

But let us follow the order of the events. Leaving subway, first thing I saw was a group of some aggressive things in Grey costumes, spitting verbal abuse, red from anger, pulling over subcultural youth, pushing them to to their machines. I immediately figured out that this this was an unfounded police aggression going on, and



as I am a socially conscious person, I stepped up for the people in trouble. When I asked for the reason for such a rude behavior towards people, which police was showing without providing any documents, they shouted some extremely crude remarks to me. At that moment I saw that the police were beating a guy with batons, whom I had just seen on a bicycle smiling and talking to a girl. Without hesitation I ran to defend him from the beating.

So I found myself inside a police car, to be taken to the police station of Sokolniki (although right now I think that it would be more appropriate to call it police station of SSokolniki). Immediately I asked the officer currently in guard of the station to make a protocol of my arrest and explain the reason for my arrest, and I was immediately shouted some extreme abuse.

(I want to ask your pardon for the all too frequent use of juristic vocabulary in this text, but that's what our juridicial language is like nowadays, and just as tiny and limited as our rights in this society is also the language for their expression. A shame.)

With a stupid smile on his face, the guard on duty threatened that "ya'll

be about killed now", and especially me as the "most fucked of you all", beg your pardon for one more "juristic term". My handcuffs were so tight, that already at this point my hands were blue and could not move anymore. I asked this thing in a grey form politely to relax them a bit, as a response he started to hit my head to

the wall. "Long tongue will crush your forehead" as the saying goes, but me, an idiot, still thought that torture is not method of 21st century, when we have both TV and advertisement! At this moment, a huge steamed hog rushed in, filling the space with his breath which smelled like rotten dump from a vegetable market, and he began to scream that today he will have some party time!". He was followed by other things from the same pack, and good old violence began - everyone was beaten brutally, but at the same time carefully, in order not to leave any marks. But this was just the beginning...

I was standing with my face to the wall, and hearing a scream from pain,

I turned around. Immediately, I felt a series of hits in my head, accompanied by a shout "what the fuck are you turning, fucker?!", after which I was tripped up and then the Nazis in uniforms went on beating me already lying on the ground, screaming with joy. But what was unbearable, was not the pain from the hits - what was unbearable was to hear the screams of pain of the young kids behind me. But as I wrote already, this was just the beginning.

From amidst the blunt noises of hits I heard no less blunt a voice: "what the fuck are you beating that smartass here, go grab him to that fucking private office, there's more space out there!". So those things took me up and dragged me to their "fucking private office". I raised my head and I saw police in plain clothes, and due to naivety given to me by birth or due to my stupidity I began to speak. That what was going on was a huge mistake, that they are representing the law in this country, and as the representative is behaving,

thus also is the thing they represent. Two pieces of roulade yelled at me that I "should admit that you are the boss!!!". I answered that I did not understand the point in their question and pointed them out statute 51 of the Russian constitution (which



gives the right not to give testimony against oneself - translator). They answered by shouting "EEE!!!" and hit me with another series of strikes.

Then some officers grabbed my pack, and opening it up rowdily they found what? Books! And surprisingly, they could not only figure out that they were of different color, but they were even able to figure out their titles - the first one, according to their words, was written by "bloody kike Schopenhauer", and the second one

by Yuri Fyodorovich Orlov, a dissident and human rights activist, as the ugly creatures figured out scanning through the foreword. To my shame, I had not yet read the second book, but I could feel all of its weight together with the mass of the collected thoughts of Schopenhauer on my very head when the cops were beating me with the books I love. After this procedure, I attempted to explain that books are for knowledge, not for beating people's brain out of their skulls, but those meat machines did not even let me finish as they carried me to the most distant room of this terrarium, and threw me to the floor. I heard the shouts of the people who were beaten in other rooms. I was in a shock. I did not get a chance to raise my head during the beating, and I felt pain due to the fact that I could not stop this insanity. Somewhere in the next room, beating up young punks, these cannibals put on Victor Tsoy's song "Mother anarchy". Some devil in uniform was shouting "You little bitch taste some sweet 1980's!". And suddenly, next to me, I heard the sound of discharging electricity - next to me someone was tortured with electricity.

I was given the first electric shock to my head, with shouts "So antifa, you like little furry animals don't you?". The next shock I got to my back. The sound of discharges and shouts of pain of totally innocent people were filling all the rooms of the Nazi headquarter of the Sokolniki area. I already almost lost my consciousness, when two raised me to my feet laughingly and roaring "hit him to the balls with it" put the electric shock to my groin. The face of the man in grey was so happy - you may not describe it as unhuman happiness as the officers in this police station were nothing like humans. It was something not from this world, but from the very netherworld. He, or rather it, got immediate joy from seeing a man, a complete stranger to him, in extreme pain. I looked into his eyes and lost consciousness.

I heard voices "Boom boom boom" - it was a pack of fascists in a Russian march. "Boom boom boom" - a baton beating the remains of life out of a homeless man. "Boom boom boom" - bombs falling on someone's house. "Boom boom boom".... it is... it is... me gaining my consciousness on the concrete floor, and I understood that the "Boom boom boom" - was the sound of my heart, which is burning and wants to burn my thorax (a few years ago I have been diagnosed with pericarditis due to a wound). I felt



*"I have felt like in Chechen again - when the Russians pacified our village"*

## Poland: Police attack the Refugees Again

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April, at 6 A.M., the police together with the border-guard attacked the refugee centre in Moszna by Pruszkow (not far away from Warsaw). Armed with guns and wearing black masks policemen checked all he rooms. They targeted at people and hit many inhabitants of the centre. One of them, Rustam Tukaszew, who got the refugee status the day

before the ride, he told what exactly, happened on that day: *When they entered my flat I tried to stop them before the door to my son's room but they hit me and brutally pulled me out of the flat. I had to lie on the floor together with many other men and women. We were lying there cuffed for more than one hour. The children were scared, some policemen targeted also*

*at children. One woman wasn't allowed to dress up completely and for her, a Moslem, being seen undressed by men meant a total offence.*

*"I have felt like in Chechen again - when the Russians pacified our village" - said Tukaszew showing the bruises on his back. Many other inhabitants of the centre had similar connotations.*

that my heart would not stand any more discharging electricity, and I figured out that I was having a heart attack, and asked the Nazis to quickly call an ambulance. But instead of this, they kept beating me up, but at this point I had already stopped feeling anything.

I am not afraid of death, but at times I would like to live to see world peace. I am all serious, not joking. So I am here, lying on the floor, not any reaction to hits, and the sadists started to think. They figure out, that at this point they should get rid of me somehow, throw me to some distant skid row in Chertanovo, or to some sewerage hatch or take me to a hospital. But as there were some 50 witnesses of my arrest, these bandits had to send me to a hospital, telling the paramedics that I was "a junkie with an overdose". To my surprise, in the hospital I was not given any help. I was hardly alive, lying on a bench at the waiting room, some yellow-faced nurse was laughing at me and confirmed to me that I am just about to die. I tried to convince people around me, that I had fallen victim to police brutality, but I was just ignored. Eventually I was able to call my mother and she took me home.

My passport and my bag were left at the police station, as well as my Jew's harp which the cops had stomped on. I am not bitter towards this scum - with their behavior they punished themselves, but I believe that it is my duty to stop this horror for good. According to my friends and acquaintances, it was not the first time such things were happening in that rat house. And how many more police stations like that do we have?

The next day my mother went to the chief of the police station of Sokolniki to fetch my passport. After some discussion, he told her: "What are you worrying about - next Monday we'll go to a court, he will be fined for misdemeanor AND HE WILL NOT HAVE ANY MORE PROBLEMS".

I would like to add, that in this state we have a statute number 286 of the penal code ("authorities exceeding their competences, resulting to violent violation of rights and legal interests of citizens"), or don't we? Is it like that, or is two times two five after all?

I am not making any calls for violence or hate, I am just writing down what has happened to me.

## Interview with a Victim of the Abuses at the Station

### What was the reason for your detention? A condition after clearing?

For some years we have tried to create a tradition of weekly meetings of active workers and not indifferent friends for getting to know each other, gathering experience of dialogue at greater assemblies and exchanging information. We called these meetings Black Monday for fun and on a twist of fate. In Moscow a group of unusually dressed people at once causes the unhealthy interest of the militia - there passes the operation "scene/neformal" therefore an occasion for detention arose by reason of the open bottle in the hands of one guy (I shall notice, drinking of beer in a public place is not forbidden here, but quite often cops, using the ignorance of citizens, take money from them). Our comrade showed his knowledge of the law, in reply to what the cops started to apply special tools: electric shokers, cudgels, handcuffs. We wanted to help our friend and we did it.

### How have those events influenced the increase of protest moods?

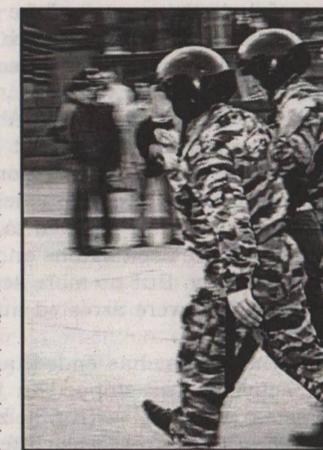
The event has activated and rallied the scene (movement), a campaign against illegal actions of cops is now working, patrols on the streets are being planned to trace legality of actions of militia - by the principle "observe YOUR law".

Besides that other campaigns were started:

1. Campaign against illegal actions of cops - tortures in the police station, illegal checks, etc. - the termination of all of it
2. Campaign against reprisals in relation to informal subcultures (scenes)

In the Russian law on prevention of

extremism the campaign "informal subcultures (neformal)" is declared: employees of militia search subcultural people, take their fingerprints, detain them and make a lists of



potential "extremists". For example, in Moscow the "fans of Tolkien" were detained - the 30 people who have been traditionally meeting on Wednesdays in N e s k u c h n i y Garden for 15 years were taken to the precinct, fingerprinted and photographed, written down and sentenced! The penalty came under the pretence and fictional administrative clause that they had taken them for drinking alcohol.

3. Campaign against reprisals for criticizing authority (social movements and local initiatives)

4. Campaign for a cancelling of the federal law 114 about counteraction to extremism - authorities count everything under the term extremism.

On April, 21st in Izhevsk OMON illegally detained 54 peaceful young men of subcultural background who had gathered for a concert before a club (!)

On April, 27th 70 fans of the football club "Zenith" were illegally detained and delivered to the precinct of Krasnoarmejskogo area, 8 person seem to have been beaten and, having healed their bruises, prepare for judicial claims.

On May, 1st IĪN, employees of militia and plain clothes police unwarrantedly arrested people on celebratory processions: 30 young men who had come peacefully and without the weapon (item 31 ÷. 1 Constitutions of the Russian Federation) on the May Day procession on the Kalugskaja

Area in Moscow, participants of the May Day actions coordinated with the administration in Petrozavodsk, some person on "Monstration" in Novosibirsk

On May, 5th in Moscow 25 persons were detained in a film society directly during a film-screening owing to "check of documents" and "an establishment of persons".

This list of instances of non-observance of basic laws of the Russian Federation (clause 22 and 31 Constitutions of the Russian Federation) by people in the uniform of the Ministry of Internal Affairs is by far incomplete and, unfortunately, keeps growing every day.

### Supposed future actions?

Using media to inform the public about past events and working with different subcultures and societies to inform them, what they should do in case of arrest.

### What do ordinary people think about the police and other government structures? What is the situation with the police like in Russia?

The most popular public opinion is that the meaning of working in the police is to accept bribes. As a matter of fact, it is organized crime, it accepts bribes, controls the drug industry and blackmails business.

### What official version about the pasts events has been given by the police department?

That it is a campaign to discredit police officers.

### How have the pasts actions changed the anarchist movement in Russia and politically swaying young people?

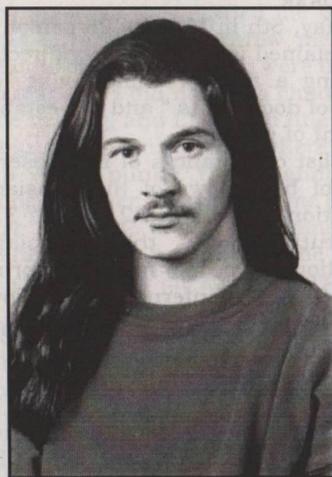
Half of the participants of the action against police brutality were bloggers, members of informal social groups who also get attention from the police. Internet blogs were also part of the campaign, because police outrage concerns everyone.

## Poland: Customs Officers in a Dormitory

Tens of masked men with dogs have entered a dormitory in Lodz, Poland. It was a combined action of the customs officers, border-guard and militia. They have checked IDs of all the foreigners living in the dormitory. Two students, one from Iraq and one from Jordan, have been arrested and five other students have had to pay 50 zlotys-fines because they had denied showing their IDs. Officially the action was aimed against drugs and illegal immigrants. Many students were deeply disgusted after the incident.

## ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS

**POLAND:**  
**TOMEK WILKOSZEWSKI -**  
 antifascist since 12 years  
 imprisoned by the Polish state



It's been over 12 years since Tomek was imprisoned. A year ago we hired a lawyer for him and tried to release him on probation, it didn't work out. In April 2008 there was another attempt to release Tomek on probation, the prison court again refused to release him, saying he is still not critical of the crime he committed. On the other hand, the prison authorities gave him a really good opinion about his behaviour in prison, which

makes this case even more absurd. We are still trying to release Tomek earlier and we are not giving up the fight. Money for legal help are needed, also we need to collect money for Tomek's future.

The struggle for his release still goes on. We still collect money for Tomek to help him in the future.

Please make donations to this bank account:

mBank PL81 1140 2004 0000 3202 3517 7247

Katarzyna Jankowska

BRE Bank S.A. Retail Banking

al. Mickiewicza 10, 90-050 Łódź

BIC/SWIFT BRE Bank: BREXPLPWL

SORT CODE- 11402004

Write: „for Tomek”

There is also a new bank account created, where you can donate money for some products that will be sent to Tomek every month. Please pay the donations here:

87 1090 1506 0000 0000 5001 7923

SWIFT: WBK PP LPP

BANK ZACHODNI WBK SA

RUGOWSKI SŁAWOMIRUL.

NIESIOŁOWSKIEGO 16 C / 3887-100 TORUN,  
 POLAND

You can send letters, fanzines, vege food, tapes, CDs. Write to him (in English preferably) - max. 2 kg.:

Tomasz Wilkoszewski, Zakład Karny ul. Orzechowa  
 5, 98-200 Sieradz, POLAND

### ABC-POZNAN REPORT

The arrest and charges against the participants of the demonstration against U.S. missile base in Poland Slupsk, 29-30 March 2008

#### The Demonstration

On the 29th March a demo against U.S. missile base in Poland took place in Slupsk (northern Poland). (more about the demo: [www.tarcza.org](http://www.tarcza.org) and [www.m29.bzzz.net](http://www.m29.bzzz.net))

Huge police forces were mobilized before the demo. Few days before the demonstration, policemen harassed the demonstration organizers asking about the details of the protest and were trying to intimidate them.

During the demo itself, where from 500 to 800 people took part, the police was not offensive. The police units were not visible, that's why the demonstration was peaceful. At the square where the hyde-park took place, there was a big police car with video cameras.

The atmosphere got more tense when part of the activists (100-200 people) went to the military airport in Redzikowo, next to Slupsk. Above the anti-militarists a helicopter appeared and a lot of civil police cars around them. When the demonstrators finally reached the airport, cops with shields pushed the activists away from the fence. Then they moved to the main gate. The police that was there used batons and dogs to push the demonstrators away. But no more serious disrupts took place. Two activists were arrested and were released after few hours.

After the protest has ended, at round 5.15 p.m., one of the activists was stopped in the center of Slupsk and arrested and fined with 650 zł (around 200 euro). The reason of this arrest was „littering and drinking beer in public”.



There was a tekno party organized as the afterparty of the demonstration in „Keller” pub in the evening. It finished late at night. Two people who took part in the party were later recognized as secret cops. The participants of the party were also photographed by cops in a civil car parked on the other side of the street. The very same car was later seen following a group of 25 people who left the pub and were going to a flat of one of them to sleep. They got there at around 4.30 a.m.

#### Police attack

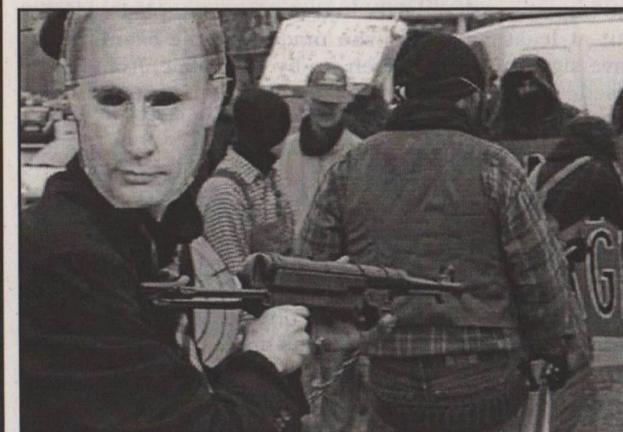
At around 5.40 a.m., cops came to the flat where the 25 people went. They did not agree to let the cops in, because they didn't have any warrant. When the police kept on insisting, the owner of the flat went out to the staircase. During the conversation, he said that one of the cops can enter the flat to see if everything is ok. The cops answered „What the fuck are you talking about? I'm the one who decides what is going on!”. He was moved away from the door, pushed to the floor and handcuffed. The people who were inside the flat, tried to close the

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door, but cops blocked it with a baton. Then they sprayed pepper spray inside and few policemen rushed inside the flat.

This is how one of the people inside described the situation:

„Before 6 a.m. we heard banging at the door, I would like to emphasize that it was not knocking, it was banging the door with a fist. The owner of the flat went to the door and said he can see policemen in the staircase but couldn't tell how many of them. He came back to the room where most of the not sleeping people were and told us what he's just seen. He went out to the staircase, together with a friend who stood in the door. The cops were aggressive and were shouting at them using swearwords. At one point, one policeman knocked the owner of the flat down, the other friend tried to close the door and as asking the others for help. At that point, it actually started to be quite noisy, because the other people's reaction was loud and immediate. We were holding the door asking the cops about the reason of their intervention and asking for showing their IDs. They replied with tons of swearwords („Open the fucking door”, „Shut the fuck up!”, „You're fucked!”). The door was slightly open because one of the cops put a baton in them. We were holding the door for a while and at one point people started to choke, felt throat burning, the cops didn't warn us they'd use pepper spray. The people dispersed. They were choking. I went to the open window to get some fresh air and then I noticed few more cops running to the flat. Policemen ran into the flat. All of us inside sat down. The cops were stamping on people still sleeping in their sleeping bags”.



The policemen inside were really violent, beating people up with batons and pulling people. Most people were still sleeping in the other room. According to their reports, one of the cops ran into that room, probably he wanted to open the window and he fell on of the sleeping people. The other cops were beating with batons and were sitting on people's heads. They were handcuffing people who were still laying on the floor - some of them were later charged with policeman assault (sic!). The people who were handcuffed and were trying to stand up were kicked and pushed and humiliated. If they asked for loosening the handcuffs, then the reply was insulting again.

The cops denied to show their IDs. They also didn't say what the reason of the violent action was. In the beginning they said that the intervention happened due to

„using intoxicating substances”. Then the „policeman assault” version appeared. The arrested people heard the cops' conversation when one of them asked the other „Why we were actually there?” and the answer was „The authorities”.



The official version with the reasons of the arrest was presented later by the police spokesman. According to his words, the reason of the intervention was „violation of the night calm”, that was disrupting the neighbours. It is hard to say whether any of the neighbours were actually disrupted with the loud behaviour of the activists. The fact, that all of them support, is that most of the people inside were sleeping during the police intervention. First of all, it supports the version that it could have been too loud; second of all, it is really weird why all of the people inside got the fines for violating the „night calm”. It is also known that there was no audio equipment inside because the flat was emptied out before being rented out.

So far, only the spokesman's words support the version that it was an intervention called by somebody. The cops perfectly knew where the people from the pub went, because, as mentioned before, they were followed. The block of flats, where they stayed is at the so-called police neighbourhood. In that particular block of flats at least 5 former or still working policemen live. The person who called the police for intervention (according to the police version) was a retired police officer. So the excuse for the intervention was not hard to get.

All of the detained people unequivocally say that there were several police cars taking part in the action from the very beginning, including policemen from prevention unit in bullet proof vests. Is that a standard procedure after the night calm violation?

#### At the police station

During the intervention, the activists called an ambulance. One man after being beaten up by the cops was driven to the hospital, because there was a suspicion of a broken arm (it finally turned out that his arm was „only” heavily contused with a police stick). The other people (23 of them) were driven to the central Slupsk police station. There, all of them were examined for alcohol (in spite of the fact the cop spokesman said most of them were drunk, most of them were actually sober what confused the other cops) and were put in cells. They spent there from several up to 30 hours.

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During their stay there, most of their rights were broken, including:

- for 12 hours, nobody was informed about the reason of the intervention, the detention protocol was filled after that time
- the arrested people were not interviewed about the state of their health, they were not asked if they need medical help, even though some of them were beaten up by cops
- in spite of constant asking, they were denied to contact a lawyer or to inform their families about the arrest
- for dozen or so hours they were denied food or drink
- some of the detained people didn't get mattresses for the beds
- in some cells the temperature was below 10 cent degrees because the windows were open (one person after being released was ill of bronchitis)
- the arrested people were insulted, humiliated, harassed, mentally tortured



Also at the police station, cops used physical violence, as one of the arrested people describes:

*„At the police station I was denied to contact my family. I was not allowed to make a phonecall, we were not informed about the possibility of making one phonecall. When one of our friends took his cellphone out, one of the cops jumped at him and twisted his head, even though he was handcuffed. I was sitting next to him and I was hit with a police boot”.*

## Interrogations

As mentioned before, the detained people were interrogated dozen or so hours after being arrested, the detention protocols were also filled at that time (those procedures should legally take place immediately after the actual arrest). The arrested people were asked about the details of the anti-US shield demonstration, about the clothes they were wearing at the demo etc. What is more, one of the arrested activists from Poznan saw documents including all data about identity control made during other demonstrations. She was also asked about her participation in the demonstration against the European Economic Forum in 2004 (sic!). One of the activists was also asked if he took part in the demo against George

Bush's visit in Poland last year. Those are distinct evidences that the action was planned earlier and also that the cops are illegally collecting the data about the social-political movement activists.

The policemen didn't want to minute the testimonies where the activists were complaining about the violent police behavior. The cops were trying to force some people to sign testimonies that they didn't make. The people who denied to testify, were told that they have to do it because they are not testifying as the accused, but as witnesses. Apart from that, classical methods of manipulation and lies were used: „you don't have to say anything, your friend already told us everything”, „if you don't sign it, you will stay here longer”. They were discouraged to make complaints about the arrest to the court, claiming that the procedures take a long time and they will have to wait for court's answer in the detention. Part of the less experienced activists unfortunately succumbed the manipulations and they signed the fines for night calm violation even though they claim nothing like that has happened. The perspective of more hours in the cold cell was quite scary.

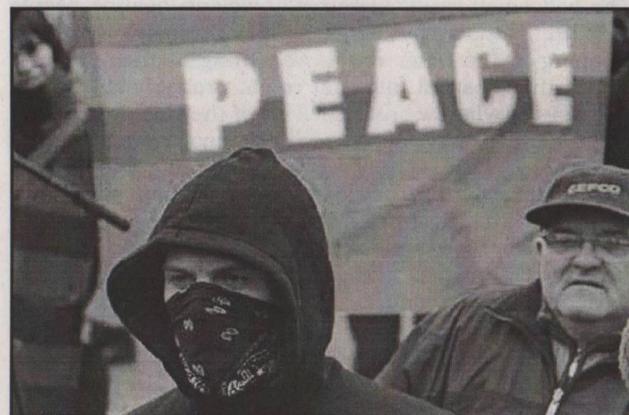
## The effects of the brutal intervention

8 people were charged with policeman assault and insult, they can get up to 3 years of imprisonment for that. All of them also got police supervision, they are not allowed to leave the country and have to pay a bail of 300-500 zlotys (100-150 euro).

The other 15 people got fines for violating the night calm. None of the policemen, who are said to be attacked by the „aggressive” activists had even a crumpled uniform. But at least 3 people (who made forensic examination) have signs of being beaten up by the police, from a contused elbow to a lot of bruises, abrasions which appeared because of being hit with police sticks, kicks and tight handcuffs.

## Conclusions

Taking the mentioned facts into consideration, we can simply and with no doubts claim that the action of the police in Slupsk was definitely connected with the demonstration that happened on the 29th of March. It can be also suspected that it was made because of strictly political reasons and the aim of it was the criminalization of the participants of the „anti-shield” demonstration.



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## Slupsk - a police city?

We can also take a look at the other context of the situation. Slupsk has a reputation as a police-influenced city. There's a police academy there, quite a big number of the city inhabitants are somehow connected with police structures (family, friends, business contacts). It was exactly in Slupsk, where some really odd examples of „hiding” the violent police behavior took place before. For example, in May 2005 one local newspaper wrote about a municipal police officer who was charged with murder, and the local prosecutor used only police supervision to control him. In 2004, the Slupsk police was really scrupulous with the action against the participants of the demonstration against the European Economic Forum in Warsaw. One local journalist was harassed with telephones and followed, because the cops claimed he was an anti-globalist activist. We should also mention the most famous „achievement” of the Slupsk police: killing a 13-year old boy in 1998 by a police officer Dariusz Wozniak. As it later turned out, there were a lot of complaints about the policeman, because he was said to be very violent. All of them were either hidden or dismissed. The legendary solidarity of the Slupsk cops was still working after those facts came out to daylight. The Trade Union of Police Officers paid 5,000 zlotys bail (around 1,500 euro), and only after 8 years of imprisonment he was released on parole. Today, he lives in Slupsk and gets a police pension. Exactly because of this „solidarity” of cops tragedies like this take place. That is why the case of the attack, beating and false charges against the anti-militarist activists should be seriously treated not only by anarchist of anti-militarist organizations.

The report was made on the basis of the arrested activists testimonies, media coverage and our own observations.

Anarchist Black Cross Poznan

The arrested activists still need your support, also financial. We are collecting money for the legal help, the court cases should start within few months. If you want to donate some money, here's the bank account:

**mBank PL81 1140 2004 0000 3202 3517 7247**  
**Katarzyna Jankowska**  
**BRE Bank S.A. Retail Banking**  
**al. Mickiewicza 10, 90-050 Lodz**  
**BIC/SWIFT: BRE Bank: BREXPLPWSORT**  
**CODE- 11402004, Write "for Slupsk"**

## POLAND: ACTION AGAINST POLICE BRUTALITY IN LODZ

About 80 people took part in a protest against police brutality in Lodz on April 26. The protest was organized by the local group of the Anarchist Federation. The demonstrators wanted to call attention to the problem of police violence and abuse of power by the police with the aim of controlling people and repressing social move-

ments. Speakers told about different instances of police abuse and violation of the law. One example was how police raided a flat in Slupsk after a demonstration at about 6 AM, beating people and using tear gas. Even people who were sleeping were arrested. Although police are supposed to tell people why they are being arrested, the victims were not told the charges until they had already been in detention more than 12 hours. Activists also spoke about a new wave of repression against foreigners, mentioning the recent raids on a dormitory for foreign students in Lodz and refugee centers near Warsaw. In the latter case, many people were beaten or roughed up for no reason. The situation with prisoners was also presented. Recently a scandal broke when one Romanian guy, who was most probably innocent, was left to die by prison authorities. Since then, some more cases of such abuse have been exposed. Activists spoke about the deplorable conditions in prison and the fact that people are often held in remand prisons even for years before coming to trial. While the police were heavily guarding this very peaceful demo, demonstrators pointed out to passers-by how the police film demonstrators and otherwise harass them for no reason. The city administration forbid the anarchists from having a moving demonstration and even invented some non-existing conditions to prevent it. The anarchists spoke a bit about the role of police in society and handed out leaflets explaining, among other things, what rights people have in relation to the police. After about an hour, people were served a nice vegan meal made by Food Not Bombs.

## OUTRAGEOUS CASE OF ROMANIAN WHO DIED AFTER PRISON HUNGER STRIKE

Claudiu Curlic was arrested in Sept. 2007 in Krakow. He was falsely accused of stealing a wallet. The theft has occurred a few months earlier but police had a description of the thief; the pickpocket's victim turned out to



be a judge. The problem is that Claudiu, a Romanian citizen who's family is in Italy and girlfriend in Krakow, wasn't anywhere near Krakow on the date of

the theft. He was on a bus on his way to Italy. Curlic told the police that he couldn't have been the thief since he was on the bus. He gave details of the bus company's name. The police contacted the company and asked if it was true that he got on the bus to Italy the day

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Facing Repression

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before the crime. The bus company answered YES. Despite this, Curlic was held in jail.

Curlic demanded that the police get a copy of the ticket and attach it to his case file. When they didn't, he went on hunger strike. He died on Jan. 18, FOUR MONTHS INTO THE STRIKE.

It seems quite outrageous, but the authorities must have been trying to cover the whole thing up. It is not clear how the information got out, but last week the press got hold of the story. This week, the weekly paper Tygodnik Powszechny published the findings of their investigation. They talked to the prison doctor and people at the bus company.

As it turns out, after the bus company answered the police inquiry, there was no follow-up questions or visit to them. Surely they had no way of imagining what situation Claudiu was in. The weekly paper spoke to the woman who was working on the bus that day. She normally worked on the bus to Italy and says that she remembered Claudiu as having travelled numerous times on that route. The names of the passengers are on the tickets and the bus company circles the names of the passengers when they get on - and they had the list. The woman remembered seeing him and even remembered he was the only passenger from Krakow that night. By the look of it, he was most likely on the bus, far away from Poland when the incident occurred.

What's worse is that the prison authorities apparently didn't care that the guy was on a hunger strike! Four months is an extremely long time to be on a strike. He was brought into the prison doctor, not one month, not two months into the strike, but ONE WEEK before he died. But even then, the doctor was not allowed by the authorities to transfer him into a hospital. It looks like the authorities intended to see the guy die - but in the end, didn't want to have any investigation, so they let him out and brought him to the hospital just right before he died. By that time he was already way beyond saying. Amazingly, the prison authorities claimed that it was his own choice to die.

## ST. PETERSBURG: THE TRIAL AGAINST ANTIFASCISTS IS FINISHED!

On the 8th of May 2008 the Leninskiy district court sentenced 6 antifascists who took part in attacking the meeting organised by the Movement Against Illegal Immigration (DPNI) on Pionerskaya square in St. Petersburg in September 2006.

The antifascists were accused of hooliganism (article 213, part 2 of Russian criminal code). The main person accused, for whom the prosecutor demanded 6 years(!) of prison sentence, and 2 of his comrades got 1 year of suspended sentence each. 2 other accused got 6 months of suspended sentence and the sixth was sentenced to 6 months of public works (also suspended).

The picket on the 17th of September 2006 was devoted to the events in Kondopoga town in Karelia in which the DPNI took active part in escalating an ethnic conflict. After that, a criminal case against DPNI leader A. Potkin (Below) was started - the authorities accused him of incit-

ing national hatred. DPNI is one of the largest nationalist organisations in Russia. They pretend to be a respectable civil movement using only constitutional methods of political struggle, but in fact the DPNI often promotes xenophobic views and intolerance. The DPNI is also known for its connections to criminal neonazi groups which are responsible for murders of foreigners and of Timur Kacharava, an antifascist student of Petersburg State University.

Antifascists decided to oppose the nazis, they were not going to tolerate nazis who rage on the streets of Petersburg and spread their ideas. Notwithstanding what the nazis and the press claimed, the attackers didn't use knives, they were not going to kill or seriously injure anybody. At the same time, it turned out that the 'peaceful' nationalists at the meeting had knives and even a cleaver which they used to defend themselves. The aim of the attack was to disrupt the meeting, to disperse the nationalists - and that aim was reached.

We are sure that it is impossible to stop neonazis by nonviolent methods only at times when hundreds of people become their victims. At the same time we realize that opposing nazis needs not only violence as a response, but also articles in the press unmasking their lies, educational programs, graffiti, peaceful street actions, etc. All the history of the antifascist movement shows that it can be successful only when it uses different tactics of resistance, including outright physical confrontation.

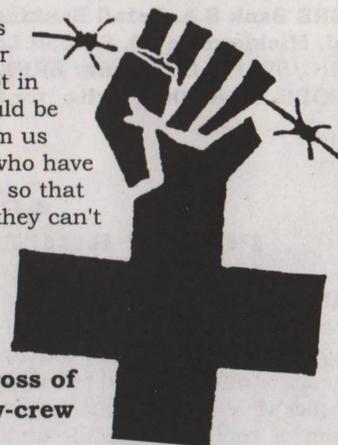
Antifascist information group  
e-mail: antifa\_spb@riseup.net  
mobile: +7 981 7452556

## RUSSIA: ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS MOSCOW CREW IS MAKING A BENEFIT COMPILATION

Proceedings of which will go to help political prisoners. If you have a song against prisons, their system, repressions and so on then you can send it to us in .wav format to the following address: abc.msc@gmail.com. We also need the text and its translation to Russian (or English) if the song is not in Russian. Besides we would be very grateful if you inform us about other performers who have songs of similar subjects so that we could contact them if they can't read this message.

Thanks for your support and solidarity!

Anarchist Black Cross of Moscow-crew



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## Anti-Militarism



Following document was written on the last day of the confrontation between the anarchists and the Romanian state in Bucharest during the NATO-summit there. It is important to stress the fact that it was written together by some Romanians as well as some international anarchists (AbolishingBB)

## Communique from Bucharest

### The Common Voice of the Anarchists and Anti-Militarists who gathered in Bucharest in April 2008 to Protest against the NATO Summit

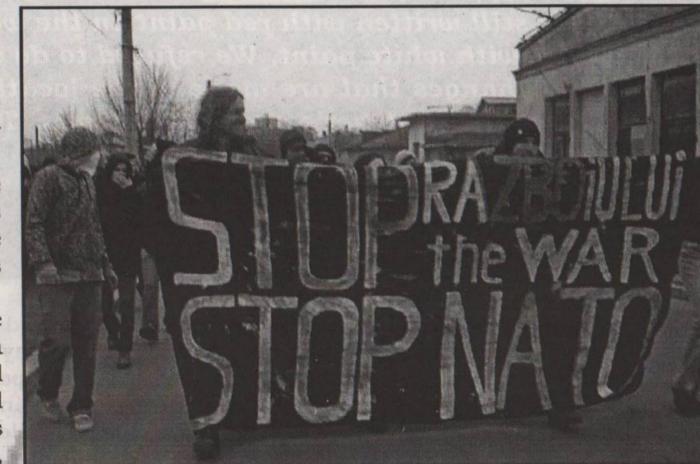
As long as there are wars, as well as systems and organizations that support militarization, murder, and profit-making from conflicts, there will always be movements protesting against them. Nowadays NATO is the most influential military alliance in the world. That's why wherever the NATO summit takes place there will be people resisting it. Bucharest is not an exception.

In spite of the intoxication by media and governmental repressions which had already started months before the summit, hundreds of anti-militarists both, Romanian and international, gathered in the capital city, Bucharest.

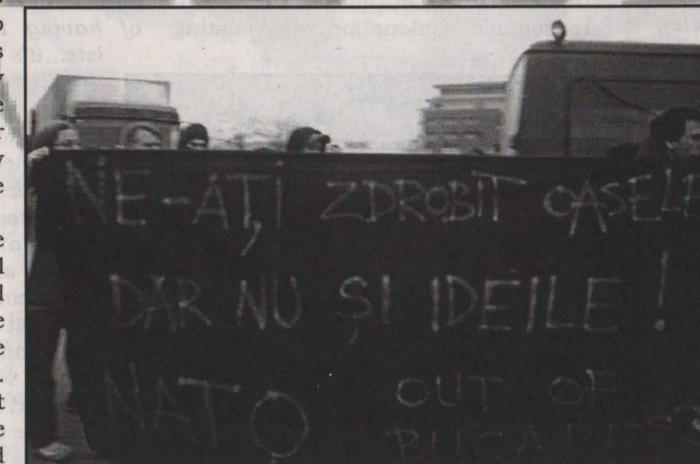
The mainstream media bombarded the Romanian people with an image of the anti-militarists as careless terrorists, hooligans and enemies of the common people, who were only coming to destroy the city. This was all absurd and obviously fabricated as most of the massmedia have never bothered to get any information from the protestants' side.

Months before the summit the local authorities also tried their best to intimidate anyone who might take part in the protests. People from different parts of Romania were being watched, received phone calls and visits from various law authorities. This is already a common practice so the authorities have recently intensified

the repression to an extreme grade. At the same time people from other countries were being repressed when



gendarmerie (the military police) brutally stormed the space that activists were using as an accommodation, gathering and events' place. This legally rented place was raided without any warning. The aggression had no legal backing. The gendarmerie behaved brutally, both physically (kicking, hitting and using gas) and mentally (shouting homophobic, xenophobic and racist insults). Most of the people were hit and a few of them got injured. This was a desperate, but unsuccessful attempt on behalf of the Romanian state to stop the protest activities.



What happened after this incident was a combination of the movement's and the mainstream media's reactions. The anti-militarists who remained free together with several human rights organizations and lawyers initiated some spontaneous anti-repression marches and pickets in front of the police stations. In many countries solidarity actions took place, like demonstrations in front of Romanian embassies. Facing this kind of reaction, the Romanian state was forced to weaken their stance. Ten hours later all activists were been released and the activists' space was reclaimed. Even if the full trust in the massmedia wasn't restored, it was clear that at that moment they took a serious step towards presenting the real intentions

of the international anti-militarism movement.

It is important to underline the fact that the actions and protests in Bucharest had both local and international participants, as militarism is not only a local problem. This movement has no masters or leaders, so no single person or group can be blamed or take credit for organizing the protests. In particular, it is important to emphasize that the attention of the international movement will focus on the developments in Romania after the summit. The Romanian authorities should know that any further

attempts of repression against Romanian anti-militarists won't be left without any strong reaction from the international community. Solidarity has grown because of our experience in Bucharest.

To conclude, despite the massive repression, anti-militarists have managed to conduct a number of public events and have recognized that many inhabitants of Bucharest sympathize with anti-militarist ideas - they were greeting us at every step. For us this is a clear sign that there is no consensus within the Romanian society on topics like NATO, militarism or even the state

interventions in social relations. In fact many people have negative or at least critical attitude towards it. One could ask: if so many Romanian people are critical, why didn't they go on the streets to express their opinions? The answer is clear: The state created an atmosphere of fear and terror which reminded the Romanian citizens of the times before December 1989.

In Bucharest we have shown that no matter how restrictive the repressions are, it will never stop our resistance.

### They can break our bones, but not our ideas! Anti-military protests will continue!

**"SOLIDARITY IS A WEAPON" is still written with red paint on the walls of the hall. The owner asked us to cover it with white paint. We refused to do it. In the rental contract it's written that any changes that are made to the location will become the property of the owner after the contract's availability ends. This is our present for him and for those that will follow"**

## Democracy by the Fist

### ACT 1

"A democracy which makes or even effectively prepares for modern, scientific war must necessarily cease to be democratic. No country can be really well prepared for modern war unless it is governed by a tyrant, at the head of a highly trained and perfectly obedient bureaucracy."

Aldous Huxley

About 2 weeks before Bucharest was supposed to host the NATO summit, clouds of chaos started to cover the capital of Romania. The mass media was publishing loads of articles announcing that the anarchists will come to Bucharest in order to threaten the national security, but at the same time announcing that they are prepared to intervene by force for stopping any attempt of NATO criticism. Young activists' names were made public as a measure of intimidation. It was the rise of the repression...



On the 20<sup>th</sup> of March 6 germans were stopped at the border, kept in

the custody of the border police and secret services for 14 hours, denied access into Romania. The only reason for their refusal to enter the country was the possession of anti-war info material. According to the border police: "in their vans we found anti-NATO and anti-violence leaflets". Would they have been allowed to enter the country if they had "pro-violence leaflets"? The german consulate couldn't manage to intervene in any way. Different human right organizations signed a petition asking the Romanian authorities to give a reasonable explanation for violating

ignored and is still pending. During the next days a lot of foreigners were being stopped by the Romanian border police and turned back.

Meanwhile the University of Bucharest organized a public debate on which some Romanian NATO representatives were invited. They basically refused to answer most of the questions that were addressed to them by the public, invoking the confidentiality of information. At the same time, they managed to raise the general discontent by making allegations like "Islam is dangerous because of having too many fundamentalists...it's somehow in their nature to adhere to fundamentalism". The spirits were calmed down by the former dean of the university that intervened by saying: "Because we are teaching sociology here, we can't accept such radical statements and generalizations". The guests' answer was "You stick to your opinion and I stick to mine". For most of the students it was the first time when they realized how and by whom NATO is being represented in Romania. Just one day after the debate, Romanians found out that their contribution to NATO is 700 euros/citizen.

Since the beginning of February the citizens of Bucharest were informed that they will have 3 days off

the right of free movement for the European citizens. The request was

from work or school and were encouraged to leave the city during the summit. The municipality started to clean the streets, plant trees and flowers and block sectors of the main roads. The public opinion's response was "If they send us on holiday, they should also give us the money for this" or "It's nice that they are cleaning the city and planting flowers for Bush's arrival. He will see an artificial environment created just for his short visit without understanding anything about this country. Hopefully he won't stick too much in Romania and we will have the entire spring to enjoy the flowers and trees."

A few days before the summit, a 20 years old student was run over by a car because of the police's intervention in controlling the traffic for the prime minister's convoy. The police officers did not give her first aid and left her lying on the street while continuing to monitor the traffic. Because of the blocked roads the ambulance arrived too late and the young girl died. The humanity of the police officers was not questioned and the case was qualified as an accident. No one was declared responsible. A lot of citizens from Bucharest accused the Romanian authorities for creating chaos on the streets and for endangering the security of the people. In response the authorities announced that during the summit no one is allowed to carry any objects bigger than a 2 liter plastic bottle on the streets in the proximity of the "Zero zone" and that the people living in this area should not make any sudden moves inside their apartments or go out on the balcony because they might confuse the snipers and a "collateral damage" might take place. The "zero zone" included some of the most populated public spaces (squares, roads, bus stops, etc.) in Bucharest.

### ACT 2

## The Second Wave of Repression

"Democracy don't rule the world, You'd better get that in your head; This world is ruled by violence, But I guess that's better left unsaid"

Bob Dylan

Just 2 days before the NATO summit, about 60 romanian, german, canadian, swiss, czech, polish and

spanish activists were preparing a series of workshops, film screenings and discussions in a hall that they rented with the purpose of organizing public cultural events that would offer an alternative-critical view over the existence, mission and expansion of NATO.

The police were arbitrarily picking them up from the street and kept them in custody for investigations for 5-7 hours. The people got used to this abuse that was always invoked in the name of national security and 'legitimate' suspicion. None of them was accused of anything and after being identified, interrogated and carefully searched they were being released. People that were spreading flyers announcing the events that were about to take place were also kept in custody by the police for 6 hours, together with the journalist that was accompanying them.

Meanwhile, similar incidents were taking place in different parts of Bucharest, where people were spending half a day in the police station for having a book signed by a Romanian artist which showed a satellite image of Bucharest, having a suspicious bag, wearing a t-shirt on which it was written "No nato - No war", having a suspicious CD case, waiting for someone that did not come, etc. Lots of others were kept in police custody without being given any stupid reasons at all.

The freedom of the individual was being threatened by the authorities' abuse on the street as well as in their own apartments by invoking national security measures as well as the law according to which they are allowed to detain any person for 24 hours without giving any reasons for it.

Despite the public discontent with the situation, nothing had changed. Hearing that one of your friends is in the custody of the police started to sound as normal as drinking a glass of water is. No motivations, no accusations, no nothing. Just pure abuse in the name of the national security. Some of the people were set free from the police custody when they started calling the greedy tabloids. Still, with or without mass-media...people were

continuously being picked up from the streets and investigated.

One day before the summit the alternative space for workshops and discussions was made public through the flyers that some people managed to spread before being taken by the police, as well as on some internet pages (e.g.: romania.indymedia) and in a mainstream newspaper. Everyone was invited to attend the activities that some people prepared and announced.

"It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen".

George Orwell, "1984", first sentence

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April during the morning meeting in the public hall, a few policemen came to inspect the place. They announced the people there that the owner of the place called the police because of being aggressed by 4 people that might be in



the room. Meanwhile other people that came to the place were denied access inside. No one understood anything as the charges seemed to be coming from nowhere.

None of the people from inside or outside abused the owner and he did not bother to come looking for the potential aggressor. The situation was confusing for all those present and it soon became dramatic when tens of riot police or anti-terrorist assault teams came running from around the corner and started shouting, pushing people that were outside, while others were running inside the courtyard. They brutally pushed people from near the courtyard entrance and immobilized a few others that were close to the door.

I was one of the few that were on the outside of the fence and were denied access inside. We tried calling our friends from inside and we heard screams and shouts. No one knew what was happening...but by looking at the riot police equipped with bullet-proof armour, truncheons, helmets, masks and even Kalashnikov weapons we started fearing for what was about to happen.

After a few minutes we could not

contact anyone from inside. We were kept on the opposite sidewalk by tens of police officers, while from near the door the secret services were filming us. After an hour the first riot police truck came out the gate while tens of voices from outside were shouting "Libertate!" (freedom). We did not know if our friends were in there, but later they said that the only good thing for them was hearing us.

After 3 of these trucks left the courtyard, a friend called saying they were at police station 11. He said that he was ok, but that they had beaten them up and that some were in a quite critical condition. The conversation was interrupted. We couldn't contact each other again. Later we found out that they were not allowed to talk on the phone.

The riot police entered the room and put them with the face to the ground. They sprayed pepper gas inside and tied the people with plastic handcuffs. Some of them asked to loose the ties and the response that the 'law's protectors' gave was in the form of boots, fits and truncheons in the heads and backs of the people.

"I was with the face down on the ground, having to breathe the dust of the floor mixed with pepper gas. I just heard screams of pain from my friends, but I could not move to see who is being beaten up. It was horrible. I thought that they would kill us."

One of our friends verbally riposted to the aggression and he was brutally beaten up with everything that the riot police found at hand.

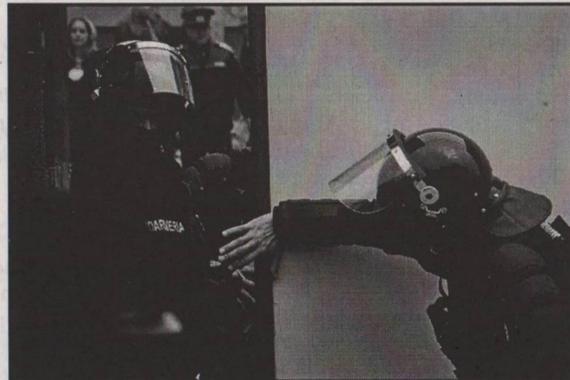
After that they were taken out from the room and pushed in the big trucks. A girl broke her leg when being pushed inside.

"While being taken to the police station they threatened that if we say a word they would kill us and throw us out of the window. They threatened us all the way. We couldn't move at all and we could not react in any way when hearing you shouting <libertate>. But it was the first time when I felt that there is still hope for something".

After a few hours since it all started we decided to go to police station 11 where some of our friends were. Others were in different police stations, but no one knew in which ones. We were about 50 people together with the media. After leaving the place, they arrested 4 other friends of ours that were behind and were not on sight.

When arriving at the police station we were not allowed to get in the courtyard, but after peacefully forcing

the gate we found ourselves in front of a few riot police that did not let us get inside the building. We waited outside for our friends to be released. Meanwhile we improvised some banners on which it said "is this how democracy looks like?", "we want an answer!!!", "free them!!!", "freedom of speech", "the police and the military are against the people". The same slo-



gans were being shouted so that the ones inside could hear that they are not alone. Someone was playing the guitar...

More than an hour later, six of them were released. They said that around 10 others were inside, but meanwhile we found out that our friend that was in almost critical condition because of the police brutality was at Police station no 12. We all decided to leave this station and move to the other one in order to see if he was provided with medical assistance. We took the banners with us and the media followed.

Once we got there we found 3 other friends that had been released and were under shock. One of the girls had almost bleeding wounds from the handcuffs. The boy that had been beaten up was still inside together with other 8 people and they did not provide him with any medical assistance. Scandals arouse and people were shouting at the policemen to call an ambulance, to release him and take him to a hospital. The police's answer was: "we don't consider that he needs medical care and he did not ask for it!". After 2-3 hours when the people, a lawyer, the media and a few Human Rights NGO representatives put pressure on the police to release the people...we saw them coming out one by one. Our friend was disfigured...almost impossible to recognize him. He said that he asked for medical assistance, but did not receive. He was released 8 hours after being beaten up. After hugging him I felt the pepper spray on my face...7 hours after they put it into his.

While waiting for them to be released, other friends came from

police stations 11 and 23. They had also been released and came to join all the others, until all would be freed.

Section 10 was our last stop. When we got there we found out that only one person was still inside and that he was identified as being the aggressor of the hall's owner. Shortly after the lawyer intervened he was also released.

None of the 50 people that were beaten up and detained by the police did receive any charges. The final declaration of the police was that the intervention was dictated by the fact that the owner was aggressed, but none of the people they detained and abused seemed to be the aggressor.

The conclusion of the day was that people were asked to believe that over 100 police and riot police officers were forced to intervene brutally when the owner of a hall called saying

that 4 people pushed him in a street altercation. Still none of the ones that were taken from that space, beaten up, verbally aggressed, threatened to be killed, and kept in the police stations without any food or water for 8-10 hours was proved guilty of anything. Who's going to answer for this brutality??? Who ordered this masked gorillas to beat up people for no reason??? And why???

After all were released we started our trip to the factory hall for a short discussion and a good sleep. It was already the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April...and everyone was hungry and tired. While marching towards the place, a Romanian and Nato flag fell on us from the top of an electricity pillar. We on it and laughed. Everyone was exhausted, but at least everybody was free! Everything needed to be reorganized and reconsidered.

The totalitarian regime showed its ugly face again. The public opinion was horrified by the incident, saying that in 1989 people died for democracy...but as we all see, nothing had changed.

"People died for nothing...and we are all living a big lie", someone said.

Our state is ruled by stupidity and incompetence, with the support of the misinforming corrupt media, and the gorilla arm of the masked robots trained to respect orders coming from their masters of puppets.

*It's all true. It's all real. Nothing here is fake. Nothing you see on this show is fake. It's merely controlled.*

**Truman Show**

Dear government...with all your ministeries and masked servants, with all your secret services and media support...with all your lies and manipulative set-ups...You will not defeat the people. You terrorize them, abuse them, misinforme them, threaten them, reduce them to the limit of physical and psychological survival...using their money to establish and maintain these structures of terror... We have too many questions for which we never receive any answers!!! And we continue to be forced to become part of things that we would like to fight against...while people die and wars are being perpetrated all over the world in our name and with our money!!!!!!!!!!!!!! What happened to the freedom that we thought we have??? We clearly see that it was all just a big illusion.

*You never had a camera in my head*

**Truman Show**

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of march the Romanian president and the prime minister had a meeting on which they decided that all the Romanian telecommunication companies should allow the intelligence services to use their infrastructure in order to see/listen to the phone conversations of all their clients.

A few days before and after the incident our mobile phones were not functioning properly. We heard different voices and our conversations were being jammed or interrupted. We knew that our conversations were being intercepted, but having nothing to hide we did not panic. It was just very annoying to know that you are being listened to non-stop.

At the same time we were being followed everywhere by the secret police. One day I was going home with a friend and we counted 7 people that were following us around the city. We asked them why they were doing it and they said "Everyone has to make a living for himself...you make yours, I make mine." Nothing more...nothing less. They were breathing in our backs for a week and the only thing that we did not understand was why they were so many after just a few people that did not do any direct action that would raise their suspicion. They were not trying to hide and what seemed to be a joke at first, had soon transformed into a saga of terror and intimidation.

Every night we had secret service civilians and cars escorting us everywhere we went, while our phones were

hardly functioning. We had 18 years old kids that were infiltrated in order not to create suspicion by reason of age or looks. At the same time we found out that someone we called "friend" for almost a year, was most probably an informer for the intelligence services. A few days after the summit ended we confronted him, but he denied everything. The evidence that we have against him is indisputable.

Until I'd seen all that, I couldn't have imagined how the intelligence services operate. How stupid or how intelligent they are. I still don't know which one is right? Their intimidation functioned to some point, because after getting used to it, we even allowed their undercover informers to attend our meetings, discussions and actions.

In the end...they lost their time... While Bucharest has probably the biggest amount of homeless people in Europe, the Romanian authorities invest huge sums in paying the wages of masked riot brigades that beat off young people and in paying the intelligence services that send loads of officers to escort youngsters on their daily routes.



*"Seeing how vigilant and efficient the secret/intelligence services operated, they will not have any further excuse for letting the big gangsters escape through the labyrinth of justice. Or maybe this is just how they operate...they beat off innocent people while the others are being left alone and protected by the corrupt arms of 'justice'. And for the stupidity and lack of professionalism that characterize them...they are being paid from the taxes of those that they are hired to abuse. It is almost unbelievable!"* a man on the street declared, when being interviewed by a journalist.

*"Human history begins with man's act of disobedience which is at the very same time the beginning of his freedom and development of his reason."*

**Erich Fromm**

A lot of people realized that democracy and freedom are just abstract concepts without meaning. The NATO, an alliance that is supposed to safeguard our countries, created chaos and messed up our lives. It has been doing so for years, long before Romania officially joined the team. Our leaders kiss the stinky asses of all possible alliances and unions without offering any impartial, not to say critical, view on this. And when 50 people gather to organize a critical discussion, they are beaten up, detained, accused of terrorism, terrorized, threatened and followed in order to be put to silence! But it is not so easy, because even if in this life we have a lot of things that we lose everyday...our freedom of mind and consciousness as well as our ideas will not be abolished by the totalitarian fist of this so called "democracy".

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April, a first NGO pressed charges on the Romanian police and anti terrorist assault teams (riot police) for making use of unjustified brutality against people that had peaceful behaviors and intentions. All those detained by the police will write and sign a declaration describing the abuse that they had gone through. 10 out of 50 people that were detained pressed charges against the police on grounds of unjustified use of physical and verbal violence, and the other 40 people are their witnesses.

2 different events took place...one march for escorting the wounded people to the hospital for taking medical certification of the abuse and a protest in front of the Czech embassy for accepting to have an anti-missile shield on its territory. Both actions were made by the same people that risked to be beaten up again. Fortunately it did not happen...

On a big black banner it was written in red letters "You can break our bones, but you will not destroy our ideas."

*"The only way to comprehend what mathematicians mean by Infinity is to contemplate the extent of human stupidity."*

**Voltaire**

Few days after the incident the Romanian riot police made its official statement admitting that they had beaten up some people that wanted to fight with them and that their brutal actions were coordinated as a self defense measure.

The public opinion's voice accused them of lying and made fun of them by saying that no sane person would

Anti-Militarism

attack a masked giant riot police when they are pointing a Kalashnikov to his face after previously putting pepper gas in his eyes.

Their second statement said that the people were self-chastising in front of their eyes by beating their heads on the walls and beating their fists in their faces themselves. The media mockery was even funnier when a journalist asked the riot police to tell him how come they did not intervene in order to stop the people from torturing themselves. At the same time, they asked to see the video footage from the intervention that the riot police are suppose to have according to the law. "This time we did not film anything" their spokesmen said.

The conclusion is that when they will be asked to come to court and justify the abuse they've made there would probably be no evidence to support their false statements, while the people that pressed charges will present a series of declarations, pictures, medical certificates and a list of articles from the Romanian Constitution

that the authorities have deliberately violated.

Some NGO's have already pressed charges against the riot police for making false statements in the



absence of any legal evidence.

Our advice is that they would better shut their mouths and think of a strategy for defending themselves against all the charges that they'll have to face during these trials.

In preparing the NATO summit and during the summit, the Romanian state violated the following Romanian constitutional articles: Article 21

Access to Justice, Article 23 Individual Freedom, Article 24 Right to legal counsel, Article 25 Freedom of movement, Article 29 Freedom of conscience, Article 30 Freedom of expression, Article 39 Freedom of assembly, Article 40 Right of association, plus a series of other civil rights.

"Solidarity is a weapon" is still written with red paint on the walls of the hall. The owner asked us to cover it with white paint. We refused to do it. In the rental contract it's written that any changes that are made to the location will become the property of the owner after the contract's availability ends. This is our present for him and for those that will follow.

Every one of us realizes that the chances for winning such a fight against the Romanian authorities might be a lost cause. But there is no other way except from trying to fight for social justice and for a different world!!!! Everyone should understand that for some people this is a way of living rather than a marginal occurrence.

**"Anarchists ideas are effectively combined with the social will for change, where the people are not poisoned with national cult and the culture of alienation; but we can't know where to find these people so let's blast our ideas among the whole of society"**

### Interview with Various Romanian Anarchists about much more than just the Anti-NATO-Summit in Bucharest

Here comes probably the longest interview we have ever printed in over six years of publishing our journal. But we strongly believe that it is worth to give Romanian anarchists enough space to present and explain the realities in which they are trying to conduct their struggles.

Interview was made shortly after the NATO-summit in Bucharest about which you can find some reports in this issue. The events during the summit themselves, are not exactly the focus of this interview. The idea was rather to use this specific momentum of anarchists' structures mobilization in Romania in order to take a closer look at the situation they are finding themselves in on a daily basis while building the local anarchist movement.

After many complications, finally (only) one member of ABB-collective managed to reach the capital of Romania in the beginning of April. Direct participation in Bucharest events helped to build the interview based on the personal experience and direct observation of the circumstances.

The decision of addressing the questions to more than one Romanian activist was conscious, with the idea to present a wider and diverse perspective on the issues. Finally, the interview ended up being very long, but believe us - we would like to ask our Romanian comrades twice as many questions... Especially because in the past we have not always been able to report from this region so directly.

AbolishingBB

**ABB:** The protests against the NATO-summit in Bucharest were for sure a new challenge for your movement and possibly some things became even clearer afterwards as they seemed to be before. Let's start with the mood and consciousness of the lower classes people in Romania - what does it mean to call against NATO and militarization in Romania? How do the common people look at these things?

**Bogdan Palie:** NATO is seen as a "maintaining peace"

organisation, so calling against it is calling against peace itself. The mood, I like this word, of the lower classes here in Romania is very much the mood of the mainstream media. If at the beginning of the mediatic storm against the anti-Nato movement, when the media announced that "Ateneu is the nest of an anarchist groups" for example - with the mention that the Ateneu is the theatre here in Iasi were a lot of activists work together - those people were totally against the "young troublemakers". But later, after

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the "April Bucharest" when the media made new reports mention the actions of our group, actions like Food not Bombs, clothes collecting, concerts, Critical mass, alternative cinema, and not in the last the "Ateneu" action - were we put on the stage, with a great artist like Benoit Vitse (the director of Ateneu Tatarasi), piece like "Passport" in which Benoit speaks about the abuse of police power at the borders, the later "Lorca" a strong speech against fascism, "Mady baby Edu" about immigration... those people, the common people, understood more and therefore... started to show solidarity with. Yes of course at a very small level but even like this... huge difference then before.

**Ana Plotnik:** I would say that the Romanian society would better be described as being quite resigned with the lack of satisfaction concerning how things are going on for most of the inhabitants. It is very common to hear people complaining about their condition (mostly that the prices are too high and the wages/pensions too low), but it rarely happens that they manage to make their voice heard by organizing themselves in expressing this state of dissatisfaction.

The same thing is happening regarding the political context and the leaders that are leading the country. To call against NATO and militarization in Romania might mean to be out of your mind, to some extent. Romania is not used to hear a critical voice that speaks against things that are so promoted and so "valued" at the moment. Romania's membership in NATO and UE was always presented as a very positive asset that all citizens should be proud of. Due to the lack of impartial or critical information that was given to the general public, most Romanians feel that they are not in the position of even considering having a critical view on things that are happening at the upper political levels. Even though a lot of Romanians might say that they agree with NATO, they see it as an entity that will safeguard them without having any information on the implication that militarization is having around the world.

In Romania there is no media (except for indymedia which is being read by only a very limited number of people) that is free from any political interest (in the way of belonging to a political party member or sympathizer) when presenting a certain type of information.

Considering this context I would say that common people look at things like NATO or EU without understanding the implications that they have upon their lives. In this case, to call against militarization in Romania, means to call against the system as a whole and to assume being associated with acts of terrorism by a mass media which is under the direct command of higher state authorities.

**Bogdan C:** Definitely it was, and it still is a new challenge for everybody here. I'm talking more from the perspective of a young person living in Iasi. Living here had nothing to do with this politics we are into now, maybe just some people into '30s. So we got no clue about how things work from the perspective of autonomous movements. And to clarify the context, in Iasi were born some important fascist legions, so it has a past into extreme right extremism so it seems that we rise into a 'holy' land, but things changed. Some of us went to mobilisations and

actions in Europe. I remember I felt like a student into a think & action school, but still, what you see there and all the information you got from international people cannot compare to the situation when you face everything by yourself and you experience everything and at this point you can act different (...)

Talking about the mood and the consciousness of lower classes... hmm...this 'lower class' as referred to the western people means something different in eastern countries, at least in Romania. In short words, everybody can see the derapajes between politics of the west and east. The east being sometimes more into American politics, and the west - not that it is totally against American politics, but more interested into the European master plan, and this is linked to social values also. This 'eastern love' for Americans makes big changes into social behaviour. As you find lower class people being: ultra liberal, even they cannot 'compete and win in the free market', hard line



consumers who don't save a penny, conservatory, homophobic and sexist. But this is not a rule. So if you wanted to ask about 'us' and our presumptive supporters, I think we fit more to students - which some could say they are bourgeois somehow and even to the middle class which sometimes is social. So as you can see everything is somehow disturbed by this.

So in this case, you can assume that my answer about the 'common people' it is about that part of society who care not only about profits and still got some criticism into their thoughts.

For example, in January the mass media, probably pushed by secret services, started to hunt people who might act against the summit. They were tough in accusations but the feedback was surprising. Even they were telling about anarchism (maybe unknown notion at that time) they made some connections to the radical left. Even with this told in the articles, many of our 'supporters' were opposite to us. They defended us stating that NATO is a Jewish run organisation, that NATO is an anti-national organisation and any more. For us was really weird at that time to be defended by people from anti-semitic-nationalist background.

Later, as the summit came and go, the supporting people become diverse, like students, old people, school and university teachers and artists, and even the simply and

**"Romania is not used to hear a critical voice that speaks against things that are so promoted and so "valued" at the moment"**

not exactly political simple working people, more close to our opinions than the first wave 'supporters'. And if it comes to how do they look to this kind of calls, hmm, I think most of them don't know how to react with

this stuff. As it was a new thing to create a structure of resistance, I think for the people it was new to start to get feeds from this area.

**ABB:** Yes, according to my observations, during some actions in Bucharest it came out that many inhabitants of Bucharest has much more sympathy to the young anarchists, even if they were reduced by media to the level of terrorists and hooligans, as to the state forces. One is hearing so much about Romanian society being deeply poisoned through dozens of years living in authoritarian political conditions and than suddenly one see common

**workers greeting "anarchist terrorists and hooligans" on every step in Bucharest. Have you made the same experience at these days in Bucharest and what would you say us on this issue in general?**

**Bogdan P:** Well, I have seen workers saluting terrorists, yes!

**Ana:** I consider this as being a tricky question. As I said before, my general impression is that Romanians are not used to organize themselves and raise their voices if they are not satisfied with a certain situation of whatever kind. Street actions (ex: demonstrations) are rarely happening in Bucharest and of

course that when they happen, people might look at the participants as like some animals in the zoo. I think that deep inside they might appreciate the fact that a few young people are going on the street to say their point of view on something, but from here to supporting or joining them is a big step which is rarely/never being made. I guess that this is because of the passivity, resignation and lack of initiative that characterizes a lot of the people. One of the main reasons could be the lack of information that is being provided to them. The second would be the fact that most people are used to 'protest' only when something affects them directly - they hardly never think of going on the street for an idea or for a thing that they can't perceive as influencing their lives.

I can give you 2 examples that are very relevant here. During the marches against discrimination that we did in autumn 2006 and 2007 the media was always asking people all sorts of questions. In 2006 a reporter came to me and asked why I am in the march and after I gave the explanation he asked if I personally feel discriminated. I said that not really, but that there are many people that have to face this in every minute of their lives. His answer was "And why are you here then? It's not your problem!"

The second example comes from 2007, when after Romania joined the EU and all sort of anti-discrimination campaigns were being promoted. During the demonstration a reporter asked a woman on the street what she thinks about this action. She answered "It's a good thing that they are against discrimination". Then the reporter asked her opinion about gay and roma people. Her answer was "the gay people are mentally disturbed and I am sick of all the roma people that I have to meet every day."

These are my 2 concrete examples that could say a lot about how a lot of people in Romania think. And this is because they are not informed or misinformed. They receive notions like (NATO- good, discrimination-bad) and they swallow them without understanding their essence. Mass-media, the politicians and the education system are the first ones responsible for this situation.

**Bogdan C:** I think is remarkable that people salute and enjoy these actions. Some could say it's not about the past background. As I see things now, I think some of them know exactly what kind of people they agree with by supporting them even with a simple smile or a shaken hand, but some of them I think they encourage us as a

psychological reaction which may have 2 directions. One, that is their image of 'youth & rebel' that gets to many people - even to conservative ones as for one moment they link with their ideal of freedom, justice and all that wild 'youthphylia'. Secondly, I think also from the position of witnessing some violence against us. The state made us victims, and as the people did not react in a direct way, at least they transpose their feelings somehow. Of course this is a subject to argue but I think this people's reaction is a mixture of this aspects.

**"We've been told that these young people are a danger to our society, but looking at how they have been treated for no reason it makes me thing that maybe the danger comes from somewhere else"**  
- elderly woman on the streets of Bucharest

**ABB: Finally, one has to admit, that for various reasons, the anti-NATO-protest could not really take place in Bucharest. It would be probably very frustrating conclusion if not the fact, that focus of the protests which has been beforehand strictly anti-militaristic has turned into the confrontation between little anarchist/anti-militaristic movement and the state (with whole its intelligence and more or less secret, police forces) in which confrontation each side was making its best in order to delegitimised existence of the other one. Such surprised turn of the focus of the events can be seen as very positive for local anarchist movement in long terms perspective. Confrontation was taking place on the eyes of the whole society, so each statement or the act of anarchists in these days has been so widely presented and reflected in the public opinion as probably never ever before. This is at least my assumption of what I have witnessed at these days on the streets of Bucharest. What do you thing about this turn itself and what do you think was a final outcome of this confrontation?**

**Bogdan P:** Yes, it's true, with the only mention that actions were took place in Bucharest with some other occasions thanks to the local activists there, and in the eyes of the whole society, but ya' this time...it's the State who make it bigger then ever. Why? Because in order to increase the 'security' they paint an Evil, in the Romanian society: "The Anarchist"; and therefore the huge step forward for the hole libertarian movement in the mind of the people, people who now access a full wave of information about this alternative. Me, I still don't rise up my flag yet - I sow a very aggressive state and I expect more violence - at least we don't find a way to speak together, common people to common people, and every day until the next confrontation. Because

**"I thing being a watchdog for all the social problems is more important than focusing on some, as there are plenty of areas of society which is not covered-up by nobody"**

what I do find unusual in those events is the spectator attitude assumed by a large part of the students for example, by a large part of the workers and in Bucharest and in all the country, but Bucharest is the largest university town in Romania. So we have a lot to think about, but of course the hope in solidarity was never bigger than now, and this it is the final outcome.

**Ana:** I think that an important asset of this confrontation was the fact that it created a solidarity platform between many people that met there/then for the first time. Another good thing was that a lot of people manifested their indignation to the fact that the Romanian authorities had such a brutal attitude towards a group of young people that didn't do anything wrong or illegal and were

just expressing their visions in a peaceful way. The fact that many NGO's pressed charges against the Romanian authorities was a good feedback from the civil society, that had the courage to start a battle which has little chances to win but which might hopefully create a precedent for this things not to happen again (in the same way) in the future.

It is true that maybe it was the first time when the image of what might be an activist or an anarchist became a bit clear for some Romanian people. While being asked for her opinion an old woman from the street answered something like this: "We've been told that these young people are a danger to our society, but looking at how they have been treated for no reason it makes me thing that maybe the danger comes from somewhere else".

At the same time, the mass media did not reflect any of the conclusions after the summit ended. There were very few published articles that accused the Romanian authorities for acting on an illegitimate basis, and I guess that for the Romanian society the case was classified and forgotten already. The only things that are still in process are the trials that a few NGO's initiated against the authorities. Hopefully they will make public some good news in the months to come.

**Bogdan C:** Well, for some maybe what was happening with this turning over was a problem; maybe for internationals who actually came for protest and not for defending themselves. I refer to this 'defend' as one of the firsts steps into emancipation of a movement. For me, and maybe for many Romanians this fight, mostly into media, was futile as we got into the light, we send to public space our ideas and we got feedback and so on. So I find very important that here in Romania we legitimize our opinions, so people know what we do, how we act, how we organize etc., but might be like a back-in-time for the internationals which made this in their own countries centuries ago.

**ABB: Activities against the NATO-summit in Bucharest gathered all together maybe 150-200 activists of anarchists and other anti-authoritarian spectrum, involved on various levels in the resistance. However, this number includes already about 3-4 dozens of internationals. Is this number of Romanian participants adequate to the condition of anarchist structures in Romania for now? Give us please little description of the condition and tendencies within the Romanian movement as it is today...**

**Bogdan P:** If we think about the fact that some police structures had the order to visit people in their home and aggress their family with frightening like "Your son lady, better stay home during the summit, otherwise ugly things could happened to him...might be turned back home covered in blood!", or the visits of the same police into our jobs, schools, neighbours, speaking about our "implication in terrorist activities"...you all may have an idea about how it is to get together here. But me, I'd like to salute to all the comrades who didn't succeed to take a small part of the cake, fulfilled their vanity, like I did.

**Ana:** I think that during the events and meetings that took place on 1st-4th of April, there were a lot of people that attended compared to our past experiences. I also consider that in Romania there isn't an anarchist movement. It is rather a small group of friends that are active in different fields and that unite in some actions of mutual interest.

Some of them consider themselves as being anarchist and others don't, even though they sympathize with the anarchist ideas.

As it was proven in the past and also in the present, only a very small number of people (I would say maximum 10-15 from the whole country) are active in initiating and organizing an action. The others are usually just participating in the events. One of the biggest disappointments is that a lot of people are deciding not to take part in organizing an event invoking reasons of being too busy or too scared of the consequences. In this case there are only a few people that have the initiative and the strength to develop something...and sadly enough those people is exactly the same ones all the time.

The fact that in most cases their actions and good intentions are being presented to the public in a negative way (through the mass media), are not being supported by others that have similar beliefs or are being brutally stopped by the police forces, might be reason enough why not too many things are being initiated in Romania nowadays.

Romanian activists usually feel like they are alone in this and it is very disappointing to see that there is very little support or understanding from other people or from the civil society.

**Bogdan C:** For sure, no. There were people harassed in many cities. Some could stand this and went to Bucharest, some couldn't. In any case there was a huge problem in

this mobilisation and this was the lack of a small anti-repression group before the summit and it was never-experienced part of activism here.

**ABB: What else did you learned about your local movement during the confrontation against the NATO-summit?**

**Bogdan P:** I expected kind of brothership and I had it, they learned me a lot.

**Ana:** As I said before, in

my opinion it's a bit too much to talk about a movement in Romania. After the latest events I realized this again and once and for all. The few people that I personally knew and expected to be active confirmed my expectations entirely. As I mentioned before, they are just the same people that are active all the time. But the lack in number and the territorial spread of those few people makes it almost impossible to create a functional platform for working together on a local/country level.

**Bogdan C:** This I will make it short: I could say I searched a lot for examples of people doing things for the 'idea', now I found some of them, and luckily they are my friends.

**ABB: As we understand there was never in the short history of the very young anarchist network in Romania so much attention being paid to it by media, and therefore by public opinion as well. Despite of the massive intoxication which was produced before the summit by mainstream media towards anarchists, can you see some positive side and eventual new possibilities which appeared for anarchist ideas due to this massive presence of anarchists on the peoples' mouths in March-April 2008?**

**Bogdan P:** Yes, almost all the sides were positive. They have started with calling us "violence people" at a very



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high hour on the majors TV channels and then finished by beating them for having paints in their room at the same high hour of the same major TV channels. This open now a big number of possibilities for anarchist ideas, as since

now on maybe the intoxication will not be tolerate on such a big scale like during the March-April 2008  
**Bogdan C:** I cannot say much about this. I think you work even for 'possibilities' and I don't think that now it's easier or harder to build something.

**ABB:** How can be used the new situation for further development of anarchist structures and spreading anarchist ideas in Romania? Do you see there any need of strengthening the cooperation with anarchist from other regions of Europe in order to make possible steps this direction? How it could look like very concretely?

**Bogdan P:** I think I'll first, give up now of the mainstream media and letting them swimming in their on storm, I think they had the chance to do something for the common people and they did not, except follow their goal: money and fame. In my mind, after Bucharest, I had the theatre play I already told you about, Lorca, as the next project to help. And so this was materialized, thanks to the local movement, one week after the summit, and it's a success...common people come to see it in a large number, a play that speaks about Federico Garcia Lorca, the poet, killed by the fascists in the Spain of 1936 which obvious look like Romania of 2008 and why not Euro America of the same 2008 if we think about hundreds of poets killed in Afganistan or Irak for the same reason as Lorca was killed: "During the peace your work was nothing but clowning but we are in war now and this anarchists ideas are poisons now, for our great and saint Spain". All the town is full in the evening of the play with posters written on it: "He was homosexual, he was communist, he like gypsies, and you all want him to be alive?"

About the cooperation with the anarchist around the Europe, with no doubt we should strengthen the links, links without which in fact nothing at all could happen in Bucharest, for example. But also to encourage the fights in our own communities, each one of us knowing the best in the end sharing our experience after with everybody in or out. Concretely I'll like for my region autonomous spaces, and this is what all the activists here try as a hope, in which we'll continue with all our projects after June when the director Benoit will go back to France and so we and the Ateneu will be lost in front of the bureaucracy. But this is possible along some other, with a logistic support from our friends around Europe.

**Ana:** I guess that young Romanian activists have a lot of need for sharing information/experiences with activists living in different countries. Due to the very limited number of activists willing to initiate concrete actions I

**"To call against militarization in Romania, means to call against the system as a whole and to assume being associated with acts of terrorism by a mass media which is under the direct command of higher state authorities"**

think that a good way to follow would be that of small local actions with a special focus on spreading information about intentions and actions to the people. I am referring here to the very small steps that each one of us makes with the available resources, as a group or on an individual level in everyday life. In this case some experiences that we might have at the moment in Romania, have already happened years ago in other countries. And we can learn from the experience of other people which can be very helpful if it is adapted to the Romanian context. Concretely, I can't really say because it depends on the context at some point or another. But I am very sure that sharing experiences with other people is very useful for finding ways of going ahead.

**Bogdan C:** I think this cooperation existed and still exists. I can remind you that it was a time when there were foreign info-tours in our city that were joined by 3 or 4 persons. There were foreign zines which were coming faster to us than any other Romanian one. I thank to all the people who spend time and money in tours just for those 3 or 4 persons in the city, to people who spend time and money and send letters so we could join international camps/mobilisations and travel to see what's behind the borders for the first time and many many others who visited and played a role into supporting some kids. Well, they played their role. You all played this role. Now we



grew and its time for us to spread, to built, to talk and to continue what others started. In the end I really believe the very next step is about us, you can compare it to the age of maturity.

**ABB:** Coming back for a while to the beginning of the interview... If we consider that there is number of ordinary people ready to sympathise with the anarchists but they did not decide to join the anti-militaristic campaign against NATO, than one of the questions appearing in this place is: what actually are the social issues in Romania on which terrain the anarchist ideas could be effectively combined with the actual social will for change? Would you like to try and answer this question?

**Bogdan P:** The social issues in Romania are the same like ages ago, still few I found very concerning: first, the waste of workers' efforts and resources on producing useless luxuries, and then, not the absence of a culture & education process but the presence of a mind intoxicator one. Those issues cross my mind often, so it's how in my opinion activism is far away from common people. Let's not speak about the cult for consumerism that workers enjoy

**"We have a lot to think about, but of course the hope in solidarity was never bigger than now, and this is the final outcome"**

after 89' and let's say something about the Minister of Culture and Cults were cults means orthodox and catholic cults and so instead money to go back to the people in different forms of real culture they go against people's freedom by building more church. And now what is left from the Culture in Romania I'm against also. This one of "the bred and the circus of Rome" and the purpose is

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basically to distract the workers from the thoughts of the revolution. And than, social will for the real change is alienated. It's a trap.

The anarchists ideas are effectively combined with the social will for changes there, where the people are not poisoned with that; but we can't know were to find these people so let's blast our ideas among the whole society. Me I prefer one worker awake then hundreds wavering.

**"This confrontation was the fact that it created a solidarity platform between many people that met there/then for the first time"**

**Ana:** Wow, this is a very good question...but I'm afraid that it might not receive a proper answer. I guess that a first step would be to clarify what an anarchist means. In Romania it's very confusing because a lot of people that belong to the punk-rock scene but that don't ever get involved in social-political actions are seen as representing the anarchist scene. So, in this way a better terminology for the Romanian context would be to call it the "activist scene".

The actual social will for change is present in the feelings of most Romanians, I guess... But due to the harsh living conditions and insecurity a lot of people find it hard to think about organizing themselves in structures that might generate social change on a long term (even if only from the power of the personal example). The individualism and lack of initiative of the people might be really disappointing to see, but at the same time I consider it to be understandable. I guess that the only way in which things could change in the future for the Romanian society would be through means of a different education focused on providing information on rights that people have and alternatives that they can take into account when facing their everyday reality.



Awareness might make people become more open to taking risk and creating structures for generating a potential social change.

**Bogdan C:** I cannot make a constructive statement on this. I might thing to a futile land to organize but sometimes what it seems its not for real, so I thing being a watchdog for all the social problems is more important than focusing on some, as there are plenty of areas of society which is not covered-up by nobody.

**ABB:** What is a state of the repression connected with NATO-summit towards the activists for now? What do you expect from this side in next period?

**Bogdan P:** I'll like to describe you a TV show just before the summit. There were politicians, intellectuals and media journalists. The question was "How it came that Romania received the honour to organize the NATO-summit?" and those people fight in arguments like "We have the 2nd biggest building in the world after Pentagon" or "Because our efforts in the war contends", but the true answer is: we

have the most corrupted country in Europe and that's why the state of the repression of course; cause NATO is a corruption and so repression.

Imagine how big the space of action for police is, if they have the German police logistics and the field of Rumanian bureaucracy when it's come to civil rights. Four days after I come back from Bucharest two policemen at my door ask about the phone number of the owner because I'm illegal staying there, they said. I didn't officially change my ID with the new address. In the mean time one of them went in the house of my neighbours trying to get complains about me and advice them, I'm a dangerous person activating in a terrorist structure. They came with intimidations like "You fuck me?!", because on first of April I had a meeting with them at Ateneu, cause by the way they visit my job 3 or 4 times speaking about us,"the terrorists", and so of course I didn't honoured the invitation to meeting, which supposed to be only a "friendly" discussion about my ideas, as they said.

But all this I should say turn to be good for me ultimately because made the cohesion between us, the activists - everybody receiving the same treatments, and also with some other sympathizers.

**Ana:** At this point, it is hard to think about the future consequences. I guess that a few people will constantly be under the strict eye of the Romanian authorities after the latest events. But I guess that for most of us it was the first time when realizing to what extent our lives could be monitored by the intelligence services and to what degree of intimidation and repression a human being could be exposed to on the basis of expressing the constitutional right of free speech. There is nothing more disappointing than to realize this...

**Bogdan C:** We had last week a demonstration against state repression, covered by media and saluted by the people in the city. Now it looks like things are calm, but in

**"There were people harassed in many cities. Some could stand this and went to Bucharest, some couldn't. In any case there was a huge problem in this mobilisation and this was the lack of a small anti-repression group before the summit and it was never-experienced part of activism here"**

case it gets worse we want to push back a lot as at the times we are supported by many people.

**ABB:** Thank you a lot for interview. Now is the right moment to add anything I didn't ask you and what you believe is important to be said.

**Bogdan P:** Thank you also. Thank to all of you!  
**Ana:** Thank you also for this. The questions were very well addressed, but

I think that the answers that I gave might be a bit vague ...I am not very satisfied with this situation, but I found it really hard to answer them in a comprehensive way. It is all very contextual and this made it even harder to explain my position.

*"The perverted image of reality is the result of the continuous propaganda by all the political parties, institutions and mainstream media. In that kind of environment, an anti NATO protest is considered to be a heresy and is sharply condemned by the masses"*

### Anti-NATO Protests in Skopje, Macedonia

For the first time in a long period of time, anti NATO events took place in the city of Skopje, the capital of Macedonia, a country that has developed a special relationship towards the military alliance and is expected to step even closer, maybe become a full member after the summit in Bucharest. Most of the public opinion polls say that about 90% percent of the people in Macedonia support the country's NATO bid. No Member of the Parliament has voted against any NATO act nor has questioned the involvement of Macedonian troops in the military missions in Iraq, Afghanistan or Libya. The only hypothetical objection concerning the process of the "NATO integration" as it is called here, is based on the infamous naming dispute with Greece, which is derived from the rising nationalistic movement among Macedonian people. Some of the political subjects and the civil society actors fuel the tensions. Still, the perception of the people is that NATO will secure and stabilize the country, will prevent further ethnic conflicts and separatist movements, and will open the market for the foreign investments, which are considered to be the best thing that can happen for the country's economy. This perverted image of reality is of course the result of the continuous propaganda by all the political par-

ties, institutions and mainstream media. In that kind of environment, an anti NATO protest is considered to be a heresy and is sharply condemned by the masses. Inspired from some anti NATO events held in Skopje by activists from throughout Europe, a small network of volunteers was established in order to try to raise the voice of the marginalized anti-militarists, pacifists and anarchists. Soon thousands of copies of a pamphlet called "ANTONATO DONIA" were printed and were to be spread among people, and a date for the main protest was set. On 29th of March, we organized a smaller info-protest in the center of the city. It was a symbolical gathering in front of the Hall of the Macedonian Army, and then a rally to the city square. There we distributed some of the pamphlets and we invited people to the main protest that was held on Wednesday, 2nd of April. On 2nd of April many of the Macedonian politicians were already gone in Bucharest, and all eyes were on the things going on there. It was a mere surprise for many that we showed up making statements such as NATO being an anachronic and harmful organization, that will actually not guarantee our safety and that NATO has not prevented interior conflicts in many of its old members, and

that most of our country's budget will be spent on weapons instead on public health or education, etc. After an hour of peaceful protesting in front of the government, we headed towards the Parliament, trying not to cause much of a traffic jam. We stayed for another hour there and then announced the end of the protests. During the protests, we distributed most of the pamphlets, tried to talk with the citizens and did not cause any tensions. All in all, we were the only ones to show some resistance to the omnipresent pro-NATO attitude. We were about 50 people out there, but we got a decent media coverage, although there were some misinterpretations and out of context conclusions were drawn, too. When asked on our further plans, we answered that there are two possibilities - if Macedonia gets invited to join and become full member of the alliance, we will probably start a campaign for voting on referendum since that's in consent with the Constitution but the authorities seem to try to skive it. The other possibility is that in case of Greek veto on Macedonia's bid, we will bring a dove of peace in front of the Greek Foreign Office and will thank them for making us that incredible favor.

### Action in Rijeka Against NATO!

On Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 12pm few members from different local affiliations (Anarchistic initiative from Rijeka, Amandla, Infoshop Škatula, Anti-fascist action from Rijeka) held an action in front of Rumunian consulate as a symbol of solidarity with arrested people in Bucharest, but also for those who are still protesting against NATO summit in Bucharest. The action consisted of two parts, precisely, performance and a letter, which was publicly read in front of consulate itself, and it was just a part of performance. The action was preformed successfully and quickly, with many journalists and few passer-bys.

*"One more summit has shown us again in what kind of system do we live and how it works. It is spoken about the importance of meetings, about fatal and other decisions that will make out planet more safe and better place for everybody. Based on what? It is based on political elite that is supported by various lobbies (military, sanitary...), which create, through a capital prism, positions based on further exploitation, competition and conditioning the way of life in the end. NATO alliance is nothing more than just another instrument for spreading capitalism, it is military-political alliance, which supports unsafety and militarism, just contrary to its promotion. In the name of solidarity with activists in Bucharest, in the name of resistance to further militarisation of the world, in the name of rejection of participation in absolute public silence, in the name of fight for more free, solidar, equal society, we reject the rule of democracy, wrapped in profit.*

**A different world is required and possible!**

The letter:

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### Deserter Day 2008 around Russia

In 2004, the "Day of defender of the fatherland", formerly "Day of the Red Army", got the status of an official holiday - this marked it as an anarchist day of protest if it had not already been before. States are celebrating many doubtful issues, but a state holiday at the anniversary of a day of ethnic cleansing of Chechens and Ingushetians in 1944 was about too much.

This year, the deserter day festival around 23rd of February was organized outside Moscow for the first time - in the city of Kirov north-east of Moscow. Up to 100 anarchists, a good part of whom came from other cities such as St. Petersburg, Moscow, Izhevsk, Nizhny Novgorod, Ufa, Perm and Tyumen, joined the events. The police was patrolling the train station, illegally arresting and writing down details of many participators of the events - however, due to successful conspiracy a good part of the events could be organized without police interference. On 23rd of February workshops were organized, but the owner of the premises where they were supposed to take place refused due to pressure from the authorities. Yet eventually,

versities, which gives the government a pretext to close those schools and universities which it considers not profitable enough. There have already been some successful struggles against this process. The two remaining workshops were about information security in the internet and with mobile connections. In the evening, the documentary "Workingman's Death" by Michael Glawogger was screened. The next day there was a legal meeting at the square of the Philharmony from 13:15 to 14:15, unfortunately, the organizer of the meeting with the legal documents was involved in a car accident, so the meeting was launched half an hour late. Dozens of police were monitoring the event, filming all the participators with video cameras. Eventually participators could unroll banners with the texts "Peace is better than commemoration" and "No to violence on the world", festival guests from Nizhny Novgorod brought a banner commemorating a man who recently deceased during his service, with a text "Roman Rudakov 1986-2008 - who will be next?". Accompanied by drums the participators scanned "I do not want to serve, I want to live very much!", "Army is a school of slavery, we want to study



an alternative place was found which did not leak to the police prematurely. First, local human rights activists from Vzyatski region, children's association and the Committee of Soldier's Mothers told about the current reforms in the military system, legal means to evade army service and usual legal mistakes which officials commit and which make evading service more easy. After these lectures, there were talks on topics not directly related to the theme of the festival - a short history of the student resistance in Russia since the 1980's and current issues the students are facing, such as commercialization of higher education due to the Bologna process. Another current issue is the so-called "autonomization" of schools and uni-

was born in order to live, not in order to serve in the army!", "Freedom, equality and anarcho-communism!", "Peace to the world, war against war, no to violence in Chechnya!" and "Our fatherland is the whole humanity". After the meeting, there was a spontaneous discussion about the purpose of such actions and another one on the relation between anarchism and the punk/hardcore scene. A concert planned for the evening could not be organized due to interference of the authorities. **Actions in other cities:** **Barnaul** In Barnaul, graffiti was made in the night between 22nd and 23rd of February, and a Food Not Bombs-action where anti-militarist leaflets were distributed was organized on 23rd. **Bryansk** In the night between 22nd and 23rd of February anarchists and anti-war activists of Bryansk painted around 50 graffiti's to various buildings, including the local call-up center and military headquarters. Nobody was arrested. **Chita** Two call-up centres in the center of the city were painted during the night between 22nd and 23rd. The slogans "Army is a school of violence and slavery", "The hunger of a soldier is



and not to wage war!", "Nobody will return a year of our lives!", "We will struggle, our peace is not for sale!", "I

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cheaper than an assault rifle" were painted, as a stencil "In army you pay your dues to the state - I wonder when I borrowed from it that much?".

**Irkutsk**

In Irkutsk, local group of Autonomous Action decided to organise a movie screening against military callup. Propaganda films made by Siberian military district against bullying and stealing in army and punishment for these crimes were shown, as they were great propaganda against army. After the screening there was a discussion on the theme of resisting call-up.

**Kazan**

In Kazan, anti-war stickers were distributed and a banner with text "Better to help people than to kill" was dropped from a local bridge.

**Moscow**

In Moscow, Deserter day-actions were organized for the 4th time already. Those who could not travel to Kirov organized actions in Moscow - first a Food Not Bombs-action, then a demonstration of some 30 people from the metro station "Universitet" to the metro station "Akademicheskaya" with a banner "Food Not Bombs" and a red and black diagonal flag. Anti-militarist slogans, such as "You are just a cheap weapon for them!", "A deserter is a defender of humanity!", "Go to the streets - reclaim the city!", "All the states are concentration camps" and others were scanned. Leaflets "No soldiers - no wars!" were given to passers by. The demonstration passed by the call up center of Gagarinskiy area, it was painted with graffiti reading "No to war". Nobody was arrested - traffic police spotted the demonstration and announced it to the local police station, but as they could not foresee the route of the action they could not stop it.

Short videos from Moscow actions:

- \* [http://ru.indymedia.org/usermedia/video/5/u\\_voenkomata.avi](http://ru.indymedia.org/usermedia/video/5/u_voenkomata.avi)
- \* <http://ru.indymedia.org/usermedia/video/7/shestvie.avi>

**St. Petersburg**

A meeting to commemorate the deportation of Chechens and Ingushetians organized by Memorial human rights center gathered only some 30 people. Some 10 anarchists from the Association of Libertarian Initiatives, a new coordinatory group between various anti-authoritarian groups of St. Petersburg, joined action.

**Vladivostok**

During the days prior to deserter day, activists painted local universities with stencils reading "Fuck the Army".

Booklets with recommendations to those going to protest actions were printed by the emerging group of Anarchist Black Cross in Vladivostok and distributed amongst local activists. The local anarchist paper "Udar" made a special issue with theme "There is such a profession - a deserter", mocking a familiar military recruitment slogan.

The 23rd was a very cold and windy day in Vladivostok. But some twenty people showed up in the action with a banner "The head of a soldier is cheaper than an assault rifle" and black and red diagonal flags. Due to the bad weather there were just few passers by, except in the very center of the city. Sea torches were lit, "Our fatherland is all humanity", "Be a human - defend the planet!" were shouted.

Unlike usually, cops and boneheads did not interfere with the action, so according to the organizers it ended up "a bit boring" an action.

24th of February a Food Not Bombs was organized.



# Protest Against Proposed US Missile Base in Poland: Good Public Support... Politicians and Police Against the People

On Saturday March 29, about 800-1000 people demonstrated against the installation of a US missile base in northern Poland. The base, which the governments of the US and Poland would like to build in Redzikowo, just outside of Slupsk near the Baltic Sea, would house elements of the American Missile Defense program, namely so-called interceptor missiles (which can also be used for offensive purposes). Despite the fact that 60% of the local residents and over half of all Poles are strongly against the base, and only a small fraction of the rest supports it, the government is intent to go ahead and build the base. A radar base is also to be built in the Czech Republic, again despite the opposition of most citizens.



During the Hyde Park, free food was served by Food Not Bombs and some theatre was made by the Autonomist Collective and Anarchist Federation group from Torun.

A lively demo through the city followed. Slupsk is a city of under 100,000 people with very few activists and the only other such demonstration held there since the fall of communism was a May Day march organized by the Anarchist Federation in 2002. It was quite a sight for local people, many of whom watched or joined in. Two nice samba bands played, a car went with music, people chanted "No Missile Shield" and lots of other slogans that don't rhyme in English translation.



**At the Base**

After the main demo ended, a group of a bit over 100 people broke off and marched to Redzikowo, the site of the future American base, a former Polish airforce base during the PRL times (annotation: People's Republic of Poland, i.e. during the times of Soviet hegemony), currently disused but still guarded by the military. The police and military started to show their strength, sending out a military helicopter and lots of police vans. (Police had to be sent in from Gdansk for this action. Although Slupsk is home of a police academy and has an extremely large police presence, they were not available as many of them had been sent to Kosovo.)

A small action was made at the side entrance and some people removed the ridiculous barricade made there and went on the territory, at which time the police started to act. However, nothing happened since the police claimed to demonstrators that there was "nothing there" and "no base there" and therefore could not give a legitimate reason to the anarchists why they were not allowed on that area. They threatened to arrest people for not following police orders but not for trespassing.

The demonstration moved to the main gate of the base where there was some symbolic attempt to jump the fence. Some local residents came out to talk despite the fact that the large police presence and the cops with dogs could look a little scary. Again local residents, despite the fact that many of them were relatives of former military, complained about the base to the protestors. Mr. Jodkowski the lobbyist, who followed us during the whole march, could only walk around sheepishly trying to give the demonstrators cookies.

**The Demo**

The demonstration started with a Hyde Park / open meeting in front of the town hall. A few hundred local residents came to hear the arguments against the missiles, to demonstrate and to speak out. Many people spoke, only the meeting had to be cut slightly short due to an impending downpour of rain. The only person who spoke in favour of the base was a paid lobbyist, Andrzej Jodkowski who was hired by the American Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance to make pro-missile propaganda in Poland. He was lously jeered by the crowd and some old ladies tried to beat him with sticks. People of all ages came out, but it was quite noticeable from both this demonstration and a meeting the day before that survivors of WWII are especially angry about the base and concerned about militarism and a few elderly people in their 70s and 80s spoke out.



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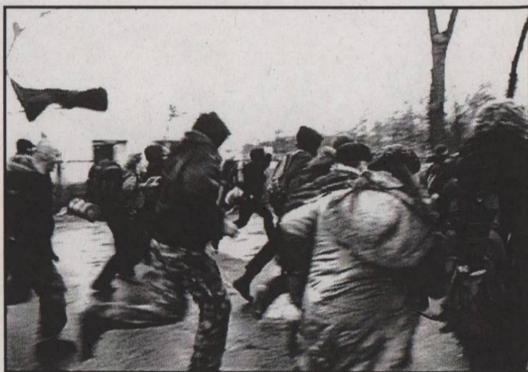




### Unpleasant Actions and Police Violence

The whole action went without incident, except perhaps some problems with vanguardist frauds from the Young Socialists who openly disregarded requests not to come with self-advertising, party flags. (They are known throughout Poland as being sleazy party-sponsored parasites who fraudulently present themselves as organizers of other people's demonstrations.) However, as soon as people left Redzikowo and dispersed, the cops took the opportunity to vent their frustration on some scapegoats.

For whatever reason, a small group of people stayed in Redzikowo. The police used dogs against them and one woman was bitten. They started to give people bullshit fines. One guy was fined for having a black flag on his car. Later, one guy was arrested and fined for cursing. The fine was almost 300 dollars US, really an incredible exaggeration for something like that which in no way should be a punishable offense.



The real problem happened lately on, in the early hours of the morning just before 5 AM. There was a concert/after party. A group of people were followed from the party by the police. They returned to one guy's place, where a group of people were already sleeping. Shortly later the police raided and attacked them, including people who were sleeping. The pretext was "disturbing the peace" although clearly sleeping people were not disturbing the peace. People were gassed and beaten. 23 people were arrested. One guy had his arm badly hurt - in fact he was sure it was broken. (It turns out not to be broken but just badly hurt.) The police also thought his arm was broken and he was taken to the hospital. He escaped and called people to tell them what happened.

The police at first denied that anything happened or that anybody was arrested but later changed their story (more than once). Few people were left in town, but those who were sent down to the police station to demand the release of the arrested. The police are claiming that this brutal attack had nothing to do with the demo, but present the arrested as being drunk and disorderly. They are charged with typical bullshit charges of "not respecting

the police" and two are being charged with "violating the intouchability of the police", which is more or less assaulting an officer. This charge is used against demonstrators quite often, usually in situations where the police is beating somebody and they try to ward off blows or get the police off them.

As of the time of this report (March 31), all but two of the arrested have been released, 8 of them being charged with "not respecting the police". (The two still in custody will probably have the more serious charges against them.) They are going to file a complaint against the police.

Anarchist Solidarity and Anarchist Black Cross will try to help them: for more information or to send a donation for legal help, contact [anarchistsolidarity@yahoo.com](mailto:anarchistsolidarity@yahoo.com).

### The Struggle will Continue

The event was covered widely by local, national and some international press, although the American media refused to cover the event. Perhaps the action was not big and "spectacular" enough, but surely that's not the only reason. Don't worry though; if they go ahead with the base, which looks to be a strong possibility, this will just be the beginning. The next demo will be much bigger and louder.

The demonstration was organized by the **Campaign against Militarism** (started by anarchists but open to others) together with big participation of others like the **Anarchist Federation**, the **Autonomous Collective**, some local, non-affiliated activists, some members of **Greenpeace** and the **Union of Syndicalists (ZSP)**. Practically all of the anarchist and anti-authoritarian groups in Poland were in attendance as well as some anti-war activists and a small handful of leftists from different groups and parties. A good part of the crowd was also made up of Slupsk residents. Probably this was the largest and most successful action we have made in a couple of years and undoubtedly the most important action against this military base that has happened so far in Poland. Despite the fact that most people are against the base, few people publically demonstrate their discontent. Unfortunately, the Campaign has decided to continue its work and, should the work on the base be started, to organize more radical protests and actions.

The campaign can be reached at [campaignagainstmilitarism@gmail.com](mailto:campaignagainstmilitarism@gmail.com)

The website for the action includes lots of info in English about the missile bases:  
[www.m29.bzzz.net](http://www.m29.bzzz.net)

Also see: [www.tarcza.org](http://www.tarcza.org)



Recently a bigger anti-militaristic action took place in northern Poland (in Slupsk) against setting up a US-missile-base, so called TARCZA, in this region. You can find a detailed report from the protest as well as the state-repression it was confronted with next to the interview. We found it interesting what further perspectives of anti-militarist resistance there are in Poland. Therefore we asked members of two groups of the Polish Anarchist Federation, from Poznan and Warsaw, to tell us about it. During the making of the interview it appeared that the activists from Poznan have such a negative point of view on how things are going that they decided not to give the ABB interview now, but instead to write a deeper analysis on the problems the Polish antimilitaristic and at the same time anarchist movement is facing for the next issue. That is why, for now, we can present you a short interview with one of the anarchists from Warsaw involved in the protests.

AbolishingBB

## Interview Summing up Slupsk-Protests and asking about Perspectives of further Resistance against TARCZA

**ABB: What people and what movements finally participated in the action day in Slupsk? How would you comment on the number of participants in comparison to the expectations, but as well regarding the chances for a successful outcome of the long term campaign against the US-missile-system? Can you see the potential to undertake an initiative on this terrain in Polish society or will it remain the task of activists themselves to get rid of (at least) these US-military-basie?**

**Voice from Warsaw:** It's hard to say how many people were there - most reports range from 800-1000 people. Probably the make-up of locals and out-of-town activists was 50-50. The main group of activists which participated were anarchists, although a couple of dozen people from the left came as well. The turn-up was very good for the relatively weak anti-militarist movement and the long-term chaos in the anarchist movement which meant that too few people prepared the action. It was the first action for the local people - they are young people some of whom even met through this action, so they don't have any infrastructure. Nonetheless, the action worked out well.

I don't think that on this issue and in this place the society will mobilize itself without lots of agitation from activists. Of course, there are many local campaigns in Poland where people organize themselves, so it's not as if they can't - it's just that I suppose people don't believe in their success.

**ABB: Are you satisfied in retrospect with the very form of action which was chosen for Slupsk and with how the action was conducted on the day?**

**Voice from Warsaw:** Yes and no. Of course, one can always see how things could have been done better, but that's no reason to be dissatisfied. You can get crazy that way. We had hoped that more people would be interested in some more radical action, but the movement isn't in that place now.

**ABB: What is your general reflection on the protest in Slupsk?**

**Voice from Warsaw:** This one protest is not enough - but it was a big event locally. We need to have a few more. We heard that the leftists want to mobilize again. Normally we're not fans of how the leftist actions look in Poland, but we'll go back for sure.

**ABB: There were many international actions supporting TARCZA-resistance in Poland (and Czech) at this day, too. Can you give a very short account of them and tell us if you think that these actions had any impact on the campaign and/or mainstream politics**

**towards TARCZA in Poland? What forms of international support the local anarchist/anti-militaristic movement appreciated the most at this moment?**

**Voice from Warsaw:** Most of the actions were taking place in front of embassies, although in the UK and US they went to military bases. These solidarity actions weren't talked about in the Polish media. But the one in Slupsk was and it was in the European media, in the Middle East, Russia and even Japan, so it was important for people to see this resistance because people saw the resistance on the spot - although locally people know about it. We appreciate all forms of support, of course.

**ABB: We will not go deeper here regarding the state repression which took place in Slupsk, as our readers can find a detailed report on that in this issue. At this place we would rather like to focus on the further perspectives of the resistance. Has anything changed since March in terms of negotiations, plans or decisions on the governmental side?**

**Voice from Warsaw:** Yes. A lot of bullshit and negotiating is going on, but in general, there is constant talk about the bad deal Americans want to give Poland. It's a completely different tone than a few months ago. A few months ago the politicians and media were telling everybody how lucky they are to be America's best friend. Now it's more the feeling that Americans want to use Poland and give nothing in return. There's nobody questioning the militarism, but the mood in the government has changed a bit.

**ABB: Back on the other side of the barricade: do you see any chance for the movement against TARCZA to grow in numbers and strength over time?**

**Voice from Warsaw:** Maybe. It depends on many things. In Poland there aren't too many people who do such long-term protests - like last year Rospuda was a big issue, but few people who engaged in that went back or even know what's going on - only the hardcore ecologists.

**ABB: What are the next steps and activities of anti-militarist resistance in Poland? Might the actions against the recently announced NATO-meeting in Poland eventually be considered one of its elements?**

**Voice from Warsaw:** The NATO meeting is in Krakow and we want to get people there. That definitely is on the agenda. I wouldn't be surprised if some things happened before then - some little actions. The main thing is that the issue of the TARCZA has to be kept on the agenda, especially in Slupsk.

**ABB: Thank you for the interview.**

## March 8 in Kiev

Anarcha-Feminist Discussion Club and Demonstration in the Main Street of the City

Similar to many other dates which are being actively used by various political forces and world corporations because of the high rate of speculation has lost every trust of the people. Today, simply not to change the habit and time for the spring feast, celebration of the women's working rights and universal freedoms now symbolizes celebration of spring, beauty, love – but in fact it is about thoughtless consumerism and strengthening the capital basis. One more day to get drunk and forget...

Such situation cannot be seen as positive. We don't like hypocrisy! This is why those who care come up with the following words: "Flowers are for today - the oven is forever!" But whatever capacious you might feel this saying to be, when fighting for equality it is not enough to focus on one topic whether it is unpaid homework, violence or absence of social guarantees. To break the existing world order it is important to see the entire spectrum of sex-based discrimination and its basis.

With eyes wide open I'm looking at the very heart of social inequality. I do not search for my or other's personal problems. Because personal is always political.

This is why on March 8 the Gender balanced group, the collective of website [svobodna.org.ua](http://svobodna.org.ua) (anarcha-feminist Russian language web-page) and Insight Initiative Group decided organize an event dedicated to the "holiday" and call it "Nothing personal..."

To discuss problems common to everybody, the ones which arise in the result of the hierarchical world order, we invited activists from various communities: anarchists, left activists, LGBT activists, feminists as well as other people interested in our event.

Information about our plans for March 8 was posted on our website on February 28, 10 days prior to the event. We are absolutely sure that everybody who had planned to spend this day with us used their chance. 80 people had registered beforehand, but participated about 50.

In the theoretical part we

discussed the following issues:

- What is March 8 and why this day
- What is feminism
- Types of feminisms and their major differences
- Three waves of feminism
- What is feminism today
- What is anarcha-feminism

The theoretical part lasted for over two hours. Lectures were mixed with interactive exercises on gender issues where everybody took part. In this way we tried once again to define for ourselves what gender, masculinity, femininity are, what homophobia, sexism and patriarchy mean... Who suffers from this biologically defined nonsense? Not only women! And to stop this deception lasting for thousand years one needs very little – not to be indifferent to the pain and oppression of others and yourself. Wanna do something nice for your beloved ones? Come along with them to the barricades instead of once more "once a year" present women with dead forest and garden gifts.

During the half-an-hour coffee-break the participants could enjoy not only coffee but also the following photo exhibitions:

### Sexism in advertisement

19 photos were shoot and selected in Kiev and Odessa for the past two years (from 2006 to 2008). These are the examples of the street and inside (metro) advertising. And also one copy of the advertising poster from Odessa which I personally cut off from one of the ad boards.



The problem is not that we see sexism in everything but that the system sees only our genitals and all as alike. But they are also different! There are no identical penises, clitorises, breasts or hips. But despite this on TV and advertising boards we see cloned silicone fakes. The advertisement triggers our basic instincts playing with stereotypes. This is why it's so disgusting. Even if you fit in the stereotype this does not yet mean that you are stereotypical. A person fulfills her or himself in various spheres. And if I am a woman bad at topography I can be good in a gym at the same time... If I am a man with an athletic body this absolutely does not imply I have no idea about cooking or poetry. These things are not mutually exclusive. But the advertisement usually narrows it down to one simple definition.

### Chinese women

20 photographs shoot with a simple digital Olympus on a bike's board. In 2007, three people from a European third-world country (Ukraine) headed for another third-world country – China (Asia). On their way they passed Moscow (where they received Chinese visa waiting 10 days for it), Irkutsk oblast and its gorgeous Baikal lake, the Buryat Autonomous Republic with its no-road ways and small bugs... They crossed half of Mongolia, the country with the most beautiful blue sky and green hills. Mongolia which must definitely be visited, and where you will never want to come back. And finally on August 9 they break into China! Break through an made-up rainbow over the custom pass! Which is symbolic. When reading books or articles about China, you often come across this already famous definition: China is the country of contrasts. Which is true indeed!

### Femininity

The idea of the exhibition started as a search... What is femininity? What does this mean to me as to the subject with this attribute ascribed regardless of my own

desires (defining myself at different moments of my life as 'feminine' or 'not-feminine') and suggesting my weakness. Physical, economical, political, emotional, sexual... Such an order of things raises disgust and the desire to find oneself disregarding the dominant patriarchal concept of being. I have never thought and will hardly ever agree that I am weaker or more stupid than a man but I can state with a certainty that as a woman I have far fewer opportunities to develop since the state consciously makes a woman weak fitting her into the role of the housekeeper and birth-giving device. This leads, as a menstruation, to the bloody answer to the question 'What is femininity?' Femininity, as well as masculinity is a disease. It is the sickness of the collective unconsciousness.

25 color photographs made with a digital Canon, without any artistic pretense but quite provocative. They uncover those aspects of femininity that usually stay outside beautiful films and commercials.

### Exhibitions:

"Gender route-2", December 2006, Minsk

"Kiev Infoshop", February 2007

"Nothing personal...", March 8 2008

### By Skady:

17 color and black&white photographs shot with professional camera. Two photo exhibitions of staged photographs united by single style, first planned as separate projects. Placed in front of each other in a narrow corridor with pale peach walls. The character of the first exhibition is a famous in anarchy-scene freak, pacing roofs in a skirt, striped socks and with a doll. Another exhibition pictured mystical enough lady. I'm not sure what the difference between erotica and pornography is, but it was beautiful.

At 3 pm we started the second part of the meeting, working title 'applied'. The participants divided into three groups based on their interests. Roughly speaking, those interested in sports and those interested in arts. I know, sounds quite simplified... though, we are all well aware, I suppose, that these are not mutually exclusive things. It is just that one

group spent time talking about physical activities and the other group was creatively applying their artistic skills.



Self-defense section was held by an activist from Insight initiative group. She started with a statement that 'women's self-defense' does not make sense since 'defense' is the same for everybody. Then she demonstrated lots of various defense methods! However she noted that all these methods must be worked out in a gym for them to be successfully used in the street. Since otherwise in real-life situations they might not work because of the shock. Though once your body is trained, it will do the job itself. Then one of the participants, master in the Marshall arts and a psychologist by her background noted that it makes sense to talk to the offender first and apply physical force only if nothing else works.

At the same time in a different room the rest of the participants learned DIY techniques, i.e. learned to do everyday or activist things with their own hands. They discussed stencil and serigraphy print; how to make a zine or produce a series of stickers. Finally the workshop participants practiced decoupage technique – designing various surfaces with images. The best about decoupage is that any photograph can be transferred on any surface, whether it is a T-shirt, box, big suitcase or a door!

Presentation of the new zine. Specially for March 8, Svobodna collective produced a thematic zine ?5 format with the same title. There is no guarantee the zine will be produced regularly, it might remain a single brochure dedicated to the special date. Besides the articles from the website [www.svobodna.org.ua](http://www.svobodna.org.ua), there is also some poetry and double-side poster A4 format. It can be purchased in Kiev Infoshop, located at [zaraz.org](http://zaraz.org).

At the end we had planned to bring

everyone together in one place and show a short Ukrainian documentary about men raising children and all related societal issues. Regrettably, we ran out of time to do this. We do hope that we will manage to make such meetings more regular and not necessarily dedicated to a specific date; in that case we will not be in a hurry to manage it all.

Also all the discussions were supposed to be summed up with a lecture on anti-discriminatory practices, raising multiple faces of xenophobia: sexism, homophobia, racism, nazism, fascism, speciesism (chauvinism based on species), but to my great regret we were short of time for this activity as well. Though this materials will soon be available on Svobodna website.

### Demonstration

At 17:30, as planned, our group of about 40 people gathered in Maydan Nezalejnosti (Independence Square, main square of Kyiv). We stretched our banners, held black flag, hit the drums and started marching. We walked in a united group, women and men side by side. And what is interesting – there were more men than women. One of the women activists was asked: "What about these men, are they also feminists?" She answered: "They are pro-feminists and anti-sexists."

People walking in the street on that day celebrating March 8, the glamorous 'women's day', were obviously unprepared to a demonstration. Some were staring at us in surprise, others loudly clapping their hands. While our gang was walking along the street, one of the women activists, wearing a green wig, was shouting in a megaphone:

"Do not give flowers on March 8! It is the day of the public fight!"

"Flowers today. Neurosis all the year long."

"You are holding flowers today? Didn't he beat up you yesterday?"

"Consume! Work! Die!"

"Join the revolt – at work and in the kitchen!"

"Brains and fists – all-human achievements."

"I demand decent work pay – from today and further on."

"It is my choice to decide whom to

sleep with, when and how often."  
"If I don't have sex with a man it does not mean I don't have sex."

Our three-meter banners were quite unusual and probably shocked people. One of them was yellow picturing flowers on one side and a crying blonde on the other. The slogan was saying: "Flowers today. Neurosis all the year long."

Another banner, a red one, was calling to visit Svobodna website: "I am free (svobodna)! svobodna.org.ua"

At the beginning of the column (though we looked more like a cube covered with banners on its three sides) was a four-meter banner with a slogan:

"Do not give flowers on March 8! It is the day of the social fight!" On this banner number "8" symbolized handcuffs, and the word 'flowers' was replaced with a picture of a flower bouquet.

At the end of the demonstration journalists could talk to the activists.

I personally found another not-nice thing. There were no any representatives of women's organizations in the demonstration, even though we asked them to come 10 days ahead. They did not even answer our email! Does this mean that all their activities are only nominal? There are so many problems around to tackle, but these organizations are not up to take them on. They can't take one hour a year of their tensed work to join their fellow activists in one protest march against oppression and stigmatization! I am really curious what Women's Non-Governmental Organizations, the liberal feminists, do. And what their members do on MARCH 8...

- \*1. "personal is political" = since in today's interpretation of March 8 there is no politics, there is nothing personal in it as well;
- 2. women's resistance movement is not based on personal reasons, it is based on personal experience; its reason is the structure of the system;
- 3. during the argument with the boss the dismissal reason is "...nothing personal";
- 4. we do not like the existing system ... nothing personal

by robin A bobin

### Czech Republic: Effects of the Medical Service Privatization

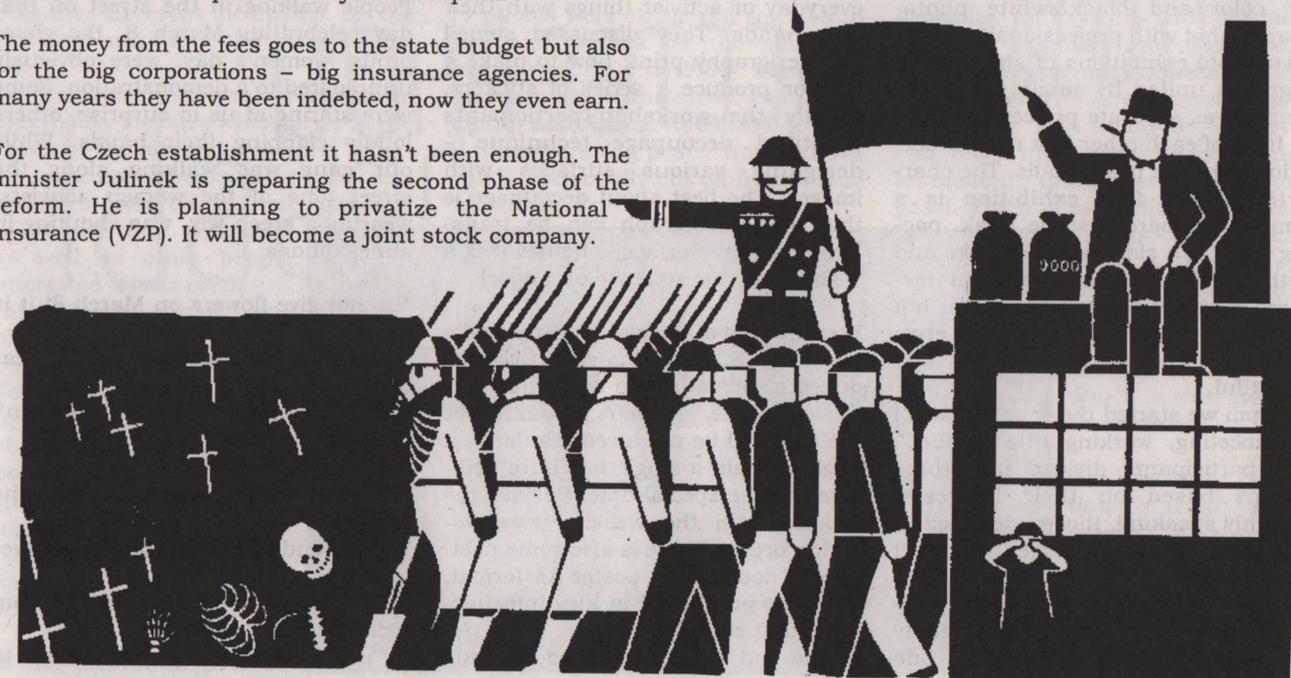
It's been three months since the medical service in Czech got privatized. The number of the visits at the so called first-contact-physician has decreased by 36% and the number of visits at the first aid station has decreased by 40%. The Czech have to pass for everything after the reform - for the doctor's consultation, getting an ambulance, hospital and even for prescriptions. The physician on the other hand is allowed to put only one piece of medicine on one prescription. People have found their ways to fool the system. They don't visit doctors but they call them. If someone has to lie in the hospital he & she usually goes home for the weekend to save the money for the two days. The normal treatment takes place during the week so there is no point to stay in a hospital.

The money from the fees goes to the state budget but also for the big corporations - big insurance agencies. For many years they have been indebted, now they even earn.

For the Czech establishment it hasn't been enough. The minister Julenek is preparing the second phase of the reform. He is planning to privatize the National Insurance (VZP). It will become a joint stock company.

### Direct Action against the American Military Base in Czech Republic

Czech ecologists protest against installing the missiles in Czech Republic. They occupied the military range where the radar was going to be put. 20 activists from Greenpeace occupied the hill 718 on the range Brdy by Prag. In the wood on the hill they put their tents, built a wooden "freedom totem" and hang a huge banner (15mx15m) between the trees. The army authorities ordered them to leave the range but the protestants ignored the order of the army. Until now there has been no intervention. The ecologists say that they might stay their even for a few weeks.



## Decentralized Days of Action for Squats and Autonomous Spaces

Minsk

11 April 2008 an open air party took place on a grass field in one of the central parks of Minsk (without permission, of course). The weather was fine fortunately, only in the end a small thunder lightened the evening. A "squatters house" was made from cardboard boxes as a central symbol for the party; a small foto exhibition on the topic of houses, a distro space and a freebox were installed nearby. A zine about squatting was prepared and presented to the guests. Frankly speaking, there were much more than expected.



After the discussion on squatting in Europe, there was a break during which vegieburgers were distributed by the local Food Not Bombs group. While this went on, the Samba band began to play and the independent theatre troop staged a short performance on the topic of summer birds that are being shot. Then the Capoeira wrestlers told the history of their movement (it occurred to be very near to the anarchist philosophy) and then they showed their skills and delighted all the guests. In the dark the fireshow happened supported by the Samba and Capoeira drums.

About 100 guests attended the event, some of them had heard something about squats before, others not. A lot of people were from the punk/hc subculture, but several bypassers felt interested when heard the drum session and stayed for a while with us. Among them there was a journalist from one state youth magazine, but i doubt that he stayed interested once he heard that the party was organised by anarchists.

On 12 April an open film screening took place. We found an auditorium in one of Minsk universities. We watched movies about the squat Rozbrat in Poznan, Poland and the ceramic plant Zanon in Argentina, controlled by its workers. Two comrades reported on their squatting experience in London, UK, and answered some questions. This event was attended by 50 people.



Vilnius



In Vilnius on Friday the summerhouse was squatted and it opened it's doors with a photography exhibition, free tea and sweets, a discussion, and spontaneous stencil making/spraying. No police came and there was a good atmosphere. On Saturday we created a temporary autonomous zone outdoors near an ex-cinema "lietuva" with zines, an infoshop, alternative publishing "Kitos Knygos" books reading library, Food Not Bombs, performances, and a concert. Also some speeches were made. On sunday movies screenings were made in XI20 DIY space.

Prague

A street party took place on the embankment in the town center. There were few sound systems and people in costumes and masks. Photos and information about evicted places and older squatting actions were displayed. After few hours, the crowd went for a march through the streets, stopped next to two abandoned buildings and put banners on them. There were some 400 people on the street party. This was a bigger demonstration, we haven't had one like it since quite a few years.

Ropice

### Squat Viktorie: the struggle is proceeding

A new place has opened on the 1st March in Eastern Czech Republic, in Ropice near Český Tešín. A group of squatters occupied an old estate and have repaired it. They are planning a lot of interesting projects here, for example: organizing concerts, exhibitions, film projections, various activities for children, courses of yoga, greek and german languages...and more.

On 12th April the squat was opened for the community with a concert (Tupak Amaru, Stolen Lives, Mc Maty &

Locopoeta, Raincoat 34, Disney), fireshows, benefit flea market, an exhibition, and a lecture on Ungdomshuset and the defence of autonomous spaces. This action was also during the international days to support squatting. But unfortunately, the concert was ended by police intervention, only three bands had played. The action got around 120 participants. All those, who participated on the action, could see how the house came back to life and how an old space gained a new spirit. Czech TV had turned a brief report, but as usual, most of the important things had been cut out and the interviews became only poor fragments. "Well, to tell the truth, we thought that a similar conflict could occur because our activities are illegal in the country we live in" said one squatter. Another squatter declared: "Here are people with a brain in their head, who want to struggle for something. There is no freedom in here and we want to fight for it". The noise wasn't as big as it was said, the nearest house stands at least 400 m away from the squat.

After these days we tried to contact the owner of the estate agency in Trinec, but they didn't react in any way. We sent a lot of emails to the mayor of Ropice, but with a same result. After that we went around to neighbours near the squat and gave them a notice about our place. A few people were talking with us and agreeing with the ideals of squatting, but there didn't seem to be an active interest about our project.

On Friday 25th April and on Saturday 26th April a carnival supporting squat Viktorie was held in Český Tešín,

CSA square. The action was organized as a protest against the local policy in Czech Republic where squatting is illegal and every attempt to create an autonomous centre comes quickly to an end due to repression. So we said: If you don't want to let us use your empty buildings, we're going to take your streets! The action got a few people, and we had success in contacting the local people and giving them a lot of information on the squatting issue. A local paper reported quite good article about this action.

At present we are preparing to make interviews for the media and primarily we want to occupy Viktorie again! On the way we want to ask Polish comrades to help us. To contact us email: viktorie-collective@safe-mail.net.

**Resist and exist, squat the world!**

**XMaTeSX from Viktorie collective**



### **Poznan - Poland** **In defence of squats! Rozbrat stays!**

On the 19th of April, a week after the International Days of Action in Defence of Squats and Autonomous Spaces, a demonstration under the same slogan took place in Poznan, Western Poland. Saturday night squatters, anarchists, a samba band and a Food Not Bombs crew gathered outside at the Old Market Square with leaflets, fireshows, tallbike wars, a soundsystem, meals, and speeches about squats and autonomous



spaces. Videos from European squats evictions and a slideshow about Rozbrat and squatting in general were screened on one of the market's walls. We also put up a few tents, which symbolized the act of "taking back" the main square of the city.

The leaflets distributed that day were partly based on the main thoughts of the "Call for decentralized days of action" from the April 2008 campaign. They presented what the squat movement is and described the present wave of repression against squats in Europe. We stressed that we are motivated by the same passion, and the same determination as the international squat movement. We fight the same enemy - capitalism and police/political repression. In spite of borders we are united through our common will to create a world of freedom, equality and self-organization.

In the leaflets we also related to the Polish context; the politics of the local government, permanent privatization and commercialization of public space, the recent increase of water, rent and ticket prices, and limitation of green zones in the city. just one example: the present mayor of Poznan was found guilty this year of illegally selling a park in the heart of the city to the richest guy in Poland, who built a shopping mall there.

Last but not least, big part of our action was devoted to the situation of squat Rozbrat, which is now in danger

of eviction. Rozbrat is a home, a meeting space, a workplace, an oasis and a base for the activity of the anarchist community in Poznan. After 13 years Rozbrat is going to be sold. However, so far due to long legal proceedings, the date of auction is still not known. In the meantime we are doing our best to save the place - we have organized and have already planned a lot of solidarity gigs to gather funds, we have organized legal help (lawyer), printed stickers, posters, talked to the local media and some neighbours. We also have got financial help from other squats in Poland (big thanx). We still do not know when the final decisions about the squat will be made, but the red alarm is on! We are ready to organize a big demo on the day when it turns out and we count on international participation/acts of solidarity. We invite you to visit us and our website for updates: [www.rozbrat.org](http://www.rozbrat.org).

More photos from the action: [www.foto.rozbrat.org/](http://www.foto.rozbrat.org/) [www.foto.rozbrat.org](http://www.foto.rozbrat.org)

The representation of Rozbrat crew is going to take part in the next meeting of international squatters network nearby Berlin.

**Rozbrat and all other squats STAY!**

**R&M in the name of Rozbrat Collective**

## Labour Struggles

### Anarcho-Syndicalist Bloc at Workers Demonstrations

Report from the National and International Secretary of MASA  
(Network of Anarcho-Syndicalists - Croatia)

On April 12th, 2008 Zagreb, Croatia, saw the biggest workers demonstrations in the last 10 years. The protest was organized by the five biggest trade union centrals and gathered an estimated 35 - 50 000 workers. The main reason for the protest are raising prices of basic human needs such as bread, milk, flour etc. The Network of Anarcho-Syndicalists (Croatia), from its very founding in February this year, took the decision to participate in the protest and to form an autonomous anarcho-syndicalist bloc based on workers' solidarity, resistance to capitalism and to the neoliberal system which supports it. We formed autonomously to spread an anarcho-syndicalist alternative among workers and to state a critique of trade union leaders and bureaucrats.

Our bloc gathered around 70 people from Croatia, but also many comrades from abroad (Italy, Germany, Slovenia, Serbia, UK etc.) and marched through the city with banners and red and black flags. At the end of the gathering, we made an attempt to get to the square where the seats of the Croat government and Parliament are located, which is officially forbidden for protests.

However, our bloc was stopped by the police cordon which surrounded us. We expressed our resistance to the capitalist system and its holders, held a speech with the main thesis that **"We don't accept social partnership! Class war continues!"**

Later that day, we held our First National Congress where we agreed on the Statute of the Network, formed first local groups and mapped isolated members. All documents and contacts will soon be available at our web site: <http://www.masa-hr.org>

### For International Workers Struggle!

National Secretary of MASA  
International Secretary of MASA



### Rank and File Unionism

In Poland these days, large parts of the media seem to be at war with trade unions. You may read lots of stories about "terrible" trade unions, bureaucrats, corruption and self-serving union leaders. As anarchists we also have some criticisms of how some particular unions are controlled, but we cannot agree with the way these problems are presented by the media. The press tends to make no difference between bad union practices and unionism in general and tends to dismiss workers' rightful grievances all in one general campaign against unions and workers' protests.

As ABB is going to print, the capitalist lobby is debating new regulations on strikes and union activity with the union bureaucrats of the Tri-Partite Commission who want to achieve union hegemony by adopting laws which would only allow larger unions the right to negotiate with the bosses - which is particularly troublesome as many workplaces have union pluralism. The bosses want to make direct action and occupation strikes totally illegal and require unions to provide "registers" of the strikers' days in advance. Most of the media present this as the only reasonable way to deal with unions which "blackmail businesses" and "demand unjustified privileges" - to use the language of the media.

### Down with the Trade Union Bureaucrats!

Trade union leaders are a favourite target for the press because some of them, especially the leaders of the larger unions, are like any other bosses. The media is quick to point out that a union boss may earn 6000 zloties (or more) a month while the workers under them only earn 2000 zloties. (A lot of noise was made about the head of the teachers' union making 9000 zloties a month (2650 euro) while teachers can make less than 1500 zloties.) As members of the coordinator class, they feel entitled to large salaries, and more often than not, the union structure allows the leaders of the union to dispose of money without much control.

### Hierarchically controlled unions? - Not for Us!

In most hierarchically controlled unions, although there are some referenda (and legally must be for calling strikes), spending money is just one of the things the leaders are entitled to do without the express consent of the workers. It's very much like the state and politicians; once you elect

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them, they have your "mandate" to decide what they want and are not really under your direct supervision, nor do they ask your opinion before they do things.

This is extremely problematic when the union leaders are sent to negotiate for you. They usually come away with a deal different from the demands of the rank and file workers.

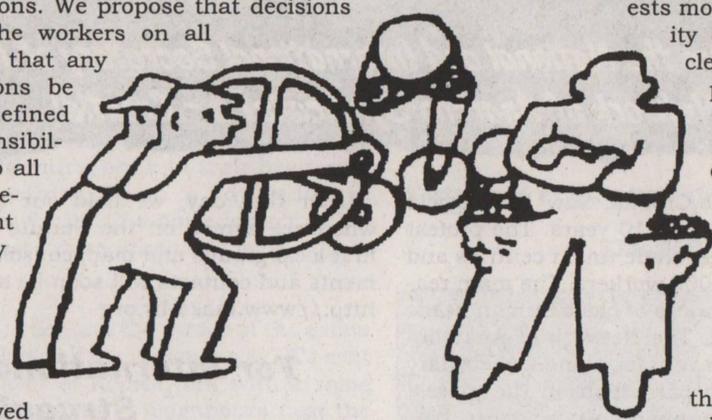
This is part of the reason why we prefer to build grass-roots, rank-and-file unions. We propose that decisions be made directly by the workers on all important matters and that any representatives of unions be working on clearly defined instructions with responsibility to be accountable to all members. This is something radically different from what we currently find, even in the so-called "democratic" or even "radical" unions, most of which limit the range of decisions the rank and file are involved in or who act under the assumption that as long as people vote in absolutorium to approve the work of the union leaders, this means that democracy is working. We find that the latter is a particularly misleading form of democracy as most people tend to be removed from the facts and don't follow what it going on, and even if they find something problematic, they tend to look at things as a done deal or not to ask too many questions since they are quickly made to feel like complaining trouble makers. In many areas of "democratic life" in Poland - be it at a housing cooperative, local community government or a union meeting, one can observe this type of backwards democracy of presenting what has already been done and then asking those concerned if they approve.

The model for rank and file unionism is therefore important because it also represents a model which can be applied to other units in society. In terms of unions, many problematic issues can be avoided by putting issues to discussion and vote beforehand. For example, with financial issues, a union may decide in advance what budget they allocate for running expenses, set aside some emergency cash which, if used, has to be accounted for, and they can approve new expenses if they are large. This not only helps to curb abuse, but changes the dynamic of the union. Instead of "managers" and "bosses" - like in the world of the workplace or the state - we can create a relation where people are equal partners cooperating to self-manage their own affairs.

Rank and file union members should have full control over all the decisions and negotiations which involve their workplace. Workers can also benefit from agreements between different industries which are interrelated or between workers in different branches of the workplace, locally or internationally. Organizational structures that delegate people to represent workplaces can be democratically controlled when delegates and the rank and file discuss issues first, get mandates or opinions reported on inter-organizational meetings and allow the rank and file

to vote or approve the actions of the representatives.

Of course, in order for these structures to really work to further the interests of the workers themselves, some new ideas need to be promoted in society and there have to be changes in perception, changes in the way people act and react. It's not enough that people just make decisions for themselves; people have to be able to make informed decisions and people have to be able to identify their interests more clearly. As we see, the quality of any form of democracy is clearly linked to the ability of people to not only analyze facts rationally and with understanding, but also to make decisions with a view to achieving certain goals.



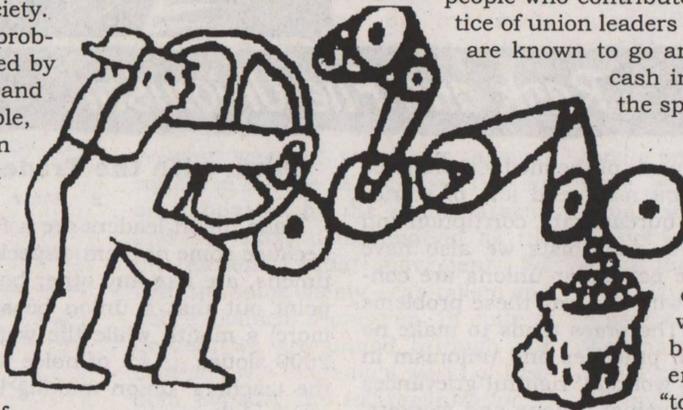
### Anarchists and the Bureaucrats

Of course, life is not ideal and there are some anarchists, who, working in a place without any

more radical unions, join the bureaucratic unions in order to be at least somewhat protected in the workplace. This puts some people in a confusing situation; there are those who would argue that, since they are "being protected" (more or less) by their union representatives, they should act appreciative, not demand more democracy in their union and certainly shouldn't make a fuss about issues like where their money is going, etc.

We just cannot agree with that type of attitude since it is the typical strategy of those in positions of authority to give people crumbs or to offer then some moderate benefits to keep people "appreciative" enough not to complain about the system of power and powerlessness.

Similarly, if we don't want union leaders to dispose of the workers' collective money as they wish, without asking the people who contribute this money, then this practice of union leaders taking money, some of whom are known to go around with large amounts of cash in their pocket and decide on the spot to fund something, should be questioned.



Anarchists certainly need to be talking to other people who are struggling, but, first and foremost, cooperation with other unionists should be with the rank-and-file members, not with the union leaders and bureaucrats. This "top-down" way of organizing unfortunately has been practiced

a bit too often in Poland in recent years.

Similarly, anarchists doing workplace organizing should try to avoid getting themselves into similar positions like the union leaders - it's no achievement for an anarchist unionist to be "the organizer" or "initiator" or any other euphemistic word for "leader" at the workplace. Of course, sometimes this is not his or her fault; people are used to the current models and sometimes when they sign up to a union, they leave all the work to the "activist" sort. One has to be careful to avoid this role, otherwise it may turn up that there is no difference between yourself and the typical careerist unionist.

Labour Struggles

"At this time it is of utmost importance to create and strengthen the existing relations between libertarian workers in Serbia and Kosovo"

## No War between People - No Peace between Classes!

Serbian Anarcho-Syndicalist Initiative's (ASI) communique on the creation of another state in the Balkans

The Kosovar ruling class, in service of US imperialism, has declared the creation of another state in the Balkans on February 17th. Several weeks after that act, and the events that followed it, we think that enough time has passed for us to try to be objective in our understanding of these events. — There is no doubt that behind this act of Kosovar bosses and politicians, despite what they are stating as their reasons, stands their wish to formalize and entrench positions from which they can exploit the Kosovo population in a more "independent" way. Every state, including the newly formed Kosovo one, is maintaining the system of capitalism by force as its ultimate reason for existence. A system in which a group of criminals is running the lives of the enslaved workers and peasants.

The large support given to Kosovo politicians and bosses by the citizens of Kosovo was because of the still fresh memories of the apartheid style of regime that Milosevic had pushed to its limits during his reign. By his use of the medieval Kosovo myth as an opiate for the people, Milosevic had, in a most brutal fashion, practiced politics in the interest of the ruling class in Serbia. With his nationalist politics turned against the Albanians, Milosevic was capable of diverting attention from rising social problems which started to seriously endanger socialist bureaucracy in ex SFRJ (Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia). We remember his brutal fight against Albanian workers and students, his verbal diarrhea at Gazimestan (1), but also his crimes made against the Albanian civilians pushing them to the level of second grade citizens. Today, Serbian bosses and politicians wish to repeat that trick and to continue untouched to the end with their robbery and privatization, by making us all crazy with their infinite tales about Kosovo.

As in those days, today it is also not possible to underline enough the influence of the great powers in the events occurring in Kosovo and the Balkans. The most dominant capital-

ist force of today, the United States of America, in whose service Milosevic was for quite some time, and which, together with its allies, has even called him once the "factor of peace and stability in the Balkans", has found servants in the shape of the Kosovo ruling class, on which it can, obviously, rely much more. And while Albanian politicians are enraging the people with the talks about leaving the claws of the Serbian state, they are in fact placing the Albanian people in the bridle controlled by the western power-holders.

In that sense, it is not possible to question the NATO character of the new Kosovo state. From the documents, such as the plan of the UN Special Envoy at the Kosovo status

When we are talking about the living conditions of different ethnic communities in Kosovo, it's not incorrect to say that the situation, when compared to the period before the 1999 bombing of Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, has turned upside-down; the horrible conditions of life for Serbs in Kosovo today, a population to whom it's not possible to move or live freely without military presence, children which are not able to go to school in peace, old people who are being beaten up by Albanian nationalists etc. all testify to the catastrophic life of non-Albanian population in Kosovo.

Those objectively horrifying conditions of life for the Serbian people are used in the most treacherous way by the Serbian bourgeoisie to pursue its own interests, so criminal institutions, such as the Serbian Orthodox Church, are using it to try to regain its medieval positions. Intentionally confusing interests of the endangered population with the interests of the Church, priests are very clearly all over again - just like many times before in the last twenty years maintaining and supporting warmongering politics. Wimpy, pathetic, simulated grief, false concern and chauvinist-petite bourgeois pathos are felt all over the moves and statements of Serbian political parties and institutions of the Serbian state, and are crushing any illusions about their good intentions.

The Serbian bourgeoisie is working on dividing Kosovo by manipulating the horrible position in which the Serbian population of Kosovo finds itself, and is directing them to renounce their loyalty to Albanians and tie them to the institutions of the Serbian state. That, without a doubt, means bad luck for all Serbian workers which are living outside north Kosovo, and especially for more than ten thousand Serbs in the A trpce region which is located in the south of Kosovo, and which will, in that scenario, be sacrificed to the



process Martti Ahtisaari, which was backed up by the USA and EU, it's clear that the presence of NATO troops in Kosovo is one of the main preconditions for Kosovo's "independence". Precisely in that context it is important to follow the development of the Kosovo state, which is becoming one of the most important satellites of the USA and EU in the Balkans.

interests of the Serbian ruling class.

Kosovo today is a state in which more than 50% of the population is unemployed, and smuggling, foreign donations and help from relatives living in other countries is the main mode of survival for the population. Time will show that the anger of the Kosovo workers, because of their horrible living conditions, will very soon turn against those same power-holders after the hysteria caused by the newly won "independence" has worn off. That anger was directed by Albanian bosses and politicians against the Serbian state and it is temporarily pushed under the carpet by the promises of the better life in a new state. History will once again confirm that states have never solved, but only created problems for the working class.

Another important factor that has to be taken into consideration, if we are to grasp the situation as a whole, is, without a doubt, the role of Russian imperialism. Defending its interests on the international level, the Russian federation has found an ideal opportunity in the Kosovo episode to stand up against the USA-EU block, and to reinforce its positions in the Balkans. By taking into consideration the present constellation of power on the Serbian parliamentary scene, it wouldn't be strange if the Medvedev-Putin team would achieve something that Stalin and Soviet imperialism didn't manage to do fifty years ago. The aggressive approach of Russian corporations in Serbia, buying off strategic companies such as the Oil industry of Serbia (Naftne industrije Srbije - NIS), the building of main gas-pipelines through Serbia as an answer to the gas-pipeline which is under the control of the west, clearly speak about Russian intentions. On the other hand, this confirms us that there are very serious forces within the Serbian ruling class which are working for Russian interests, and which would rather see Serbia as a satellite of Russia than as a satellite of the USA.

When talking about the proclamation of the Kosovo state, the Serbian ruling class very often repeats the phrase about them "stealing 15% of our territory". We ask the question - What is "our territory"? To everyone with a clear head it's understandable that when politicians speak about "our territory" they speak of the territory from which the Serbian state can gather taxes from the workers, and then criminals in power put that money into their own pockets. For the working class there is no "our" or "their" territory. The whole world is our motherland.

The reaction of the Serbian government to the proclamation of Kosovo "independence" consists of organizing protests against independence in Belgrade and other places in Serbia and, with the help of Neo-Nazi organizations, outside of it; as well as of infinite repetitions of phrases about the breaking of international justice, as if it wasn't clear to everybody that international justice, as any other bourgeois "justice", is just a façade of the system in which the justice is on the side of the stronger ones.

The protest against independence held in Belgrade on February 21st speaks best about the truth of all national-

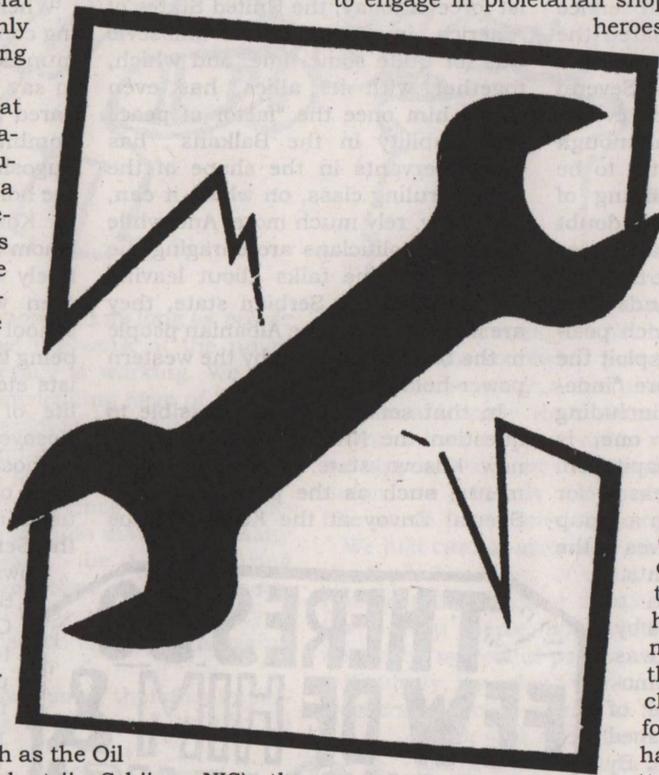
ism. Without a doubt the large gathering of people, in which more than 250.000 people took a part, was a gathering in which minor fascist groups felt quite comfortable. The best proof of that is the behavior of the members of the Obraz organization, characterized as clero-fascist even by the police, which were in the first rows of the protest posing with their regalia. But while causing sadness with the Serbian power-holders, that protest revealed one flame that is burning under the layers of nationalist rhetoric - that is the flame of social discontent which was manifested by thousands of impoverished people who used this unsuccessful and totally simulated remake of Gazimestan to engage in proletarian shopping on a large scale. True

heroes of that protest headed to the shops in the center of Belgrade and, without taking notice of the nationality of the owners of the companies, managed to get new clothes, foot-ware and other things that they can not usually afford. The government tried to diminish the number of people participating in the expropriations, to make false distinctions between "robbers" who were stealing and "people" who were destroying embassies of the states which recognized Kosovo. Hysterical liberals started to foam, calling on the Law to react against the "hooligans". Among a huge amount of similar statements by Serbian politicians, the statement of the primitive clerical nationalist minister for infrastructure, Velimir Ilic, has stood out with an important message. By trying to gain

points among the radical-chauvinist elements of the protest, those which participated in the protest to destroy the seats of "anti-Serbian" states, he said that "even breaking of windows is democracy". We hope that Serbia will progress in that direction, and that the workers of Serbia, losers in the transition, will start with the breaking of more windows and thus strengthening the democracy, when the social unrest and anger of the humiliated and exploited finally erupts.

The negative effects of these events in Serbia are already visible in the silencing of any voice which is questioning the politics that is waged against Kosovo in the interests of the Serbian ruling class, and the introduction of an informal Martial Law which means police prohibition of all gatherings which are not under direct or indirect organization by the ruling structures. Those prohibitions are opening space for bourgeois liberal forces which are taking points on the account of the authoritarianism of the regime, portraying themselves as victims prosecuted because of their supposedly progressive character.

The conflict of interests of the two current ruling parties, which in this situation are forced to take clear positions, brought the downfall of the government as expected. New elections are put forward as a solution for growing problems, and the vacuum that will last until the election of new MPs will be used so that the brutal capitalist politics against Serbian workers may continue, under a "technical government", which means raising of the prices of food,



electricity, fuels and all other basic needs. The element they are counting on is the election campaign, this time probably crazier and more abnormal than anything we have seen before, in which they hope to blur the vision of the workers. Once again we will become collective victims of imaginative designers in the service of political parties, which will try to sell us the story of Kosovo and the EU packed in different packages.

The thing that can be seen as an important positive result of this turbulence is the fact that a large segment of people stopped accepting the idea that there is no alternative to the EU and NATO. Even if it is clear that parties that today question the orientation towards NATO and EU do that in their own political interest, and these turns in their politics are largely relying on the reorientation towards Russia, that is still very important because it opens the space for thinking about alternatives to this system. In such a situation different alternatives to capitalism are gaining strength, and in that manner our movement can expect its strengthening in the close future.

When taking into consideration that from the highest instances in the state messages are being transmitted which are not seeing violence as "extremist" behavior, Anarcho-syndicalist initiative calls workers in Serbia to use this opportunity, to radicalize the situation in their working places and use these obscure times for the betterment of their material conditions. The thing that is placed forward as a task for all revolutionaries in Serbia is the destruction of the last, simulated remains of nationalist mythomania, and, in that way, the opening of the space for escalation of social conflicts.

At the same time, this is a chance to strike hard blows to the loudest supporters of liberal capitalism in Serbia, blows that will make it quite hard for them to stand up in the early future. This is a chance for the workers to loudly and clearly show what they think about institutions

with destructive processes that have left hundreds of thousands of people without work and a means of survival.

At this time it is of utmost importance to create and strengthen the existing relations between libertarian workers in Serbia and Kosovo, as well as the whole Balkans, and, in that way, present a clear alternative to American and Russian imperialism. We will remind you that the only time people in the territory of ex-Yugoslavia managed to really unite was during the partisan antifascist movement, made up of individuals from all nations, which succeeded in taking down the nationalist power holders that were all working for foreign powers. Today there is a need for the creation of a clear anti-imperialist, anti-NATO and anti-Russian block on the Balkans, which will unite people of all satellite states, and crushing all exponents and agents of American, European and Russian interests. Equality and freedom of all can be only achieved in a society based on self-managed libertarian communism. The Balkan workers' confederation of free communes!

Only organizing in strong, revolutionary, non-hierarchical unions ready to wage a strong fight against bosses and politicians can lead to the forming of such a block. By fighting at our working places for better conditions of life and work, by radicalizing the situation and raising the tension, we can create the basics of the movement that can achieve a society worthy of us as Human beings.

## For Libertarian Communism! For Anarchy!

ASI General Secretariat,  
12th of March, 2008

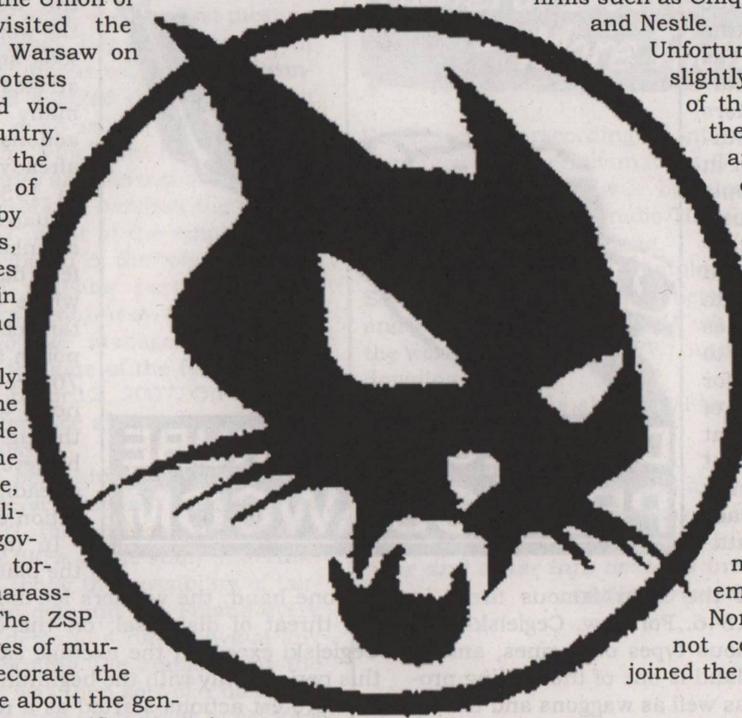
## Poland, Protest at Colombian Embassy

The Warsaw group of the Union of Syndicalists (ZSP\*) visited the Colombian embassy in Warsaw on March 6 for the protests against state-sponsored violence in that country. Protests, called for by the National Movement of Victims and backed by human rights groups, trade unions and families of victims, were held in over 180 cities around the world.

ZSP wanted especially to draw attention to the violence against trade unionists and the involvement of the state, corporations, paramilitaries and even the US government in the killing, tortures, beatings and harassments of unionists. The ZSP activists brought pictures of murdered unionists to decorate the embassy with and spoke about the general situation as well as specific cases in

firms such as Chiquita, Coca Cola, Drummond and Nestle.

Unfortunately the whole action was slightly undermined by the actions of the Colombian Embassy and the mysterious non-appearance of the liberals who called the protest. People connected to the Embassy, upon learning that something was planned for March 6, organized its own vigil for March 5 and actively invited people to attend the protest, as part of the March 6 Marches, on March 5, apparently confusing some people as to when the protest was being held. It then staged a pro-government, anti-FARC farce on the embassy grounds. Nonetheless, some people were not confused by the trick and joined the protest on the 6th.



## Russia-Poland, from Irkutsk with Solidarity!

Hello, Warsaw. Here is our appeal in three languages to the Polish authorities from Russian anarchists of Irkutsk Autonomous Action! We made an unauthorized picket in front of the Polish consulate in Irkutsk! We tried to give our appeal to the secretary of the consulate! But she refused to take it because of some bureaucratic details! Goodluck brothers! In solidarity! Irkutsk with You!

### Polish authorities!

We are the Autonomous Action of Irkutsk expressing our solidarity with the striking miners from Budryk mine and we demand an end to the economic and social injustice with respect to the miners who have less wages than is common in the branch. In our viewpoint, there are no rightful reasons for such discrimination. The mine has the third place of making profit in Poland, but regardless of that workers are forced to strike in order to gain economic standards of living for their families. Undoubtedly, this

is NOT a good reference of the Polish Treasure Ministry to which the mine belongs.

We propose the Ministry to remember the so-called "railway wars" - the strikes and blockings of railway lines that took place in Russia at the beginning of the 90s and prevent such events from happening not by persecution of workers, but by realising their rightful demands!



## Workers Initiative in Cegielski Plant

Successive spreading of anarchist tactics amongst workers of the famous Poznan factory

Since 2002 the **Workers Initiative** (*Inicjatywa Pracownicza - IP*) has been working closely with the workforce of Cegielski plant in Poznan, successively convincing the majority of the workers of its tactics. These tactics are based on several simple principles: end of the conciliatory politics towards the enterprise management which were conducted here by trade unions; assurance of full access of the workers to information on the situation of the enterprise as well as on the situation of particular groups of workers employed in Cegielski; assurance of worker participation in the taking of relevant decisions; finally, creation of the ground for direct and struggles controlled from below. In the period of 7-8 years IP succeeded to introduce all these principles into working life, what led to the situation that in fact for about 1 year the personnel of Cegielski conducts permanent protests, which have brought till now high increases of the salaries and, above all, the radicalisation of the workers' attitudes within the plant.

Cegielski plant is one of the most famous firms in Poland. It was founded in 1846. For now, Cegielski produces in the first place various types of engines, among them ship-engines (while Poland is one of the leading producers of ships worldwide), as well as waggons and trams. For many years, Cegielski had been one of the biggest

work places in the western part of Poland. In the '70s, the most productive years of the plant, more than 20 000 people were working here. Today, there are 2 800 employees here. Its size and the big meaning for the economy were some of the main reasons why the class struggle has always been concentrating in Cegielski. The first strike took place here in 1872. In the period between the world wars (1918-1939), the workers of Cegielski undertook smaller or bigger actions, strikes and demonstrations many times. The first strike actions after the war started already in autumn 1945, and in 1956 workers of Cegielski initiated the militant proletarian insurgency which held for a few days and took over the whole of Poznan. In the militant clashes with forces of the Polish army and police around 70 protestors were killed. The next wave of protests went through the plant in the '80s, however Cegielski did not play a leading role during the revolution of 1980.

In the '90s the situation in the plant had become quiet. On the one hand, the workers let themselves be scared with the threat of dismissal; on the other hand, salaries in Cegielski exceeded the average salaries in the country at this period. Only with the beginning of the new century the new protest actions started as a reaction to another wave of dismissals and radical decreases of the gains. In this



period the **Workers Initiative (IP)** entered into the plant with the motto of the necessity to undertake a radical struggle for the interests of the workers.

One of the first successes was a demonstration under the heading of stopping the dismissals in June 2002.

About 1000 workers from Cegielski and other plants in Poznan took to the streets. However, numerous actions did not manage to put an end to dismissals and gain decrease. But IP had gained quite wide support which e.g. resulted in the fact that one of its members, Maciej Szary, was chosen twice (2003 and 2006) by the whole plant personnel as its delegate in works of the enterprise management. He won very radically each time against the candidates of the big traditional

trade unions presented in the factory. At the same time, IP was still undertaking regular protest actions gaining improvements of work conditions and financial benefits in many issues. In spring 2006 IP undertook an attempt to organise a regular strike. The legal way of its organising did not work out. By use of threats, the management and the other trade unions managed to create a situation in which less than the necessary 50% of the workers participated in the strike referendum. Learning from this experience, activists of the IP in Cegielski decided on a radical change of tactics starting with a series of short strikes. These strikes were often taking the form of rallies during which the workforce was deciding together and directly about further developments.

This strategy started on March 29, 2007. At this day, IP had called the management to start negotiations on wages. At the same time, IP from the beginning refused the possibility of leading the talks in the cabinets and offices (behind closed doors) and call the negotiations to take place in the workers club on the area of the factory so that all interested workers could participate directly in the talks. For the first meeting about 200 workers appeared, but the management refused to come. The gathered workers then conducted an assembly and decided that on the next day they will conduct a so called "plyta" ("platform/square") - a term which in the jargon of Cegielski workers describes an informal break in the work during which the workers conduct the assembly. On March 30, 2007, most of the employees of the morning shift participated in the "plyta". As the management was still refusing participation in negotiations, the workers went out on the street and conducted a march to the management offices (about 1km away from the gate of the factory). The next "plyta" took place on April 3, 2007. On this day the chairman of the enterprise appeared and promised beginning of the talks.

These have been the beginnings of the struggle. The management, however, was not giving up so easily. On April 16, 2007, the workers called by the IP did not come to work (90% of the staff) undertaking an "absence strike" using the possibility of taking a so called "leave on demand" (in Poland every employee is allowed to demand 4 days leave at any moment by simply informing the employer at the first day of the leave). It was then sort of a half-legal strike. At the same time, some hundreds of workers

gathered on the square in front of the management offices in the morning hours in order to protest and demand increases.

These protests continued with different frequency until April 3, 2008. Altogether IP has organised 10 so called "plyta" in this period, which have been between 20 min and 3 hours long, 5 demonstrations in which participated between 100-400 persons and one "absence strike" in which 90% of the personnel participated. As a result of this struggle which focused on the aspect of gains, the wages increased by about 7000zł and an extra premium of 1000zł. At the beginning of 2007 the average salary in Cegielski was about 2850 zloty (brutto), so in about one year an increase of about 25% was achieved.

This is however not the end of the struggle of IP. At the moment, the biggest problem on the horizon is to stop the attempt of privatisation of Cegielski, which is still a state enterprise. The workers are against such an idea. As a reaction to the governmental project of privatisation **Workers Initiative** is planning to present a counter-proposal for the socialisation of the plant. Right now, activists are working on the creation of a project for the transformation of Cegielski into a co-operative society, in which shareholders would be all workers and in these terms they would, in fact, take control over the plant. About further results of our attempts we will inform the readers of **AbolishingBB** in the near future.

JU from *Inicjatywa Pracownicza*

## Slovakia, Download IWA/AIT General Secretary Interview - More Than a Union

Download the recording of interview with IWA/AIT General Secretary Ratibor Trivunac on IWA and its activities. It is in English-Slovak and was broadcasted on 6th March 2008 thanks to the student radio TLIS in Bratislava in a special edition of Radio Priama Akcia.

We discussed about examples of social struggles of IWA Sections, about differences between Sections, about contacts and relationships of the IWA with organizations from all over the world (Asia, Africa, IWW): And a lot more. Don't miss it and download from [www.priamaakcia.sk/data/File/Radio/RPA\\_marec\\_08.mp3](http://www.priamaakcia.sk/data/File/Radio/RPA_marec_08.mp3) (106 MB, format mp3).

Next week there will be also an overview on the More Than a Union tour on [www.priamaakcia.sk](http://www.priamaakcia.sk).

For any other info write to [intersec@priamaakcia.sk](mailto:intersec@priamaakcia.sk) or [radio@priamaakcia.sk](mailto:radio@priamaakcia.sk)

Priama akcia  
IWA/AIT Slovakia  
[www.priamaakcia.sk](http://www.priamaakcia.sk)

"Kids have shown adults how things are possible"

## Social Protests in Croatia with Anarcho-Syndicalist Participation

The network of anarcho-syndicalists **MASA**, **Mreza** **anarho-sindikalista/kinja**, which consists of groups and individuals in various cities all over Croatia was founded this February at the initial meeting in Zadar. Since then it was very busy as we participated in many events over the last two months, first of which was protests during the visit of George W. Bush to Zagreb, after the NATO summit in Romania.

us from leaving. Nobody from our bloc was arrested and we left shortly after reading our leaflet about the situation of the workers.

Last days of April were marked by a number of smaller, local, school students revolts around issues like locking up the school entrances, sanitary



May, initially related to failings and problems with the implementation of Bologna process in the universities. There



April the 12th saw the biggest workers demonstration in the last 10 years. The protest was organized by the five biggest trade union federations and gathered an estimated 35 - 50 thousand workers. The main reason for the protest was raising prices of basic staples such as bread, milk, flour etc. Our bloc consisted of around 70 people from Croatia but also many other comrades from abroad (Italy, Germany, Slovenia, Serbia, UK etc.) and marched through the city with banners and red & black flags. Banners like "We demand bigger cages and longer chains!" or "Those who sow misery shall reap the rage" were a take on the bureaucrat of mainstream unions, and their "protest security" created some problems when we reacted to their speeches. At the end of the gathering, we made an attempt to get to the square where the seat of Croatian government and Parliament are located, which is officially forbidden for protests. However, our bloc was stopped by the riot police cordon which surrounded us and prevented

were many controversial statements in the media about this protest, coming from official students "representatives" (Studentski Zbor - SZ) and from councils of students that formed around the protest. After the minister of education held a meeting with official students representatives and announced that all of the students demands will be met, those "representatives" announced that the protest the next day is obsolete. But in the process of organising the protest the problems between students and the organisation that is supposed to represent them became obvious. Network of anarcho syndicalists participated in the protest, with our banner and leaflets, which was for many students here first encounter with that kind of organizing. Thousands of students took to the street, which is probably the biggest student protest in Croatia since 1971. Our leaflet dealt with neoliberal reforms, lack of perspective for students after they enter the labour market and the problems with student representatives, advocating direct democracy as the basis for student organising. The Minister promised everything the day before the protest, but students still decided to go on with the protest.

Country-wide students protest was announced for 7th of



This interview was made and published in early April 2008 by slovakian Priama Akcia (www.priamaakcia.sk)

"In fact, the employers have a strategy which takes into account high rates of turnover (people coming and going) (...) It's better for them to offer first-time low-paid jobs to new people rather than pay good wages to people who want to work longer for the company. Leaving is a perfect solution for bosses, not for workers. How can you improve things by running away? You will end up with the same shitty conditions somewhere else"

## Interview with fired Union Organiser from the Lionbridge Corporation, Poland

As Priama Akcia informed in December 2007 a non-hierarchical union was founded in Lionbridge Technologies in Warsaw, Poland. On 12th February, Jakub G. - member of the union - was sacked. The dismissal came shortly after the official announcement of existence of the union in the company. Jakub told us more about the case in the following interview.

### What does Lionbridge exactly do as a company?

Lionbridge translates software and documentation for other corporations, for example Microsoft, or Adobe. If you see Windows or Photoshop translated into local languages - companies like Lionbridge did it for Microsoft or Adobe. There are about 300 people employed in Warsaw - mostly as project managers, testers, engineers and DTP specialists. Translation is outsourced to individuals. In fact, this translation company hardly employs any translators and relies on temporary workers (who may or may not get jobs any given month) for translation. Translators are treated as least important and paid last (often after several months delay). This is a classical example of the parasitism of a corporation: a whole multi-million organization exists to exploit badly paid individual workers with no stable employment, without whom the organization wouldn't be able to translate a single word.

### Why did you decide to form a union in Lionbridge?

The idea about forming a union was mentioned in conversations among workers for a long time. It surfaced each time the bosses were acting in a dishonest way, like firing one of the workers without reason, refusing to pay bonuses, etc. For many years people only kept complaining. At some point it was necessary to do something about it. The impulse came after the company formerly known as Bowne Global Solutions was bought by Lionbridge and a new country manager was hired. This marked a clear drop in the atmosphere at the workplace in terms of working conditions and slowly different benefits were taken away from workers, little by little. I think this is what caused more interest among workers to create a union.

### Some comments on general situation in Poland that would help us to more understand the context of the matter?

The current Polish government is ultra-liberal and is seriously threatening to dismantle all social protections in

the labour code. This is meant to increase „competitiveness” of the Polish economy and provide „prosperity” for everyone. So far, it has only provided hardship for the working population, as real-estate prices have risen beyond what people could afford even if they accept to indebt themselves for practically their whole lives. The „consumer boom” is fueled only by credit and not by rising wages. This means that people will end up deep in the shitter once the artificial economic bubble explodes. Corporations such as Lionbridge don't want people to earn more - they prefer to move to other countries as soon as they can find people willing to work for less and other corrupt governments willing to give them tax breaks. This way of thinking leads to a global economic crisis.

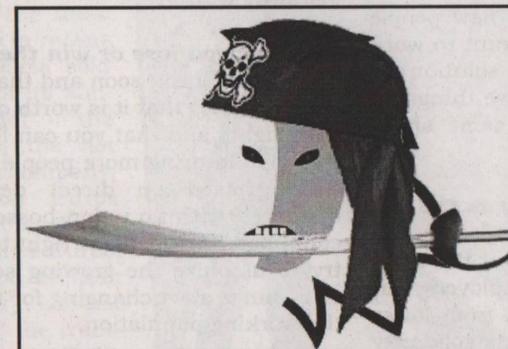
### What was the immediate reaction of the company and what they did later?

At first, the company pretended that nothing has happened. Then, they tried to convince us that „we are doing something wrong and that the company will lose credibility with the US headquarters”. In the end, they tried to argue that making a union is „bad for the workers” because fewer jobs will come to Poland, and Lionbridge bosses in USA will decide to transfer workplaces to non-unionised subsidiaries. They were obviously looking for a way to get rid of the union.

### What was the official reason of your lay-off (and what do you think was the real one)?

The official reason was that I have supposedly „broken confidentiality agreements by publishing secret information on an anarchist web site”.

They didn't say which web site and did not provide any evidence for their allegations. What they wrote was ridiculous: they claimed that I have caused the rate of Lionbridge shares to fall on the NASDAQ stock-exchange because „financial institutions closely watch anti-globalist websites”. It is ridiculous that someone has thought of this accusation. The real reason was of course to scare workers and show them that a union organizer would not be tolerated by the company.



**What was the reaction of your colleagues to your lay-off?**

My colleagues were shocked and didn't believe this could have happened. Most of them didn't have this kind of experiences before and still had illusions about how corporations work. They felt intimidated by this situation and were afraid for their own jobs. The managers also tried to calm them down with little concessions.

My colleagues wrote a protest to the management and send it around the company. They wrote that it appears that there were no grounds for me being fired and that they will support me in court. Even such a simple letter caused very strong criticism from management for "disloyalty" towards the company.

For the moment funds are being gathered and I expect that something will be organized soon. It is a bit too early to talk about it.

**What action of support have been taken in Poland?**

Not much so far. Information about the case has been published in several websites and newspapers but the momentum isn't there yet. I hope this will change soon. Bosses shouldn't see that their policies of carrot and stick are working.

**What is the interest in unions in the sector?**

The sector isn't unionised at all. For many people, it is their first job and they don't treat it as something permanent. Freelancers have even more problems to join together as they might not even have contact with each other.

**Isn't it better to flexibly change employer and make better job this way? For example team leader in Zilina said that if you didn't like conditions in the company, you should find job somewhere else and not form unions? What you say to this?**

Changing the employer is not going to change anything at all. In fact, the employers have a strategy which takes into account high rates of turnover (people coming and going). They know that there will be enough people who will still ask for jobs even if the present employees leave. It's better for them to offer first-time low-paid jobs to new people rather than pay good wages to people who want to work longer for the company. Leaving is a perfect solution for bosses, not for workers. How can you improve things by running away? You will end up with the same shitty conditions somewhere else.

**Is team leader considered in the company as the one who sides with the boss or with the employees?**

That depends. Of course the class interests of the team leader make him or her often side with the employers, but on the other hand team leaders are chosen from lower ranking workers and sometimes they still act in solidarity with the rest of the team. So, you might see both types of behaviour. In our union, we have decided to exclude people who can at the same time hire, fire and set wages of workers. We don't want bosses in the union. However, in modern corporations, the division of labour is such that very often workers are delegated some managerial tasks. This might involve some elements of approving other people's work. This is a grey area and we decided that only people who have full rights to hire and fire are excluded from the union.

**What is your current financial situation? I remember you mentioned you have no savings.**

I would like to thank everybody who has supported me. So far, I have found another job and I am more or less surviving. However, I'm having some debts because of the legal costs I had to cover up front. And yes, most of my earnings went to supporting anarchist projects of different kinds, so I did not save much over the years.

**What do you expect the trial brings?**

According to the lawyer, there is practically no chance that the employer can prove the charges they brought against me (publishing a company secret and causing losses to the company). So the court will probably decide that the firing was illegal and either reinstate me or give me a compensation. This might take a year or more, depending on different things. Of course, later on the employer can try different tricks to try to keep me out of the workplace.

**What do you do in meantime?**

I have found another job as a PHP programmer. I try to continue my political activities, such as maintaining an anarchist library/infoshop in Warsaw, organizing antimilitarist campaigns against the missile shield, etc...

**How can the reader of this interview could help your case?**

There will soon be an international day of action against Lionbridge organized with the help of the IWA. Lionbridge has many offices around the world and we expect many people to join pickets. You can write about the case on your portals and blogs, write to the company telling them that firing union members will not be tolerated and that workers around the world will make sure that they don't get away with it.

**Whether you lose or win the trial - what then?**

Well, I hope I win soon and that a victory in this case will show workers that it is worth organizing and standing for your rights and that you can lose only by doing nothing. We hope to bring more people into the structures of our union based on direct democracy and recallable delegates, with no union-bosses, where every member is equal and has the same right to decide. We really need to try to unionize the growing sector of office workers, so that things start changing for the better for this group of the working population.

**Priama Akcia -  
Slovak section of the  
International Workers Association**

**Web: [www.priamaakcia.sk](http://www.priamaakcia.sk)**

**E-mail: [priamaakcia@priamaakcia.sk](mailto:priamaakcia@priamaakcia.sk)**

## Strikes and Riots at Workplaces in Romania... ...a Turning Point?

Following materials deal with the April strikes and work-place confrontations in Romania, in the first place at the Dacia automobil industry in Mioveni. We decided here to print two texts dealing with the same strike. The reasons for that are as so... in the past years we have received almost no reports on labour struggles in Romania so we ourselves as well our readers remain pretty much uninformed about what is going on in the region. We found also both materials very informative but also pretty different and supplementary to each other.

The text "**Solidarity... an Alien Concept in Post-Communist Romania**" was provided to us by our comrade from Bucharest. The author of this text is from Romania and is writing usually for a ... business magazine. The text however contains many interesting observations and explains some socio-cultural backgrounds to the labour struggles in the region. It was intended to be published originally in a magazine "Plotki" for which our Bucharest comrade is writing.

The texts "**Louder, more Self-Respect, more Insolence... Strike at the Dacia-Renault in Romania: a Turning Point**" and "**Another Strike Follows**" we have translated from the German publication Wildcat (#81, May 2008) after contacting the author of the texts. This author, a left-wing activist from Berlin, thanks to her good knowledge of the Romanian language and understanding of social conflicts in the country, spent some time together with the workers in Mioveni during the second period of the strike. Her text is based therefore more personal experience, direct observations and discussions with the striking workers on the spot.

Thanks again for the possibility of presenting both materials to the ABB readers'.

AbolishingBB

## Solidarity... an Alien Concept in Post-Communist Romania

By Mihnea Anastasiu

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of March this year about 80 percent of the employees of the car manufacturing plant of Dacia-Renault in Mioveni (Romania) entered on strike asking for a salary increase of roughly 150 Euros per worker. The management of the company refused these demands as unrealistic, offered initially in return a more modest 31 Euro salary increase per employee and contested the legality of the strike in court. The representatives of the workers say that the increase they demand is fair due to the growth in the sales and profits of the company in recent years. Last year alone, Dacia sold more than 230.000 cars of its successful and cheap model - the Renault Logan. In 2006, the net profit of the French owned company, reached the 100 million Euros threshold, while last year it is expected to be around 150 million Euros. What the workers demand is their share of the extraordinary success story that has been so far the transformation of Dacia into a profitable car manufacturer. The representatives of the trade unions state that the labor productivity increased in a spectacular fashion and it's high time the Romanian workers start being paid at decent levels, close to the salaries of their colleagues in Western Europe. If for example the minimum wage in France is almost 1300 Euro, the gross average wage in the Dacia plant in Mioveni is little over 430 Euros. Given the fact that this is but the average salary, including that of the personnel in



the management and administration that earns obviously more, the average net income for a worker in the factory can be as low as only 200 Euros monthly. While the Romanian average wage (324 Euros) is four times smaller than the French minimum wage (1280 Euros), prices in Romania reached almost 60% of the European average after the country's accession into the EU! It is thus obvious for ordinary people that living standards in the country are remaining and the same level or even going down, rather than tending to equal those in the old member states of the EU. Therefore, the trade unions are more and more vocal in their demands for higher wages and better working conditions for Romanian workers.

How was this strike at Dacia reflected in the Romanian media? Most TV debates focused on the justification for the strike and the consequences of an eventual departure of the French company Renault from Romania in case a too abrupt salary increase occurs and Romania won't remain the paradise of cheap labor that it was during the past seven years. When it came with the concept for the very cheap Renault Logan to be developed in the newly acquired Romanian plant in Mioveni, the French car-making giant thought that this could be done based of the low wage levels in Romania as well as by minimizing the levels of robotics in the factory. This means that the Mioveni plant is the least technological modern factory owned by Renault-Nissan throughout the world as well as one the most cost effective factories. Therefore the cost of the

Romanian worker is smaller than that of a fully automated car making plant elsewhere in the world. That is why the French company stubbornly defends its position on the salary increase at Mioveni and threatened behind the curtains to cut some of the workforce if labor costs become too high. Instead of denouncing this cheap blackmail that the French producer could not make in its home country without stirring a political hurricane, the Romanian media doubted the rationality of the trade union's requests.

This is a common pattern for post-communist Romania where strikes and trade-unions have always been perceived as backward minded. Rather than showing solidarity with the misery of millions of their fellow countrymen that after decades of work have been put out of work because of privatization and restructuring programs imposed from abroad, the Romanian media have put the guilt on the obsolete views of trade union leaders. It is true that state-run economy was a total failure and that it amounted to high level of corruption for managers and public employees, yet Romanians embraced privatization Thatcher-style in an enthusiastic manner unseen in such western countries as France and Germany.

Since then though, many Romanians have become disenchanted with the national brand of capitalism that has brought foreign investments and put 70% of the economy in private hands, but has failed so far to provide the western like living standards promised.

How come we lack that solidarity that has been the cornerstone of western Europe's development and social progress? Communism is one explanation. It has left the country socially fractured while the social capital was shattered. Very few associations were allowed to function

and the existing ones were tightly controlled by the regime. The toppling of Ceausescu in 1989 did not provide the liberation from that miserable state when each feared his or hers neighbor. On the contrary, the new regime used the social fracture in its own benefit by opposing the reform minded students and intellectuals to more conservative thinking trade union members, especially those of the miners. The outcome is well-known. Brought to Bucharest with government acknowledgement, the miners made order on the streets of the capital by beating (even beating to death) some of the students that protested against the new regime in the summer of 1990.

The consequences of those horrible days from 1990 still linger on in Romanian society as elites tend to disregard the plight of the working class, while workers distrust intellectuals, even when they uphold the cause of the workers. Until this society moves on and starts a real debate on the development direction which we want for our country, such strikes as that from Dacia will be watched skeptically by most of the representatives of the elites, no matter their ideological credentials. But the Dacia workers represent a happy case because they have strength in numbers and are able to fight for their rights. Last year, a young woman working for the Romanian branch of the consultancy giant *Ernst&Young* was found dead from exhaustion caused by the overload of work she was required to fulfill for her company. Unfortunately, no trade union is there to defend the rights of skilled young people working for multinationals and the Romanian authorities seem deaf and dumb to abuses caused by aberrant tasks imposed by such companies. Solidarity? In Romania? What a joke...

## Louder, more Self-Respect, more Insolence... Strike at the Dacia-Renault in Romania: a Turning Point

From Wildcat#81 (May 2008)

On March 24, about 8000 from 13000 workers of Dacia-factory in Romania went on unlimited strike. One of the main demands was an increase of salaries by 50-70%. When preparing the calculations behind this demand, workers didn't relate their present wages to the standard wages in Romania but compared them to these of the workers in Renault-factories in Turkey and France (with whose workers they recently established good contacts) which are getting for the same work between 900 and 2000 Euro, while their Romanian colleagues only 300 Euro. This strike in Dacia is the most significant struggle in the Romanian private sector since 1989 and could be a beginning of a wave of strikes for better life conditions in the region of Romania.

### Three days on the place

Many days the only source of our information about the strike was on the internet. One day we could read in a longer article in a German daily newspaper "Tagesspiegel", the workers of Dacia stated they are influenced to strike by German engine-drivers. We decided spontaneously to make a trip to Romania and check for ourselves what is actually going on there. After two days of travelling we reached the city of Pitesti. During the trip we found ourselves in an information-hole. On radio there was no word about the strike anymore. It was possible that it ended before we arrived. Finally on the evening radio: the Dacia management repeated their offer to the workers; leaders of the unions will tomorrow morning discuss the issue with the striking factory crew in order to take com-

mon decisions. We won't lose any time and we drive directly in the night to Mioveni, a smaller town next to Pitesti, where on the hill the Dacia-Factories are located. On the huge parking-place in front of the plant only a few lonely cars are parked; silence everywhere. Some security workers are around but nothing to see from strike-posts.

Next morning, Wednesday, strike day Nr. 17, we again go up the hill towards the plant. The parking place is now pretty full with personal cars and firm-buses. The morning shift is at their workplace. But nobody works; the production-bands are making no sound. The workers are just coming out one after another from the main entrance. The first one we ask for an update says: "The offer is shitty. Everybody is against it. The strike will continue". This decision will be ratified at the same moment in writing (!).

### "In our heads something happened"

The most important demand of the striking workers is a salary increase of 550 Lei (148 Euro) per month. Then they want 5-10% participation in the profits, increase of Christmas- and Easter money (in both cases half the monthly salary) as well as Holiday pay (one month salary) and an increase in extra pay for heavy work of 200 Lei per year, and finally, a 15% discount when buying Renault-products. During the talks with the workers we realised that these demands are already the painful minimum for them and they won't go below it in any case. They express their anger about the stressful work, the assembly-lines never stop, behind the backs of the foremen who always control and find somebody at fault. The management want

to introduce weekend-shifts, the so-called 4-shift-system with only one free weekend in the month.

Later we speak to a group of older workers who are staying on the park-place, drinking self-made wine from the plastic cups and discussing loudly. They are immediately ready to tell us about their work conditions and the actual state of the strike: "We had allowed them to fuck us around too long. In our heads something happened! We understood that we are here doing the same work as the Renault-workers in France and our salaries are so shitty. We are not second nor third world anymore".

### "Neither second nor third world anymore"

Since 1968 the plant on the hill in Mioveni produces in the firstly, on licence of Renault, Dacia 1300, and was proud of Dictator Ceausescu. Renault finally took the plant over in 1999 and dismissed half of the 27 000 people employed at that time. Since 2004, the cheap car Dacia Logan is being built here. Originally this car was meant for east-European market and in this way built - e.g. into the kombi-version could fit an entire pig. Then, because of the decreasing incomes of the people in Western Europe, the car became very popular there as well. In Germany one can buy it for 7 200 Euro.

Today the factory-complex consists of Logan production factory, mechanic sections (motor- and gear construction) and a section of body montage. Apart from that, Dacia-Renault has its local development division for the Logan Model with about 300 engineers. As the workers told us, in Motor- and gear construction sections, works on new and modern CNC-machines are being lead. In body montage sections work is mostly done manually with a low level of technology.

In the area are also found factories of the supply firms where a further few thousands of employees are found. For example *Johnson Controls* is producing the seats for *Logan*, while *VALEO* makes the cables. During the strike some information about further suppliers appeared in the media. The company *Elba* in Timisoara, producing reflectors for the cars, supposedly announced they to be forced to shut their production for the time of the strike in *Dacia*. Another supplier *Borla Romcat*, close to Pitesti supposedly dismissed 60% of the employees because of the long-term strike in Mioveni, as Dacia is the main receiver of their products. *Borla Romcat* produces exhalation-pipes for *Logan*.

Down from the hill, opposite to the prison of Mioveni, is located the export-centre. There, ready *Logan* cars are again put apart into the elements (*CKD, Completely Knocked Down*), put into boxes and sent to other Montage-factories in Russia, India and Morocco. This way high custom costs for complete cars are avoided.

### "Old and young Muncitori"

During the rally in Pitesti the next day we start to know Rodica. She is hanging together with her older friend and neighbour from Mioveni. I asked how many women are working in the factory. They answer that half of the crew

are women. They are doing the same work as the men and are paid the same. Most of them went directly from school to the factory. Many of the *Dacia-muncitori* (Romanian term for worker) have, if men or women, behind them already 20-30 years of work at the assembly-line in this factory. Rodica already works here 31 years and is getting 253 Euro brutto, which means that in her pocket remains 157 Euro per month. Her husband was working in Dacia too, but 2002 he got some leaving-money. Since then he is working on building-sites and earns less than his wife. Both their children are already of age, and both of them had no choice but start to work in the factory straight after school. Daughter is 28 and she still lives by her parents in the flat owned by them in the socialist-block-style building from the 60-ies in Mioveni. Rodica and her husband had to stop many years

long from taking their traditional holidays at the Black Sea in order to be able to buy one new *Logan*. Seven years long have Rodica, as worker of Dacia, to pay rates in excess of 50% of her monthly wage in order to pay back the car. Only 30% of their work colleagues have their own cars.

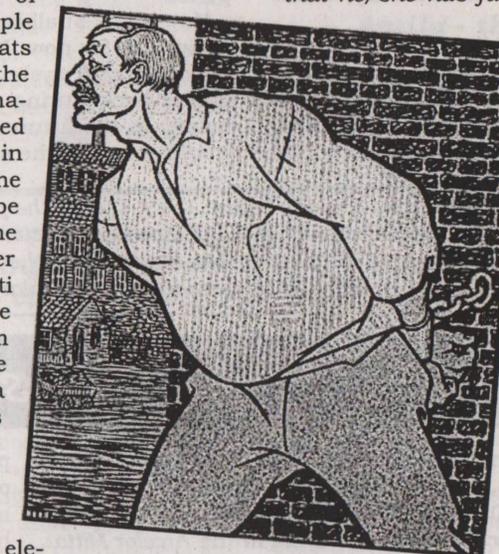
While the "older ones" make about 70% of the Dacia workers in Mioveni, in the last years more than 3500 young workers were employed in the factory. The qualifications did not play any role. They take anybody. On the buses which transport most of the workers every day to the factory, there is a slogan to see: "We are employing!" The new contracts are limited to 3 or 6 months. Dismissals and new employments belong to the daily praxis. However, young workers are as well resigning from the work by themselves. "When somebody remains at Dacia, it means that he/she has family, or debts, or he/she didn't find

anything better in other countries" tells us Radu who works at the montage sector. The "young ones" are formally only getting the minimum wage of 200 Euro brutto. Constantin has already unlimited contract even if he is working not such a long time in Dacia: "We were dismissed in 2006 after three months of work, because they didn't need us anymore. We have been altogether about 500 people to which this happened and we were very angry. In front of factory number of brand new cars got many cracks. At the same time, it was clear that the employment-department will ask us sooner or later to undertake the work again. We made an agreement among many of us, and when one month later they called us, we told

them collectively that we will undertake the work only if they give us unlimited contracts. It worked".

### Strike in the legislative framework

In 2003 there was already a wildcat strike in Dacia but it stopped after a few days. The activists were dismissed. We cannot find anybody who could give us more information on this particular confrontation. Only one worker from the engine section remembers, the wildcat strike at



that time was defeated supposedly for the reason that workers did not coordinate themselves good enough. Considering the ongoing strike he says: "Here you are getting no information from the other production sections. I have no idea what they are deciding in the Montage hall for example!"

In order that the strike will not be declared illegal and because of that, shut down, the trade union (1) takes care that the striking workers stick to certain rules. For example that striking workers are not moving between the different production sections. Everybody has to remain at his/her working place. With the difference that nobody works. Also, the actions out of the production halls or in front of the factory gate are forbidden. Constantin tells us that at the beginning they had an idea to block the entrance for transporters, so even the products were ready before the strike could not leave the factory but the majority agreed that the strike should not leave the legislative framework.

In spite of the inspiring determination which we have, faces among the workers, as well as this strike, has its boundaries. There is lack of self-co-ordination between the workers and lack of collective actions with which they could increase the pressure. The decision processes are taking place within the frame of hierarchical structures of the trade union and the striking workers are making themselves dependent on the information-channels provided by the union leadership. Striking workers told us many times that they know that during similar strikes in France many things are being destroyed and sabotage is an elementary part of the strike. They are asking us as well, how it would be in our region. The idea of undertaking such kind of activities seem to be present in the minds of some workers but in the end is not being put into action.

### Toiling all weekends through?

"We are not giving up" is still the common message of the union leaders on the tribune and of the striking-workers on the square during the second big rally since the beginning of the strike which took place on Thursday, strike-day Nr. 18.

The next morning, Friday 11 of April, strike-day Nr. 19, the confusion is in force. There is a new offer, not much better than the previous one, in some points even worse and anyway is very far from the demands of the striking-workers. It consists of 300 Lei wage-increase starting from

January 2008 (so incl. back payments) and another 60 Lei more from September 2008; and than the singular premium as a participation in the enterprise-profits of 2007 in high of one month salary, however minimum 900 Lei. On an average this is 30%-40% wage increase. Non-skilled workers (cleaning-workers) and functionaries TESA (these both sectors were not striking) should get 15% wage-increase.

At 1 pm the union signs the agreement and calls the strike as finished. To the press goes information that 70% of the striking-workers have voted for acceptance of the new offer. Nobody knew from where came this number. Certainly there was no written voting this time and that obviously many striking-workers didn't took part in the voting. For example the whole second shift, people living in other towns and villages which arrived at the factory at first afternoon with the buses, the only transportation measure they could afford- they all had no chance to participate in the decision making. In the regional newspaper "Societatea" one could find next day: "Many of the striking workers were unhappy with the decision to end the strike. It came to extremely tense moments. Big part of strikers hissed off the union leader". Atmosphere until the change of the shifts was on this day in a low spirit. Nobody makes the impression of a person who won a fight. Many believe that the leadership of the union was bought by the other side and betrayed the strikers. One woman from the morning shift asks us if we know if they could go to the court against their own functionaries. We are discussing with some workers possibilities of how the strike could continue in such a new situation. Rodica is laughing at us when we are bringing the idea of undertaking a collective health holiday as an eventuality for further stopping of production and in this way continuing the pressure: "Ach, I understand now what you mean. But we are still to scared to do such things. There have to be some change in our mentality before we are so far".

Short after the end of the strike the workers are being told during factory assembly they have to work now in the weekends in order to work out the lost time from the strike period.

How and if at all is the management able to conduct this is unclear for now. Its another idea of introducing in the factory 4-shift system of permanent production that was taking back during the strike - only the imagination of having in the future only one free weekend in the month would create in the strikers a serious irritation.

(1) The SAD - Sindicat Autoturism Dacia - exists already before 1989. During the process of joining the EU, existence of trade unions in the private sector, as well as acceptance of the democratic structures within trade unions existing in the (ex)state industries, had to be accepted and conducted as well in Romania. At the moment about 80% of Dacia staff are members of the union. The monthly union-fee is knocked off directly from the salary.

## Another Strike Follows!

The strike had only just ended in Dacia and already on April 14, 2008, comes info about a strike of 3000 workers in steel-works of **Arcelor Mittal**, one of the biggest steel producers worldwide, in Galati, Romania. In steel-works are employed 13 000 workers. 700 of the strikers wanted in the early hours to enter the factory through the main gate but were stopped by security guards who also started to film the striking-workers. As a reaction to it, it came to a riot in front of the main entrance to the fac-

tory. Stones and bottles were used. One of the guard points got smashed. The **Solidaritate**, one of the 4 trade unions operating in the **Arcelor Mittal**, did not want to sign a prepared collective agreement. They actually demand double salary, but minimal increase should be of 25%. The management of steel-works offers only 9,5% more. Because of the strike the workplaces at the ovens can not be covered by workers, while it can lead after only a short period, to a danger of oven explosions. But to not be

pushed to expensive shut down of the ovens and break in the production, management goes to court in order to bring the strike to an end in this way. On April 15 they have reached their point, court decided against the strike: *strike is illegal and has to be ended because of the danger that it brings to the people and against the steel-work*. The **Solidaritate** broke the strike. Further talks will come... (but the first step to the confrontation was also made in Galati...)



## ANTIFA News from Poland

**"Our ranks are growing all the time with people that have had enough of Nazi bandits and enough of waiting for somebody else to solve the problem for them"**

### Repression Against Anti-Fascists in Bialystok

Over a period last year there was a serious increase in activity of local neo-nazis. From attacks on "unPolish" looking people, through to the desecration of a Jewish cemetery, monuments and local buildings were covered with nazi slogans and these sort of events became daily bread in Bialystok. Local Anti-fascists didn't leave this situation without reaction and decided to take matters into their own hands. Nazi slogans were painted over, thousands of Antifa stickers covered the city and nazi bandits themselves became the target of repeated attacks. News about Antifa started spreading fast. This didn't make the "guardians of law and order" very happy.

Police began a campaign directed at local Antifa members - stop and search, detentions, the confiscating of legal self defence weapons and trying to fine people for their possession! There were attempts of psychological warfare (writing letters to parents of people etc.) and other tactics aimed at intimidating Anti-fascists and showing them who rules the city. In March a few people got their houses raided, their computers and mobile phones were confiscated and they were presented with absurd charges, which were later overturned.



All this clearly shows what many Antifas have known for years - that "guardians of law and order" stand on the opposite side of the barricade and we can expect nothing good from them. At the same time during interrogations a few people from Antifa had been offered deals if there was co-operation and cops tried to sell stories about how they "also don't like Nazis, etc. Of course those offers were ignored- after all our main slogan is "against state, police and Nazis". Far right and guardian dogs eventually always end up on the same side - more and more facts show that some Nazis give information to police and on this basis a few people have been arrested.

Whatever happens, our struggle continues. This is not the first time the forces of repression have tried to suffocate Anti-fascist resistance in Bialystok. They didn't manage before, they will not manage now. Our ranks are growing all the time with people that have had enough of Nazi bandits and enough of waiting for somebody else to solve the problem for them. In the meantime legal help for activists facing charges is being organized.

### Antifa - the Struggle Continues!

If you want to help with legal costs write to: barbarians@riseup.net

**"The liberal media were all in shock at what happened, because it was anti-fascists openly attacking right wingers, not fitting into the criteria of helpless victims or righteous self-defence"**

### Wroclaw April 12 - Fascists Try to March but Fail

On the 12th of April two Polish nationalist organizations NOP (National Rebirth of Poland) and ONR (National-Radical Camp) held a march in the city of Wroclaw (South Poland). First they tried to legalize it under the pretext of "commemoration of nationalists killed by Communists and Nazi regimes" (how funny, taking into account that lots of nazi skinheads were expected to turn up as well) but they got refused. They finally got it legalized, two days before the march, by claiming it was the "commemoration of Katyn victims" (Katyn was a prison camp in Russia, where thousands of Polish P.O.W.s and policemen were executed by Soviets in 1940).

Antifa wasn't left with much time to mobilise. In the meantime a group called *Young-Socialists* called for a legal counter demonstration. During the day about 200 fascists

and some Nazis turned up. The Anti-fascist counter-demonstration was small, about 30-40 people strong. There were also a few dozen militant anti-fascists from all over country hanging out in the area. A few times fascists were attacked, each time most of them legging it, unwilling to confront Antifa. One was hospitalised after being beaten unconscious by Antifas just moments before a fascist group was ready to launch an attack on more liberal anti-fascists. Many more had been injured. On the side of Antifa there was only one person slightly injured.

Police decided to stop the fascist march before it really started; they cordoned them off and then detained those that refused to move. Antifa scouts overheard some fash pleading to police to detain them because they were afraid to meet anti-fascists again. So much for brave white war-

riors. By the end almost all of them had been detained, fined for different minor offences and released in the evening. There were some Antifa arrests and 5 people got charged with assault and had to pay between 250 and 800 euros of bail money and have to report to the police station once a week. The organizers of the legal counter-demonstration didn't bother with the arrested people and didn't organize any legal help at all, disconnecting themselves from militant Anti-fascists.

Following a nationalist internet forum Antifascists had been amused to read lots of fearful comments instead of the usual "antifa - ha ha ha". The best comment posted was of one nationalist saying "My doctor told me that my nose will never be the same again". The liberal media were all in shock at what happened, because it was anti-fascists openly attacking right wingers, not fitting into the criteria of helpless victims or righteous self-defence. Antifa has shown once again what militant resistance should look like and how successful it can be!

At the moment there is money being organized for legal help and to cover bail costs but if you can help please do. The bank details are below:

Jakub Gawlikowski  
PL05 1140 2004 0000 3702 4238 2269  
BRE Bank S.A. Retail Banking, al. Mickiewicza 10, 90-050  
Lodz  
BIC/SWIFT: BREXPLPWMUL  
SORT CODE: 11402004  
And write "NOPasaran" on the transfer slip.



## Russia: Declaration of St. Petersburg Anti-Fascist Resistance Group on attack on Participants of a Picket Against Kosovo Recognition

March, 7 at 16:00 several ultra right groups held a picket in St.Petersburg against Kosovo independence near the US consulate.

Some of the picket participants were attacked by antifascists after the picket. This fairly ordinary event rose a lot of public attention, nationalists calling themselves patriots and Russian Orthodox believers started another hysteria in the media. In this context we would like to make the following declaration to express our attitude to the event:

1. When the ultra-right Orthodox clericals come out into the streets (there were activists of RONS, RID, DPNI, Black Hundred and others on 7 March) and raise their flags they should remember that the time has passed when they could freely gather in the city. It is getting dangerous to call for hatred and dominance of some groups of people over the others. It is well known that the groups present at the picket support violence against their political opponents and those whom they consider their enemies. An attack on them can be regarded as self-defence of the most conscientious citizens of St.Petersburg.

2. It is irrelevant at what sort of events Nazi appear - legal or illegal,

big scale or local - they spread ideas of hatred, ethnic confrontation and xenophobia. It is not important whether they are silent on this particular day or they shout their slogans. If nationalists are in the streets we must fight back by any possible means.

3. We believe that any idea can exist, even an absurd one (as in case with



ultra-right Orthodox). But it is one thing when people with such ideas gather in their head quarters and church parishes and it is a different thing when they come out into the streets and offend the people with their slogans, flags, handouts and ideas. Such gatherings are a danger-

ous hotbed of hatred and provoke hate related crime which is often committed by very young people manipulated by party activists who only make propaganda.

4. Ultra-rights criticizing the existing police regime in Russia seems illogical as at the same time they cooperate with it. In fact, they constantly ask their enemies (or friends?) such as the police and the procurator office to defend them. But in fact it is not surprising - the police, the church and nationalists make up one block and are a tool which the regimes in all countries have always been using. The so called patriots use every possibility to present themselves as victims, to demonstrate how they are beaten and torched just to make a political presentation. But where does all this opposition spirit go when they cooperate with the investigation? Such people can only be scorned and despised.

5. We agree with the declaration on Kosovo which the Serbian anarcho-syndicalists made at [www.ainfos.ca/ainfos07935.html](http://www.ainfos.ca/ainfos07935.html).

6. Neo-nazi shall have no place in our streets. We remember. We fight.

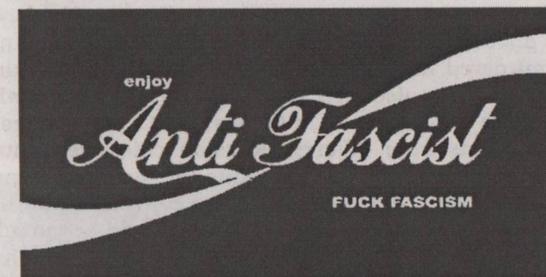
**Anti-Fascist Resistance  
of St. Petersburg**

## Kiev: Together Against Fascism

9 may an international antifascist demo took place in Kiev and finished laying flowers at the monument of the *Unknown Soldier*.

Around 200 antifascists and people from African, Arab and Central Asian communities gathered in the center near metro Arsenalna. They wanted to honour the memory of the dead in the struggle against fascism. They also attracted the attention of society to the problem of neo-nazism revival in Ukraine.

Since the beginning of 2008 in Ukraine neonazis made more attacks than during 2007, 2 people were killed. The



victims of these attacks are not only foreigners, but also everybody who does not agree with their racist theories, who does not want the fascist dictatorship be established and is not scared to claim it aloud.

Antiracists spread out the banners "All different, all equal" and "Together against fascism" and started their demo. People with different colors of skin chanted "the color of skin is not important, together we say NO to fascism", "the world is colour, but not brown", "our motherland is all humanity", "alerta, alerta, antifascista", "internationality, solidarity", "nobody is forgotten, nothing is forgotten". Passers-by supported the march and expressed their solidarity. The veterans were surprised very much. Antiracist leaflets were spread.

Near the eternal flame a spontaneous rally took place. Members of the communities and local activists had speeches.

Different people took part in the action: leftists, anarchists, RASH and SHARP, punks, just conscientious youth and elders.

It was the first such big, multinational, antifascist non-government demo in Ukraine.

## Moscow: A New Nazi Murder before a Concert

Today, 16th of March around 6:40 PM local time at the exit of metro station "Kitay-Gorod" around 15 Nazis ambushed 7 people with knives, who were going to a concert in club "Art Garbage", where the Petrozavodsk based oil-band "Nichego Horoshego" and a number of other groups were to play. As a result of the attack, a young guest of the concert from Noginsk

died from multiple stab wounds.

The attack was planned in the internet 14th of March in forum of FC Spartak hooligans. Now the theme is deleted, but it may be recovered from search engine caches.

This is not the first assault of that sort. In April 2006, 19 year old Sasha Ryukhin was murdered by Nazis before a punk concert.



## Moscow: Commemorating Aleksey Krylov

On the 19th of March, 3 days after the murder of Aleksey Krylov on his way to concert of Petrozavodsk oil-band Nichego Horoshego, anti-fascists from Moscow gathered to commemorate him.

Around 6 PM people began to gather at the place of the murder, Maroseyka street 4, they lit candles and laid flowers. Someone made the graffiti "We will remember Krylov forever! Murdered by Nazis 16th of March 2008!". The people had a banner "Fascism won't trespass". Alltogether there were some 50 people, they gathered for half an hour, but the police did not show up to disperse the illegal gathering.

As the original gathering place at

Pushkinskaya square leaked to open internet and 7 vans of police and small groups of Nazis were spotted there, it was decided that the action should be moved to another spot.

The marchers gathered in Kropotkinskaya metro station, when the march started moving clockwise down the Gogol boulevard, it was obvious that this was biggest ever reaction against a concrete case of fascist violence in Moscow - more than 250 demonstrators

joined in a spectacular unity - there were punks, lgbt, anarchists, punks, hardcore kids, skinheads and just anti-fascists. Maybe this does not seem a lot in a city of 10 million, but it is hard to organise events like that

in a conspirative manner under conditions of the total ban of such demonstrations - it would have been impossible even to legalize a picket or a candlelight vigil with such a short timescale.

The marchers carried banners "Fascism is murdering, authorities are covering!" and "Your ignorance is our death!". A number of sea torches were lit. People scanned "Get to the streets - reclaim the city!", "Fascism won't trespass!", "We do not care about color of skin - we refuse fascism!", "Antifa!", "Alerta, alerta, antifascista!", "Our fatherland is the all humanity!", "As long as we are united, we will never be divided!" and other slogans.

The march turned to old Arbat, and finished at Smolenskaya metro station. The police failed to make any arrests.



## St. Petersburg: Anti-Fascist Rally on Nevsky Prospect dedicated to the Memory of Alexei Krylov who was killed by Nazis in Moscow

In the evening of March 25 an illegal antifascist march took place in St. Petersburg. Over 150 people took part despite extremely harsh weather conditions - the city was in the middle of a snowstorm (which probably slowed down the police reaction).

Several groups of participants gathered from different parts of the city and started walking down the city's main avenue, Nevsky Prospect, from Ploschad Alexandra Nevskogo around 8 p.m. They were chanting antifascist and anarchist slogans and distributed leaflets connected to the theme of the march. They carried banners and lit torches. The march was dedicated to the memory of Alexei Krylov who was killed by nazis in Moscow 9 days ago, on March 16, on his way to a punk gig.

The police apparently didn't know what to do and after a brief and unsuccessful attempt to block the marchers from crossing the Ligovsky Prospect they shut down Ploschad Vosstaniya metro station. The antifascist column turned to Ulitsa Vosstaniya and then through the courtyards to Ulitsa Mayakovskogo. The police started to isolate and arrest people. The first two were captured in the courtyards, at least one more at the crossroads of Ulitsa Maykovskogo and Ulitsa Zhukovskogo where the antifascists had split in two groups. By then the police started to arrest everyone they deemed suspicious, and overallly

there were around two dozen people held. Five of them who were underage were released from police custody the same night, while the rest are to face court on Wednesday morning.

The anti-fascists have taken to the streets to proclaim that they aren't willing to tolerate the neonazi violence which has become a serious problem in Russia. The news reports about attacks on foreign students, about migrants being murdered have turned routine and aren't shocking anyone. There are also attacks on subcultural youths who try to oppose the neonazis. In the last 2 1/2 years at least five antifascists from different Russian cities were murdered for their convictions - including the musician Timur Kacharava from St. Petersburg. We are convinced that the methods of fighting those hateful ideas should be varied - articles in the press, educational programmes, graffiti, peaceful street actions etc. The entire history of antifascist movement bears witness to the fact that it can only be successful if it uses the entire range of tactics, including direct physical confrontation. An antifascist march in Alexei Krylov's memory had also taken place in Moscow on March 19. Over 300 people participated.

**Antifascist Information Group.**  
antifa\_spb@riseup.net



For a few years, we all are witnessing very intensive confrontations taking place on the streets of Russian, Belarusian and Ukrainian cities. Very young and quickly set together antifascist groups are doing their best to resist against a massive offensive of fascists all around the ex-USSR. There is already a long list of casualties of brutal Nazi attacks in the region. Most of the victims are "people not looking Russian". The second group of casualties consists of young antifascists. Among them people we knew or met in person. It should be enough to go through the last 10 issues of our journal to quickly find a gallery of commemorations of our Russian comrades. The antifascist's reports from the ex-Soviets have been a constant part of AbolishingBB for a long time already. This issue is not an exception.

However, what is new in this edition of ABB are the following materials. The text "Sharp criticism of antifascist-movement in ex-USSR" we actually already received for the past issue, but its heavy character started a chain of discussions in the editorial collective if we should print it just like that or find a more accurate way to step into the internal debate of Russian antifascists. The long discussion made it impossible to print this text in the last issue so it had to wait till the next one. In the meanwhile, we decided to contact various antifascists in far Russia and propose them to write some words on the topic, too. However, we believe that these kinds of discussions should first of all take place internally within the movement and not start on the pages of our journal, but then still, some comrades wished that their opinions are published in an international context seeing therein a chance to bring the discussion more attention locally as well. So finally, we are presenting you the "critical text" as well as the first two commentaries which we got from comrades from Russian cities. For some of you the debate might seem to be led on a very low level, but please remember that the new antifascist movement in Russia is still in a momentum of self-creation and some things which might seem obvious to western activists have to be discussed from the beginning in Russia. We are pretty sure that this topic will be continued in the following issues of ABB. So far in terms of introduction...

AbolishingBB

## Sharp Criticism of the Anti-Fascist Movement in ex-USSR

I started this article, because i couldn't remain silent anymore about fucked up things which are going on in the former Soviet Union in so called activist scene, which at the moment is almost fully dedicated to war with neo-Nazi boneheads. I have mess of ideas in my head, so I will not do the fluent story on topic, but try to bring out some overlapping crucial critics. Also I realized that this is taboo theme, and I realize that even those western activists, who have been to Russia on some actions, hardly can realize totalitarian character of activism and especially fascism of antifascists...

Activist scene totally reproduces a totalitarian order of ruling system, which has its roots in the almost ancient past, cause there were no time in Russia when people could experience at least a bit of democracy. And antifa activists as militant wing of activism reproduce totalitarian militant structures with which they have a historical experience - criminal gang system or organized army; same as boneheads. Hierarchy, leadership and subordination are omnipresent. Even antiauthoritarian activists who join the militant actions after a while forget their stands, partly because of (false) efficiency of hierarchical organization, partly because of cruelty of street wars, but mostly, in my opinion, because the vast majority of people who are fighting against boneheads are just thugs from proletarian suburbs or football hooligans, with strong position "if you are not with us, you are against us". This leads to totalitization of any antifa actions.

Orthodox Christianity is felt all around, even if the activists deny that. The whole history of Russia is subordination to the master; it was a Tsar or Party leader, who played role of God. Omnipresence of strong undisputable force/believes (which looks so close to Christian or Hebrew God) makes any critics treated as heresy or misbelieve and is followed by church-like actions - from exclusion to physical punishment. Glorifying the deaths of people who were fighting with boneheads in my opinion has a lot in common with making saints in orthodox tradition. The death of comrades is even needed for fueling up the motivation for others.

For many the only motivation is revenge, which auto-

matically excludes everything else. It dictates despair tactics of any actions. It is sad that even non militant direct actions as food not bombs are done like "I rather die, then stop"... Copying western activist tactics and ideas (which are treated as missionary "light") as they are or even worse - just fragmentary as subcultural images - which are applied to free-from-normal-life time, after work or school. And quarrels about being "true" or not so "true" never stop. I think it is strongly connected with common ignorance. When questioned about their actions or political stands some activists cannot say more then quote the short phrases heard from their (unofficial) leaders. The overwhelming illiteracy in political ideas are used by (unofficial) leaders when recruiting teenagers and sending them to frontlines of street war.

Total masculinity is in charge (as almost everywhere) - only one point of view is accepted, multiplicity and variety in ideas or even tactics are treated as ignorance and unreliability. In activist scene only women who act like a man or are subordinated to them are accepted. Ones who criticize are treated as threat; not so militant anarchists, not to speak of pacifists are placed in enemy status, so against them can be used violence. No means of not censored (in the way "who is not with us is against us") Russian speaking media is left (maybe it is too early to say it so strictly, but for people in Russia to stay active, run media or something else, and not support things which are going on is not possible), others are treated as outsiders, who "just don't understand".

### Philistine lifestyle and values are in charge.

"Activists" can climb the corporate career, live with parents; strive for fancy clothing and accessories ("revolutionary" ones included), family model couples, even homophobia. Attitude towards WW2 I think is example of philistine thinking. Majority of activists thinks that their grandparents won the fascists and liberated Europe. They don't want to hear that soviet politics was the same imperialism, and genocide against conquered people is treated as Stalin's personal attribute or lie. Mainstream media is in

charge in creating worldview, activists are manipulated same as anyone there.

I think that no antifascist action now in ex-USSR is anarchist, because the ruling system is one who gains from that war. It is not possible to win the war which is dictated by fascist values, which uses fascist tactics. The fascism already have won, cause there are fascists fighting on both sides and it does not matter who win or loose...

**P.S.** I think the main problem in this situation is that people don't have an access to information, they don't know the whole world of possible tactics, different ideas and political thoughts. For instance, no one knows about affin-

*The author of this text is in contact with the ABB-collective so you can write to ABB and we will forward your writings*

## Commentary Letter Nr. 1

In the critical text, the following statements were made:

- some antifascist activists are reproducing totalitarian militant structures, they are acting as criminal gang system or organized army; there are similarities to the behaviour of fascists
- parts of the movement trust in efficiency of hierarchical organization, leadership and subordination;
- the position "if you are not with us, you are against us" tends to result in not accepting other forms of action or political influence
- for many people the only motivation is revenge or living a sub-cultural lifestyle;

First, as it was written, SOME antifascist activists are reproducing totalitarian militant structures, PARTS OF THE MOVEMENT trust in efficiency of hierarchical organization - it's not the whole movement, which is organized like this, just some parts of it. The antifascist movement in the ex-USSR is wider than the anarchist movement. Not all antifascist groups are organized by anarchist principles - and that's natural. Some of them are more liberal, some more militant - the movement is not uniform. The movement consist of different people and they use various tactics, different points of view are not a negative thing. I can compare it to the feminist movement: some feminists are demanding quotas for women to parliament, some are demanding for women-only territories. I disagree with both of these outermost points of views, but for me that's not a reason to be against the feminist movement as a whole.

I hope you will publish the critics anyway, even if nobody reacts right now, because it would be very useful to open a straight discussion about the tactics and strategies of the antifascist movement. And I consider that these critics sound very strong for anarchists, but speaking about the antifascist movement in ex-USSR in general the critics are fair. If some of the antifascist groups in Russia, for example, are organised hierarchically, and don't even disclaim it by themselves, why don't we, anti-authoritarians, want to admit it openly?

Inna

ity groups, they form groups for really dangerous actions as they been planning picnic... Rarely you can meet person, who speaks or reads english. Equal information should be accessible for everyone, not only "chosen few". The foreign activists misunderstand or don't understand situation there, they by default accept local activist worldviews and values as close to theirs, at least I did that.

I call for people who can write/translate to Russian, and Russians, who can translate from english or any other languages. I realize, that it is not possible to change things there instantly, but by doing that we could open future for free thinking and activism in Russian speaking ex-USSR. Write me.

## Commentary Letter Nr. 2

My name is Grusha and I'm from Moscow. I hope I can help you to better understand the problems connected the antifascist movement in Russia.

The situation in Russia is really hard. The antifascist movement basically consists of SHARP and apolitical football hooligans. They don't care about politics, so the problem of mob-organisation was solved very easy - the system was copied from football hooligans. Well, I don't like it at all, because I'm an anarchist, but there is a few positive things about hierarchy in mobs.

I believe that "beating people" is very bad in fact, but these are the things we are pushed to. This is the street war and everything's fair in love and war. Street fights are not connected with beautiful anarchy. Its just a remnant, that we have to use.

Towards the position "if you are not with us, you are against us" - this is the position of SHARP and apolitical antifascists. In general, all problems of the Russian antifascist movement are from insufficient policy. Most SHARPs' don't care about anything except subcultural lifestyle. "We are just defending our culture" - is a common point of view of apolitical antifascists. "Beer, fights and football" - this is the most important. But there is a good tendency to politicizing the antifascist movement. Every day more and more people pay attention to the left wing of this movement.

Grusha



## 3rd Balkan Anarchist Book Fair in Sofia

The Balkan Anarchist Book Fair is an institution which aims at spreading anti-authoritarian principles around the local communities, along with the gathering of activists coming from several Balkan countries and from all over the world and, finally, the realization of political and cultural events. The 1st Balkan Anarchist Book Fair took place in Ljubljana in Slovenia in 2003 and was considered to be successful and with many attendants. The 2nd Balkan Anarchist Book Fair took place in Zagreb in Croatia the following year, but since the local movements couldn't fully support it, the whole idea of organizing the annual Book Fair became weaker. The initiative group for organizing the 3rd Balkan Anarchist Book Fair is constituted by groups and individuals from Bulgaria, Serbia and Greece, who have attended the previous two book fairs. Willing to revive the institution, we selected Sofia as the location for the book fair to take place for two main reasons: first of all, due to the huge history of the Anarchist Movement in Bulgaria and also due to the contemporary huge publication activity. The anarchist movement of this country is rooted since the time of Christo Botef, national poet and rebel who lived in the middle of the 19th century. The Bulgarian anarchists were present in important moments of Bulgarian and also of global history, since

apart from the resistance against the Bulgarian czar, some anarchists even joined the Spanish Revolution. The continuity of the movement was interrupted after the establishment of the communist regime after the end of the Second World War, when all anarchist principles were oppressed and many anarchists found themselves imprisoned. After the fall of the communist regimes, the anarchist principles were revived and the movement rose up again. Nowadays, when neoliberalism and nationalism prevail, Bulgarian anarchists are active under extremely difficult circumstances, having to face extreme-rightwing gangs along with the general indifference of the population. We call every anarchist, anti-authoritarian or anti-capitalist to support this event by their attendance, even if they don't have their own publications to present and also to take part in the actions that are going to take place. The Book Fair is programmed to take place at 31 of May - 2nd of June 2008 in Sofia.

**For more infos on accommodation etc. contact us atfab@a-bg.org, ita\_gr@yahoo.co.uk**

Initiative group for organizing the 3rd Balkan Anarchist Book Fair

## Website by Czech anarchy-feminists from "Anarchofeministicka skupina"

There are not many anarchy-feminist websites established in Eastern Europe. One of the few existing and most interesting at the moment is the one run by women organised around Anarchofeministická skupina in Prague. The most current articles and information are published there in Czech language, but there is a quite big English section as well of mostly theoretical materials. Below, you can find the self-presentation of this project. As for us, we are hoping to reprint some interesting materials from this site in our journal in the future. But you can check the site already and this is, by the way, the contact address to the project: [info@anarchofeminismus.org](mailto:info@anarchofeminismus.org) (AbolishingBB)

We are a collective of people inspired by anarchy-feminist ideas, evolved from the Anarchofeministická skupina (Anarchy-feminist Group based in Prague, Czech Republic). This website emerged from the need to broaden and deepen the anarchy-feminist consciousness, to set up grounds for discussion on a local as well as an international level and to contribute to the fight against the system and to its subversion.

Besides the brief history and theoretical concepts of the AF movement, you will find here a view on different aspects of gender-related issues from the AF perspective. Due to one of the basic principles of anarchy-feminism - the revolution of everyday life, which means exceeding the present norms, conventions and stereotypes in everyday life - we deal with issues such as open communication, sexuality, upbringing or education in both theoretical and practical ways. Our aim is

to provoke debates about the possibilities and difficulties in putting AF ideas into practice.

This web is a space opened to anybody. We would like to share it with similarly thinking groups or individuals in order to make our communication and cooperation easier. This website should also work as a gateway linking to other sites/groups/actions dealing with similar topics. We will gratefully welcome your experience with putting anarchist and/or anarchy-feminist ideas into practice. If you have publications, texts, book reviews etc. related to above mentioned topics, we would be pleased to publish them on our website.





## Alternative Culture and Activism ProtestFest in Brno, June 13-21

A festival of alternative culture and activism, the ProtestFest, will take place in Brno from 13th to 21st of June 2008. It aims at returning life to public spaces and creating a place for discussion about actual social problems. This year, the festival focuses on the question of climate change, its impacts and consequences not only in an environmental context. Global climate change is a topic which has been widely discussed all around the world, but it's still on the verge of the political and media agenda in Czech Republic.

However the festival is still open to other topics like human and animal rights protection, social inequalities and ecology and others you like. Aim of all these activities is to present an alternative view as a colourful mosaic of ideas, proposals, solutions and practices. ProtestFest tends to create a basement for presentation and cooperation of DIY cultures, autonomous groups, environmental groups, nongovernmental organizations, animal rights organizations, arts and theatre. It tries to interconnect these single forms of presentations (usually hidden behind subcultural walls) in a way which is understandable for anyone, even for those who are not part of alternative cultures and activism.

## Anarcho-Primitivist Gathering 2008 in NW Poland

The theme of the gathering is starting communities in forests around the world, for example in Amazonas and different European locations. Information of different projects, meeting people, skillsharing and discussions.

The gathering takes place at North-West Poland in July 2008.  
More information: [jungle@ssyh.fi](mailto:jungle@ssyh.fi)

ProtestFest 2008 will offer many diversified activities from a street festival through gigs to film screenings. There will be a Food Not Bombs day as well. Info stalls, music, theatre, vegan food, activities for children, films, bike ride, exhibitions, discussions - all these activities will try to bring this year's topic to the public and to create an open space for presentation and discussion of our recent problems.

### ProtestFest is:

- a festival interconnecting alternative cultures and activism;
- a place enabling discussion on actual social and environmental topics;
- a space created by anyone willing to listen to others, not only to oneself;
- a free space, where you can discuss, talk, play, inform, create;
- an open door for different forms, contents, topics, approaches;
- a big screen for everyone - alternative as a space created by all

### ProtestFest is not:

- a business built upon things you like;
- a place for propaganda of political parties or commercial advertisements;
- a room for a one clever man show;
- a stage for stars you can only love;
- a spiritless presentation of one opinion or political orientation;
- a space for totalitarian ideologies killing all discussions

ProtestFest is created by all of us.

### ProtestFest 2008 Global Climate Change means:

- a topic both widely discussed in the world and neglected in the Czech Republic;
- a topic with big influence on all of us;
- a topic concerning all of us;
- a topic we all care about

For further information: [www.protestfest.cz](http://www.protestfest.cz)

## Warsaw 2009

### - Conference of the European Right-Wing Politicians?

Next year in May 2009, probably in Warsaw, starts the official election campaign of the European right for the European Parliament. Angela Merkel, Nikolas Sarkozy, Silvio Berlusconi and other disgusting persons are coming. Next week the presidium of the European People Party will take the final decisions about the conference. Organizers of the meeting are expecting about 1000 deputies who will make some common plans for the next 5 years. The place chosen for the event is the Congress Room in the Palace of Culture and Science.

## Abolishing the Borders from Below CONTACTS:

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SEND PICTURES ONLY TO:  
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★ Active Distro  
[www.actedistribution.org](http://www.actedistribution.org)

★ AK Press  
[www.akuk.com](http://www.akuk.com)

**BULGARIA**  
[aresistance@riseup.net](mailto:aresistance@riseup.net)

**CROATIA**  
[suncanfema@yahoo.com](mailto:suncanfema@yahoo.com)  
"sto citas?" Zagreb  
Preradoviceva 32  
[www.stocitas.org](http://www.stocitas.org)

**CANADA**  
[rhubarbapplepie@hotmail.com](mailto:rhubarbapplepie@hotmail.com)

**DENMARK**  
Infolade 69, Christiania,  
Kopenhagen

**ex-SOVIET UNION**  
[ftw@tao.ca](mailto:ftw@tao.ca)

**FINLAND**  
★ [info@muutosvoima.net](mailto:info@muutosvoima.net)  
[www.muutosvoima.net](http://www.muutosvoima.net)  
★ Morgue-Distro/Emma-Kollektiv  
[morguedistro@yahoo.com](mailto:morguedistro@yahoo.com)

**FRANCE**  
★ East  
[ffabb@no-log.org](mailto:ffabb@no-log.org)  
★ West  
[stonehenge@libertysurf.fr](mailto:stonehenge@libertysurf.fr)

**GERMANY**  
[wielkowitsch@hotmail.com](mailto:wielkowitsch@hotmail.com)  
Berlin

**GREECE**  
Lily Collective  
[polbleibt@yahoo.com](mailto:polbleibt@yahoo.com)

**HOLLAND**  
International Bookshop  
Amsterdam  
[sjakoo@xs4all.nl](mailto:sjakoo@xs4all.nl)

**HUNGARY**  
★ [goantik@freemail.hu](mailto:goantik@freemail.hu)  
★ AK57 -  
[ak57@indymedia.hu](mailto:ak57@indymedia.hu)

**ICELAND**  
Arna Ósp Magnúsdóttir  
Fornahvarf 10, "Syggni",  
203 Kópavogur

**IRELAND**  
[flabbyvegan@hotmail.com](mailto:flabbyvegan@hotmail.com)

**ITALY**  
★ Central & South  
[138squat@paranoi.ci.org](mailto:138squat@paranoi.ci.org)  
[www.tmcrew.org/](http://www.tmcrew.org/)  
[laurentinokkupato](mailto:laurentinokkupato)

★ North  
[crash@riseup.net](mailto:crash@riseup.net)

**JAPAN**  
[acclaim@nomasters.com](mailto:acclaim@nomasters.com)

**LATVIA**  
[infokaste@riseup.net](mailto:infokaste@riseup.net)

**NORWAY**  
[kaosborgen@hotmail.com](mailto:kaosborgen@hotmail.com)

**PERU**  
[ateneo\\_rebelde@yahoo.com](mailto:ateneo_rebelde@yahoo.com)

**PHILIPINES**  
[buynothingstealsomething@yahoo.com](mailto:buynothingstealsomething@yahoo.com)

**POLAND**  
Oficina Wydawnicza  
Bractwo Trojka  
os. Czecha  
17/8 61-287 Poznan  
[www.bractwotrojka.prv.pl](http://www.bractwotrojka.prv.pl)  
[bractwo\\_trojka@wp.pl](mailto:bractwo_trojka@wp.pl)

**ROMANIA**  
★ Aactiv-ist Distro  
[pinkpanthers@k.ro](mailto:pinkpanthers@k.ro)  
Timisoara  
★ [www.fight-back.tk](http://www.fight-back.tk)

**SERBIA**  
[distro@inicijativa.org](mailto:distro@inicijativa.org)  
[www.inicijativa.org](http://www.inicijativa.org)

**SLOVAKIA**  
CSAF  
poste Restante 850 07  
Bratislava 57  
[csaf-trencin@arachne.cz](mailto:csaf-trencin@arachne.cz)

**SLOVENIA**  
[kultura\\_kontra@yahoo.com](mailto:kultura_kontra@yahoo.com)  
Ljubljana

**SOUTH AFRICA**  
Zabalaza Books  
[zababooks@zabalaza.net](mailto:zababooks@zabalaza.net)

**SPAIN**  
★ SQL Distro  
Libreria Rosa de Foc  
Calle: Joaquin Costa, 34  
08001 Barcelona  
[winarar@wp.pl](mailto:winarar@wp.pl)  
★ CM Bilbao-  
crimentalpunch  
[@paginaslibres.com](mailto:@paginaslibres.com)

**SWEDEN**  
[boekhandel.info.stockholm](mailto:boekhandel.info.stockholm)  
[bokhandeln.info@gmx.net](mailto:bokhandeln.info@gmx.net)

**SWITZERLAND**  
★ [cafe\\_kabul@immerda.ch](mailto:cafe_kabul@immerda.ch)

★ Infoladen Kasama Zürich  
[info@kasama.ch](mailto:info@kasama.ch)

**TURKEY**  
[abcankara@yahoo.com](mailto:abcankara@yahoo.com)  
Ankara

**UKRAINE**  
Infoshop Kiev  
[infoshop@gmail.com](mailto:infoshop@gmail.com)  
<http://infoshop.zaraz.org>

**USA/North America**  
★ Little Black Cart,  
PO Box 3920,  
Berkeley CA, 94703  
<http://littleblackcart.com>  
[info@littleblackcart.com](mailto:info@littleblackcart.com)

★ Czolgosz  
[jvertigo@juno.com](mailto:jvertigo@juno.com)  
★ AK Press  
[www.akpress.org](http://www.akpress.org)



All previous issues are still available directly from ABB

**ISSUE # 31, Februar 2008:** "Will we be asked - or will we act?" - Editorial; Not so quite on the Eastern Front: Frontex Assures Xenophobic Europe that its doing its job; Interview with Russian comrades about their detention in connection with Nevskiy Express case; Section of articles on state repression and anarchist solidarity against them around eastern Europe; Anarchist Black Cross reports; "This is what the law looks like, the law created by the immaculate dictators" a letter from a polish prisoner; The case of Adam Pazuryrna; "This is what democracy looks like" on anti-militarist resistance in Czechia; Interview with Czech anarchist about the US-Army-Radar-Base; Update on campaign against US-Military Base in Poland; Info on Anti-NATO week in Bucharest; Actions against Hypermarket AUCHAN in Poland; The story of BUDRYK miners strike; Declaration of the miners strike committee; Anarchist

commentary to the strike in Budryk mine; Jan Kucera - another victim of neo-nazis; Commentary by Czech activist after the November anti-fascist mobilisation in Prague; Antifa Wildeast - Rules of engagement; Antifascist demonstration and clashes with the Nazis in Poland; No Pasaran: Bad luck for the Nazis on Crystal Night anniversary in Czechia; Situatin in Slovakia and activities of Priama Akcia in 2005-2006; New Government New Problem - on situation in Poland after the last elections; "On the proposed legislative Clampdown in Estonia: what's all the fuss about?"; Rozbrat squat threatened - Interview with activists from Poznan; Reform - Growth for the Rich, Less for the poor - leaflet of Czech anarchists against anti-social reforms; Animal protection reforms in Ukraine; Protest on Polish-Ukrainian border; Black-red company in Warsaw Uprising (1944) against Nazi Occupation; Documentary on successively developing social resistance in Slovenia; Equality now! - A gender festival in Moscow

## Communities in Struggle

The Never Complete List of Anarchist Groups, Projects and Collectives from Eastern Europe

WELCOME TO EE ANARCHISM  
www.alter.most.org.pl (good english)  
www.abb.hardcore.lt (bad english)

## ARMENIA

- \* "Proryv" - anarcho-communist group from Yerevan; vaga@freenet.am
- \* Armenia Indymedia - vahagn@bem.am

## BELARUS

- \* Anarchist Library - Minsk; antyfa@mail.ru
- \* Autonomous Action (also for Svoboda ili Smert-journal)
  - Gomel: satana@riseup.net
  - Minsk: belarus@avtonom.org
  - Soligorsk (Minsk region): nonexecution@gmail.com
- \* "Ataka" - anarchist newspaper; ataka@tut.by
- \* Eat yourself - D.I.Y. punk/ hardcore crew, www.eatyourselfcrew.ucoz.ru
- \* "Ecoresist" - anarcho-ecological group; ecoaction@tut.by
- \* FAB / Federation of Belarusian Anarchist - Minsk: P.O.Box 33, 220134; - Novopoloc: nuts-1@rambler.ru
- \* Food Not Bombs - Minsk FNBMinsk@yandex.ru
- \* Free Theatre - anarchist theatre from city of Brest; www.svobodny.kontakt.net, ksenia\_izberg@mail.ru, s\_gaiko@mail.ru and, aa.veta@gmail.com
- \* KDS "Razam" / Condefederation of Active Initiatives "Together" - 230005, Belarus; Grodno P.O.Box 237; kds-razam@tut.by; www.razam.by.ru
- \* Navinki - satirical anarchist weekly newspaper; Minsk; kampramat@tut.by
- \* "Rebellious girls" - anti-sexist initiative in Minsk; rebelgirls@mail.ru
- \* www.anarchistory.boom.ru - history of anarchy in Belarus
- \* www.375crew.org - d.i.y. political punk / hardcore culture of Belarus
- \* http://fossby.wikidot.com/ - website for free technology
- \* www.linux.hitech.by - Belarusian Linux Community
- \* http://eatyourselfcrew.ucoz.ru/ - Eat Yourself crew (Gomel & Mogilev)

## Zines:

- \* A-party-Ya - Brest - sanja\_amar@mail.ru
- \* Defect In Industry - Minsk - defectindustry@mail.ru
- \* Morta Tomato - Minsk - 225215 Belarus, Beloozersk, pr. Mira 22-3, xjesus@bk.ru
- \* New World - Minsk - P. O. Box 37, 220053 Minsk Belarus
- \* oD.I.Y.syal - Minsk - P. O. Box 389, 220090 Minsk Belarus, okpunkrock@mail.ru
- \* Rebel Desire - Minsk - P. O. Box 33, 220123 Minsk Belarus, rusel@gmail.com
- \* Tryznas-kefiras - Minsk - yesfuture@gmail.com

## BOSNIA &amp; HERZEGOVINA

- \* Anarchist Collective "Slobodna Krajina" - Banjaluka; ab\_useyu@yahoo.co.uk
- \* www.osvajanje.slobode.bravehost.com - anarchist info from BiH

## BULGARIA

- \* Anarchist Portal http://a-bg.net
- \* Anarchist writings http://savanne.ch/svoboda
- \* Anarcho-saprotiva autonomous group, areistance@riseup.net
- \* Anarchy in BG http://change.to/anarchy

- \* Animal rights, anarcho-primitivism, feminism http://anarchyfuture.a-bg.net/
- \* "Aresistance" - D.I.Y. anarcho punk hardcore web zine, diy@aresistance.net, www.diy.aresistance.net
- \* "Ecotopia" - Infocenter Razgrad, infocenter.ecotopia@gmail.com
- \* Independent media center http://bulgaria.indymedia.org/
- \* "Katarzis" - DIY zine, katarzis@riseup.net sfti.diy@gmail.com
- \* Subcultures, crust, punk, hardcore http://music.a-bg.net/
- \* "Svobodna Misi" - Bulgarian anarchist newsletter, http://sm.a-bg.net/
- \* "Vasil ikonov" - anarchist group, ikonov.a-bg.net; vasilikonov@yahoo.com

## CROATIA

- \* Sabotaža pokvarenog sistema' - internet network collective, aktivizam@yahoo.com
- \* www.sabotazapokvarenogsistema.tk

## CAKOVEC:

- \* Tabula Rasa - infoshop, Josipa Kozarca BB, post: p.p. 18, 40315 M, Sredisce PULA;
- \* "Monte Paradiso" - squat/social centre in Pula; URK Monteparadiso ex Vojarna K.Rojc; Gajeva 5; 52100 Pula; http://squat.net/monteparadiso; info@monteparadiso.hr

## RIJEKA:

- \* Rijecka anarhisticka inicijativa - rai2002@net.hr, www.rai.anarhija.org
- \* Škatula - infoshop, Delta 5 (Ivex building, 1st floor), 5100 Rijeka, infoshopskatula@net.hr

## ZADAR:

- \* Direktna akcija. - anarchosindicalist initiative direktnaakcija@gmail.com
- \* Inicijativa queer - anarchoqueer group, inicijativa\_queer@yahoo.com
- \* Z.A.F. / Zadar Anarchist Front - local anarchist group in the city of Zadar; zadarskianarchisti@yahoo.com; www.solidarnost.mahost.org
- \* ZAGREB:
- \* Anarhisticki sajam knjiga - anarchist bookfair, www.ask-zagreb.org
- \* AnFema - anarchofeminist action, anfema.action@gmail.com, www.anfema.tk
- \* FNB - hno-zg@net.hr, www.hranaanecoruzje.net

## CZECHIA

- \* Antifascisticka Akce (AFA) http://www.antifa.cz kontakt@antifa.cz monitoring@antifa.cz media@antifa.cz shop@antifa.cz international@antifa.cz

## Local anti-fascist groups by towns and regions:

- Beroun, berounsko@antifa.cz
- Blansko, blanensko@antifa.cz
- Brno, brno@antifa.cz
- Kladno (Antifascisticka odpor) kladno@antifa.cz
- Kralupy n. Vltavou, kralupy@antifa.cz
- Olomouc, olomoucko@antifa.cz
- Opava (Autonomna antifa), http://opava.antifa.net, opava@antifa.cz
- Ostrava (Autonomna antifa), ostrava@antifa.cz
- Praha, http://praha.antifa.net, praha@antifa.cz
- Prerov, prerov@antifa.cz

- Rakovnak, rakovnik@antifa.cz
- Northern Bohemia, sever@antifa.cz
- Teplice, http://teplice.antifa.net, teplice@antifa.cz
- Vysocina - Jihlava region, vysocina@antifa.cz
- Zlin region, zlinsko@antifa.cz

- \* Anarcho-feminist group - anarchofeminismus@centrum.cz, anarchofeminismus.ecn.cz
- \* -1155; KPK Praha (ex-Solidarita) - praha@solidarita.org, www.solidarita.org, tel: +420 604 247 218

- regional group of Brno, brno@solidarita.org, tel: +420 732 616 695
- \* Anarchistické sdružení Uherské Hradiště - Anarchist group of Uherské Hradiště, uhas@email.cz
- \* "A-kontra" - anarchist magazine, c/o CAS, PO Box 223, Praha 1, 111 21, tel. +420 605 903 098, e-mail: a-kontra@csaf.cz, www.a-kontra.net
- \* "Bloody Mary" - riot-grll/anarchist zine, Bloodymary@bust.com, c/o CAS, p.o. box 223, 111 21 Praha 1

- \* Czechoslovak Anarchist Federation (CSAF)

- www.csaf.cz, csaf@csaf.cz - from there mail forwarded to local group or someone
- Postal contact: CSAF, P.O.Box 223, 111 21 Praha 1

- \* Infocafe Krtkova Kolona in Prague http://kk.czechcore.cz, kk@czechcore.cz, Sochalska 6, Praha 7, 170 00, +420 604 247 218

- \* Squat Milada in Prague - http://milada.s.cz, milada@s.cz, Na Kindlovce 1, Praha 8

- \* FSA-MAP - Federation of anarchist groups, info@anarchismus.org, www.anarchismus.org, international secretary: fsa-intersec@anarchismus.org

- Northern Czechia, fas-sever@anarchismus.org
- Zlinsko, fas-zlinsko@anarchismus.org
- Prague, fas-praha@anarchismus.org
- Brno, fas-brno@anarchismus.org
- Jihlava, fas-jihlava@anarchismus.org
- Pardubice, fas-pardubicko@anarchismus.org

- \* Info Café "Krtkova kolona" - (anarchist info-café), Socharská 6, 170 00, Praha 7 - Bubenec, kk@czechcore.cz, kk.czechcore.cz, Tel: 605 983 191

- \* Hudebni klub "Za vraty" - alternative non-profit club with anarchist activities, tea room, Vtelno 32, 434 01 Most 1, international@zavraty.com, www.zavraty.com, tel. +420 723 555 287
- \* Squat "Milada" - Prague only squat, Na kindlovce (small house next to the student residential halls), Praha, squat\_milada@centrum.cz

## ESTONIA

- \* Be UnderGround - punk zine, antiporvari@riseup.net, www.myspace.com/bug\_zine
- \* Food Not Bombs - Tallinn - videomees@hotmail.com
- \* www.punamust.org/ - anarchist web-site
- \* www.hot.ee/anarhism - Future Anarchist Party of Estonia

## HUNGARY

- \* AFK - autonomous youth collective / social disease collective (anarchist hc-punks); www.socialdisease.tk
- \* Barricade Collective - anarchist group; www.anarkom.lapja.hu
- \* "Gondolkodo Antikvarium" - anarchist bookshop; www.ainfok.ini.hu;

- gondolkodo@citromail.hu Logodi utca 51; 1012 Budapest (near metro station "Moszkva ter"); open Monday-Friday 12-18
- \* Ruganegra - (street folklore staff); www.ruganegra.tk
- \* Social Disease Kollektiva (anarcho-punk collective) - http://socialdisease.tk
- \* www.geocities.com/anarchoinfo - anarchist web-site

## KAZAKHSTAN

- \* www.almaty-liberta.boom.ru - Libertarian communists in Kazakhstan

## LATVIA

- \* Infokaste - anarchist D.I.Y. infoshop, cafe & distro, infokaste@riseup.net, www.neirothe.net/infokaste
- \* Pretspars Collective - zine, distro, web, actions - http://pretspars.hardcore.lt; pretspars@riseup.net
- \* "Zabadaks" - DIY culture house, zabba@inbox.lv, www.nekac.lv, tel. +371 3320666. DIY political/cultural project, infoshop etc.; Vijolisu 24; Kuldiga; LV-3300Latvia; www.nekac.lv, maris.steinbergs@kuldiga.lv

## LITHUANIA

- \* active@hardcore.lt - LT activists network
- \* "Elnias" - space for various DIY activities; Vilniaus str. 72 (in the yard), Siauliai, gabrielei@takas.lt
- \* "Gyvas" - space for various DIY activities, Kauno str. 1a (in the yard), Vilnius, xdirtx@hardcore.lt
- \* "Pavasaris Infoshop" - Mindaugo str. 20-12, Vilnius, xdirtx@hardcore.lt
- \* "Posedziu Sale" - DIY culture centre; Savanoriu str. 204 (4th floor), city of Kaunas; sgausiperemilla@yahoo.com, fiordraga@gmail.com, tel +37067809606 http://posedis.mums.lt
- \* booking@hardcore.lt - booking in Lithuania
- \* www.hardcore.lt - Lithuanian diy scene info resource on the net

## MACEDONIA

- \* direct action - anarchist collective directa@freemail.com.mk
- \* fuck yoga - a distro and label neveranswerthephone@yahoo.com
- \* kaka - a distro and label surovo@yahoo.com
- \* napravi sam - a collective radexx2000@yahoo.com
- \* teror 13 - a infoshop info@teror13.tk www.teror13.anarhija.org

## POLAND

- \* ABC/ACK - www.ack.most.org.pl
- Warszawa - po box 30; 02-741 Warszawa 121. ack-wawa@o2.pl, www.emilka.bzzz.net/porady/porady.html
- Poznan - po box 5, 60-966 Poznan 31, ack@rozbrat.org, tel. 0618484672 (tue 19-21, We-Thu 17-20), www.rozbrat.org/ack.htm
- Bialystok - po box 43; 15-662 Bialystok 26., abcbialystok@o2.pl, www.ack-bialystok.prv.pl
- Lodz - riefka@gmail.com
- Warszawa-Praga - zaczek@gmail.com
- Mielec - redakcja@innyswiat.most.org.pl
- Przasnysz - fnb-przasnysz@o2.pl
- Wroclaw - tomasso@riseup.net
- \* Anarchist Library - ul.Pulaskiego 21a; Poznan.
- \* Anarchist Library - ul Jagielonczyka 10D; Wroclaw.
- \* "A-TAK" - anarchist magazine from Krakow; atak@poprostu(contact); atak.dystrybucja@wp.pl (distro); www.red-rat.w.interia.pl/atak.html
- \* "A-zine" - an anarchist publication in english contains articles of polish anarchist groups. L.Akai, po box 227; 00-987 Warszawa 4. cube@zigzag.pl
- \* "Bractwo Trojka" - anarchist publishing

- house from Poznan; bractwo\_trojka@wp.pl, www.bractwotrojka.prv.pl,
- \* "Bunkier" ("B 48") - underground concert/party space; ul. Wschodnia 35; Torun; stagnation@wp.pl
- \* Chaos Grrrl - anarchist-feminist zine from Warsaw; chaosgrrrl@o2.pl
- \* "Czarna Emilka" (Black Emily) - local of GWA (Group of Warsaw Anarchists) in the very centre of the city
- \* "Czarny Pajak" ("Black Spider") - anarchist space with discussion club, movie-projections, anarchist-library, etc. in the city of Lodz; www.czs.z.prv.pl; maciek@riseup.net
- \* Dziewczyny w Akcji (Girls in Action) - anarchist feminist group in Bialystok; www.dziewczynnyw akcji.prv.pl/; dziewczynyw akcji@wp.pl
- \* "Elblaska" - squat in Warsaw
- \* Emancypunx - anarcho-feminist group; po box 145; 02-792 Warszawa 78; www.emancypunx.com; emancypunx@o2.pl
- \* FA (Anarchist Federation) - federation of polish anarchists consisting of many local groups.

- FA- virtual collective secretary - biurofa@go2.pl
- FA-Bialystok - fa.bialystok@op.pl
- FA-Czestochowa - akielasiak@wp.pl
- FA/RSA Gdansk - jwal@pg.gda.pl
- FA-Krakow - lukasdab@poczta.onet.pl
- FA-Lublin - falublin@poczta.onet.pl
- FA-Lodz - falodz@riseup.net
- FA-Opole - sobol13@o2.pl
- FA-Poznan - fa-poznan@rozbrat.org
- FA-Rzeszow - xjedrusx@o2.pl
- FA-Slupsk - onetbifaid@poczta.onet.pl
- FA/RSA Sochaczew - antinazi@frik06.onet.pl
- FA-Szczecin - fa\_szn@interia.pl; winanar@wp.pl
- FA-Warszawa - natak@poczta.onet.pl
- FA-Warszawa/Praga - fapraga@o2.pl & fapraga@gmail.com

## \* Food Not Bombs

- Gdansk - po box 118; 80-470 Gdansk 45
- Lodz - falodz@riseup.net
- Olsztyn - edelweiss@o2.pl
- Poznan - fnb@rozbrat.org
- Warsaw - fnb@op.pl; www.fnb.w.pl www.rozbrat.org/fnb.htm, we serve food every Sunday at west train station in Poznan
- Rzeszow - ul.Kustronia 6/48; 35-303 Rzeszow; tel.602769138.
- Gliwice - "S.E.K.W. Krzyk"; po box 2; 44-101 Gliwice. www.food.gliwice.com www.foodnotbombs.prv.pl

## \* Feminist &amp; Anarchist Feminist

- \* Calendar - feminikalendarz06@interia.pl
- \* "Freedom" - Centre of Animation an Alternative Culture / Anarchist Centre & Collective; ul. Jagielonczyka 10D; Wroclaw. freedom69@go2.pl
- \* Grupa Anarchistyczna "Solidarnosc" (Anarchist Group "Solidarity") po box 12; 60-975 Poznan 61.
- \* Infoshop "Grapes of Wrath" Targowa St. 22; Warsaw (300 meters from the Eastern Railway Station on Kijowska St.) Open: Mon.-Fri. 18<sup>00</sup>-20<sup>00</sup> or longer, Sun. 14<sup>00</sup>-17<sup>00</sup> plus by appointment and during events (summer 2005 closed Aug. 15-31); fapraga@gmail.com; www.alter.most.org.pl/infoszop,
- \* Inicjatywa Pracownicza FA / IP-FA (Workers Initiative of FA) - federation of groups linked to FA focusing on support for workers;
- \* IP-FA / Szczecin - Dominik Sawicki, po box 53; 70-474 Szczecin 34.
- \* IP-FA / Silesia - po box 2; 44-100 Gliwice; inicjatywa\_silesia@hoga.pl
- \* Inicjatywa Pracownicza (Workers Initiative) - anarcho-sindicalist trade union, Poznan; www.workers-initiative.poland.prv.pl

- \* Kolektyw Autonomistów (Collective of Autonomists) - group of activist po box 13; 87-116 Torun 17; michoo77@poczta.onet.pl
- \* "Kromera" - squat/culture centre; ul.Kromera 6a; Wroclaw.
- \* LadyFest - there are few Lady-fests in Poland (in Lodz, Wroclaw and Warsaw); www.ladyfest.webpark.pl; ladyfestwawa@o2.pl
- \* "Lesbians, Gays and Their Friends" - festival in Wroclaw with conference, workshops, films, street actions www.nts.uni.wroc.pl/festiwal/ (co-organized by the anarcho-feminist groups)
- \* LETS - Local Economy Trade System - Krakow - testcyf@kr.edu.pl - Poznan - lets@poland.com
- \* Liberta - anarchist-feminist group in Wroclaw; libertagrill@o2.pl
- \* "Little Mary" - anarchist squat in Czestochowa; ul.Warszawska 249/25;
- \* "Mac Pariadka" - anarchist magazine in polish; pariadka@polbox.com
- \* "Marcowanie" - anarchist-feminist mailing list, bulletin and regular women camp
- \* Obin (Warsaw) - radical street-art collective organising workshops, internet and silkscreen for free; www.obin.org
- \* "Pilon" - underground bar/cafe open Mo, Th, Fr and Sa from 7pm; adress: ulica Bulwar Filadelfijski - Torun (under the only one car bridge in the city). pilon@poczta.onet.pl; www.pilon.za.pl
- \* RAAF (Radical Anti-Fascist Action) - www.antifa-wildest.prv.pl; po box 43; 15-662 Bialystok 26. wildest@poczta.onet.pl
- \* "Radical Cheer Leaders" - anarchist female cheer leader team based in Warszawa; rchpl@o2.pl
- \* Refuse - underground label & mailorder (books, zines, music); www.refuserecords.prv.pl
- \* Revenge of The Nerds (Warsaw) - anarchist-feminist zine distribution/editors; www.revengeoftheners.bzzz.net
- \* Revolution Diva - anarchist-feminist zine (Poznan)
- \* "Rozbrat" - squat/collective/anarchist center/anarchist library - ul. Pulaskiego, 21a, Poznan; P.O.Box 5, 60-966 Poznan 31, fa-poznan@rozbrat.org, www.rozbrat.org, www.foto.rozbrat.org
- \* S.E.K.W. "Krzyk" - squat / anarchist centre, po box 2; 44-101 Gliwice (ul.Sienkiewicza 25; tel.+48 504878370).
- \* Sister to Sister - anarchist feminist group/network around Poland, mail-order and anarchist dyke zine "Lechtaczka"; sistertostister@o2.pl
- \* "streFA" - infoshop in Szczecin; ul.Domanskiego 1c, tel.504935357.
- \* "Szwejk" - anti-military service and Poznanian Anti-war Coalition; ul.Pulaskiego 21a; po box 5; 60-966 Poznan 31, www.antywojenna.prv.pl, antywojenna@rozbrat.org
- \* "Tekno Collective" - underground techno crew from Torun; sadi@poczta.onet.pl
- \* Ugrupowanie Feministyczne Anarchistyczne (UFA) - anarcho-feminist group in Poznan; ufa@rozbrat.org
- \* Valpurgi Night - regular festival against homophobia and sexism in Warsaw, with workshops, conference, spoken word, concerts, films... www.myspace.com/nocwalpurgii;
- \* Wiedzma (The Witch) - anarcho-feminist group; Po Box 3321-500 Biala Podlaska; Poland; witchgrrrl@poczta.onet.pl; www.wiedzma.most.org.pl
- \* "Ya Banda" - anarchist samba band Milanowek/Warszawa. olga23@go2.pl

## ROMANIA

- \* Aactiv-ist Collective Timisoara, Antifa autonome - anarchist punk group aactivistcollective@yahoo.com;

pinkpanthers@k.ro; aac@bumerang.ro  
 \* **A Nera** - ecological, social and (counter) cultural center; in the mountains Cheile Nerei; activistcollective@yahoo.com  
 \* **Actiunea Anarhista (Anarchist Action)** - spleenpatty@yahoo.com  
 \* **C.A.F. (Craiova Anarho Front)** - anarchist collective from city of Craiova; libertatero@yahoo.com  
 \* **Fight Back** - anarchist collective Bucharest, www.fight-back.tk  
 \* **Gluga Neagra / Black Hood** - distribution & bookings for diy concerts tours; g\_a\_rezidenta@yahoo.com  
 \* **Info-Propaganda** - anarchist leaflets publishing from Craiova; libertatero@yahoo.com  
 \* **URA** - anarchpunk fanzine from Craiova; www.antifa-antitot.blogspot.com; libertatero@yahoo.com  
 \* **Love Kills** - woman anarchpunk zine / Craiova; www.lilith-lovekills.blogspot.com; jolierouge101@yahoo.com  
 \* **"Revolta I!"** - bymonthly anarchist & diy hc/punk newsletter / Timisoara; activistcollective@yahoo.com  
 \* **Subteran Collectiv** - anarchist-activists collective in the city of Iasi; subteran\_jasi@yahoo.com  
 \* **www.proiectns.org** - grassroots activist site

## RUSSIA

\* **A-Distro (Moscow anarchists distro)** - http://a-distro.avtonom.org/, a-distro@yandex.ru  
 \* **Alliance for Animal Rights (Radical non-hierarchical grassroots activism for animal rights)** - http://aar.org.ru/  
 http://animalrights.ru/  
 Contact: news@animalrights.ru  
 Alterkom - network of student resistance in Petrozhavodsk  
 http://altercom.forum24.ru/  
 altercom@bk.ru  
 \* **Anarchist Black Cross Moscow** - P.O. Box 13 109028 Moscow Russia (no name of the group to envelope, please!) www.avtonom.org/abc  
 www.myspace.com/abcmcs abc.msc@gmail.com  
 \* **Anarchist Black Cross of St. Petersburg** - Alekdandr Vitalyevich Yermakov P.O. Box 194291 St. Petersburg (no name of the group to envelope, please!) sprafa@riseup.net  
 novsvet89@gmail.com  
 \* **Anarchists of Petrozhavodsk** - www.ptz-anarchist.narod.ru  
 ruinos (A T) mail.ru  
 \* **Anarcho-communist group "Derzaj"** - Derzaj-zine P.O. Box 152 420044 Kazan Russia  
 http://derzaj.ru  
 red@derzaj.ru  
 \* **Animal Liberation Front Supporters Group - Russia** - http://aeliberation.net, aeinfo@aeliberation.net  
 \* **Antifa Ulan-Ude** - afa.ulanude (A T) gmail.com  
 www.myspace.com/afa\_ulanude  
 \* **Anti-fascist Association of St. Petersburg** - http://afaspb.mahost.org/  
 tel: +7-812-947 14 76  
 \* **Association of Anarchist Movements (ADA-IFA)** - member groups and individuals  
 - **Union of Kaliningrad Anarchists - SKA** www.anty-yuppi.narod.ru  
 aswindle@gmail.com  
 - **Alliance of Kazan anarchists - AKA** P.O. Box 132 Kazan 420059 Tatarstan Russia; antimil@narod.ru  
 - **Krasnoyarsk group of ADA** ada-krk@mail.ru  
 - **St. Petersburg**

maridze@gmail.com  
 - **Yaroslavl (Individuals)** ada-yaroslavl@riseup.net  
 http://anarcho.front.ru  
 - **Zeleznogoroskiy Union of Anarchists** zhssa@list.ru  
 \* **Alliance of Libertarian Initiatives (of St. Petersburg)** - (Coordinates local activities of Anarchist Black Cross, Autonomous Action, Food Not Bombs, Pyotr Alekseyev Resistance Movement, Punk Revival, St. Petersburg League of Anarchists and others)  
 spbnabat@gmail.com  
 \* **Autonomous Action** - www.avtonom.org, info@avtonom.org,

## Regional groups of Autonomous Action:

- **Blagoveschensk (Amur region):** ad\_bлага@riseup.net  
 - **Irkutsk, also for Free Siberia-paper:** www.avtonom-irk.mahost.org/  
 a.volokos@gmail.com  
 - **Kirov:** osna@yandex.ru  
 - **Krasnodar:** P.O.Box 3472 350001 Krasnodar Russia  
 krasn@avtonom.org, asmodeys1@gmail.com  
 - **Magadan:** truebadguy@riseup.net  
 - **Moscow, also for Avtonom-journal:** adm@avtonom.org, avtonom@avtonom.org P.O.Box 13, Moscow, 109028 (no name on envelope, please!)  
 - **Nizhny Novgorod, also for Situation-paper:** P.O.Box 25 603104 Nizhny Novgorod Russia (no name on envelope, please!) avtonom69@gmail.com, situazion@avtonom.org  
 - **Novosibirsk:** nsk@avtonom.org  
 - **St. Petersburg, also for PetrogrADets - paper:** ad-spb@riseup.net  
 - **Saratov:** kpروطkin@yandex.ru  
 - **Tyumen:** streetriot@inventati.org, akbar@riseup.net  
 - **Ufa:** ufa@riseup.net  
 - **Vladivostok, for Udar-paper:** ad\_vl@riseup.net

## Cities with individual members of Autonomous Action:

- **Ivanovo:** kvazimodo@riseup.net  
 - **Izhevsk:** avtonom.cinema@gmail.com  
 - **Kaliningrad:** ska-konig@mail.ru (parempi osoite?)  
 - **Magnitogorsk:** razer@list.ru  
 - **Petrozhavodsk:** ruinos@mail.ru  
 - **Murmansk:** P.O. Box 4614 183959 Murmansk Russia, tel: 22 89 73 (Aleksandr), vp1@inbox.ru  
 - **Ryazan:** http://ad-62.narod.ru/  
 ad-62@bk.ru  
 - **Chita:** Myrava.trava@gmail.com

## Individual distributors of press of Autonomous Action:

- **Volodga:** blackflag@list.ru  
 - **Yekaterinburg:** P.O. Box 329 620135 Yekaterinburg Russia, libertarizm@yandex.ru  
 - **Perm:** deadsun@rambler.ru, ad-perm@rambler.ru  
 - **Sakhalin:** paha\_keeper@mail.ru  
 - **Samara:** avtonom-samara@yandex.ru  
 - **Sochi:** palma17v@gmail.com, gaura@riseup.net  
 - **Yaroslavl:** anarcho\_kommuna@mail.ru, hkos\_68 AT mail.ru

## \* Bakunin Fund -

Kornilov Sergey Gavrilovich Kuvshinovskiy Rayon, s. Pryamukhino 172101 Tverskay oblast, Russia  
 tel: +7 (48257) 75 160, +7 (495) 918 40 04, +7 (916) 322 33 47  
 www.bakunin-fund.da.ru/  
 bakunin-fund@mail.ru  
 \* **Black Bloc (Voronezh)** - http://blackbloc.anho.org  
 blackblok0@gmail.com

\* **Clandestine Insurrectionary Rebel Clown Army in Moscow** - ka@riseup.net  
 \* **Critical Mass (Moscow)** - http://massa.org.ru/, critical.mass.moscow@gmail.com  
 \* **Confederation of Revolutionary Anarcho-Syndicalists (KRAS-AIT)** - Moscow: P.O.Box 34, 117485 Moscow Russia (no name of the group to the envelope) http://kras.fatal.ru/, comanar@mail.ru  
 - **Rostov-na-Donu:** P.O.Box 4059, 344103 Rostov-na-Donu Russia socprotest@pochta.ru  
 - **Saransk:** tmunzer@mail.ru  
 - **St. Petersburg:** olga1971 (A T) list.ru  
 - **Tver:** horek.ru@mail.ru  
 \* **Cultural Center "DUPLO" & Alternative movie club Diversija in Samara** - www.duplo.narod.ru, duplo@yandex.ru  
 \* **Food Not Bombs** -  
 - **General contact:** fnbru@riseup.net  
 - **Barnaul:** iniciativa-barnaul@yandex.ru  
 - **Irkutsk:** makima@yandex.ru  
 - **Kazan:** fnb-kazan@yandex.ru  
 - **Kirov:** punkauskirov@mail.ru  
 - **Krasnodar:** fnb\_krsndr@mail.ru  
 - **Krasnoyarsk:** afa-krk@yandex.ru  
 - **Moskva:** http://edavmestobomb.narod.ru, fnb-msk@riseup.net  
 - **Nizhny Novgorod:** fnbnov@rambler.ru  
 - **Novosibirsk:** x316x@mail.ru  
 - **Perm:** fnbperm@mail.ru  
 - **Rostov-na-Donu:** subbacultcha@mail.ru  
 - **Samara:** tipunanija@rambler.ru  
 - **St.Petersburg:** epicenter-infoshop@nm.ru  
 - **Tyumen:** fnb\_tyumen@autistici.org  
 - **Ufa:** fnb@inufa.org  
 - **Vladivostok:** fnb-vladivostok@mail.ru  
 - **Volzhkiy:** fnbvz@mail.ru  
 - **Voronezh:** fnb-vrn@yandex.ru

## \* For the Abolition of Vivisection!

- **Initiative group (SHAC Russia)** - http://zhestokosti.net/, http://stopanimaltests.livejournal.com, skazhi@zhestokosti.net  
 \* **Free Trade Unions Confederation of Tomsk** - http://kulac.narod.ru  
 \* **Free University (anarchist lectures in St Petersburg)** - voluni@list.ru  
 \* **House-museum of Pyotr Alekseyevich Kropotkin** - tel: +7(495)993-92-04 (Jan Lvovich Prusskiy), m448@mail.museum.ru  
 \* **Indyvideo** - http://indyvideo.ru/, indyvideo@riseup.net  
 \* **International Gnostic Front of Liberation** - http://gnostic.front.ru  
 gnostic@front.ru  
 \* **Network of Working Place Resistance** - http://antijob.tk/, cockney@rambler.ru  
 \* **Punk Revival - St. Petersburg** - http://pv.mahost.org/, aocats@gmail.com  
 \* **Punk-Revival Moscow** - http://pv.anho.org/forum/index.php oipunkpv@googlemail.com  
 \* **Rainbow Keepers:**  
 - **Moscow:** Hranitelisvetlana@gmail.com  
 - **Samara:** duplos@yandex.ru  
 \* **Red Skins - Anti-fascist skinheads** www.redskins.ru/, admin@redskins.ru  
 \* **Siberian Confederation of Labour** www.skt.org.ru, http://skt.org.ru/wordpress/  
 \* **Victor Serge library** - www.praxiscenter.ru, praxis2001@mail.ru, praxiscenter@gmail.com  
 \* **http://404team.org/** - activist tech group, n@404team.org (also Jabber)  
 \* **www.a-pesni.golosa.info/** - Anarchist songs  
 \* **http://new-novsvet.narod.ru/** - Anarchists of St. Petersburg  
 \* **http://antifa.ru** - Website for "patriotic" anti-fascism  
 \* **www.antifa.p0.ru/** - Anti-Fascist Information & Analysis Portal  
 \* **www.anty-yuppi.narod.ru** - Anti-yuppie - news of anti-glamorous culture of Kaliningrad and surrounding region,

witamin\_w38 (a t) rbcmail.ru  
 \* **http://golosa.info** - Golosa.info - open publishing website from Tumen region, admin@golosa.info  
 \* **http://hippy.ru** - portal of active hippies (also for Vmeste-zine), lubava@hippy.ru  
 \* **http://ru.indymedia.org/** - Indymedia Russia, indyru@nadir.org  
 \* **http://kuban.indymedia.ru** - Indymedia Kuban (Krasnodar region and Adygeya), imckuban@riseup.net  
 \* **http://piter.indymedia.org/** - Indymedia Piter (St.Petersburg), imc-piter@riseup.net  
 \* **http://imc-siberia.org** - Indymedia Siberia, info@imc-siberia.org  
 \* **http://squat.anho.org/** - News about squatting and squatter movement  
 \* **www.makhno.ru** - A website on Nestor Makhno  
 \* **www.diy-zine.com/** - A zine archive

## Notable blogs

\* **http://anarchism\_ru.livejournal.com**  
 \* **http://anarchia\_ru.livejournal.com**  
 \* **http://anarrrra.livejournal.com** - migration, anti-fascism etc.  
 \* **http://avier38.livejournal.com** - anarchism in St.Petersburg  
 \* **http://copylefter.livejournal.com** - copyright, copyleft, creative commons, filesharing...  
 \* **http://iriele.livejournal.com** - ecology and anarchism in Nizhny Novgorod  
 \* **http://mikola\_a.livejournal.com** - anarcho-communism in Belarus  
 \* **http://shraibman.livejournal.com** - history of anarchist movement, syndicalism...  
 \* **http://streetsmedia.livejournal.com** - Squatting, prisoner support...  
 \* **http://tupikin.livejournal.com** - Vlad Tupikin  
 \* **http://vivalafora.livejournal.com** - syndicalism, history of anarchist movement...  
 \* **http://syndikalist.ru/** - name says it all

## Zines:

\* **Girls Are Strong** - St. Petersburg - gas\_zin@mail.ru  
 \* **FakFood - Irkutsk** - ffoodzine@yandex.ru  
 \* **Imhopang - Moscow** - imhopang.punk.ru imhopang@yandex.ru  
 \* **Insomnia - Moscow** - P.O. Box 64 109147 Moscow Russia, www.myspace.com/insomnia\_zine, endishear@gmail.com, podonokx@gmail.com  
 \* **Interpretation - Moscow** - P.O. Box 16 117437 Moscow Russia, interpretation\_zine@yahoo.com  
 www.myspace.com/interpretation\_zine  
 \* **Kamardzhoba - Nizhny Novgorod** - crust- nn@mail.ru  
 \* **Knives and forks** - St. Petersburg - zilonis AT newmail.ru  
 \* **Liniya Fronta - St. Petersburg** - frontline@riseup.net  
 \* **Meet with the resistance - Magnitogorsk** - razer@list.ru  
 \* **No Borders - St. Petersburg** - noborders@front.ru  
 \* **Refuse Resist-zine** - www.rfrs-zine.narod.ru, rfrs.info@gmail.com  
 \* **Rod Svart Punk - Perm** - K.S. Pylaev P.O. Box 6594 Perm Russia, rod\_svart@front.ru, ICQ: 354-310-442  
 \* **Vse vmeste - Petrozavodsk** - scandalsp@mail.ru  
 \* **Taynoe Pisanie - Kaliningrad** - www.anty-yuppi.narod.ru, aswindle@gmail.com

## SERBIA

\* **ASI / Anarcho-Syndicalist Initiative** - is@inicijativa.org (international secretary); www.inicijativa.org  
 \* **Federation of Internationalist Anarchists** - federacija@ml1.net  
 \* **Kontrapunkt** - editorial & newsletter

collective  
 http://www.kontra-punkt.info  
 \* **Subwar Collective** - Belgrade; shavedwomen216@yahoo.com  
 \* **www.anarchy-serbia.tk** - www.inventati.org/anarhizam or www.anarhizam.tk  
 \* **www.afanovisad.tk** - Antifa Novi Sad  
 \* **Zluradi paradi** - band/collective for translating brochures, www.zluradi-paradi.anarhija.org

## SLOVAKIA

\* **Anti-Fascist Groups**  
 - **Trnava (AFA)** - antifa-trnava@safe-mail.net  
 - **Bratislava (AFA)** - http://blava.antifa.net, bacityafa@yahoo.com  
 - **Bratislava (Autonomna Antifa)** - bratislava@antifa.cz  
 - **Bratislava - nazi monitoring** - http://monitor.revolt.org, monitoringba@yahoo.com  
 \* **Alternative Magazine in slovak language** - biedaduchay@safe-mail.net  
 \* **Antifascist Action from Trnava** - antifa-trnava@hushmail.com  
 \* **Cirny Kriz (CK, Black Cross)** - ciernykriz@yahoo.com.  
 \* **CSAF / Slovakia (CSAF - Czech-Slovakia Anarchist Federation)** - slovensko@csaf.cz  
 - **Bratislava** - bratislava@csaf.cz  
 - **B.Bystrica** - bbystrica@csaf.cz  
 - **Trencin** - trencin@csaf.cz  
 - **Vychod** - csaf\_sk\_vychod@yahoo.com  
 \* **FNB Trnava** - jedlott@safe-mail.net  
 \* **KATT** - collective of anarchist tourists, kattkollektiv@yahoo.com  
 \* **Priama Akcia-MAP:** www.priamaakcia.sk  
 - **Eastern region:** vychod@priamaakcia.sk  
 - **Bratislava** - ba@priamaakcia.sk  
 - **Western region** - zapad@priamaakcia.sk  
 - **International Secretary** - intersec@priamaakcia.sk  
 - **Postal contact** - Priama akcia, P.O. Box 16, 840 08 Bratislava 48, Slovensko

## mobile phones:

- +421 949 387 174 - Priama akcia - VA2chod (east)  
 - +421 949 708 508 - Priama akcia - Bratislava

\* **Info@Police** - www.infoapolic.sk, info@infoapolic.sk (Bratislava)

## SLOVENIA

\* **A-distribution "Kontrakultura distribucija"** - kultura\_kontra@yahoo.com.  
 \* **Akd Izbruh Kulturni Bazen** - autonomous culture centre in squated swimm-pool in Kranj; www.akd-izbruh.tk; akd\_izbruh@yahoo.com  
 \* **Anarhiv Resource Center** - Metelkova 6, SI - 1000 Ljubljana, tel. 00386-1-4340345, anarhiv@mail.ljudmila.org, www.ljudmila.org/anarhiv  
 \* **SAF / Social Anarchist Federation** - saf.info@email.si  
 \* **Union of self-organised workers** - SISD/USW - is\_usw@yahoo.com Tel.: 00386(0)31892967

## UKRAINE

\* **International Union of Proletarian Revolutionary-Collectivists (left-communists in Ukraine)** - prometej2003@ukr.net, proletar@ukr.net, http://iuprc.250free.com

## ARTEMIOVSK:

\* **Rage of the youth zine** - Artemyovsk - fnb\_art@mail.ru, xvegyx@yandex.ru  
 \* **DONETSK:**  
 \* **Anarchist Federation of Donetsk** - samoorg@mail.ru, 83017, Donetsk-17, private box 1819.

## KHARKOV:

\* **Animal rights alliance** - save-animals@mail.ru, kharkov@animalrights.ru  
 \* **Autonomous Action** - akh@nm.ru, antifa@km.ru  
 KIEV:  
 \* **Svobodna** - anarcho-feminist web-page (russian language) www.svobodna.org.ua svobodna@riseup.net  
 \* **Diyhc** - hardcore/punk web zine, http://diyhc.org/, diyhardcore@gmail.com  
 \* **FNB** - die\_young@riseup.net  
 \* **People for animal rights** - glazoo@ya.ru  
 \* **Zaraz** - Kiev's portal of libertarian initiatives, www.zaraz.org, info@zaraz.org  
 Infoshop, http://infoshop.zaraz.org/, infoshop@gmail.com  
 LVIV:  
 \* **Antifa** - antifalviv@ua.fm  
 ODESSA:  
 \* **Diversiya** - infoshop, Knyazheskaya str 30 - 32,  
 \* **FNB** - animal\_rights@riseup.net  
 RIVNE:  
 \* **Come Alive** - diy punk/hc concerts, tolibzan@yandex.ru  
 SEVASTOPOL:  
 \* **Autonomous Action** - vlasti\_net@mail.ru  
 \* **Animal liberation group, Antifa, Food Not Bombs** and other activity:  
 klim\_kacha@mail.ru, dzyina@yandex.ru  
 \* **Group active in animal rights, Antifa, Front Aids:** keeponfighting@mail.ru  
 \* **Vlasti net** - zine, vlasti\_net@mail.ru  
 SUMY:

\* **Anarchist Federation of Sumschina** - http://www.fas-2017.tk/, fas-2017@yandex.ru  
 ZHITOMIR:  
 \* **FNB** - fnb\_zhytomyr@mail.ru, private box 127, Zhitomir, 10014  
 \* **'Zhyvy!** - distro, www.truemens.narod.ru/distrotr.htm, truemen@mail.ru  
 \* **'Veselka'** - distro, makefuture@ukr.net, diyzhytomyr@ukr.net  
 \* **'Suck Out'** - zine, www.truemens.narod.ru/suckoutzone.htm, anyom@inbox.ru  
 \* **'Squat UA'** - zine, truemen@mail.ru  
 \* **'Far For'** zine - makefuture@ukr.net, diyzhytomyr@ukr.net

## TURKEY

\* **Anarist Bakis** - http://go.to/anaristbakis - archive of anarchist texts  
 \* **ABC / Anarchist Black Crescent** - abcankara@yahoo.com  
 \* **"Imlasiz"** - www.imlasizdergi.cjb.net-anarchist magazine  
 \* **"Isimsiz"** - anarchist counter-magazine; isimsiz\_dergi@yahoo.com  
 \* **KaosGL** - www.kaosgl.com - antiauthoritarian gay/lesbian group and magazine  
 \* **"Kara Kizil"** - www.karakizil.tr.cx-anarchocommunist group  
 \* **http://uygarligakarsi.cjb.net** - anarchoprimitivists  
 \* **http://ankarafanzin.freesevers.com** - zine from Ankara  
 \* **http://veganarsi.cjb.net** - anarchoprimitivist zine  
 \* **www.geocities.com/kaosyayinlari** - anarchist publisher in Istanbul  
 \* **www.mecmu-a.org** - magazine from Istanbul

