

Call for support to the 4F prisoners:

In the Early morning of the 4th February, at number 55 St. Pere Mes Baix in Barcelona, police violently arrested 9 people outside a party. Three of them are still in prison, two accused of attempted murder and the other of "attack against the authorities" and incitement to attack. According to official sources, an officer of the Guardia Urbana (municipal police) was injured and is in a coma induced by doctors for therapeutic reasons.

In a press conference, the Mayor of Barcelona, Joan Clos, gave a first account of the events which asserted that the injury was provoked by a flowerpot coming from the building where the party was held. Sixteen hours later, the police contradicted this declaration claiming that the blow could have come from any flying object. The next day, the latest official version emerged, saying that it was the people that were arrested in the street that attacked the policeman with stones.

Which of these three versions should the public believe? If we take the first version of the police proclaimed by Clos, it would mean that none of the arrested could be responsible for the blow that wounded the policeman. Apart from this, until now there has not surfaced any forensic report about what happened apart from the police's own, so that it is not possible to decide between the various versions of the police and that of the city council (which is co-prosecuter in the case).

The accused deny absolutely the charges which have been brought against them. Eyewitnesses and arrestees agree in saying that a group of people were arguing with three police officers outside the door of the party when the latter started to hit out, after calling for backup. In the same moment, the group which included the accused arrived at the scene and also started to receive blows. During the incident, the policeman fell down injured, and the Mossos d'Esquadra (Catalan Police) arrived and continued the arrests and the beatings. It should be added that the police, after shouting "halt or I shoot", shot their guns whilst pursuing those that were fleeing from the blows. Those arrested continued being beaten, both in the moment of their arrests and during the time in police stations, hospitals and whilst being transported. The results: severe bruising all over the body, head wounds, black eyes, and for two of the arrested people, broken arms.

The version of the story that the media has turned into public opinion reduces it to a mere confrontation between the police and a few young squatters. Nevertheless, the reality is a result of the particular local context - a barrio that has been reduced to a state of absolute degradation by the urbanistic politics of the city council. It is not the only barrio of Barcelona whose inhabitants are victims of property speculation and violent harassment by property companies in which the council is complicit and participates. The absolute insensitivity to social realities in these areas has led the council to launch a heavy deployment of police to repress whatever form of response might come from the inhabitants who are affected by expropriations, lack of facilities, and in general, the destruction of their barrios and their social networks. It would not be an exaggeration to speak about the criminalisation of poverty.

Police violence has been made particularly explicit in the barrio of St. Pere, and many in the neighbourhood who viewed the police charge from their balconies were shocked by the brutality of the repression against the youths in the doorway of the building and those who were just casually passing by. The majority of these witnesses only agree to talk about what happened in private, frightened because of the impression the police actions left, and because since that day there are police continually in the doorways to their houses. The next day unjustified identifications were continuing, as were threats towards certain of the inhabitants, and anyone who might 'look like a squatter'. Examples of aggressions were "would you rather I kill you here or that it do it in Zona Franca (industrial area)?", punches, kicks to the ankles, and even taking off the shoes of one victim whilst and intimidating them whilst each cop stamped on their feet. To justify the malice with which they were acting, they claimed that the injured policeman had died.

Finally, something should be added about the ambiguous role which the "Narco Peña Acultural" played. (anarco peña cultural = occupied building where the party was held). For the City Council it is easier to arrest a few South American youths who looked like squatters than have to justify their responsibility about this piece of their property. It's inhabitants used it for mafia-style practices, and it is very difficult to believe that the police would ignore such action (for more information see <http://www.liberinfo.net/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&s>)

None of this is casual, the escalation of violence which the different police forces are employing since some time, and more concretely since the entry in force of the laws of civismo (public spirit) and zero tolerance, and the definitive deployment of the Mossos d'Esquadra, and is taking itself out very clearly around certain groups and places in which the interests of the City Council collide with the people who live there.

We demand the liberty without charge of the prisoners. and end to abuse and torture and that they give us back our barrios

If you want to help with legal costs:

La Caixa 2100-3002-01-2105267123

IBAN: ES66

BIC/SWIFT: CAIXESBBXXX

Further infos: coordinadora@riseup.net - More information (in spanish) @ www.presosalacalle.tk – www.barcelona.indymedia.org

A THOUSAND REASONS TO KEEP FIGHTING

Solidarity with Ruben and Ignasi. Free anarchist prisoners!

We suffered yet another repressive act. Our comrades Ruben and Ignasi were kidnapped during the morning of february 9th by catalan police "mossos d'esquadra" and court number 13 of Barcelona. They're accused of two sabotage actions (one against CIRE, which is the public enterprise that controls work inside prison, and the other one Banco Sabadell, one of the accusation enterprises against Sergio L.D., the only remaining person facing trials for riots on the EU meeting in 2002 in Barcelona) and also referred as being part of anti-prison and prisoner support groups. Their solidarity and political activism outside the boundaries of the pseudo-fights allowed and enforced by democracy have fallen under the repressive set of laws ("zero tolerance" some politicians ask) that is trying to turn Barcelona into a new kind of fascist city with a progressive face.

Now Ruben is held at Can Brians and Ignasi at Quatre Camins. These first days are tough because it's extremely difficult to get to know some information of where they are or how they feel. This is taking lots of time and energy (guess that's precisely the point of bureaucracy!), but we feel it's important that they know (and that we ourselves know) that we're still here, that life goes on and so does our libertarian fight!

Solidarity is needed from any people that feel the slightest need to face this repressive society which leads us to extreme and emergency situations.

Marginality is not our home, it pretends to be our prison. What is really ours is the social feeling that leads us to fight and live our lives as freedom expansions towards all social environments. We cannot think of our comrade's kidnapping without thinking of all the abuses society is suffering and/or enforcing.

The judge is made look as an honorable and respectable person that carries an important social task. Police, nicely provocative and violent is seen as protector of security and freedom. Abuses of immigrants are seen as something necessary to maintain social peace. Destruction of the earth, of the neighborhoods, of our living places and our own liberated spaces... is justified in the name of progress and social welfare.

Meanwhile they hide the economic benefits of banks, building estates and political parasites. "Worker's regulations" and ongoing worsening of their rights PRECARIZES labour's conditions, squeezing restlessly all those people who have to work in order to survive. Banks announcement of their highest benefits ever last year are due to this exploitations and the huge debts acquired by lots of people trapped into a society based on cosumerism and private property. ORDENANZA CIVICA, which is publicised as ideal ways of social behavior is simply about more control, more repression and more isolation against those people that, due to their vulnerability, are easily pointed at and abused by state's institutions; the same is done to political dissidence that don't have access to (or don't want to be at) the "show windows" of what is becoming a huge "city of design"

The increasing numbers of police forces is an answer to the distrust of those in power towards society as a whole; they know what they're doing is absolutely unjust, but they also know they have lots of reasons to do that: their wealth and privileges are to be maintained at any cost. They know that.

Ruben and Ignasi are not alone in prison, we're not alone in marginality, those imprisoned at the riots of Sant Pere Mes Baix street are not alone, neither the anarchists arrested in September 2003 that will face very long sentences, neither any person isolated at police stations, the immigrants, the people from the hoods will not be left alone...cause here we are, here we have a thousand reasons to keep fighting.

FREEDOM FOR THE ARRESTED COMRADES - LET'S ANSWER TO ANY KIND OF IMPOSITIONS!

SOLIDARITY BANK ACCOUNT CODES:

International Bank Account Number (IBAN)

IBAN ES33 0182-4209-47-0201518073

SWIFT or BIC: BBVAESMM

Proposal for Fax bombing, each THURSDAY, to be sent to the justice office dealing with the case of Ignasi and Ruben:

Juzgado de Instrucción nº 13 de Barcelona, Passeig Lluís Companys, nº 1-5, 08003 Barcelona. FAX: 93 556 99 13

- EXIGIMOS LA LIBERTAD INMEDIATA DE NUESTROS COMPAÑEROS RUBEN E IGNASI.

- LA PRISION PROVISIONAL NO PUEDE SER UN ESCARMIENTO, ES UNA TORTURA!! LIBERTAD ANARQUISTAS PRESOS. LIBERTAD PARA IGNASI Y RUBEN.

-ENCARCELADOS POR QUERER SER LIBRES, ENCARCELADOS SIN PRUEVAS DE PESO: LIBERTAD PARA IGNASI I RUBEN.

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