

# EDITORIAL

This is the second edition of Rumoer. With the first, we have begun a new project. 500 copies in Dutch and 300 in English have been distributed, in the Netherlands and beyond. They went quickly and even generated some discussion. Skkkrrrrrrttt!

In this edition, besides the ongoing anarchist interventions we will also discuss several other topics: the struggle against Shell, post-gentrification, the use of the app Signal, and the expanding Covid-19 virus, as well as the hysteria, control and fake-security that comes with it.

Rumoer has a specific perspective on all these topics, which could definitely generate reactions or lead to discussion. Rumoer calls for agitation and action, which is evident when you look at its contents. A first step towards action

is building affinity. So come together, organise a meeting or evening of discussion, secretly or publicly, to start working on this. Perhaps, then, the contents of Rumoer could become starting points for your own struggle. As such, a discussion is not an academic dispute, but rather a first step towards subversion.

Consider this, with or without Rumoer, and organise yourselves. Take what you need and burn the rest!

And to be clear: we do not provide subscriptions, so whoever emailed asking for this, send us another email (to get this edition)! Or pick up a Rumoer at your local social centre. There is a donation jar in the Fort van Sjakoo in Amsterdam if you want to leave some cash to support the costs of Rumoer. (We are, of course, in favour of everything always being for free, but since this is unfortunately not always the case donations are very welcome.)

PS. Despite Corona, the graffiti-competition has now officially been opened! Check page 18 and Corona or no Corona, always cover your face and wear gloves as usual!

*Radio on  
Smartphones on  
Films on  
Tablets on  
Travels bought  
Cars bought  
Houses bought  
Furniture bought  
For what?*

*Trains going  
Dollars flowing  
Machines going  
People toiling  
Motors made  
Canons made  
For whom?*

*Destroy what destroys you*

*Bombers flying  
Tanks rolling  
Cops hitting  
Soldiers falling  
Stocks protected  
Managers protected  
The state protected  
Against us?*

*Destroy what destroys you*

**\* Free after Ton Steine Scherben**

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# I BURN SHELL TO HELL

From 16 to 19 May 2020 a large-scale action of civil disobedience will take place in The Hague, the Netherlands, against Shell, whose headquarters are also located in The Hague, at the Carel van Bylandtlaan. The aim of the action is to disturb the yearly Shell shareholders-meeting on May 18 and 19, which will take place in the AFA's Circustheatre in Scheveningen. The action is a campaign of the Code Rood group in collaboration with several other climate-action-groups, and has been named **Shell Must Fall! (SMF)**.

Code Rood has carried out actions like this in the Netherlands before, against the coal-harbour in Amsterdam and against gas extraction in Groningen. A recalcitrant attitude among anarchists and autonomen, however, has emerged towards Code Rood. Certain statements in the media, in order to rid themselves of the stereotype image of "activists", as well as the imposing of a so-called "action consensus" have contributed to this. Hence, the majority of the anarchists is now not involved in this group and its initiatives. A missed opportunity...

As opposed to previous actions of Code Rood, the SMF actions will take place in urbanised areas. There is a call-out for a "mass disturbance" of the shareholders-meeting with the expectation that hundreds, perhaps thousands of people will participate. This publicly announced plan, orchestrated well in advance, is reminiscent of the Ende Gelände actions and the summit protests against the G20, G8, WTO, etc. Also during these protests anarchists have always attempted to transform traditional, predictable, and controllable forms of protest into resistance.

There are numerous examples from which we can take experience and ideas. The G20 in Hamburg, the opening of the European Central Bank in Frankfurt, the NO EXPO demonstrations in Milan, etc. These protest-meetings were also composed of an amalgam of institutional groups,

NGOs, initiatives of civil disobedience and demonstrations. Let's call this the centre of protest, as it attracts the largest amount of people. These groups are its core, and this is how they present themselves also, while using the territory in a traditional way: starting on a square where long speeches are held, then a long march with as much "public outreach" as possible, and ending on a square with music.

On the periphery of these protests a different dynamic emerged: in Hamburg, groups appeared everywhere that launched attacks against the symbols and infrastructures of capital, during the ECB a group of autonomen went into the city just after dawn to block roads with burning car tyres and to attack a cop station, and in Milan thousands of people managed to leave the traditional union-demonstration to subsequently engage in hours of destruction of one of the most expensive urban areas in the world.

The protests against G-summits have long ago been transformed into symbolic theatres. This renders the SMF action even more interesting: it has a specific objective and numerous reasons to attack it. Shell is destroying the climate, but it is also the epitome of capitalism and corporatism. The company has a history of sponsoring paramilitary groups, supporting the apartheid regime in South-Africa, lobbying for wars and coups, et cetera, et cetera. These are all themes which SMF is emphasising, in contrast to other groups that are only preoccupied with climate(change). This provides opportunities for both the initiatives of civil disobedience and possible actions in the periphery which are completely separate from the organisational forces behind the protest. The only thing they have in common is the motivation: one of the dirtiest companies in the world is having a meeting in The Hague, and it should be destroyed.

We are not obliged to join an action which from the outset has a closed objective, tactic and method. Our possibilities are everywhere, we only have to organise them...





instance, giving up our ability to have demonstrations while we still need to go work retail jobs seems like a bad call for any liberatory project. Or recognizing the need for a rent strike while also fear mongering about any way of talking to our neighbours.

Giving up on struggle while still accomodating the economy is very far from addressing our own goals, but it flows from the state's goal of managing the crisis to limit economic harm and prevent challenges to its legitimacy. It's not that the state set out to quash dissent, that is probably just a byproduct. But if we have a different starting point — build autonomy rather than protect the economy — we will likely strike different balances about what is appropriate.

For me, a starting point is that my project as an anarchist is to create the conditions for free and meaningful lives, not just ones that are as long as possible. I want to listen to smart advice without ceding my agency, and I want to respect the autonomy of others — rather than a moral code to enforce, our virus measures should be based on agreements and boundaries, like any other consent practice. We communicate about the measures we choose, we come to agreements, and where agreements aren't possible, we set boundaries that are self-enforceable and don't rely on coercion. We look at the ways access to medical care, class, race, gender, geography, and of course health affect the impact of both the virus and the state's response and try to see that as a basis for solidarity.

A big part of the state's narrative is unity — the idea that we need to come together as a society around a singular good that is for everyone. People like feeling like they're part of a big group effort and like having the sense of contributing through their own small actions — the same kinds of phenomenons that make rebellious social movements possible also enable these moments of mass obedience. We can begin rejecting it by reminding ourselves that the interests of the rich and powerful are fundamentally at odds with our own. Even in a situation where they could get sicken or die too (unlike the opioid crisis or the AIDS epidemic before it), their response to the crisis is unlikely to meet our needs and may even intensify exploitation.

The presumed subject of most of the measures like self-isolation and social distancing is middle-class — they imagine a person whose job can easily be worked from home or who has access to paid vacation or sick days (or, in the worst case, savings), a person with a spacious home, a personal vehicle, without very many close, intimate relationships, with money to spend on childcare and leisure activities. Everyone is asked to accept a level of discomfort,

but that increases the further away our lives are from looking like that unstated ideal and compounds the unequal risk of the worst consequences of the virus. One response to this inequality has been to call on the state to do forms of redistribution, by expanding employment insurance benefits, or by providing loans or payment deferrals. Many of these measure boil down to producing new forms of debt for people who are in need, which recalls the outcome of the 2008 financial crash, where everyone shared in absorbing the losses of the rich while the poor were left out to dry.

I have no interest in becoming an advocate for what the state should do and I certainly don't think this is a tipping point for the adoption of more socialistic measures. The central issue to me is whether or not we want the state to have the abiltiy to shut everything down, regardless of what we think of the justifications it invokes for doing so.

The #shutdowncanada blockades were considered unacceptable, though they were barely a fraction as disruptive as the measures the state pulled out just a week later, making clear that it's not the level of disruption that was unacceptable, but rather who is a legitimate actor. Similarly, the government of Ontario repeated constantly the unacceptable burden striking teachers were placing on families with their handful of days of action, just before closing schools for three weeks — again, the problem is that they were workers and not a government or boss. The closure of borders to people but not goods intensifies the nationalist project already underway across the world, and the economic nature of these seemingly moral measures will become more plain once the virus peaks and the calls shift towards 'go shopping, for the economy'.

The state is producing legitimacy for its actions by situating them as simply following expert recommendations, and many leftists echo this logic by calling for experts to be put directly in control of the response to the virus. Both of these are advocating for technocracy, rule by experts. We have seen this in parts of Europe, where economic experts are appointed to head governments to implement 'neutral' and 'objective' austerity measures. Calls to surrender our own agency and to have faith in experts are already common on the left, especially in the climate change movement, and extending that to the virus crisis is a small leap.

It's not that I don't want to hear from experts or don't want there to be individuals with deep knowledge in specific fields — it's that I think the way problems are framed already anticipate their solution. The response to the virus in China gives us a vision of what technocracy and authoritarianism are capable



interests, we need to start by taking back the ability to ask our own questions. Conditions are different everywhere, but all states are watching each other and following each others' lead, and we would do well to look to anarchists in other places dealing with conditions that may soon become our own. So I'll leave you with this quote from anarchists in France, where a mandatory lockdown has been in place all week, enforced with dramatic police violence:

"And so yes, let's avoid too much collectivity in our activities and unnecessary meetings, we will maintain a safe distance, but fuck the confinement measures,

we'll evade your police patrols as much as we can, it's out of the question that we support repression or restrictions of our rights! To all the poor, marginal, and rebellious, show solidarity and engage in mutual aid to maintain activities necessary for survival, avoid the arrests and fines and continue expressing ourselves politically."

*From "Against Mass Confinement" ("Contre le confinement généralisé"). Published in French on Indymedia Nantes*

# GERMANY: HEADS OUT OF THE SAND! REAL ESTATE COMPANIES ATTACKED

*Two Real Estate Company Cars in Bremen Destroyed. Bremen: 21.03 to 22.03*

**We should stay at home and avoid any contact with others. We should show solidarity, because if we don't, the deadly virus will spread. We get lost in the news. We go into shock.**

The pandemic is a reality and we all have a responsibility. Responsibility to contain the disease. But also responsibility for social development. We are not all "in the same boat" just because we can all be affected by the virus. The pandemic, or rather how we deal with it, exacerbates the already precarious living conditions. Many will get into debt, have no or much lower income and still have to pay the high rents. Real estate companies will continue to profit and the burdens of the crisis will be transferred to those who are marginalized anyway. At the same time, government measures to combat the virus are accelerating authoritarian developments; we can see three key points here:

*– An intensification of the technological attack...  
The switch to web-based homework, the relocation of cultural encounters such as concerts or parties to virtual spaces, online school lessons, the displacement of retail stores by online commerce, and the analysis of mobile phone data for biopolitical population control, to name just a few examples.*

*– Testing of counterinsurgency measures  
Military action at home, the closing of borders, curfews, increased powers for the police, the complete disappearance of the liberal counter-public in the form of demonstrations and rallies, all these measures – regardless of their usefulness in containing the pandemic – are also important experiences for combating coming insurgencies.*

*– Aggravated precarization*

*It is becoming clear that the crisis of the virus is being replaced by a crisis of the economy. Beyond the redistribution of the taxpayers' money to corporations and companies, it is difficult to predict the effects of the coming economic crisis. But if we look at the past crisis, it is clear that we have to expect the whole range of neoliberal reforms.*

*All in all, there are many reasons (offline) to act, analyse and observe. We were on the streets to find out whether it is still possible to move at night. And lo and behold, it is still possible.*

*Our first actions are two destroyed real estate company vehicles:*

*– a burnt-out Smart car from IMMO-BREMEN*

*– destroyed windows on a small Engel und Völkers car*

Against resignation and isolation: Heads out of the sand!

## Autonomous Groups

Note: According to the press, a hedge was set on fire by the burning Smart car, which in turn damaged the windows of an apartment building and led to the temporary evacuation of two people. There is nothing nice about that. We apologize! And we will be even more careful in the future! All nocturnal activists: Be careful in narrow streets!





– The immediate release of all prisoners as a central demand.

– Mass evasion in private clinics, free medical care for all.

– Rent strike, taking over empty houses.

**The hood is the best mask!  
Evade the isolation of capital!  
Deny immunity as a police device! The crisis is an opportunity, raise your fist and attack!**

# ITALY, LECCE: INTERRUPTIONS...

**There is nothing new about social life taking place at a distance. For a long time now people have been persuaded that the best way to communicate and relate is through the use of a device. Prostheses of the human being, the smartphone and its like, have transformed the way of being together, of being informed, learning, communicating, writing and reading.**

The next step is the robotization of living, technique pervading every place, every aspect of daily life. An overcoming of nature and the natural in favour of artificial beings and places. Such a scenario needs no social life, it does not need relationships, feelings, thoughts, it only needs order, discipline, regulation, machines. Maybe Dominion is trying to take a step forward and use a health problem, the spread of a virus, to reach generalized regimentation at least, the rest will then take care of itself. Science fiction comes to mind, but States have centuries old instruments to draw on without having to resort to the unknown.

The social distancing imposed by laws prohibiting kisses and hugs and the suppression of most social activities, recalls states of emergency in which the rules of social life are imposed and must be obeyed so as not to run up against getting charged or being arrested. And indeed the establishment of red zones and checkpoints, limitation of freedom of circulation, obligation of home isolation for those coming from areas considered infected controlled by police, but above all the ban on gatherings, i.e. public meetings, is the police management of a health problem. Not surprisingly it is foreseen in the ten rules recommended by the Italian State to avoid the spread of the virus that in case of fever the carabinieri must be the first to be contacted. But states of emergency are also the measures provided for in situations of conflict or insurrection, as happened recently in Chile.

The State decrees by law that citizens are its property and it can dispose of them as it sees fit. States of emergency are not imposed for health reasons or the population's welfare, but to make rules become introjected, to instill discipline. And indeed, the surest way to obtain obedience is to spread terror, fear. Create anxiety and panic, continually divulging data, making everything sensationalistic and exceptional. Frightening is a practice of war and torture as well as of government, and States are specialized in this too. And war has forcefully come back into vogue after being removed and cancelled out for many years. Today the war is here, indeed everywhere. Heads of State are declaring themselves at war against a somewhat singular enemy, a virus, but their real adversary or target is not that, it is their very subjects. For this reason the issue at stake, perhaps the most important, is to keep critical thinking alive without downplaying anything. Having, arm in arm with the Economy, industrialized and devastated nature and desertified thought, now feelings are being cancelled out. No kisses, no hugs.

However, if Dominion wants us totally dependent on it, if the State cancels social and in part also economic life, that means that we don't need the State. That we can self-organize our initiatives, our forms of education, our economies, our leisure. And also in this case we don't need to resort to science fiction but to experience, memory, our will and courage.

The prisoners fighting in the Italian prisons that this state of emergency would like to see buried alive are showing a way. That normality be interrupted, yes, but by revolt.

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# REVOLTS IN ITALIAN PRISONS I

In the evening of March 8th a fire works its way through the prison complex in Modena, in the region Emilia-Romagna. Prisoners manage to spring their cells, chase away the guards and occupy the roof of the prison where they start a fire. In the early morning of March 9th a dozen people appear on the roof of the San Vittore prison in Milan. They drop a banner reading "indulto" (an Italian rule for early release) and shout "Liberta! Liberta!" (Freedom! Freedom!) and "Vergogna!" (Shame!) at the authorities standing below. As a measure against the rampaging Covid-19 virus all prison visits have been cancelled until the end of May, visits by psychiatrists and medical volunteers are also ruled out. As a result the ticking time-bomb in the Italian prison system explodes.

By Monday afternoon the police union announces that there are 27 prison uprising across the Italian territories. In Rome and Naples family members clash with riot police at the prison gates. In cities like Bologna, Milan and Turin anarchists and family's gather to support the revolting prisoners. Meanwhile the imprisoned occupy the roofs, destroy the prison facilities and set fire to their cells and cop cars inside the prison premises.

The Covid-19 virus has crushed the facade; the

social tensions have been laid bare. In the past few months a couple of revolts have occurred in the CPR (deportation prisons) of Turin, where a couple of people were killed. Last year anarchists went on hunger strike after two arrestees of the anti-terrorist operation "Scintilla" did the same in the highly restricted woman's prison in L'Aquila while being held under the 41bis-regime. There have been rumblings in the Italian prisons for a while, but now the straw broke the camel's back.

Despite the fact that social life has been called to a halt the factories are still turning. By Tuesday afternoon wildcat strikes are reported across the country. Workers refuse to put their health and life on the line for the sake of capital. Some self-organised unions also declare their solidarity with the prison uprisings, which keep smouldering until March 12th before the state re-announces control over the prison.

The state speaks of 40 injured police officers and heavy damages in all the prisons affected by the revolt (the prison in Modena is considered a lost cause due to the damage). 14 prisoners lost their lives during the revolt, according to the state all fatalities were caused by a methadone overdoses.



# INTERVIEW WITH GRAFFITI-MAKER SPAZ UNO FROM LEBANON



EPS - EXIST - SPAZ: "I am not a prince"

In our last edition we wrote about the continuous protests and uprisings in, among others, Iraq, Algeria and Iran. We also wrote about the situation in Lebanon

In the autumn of 2019 Lebanon saw a new wave of protests, in Beirut, but also in many small cities. The protests escalated quickly, enormous amounts of people took to the streets. At the same time a wave of repression hit. The protests are an answer to the consequences of the economic crises and people in power who are only filling their own pockets. Lebanon is, since the end of the civil war in 1991, governed by a political system that is based on the many religions the region knows; since then this system has not changed. Even after the uprisings of 2011 the government has kept the country in an iron grip.

The people are faced with another wave of taxes and a weak economy. The daily reality is a lack of food and no water from the taps. This made the people take to the streets again. They demanded a life in dignity, which was answered with brutal police violence. Characteristic for the protests are international solidarity, and a for Lebanon unusual approach in which the separate struggles and groups are connected above all sectarian separations. Below you find an interview with graffiti-maker Spaz Uno.

**Rumoer:**

*What was the spark for the recent uprisings?*

**Spaz Uno:**

The government proposed a tax on the use of WhatsApp. Also, there were very big wildfires, in several places in Lebanon. This was just short after the forest fires in Australia. These two things made that everyone took to the streets, within a couple of hours. These were not the main reasons for the protests though, only the sparks. The actual reason is the accumulation of things that have been happening in Lebanon since 30 years. A corrupt government, corrupt politicians that use the country to do business. Lebanon has investors from different parts of the world, from the US for example, but politicians use this for themselves. Recently they have started digging for oil, but the money does not go to the people.

The protests now are not as active as before, because people are fighting day-to-day to have food and a roof over their heads. More than 50% of the population is poor now. The whole situation is getting worse. The rate of the money is low and there is a limit on money you can take from the bank (100 dollar per week).

**Rumoer:**

*How do you feel about the interconnectedness of the struggle?*



**Spaz Uno:**

I wish to maintain unity with each other, being aware of ourselves and surroundings. Once we have unity we have everything. Revolution is not about raging against the corrupt regime, it's something much bigger, it's coming from deep inside every one of us. Once we know we can have a revolution deep inside

of us, we know we can make a revolution against the system.



# REPRESSION AND TORTURE IN RUSSIA

*The text below is a compilation of various texts from rupression.com*

**In the run-up to presidential elections and the FIFA World Cup, repressions against antifascists and anarchists started in Russia. In Autumn 2017, 6 people were arrested in Penza; several of them had weapons and explosives planted on them. FSB officers then tortured the antifascists right in the detention facility: they applied naked wires to the activists' various body parts and turned the electricity on, they beat them up, hanged them upside down. While torturing them, the agents made the activists learn by heart the story the FSB needed: they were supposed to confess of having founded and belonging to a terrorist organization called "The Network". In late January 2018, two more antifascists were arrested in Saint-Petersburg. They, too, were beaten up, tortured with electric current, and forced to incriminate themselves by confirming they were members of the "Network".**

## **PENZA. THE ARRESTS**

In October and November 2017, five antifascists were arrested in Penza.

It was most probably Zorin's testimony that provided a formal cause for opening the case. Igor Zorin, a Penza State University student, never came home on October 18 and his friends started to worry. It later turned out that FSB operatives had him. Apparently, it was his testimony that was used as a formal ground for initiating the case of the antifascist "terrorist organization". It is most probable that Zorin was brutally tortured just as the rest of the detained. However, he hasn't since contacted either his friends or journalists. According to available information, Zorin is currently under house arrest. All the other defendants in the case are held in pretrial detention facilities.

On October 19, Ilya Shakurskiy, a prominent local activist and Zorin's classmate at the university, started searching for him with a group of friends. He found no trace of Zorin and went home. As soon as he descended from his bus, he was knocked off his feet, and in a couple of seconds FSB officers shoved him into their car. They beat Shakurskiy up and pulled him by the hair to force his phone password out of him. He ended up telling them the password. 20 minutes later, the antifascist was brought into a building where more FSB officers were waiting for him. They told Shakurskiy he was suspected of organizing a terrorist group. When the activist denied the accusations he was beaten on his head and back, threatened with rape and a life sentence. All the time he could hear someone scream next door. At some

point, a masked man walked in with a bloody scarf in his hands. One of the FSB officers mentioned the name: "Kuksov".

Vasiliy Kuksov was also detained on October 19, probably almost at the same time as Shakurskiy. Kuksov's wife, Elena, came back from work to an empty home and called her husband on his mobile phone. She could hear the ringing signal but nobody picked up. After a couple of hours she heard somebody open the door with a key. Ten FSB agents stood before her. One of them was holding a beaten up Vasiliy by the neck. The antifascist could barely stand, his forehead and nose were badly bruised, his pants and jacket torn and bloody. The FSB agents quickly searched through the apartment and went over to search Kuksov's car.

They told Kuksov to open the car door. He noticed straight away that the car door lock was broken and stated this loudly. When the FSB agents took a gun out of the car it became clear who had broken the lock and why: the gun had been previously planted there by the operatives. After this Kuksov was taken away, probably to the FSB bureau, where they started beating him up. It was his screams that Shakurskiy heard in the next room.

Dmitriy Pchelintsev left his home to pick up his grandmother and was arrested on October 27. Four FSB agents attacked him by his car, beat him up, threw him on the ground and took his apartment key.

They opened the door and broke into his apartment. During the search they turned everything upside









# UPDATE: THE PARK BENCH 3 CASE IN HAMBURG

**Last July three anarchists were arrested in a park in Hamburg. Since then, two of them have been in pre-trial detention; the third person was released to await the court case on the outside. Their court case started on 8 January. In the last Rumour we published a text in solidarity; now it's time for an update.**

On the night before the first day of court there was a large solidarity-demo with around 500 people in front of the prison where the two are locked up. Many friends and comrades were also present on the first day of trial. The trial generally takes place in a heavily secured room - on the first day it took approximately two-and-a-half hours before everyone was inside due to the elaborate checking of people going in. Not much happened that first day except officially stating the accusations.

Two people are accused of preparing an arson attack; one is accused of arson. Furthermore, one of them is accused of breaking the weapon-and-ammunition law; the other two of participating in this.

The past few months have not shed much light on the case. A lot of the court sessions are brief, there is chaos surrounding parts of the file (such as lost photographs taken directly after the arrest or images of which only the cops have the originals, and the court and defense merely the black-and-white versions) and everything, as per usual when it comes to court cases, proceeds in an incredibly slow fashion.

What has become evident is that the surveillance and observation of the homes of the three already began in 2018, and was extended in 2019. At least one person had been under surveillance for 8 months before the actual arrest. This was done under a "prevention of danger" legislation, which circumvents the necessity of a court order and only needs a decision of the police (similarly, in the Netherlands, different rules are in place for cops and the state when it comes to "counter-terrorism").

Their locations were logged continuously and social spaces such as the LiZ (social/autonomous/free centre with an anarchist library) and the Schwarzmarkt (bookshop/social space) were under observation.

In the meantime, the interrogation of cop-witnesses has also begun. However, up until now a large part of the questions asked by the defense about the methods of the police have remained unanswered

due to the refusal to "reveal police tactics" or because the witnesses claim they do not remember...

For those on the tribune, it is somewhat hard to follow the case, as the judge has decided that the evidence (69 pieces of evidence in total) will not be read out in court, but only by the different parties themselves. The media, of course, continues their witch hunt and judgement of the three.

Detailed reports of the court days (mostly in German) can be found at [parkbankprozess.blackblogs.org](http://parkbankprozess.blackblogs.org). Other news, planned days of court, solidarity actions and messages from inside prison can be found at [parkbanksolidarity.blackblogs.org](http://parkbanksolidarity.blackblogs.org)

Letters to the two in prison are very much appreciated and can be sent to:

"Die 3 von der Parkbank"

Libertäres Zentrum LiZ

Karolinenstraße 21, Hinterhaus

20357 Hamburg

DUITSLAND

There have been expressions of solidarity in various European cities - direct action, sabotage... have a look at the blog under the heading "Solidarity actions" for inspiration!



securely communicate directly with another person, and your email service can't see the message, whether it's Google or Riseup. To this day, as far as we know, PGP encryption has never been broken(1).

My biggest security concern (2) with PGP is the lack of Forward Secrecy, which means that if a private encryption key is ever compromised, all the emails ever sent with that key can be decrypted by an attacker. This is a real concern, given that the NSA is almost certainly storing all your encrypted emails somewhere, and one day quantum computers might be able to break PGP. Don't ask me how quantum computers work – as far as I'm concerned, evil fucking magic.

Sometime around 2010, smartphones started to popularize and everything changed. The ubiquity of social media, constant instant messaging, and the ability for telecom companies (and thus government) to track users' every move has completely transformed the threat model. All the work people put into computer security was set back decades: smartphones rely on a completely different architecture than PCs, resulting in far less user control, and the advent of completely unfettered app permissions has made the idea of smartphone privacy almost laughable.

This is the context that Signal emerged from. People started working on software to bring end-to-end encryption to smartphones, working on the idea that mass surveillance should be countered with mass encryption. Signal was designed to be usable, pretty, and secure.

Understandably, anarchists are more likely to trust their communications to Signal – a non-profit foundation run by an anarchist – than they are to trust big tech, whose main business model is harvesting and reselling user data. And Signal has some advantages over these other platforms: it's open-source, encrypts most metadata, stores as little user data as possible, and offers some very useful features like disappearing messages and safety number verification to guard against interceptions.

But Signal only really protects one thing, and that's your communication as it travels between your device and another device. That's great, but it's only one piece of a security strategy. The first questions for any security strategy are who is your expected adversary, what are they trying to capture, and how are they likely to go about getting it. The basic idea is that things and practices are only secure or insecure relative to the kind of attack you are expecting to defend against. For example, you might have your data locked down with solid encryption and the best

password, but if your attacker is willing to torture you until you give up the data, it doesn't really matter.

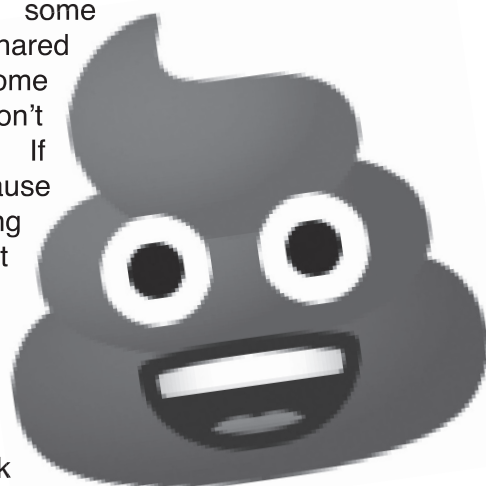
For the purpose of this text, I would propose a working threat model that is primarily concerned with two types of adversaries. The first is global intelligence agencies or powerful hackers engaging in mass surveillance and intercepting communications. The second is police agencies, operating on territory controlled by the Canadian or American government, engaging in targeted surveillance of anarchists. For the police, basic investigative techniques include monitoring email lists and social media, sending undercovers to events, and casual informants. At times when they have more resources, or our networks become a bigger priority, they escalate to more advanced techniques including longer-term infiltration, frequent or continuous physical surveillance (including attempts to capture passwords), bugging devices, intercepting communications, and house raids where devices are seized and subjected to forensic analysis.

If your device is compromised with a keylogger or other malicious software, it doesn't really matter how secure your communications are. If you're hanging out with a snitch or a cop it doesn't really matter if you take the battery out of your phone and talk in a park. Device security and security culture are two concepts not covered by this text that have to be considered to guard against these very real threats. I've included a few suggestions in the Further Reading section.

It's also worth mentioning that Signal is not designed for anonymity. Your Signal account is registered with a phone number, so unless you register using a cash-bought burner phone or an online throwaway number, you're not anonymous. Primarily for security reasons, Signal has become the standard communication medium in anarchist circles over the last 4 years. But just as "the medium is the message," Signal is having profound effects on how anarchists relate and organize together that are too often overlooked.

#### Towards Shared Practices

There are some obstacles to shared practices. Some people don't have Signal. If that's because they're building relations without smartphones, I have only respect for that. If it's because they spend all day on Facebook





## ENDNOTES

1. Court cases against the Red Brigades in Italy (2003) and child pornographers in the U.S. (2006) have shown that federal police agencies failed to break into PGP-secured devices and communications. Instead, agents have resorted to bugging devices, passing legislation requiring you to surrender passwords, and of course, informants and undercover infiltration.

2. Until very recently, PGP didn't encrypt metadata (who is emailing who, on what servers, at what time), which was a huge problem. An NSA lawyer once said, "if you have enough metadata, you don't really need content."



# SELL OUT, GENTRIFICATION AND SABOTAGE

Let's make a time-line. Do you remember, when we were throwing all kind of things at the cops and weren't worrying about camera's or DNA-traces? When around the station it was full of junkies and graffiti, while the only controllers were cops and public transport workers? That we were in shock, when they put private security in the streets and were suddenly obliged to always be able to identify ourselves?

Stupid start of a text of course, to just focus on the past, and vaguely having the feeling it was all better then. But for sure it was different. The city was more traditionally divided, rich and white in that neighborhood, workers and trash in the other, migration wave 1 in that area, migration wave 2 in the other. Now everything within the city ring is dominated by money. By rich tourists, yuppies, expats, companies, hotels, experiences. These

streets make you miserable, you'd better not come around there, unless you have a good idea to trash some things.

Internationally there is lots of attention for gentrification, within the leftist scene mainly. But there have always been poor neighborhoods, which were taken over by some commercial or state interest. Usually that is because of keeping poverty invisible (lots of my friends from outside who visit me, but also friend from around, say there is no poverty in my city, but they simply don't move around in the neighborhoods where you can actually see it), or there should come some kind of subway or company area. My point is actually that gentrification is not a disease, but a symptom of a disease which is destroying the whole world: capitalism. Making profit of homes, people, demolishing of nature. You know. And there is even some kind of Capitalism 2.0







evictions.

**26th of February:** In Hamburg, Germany, 12 Tesla's are smeared with bitumen in solidarity with forest occupiers in Grunheide. Tesla is targeted because they participate in the ecological bubble but at the same time cut down forests to build a new factory.

**26th of February:** On the German-Danish border 22 metres of fence are removed. Parts of the fence are later found spread across different cities in Flensburg, Suderlugum, Ellhoft and Kiel.

**29th of February:** In Santiago, Chile, two explosives are placed at the Transoceanic Real Estate Corporation, in the middle of the rich neighbourhood of Vitacura. Transoceanic owns its money with the building of luxury residences.

**5th of March:** Heavy riots break out in Athens after an off duty police officer threatens a migrant and pulls his weapon after anarchist students intervened.

**7th of March:** Banners are hung in The Hague in solidarity with tortured and imprisoned Russian anarchists.

**8th of March:** On international woman's day around 70 people take part in a solidarity demonstration at the Nieuwersluis prison in The Netherlands.

**8th-9th of March:** Prison revolts take place in Italy due to the implementation of different restrictive measures because of the Corona virus, visits are banned. A total of 27 prison revolts take place. Screws are held hostage and prisons set on fire. 8 prisoners are killed during the revolts.

**9th of March:** During the international week of solidarity with antifascists in Russia the Russian embassy in Melbourne, Australia, is covered in slogans.

**17th of March:** In Kiev, Ukraine, a phone mast belonging to Lifecell/Turkcell is set on fire. Lifecell/Turkcell is a telecommunication company that supports Erdogan in his repressive fight against anti-authoritarians in Kurdistan.