

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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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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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?

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. Other news, planned days of court, solidarity actions and messages from inside prison can be found at 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!

