

AGAINST ALL PRISONS SOLIDARITY IS OUR WEAPON

Prisons are the murky, hidden pedestal of advanced western democracy. Tastefully concealed from the view of its zealous supporters whose gaze must be held transfixed in the virtual reality of TV, shop windows and sandy beaches as they obediently go about their daily routine, they remain the ultimate threat, the bogey man of our childhood nightmares. Moral inculcation and media scaremongering have led to this threat being interiorized without a shadow of doubt, so prison is considered indispensable to social life by most people, even in an era characterised by political correctness and concern for animal welfare.

In this country alone, thousands of men and women find themselves locked up in what are substantially cages for hours on end, day after day, year after year, hostages at the mercy of an army of uniformed, key-wielding lackeys of the State. Without going into the particulars of specific episodes of brutality that such relations of strength inevitably lead to in a closed world hidden from view, the mere terrible, monotonous normality of prison is one of the most extreme forms of violence perpetrated by man over man.

Right of passage into this modern version of hell is guaranteed by the law, which if, as we are told, is the same for everyone, does not embrace everyone in equal conditions of life. Anyone interested merely has to look at the social and ethnic origins of the majority of prisoners to find confirmation of this fact. In the present phase of post-industrial capital and information technology, there are those who have access to the dubious paradise of conformity, work and consumerism, and those who are destined to be excluded. The latter find themselves perpetually on the margins, where the distinction between legality and illegality blurs into a question of expediency with little to do with moral or ethical choices.

Added to this are the effects of the globalized economy and the consequences of centuries of colonialism and the pillage of the world's resources by advanced nation States. Great dispossessed masses are lining the pockets of the mafia and risking their lives to migrate to Europe in search of an impossible dream, or simply fleeing from terror and poverty in their country of origin. Capital has developed highly selective methods of replenishing its much-needed cheap skilled and unskilled workforce from these masses, leaving the rest in a condition of criminalisation and imprisonment.

Then there are those who choose not to conform or collaborate, that refuse this world of infamy and exploitation. They have no illusions about what democracy stands for, a system where elected 'representatives of the people' regulate a passionless world where global plunder, ecological devastation and the interests of the great corporations are defended with State terror and genocide. The very fact of being beyond and against the democratic illusion makes us outlaws in a system which demands conformity and participation.

We who have come here today to demonstrate our solidarity to prisoners outside Brixton prison belong to that reality of rebels and revolutionaries that exists throughout the world, without borders. We are anarchists and anti-authoritarians who fight every day, each in their own way, in the social struggle against exploitation and degradation. We do not confuse ourselves with the deluded reformists who are asking the State to improve its prisons. We know that it will soon be obliged to find solutions itself as there is a limit to how many people can be crammed into a cell and held in subhuman conditions without the whole thing exploding. In the future,

thanks to the development of the technology of control, we could see whole urban or country areas being turned into social prisons where restriction of movement is not carried out by an army of screws but through a system of electronic devices, radar systems and alarms. Prisons as we know them today will be used to enclose and annihilate the irreducible enemies of the State.

Not for that do we fail to support the self-managed struggles of those who put their lives on the line to improve their immediate conditions, including those inside the prison walls. Solidarity expresses itself in the attack on State interests (control) and private ones (profit) involved in the prison system as a whole, and against all the firms that exploit the free labour provided by the prison population. But that is not enough. To attack and destroy prison means to attack and destroy the whole of this system based on exploitation and racism, for a world that belongs to everyone in which individuals accept responsibility for their own lives.

We hold in our hearts all those suffering incarceration for their refusal to be exploited or to exploit others. All those who, in spite of their circumstances, hold up their heads with dignity and, refusing the State's logic of fratricide, turn instead against the common enemy, the bosses, the State, every State, and its servants in all their guises.

In particular we hold in our hearts our comrades arrested in Thessaloniki, Greece during a demonstration of over three thousand anarchists against the European summit at nearby Chalkidiki. One of the main themes under discussion at this encounter of State terrorists was border control, police collaboration and concentration camps for immigrants. The demo was an unequivocal manifestation that in this world of apparent complicity and resignation there are still thousands of people who are ready to come out and fight the class enemy. The above comrades, arrested and fitted up by the judiciary and media as those responsible for what was a spontaneous attack by thousands of people, are now languishing in one of the worst prisons in Europe. We will not rest until they have been released.

Against prisons and State terror in all its forms, we propose self organisation of the struggle and direct action by small groups or individuals in the logic of the destruction of all that oppresses us and offends our dignity. Our freedom depends on the freedom of all, and the freedom of all depends on each one of us acting now, without delay.

Struggle for a world without prisons or borders. In freedom, for freedom.

DESTROY ALL PRISONS!

FREEDOM FOR THE THESSALONIKI 7!

THE STATE IS THE ONLY TERRORIST!

