

ABOUT CRASS

The Republican National Convention (RNC) took place in St. Paul, Minnesota between September 1st and 4th of 2008. During the RNC, more than 800 people were arrested and hundreds more were brutalized and terrorized by police from all over the nation, as well as by soldiers from the National Guard.

The first meeting of arrestees and supporters took place two days after the end of the RNC, and meetings have continued regularly since. Through these meetings, the Community RNC Arrestee Support Structure (CRASS) has evolved into a coalition of working groups that coordinate their work through a spokescouncil. CRASS uses a consensus-based decision-making process so that everyone has an equal say and role in the way we support each other as we fight our charges and stand up for free speech.

One of the many ways CRASS supports arrestees in their resistance is through our court solidarity strategy. This strategy calls on people to put pressure on the courts by refusing to accept plea bargains and demanding a jury trial. By insisting on our right to due process, we can use our numbers to force the state to admit their error in arresting us by dropping the charges. By standing together, we can beat the oppression we all faced in September and strike a blow against the oppression so many communities, particularly poor people and people of color, face every day.

Police conduct during the RNC was the latest use of repression in attempts to silence public dissent. In the wake of this repression, those who were arrested and those who stand in solidarity with them are coming together to fight the bogus charges and hold the police responsible for their violence and mistreatment.

CONTACT CRASS!

<http://www.rncaftermath.org>
rnc08arrestees@riseup.net

To sign up for announcements, email
rnc08arrestees-announce-subscribe@lists.riseup.net

Courtwatch - rnc08courtwatch@gmail.com

Felony Support - rnc08felonies@riseup.net

Fundraising - rnc08fundraising@gmail.com

Hospitality - rnc08hospitality@riseup.net

Media - rnc08media@gmail.com

Outreach - rnc08outreach@riseup.net

Pressure - rnc08pressure@lists.riseup.net

Zine Project - crasszine@riseup.net

SUPPORT CRASS!

You can donate to us through the PayPal donation link on our website. If you would like to send a check or money order, make it payable to Coldsnap Legal Collective and write CRASS in the memo line. Mail your donation to:

CRASS c/o Coldsnap Legal Collective
P.O. Box 50514
Minneapolis, MN 55405

If you're in the Twin Cities and want to get involved, attend our bi-weekly general assemblies, weekly spokescouncil meetings, or a working group's meeting. Check our website for meeting times and locations, or contact a working group directly.

To help out in the legal support office, email
coldsnapoffice@gmail.com.

**COURT
SOLIDARITY**



**First the streets,
then the courts**

Community RNC Arrestee
Support Structure

WHAT IS THIS COURT SOLIDARITY THING?

Court solidarity is a set of strategies that we can use to support ourselves both politically and legally inside and outside of the courtroom. The point is to leverage our collective strength to win our demands.

The most important element of court solidarity is fighting our charges, though it also includes things such as housing, travel support, courtwatching, and many other things.

WHY IS COURT SOLIDARITY IMPORTANT?

The State DOES NOT HAVE THE RESOURCES TO PROSECUTE US ALL. That means that the safest thing we can do in the court room is to demand that our cases be brought to trial. This can put pressure on the State to accept a collective plea. Everyone who has brought their cases to trial thus far

has had their charges dropped. Not bad, yeah?

Having our charges dropped is our ultimate goal and a political and legal victory against the State.

Court solidarity works! CRASS is here to support you as you fight your charges.

WHAT IF I CAN'T TAKE MY CASE TO TRIAL?

We recognize that not everyone can take their cases all the way to trial, and we stand in solidarity with those people and will provide any support we are able to give.

But anyone taking a deal should know that it will be difficult to win a civil suit against the State for unlawful arrest or police mistreatment if you admit to illegal conduct or take a guilty plea. This is true even if your plea knocks your charges down to petty misdemeanors. Your lawyer

might tell you that a petty misdemeanor is not a crime, which is technically true. But pleading to a petty misdemeanor still shows up on criminal records and could block your ability to file a successful civil suit.

I'M IN! HOW DO I ENGAGE IN COURT SOLIDARITY?

It's easy! Just refuse to accept any pleas and demand your right to a jury trial. And know that as many people as are able are standing in solidarity with you.

However, we recognize that returning to the Twin Cities can be the biggest obstacle to fighting your charges, so we have set up a travel fund to help people get back into town. You can apply online at <http://www.rncaftermath.org>. We also have housing available at <http://www.nornc.org/stay/>.

And remember...

WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK!