



RNC 800 <rnc800@gmail.com>

RNC800: January 25, 2009

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Sun, Jan 25, 2009 at 9:09 PM

To: rnc08arrestees-announce@lists.riseup.net

Cc: rnc08arrestees-internal@lists.riseup.net

THE RNC800!

Newsletter of the Community RNC Arrestee Support Structure (CRASS)

Welcome to the tenth edition of the CRASS newsletter!
Check out the amazing array of information below. And remember...
WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK!

**Next CRASS Spokescouncil:
Sunday, February 1st, 12:00-1:30pm
Hosmer Library, Minneapolis**

**Next CRASS General Arrestee Meeting:
Sunday, February 1st, 1:30-3:30pm
Hosmer Library, Minneapolis**

WALL 7 CHARGES DISMISSED FROM THE BENCH!

From our friends at Twin Cities Indymedia:

"Friday morning, on the fourth day of trial, Ramsey County District Court Judge Michael Fetsch dismissed all charges against the "Wall 7," some of the first activists to go to trial in connection with the RNC. The seven activists from the Northeast were facing four trumped-up misdemeanor charges after being penned in with about 30 others by a Mobile Field Force and SPPD bicycle unit at 6th and Wall Streets on September 1, 2008."

Read more at <http://tc.indymedia.org/2009/jan/friday-all-wall-7-charges-dismissed>

We stand in solidarity with the Wall 7 and give our love to them for fighting their charges! This was the state's first full attempt at prosecuting RNC arrestees, and the judge told the prosecutors that they had no basis for going to trial! This is a huge victory for us and these seven amazing people!

BIG TRIAL DAY TOMORROW: MONDAY, JANUARY 26!

We had a great success on Friday, but we have three more huge trials beginning tomorrow:

- David McKay (Texas 2) begins his trial at the US Federal Courthouse in downtown Minneapolis.
- Darryl Robinson (Communities United Against Police Brutality) begins his trial at the Hennepin County Courthouse in downtown Minneapolis.
- Jason Sparks begins his trial at the Ramsey County Courthouse in downtown St. Paul.

UPDATE FROM THE MILWAUKEE 2--KAREN & CHRISTINA

Here's a message from our brave comrades in the struggle:

"On Saturday, January 17th, 2009, Karen Meissner and Christina Vana of Milwaukee, WI found warrants had been issued for their arrests after reading an article published by the Associated Press, which comments on an incident relating to the protests during the Republican National Convention in September 2008. Immediately, Karen and Christina traveled to St. Paul, MN and within 24 hours of reading their names in the paper, went with their lawyers to the Ramsey County Law Enforcement Center. Here they were taken into custody and each charged with Aiding and Abetting Assault in the Second Degree, a charge that carries a maximum sentence of seven years and/or a \$14,000 fine. Bail was set at \$30,000 each, a total of \$60,000. This extremely large amount was made possible by the active media attention that still surrounds the Republican National Convention. Many people charged with rape receive bail a fraction of that amount. Sixty thousand dollars was an impossible amount to raise, but within two days, friends and supporters from around the country raised the \$6,000 necessary to bond them out of jail..."

Their Omnibus hearing is scheduled for February 25th, 2009, where they will plead not guilty to these bogus charges.

Funds and support are still needed!

For more information and to find out how you can help visit <http://helpmkethree.blogspot.com/> or email helpmkegirls@gmail.com. You can also donate to their defense fund through the CRASS website: <http://www.rncaftermath.org>.

JOIN US AT CHRIS COLEMAN'S YOUNG PROFESSIONALS FUNDRAISER ON WEDNESDAY, JAN. 28

Chris Coleman, the Mayor of St. Paul, is running for re-election. We've attended a few of his fundraising and other events so far, and we'll be joining him at his Young Professionals fundraiser as well. This is your chance to ask him why he allowed his city to become a police state during the RNC. Come join in on the fun!

Wednesday, January 28
5-7pm
The Bulldog Bar
237 East Sixth Street
St. Paul, MN 55101

ST. PAUL CITY COUNCIL SUPPRESSING AUDIT OF POLICE CONDUCT

On January 14th, the day that the Heffelfinger/Luger review of policing at the RNC was finally released, the St. Paul City council reviewed an audit report titled "Best Practices Assessment of the St. Paul Police Department" that was prepared by Berkshire Advisors, Inc. In part, the audit covers allegations of police brutality in St. Paul. The City Council has attempted to suppress this report by presenting it after asking everyone attending the Heffelfinger/Luger report review session--including the media--to leave the City Council chambers for a press conference. They're also claiming that copies of the report have to be requested from the St. Paul Police Department, even though the Heffelfinger/Luger report and most other documents discussed in City Council meetings are posted online after the meetings.

The questions these actions lead us to ask are: What does the audit reveal about the St. Paul Police Department's history of police abuse and brutality? Why doesn't the City Council want the public to know about this audit?

We demand to know the results of this audit! We encourage everyone to call the St. Paul Police Department at 651.291.1111 and demand a copy of the report.

CIVIL LITIGATION UPDATES AT THE NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY--BE

THERE!

We'll have updates and more information on civil litigation at the next general assembly. We'll also be working on some of the planning for a Mardi Gras parade on Tuesday, February 24 to deliver the notices of claim forms to the City of St. Paul to let them know that they can't get away with what they did to us out on the streets. Don't miss out!

A notice of claim is a form that notifies the government that you might sue; not necessarily that you will, but that you might. For harms that occurred during the raid on the convergence center in St. Paul on Friday, August 29th, the deadline to file a notice of claim is Tuesday, February 24.

CRASS will be working with the National Lawyers Guild of Minnesota to host workshops here in the Twin Cities and sending out info packets on filing the notices from out of town to help people file their own notices of claim. Stay tuned for more information!

For more information about civil litigation, contact Geneva Finn (gefinn@yahoo.com) or Rachel Bengston (querida42luna@hotmail.com), two rad lawyers from the NLG.

CRASS WORKING GROUP UPDATES

Court Solidarity/Media/Outreach/Pressure: At our last meeting, we planned for Coleman's Young Professionals fundraiser. Come join us! Our next meeting is Wednesday, January 28 @ 7pm, Coldsnap office. Email our listserv for Court Solidarity/Media/Outreach/Pressure (rnccourtsolidarity@googlegroups.com) for more information.

Courtwatch: January 26 is a big trial day. We need you in the courts! Let's build off the excitement from the Wall 7 victory and keep up the presence in the courts! We've also been in touch with public defenders and other lawyers in Minneapolis who are representing people arrested after the Rage Against the Machine concert on Sept. 3. Since those cases are being dropped left and right, we hope to help the lawyers connect and speed up the process. Email us at RNCcourtwatch@gmail.com to get involved. Or join us at our next meeting: Tuesday, January 27 at 6pm at Caffetto on 22nd and Lyndale in Minneapolis. We'll also be talking more about court watching opportunities at the next general assembly meeting: February 1, 1:30pm, Hosmer Library.

Felony Support: Upcoming trials and appearances: David McKay's federal felony trial begins tomorrow! Jason Sparks will be in court also (see above), and we'll need your help packing the court. Dustin Matchett-Morales's sentencing is on February 5. Please come out to support him. If you are interested in writing a letter of support for him, please email the Felony Support group. Contact us at rnc08felonies@riseup.net or check out our little space on the web at <http://rnc08arrestees.wordpress.com/arrestees/felony-info-and-support>

Fundraising: We have t-shirts! They are available for purchase (\$5-\$10 sliding scale donations). We'll have them for sale at local events as well as at general assembly meetings. Also: we desperately need more volunteers and bottomliners for our group, so e-mail rnc08fundraising@gmail.com if you want to hang out with us.

Hospitality: Helping arrestees survive their stay in the Twin Cities while fighting court charges. Offer housing or find some for yourself at www.nornc.org/stay. Coming into town to fight your charges? Need help paying for your travel? Apply for funding through the Travel Fund at <http://www.rncaftermath.org>. So far, we've reimbursed almost \$3500 of travel expenses to and from the Twin Cities for people fighting their charges. We'd love to help you too! E-mail rnc08hospitality@riseup.net for more info.

The Spokescouncil: The spokescouncil is made up of the bottomliners from each of the working groups, and is also open to anyone who wants to be involved. We plan the agenda for the general meetings, share information between the working groups, and formulate proposals to bring to the general meetings. We meet every Sunday, and the time and location of our meetings is posted on <http://www.rncaftermath.org>

The Zine Project: We're working on a call for contributors to bring in some amazing talent to help us get this project going! To give ourselves more time for working on the zine, we're changing our meetings to every other Wednesday at 8pm at Blue Nile Restaurant in Minneapolis. Our next meeting is on Wednesday, February 4. Email us at crasszine@riseup.net for more info. And you don't have to live in Minneapolis to be part of this project--email us to get involved!

OTHER GROUPS AND THINGS

RNC 8: The RNC 8, Luce Guillen-Givins, Max Specktor, Nathanael Secor, Eryn Trimmer, Monica Bicking, Erik Oseland, Robert Czernik and Garrett Fitzgerald are still facing four felony charges (two with terrorism enhancements). The RNC 8's judge, Judge Rosas, has recused himself from the case and didn't say why. Right now, the RNC 8 don't have a judge and don't have a court date coming up. To get up-to-date information about the 8, check out their website at <http://RNC8.org> and sign up for their announcement listserv.

Coldsnap: Coldsnap has resumed their regular schedule for open office hours. And they're looking for more volunteers for the office, so email coldsnapoffice@gmail.com if you can help. And don't forget that the jail support hotline number--651.356.8635--is always open for your jail support needs. If you have general questions, please call during normal daylight hours. And check out their series of workshops on legal rights and creating legal support structures through the Experimental College (EXCO, <http://www.excotc.org>) in February, March, and April.

RANDOM ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you have local RNC-related events going on in your community, email us and we will include them in this section of our newsletter.

RNC Photo Exhibit & Call for Submissions: "Looking Back, Moving Forward" (Jan 3rd-31st at Black Dog Cafe)

An exhibit of random moments caught on film during the Republican National Convention in Saint Paul

The premise of the LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD exhibit is to offer a community space where people can leave behind, access, or take home as evidence a wide variety of frozen photographic moments from the Republican National Convention that took place in St. Paul, MN in September 2008.

Submissions to the LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD exhibit will be accepted through January 2009 to the exhibit close, and medium-resolution images will be permanently archived on the RNC '08 Report archive project website at www.rnc08report.org.

If you would like to submit photographs for this exhibition, please visit the submission guidelines here: <http://rnc08report.org/archive/618.shtml>

Pretty Please: *This is our oh-so-clever section for volunteer requests and general begging.*

Please give us your money at <http://www.rncaftermath.org>.
Please volunteer to work in the office at coldsnapoffice@gmail.com.
Please give us free office supplies (especially printer paper).
Please fight your charges.

How to Contact Us

<http://www.rncaftermath.org>

RNC800 newsletter- RNC800@gmail.com

Send checks, courtwatch forms, and inspirational messages to CRASS c/o Coldsnap- P.O. Box 50514, Minneapolis, MN 55405

Coldsnap jail support hotline: 651.356.8635

CRASS working groups: Contact info is in their blurbs.

Yay! You made it all the way to the bottom of our fabulous newsletter. Thanks and way to go! Send us feedback and suggestions. We're here for you.