



RNC 800 <rnc800@gmail.com>

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## RNC800: May 17, 2009

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Sun, May 17, 2009 at 8:25 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 nineteenth edition of the CRASS newsletter!  
Check out the amazing array of information below. And remember...  
**WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK!**

**Next CRASS Meeting:**  
**May 31, 12pm-2pm**  
**Hosmer Library, Minneapolis**

### COURT UPDATES

People are still fighting their way through the courts. Come on out and support them! All hearings are at the Ramsey County Courthouse, 15 W. Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul unless otherwise noted. For more information, email [RNCcourtwatch@gmail.com](mailto:RNCcourtwatch@gmail.com).

**Bradley Crowder:** Bradley Crowder was sentenced last week to two years in prison for "possession of an unregistered firearm." He is still being held at Sherburne County Jail and you can write letters to him: Bradley Crowder, Sherburne County Jail, 13880 Highway 10, 13880 Business Center Drive, Elk River, MN 55330-4601

This Pioneer Press (via Indymedia) article has a little more information: <http://tc.indymedia.org/2009/may/crowder-sentenced-two-years-corporate-article>

**Keith Smith:** Trial tomorrow: 1pm, Monday May 18 at the Juvenile and Family Justice Center on 7th and St. Peter, opposite Mickey's Diner. Keith Smith is the only juvenile we know about facing RNC charges. It is a significant case because it's obvious the State is prosecuting it because they fear a civil suit. His injuries have been very well documented, and he was denied medical care.

He has an incredibly supportive family, let's show them the support he has here! Bill from Courtwatch would like to see a lot of people out there at 12:30pm. His family and his lawyer have requested our presence, but because juvenile court is structured a little differently, we will need to assemble first and then get permission from the court to be there. Juveniles do not get a jury trial – they have a judge. It does matter what the judge thinks. Please keep this in mind regarding court decorum.

**David McKay:** Sentencing 10am May 21, US Federal Courthouse in downtown Minneapolis.

**Felony Sentencing:** 9am, May 28.

**MK3 motion hearing:** Karen and Christina of the Milwaukee 3 have a motion hearing 9am, May 29.

**Dave Mahoney's Trial:** Dave is going to trial beginning Monday, June 1. As of last week, he is now facing a total of 10 felony counts, and the prosecution is not offering him any kind of plea deal. We'll have details about ways Dave could use your support in the next RNC800.

In the meantime, check out his support blog: <http://www.helpdavemahoney.blogspot.com/>  
And check out this outstanding open letter to Susan Gartner written by Dave's mom: <http://tc.indymedia.org/2009/may/open-letter-susan-gartner-ramsay-county-attorney>

**Jesse Forrey:** Jesse is on the trial call beginning June 1. He and Dave have the same judge. Visit his support space: <http://supportjessejames.wordpress.com/>

## **ANTI-OPPRESSION WORKSHOP: SUNDAY MAY 24**

### **Community Anti-Oppression Workshop**

**Sunday, May 24**

**Noon-4pm**

**1050 Selby Avenue, St. Paul**

Coming up on 9 months after the RNC: most charges have been dropped, relationships have grown (or been strained), and struggles for justice continue. But WHO is continuing to do this work? Who is not? Towards which ends and by which processes are we re-formulating our long-term goals? For what reasons did we struggle last September in the first place?

At this workshop, a facilitator from Training for Change who has a long history of engaging in revolutionary struggle will help us engage in examining how we work with each other as we strive for our radical visions. Warning: this workshop will NOT be a place to address individual conflicts, to engage in "oppression Olympics" (CRASS supports olympic resistance!), or to leave feeling our anti-oppression commitment has been completed. On the other hand, this workshop WILL be a place for confronting issues of privilege, identity and accountability; developing and learning concrete strategies for ally work; and stepping towards the stronger communities we must maintain in order to achieve revolutionary goals of any stripe.

Please plan to attend and bring a friend. This shit is important because our liberations will always be bound together.

P.S. Below is a short list of background reading for people who are interested. This reading is in no way a requirement to attending the workshop – just some additional resources from varied voices which CRASS takes no particular stand on.

[White Allies Tatum](#)

[zzspalding-Shut The Fuck Up](#)

[zzUnpackingTheKnapsack](#)

[zzWhite Identity Tatum 1](#)

[zzWise on Priv](#)

## **CUAPB ACTIVIST UNJUSTLY JAILED: URGENT HELP REQUESTED!**

From Communities United Against Police Brutality, a member of the CRASS coalition:

Ofiong Sanders is a case study of a person who has changed his life for the better. In 1997, he was convicted of burglary and sentenced 10 years in prison. During those 10 years, he had an epiphany and recognized that he was handing his life over to the state. He vowed to straighten out his life. When the time came for him to be released, he found that the prison system continued to hold him, based on a miscalculation of his sentence. He sued, representing himself, and won his immediate release. Since then, he has been on parole and has worked full time. He has become an activist with CUAPB and teaches youth about his experiences behind bars and about their rights. He has testified before the legislature multiple times about abuses he suffered in prison and the need to restore the prison ombudsman program. Like so many others, one of the conditions of Ofiong's parole is that he "stay out of trouble." The system, however, doesn't like being beat in court and they don't like having their dirty laundry exposed in public. They've gone after Ofiong with a special vengeance, defining "staying out of trouble" as not being ARRESTED--something Black men are frequently subjected to and cannot control.

Last year, Ofiong was picked up by St. Paul police on suspicion of robbery. Within 30 minutes, the victim told police Ofiong was not the perpetrator but police continued to hold him. When asked why, the cops said "we'll think of something." He was placed on parole hold and kept locked up for 70 days before the bogus charges of fleeing police and obstructing legal process were dismissed.

Two weeks ago, Ofiong finished mowing the lawn as his parent's house and decided to go out for his daily exercise walk while he was still sweaty. Cops rolled up on him while he was across the street from his house and detained him for "lurking." He was arrested, held most of the night, then released with a ticket. He hurried home, got cleaned up and went to work. A few days later, Ofiong was at his job when five St. Paul cops showed up to arrest him for the parole violation of being arrested. Now, mind you, Ofiong has not been convicted of any crime related to this incident. Still, his parole officer has decided that she wants to hold him until he goes to court for the lurking charge. The court date for that charge is set for the END OF NOVEMBER. Even if he was found guilty of that ridiculous--probably unconstitutional--charge, he will have been in jail for a longer period waiting for a court date than his sentence would be. To make matters worse, Ofiong's aunt that he was very close to died last week and he is very worried that he will miss the funeral.

This kind of thing happens frequently to Black men in the system. Once they are in the system, the authorities do not want to let go. Studies show that about 40% of Black men in jails and prisons are there for technical parole violations. This is an outrage! In this one case, you can do something about it:

**Call, email or fax the Ramsey County parole supervisor Debra Ranthum on Monday, May 18:**

Phone: 651-266-7630

Fax: 651-266-7629

Email: [deb.ranthum@co.ramsey.mn.us](mailto:deb.ranthum@co.ramsey.mn.us)

Tell her that you are very concerned about the violation of Ofiong Sander's rights and that it is an outrage that he is being held on the basis of simply being arrested, not convicted of any crime. Ofiong poses no danger to society. Urge her to release his parole hold so that he can go back to his job and his family.

THANK YOU for standing up for the rights of this one man, whose situation is emblematic of so many others. It may seem like a little thing but it will have a big impact on the system.

## **CRASS WORKING GROUP UPDATES**

**Civil Litigation (Sue the Bastards!):** We're still collecting intake forms to get people connected to the work being done to sue those bastards! You can find the form at <http://www.mcaftermath.org/resources/civil-litigation-forms/>. We'll also be sending out more information about lawyers to contact for civil litigation in a little bit...still trying to firm up some details, but we're makin' progress! For more information, contact us at

[suethebastards@riseup.net](mailto:suethebastards@riseup.net).

**Court Solidarity/Media/Outreach/Pressure (Omnibus):** Our next meeting is Wednesday, May 19 @ 8pm, Coldsnap office. Email our listserv for Court Solidarity/Media/Outreach/Pressure ([rmccourtsolidarity@googlegroups.com](mailto:rmccourtsolidarity@googlegroups.com)) for more information.

**Courtwatch:** We need you in the courts! Email us at [RNCcourtwatch@gmail.com](mailto:RNCcourtwatch@gmail.com) to get involved. We're doing our work online for the most part, so email us to get involved!

**Felony Support:** For more info about Felony Support, check out our little space on the web at <http://www.mcaftermath.org/arrestees/felony-info-and-support>.

**Fundraising:** We're working on scheduling a benefit show and could use some help finding a venue. If you have any suggestions or want to help, let us know! Come to a meeting: e-mail [mnc08fundraising@gmail.com](mailto:mnc08fundraising@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](http://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.mcaftermath.org>. So far, we've reimbursed more than \$5,000 of travel expenses to and from the Twin Cities for people fighting their charges. We'd love to help you too! E-mail [mnc08hospitality@riseup.net](mailto:mnc08hospitality@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 meetings, share information between the working groups, and formulate proposals to bring to the meetings.

**The Zine Project:** Our next meeting is Wednesday, May 27, 8pm at the 331 Club in NE Minneapolis. We are still looking for people who are interested in writing, editing, interviewing, archiving, illustrating and all kinds of other rad projects that will bring this publication to life. Want to submit a piece about your experience with post-RNC legal support? Email us at [crasszine@riseup.net](mailto:crasszine@riseup.net) or check out <http://www.mcaftermath.org/get-involved/crass-zine-project> for more info. Also check out our snazzy Facebook group: <http://www.facebook.com/home.php#/group.php?gid=66014266468>. You don't have to live in Minneapolis to be part of this project -- email us to get involved!

## OTHER GROUPS AND THINGS

**Coldsnap:** 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.

**Dave Mahoney's Posse:** Dave Mahoney, 23, was temporarily in the US and due to return to his home in England before the new year. He was arrested by the FBI during the Republican National Convention (RNC) in September 2008, and is now facing 5 counts of aiding and abetting 2nd degree assault and 5 counts of terrorist threats, for an incident that has the loosest connections imaginable to a so called assault. TRIAL HAS BEEN SET FOR JUNE 1ST. He still has a posse, so check 'em out and show some support: <http://www.helpdavemahoney.blogspot.com/> And his mom is amazing: <http://tc.indymedia.org/2009/may/open-letter-susan-gaertner-ramsay-county-attorney>

**Support Dustin:** Dustin Matchett-Morales's felony sentencing was on Thursday, February 5. Judge Flynn gave him 60 days in the Ramsey County jail, 5 years of probation, a mandatory DNA sample, a requirement for full-time work or school after release, and restitution for the broken bank windows (the final amount is still to be determined). With credit for good behavior, he was released from jail and did not serve the full 60 days!!! We're so happy that he is free and once again part of our community. For more information about Dustin, visit

<http://supportdustin.wordpress.com> or email [supportdustin@riseup.net](mailto:supportdustin@riseup.net).

**Support Jesse:** This support website is dedicated to aiding Jesse Forrey fight his charges and the State's oppression stemming from the Republican National Convention of 2008. Jesse is a good friend and a valuable contributing member of multiple communities and is currently confined in the Twin Cities of Minnesota, facing a felony charge with a five year maximum sentence. Jesse is on the trial call for June 1.

<http://supportjessejames.wordpress.com/>

**Help the Milwaukee Three:** The MK3 (Christina Vana, Dave Mahoney, and Karen Meissner) set up a blog due to the similarity of their cases, but also because of their solid friendship. They hope that, like the RNC 8 and other friends and arrestees, their solidarity with one another can be an inspiration over the stories of police infiltration, informants and cooperation stemming from the RNC. The MK3 share affinity on many levels and enjoy working within their communities towards a life free of all forms of domination. For more information, check out <http://helpmkethree.blogspot.com>.

**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). To get up-to-date information, check out their website at <http://RNC8.org> and sign up for their announcement listserv.

**Free the Texas Two:** During the Republican National Convention in Minnesota last September, law enforcement conspired to repress people and free speech through brutality in the streets and entrapment and trumped up charges in court. Like many activists before them, the Texas2 fell victim to an FBI informant and provocateur. David McKay and Bradley Crowder of Austin have been held in a federal holding facility in Minnesota since September. David has been released into his father's custody and is back in Texas until his re-trial begins while Bradley is still in custody awaiting his sentencing. For more information, visit <http://www.freethetexas2.com>

## **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.*

**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 set up benefit shows or other rad events in your hometown.

Please volunteer to work in the office at [coldsnapoffice@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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.**