



RNC 800 <rnc800@gmail.com>

RNC800: October 29, 2009

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Thu, Oct 29, 2009 at 3:57 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 twenty-sixth edition of the CRASS newsletter!
Check out the amazing array of information below. And remember...
WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK!

BRAD CROWDER PLEAS IN MINNESOTA STATE COURT

On Monday in the Ramsey County District Court, Bradley Neal Crowder plead guilty to 1 count of Aiding and Abetting Terroristic Threats. Brad is one of the Texas 2. The other two counts against him were dismissed by the prosecutor. The plea deal gets him a 15 month sentence, which he asked to have executed (rather than having it stayed and being sentenced to jail time plus probation). He will be credited with the 5 days he stayed at the LEC from Sept 1-5, 2008 and with the time from January 15, 2009 to the present. (That leaves about 5 months.) The remainder of the sentence will be served concurrently with the federal sentence (a couple years) he is currently serving, and the judge's understanding is that this sentence will be finished "long before" the federal one. Brad will be transferred to federal custody to finish the remainder of this sentence. He also has to pay a \$50 fine plus court costs.

Brad's defense lawyer, Mr. Sicoli--who took the case pro bono and said he is glad he did--spoke on Brad's behalf. He said he had gotten to know Brad and come to like him. He said Brad still feels very strongly about the things he came to St. Paul to protest, but that he has come to see that this is not the best way to oppose them, and indeed, he has "paid dearly" for his actions already.

Brad told the judge that he had been "duly convicted," that he took full responsibility for his actions. He said that no one had been injured by his actions and that there had been perhaps \$250 worth of damage. As Mr. Sicoli, said, he had paid a heavy price for it--two years in jail. By contrast, the leaders of the Republican Party had broken national and Constitutional laws, done millions of dollars worth of damage, and caused the loss of many lives. Yet none of them have been sentenced for anything they have done. And as a young person, he could not help feeling frustrated by that disparity of treatment.

Judge Nathanson did not comment in reply; she just enacted the plea that the parties had agreed to.

Brad's plea agreement came after weeks of being held in the Ramsey County Law Enforcement Center (LEC) awaiting his turn in the "trial call" list, yet another way the state tries to wear people down and coerce pleas by not letting them know exactly when they will go on trial. While being held there, he had access to fewer resources and privileges than he had in federal custody since the LEC is only intended for relatively short detentions for people awaiting trial.

Brad will soon be transferred back into custody to serve out the remainder of his sentence. Once we have his mailing address, we'll let you know. He could definitely use letters, commissary funds, and other types of support from folks on the outside!

And don't forget that you can support political prisoners all the time! If you're in Minneapolis, stop by Arise! Bookstore for letter writing times:

Every 2nd & 4th Mondays
6-8pm
Arise! Bookstore & Resource Center
2441 Lyndale Ave S, Mpls

For more information, email mplsprisonersupport@riseup.net or visit <http://www.arisebookstore.org/letters-prisoners>.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR DAY 4 CIVIL SUITS

Last Sunday, the CRASS Civil Litigation Working Group held a meeting for people arrested on Day 4 of the RNC. We talked about the tasks we need to do to figure out how to move forward on potential lawsuits from that day. We need people to get involved to help make this happen! , join us!

On the legal support side, we currently need help from people who can:

- **Do interviews with us.** We need to talk to folks to find out what happened that day from their perspectives so we can start figuring out how to create effective civil suits. For folks who are in town, we're scheduling interviews on Wednesdays from 3:30-7:30 and Fridays from 12-4 for the next few weeks. And we can arrange for other times if needed. For folks from out of town, we will be scheduling phone interviews in the next few weeks.
- **Review evidence.** We have hundreds of hours of video evidence to go through to support the claims that will be made in the suits. And we have a ton of photo and physical evidence to review.
- **Recruit more potential plaintiffs and witnesses.** The more people who become involved in this effort, the stronger it will be. So spread the word!

For more information and to get involved, email Day4.Civil@gmail.com.

SUPPORT ELLIOT HUGHES

On Wednesday, Elliot Hughes had his first pre-trial for the charges Ramsey County slapped on him to cover for the cops who tortured him while he was being held in custody during the RNC. The hearing went well, all things considered, although they didn't drop the charges. His next court date is on January 11th, so he has plenty of time to prepare his defense. We'll be sending out more information as his next court date approaches!

TUESDAY, NOV. 10: SENTENCING FOR KAREN & CHRISTINA

On Tuesday, September 1, 2009, Christina Vana and Karen Meissner pled guilty to felony assault in the 2nd degree, for their part in the massive demonstrations during the 2008 RNC in St. Paul, Minnesota. They received a plea deal, with the State agreeing to grant them a Stay of Imposition (meaning the felony charge will be dropped to a misdemeanor after successful completion of probation), a maximum of 90 days of jail time, and the

possibility of doing Sentence to Serve as a jail alternative. They also face up to 7 years of probation. This was a departure from the sentencing guidelines, which would normally call for prison time.

Please show up and make court a slightly more festive endeavor!

1:30 pm in front of Judge Warner
Ramsey County Courthouse
15 West Kellogg Blvd, St. Paul

SUPPORTING JESSE JAMES

In September, Jesse James was sentenced to 4 months for “damage to property” during the 2008 Republican National Convention in Minneapolis. We expect that he will be released on November 30, 2009. To find out some ways to support Jesse, check out his [How You Can Help page](#).

You can also write him letters! His mailing address while in jail is:

Jesse James Forrey
RC Correctional Facility
297 Century Avenue South
Maplewood, MN 55119

CRASS WORKING GROUP UPDATES

Civil Litigation: Civil suits are in the works! So far, lawyers have stepped up to represent people who were arrested at the mass arrest incidents on Shepard Road on Sept. 1, the Rage Against the Machine concert on Sept. 3, and the anti-war march on Sept 4. Email us at RNCcivillit@riseup.net to learn how to get involved. We're still collecting intake forms to get people connected to the work being done to file suit. You can find the form at <http://www.rncaftermath.org/resources/civil-litigation-forms/>.

Court Solidarity/Media/Outreach/Pressure (Omnibus): We meet every other Wednesday at the Second Moon Coffee Shop in Minneapolis during the CRASS working meeting time. Email our listserv (mccourtsolidarity@googlegroups.com) for more information.

Courtwatch: We need you in the courts! Email us at 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.rncaftermath.org/arrestees/felony-info-and-support>.

Fundraising: If you would like to get involved, let us know! Email mc08fundraising@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.normc.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 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 mc08hospitality@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: We meet every other Wednesday at the Blue Nile Restaurant in Minneapolis. Our current focus is releasing a short form of our zine for the 1-year anniversary of the RNC. Email us at 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: Coldsnap is looking for people to get involved and help figure out where our work takes us from here. You should get involved! Email coldsnap@riseup.net to connect with us.

Dave Mahoney's Posse: Dave Mahoney was temporarily in the US and due to return to his home in England before the new year (2009). He was arrested by the FBI during the Republican National Convention in September 2008 and in the end was charged with 5 counts of aiding and abetting 2nd degree assault and 5 counts of terrorist threats, 10 felonies in total. Trapped in Minneapolis, Dave faced expensive legal costs and decades in prison. Dave, who remains determined and active within his community, ended up pleading guilty to a single count of 2nd degree assault. He was released on Sept. 2. 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.

Support Jesse: Jesse James Forrey is a friend, a brother, a musician and artist, writer and student, teacher and dog lover. Jesse, 27, was arrested at the 2008 RNC protests in the Twin Cities last September. He was forced to remain in Minneapolis for nearly a year while awaiting trial. In August 2009, Jesse was convicted of criminal damage to property in the first degree, though he maintains his innocence. He is from California and courageously waits to return to his home and family. He was sentenced on September 17 and needs your support! <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 facing two felony charges each. On April 9, Susan Gaertner's office dropped the two terrorism enhancements due to political pressure, but two counts of conspiracy still remain. 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 RNC, 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. For more information, visit <http://www.freethetexas2.com>

HOW TO CONTACT US

<http://www.rncaftermath.org>

RNC800 newsletter- RNC800@gmail.com

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

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.
