



RNC 800 <rnc800@gmail.com>

The RNC800, Nov. 18, 2008

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Tue, Nov 18, 2008 at 5:21 PM

To: rnc08arrestees-announce@lists.riseup.net

Cc: rnc08arrestees-internal@lists.riseup.net

THE RNC800!

Newsletter of the Community RNC Arrestee Support Structure (CRASS)

Hey everyone! Welcome to the second edition of the CRASS newsletter! Check out the amazing array of information below. And remember...

WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK!

**Next CRASS General Arrestee Meeting:
Sunday, Nov. 23rd, 2:00pm at
the Hosmer Library Meeting Room in Minneapolis,
The spokescouncil is from 12:30-2:00pm in the conference room at
Hosmer.**

NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD TOLD ABOUT CASES BEING DISMISSED

An NLG lawyer received a call today from the St. Paul City Attorney about the dismissal of a 3rd Degree Riot charge against one of his clients arising from the 7th and Jackson mass arrest on 9/1/08 (the site of Amy Goodman's arrest). The state had to dismiss the case pursuant to a Court order that gave the City a deadline of yesterday (11/17/08) to share their videotape footage with the defense lawyers (mostly public defenders) for at least 22 cases.

Some of the cases on the list are Shephard Rd cases, some are 7th and Jackson arrests, and some are arrests that weren't part of mass arrests. The cases all had trial dates of 12/15/08.

This is great news for people who were wrongly arrested and slapped with bogus charges! It also shows that the state can't find the evidence against people that they claim to have, and thus are having to drop cases. And this is happening as they continue to lie to the main stream press about their efforts to bring "criminals" to justice. Yet another sign that they're all hot air.

So what does this mean for the people who are still facing charges? It means the State is weak and our court solidarity strategy has even more power! Now is not the time to take a plea--now is the time to continue to fight back! (More information on how to do so is provided in the working group updates section of this newsletter.)

Even with this great news, though, some people have been offered and accepted plea deals that take misdemeanors down to petty misdemeanors. Their lawyers might have told them that a petty misdemeanor is not a crime, which is technically true. But one thing to remember is that pleading to a petty misdemeanor still shows up on criminal records and could block your ability to file a successful civil suit. So the best bet is to stick with the court solidarity strategy and refuse any and all deals!"

CRASS WORKING GROUP UPDATES

Court Solidarity: More info coming in the next newsletter...

Courtwatch: Right now, we have a bunch of trials scheduled for Dec. 15 (although some were just dropped...see above). That means we need more courtwatchers! And we always need courtwatchers for hearings all throughout every week, so no need to wait to start. Email us at RNCcourtwatch@gmail.com to get involved. Or join us at our meetings on Tuesday nights in the Coldsnap office; email for directions.

Felony Support: You can 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: Our benefit show at the Bedlam is this Saturday, Nov. 22nd! 10pm, Bedlam Theatre, 1501 S. 6th St, Mpls, next to the Cedar-Riverside light rail stop. Bands: The Usual Suspects, Toki Wright, Jason Anxious, The Nancy Drew Crew. Yeah, it's that sweet. Come out and bring your friends! \$5-10 suggested donation. See <http://www.rncaftermath.org> for the awesome benefit poster.

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>.

Media: We are looking for bottomliners and members for this specific working group. If you are interested, please contact rnc08media@gmail.com to get involved.

Outreach: People with the Outreach working group have begun making calls to all arrestees, hooking folx up with the resources, information, and general logistical/moral support needed to participate in fighting our charges and participating in court solidarity. You can reach outreach at rnc08outreach@riseup.net. Thanks!

Pressure Campaign: Pressure is planning for post-election festivities as we enter the holiday season. Our next meeting is on November 26th at 7 p.m. at the Purple Onion Café. Join our listserv to join in on the fun: rnc08pressure@lists.riseup.net.

The Zine Project: We're making some good progress on the zine and archive. But we could always use some more help! Right now, we're working on finalizing some interview questions for arrestees and for people volunteering their time with CRASS. We want to know about your experiences, so we figured we'd ask. Join us at our next meeting! They're every Wednesday at 6:30pm at 2nd Moon Cafe in Minneapolis. Email 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

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>.

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 being charged with Conspiracy to Riot in the Second Degree in the furtherance of Terrorism. They have encountered support around every corner and are doing well. They are grateful of all the fundraising that has happened thus far. There has been a steady amount of money coming in. Despite all the help, they are still in need of a lot more money to cover the many legal costs. To get up to date information about the case, check out their website at <http://RNC8.org>.

Coldsnap: Coldsnap's new office is up and running and available for the CRASS working groups to use. Coldsnap is working out a regular schedule for open office hours. Email coldsnapoffice@gmail.com if you want to volunteer! 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.

RANDOM ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

New Website: You may have noticed that CRASS now has our own URL: <http://www.rncaftermath.org>. A spiffy new website is in the works as well!

Facilitation Training: The CRASS facilitation training has been moved to Wednesday, November 19 at 5:30pm. The location has also changed...the training will be on the U of MN campus at Ford Hall, Rm. #155 (across the bridge from Coffman Union). A really super awesome local facilitator is going to be teaching us the skills we

need to improve our consensus processes and meetings. Space is limited so RSVP to coldsnapoffice@gmail.com.

Artists Needed: Are you an artist? The fundraising group has one kick ass design for fundraising t-shirts but could use some more. Send in a design to RNCfundraising@gmail.com

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.
