



RNC 800 &lt;rnc800@gmail.com&gt;

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## RNC800 Newsletter, Dec. 7th, 2008

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RNC 800 &lt;rnc800@gmail.com&gt;

Sun, Dec 7, 2008 at 11:41 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 fourth edition of the CRASS newsletter! Check out the amazing array of information below. And remember...

**WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK!**

**Next CRASS Spokescouncil:  
Sunday, December 14th, 12:00-2:00pm  
Hosmer Library Meeting Room**

**Next CRASS General Arrestee Meeting:  
Sunday, December 21st  
Time & location TBA**

## DANCE PARTY TO DROP THE CHARGES WAS A FUNKING GOOD TIME!!!

From [tc.indymedia.org](http://tc.indymedia.org):

Last [Tuesday's] rally and dance party outside RNC felony prosecutor [Susan Gaertner](#)'s gubernatorial fundraiser in downtown Minneapolis was a smashing success from the perspective of protest organizers. At 4:00, the RNC 8 held a press conference satirically endorsing Gaertner's run for Governor, and presenting a giant check for "Eight dollars and zero sense." Soon thereafter a banner was dropped from a nearby parking ramp, and the crowd for the CRASS-organized rally swelled to about 100. A large police presence of nearly two dozen MPD officers with a booking van and flexicuffs was also on the scene, but the crowd avoided arrests and ended the party at about 6:30, chanting "We'll be back!"

Read the rest of the TC Indymedia article at:

<http://tc.indymedia.org/2008/dec/100-confront-gaertner-dfl-fundraiser-no-arrests>

## COURT WATCH UPDATE: WE'RE STILL WINNING!

On Monday, Dec. 1, the Pioneer Press (St. Paul newspaper) interviewed St. Paul City Attorney John Choi. In the [article](#), he gave statistics about RNC cases and dropped charges that are fairly close to what our records show (perhaps this means they still can't get things right?). The story that comes from these numbers is that we're still winning!

So far, 165 cases are in progress or have been resolved. Here's how they break down:

- 4.3% have bench warrants
- 3.6% have been continued for dismissal

- 11.5% have accepted guilty pleas
- 1.2% the status is unknown
- 36.4% are still fighting their charges in court (cuz they're bad ass)
- 43% have been dismissed

These numbers show exactly how little the state can defend their arrests--they ain't got much! And we'll keep fighting them!

Many more pre-trials and trials will be starting this week, so these numbers will be changing. But we'll keep you updated. Remember that we have strength in numbers--court solidarity works! And remember that CRASS has your back!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### December 12:

Joe's sentencing and Dave's pre-trial (9am), and then Cameron's pre-trial (1:15pm). No rooms have been assigned yet, but go to 131A, look at the screens for Joseph Robinson and David Mahoney. Their room assignments will be posted. Folks from felony support will also be in 131A to direct you where you want to go.

Joe has asked that we pack the court for his sentencing. We will stand when Joe's name is called. Watch for people to stand so we can all stand together in solidarity with him.

### December 13: Day of Action in Solidarity with RNC Arrestees

- 11am: Magical working at Coldwater Springs in support of the RNC 800 and International Human Rights Day
- 2pm-4pm: Anti-War Committee International Human Rights Day demo/march at Walker Church
- 4pm-5pm: Post-march letter writing session at Walker Church: We will be writing letters to arrestees and also letters to officials. Refreshments will be served.

### December 15: First Trials, Press Conference

More info is in the Court Solidarity/Media/Outreach/Pressure update and details about the press conference will be forthcoming. You can also stay up-to-date by following Court Watch's Twitter: [rncourtwatch](#)

- To get text updates: Text 'follow rncourtwatch' without quotes to 40404
- You can also sign up online through [Twitter.com](#)

## CRASS WORKING GROUP UPDATES

**Court Solidarity/Media/Outreach/Pressure:** We had a kick ass dance party outside Gaertner's fundraiser last Tuesday (see above) and got some media coverage from local press (i.e., Minneapolis Mirror, MN Progressive blog, MN Daily). Upcoming events include a press conference on Dec. 15, the day when a lot of trials are set to begin. That's also the due date for the [Hefflefinger/Luger report](#) on police interactions with the citizens of St. Paul during the RNC (the report does not include an investigation of police abuse and brutality). We're working on getting an op-ed into the Pioneer Press after that is released. A longer-term plan is to form a coalition to repeal the MN PATRIOT Act, which is what is being used against the RNC8 to apply the "in the furtherance of terrorism" charge. Our next meeting is on Tuesday at 7pm in the Coldsnap office. Email our new listserv for Court Solidarity/Media/Outreach/Pressure ([rnccourtsolidarity@googlegroups.com](mailto:rnccourtsolidarity@googlegroups.com)) for more information and for directions to the office.

**Courtwatch:** We've been crunching a lot of numbers lately, so we figured we'd share them with you in all the glorious details. As mentioned above, the Pioneer Press interviewed John Choi and published a story with his statistics on cases and dropped charges on Dec. 1. His numbers are pretty close to ours:

- Us: 165 cases charged by City Attorney, Choi: 171 assigned to prosecutors
  - Possible that the 6 were declined for prosecution.
- Us: 60 cases with upcoming court dates, Choi: 62 that are open
  - 2 cases we don't have info on seems to line up
- Us: 7 bench warrants, Choi: 10
- Us: 6 continued for dismissal (plea agreements), 19 guilty pleas, Choi: 27
  - There are 2 cases we have no information about. Could be the discrepancy.
- Us: 71 dismissed, Choi: 72 dismissed or declined for prosecution
- Percentages:
  - 36.4% have upcoming court dates
  - 4.3% have bench warrants
  - 3.6% continued for dismissal, 11.5% guilty plea
  - 1.2% unknown
  - 43% dismissed
- Projections for the week December 8-12
  - 44 will have either accepted a plea deal, plead guilty or have a bench warrant issued (26.7%)
  - 50 will still be fighting their charges (30.3%)
- Hennepin County cases:
  - 18 filed
    - 5 bench warrants
    - 3 continued for dismissal (plea agreements)
    - 2 dismissed
    - 8 open
- December 15 is trial week – for real this time. 12 misdemeanor/gross misdemeanors going to trial:
  - We've contacted 10 of the 12.
    - 5 are definitely going to trial.
    - 2 are trying to postpone trial.
      - 1 family tragedy, 1 attempting to get a new public defender
    - 2 no contact info.
    - 3 no response yet.
    - Including V's felony trial, we can confirm at least 6 cases are going to trial.

Email us at [RNCcourtwatch@gmail.com](mailto:RNCcourtwatch@gmail.com) to get involved. Or join us at our meetings on Tuesday nights in the Coldsnap office; email for directions.

**Felony Support:** There are many felony court dates coming up, so we need y'all there to pack the courts! Two felony arrestees have pre-trials on Dec. 11, 1 has a sentencing on Dec. 12th at 9am, and there are 2 more pre-trials on Dec. 12 (1 at 9am, 1 at 1:15pm). Please pack the courts on Dec. 12! People will be at the Ramsey

County Courthouse to direct you to the courtrooms on the 12th. Also, another felony case starts on Dec. 15. You can contact us at [rnc08felonies@riseup.net](mailto:rnc08felonies@riseup.net) or check out our little space on the web at <http://rnc08arrestees.wordpress.com/arrestees/felony-info-and-support>.

**Fundraising:** We're about to start making CRASS t-shirts. The screen for screen printing should be done soon and we'll be buying a bunch of blank t-shirts from the local Goodwill later on this week. We're also making buttons. We still need more volunteers, so e-mail [rnc08fundraising@gmail.com](mailto:rnc08fundraising@gmail.com) if you want to hang out with us. Or stop by a weekly meeting: every Thursday, 6pm, Caffetto (22nd and Lyndale Ave).

**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.rncaftermath.org>. So far, we've helped several arrestees pay for travel to the Twin Cities to fight their charges. We'd love to help you too! E-mail [rnc08hospitality@riseup.net](mailto: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 starting our first rounds of interviews with week, but you still have time to get involved with this awesome project! Email [crasszine@riseup.net](mailto:crasszine@riseup.net) and we'll set up an interview with you. To get involved in this and other sweet projects, join us at our next meeting! They're every Wednesday at 6:30pm at 2nd Moon Cafe in Minneapolis. Email us 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 being charged with Conspiracy to Riot in the Second Degree in the furtherance of Terrorism. They were all pleased with how the Gaertner dance party went and invite people to continue crashing parties. Right now, they have a Dec. 17 court date scheduled, but they don't know if they need to appear at that one or not; they're a little bit in limbo right now. But a for-sure thing is the national call-in days to Gaertner's office on Dec. 16 and 17. To learn more about this and 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 a regular schedule for open office hours for December. Email [coldsnapoffice@gmail.com](mailto: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.

**TCSA:** We are a group of Twin Cities residents who formed during the summer of 2008. The influx of protesters coming to our town for the 2008 Republican National Convention made a group dedicated to sexual assault awareness and advocacy a necessity for our community. Our collective desire has always been to be long term and sustainable. Right now we are building our capacity. We are challenging the effects of our own experience of living in a patriarchal rape culture. At the same time that we challenge ourselves, we strive to create a community in which healthy relationships, consensual interactions, and sex-positivity are cultivated. We are not offering support services at this time.

We are working toward:

- creating a culture of consent!
- survivor support
- perpetrator accountability
- continual community outreach
- preventative education
- taking care of each other, within our group
- commitment to self-care and our own restorative healing

To get involved, contact [tcsaa08@gmail.com](mailto:tcsaa08@gmail.com)

**Pagan Cluster:** A magical working in support of the RNC 800+ and International Human Rights Day will be occurring on Sat., Dec. 13 at 11am at Coldwater Spring in Minneapolis. Everyone is welcome. Directions: Take Highway 55 (Hiawatha) to the south end of Minnehaha Park. Turn on 54th St. toward the river. Turn right on the frontage road past the cul-de-sac and go through the gates until you reach a willow tree.

## **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.*

**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](mailto: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](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.**

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