

The Anarchist Black Cross

AN ABBREVIATED HISTORY

Founded in Russia during the "hectic period between 1900 and 1905." The Anarchist Black Cross began as the Anarchist Red Cross, a breakaway organization from the Political Red Cross organized to aid political prisoners in Czarist Russia. By 1905, the group changed its name, dropping "Red Cross" from the title. In this era, the group used various names including: Chicago Aid Fund, Society to Aid Anarchist Prisoners in Russia, Joint Committee to Aid Revolutionaries Imprisoned in Russia, and finally, the title that would remain, the Anarchist Black Cross.

In 1918, Nestor Makhno organized new chapters of the Anarchist Black Cross as an adjunct to his anarchist Revolutionary Insurrectionary Army of Ukraine or Black Army in the territories of Ukraine which they controlled. It was at this time that the organization's efforts were shifted from prisoner support to emergency medical response and self-defense.

During the 1960s, the Anarchist Black Cross was reformed in Britain by Stuart Christie and Albert Meltzer with a focus on providing aid for anarchist prisoners in Francisco Franco's Spain.

The organization continued to grow, spreading throughout Europe and North America. In 1995, ABC chapters in the US merged into a Federation- the Anarchist Black Cross Federation. Today chapters of ABC and ABCF operate in Hamilton, Toronto, Montreal, Calgary, and many international chapters

from: wikipedia.com

on the internet:

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT PRISONER SUPPORT AND THE PRISON

ABOLITION MOVEMENT

4strugglemag.org

abc-calgary.anarchistservices.ca

abcf.net

elizabethfry.ca

prisonactivist.org

prisonjustice.ca

325collective.com

booksthroughbars.org

justicebehindthewalls.net

confrontation.wordpress.com

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Prisoners Riot at Niagara Detention Centre

MASKED AND ARMED PRISONERS TAKE CONTROL



A standoff between guards and 17 inmates at the Niagara Detention Centre in Thorold lasted almost five hours Saturday March 28 2009. Niagara Regional Police say the situation started at 11:20 a.m. in the ground-floor day room range area. Corrections staff kept the disturbance confined to the area. The NRP responded as a precautionary measure and acted as support outside the facility. Ontario Provincial Police were also present. A corrections negotiator was brought in to deal with the situation. The inmates demanded some concessions during

negotiations, but police did not reveal any details. Some inmates also began to make weapons from items available in the area. At 4:10 p.m., corrections staff entered the area and secured the inmates involved without incident. Police say no corrections staff or inmates were injured during this disturbance. About \$2,000 in damages was caused to the facility by inmates. Police and the detention centre say the public was never at risk. No one from the Niagara Detention Centre was available for comment late Sunday. According to the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services website, the facility has a capacity of 260 inmates.

from: The St. Catherines Standard

The Fine Print

WHERE WE STAND

The Hamilton Anarchist Black Cross came together as a group to collectively answer the need for organization that can both respond to repression from the police and legal system as well as build capacity to respond to these apparatuses in the future. We recognize the legal system, prison system and the police as structures that are implemented and maintained by the rich and therefore can only serve their interests. The purpose of these structures is violence and social control against working class, exploited and oppressed people. We recognize that any movement that

hopes to overcome these factors in favor of a free and egalitarian way of life will come into conflict with these forces. We strive to support, provide resources and help build a framework for defense with communities which are burdened by the legal system, courts, jails, prisons, arrests, police harrassment and police violence.

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Local News

ECONOMIC DISRUPTION...

CN Rail Files Racist Lawsuit Against Tyendinaga Warriors

Canadian National Railway is suing Shawn Brant, Jason Maracle, and Tara Green as well as their families and community (Jane and John Doe, also named in the suit). CN's lawsuit is a response to a blockade on CN tracks during April 2007, and another lawsuit against Shawn Brant for a blockade on June 29, 2007. CN has not yet specified the amount in damages they are seeking.

"If I have to go out and shut down the (Highway) 401 or the CN main line in order to have somebody look at our community with some compassion and understand what it's like to live like that for year after year after year" - Shawn Brant

CN has sued Brant and others for defying a court injunction during the blockades. The protesters have countersued, claiming the rail line disrupts the Mohawks' way of life and that CN profits from the exploitation of aboriginal people and their land.

from: <http://www.ocap.ca/supporttmt/>



5 Arrested for Blockade in Guelph

On Monday, November 10, 2008 an action was carried out in Guelph, in solidarity with land defenders of Tyendinaga. The intersection of Gordon Street and Clair road, a major artery in and out of Guelph, was blocked with debris and loose nails during morning rush hour. An attempt was made to light the debris on fire. Protestors held signs and passed out flyers to the waiting motorists.

As a result of the action 5 arrests were made and charges of mischief and arson, among others, were laid.

from: <http://supporthamiltonabc.blogspot.com>

PIGS RUNNIN WILD...

Police Crash Peaceful Concert in Hamilton, Make Arrests

On Thursday, January 22nd a peaceful folk show took place at the Mex-I-Can restaurant (107 James Street North). Police stormed the restaurant over a drinking in public ticket. During a heated confrontation between concert goers and cops, three arrests were made.

The concert was not political in nature, but many people including the owner of the restaurant were questioned about their political beliefs and about political organizations that might be involved with the show. Despite the event being a small acoustic show, the police fantasized that they had broken up a serious political meeting, making various delusional comments to that effect.

from: <http://supporthamiltonabc.blogspot.com>

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For Defence:

Any movement that does not have the infrastructure or ability to defend itself against repression will inevitably fail to gain any ground. Equally important is maintaining emotional and material support for those who are the victims of this repression and are paying for it via the legal process and jail time. Building a defence means access to resources like lawyers, support networks, fundraising, maintaining relationships with those locked up and connecting with those who face similar struggles. Education and outreach regarding the legal process, the prison system and dealing with the police will help build these resources. Distinguishing between "political prisoners" and other prisoners can be a limiting practice; the very idea of prison exists as a result of class and the political and social environment. The better we understand this the stronger our defence from it, the stronger our struggle against it.

Hassan Almrei of the 'Secret Trial Five' Granted Bail

OUT OF ONE PRISON AND INTO ANOTHER

Kept in solitary confinement for close to seven years, Hassan Almrei, the last member of Canada's Secret Trail Five, has now been granted bail.

On January 2, 2009, Judge Richard G. Mosely in his decision said he was "...satisfied that any risk that (Almrei) might pose to national security or of absconding can be neutralized by conditions."

Almrei has been fighting deportation to Syria. It has been determined by human rights groups and Canadian courts that if sent to Syria he will be tortured. Canadian governments have repeatedly signed international conventions against deporting individuals to torture.

The conditions placed on Almrei's house arrest are incredibly strict. He will be the only member of the Secret Trial Five that is allowed to live alone. However with this provision a stringent regime has been put in place. The government will have 24/7 physical surveillance of his house. All visitors will need to be cleared. Security cameras will be placed at all the entrances. No access to cell phones or internet will be allowed. The telephone will be tapped. Agents will be allowed to enter the premises at any time. Leaving the house will only be allowed with sureties and council. A GPS monitoring device must be worn at all times. Canadian Border Services must be given notice as to when, where and how long he will leave the house. No travel outside of a 50km radius from his home, and he will not be allowed in train stations or airports.

Almrei is also not allowed to speak Arabic while in the presence of other non Arabic speaking sureties.

For Abolition:

Because of the way our society is organized, the threat of arrest and imprisonment is largely targeted at the working class, impoverished and excluded people. In order to maintain this social organization, anyone who steps outside or is forced outside of what is deemed 'acceptable behaviour' is punished. This coupled with poverty, alienation and exploitive work, lays fertile ground for anti-social violence, addiction issues, and diminished mental health leading to a continuous cycle of criminalization and repression. Imprisonment is the opposite of a realistic solution to these problems; instead it is an engine that propels them further. A society based on the imposition of violence and exploitation will of course lead to this behaviour materializing and being accepted in our day to day relations with each other. To confront these issues in a realistic way means challenging prisons and the conditions that create them.



HASSAN ALMREI

Two other members of Canada's Secret Trail Five, Mohamed Mahjoub and Mahmoud Jaballah, recently lost a ruling that their surveillance was harming them and their families. The two men are under similar bail conditions, a huge strain on their friends and relations.

Canadian Border Services opens their mail and photographs them in public.

All members of Canada's Secret Trail Five were arrested under the government's "Security Certificate" legislation which allows a person to be arrested and detained indefinitely without charge. Detainees are never allowed to see the "evidence" against them. All five men continue to fight deportation to torture.

from: www.linchpin.ca