

# *On the situation in Belgium october 2010*

## **Solidarity with the accused of the attack on a police station in Brussels**



We fully support the attack they are accused of and see it as a logical act in which we recognize ourselves. Not only because we will always be against the police, but because this attack is part of a tension that is present in Brussels since a long time, where people direct their anger more and more against what tries to break them. Against what exploits, controls or imprisons them. A tension that is also tangible, not in the least in the prisons and deportation all over Belgium. The struggle of the last years against deportation camps and prisons and the demonstration of the 1st of October is, in this way, also part of this tension. And we will never forget this in our solidarity with those who are taken away from us by the State. On the 1st of October, many people were ready to take the streets for what they believe in, or in the least to fight against what makes their dreams impossible. And they will continue to do so. We will continue to do so.

Because it is our dreams that shape the struggle we are fighting. It is our dreams that drag the imprisoned comrades out of the isolation imposed on them.

For nothing else than a world without prisons or deportation camps. For nothing else than a fight without borders against everything that, here and now, makes it impossible to taste freedom.

*For anarchy*

*(translation of a poster)*



**As a part of an ongoing struggle against prisons and the construction of a new deportation prison specifically, anarchists called for an offensive demonstration against borders and all types of prisons on the 1st of October in Brussels (Belgium). This was blocked by massive police presence and arrests. 4 people are at this moment still in jail, awaiting trial. They are accused of having participated in a group-attack against a police station.**

On Friday the 1st of October, near the South station, a lively demonstration against deportation camps, prisons, borders and the State was to take place. This same State was not pleased with the initiative, and besieged the neighbourhood. The police controlled, searched and arrested a big number of people around the station; in Anderlecht, a popular neighbourhood nearby, police with machine guns patrolled on strategic places and several anti-riot squads were to protect the 2 prisons of Brussels, in Forest and Saint-Gilles. In half of Brussels territory a prohibition to gather more than 5 people was announced, enforced by civil and riot police. A few hours after the demonstration should have taken place, dozens of people attacked the police station of the Marolles, a few blocks away from the South station. The police station and numerous police cars were destroyed, two policemen were injured. Four people were arrested in the surroundings some time after and are now accused of this attack. They are locked up in the prison of Forest, awaiting trial.

*What follows is an overview of agitation in Belgium over the last month. As it is only the part which makes it to the mainstream or alternative media, our aim is not to be representative, but more to show that the social tension manifests itself on different spheres.*

**Prison resistance** – In the first 2 weeks of August, guards of Hasselt prison are attacked three times. In the same period, tension rises in the deportation prison of Vottem. Prison guards are verbally and physically attacked; on 16/08, a guard is carved in the face with a sharp object. On 18/08 the prison director of Lantin is taken hostage in an attempted escape. On 19/08, a prisoner of Leuven fights back against being put in isolation and hurts two guards. When police intervene, a riot breaks out. One policeman gets wounded. On 28/08, in the juvenile prison of Tongeren, a guard is smashed to the ground with a chair and transferred to the isolation module of Brugge. On 21/09, two guards are attacked with scissors in the prison of Nivelles. The prisoner, known for his rebellion, is transferred, for the 23rd time in 3 years.

**28/08 Brussels** - The entrance hall of an ING bank was firebombed around 11.30 PM. Serious damage.

**6/09 Brussels** – A few hours after a young guy is arrested in Molenbeek for rebellion against the police, police are ambushed. They are attacked with stones, sticks and Molotov cocktails. The same person is arrested again and charged with criminal association.



**10/09 Rekem** - For the fourth time in two months, a truck transporting new cars was set on fire. This time, 7 new cars were completely destroyed.

**10/09 Hasselt** - An incendiary device is thrown into the building of the director's secretariat of the Provincial Business School.

**10/09 Ghent** – Two vehicles are set on fire outside a Peugeot car dealership.

**11/09 Ottré** – Bulldozers, engines and other material of a quarry (open-pit mine) company were firebombed three times in the last months. Damage over 2 million euros.

**14/09 Merksplas** – Prison riot. 70 refuse to return to the cells, break windows and tear down and set (small) fire to prison infrastructure. Barricades are erected against police intervention. At the same time, a riot takes off in the deportation prison across the street. Prisoners attempt a collective escape. Clashes with the police. Two days earlier, two prisoners escaped from the detention centre and others went on hunger strike demanding immediate release. During the month of September, police intervened 4 times to repress revolts. A few weeks before, an attack on the supply room of the centre took place and material was stolen.



**28/09 Brussels** – In the morning, material is damaged in the metro stations Hankar, Delta and Parvis de Saint-Gilles. Black paint and peck put their electronic gates and ticket machines out of service. STIB recently installed gates against 'black driving' and intensified ticket and identity controls where people without papers and searched for people are often arrested.

**28/09 Brussels** – Slogans on facades of Carlson Wagonlit and Randstad, companies implicated in the management of migration.

**28/09 Brussels** - Serco offices' windows are smashed with hammers, bricks and paint. A slogan is left 'Fuck Serco: Death to Detention Centers'. Serco is a multifunctional corporation and also runs deportation and other prisons in Britain, Germany, Australia and Queensland.

**29/09 Brussels** - A meeting of Frontex (European border police) is blocked. Slogans are painted on the building. Everyone is arrested and released 3 hours later.

**1/10 Brussels** – Early in the morning, 40 liters of oil are poured in the hall of Sodexo office (company collaborating in deportation prisons).

**1/10 Brussels** - Locks of the International Organisation of Migration (managing migration and promoting 'voluntary' returns) glued.

**1/10 Brussels** – From 7 to 11 PM, police arrests more than 200 people, preventing an announced demonstration against prisons and borders of taking place.

**1/10 Brussels** – Loads of shit are thrown at the Italian embassy, against its murdering migration policy.



**1/10 Brussels** – 50 people attack the police station of the Marolles and some police cars with iron bars, hammers and stones. 2 policemen are wounded. Police arrest 5 people in the surroundings; they are beaten in the station. 4 people are sent to prison, awaiting trial.

# Despite everything ~ to the rebels of here and elsewhere



Let's be clear: the State is not afraid of a handful of anarchists, but fears the potential social infection which revolutionaries try to effect day by day. Since long Brussels seems to be a social powder barrel in which the social tensions are tried to be suppressed

It's not easy to catch reality into words, as feelings and desires always go beyond what is offered by vocabulary. It is however a vital thing to speak, trying to give expression to our thoughts and feelings. Certainly at times when the terror of the state and her order troops try to silence everything.

For years we've been saying that we need space and time to enable us to think and speak freely. This space and time will never be given to us, we can only conquer them ourselves, eradicate them from the reality of thou shall and thou must. That's why we've been speaking and we speak about revolt, about deeds which create space to live, to express our desires for freedom which no longer accept the sickening misery and ugliness of this world.

During the past week, the State chose to fill up all potential space with uniforms, riot vans, undercover police, detention and abuse. The State barely tolerates anarchists that encourage revolt by words and deeds, but during this week it was put all on all to prevent all encounters between the different rebellions which are heating up the social conflictuality in Brussels. And authority expressed itself by its easiest language: terror, that is to say, systematic and indiscriminate violence.

The manifestation announced for the 1st of October against all closed centres, prisons, borders and against the State was not allowed to take place, no matter what. A prohibition to gather was declared in four of Brussels' districts, while an imposing force of order arrested everyone who gathered around the meeting point. At the same time, other squadrons were controlling the neighbourhoods and metro stations with an iron grip. Both the prisons of Saint-Gilles and Forest were hermetically closed off by a squadron of riot police, while in the heart of rebellious Anderlecht the police were patrolling with balaclavas on their faces and machine guns in their hands. Hundreds of people were preventively arrested, tens of them were humiliated, abused and beaten at the police stations.

by more police and more wounded and dead persons on the side of those who try to confront in one way or another. The social tensions however continue to express themselves in a radical way: ranging from frequently recurring riots in the neighbourhoods to revolts in the closed centres and prisons, from well aimed attacks against the structures of state and capital to a spreading hostility against everything wearing a repressive uniform. The manifestation announced for the 1st of October was probably about to become one of the possibilities for encounter between the different rebelliousness and anti-authoritarian ideas - and this encounter got squashed.

Despite the militarised pacification of these last days, we will continue to focus on this social powder barrel, knowing that each opportunity can set fire to the powder. The proposal for demonstrating was blocked by many obstacles almost impossible to overcome, but other activities will make their way.

Despite the police walls trying to keep us separated, we continue to consider the encounter between different rebelliousnesses as a desirable and necessary possibility. No repressive State blackmail can soften our enthusiasm for this.

Despite the fact that our initiative got snatched from our hands, we are determined, in our hearts and heads, to snatch it back. Despite all, we continue. Nothing is over... the possibilities are still there to be grabbed.

For the moment, four comrades are still behind the bars of the prison of Forest, charged with complicity to the attack on a police station in Brussels on the night of the 1st of October. Let's make them feel our affection and solidarity.

***Anarchists who won't leave anything behind***

*Brussels, October 5th 2010*

**1/10 Brussels** – Paint is thrown at the German representation agency (Landesvertretung) against the billion urban development and transport project Stuttgart 21.

**1/10 Brussels** – Dalkia car (company collaborating in prisons) set on fire in Anderlecht.

**2/10 Brussels** – 3 persons disrupt with speech and sound a recruitment day of the Brussels police, denouncing the ongoing repression during the week of the No Border camp. They are arrested and released 8 to 10 hours later. At the airport of Brussels, a symbolic action with helium banner and flyers takes place against Frontex.

**2/10 Brussels** – Offices of Steria (maker of Eurodac, a data collection with digital fingerprints of asylum seekers) has its windows broken, slogans are left on the building.

**3/10 Brussels** - Slogans painted and windows smashed, at Sodexo office in solidarity with the arrested comrades and against all borders.

**4/10 Lantin** – Prison riot. When the prison direction cancels the visits, 150 prisoners refuse to leave the yard at 5 PM and return to the cells. The prisoners inside destroy windows, hallways and other infrastructure. 100 police men intervene, the prisoners resist and 5 of them are injured. At 1 AM, the prisoners finally return to their cells. 6 months ago, prisoners destroyed the isolation module which is still out of use.

**4/10 Brussels** – Fireworks at the prison of Forest, where the 4 people accused of the attack on the police station are detained. Two anarchists are arrested for a few hours.

**4/10 Brussels** - All over Brussels are painted with huge slogans against all religions on the biggest cathedral of Brussels, on religious statues and on several smaller churches. “No gods, no churches; Against God and Allah”.

**5/10 Ottignies** - Three cars burn on the parking lot of the Human Rights League at 15h in the afternoon. In relation to recent police violence, HRL declared that proportional police violence is legitimate towards violent demonstrators, but unacceptable against pacific demonstrators.

**5/10 Brussels** – A Valens (constructor of new deportation prison) van is set on fire in Schaarbeek.

**5/10 Near Ghent** – A construction yard of Besix (main constructor of new deportation prison) and the office of architects Bontinck (who drew its plans) are set on fire. Claimed as part of the ongoing struggle against prisons and in solidarity to the recent arrests.

**7/10 Brussels** - Three attacks take place against the public transport company STIB. In Haren, a bus was shot at with an air gun, breaking all the windows. No passengers were on board. A bit later, in Neder-over-Heembeek, youngsters stopped a bus, entered and put fire to the seats. Again, no passengers were on board and the driver fled without problems. The bus was destroyed. The youngsters also turned over a car on the road, so that when police was arriving, they could all get away. Finally, in Schaarbeek, a tram stopped because youngsters put a small barricade on the tracks. The passengers left the tram, but the driver refused. Then the youngsters smashed out all the windows of the tram. Nobody was hurt.

**7/10 Brussels** – In Neder-over-Heembeek, two ATMs of the Post Bank and BNP go up in flames in solidarity. The Bank of the Post manages the bank accounts of prisons and detention centres for immigrants. BNP denounces people without papers to the police.

**12/10 Tournai** – Prison riot. Tuesday night, prisoners destroy their cells and other infrastructure. The next day, they set fire to paper and blankets. Outside, people throw a Molotov cocktail inside of a nearby local police station of Carnieres, destroying parts of the paper archive. A few days before, guards went on strike, which means police, no yard, no visits.



**17/10 Paris** – Windows of a Bouygues shop [biggest constructor of deportation and other prisons in France] are smashed. ‘Fire to the prisons’ is left on the façade. The action is claimed in solidarity with the arrested comrades in Brussels. On the 12th of October, paint and slogans in solidarity colour a church in Lisbon, Portugal.