



# REBELLION AND POSSIBILITY

Voices in the Anti-ICE Struggle

Vol. 1

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# **PART I: INTRODUCTION**



# COMBINE, INTENSIFY, FEDERATE

## Radical struggle and the anti-ICE movement

Redrick

### 0. Overview

The nationwide rebellion against ICE is a pivotal moment in American radical struggle. It burst forth as part of a historic, massive wave of revolt that has been shaking the US for the past year and a half.

But the anti-ICE rebellion is helping to radicalize that struggle. In the face of the fascism that ICE embodies, the struggle combines some of the most radical currents of struggle in the US: antifascism, pro-immigrant and anti-xenophobia struggles, movements for police and prison abolition, and revolutionary socialism, communism, and anarchism.

Through that combination, radical struggle is intensifying. It is developing a combative and militant stance against cops, prisons, the state, and the capitalist class war they all exist serve. In their attacks on ICE facilities and beyond, they are spreading a recognition that ICE is a symptom of a systemic capitalist domination, and that the solution itself must be a new social order. We must not forget, though, that the explosion of anti-ICE actions in May, June, and July is only the latest in inspiring struggles against xenophobia, deportation, and white supremacy, struggles that have been led by detainees, immigrant-rights groups, and the anti-police and anti-prison movements for many years. Those uprisings have laid the foundations for this work and they continue to lead it in some of the most inspiring and powerful examples of solidarity.

But the anti-ICE movement is at a crossroads. It has won important victories, like disrupting the operation of ICE in many cities. Here in Philly a coalition has forced the mayor to end the city's sharing of information with ICE as it hunts for undocumented workers. At the same time, occupations are under constant, brutal attack. They

are being swept away, and the limits of occupation as a tactic are becoming painfully clear.

More importantly: the *forces* of revolt are running up against the limits of their too-narrow *social relations*. In other words: the rebellion being unleashed by the combining of revolutionary currents is more radical and more powerful than the movement knows what to do with. Its inner dynamics are pushing it further left: from legal marches and protests to illegal ones; from there to occupations, blockades, and clashes with pigs; from there to demands to transform structural elements of the police state. Local uprisings have found themselves, time and again, facing the possibility of overtaking ICE offices, overwhelming police forces, and spreading the disruption of capital across cities and across the country. But they usually stop short. The Crimethinc piece “Portland, OR: Report Back from #FamiliesBelongTogether March” below puts it:

We had the numbers to overrun, in that moment, and re-barricade the building. The crowd seemed confused about suddenly finding themselves in a situation where they have more power than police. As the police moved their cars into the street and got in formation the crowd just kind of gently moved back. the moment was gone, the spear tip of praxis had dissipated.

What possibilities are opening up for deepening radical struggle? How can the explosions of radicalism and militancy be developed and channeled into bigger, more powerful organizations? What can we learn from each other’s struggles so far? The first two volumes of this zine try to help ask and answer these questions.

First, Vol. 1 offers an introduction to the two volumes. That piece—“Combine, intensify, federate: Radical struggle and the anti-ICE movement”—places the anti-ICE uprising in the context of capital’s regressive, fascistic, and uneven development over the last four decades. It ultimately asks: what’s next? How do we shift into the next phase of revolutionary struggle?

The introduction points to two major possibilities: (a) multiplying local “direct action committees” to coordinate the struggle *beyond* occupations, (b) and—above all—building a nationwide federation

of anti-ICE struggles to deepen, broaden, and intensify the attack on ICE and further our revolutionary goals.

Then, Vols. 1 and 2 collect some of the writings generated by those involved in the anti-ICE movement over the last year. The selection is explicitly from those expressing radical, and especially anti-authoritarian, perspectives. Our aim is to help share some of the inspiring and essential ideas and lessons that radicals are generating. The hope is that, more and more, we can move past this powerful but still fragmented phase into one in which our struggles are federated across the country.

This zine is radically incomplete. The anti-ICE struggle is producing an avalanche of powerful and important reflections—strategy, tactics, analysis—and this is barely a scraping. But I hope it contributes to developing the struggle.

With this in mind, the first two volumes of the zine are only a start. I hope to continue this work of sharing the voices of this crucially important struggle. But the project was never “mine” to begin with. I rely on my comrades across the country and beyond, known and unknown to me, to produce more volumes that can help collect and connect the ideas cascading out of this movement.

The combination of radical struggles in the anti-ICE revolt is intensifying and broadening revolutionary power in this country. Sharing the ideas, experiences, and strategies of the many disconnected parts of the movement will be essential if we are to transition from rebellion to a revolutionary movement. These zines hope to contribute to that transition.

## **I. Context: Capitalism in Crisis**

ICE is a symptom. It is one of the most brutal arms of the emerging fascism in the United States that is driving towards a white ethnostate, escalating attacks on the working class, and increasing militarization and aggression of police forces so they can expand their attack, imprisonment, and murder of those deemed “threats”—all for the enrichment and preservation of the white supremacist, patriarchal ruling class.

But fascism is on the rise today only because capitalism is failing. In the 1970s and 1980s the ruling class tried desperately to halt falling profits and slowing growth—and the radical struggles that were shaking capital's foundations: the global, overlapping, radical struggles of people of color, women, LGBTQ communities, indigenous people, and workers. The bourgeoisie used every economic and state weapon it could to restore profitability. It murdered and imprisoned members of radical struggles and invented mass incarceration to pacify Black community struggle. Over the next few decades, women, immigrants, and people of color were targeted for increasingly brutal control, rolling back the historic legal, political, and economic gains those groups had won through struggle. The state, managers, and capitalists attacked strikes, moved manufacturing away from unionized workers (inside and outside the country), and shattered unions. Bosses froze wages for the next forty years. They automate to cut jobs, shorten breaks, increase hours, eliminate pensions and full-time positions, and push workers ever faster and harder to maximize profit. And through a wave of deregulation, corporate and financial firms could unleash their blind, catastrophic drive to expand. It is no surprise that in the 1980s and 1990s profits jumped and the income and wealth of the ruling class skyrocketed while the working class languished.

This model—freeze wages, decimate unions and radical struggles, strengthen white supremacist and patriarchal social structures, deregulate capital—is called “neoliberalism.” It means class war. It is a program of regression. The ruling class tries to destroy what radical struggles have won over the past hundred years and concentrate more and more power and wealth in the hands of the white supremacist patriarchal bourgeoisie. This development was uneven. Feminist, LGBTQ, worker, student, and anti-police and anti-prison movements have mounted important and powerful resistance—though often fitfully and often in a disconnected way. All the while, the ruling class' neoliberal project has continued to crush working people and the environment. The radical left has been left shattered and weakened by the violent onslaught of recent decades.

But capitalism failed to solve its most basic problems. The working class is the source of all profits. Firms compete with each other by pushing workers harder, faster, and longer. The goal is to increase productivity—automating production, cutting jobs, lowering labor costs. But the more this happens, the more profit rates fall. Capitalists turn to finance for salvation. Extremely risky gambling by finance firms, predatory lending: all this was meant to overcome the falling profit rate and slowing of growth. And this led to 2007: the biggest economic crisis since the Great Depression.

And the more that the working class, with all the dominated communities that comprise it, are being squeezed, the more they are connecting and fighting back. Shattered by the 1980s, the working class has been slowly and unevenly developing its power to fight once again. We see that power growing fitfully in the Global Justice Movement in the 1990s, in Occupy after the financial meltdown, in militant feminist and radical LGBTQ revolt, in the explosion of anti-white supremacy struggles in Ferguson, Baltimore and beyond, in the drive towards police and prison abolition, and in growing waves of wildcat worker revolt by teachers. By trying to tame its exploited population, the ruling class is driving the working class to fight back. In the GJM, Occupy, Black Lives Matter, and well beyond, we see currents of struggle connecting and combining, developing the capacity for mass revolt.

Fascism comes from the failures of neoliberalism. The goal of fascism is to divert the anger and discontent that capitalism creates in order to save capitalism from itself. Trump's push for a white ethnostate through ICE and anti-immigration policies are meant to rally white workers and small business owners, squeezed more and more by neoliberal capitalism, to support the ruling class that attacks them. Immigrants, people of color, women, activists, other countries become scapegoats. This sets Trump free to deregulate even more, and to offer historic tax cuts to the ruling class. We shouldn't be fooled by Trump's spats with companies. Fascism is good for business.

All this means that American fascism did not begin with Trump. It is a fundamental reflex of capitalism itself. The more its internal contradictions start tearing it apart, the more it tends to turn to

fascism to save itself. State fascism's roots lie deep in the desperate neoliberal project of the 70s and 80s. And it mobilizes a white supremacy and patriarchy that are certainly not new, and that have been a part of police and military attacks on people of color in this country and abroad for a very long time. ICE's attacks on immigrants are a result of this fundamental capitalist dynamic. It is the most direct weapon—alongside the police and prison systems—of fascist capitalism.

But the revolt against ICE is a key development in US radical struggle. It is an important step in the *intensification* of working class rebellion that has been developing unevenly for decades.

## **II. Anti-ICE as Intensification of Radical Struggle in the US**

In the anti-ICE movement, radical struggle is intensifying in a few basic ways.

### **1. Connecting and combining the forces of revolt**

If the radical left was shattered by the ruling class by the 1980s, the anti-ICE movement is helping to connect and combine currents of revolt against fascist capitalism. In the attacks on ICE, antifascism, pro-immigrant and anti-xenophobia groups, and movements for police and prison abolition are coordinating with socialist, communist, and anarchist struggles. In the face of fascism's attacks, the radical left is converging and combining its power.

### **2. Revealing radical opportunities**

In the revolt against ICE, widespread outrage is connecting to revolutionary challenges to state power. Because the movement is so visible, it is helping to spread an awareness of the vulnerabilities of the state to mass struggle. It is obvious that the state is struggling to respond to barricades, blockades,

occupations, various forms of civil disobedience, and beyond. The fractures in its power are becoming more and more obvious. With that awareness comes the potential to push further—to experimentally develop our power to destabilize capitalist and state power.

### 3. Increasing militancy

This revolt is moreover a step in an unevenly growing militancy. In Occupy and the Global Justice Movement, clashes with the police were generally marginal. In Occupy Philly, for example, many thought cops were part of the working class that should be respected. That is much less the case in the attacks on ICE. The collaboration between pigs and ICE is clear; cops are attacking protesters to ensure the deportation machine continues to function. And so cops are generally seen as the class weapon against workers, women, and people of color that they are. As a result, the wave of revolt is overall a more *aggressive* one than in the past; overall the movement is much less willing to passively obey, and even willing to clash with pigs to keep ICE offices closed.

In fact, the growth of militancy is outstripping the movement itself. In the piece “Portland, OR: Report Back from #FamiliesBelongTogether March,” the author points out that anti-ICE actions escalated more quickly and more powerfully than the movement itself was ready for. Protestors suddenly faced the prospect that they could overrun the cops and take over an ICE facility—and balked at that power. We see something similar in “Abolitionist Contingent Breaks Away from #FamiliesBelongTogether” and again and again in the movement: the struggle’s inner dynamics push it further and further left, making it more and more militant, but without a clear path for developing the new powers and orientation.

This contradiction—between exploding militancy and power and the retreat before it—is a sign of more radical things to come. But it is also a signal: there is much work to be done to organize and express that power more fully and more radically.

Another important part of the growth of militancy is a potentially widespread disillusionment with “progressive” politics. While radicals struggle on the ground for the safety of immigrants, the Democratic Party is wringing its hands in terror over whether the slogan “abolish ICE” will hurt its chances in the midterm elections. All the while, cops in “progressive” cities with democratic mayors are beating activists. The Democratic Party is more and more obviously bankrupt; it is increasingly clear that “progressive” politics is no solution to the problems of capitalism. Does it make a difference whether the cops beating you over the head to protect white supremacists are sent by a democrat or a republican? A popular outcry is giving rise to a growing sense of the need for a revolutionary challenge to the state and capital.

#### 4. **Revealing the systemic problem**

Radicals are driving a popular realization about the systemic problem underlying ICE. The movement is pushing popular outrage significantly to the left. Calls to abolish ICE are being followed by popular discussions about the state’s long-standing white supremacy and about the corporations profiting off of ICE. The Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee points out below that ICE is merely one branch of a “prison-industrial-slave complex” inseparable from capitalism.

In other words, we’re experiencing a crucially important moment in the growth of revolutionary power. But where do we go from here?

### **III. The Writings Collected Here**

The anti-ICE movement itself is at a crossroads. Occupations are under attack or have already been swept clear of the offices they were occupying. Important victories have been won, but the movement is reeling, trying to discover a path forward in disrupting and ending ICE. What have we learned and how do we make the struggle more radical, more powerful, and more effective?

This collection of writings aims to help spur the planning of the next stage of the movement. The struggle against ICE, while powerful, has also been largely disconnected. Occupations and other actions have developed locally and too often without formalized links of communication and resource-sharing across sites. This fracturing limits us in important ways. We tend to work in “silos” in which the vast and rich set of ideas from one site develops in separation from other sites. We’re often left reinventing the wheel or missing insights that could help groups or actions survive and grow.

The goal of this zine, then, is to help forge the links between people and groups—to help connect ideas and experiences, formalize lines of communication, and build a more *federated* and *coordinated struggle*. We provide links to each article, and where possible, to the names of authoring groups too. Like in a nuclear reactor, huge amounts of power can be released when we build machines to combine fissile but disconnected materials.

This zine also tries to help connect the anti-ICE struggle with a broader history. The collection below quickly makes obvious that the movement against ICE did not start in the summer of 2018. It includes statements by and about radical immigration struggles in 2017—though the history of such struggle stretches back much further. If we want to build the most powerful struggle against ICE possible, we need to learn from the vast storehouse of experiences, tactics, and strategies of groups that have been engaged in the fight against borders and xenophobia for decades.

With these zines, I don’t pretend to be “representing” the groups and individuals involved in the movement. The zines overemphasize writings from Philadelphia, since that is where they were created; and they overrepresent struggles in the Pacific Northwest, given the leading role played by detainees and activists there in the recent struggle. I also don’t pretend that these are even the most “important” that have been written. Much more has to be done to collect and share the work radicals are doing and to correct the inevitable limits of this zine. The pieces gathered here are only one possible selection, and many others can and should be made.

## IV. Some Tentative Lessons and Possibilities

What have we learned? Where do we go from here?

Here are a few tentative reflections. They try to draw some lessons from the writings below, from my own experiences in the movement and in past movements, and from the movement generally. But they are experimental and incomplete. They await the additions and corrections of other comrades.

### 1. **Increasing International Solidarity: Between Bars, Across Borders**

In the fight against ICE, detainees, activists, and immigrant rights groups have led the way in creating possibilities for revolutionary international solidarity. This solidarity has taken inventive tactical form. Detainees are producing statements and exposés and engaging in hunger strikes on the inside, coordinating their efforts with political agitation on the outside. The terror of the detention centers is clear from the threats against detainees for their hunger strikes. (See the statement from detainees below in the piece “Tacoma, WA: At Least 170 Detainees Launch Hunger Strike Against Family Separations.”)

The solidarity between activists, detainees, and immigrant communities generally is one of the most crucial dimensions of the anti-ICE movement. International solidarity is essential in the fight against fascism. Fascist leaders like Trump need to appeal to white supremacy, nationalism, and the danger of foreign “hordes” so they can drum up support for the ruling class and weaken the working class’ ability to resist. And the ruling class needs racial and national divisions so that it can hyper-exploit some sectors of the workforce—like immigrants and women—thereby driving down wages and working-conditions for all workers.

The anti-ICE movement contains the germ of an emerging and growing revolutionary internationalism. It opens up new paths beyond the occupations, opening the possibility for strengthening and multiplying links across borders and through detention

center walls. How can we develop these links more? How can we help create even more radical working class solidarity between immigrants and citizens?

## 2. **Increasing the Combination of Struggles**

Radicals are not just developing solidarity internationally. As noted above, the anti-ICE struggle combines some of the most revolutionary currents of struggle in the United States. The Anti-ICE movement opens the door to developing this kind of radical combination. And by creating physical spaces of radical combination, Occupy ICE is creating opportunities to experimentally build intersectional coalitions and organizations, moving us past the shattered state of the radical US left.

Can further experimental coalitions or coalition actions be formed in the coming months to deepen these connections and build the bonds between groups? For example: What can we do to coordinate anti-ICE struggles with the August 21st prison strike?

(One possibility is to create a coalitional and federated system of "direct action councils." See below—"Beyond Occupation: The Direct Action Committee"—for more.)

## 3. **Seeing the Power and Limits of Occupation**

The revolt against ICE in 2018 is using occupation as its central tactic. In fact, occupation has been perhaps the most basic tactic of mass struggle in the radical US left for two decades (in the Global Justice Movement, in Occupy, in squatters' struggles against gentrification, in the wave of student revolt in 2008, etc.).

Occupation can be a powerful tool. When done right, it can focus mass attention on an issue and temporarily disrupt the flow of business as usual in an office, school, business, or town or city. It can also result in real class gains. Students occupying a cafeteria played a major role in saving a number of jobs at the New School; in Philly, the anti-ICE occupation of City Hall helped end the sharing of information between the city and ICE. And as a comrade pointed out to me recently, occupations can be

important places for otherwise separate radicals and groups to mix, sparking new ideas and possibilities. For these reasons and others the occupations should be supported.

But as the articles below plainly show, this is also an extremely limited tactic.

First, it is basically reactive rather than active. After a group or coalition first overtakes a space, it then must defend it against an enemy that knows precisely where it is at all times. For this reason alone it is very difficult to consistently convert occupation into a project that builds radical power.

Second, occupation increasingly drains a movement. The first general law of occupation in the US is this: the longer it exists, the more resources and energy it will need to continue to function. The publicity that may have drawn larger numbers to a camp fades rapidly, along with the energy of comrades. All but the most committed tend to drift away. Police repression will tend to gradually ramp up—through undercover agents, direct assaults, and so on. And the collected writings below show the major problems that occupations bring with them. Combining long-term in public spaces with strangers often brings sexual, gender, and racial violence that must be shut down. The “prefigurative space” of the camp, for all its good intentions, is riven by these social forces.

Thus, a camp needs constantly increasing inputs of energy and resources to keep people there and to ensure their safety and well-being. The general law of occupation leads to the following conclusion. The longer an occupation exists, the more the purpose of that occupation will tend to become simply surviving in the space, rather than mounting revolutionary programs and actions.

An important lesson learned from the fight against ICE as well as from Occupy is occupation as a partial tactic to be seen developmentally: as a phase that should be paired with a plan with and beyond it for aggressive, active attacks on capital and the state.

#### 4. **Beyond Occupation: Direct Action Committees**

One possibility of moving beyond the occupation phase is this: coalitional direct action committees (DACs) for the struggle against ICE. Such committees would help combine the radical groups working together in a locale, but remain largely independent from maintaining or creating an occupation. They might work to simply coordinate direct actions against a host of sites well beyond the occupation site—businesses and banks profiting from ICE, for instance.

Such committees likely already informally exist in many anti-ICE struggles. This is certainly true in Philly. Here, a shifting core of radicals bridge a number of groups, coordinating and connecting those groups and their resources. This happens in a largely ad hoc and accidental way. But there is a possibility to formalize one or more direct action council across a city or town. Councils need not be large or ambitious; just enough to connect a couple of members from sympathetic groups willing to share information and coordinate disruptive actions. Such committees could be highly unpredictable to and deeply destabilizing to the functions of ICE and the systems that support it.

Direct action councils also provide a base for the radical *federation* of struggles in ways not bogged down in the details of occupation. (See below, “Federation, federation, federation.”)

#### 5. **The Tactical “Toolbox”**

The writings below showcase a wide array of tactics: occupying and/or blockading ICE offices; bailing out the detained; publicly embarrassing public officials; projecting anti-prison and anti-ICE messages on a wall at night; and beyond. Oftentimes, movements or sites will develop their own toolboxes in separation.

It is crucially important to share tactics with each other. Some of these tactics work better than others within certain situations. It can be extremely time-consuming to develop that toolbox for a group or location, and very costly to discover the limits of some tactics over others. The anti-ICE struggles point out the need

to share information with each other, so we can minimize the amount each of us is reinventing the wheel—again, something that direct action councils are ideally designed for.

## 6. **Federation, federation, federation**

The major lesson I draw from the anti-ICE movement is this: *the need for radical national federation*. A national focus is essential since ICE itself is national, and because the broader enemy—capital and its state—coordinates itself not on a local but a national and international level. For example: a number of banks (like Wells Fargo) and corporations (like Comcast) profit from ICE. Attacking the profits of these firms requires something more than actions at one locale.

Loose informal networks of connections already exist between a number of sites through email, phone calls, websites, statements, and so on. These loose networks, though, are partial and fragile. The anti-ICE movement has a major opportunity to move beyond a merely local focus. Popular outrage is still high, though it is waning; the fight against ICE struggle is nationwide, though it is being swept out of a number of camps. The moment is ripe to more fully connect and coordinate the struggle on a national level—for example, via weekly national phone calls; national calls for action; websites or zines to share ideas, tactics, and strategies nationally; etc.

National federation (via direct action councils, e.g.) would mean moving the struggle beyond the focus on occupations, and developing a strategy for nationwide disruption.

## **V. Conclusion**

The fight against ICE represents a major moment in the development of revolutionary power in the US. But it faces a turning point: attacked by the state and undergoing its own inner radicalization, the anti-ICE movement confronts the need to evolve. I hope these reflections, and the collection of writings that follow, can help connect some of those in struggle and help build towards the second, deeper, and broader phase.

**No ICE! No cops! No borders! No prisons! No capitalism!**

**Solidarity forever!**



# **PART II: VOICES IN THE STRUGGLE**



# 1. “TACOMA, WA: DETAINEES ENTER THIRD WEEK OF HUNGER STRIKE AFTER GEO LIES IN NEGOTIATIONS”

**Published April 26th, 2017 by It's Going Down**

<https://itsgoingdown.org/detainees-enter-third-week-hunger-strike-geo-group-lies/>

On Sunday, April 23, women detained at the Northwest Detention Center (NWDC) ended their hunger strike to call attention to worsening nutrition and sanitation conditions. Their unmet demands included properly cleaned laundry, adequate medical care, reasonable commissary prices, raising the \$1 per day prison wage, more nutritional cafeteria food, and contact visits “so parents can hug their children.” GEO Group representatives promised to improve food to meet basic nutritional standards after the first week on strike. Instead, the food has gotten worse and GEO has retaliated against hunger strikers. They believe that GEO and ICE retaliated against hunger strikers by transferring at least four hunger strikers to NORCOR corrections facility in Oregon.

They announced that 40 men will go on hunger strike today, calling on GEO and ICE keep their promises. The abysmal conditions point to the ongoing danger the NWDC to the public health, safety and welfare of the individuals involved, as well as the community as a whole. The NWDC, which is located on a Superfund site, is the largest immigrant detention center on the West Coast, caging over 1,500 immigrants while awaiting civil deportation proceedings. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) contracts with The GEO Group, a multinational private prison corporation, to run the facility. GEO Group also runs the monopoly commissary store, which detainees are boycotting, calling on GEO to use its exclusive sale rights at reasonable prices. Hunger strikes have aimed their demands at the federal government and the private contractor, and are now reaching out to Tacoma City authorities.

The Trump administration has staffed the ICE deportation force with openly anti-immigrant officials with links to white supremacist organizations, leaving people detained with little choice but to put their bodies on the line to fight for their basic dignity. At the same time, local governments like the City of Tacoma have the ability to choose their own destiny. City government has the power to change municipal codes to ensure that for-profit detention facilities cannot expand into heavy industrial zones that pose environmental hazards, and that existing facilities comply with environmental and public health requests for monitoring and remediation. All people have a basic human right to health.

The most recent hunger strikes, part of a history of hunger strikes and activism that dates back years, signals that the NWDC does not meet city, county and state regulations for health and safety. This alone is enough for Tacoma's Finance Director to revoke GEO Group's business license to operate the NWDC.

Supporters have announced a rally before City Council's public hearing on "Correctional Facilities Interim Regulations." NWDCR organizers will also submit petitions with over 500 signatures and over 20 community group co-signatures to City Council calling on them to act to protect community health and safety.

## **Statements from Hunger Strikers to GEO Group:**

I am writing this statement to let people know my personal opinion about the statement that the president of GEO made. He wrote it only to defend the economic interests of his company and employees. He does not mention the profits that he is making through the daily payment that he is receiving from the Federal Government for each one of us for every day that we spend here.

Although we do not know the exact amount we know that it is enough to provide us with better food, medical care, and higher pay for the work that the detainees do within the facility. The newly arrived detainees receive used clothes that in most cases causes itching and rashes on the skin.

I want to also mention that the prices at the commissary are very high and because the food we receive is of very poor quality most of us have to buy food from the commissary. We know that this is also a source of income for them because they take a percentage from all the sales.

They also mention that we have enough space but in reality we are only allowed to be out in the yard for an hour. This is worse than when we were in prison, because there we were allowed to be out in the yard all day long, we had a gym, educational programs, and activities that kept us busy and with less stress. Here when people have a health issue, they go to see the doctor and most of the time they just give us Naproxen or Ibuprofen and recommend that we drink a lot of water.

We have family visits through a small window. If they have the space and personnel, at the very least we would have the opportunity to have contact visits.

Also most of the jobs, that is, all kinds of work, including kitchen, cleaning, laundry, etcetera is done by the detainees. And on some occasions, I mean whenever the facility needs painting, polishing, and the floors cleaned they ask us in the units whether someone wants to do the work. The people that agree to do the work spend one or two nights doing the work and they only receive one cup of soup and a bag of chips.

If this is called humane treatment, well I am sorry because I call this inhumane treatment and protecting their own economic interests. Because they know that if the facility is closed they will no longer have their little gold mine. And all because they don't want to spend a little more money of the percentage that they receive from the budget the Government grants to them, which incidentally is more than enough to give us better service and human treatment.

\*\*\*

The GEO Group claims that they comply with the needs of the residents that are in non-penal custody and in the care of the immigration federal authorities.

Our response to this is that if we are not in a criminal process why is the first thing they do when people set foot in detention is to classify us as they do in a prison. The people that are transferred from prison are put in the highest level, that is level #3, and their uniforms are red. These detainees can't work outside of their unit or take part in other activities. They are discriminated against and segregated from the rest of the detainees. The level 2 and 1 detainees can work in the kitchen, the laundry, and in general cleaning.

And yes, this place is inspected each month, but when there is an inspection they grab a group to wax the floors and paint the walls, a job that would cost them a lot of money. The people who do the work are only given a Top Ramen soup and a bag of chips. The workers labor for eight hours and one get one dollar for this. This could be called modern day slavery.

### **Medical**

It doesn't matter how serious the problem is, the only thing they prescribe is that you drink a lot of water and that you stretch, or they give you naproxen pills for everything. And when the doctor comes to the appointment, his response to everything is that they can't help you because there isn't enough money in the budget, and they can't help you unless you are on the verge of death. So if you have cancer and you still have five months to live they don't help you because they don't know if you are going to be leaving here.

They say that if they close this place they would be separating families. They don't care about separating families, as every week they transfer people to other states such as Oregon or Louisiana. They transfer people just to transfer them because they have enough space here. They have a unit that's always available, and that's G2.

They just transfer people around to collect more money from the taxpayers.

You have a population here of 1500 detainees and they don't have enough staff to care for all of them. There are some officers here that work up to 12 hours a day, and they are falling asleep at their desks.

When someone gets in a fight they don't pay attention and there are many fights that happen without them noticing.

And although the immigration officers are here, the officers just do their walk-by every Wednesday just to be able to say that they came by, but when we need help they don't help, they just tell us to write a kite but they never answer our questions.

And court dates are delayed for over 4 months. Sometimes the judges give us false hopes just to deport us at the end after we have fought our cases for years.

### **Commissary**

Our families put money in our accounts and they charge them \$7 to put money in our accounts. After this they charge us triple to buy from the commissary. Here the company that has the contract with GEO is taxing our money that's already been taxed multiple times.

Our families work hard to earn money and most of them are here legally and follow the rules of the United States, and the laws of this country.

And those that are here illegally pay taxes but can't receive anything in return.

In the next to last paragraph GEO and ICE are always tossing the ball back and forth. If we have a complaint with GEO they tell us to talk to ICE, and if it's with ICE they tell us to talk to GEO.

They say that this place is competent but they can't even control the detainee who is making their life impossible, they don't say anything to him, they just call him outspoken.

**Visits**

Once more they say that they don't want to separate families of detainees, but visits are one hour long from across a piece of glass and those that are from out of state can't see their families because Video visits are only available in pods F1 and F2. Where is the right to equal treatment?

We ask them to put a video unit in our pod but they say that it won't benefit them because not everyone will use the video visit.

The food has gotten worse. Smaller portions but the same food.

So how can this be competent detention?

Everything I say here is the truth

## 2. IT'S GOING DOWN, "HUNGER STRIKES BREAKING OUT IN JAILS AND DETENTION CENTERS"

Published November 8, 2017 by It's Going Down

<https://itsgoingdown.org/hunger-strikes-breaking-jails-detention-centers/>

In the last week, we've seen a successful hunger strike take place at a detention facility in Northern Oregon, and another pop off at a prison in Indiana. With other uprisings, strikes, protests, and actions happening across other US prisons, we should all find ways to support ongoing organizing and solidarity efforts.

In Tacoma, protests continue outside of the Northwest Detention Facility, the site of several previous hunger strikes. In May, we interviewed an organizer supporting hunger strikers on the IGDcast. Northwest Detention Center Resistance has continued to maintain a presence, keep up support, and also held a Day of the Dead celebration outside of the facility. On November 11th they are holding a rally, so please support them, follow their page, and see how you can contribute to their work.

In early November, a hunger strike broke out at the Norcor County Jail in Northern Oregon, at the Northern Oregon Regional Correctional Facility. The hunger strike was launched on October 31st, and ended on November 4th and involved 20 people, with people from the community also demonstrating outside in solidarity.

Splinter News discussed the start of the hunger strike:

A group of at least 20 undocumented immigrants being held by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency in Oregon have gone on a hunger strike to protest the conditions at their detention facility—but the man overseeing the facility is literally laughing off their protest.

The strike, which began Wednesday, marks the second time this year that detainees at ICE's Northern Oregon Regional Corrections Facility have fasted to protest what they say are abysmal conditions. According to KGW.com, the detainees are asking for better food, cheaper items for sale in the commissary, including feminine hygiene products, and cheaper phone calls—a particular concern at NORCOR, thanks to its remote location and strict visitation policy. "I have heard the stories of vulnerable people living under conditions that are intolerable," John Boonstra, a member of the Gorge ICE Resistance activist network, said in a statement to Willamette Week. "Hunger strikes come at great risk to people who are already isolated for indeterminate amounts of time."

## **According to the ACLU of Oregon:**

*In the second hunger strike at NORCOR this year, detainees refused food to bring attention to poor conditions at the jail including inadequate food and poor nutrition, the high cost of commissary items, unaffordable phone and video calling rates, lack of in-person visits with family and friends, lack of access to any outdoor space and exercise, and inadequate library and activities.*

*Yesterday, detainees reported feeling weak after four days without meals, but were committed to seeing their demands addressed. ICE officials met with the hunger strikers Saturday afternoon after the group requested medical attention for a detainee who was doing poorly. The detainees agreed to end the strike when ICE officials committed to allow detainees three hours of free video calling every month, milk five days per week instead of one, hot breakfast on the weekends, the ability to wear warm underclothes and shoes as the jail only issues scrubs and sandals, improved library options that include books in Spanish, and access to actual outdoor yard space instead of the current small concrete recreation room with a partially open roof.*

## **The Rural Organizing Project posted on Facebook declaring victory in the strike:**

*"All together we won!" is the message we just received from hunger strikers at NORCOR jail in The Dalles. A jail administrator visited hunger strikers today and committed to meet some of their demands in the next 2-3 weeks. Hunger strikers have won better food, more activities including one hour outside in the yard and longer tv hours, and the opportunity to wear their own warmer clothes. A huge victory! Hunger strikers also shared that they could hear our chanting at the rally yesterday! Congrats Gorge ICE Resistance and all the groups in the gorge for your incredible and inspiring work!*

## **Meanwhile in Indiana, several inmates have launched a hunger strike in protest of horrific conditions. According to IDOC Watch:**

*Several inmates at Wabash Valley Correctional Facility have announced that they have begun a hunger strike to protest their deteriorating conditions. Their immediate demands include: removal from camera monitored cells, relocation from abusive staff, and the cessation of tampering with food and the confiscation, reading and withholding of mail by administration. The announcement follows a sequence of escalating problems that have unfolded in the prison for the past several months, rekindling a too-long dormant culture of resistance to IDOC policies.*

*For some time, the IDOC has pursued a path of repression characterized by the isolation of inmates whom it perceives as threatening to the stability of their regime of oppression. These inmates are often kept in Indiana's form of solitary confinement known as "Secure Control Units." Wabash Valley has taken this practice, widely recognized to be a form of torture, to new extremes by indefinitely detaining inmates in isolation cells monitored 24 hours a day through video surveillance.*

*The selective treatment of politically conscious inmates is not limited to isolation and surveillance, however. Prisons in Indiana have developed a parallel judicial system in which the civil protections available to free*

*citizens are completely absent. Inmates are consistently penalized and charged with internal violations which can result in their placement in isolation or loss of "good time" which by Indiana Code cannot be regained. In these faux-courts, prisoners are deprived of any right to representation or possibility of viewing the "evidence" used against them. Charges are often brought as a form of reprisal, beginning with disciplinary reports filed by disgruntled or sadistic guards looking to punish inmates for refusing passive obedience to their oppression. The increasingly severe forms of repression manifest on all levels of the IDOC and affect all inmates as well. Several trends have coalesced and finally culminated in an irreconcilable crisis. The current landscape of the IDOC is the result of these trends, primarily the entrenchment at the top levels of executive administration of old-guard prison staff experienced in the ways of prisoner abuse, the construction of prison facilities in rural, economically depleted areas which produces a situation that pits the solidarity of largely euro/ "white" communities against predominately non-euro/ "white" prisoners, and finally the privatization of all aspects of prison operation and management. These trends mutually influence and extend one another, creating an increasingly antagonistic atmosphere, resolvable only through the initiative of prisoners in taking all measures to reassert their humanity.*

In response, a call-in campaign has been launched. Here is an image to share on social media if you can and organize a call in event to help prisoners.

Meanwhile, action has continued on both sides of the bars, with people in Durham taking to the streets against another death in custody, things still going down across South Carolina, and the Free Alabama Movement (FAM) releasing a new statement – so be sure to stay up with Bloc Party in coming days for more information.

### **3. NWDC RESISTANCE, “OVER 100 PEOPLE DETAINED IN ICE CUSTODY BEGIN HUNGER STRIKE AND WORK STOPPAGE INSIDE THE NORTHWEST DETENTION CENTER”**

**Published February 7th, 2018 by NWDC Resistance**

*<https://www.nwdcresistance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/February-Hunger-Strike-Press-Release-.pdf>*

Tacoma, WA – At least 120 detained migrants in four units at the Northwest Detention Center (NWDC) have begun a hunger strike to protest the abuses they face inside the facility, which is owned and operated by GEO Group, a private prison company, for Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The strike comes at the heels of a work stoppage on Wednesday February 7th by detained people who work in the kitchen and just days after NWDC Resistance held a People’s Tribunal in front of the NWDC.

Leaders of the strike report continued inhumane conditions and abuse at NWDC. Strikers are demanding GEO Group provide edible, nutritious food and emphasized the egregiousness of GEO’s practices by saying “food has gotten so bad it makes people sick. Food served in the hole [solitary confinement] is hardly enough, as we received smaller portions than people in general population.” The use of isolation, particularly as a form of retaliation, is a prevalent issue at NWDC. Strikers have also reported that GEO guards constantly search the beds and units of detained people without reason nor explanation and demand an end to these searches. In addition, strikers demand ICE provide fair hearings and lower bonds, particularly in light of recent bond amounts as high as \$35,000. This contributes to ICE’s practices of indefinite and prolonged detention, as do excessively long delays in carrying out deportation orders. Together, these have the effect of keeping people incarcerated and growing GEO’s profits.

Lastly, strikers delivered a message of resistance and called on others to join their efforts, "We are used to retaliation and intimidation, we are placed in the hole constantly, but no more! We need everyone to join us and stop working!"

NWDC Resistance activists and allies will mobilize to support strikers at the Northwest Detention Center. For live updates on the strike, visit [https://www.facebook.com/ NWDCResistance/](https://www.facebook.com/NWDCResistance/)

###

NWDC Resistance is a volunteer community group that emerged to fight deportations in 2014 at the now-infamous Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, WA. NWDC Resistance is part of the #Not1More campaign and supported people detained who organized hunger strikes asking for a halt to all deportations and better treatment and conditions.

## **4. BLACK AND BROWN WORKERS COLLECTIVE AND JUNTOS, “MAY 1ST: STATEMENT OF RESISTANCE!”**

**Published by Juntos**

*<http://vamosjuntos.org/may-1st-statement-of-resistance/>*

This May 1, 2017 the city of Philadelphia and hundreds of cities across the country will be participating in a national day of action. Locally, in Philadelphia, Juntos and Black & Brown Workers Collective along with our allies will stand together in the name of resistance for a day without immigrant, Black & Brown bodies. This is in effort to highlight the unilateral attacks that the administration has committed against not just immigrant communities, but Black & Brown communities, our LGBTQ family, HIV positive people, Muslims, women, young people, workers and many more. Together we make up over 75% of our city's population. We are the majority.

We are standing in collective power against the terrorist deportation machine that has been passed down through different administrations, anti-black policies/practices, and the genocidal and colonialist foundation of this country, which continues to inform those in power. We stand together to show that we as a people are worth more than our labor that our value comes from being human beings. We will not allow any one of our community members to be scapegoated and targeted because the liberation of our people is tied together and if one of us is targeted, none of us are safe.

On May 1st we will use our collective economic power to shake this nation to its core but there are many ways you can be a part of this resistance movement. Funnel your energy into actions like walkouts, boycotts, strikes, marches, town halls, etc. and point them all towards building coalitions focused on dismantling all the mechanisms in place that serve only to criminalize us, incarcerate us or deport us.

It is important to note the complex and complicated histories of Black people and African Americans in the U.S. Black bodies whose blood lines have been displaced through slavery and through forced economic violence must be honored in this struggle, must be lifted up in this struggle and in the broader sanctuary movement and while our individual struggles play out differently in the types of violence suffered by our people, collectively we ALL have a stake in the broader struggle for freedom. America was never great. It was founded and built on the genocide of our indigenous peoples, on slavery and the forced migration of people caused by the U.S.'s socio-economic policies that have decimated the global south.

But collectively we can demand that it bends to the will of the people. Black and Brown communities have for far too long been pitted against each other in an effort to to keep us all oppressed. We will not be silenced. We will not be scared into compliance. We WILL NOT let history repeat itself. All Power to the People!  
Yours in the Struggle for Liberation,

Black and Brown Workers Collective and Juntos

# 5. “BLOCKADE THE DEPORTATION MACHINE // BLOQUEAR LA MÁQUINA DEPORTIVA”

Published June 28th by It's Going Down

<https://itsgoingdown.org/blockade-the-deportation-machine-bloquear-la-maquina-deportiva/>

The following text was distributed by comrades in Chicago on May Day and in the intervening period. With the explosion of #OccupyICE actions around the country, we thought it would be useful to share. Español abajo.

*Let's organize ourselves to disrupt the infrastructure of deportation, to make immigration enforcement impossible!*

## **Deportations happen at the Gary/Chicago International Airport.**

Every Friday morning, immigrants who were arrested in the states of Wisconsin, Indiana, Kentucky, Kansas, Missouri, and Illinois, including many from Chicago, are bussed from detention facilities and deported from the Gary/Chicago International Airport. The deportation flights leaving from Gary stop in Kansas City to pick up more deportees before dropping them on the US-Mexico border. Over 19,000 people have been deported out of Gary in the past decade. Non-confrontational and heavily controlled airport protests and vigils sparked by Trump's election are quickly being absorbed into the deportation machine as part of its normal functioning.

## **ICE is getting more aggressive and wants more infrastructure to detain and deport more people.**

ICE has been conducting massive workplace raids across the country for the first time since 2008, including in the Chicago region. ICE conducts regular raids in Back of the Yards and Little Village that rarely receive news coverage: at least five raids have been carried out in those neighborhoods in the last eight months. On April 24, ICE arrested eight people in Highland, Indiana, and

another eighteen in Plainfield, Indiana. Earlier in April, ICE agents raided a meatpacking plant in rural Tennessee and arrested 97 people. In the mountains of western North Carolina, ICE conducted a week of raids beginning on April 14, during which they arrested 20 people. On June 19, ICE arrested 146 people in one massive raid in Ohio.

The existing detention and deportation infrastructure in the region is not sufficient for ICE's fast-increasing raids and arrests. The federal Omnibus spending bill, signed into law in March 2018, provided \$370 million more to ICE for immigrant detention than last year to be used at ICE's discretion, and could be used to add thousands of detention beds. The funding corresponds to a daily average of 40,520 immigrants in detention, which is an increase of 1,196 people in detention on any given day from 2017 funding. Despite the recent victories against immigrant detention centers in the region, the motivation that spurred past detention center proposals remains. ICE has been trying to build a detention center near Chicago since 2012. Organizers in Northern Indiana, Illinois, and Chicago have fought off seven separate proposals for detention facilities in different locations throughout the region, but more detention centers are being planned or proposed, in Hopkin's Park, Illinois, Calhoun County, Michigan, and Newton County, Indiana. Further, the struggle to stop deportations out of the Gary-Chicago International Airport is being met with increasingly intense policing.

### **ICE depends on physical infrastructure to function**

This is a call for for organizing to interrupt the operations of the deportation machine. Appealing to legislators and politicians for reform is a dead end that traps us in the game of fighting for an inclusion in society that requires the exclusion of others. The reduction of the genocide of migrants to the legislative battle to save DACA – a policy that defines some immigrants as deserving of citizenship and others as undeserving – is key to the erasure of the daily violence done by the deportation machine.

By shifting our focus from policy to infrastructure- the child holding facilities, the parking lots where ICE houses its vehicles, the ICE training facilities, the businesses that contract with ICE, the detention centers, the airports- we can actually interrupt the machine. The way that these logistics have been organized is meant to hide these massive operations in plain sight. These are not only far-away detention centers, they are also a circuitry that is embedded in the fabric of our city.

*Let's struggle in a way that directly threatens ICE's power.*

*Let's organize against the physical infrastructure that ICE uses to carry out it's terroristic state violence.*

*Immigration enforcement is nothing but a mechanism of exploitation and racism.*

*Let's make it impossible.*

## **BLOQUEAR LA MÁQUINA DEPORTIVA**

### **Las deportaciones ocurren en el Aeropuerto Internacional Gary / Chicago.**

Todos los viernes por la mañana, los inmigrantes que fueron arrestados en los estados de Wisconsin, Indiana, Kentucky, Kansas, Missouri e Illinois, incluidos muchos de Chicago, son trasladados desde los centros de detención y deportados desde el aeropuerto internacional Gary / Chicago. Los vuelos de deportación que salen de Gary se detienen en Kansas City para recoger más deportados antes de dejarlos en la frontera entre Estados Unidos y México. Más de 19,000 personas han sido expulsadas de Gary en la última década. Las protestas y vigiliadas no confrontacionales y fuertemente controladas del aeropuerto, desencadenadas por las elecciones de Trump, se están absorbiendo rápidamente en la máquina de deportación como parte de su funcionamiento normal.

## **ICE se está volviendo más agresivo y quiere más infraestructura para detener y deportar a más personas.**

ICE ha estado realizando incursiones masivas en el lugar de trabajo en todo el país por primera vez desde 2008, incluso en la región de Chicago. ICE realiza redadas regulares en Back of the Yards y La Villita que raramente reciben cobertura de noticias: al menos cinco redadas se han llevado a cabo en esos barrios en los últimos ocho meses. El 24 de abril, ICE arrestó a ocho personas en Highland, Indiana, y otras dieciocho en Plainfield, Indiana. A principios de abril, agentes de ICE hicieron un incursión en una planta empacadora de carne en la zona rural de Tennessee y arrestaron a 97 personas. En las montañas del oeste de Carolina del Norte, el ICE llevó a cabo una semana de redadas que comenzaron el 14 de abril, durante las cuales arrestaron a 20 personas. En Ohio, agentes de ICE arrestaron a 146 personas en una redada masiva el 19 de junio.

La infraestructura existente de detención y deportación en la región no es suficiente para las incursiones y arrestos de ICE que aumentan rápidamente. El proyecto de ley federal de gastos Omnibus, promulgado en marzo de 2018, proporcionó \$ 370 millones más a ICE para detención de inmigrantes que el año pasado para ser utilizado a discreción de ICE, y podría usarse para agregar miles de camas de detención. Los fondos corresponden a un promedio diario de 40,520 inmigrantes detenidos, lo que representa un aumento de 1,196 personas detenidas en un día determinado a partir de la financiación de 2017.

A pesar de las recientes victorias contra los centros de detención de inmigrantes en la región, la motivación que impulsó los centros de detención pasados permanece. ICE ha estado tratando de construir un centro de detención cerca de Chicago desde 2012. Los organizadores en el norte de Indiana, Illinois y Chicago han parado planes para centros de detención en diferentes lugares de la región, pero se están planificando más centros de detención en Hopkin's Park, Illinois, el condado de Calhoun, en Michigan, y el condado de Newton, Indiana. Ahora, la lucha para detener las deportaciones desde el Aeropuerto Internacional Gary-Chicago se enfrenta a una vigilancia policial cada vez más intensa.

**ICE depende de la infraestructura física para funcionar**

Este es un llamado a organizar para interrumpir las operaciones de la máquina de deportación. Apelar a los legisladores y políticos por la reforma es un callejón sin salida que nos atrapa en el juego de luchar por una inclusión en la sociedad que requiere la exclusión de otros. La reducción del genocidio de los migrantes a la batalla legislativa para salvar a DACA – una política que define a algunos inmigrantes como merecedores de ciudadanía y otros que no lo merecen – es clave para borrar la violencia cotidiana que hace la máquina de deportación.

Al cambiar nuestro enfoque de la política a la infraestructura – las instalaciones de detención para niños, los estacionamientos donde ICE aloja sus vehículos, las instalaciones de capacitación de ICE, los centros de detención, los aeropuertos, los negocios que construyen los centros de detención y los que hacen los uniformes – podemos realmente interrumpir la máquina. La forma en que se han organizado estas actividades logísticas pretende ocultar estas operaciones masivas a plena vista. Estos no son solo centros de detención lejanos, también son circuitos integrados en el tejido de nuestra ciudad.

*Luchemos de una manera que amenace directamente el poder de ICE.*

*Organícese en contra de la infraestructura física que ICE utiliza para llevar a cabo su violencia de estado terrorista.*

*La aplicación de la ley de inmigración no es más que un mecanismo de explotación y racismo.*

*Hagámoslo imposible.*



## 6. JUNTOS, “LOCKING UP OUR FAMILIES IS NOT THE SOLUTION!”

**Published by Juntos**

<http://vamosjuntos.org/locking-up-our-families-is-not-the-solution/>

Pence, Trump, and Sessions have spent the last year and a half using their power to further engrain white supremacy into the trenches of our nation. They use the rhetoric of “Law and Order” to tear families apart and criminalize migrants, asylum seekers, and Black and Brown people. By eroding protections for our people like DACA & TPS, allowing ICE agents to enact dangerous raids with impunity as well as criminalizing migration and asylum seekers, we are experiencing the oppression and devastation of our community at an unprecedented level not seen in decades.

Detaining families together is not a valid solution to family separation. People seeking refuge do not deserve to be met with chain link fences and trauma. Children should not be growing up in jail cells. We need to expand the scope of our outrage to include the inhumanity of the detention of thousands of immigrants all over the country. The emotional and physical violence inflicted on our families by the U.S. is irreparable, and to then further rob them of their freedom is revolting at best.

We have seen the effects of this in the streets of Philadelphia, where almost 50 people were disappeared in one week last month as a result of dangerous ICE raids, leaving many Philadelphia children separated from their families. Families are ripped apart right here and in the wake of so much injustice, it is more important than ever that we enact local change. It is time for us to shut down the Berks Family Detention Center and free our families that have been detained indefinitely right outside of Philadelphia. It is time for us to expand the meaning of sanctuary and make sure we are a true Sanctuary City by ending the dangerous P.A.R.S. contract with ICE as well as ending data sharing with them.

We must take action now to create tangible change for our people and create a precedent for this country to combat the brutality it has inflicted. If we continue to simply demand that families belong together, we will easily see the ballooning of more family detention centers like Berks Family Detention Center and mass incarceration. We can do better, at the border and in Philadelphia, to put an end to this nightmare.

# 7. ALL OUT ATL, “APPLY HEAT, MELT ICE: REFLECTIONS ON THE ANTI-ICE MOVEMENT IN ATLANTA”

Published July 5th 2018 by It's Going Down

<https://itsgoingdown.org/apply-heat-melt-ice-reflections-on-the-anti-ice-movement-in-atlanta/>

A report from Atlanta on the past few days of #OccupyICE activity, as well as an analysis on where we can expect things to go in the coming terrain.

It has become an urgent necessity, as the storms of revolt and refusal are once again sweeping up the angry and desperate everywhere, to catalogue reflections, lessons, and insights. The movements are continuously racing forward. In most movements, it is the radically inexperienced who constitute the super majority. They are alone or with their friends and family, they do not come with a plan or an ideology, they represent no organization or institution, and they have only their intuition and passions to direct their gestures and interventions. Revolutionaries should dedicate time and focus to connecting to and learning from these forces because they are without ideological or factionalist loyalties. Alternately, those of us who have learned a thing or two from the time when we were inexperienced or directionless would do well to share the lessons we learned in the preceding periods.

## Building the Blockade (Day 1)

On Saturday, the 30th of June, large demonstrations took place all over the country under the innocuous banner “Keep Families Together,” in reference to the draconian practice of separating families at the border in instances of illegal crossings and following raids and round ups of undocumented immigrants more broadly. Following the demonstration in Atlanta, autonomous and informally organized crews and groups initiated a march to the detention center in south downtown. As CrimethInc. reported:

*"After the rally was dismissed, a large banner reading "ICE BREAKERS: Chinga La Migra" was stretched across the street accompanied by chanting and drums. Several hundred joined, despite liberal protest marshals attempting to discourage them from doing so. Together, they marched back to the jail, holding the streets the whole way.*

*Peachtree Street was blocked outside the jail as hundreds chanted and waved to those locked up inside. Cops drove motorcycles through the crowd, but the crowd did not back down; soon, a couch appeared in the streets and people began to set up tents. The atmosphere was festive, with many dancing to music or playing soccer. As the day wore on, the cops slowly began to encroach on the occupation, forcing people to clear the street, confiscating the couch and tents, and violently arresting one person."*

Following this arrest, the occupation was still determined to maintain a protracted presence outside of the facility, and a few dozen people slept on sleeping bags and mats.

We made it through the first day.

## **When Push Comes to Shove (Day 2)**

The second day of the short-lived occupation was rich with collaborations, experiments, and refusals. Across the city and country, images and stories circulated about what was taking place in Atlanta.

In the morning assembly, it was determined that taking decisive actions was necessary, even if the encampment was crushed as a result. Throughout the day, the autonomous group All Out Atlanta initiated a call from inside of the occupation to converge on the detention center at night and to have a noise demonstration for inmates and detainees.

Roughly 100 demonstrators gathered with drums and signs outside of the jail and mingled while preparations were made for the march. The crowd was diverse in many ways, but was predominately comprised of young people. Without a speech, the crowd walked

directly into the streets chanting anti-border and anti-nationalist slogans as well as slogans against ICE and fascism. "No Borders, No Nations, Stop Deportations" and "Somos Todas Antifascistas" bounced off the walls of the Greyhound Station, while someone on a megaphone announced to the crowd that Greyhound has become infamous for facilitating ICE detentions on their routes and allowing police to search their buses.

In a short time, the crowd arrived at the ICE Field Office. Demonstrators marched around the building and began yelling at an officer standing behind a wrought-iron fence. Someone in a mask began shooting a roman candle at him, forcing him to retreat from the gate, while many others cheered. Demonstrators blocked a police car until a large black smoke bomb was ignited, sending thick plumes of smoke into the street and allowing the crowd to safely continue without a police tail. Once back to the occupation, tents and tarps were immediately erected. In less than five minutes, Atlanta Police were already walking over to dismantle them. Storm clouds hovered in the sky as the sun set behind the train station across the street.

The police were unable to seize the tents because the crowd refused to make concessions, collectively held onto the structure, screaming "Cops go home," and protecting one another from arrest. The atmosphere became electric with many chanting "that was fun, that was fun." More police arrived and the crowd became tense. From behind a large banner, everyone linked arms, forming cordons and chanting for the police to leave. For 30 minutes, shoving matches and clashes between protestors and police took place in full view of hundreds of inmates who were banging on their windows and flickering their lights. Police groped and attacked women and femmes, and did their best to break the morale of the crowd with infantile hazing and joking. All in all, the police failed after three total attempts to clear the encampment, which was quickly rebuilt with tarps and couches. Only one person was arrested, despite countless foiled attempts by the police.

As we have seen countless times in the past, only creative refusal can create the possibility of safety, while compliance tends to empower the police to take further liberties against us.

## **Send in the Dogs (Day 3)**

On the morning of the 2nd, the third day of the occupation, the city council was scheduled to discuss ICE and the situation with the protests. Some activists went to the meeting and signed up to speak. Meanwhile, a hundred police officers in riot gear and on bicycles marched down Peachtree Street and methodically destroyed the encampment. Those present did not feel capable of responding proportionally. After they made a mess, the jail forced inmates to clean up the remains while officers established a chain-link perimeter.

This gratuitous force has not ended after the occupation was cleared, ostensibly because no one has imposed a political cost for it. Neither the press nor the movement have organized to illustrate the scandal of these abuses, although some have begun to connect the struggle against ICE and deportations to the upcoming August 21st prison strike. If we are not able to respond in some way to these attacks on autonomous movements, the mass deployment of crushing authority will become normalized – something that the new chief of police has seemed committed to for at least a year.

## **The Fourth of July**

On the fourth of July, two events were planned in the context of the movement. In a parking lot outside of the detention center, some activists and other locals gathered for a barbeque. The barbeque was rumored to be organized in hopes of limiting participation by people with “anti-police intentions.” It is more likely the case that organizers, autonomists in their own rite, wanted a non-combative and non-conflictual event in hopes of facilitating an event unlikely to be repressed by police. Luckily for them, the police chose to allow this event to occur without incident, and simply to surveil it from

afar, even going so far as to follow anarchists and others as they left the event.

After the barbeque, All Out Atlanta and other autonomous groups organized a small protest to begin at Woodruff Park. The crowd began marching, many in masks, through the rain chanting anti-border slogans. Energy was high in the march for around 15 minutes as protesters outmaneuvered police in the narrow streets of the Fairlie-Poplar district. Once on Edgewood Avenue, however, the police took advantage of a gap in the banners to encircle the crowd and begin to attack it from the side.

The police arrested 6 protesters, who screamed in fear and panic as the democratic police forces smashed people with their hands and batons. One person was dragged across the road by her feet.

## **New Historic Compromises, Preparing for a New Period of Reflux**

Across the country, autonomous crews, anarchists, and anti-border groups and individuals have organized blockades and occupations of various means outside of ICE field offices and immigrant detention centers. In some places, protesters have taken to targeting Greyhound buses, who facilitate ICE harassment, and have targeted the home of Stephen Miller, architect of the current border policy. In Atlanta, in Philadelphia, in Portland, and elsewhere, liberal mayors have deployed force to crush the resistance, despite their trite words of condemnation to Trump's plans.

In Los Angeles, New York, Wichita, Charlotte and elsewhere, the police are seemingly dedicated to surveilling everything while hoping the protests wear themselves out. In this strategy, sending in disruptors and facilitating pointless splits cannot be ruled out. In San Francisco, the city has not seemed to develop a plan for crushing the blockade, which is utilizing physical barricades and barbed wire fencing.



But where are the crowds? The Democrats, who have orchestrated and executed mass round ups and deportations for 8 years, attempted to astro turf a movement against Trump's new policies into existence. Straight out of the gate, autonomous groups outpaced the authoritarians by initiating occupations in Portland, and then all over the place. The Democratic Party, and ostensibly sections of the social democratic organizers to their left, are preparing to mobilize their base for electoral strategies in advance of the midterm elections this November. This will leave autonomists alone in the streets to face down fascists, democratic mandates by Trump, and ecological disasters likely to take place during hurricane season. This moment is not without parallels in the past.

Anarchists, autonomists, and all determined and self-organized crews and individuals should strategize with these mid-term elections in mind. The left will attempt to make huge gains in the elections so as to form a coalitional government with Trumpism. By entering into the government, the social democratic groups, the activist cliques, the left wing demagogues, and the Democratic Party will help to further legitimize the Trump administration by reinvesting faith in democracy, it's methods of organization, and ultimately the society it creates.

Trump will no longer seem to be a dictator, but simply a politician acting within the alleged realities of "checks and balances," so casually dismissed by presidents for over 200 years. It is up to revolutionaries to reveal, in gestures and with words, the collaborationist and opportunist strategies of the reformers. In the coming period, we may find ourselves alone with only the most desperate and angry elements of the working class and we should prepare to be presented as unrealistic, psychopathic, and utopian. In reality, nothing could be further from the truth, because the border regime will not fall without being attacked, because only a self-managed struggle will permanently engage in conflict with authoritarians, and because the total expropriation of goods, land, and skills is the only way we can secure a dignified life.

Let's go all out against the borders, racism, and authority!

*for more:*

follow @AllOutAtlanta on Twitter

support arrestees at [www.atlsolidarity.org](http://www.atlsolidarity.org)



# 8. REVOLUTIONARY ABOLITIONIST MOVEMENT, “RAM-NYC BAILS A CAPTIVE OUT OF ICE CUSTODY”

Published June 12th, 2018 by It's Going Down

<https://itsgoingdown.org/ram-nyc-bails-a-captive-out-of-ice-custody/>

Report from ongoing organizing efforts by the Revolutionary Abolitionist Movement in New York.

With humility and respect for the struggle against the US policy of ethnic cleansing, RAM-NYC is pleased to announce that this May our Liberation Fund has bailed a captive out of an ICE detention facility. As this nation's racist war against people from Central and South America is at a fever pitch, Immigration and Customs Enforcement is at its greatest liberty to not only detain those who have crossed borders looking for reprieve from the devastation the US inflicted on their countries, but to also demand a ransom for their release in order to fight trumped up charges.

As we know, this is one example of the barbarism that the US government routinely inflicts on the most vulnerable: separating children from their families, shipping people off to detention facilities where they are sexually assaulted and forced into slave labor, and executing people crossing the border.

RAM-NYC stands with those who have risked everything to travel here and have become our neighbors, friends and comrades. As the US government's policies seek to dehumanize large swathes of people, we renew our commitment to creating a shared humanity, and fighting to destroy the conditions that wreak havoc on the world. The US government has made it clear that it is on a decisive, resolute path to totalitarianism and we will continue to stand with those resisting.



# 9. INCARERATED WORKERS ORGANIZING COMMITTEE, “PRISON STRIKERS ISSUE STATEMENT IN SOLIDARITY WITH THOSE FIGHTING ICE”

**Published June 19th by it's Going Down**

*<https://itsgoingdown.org/prison-strikers-issue-statement-in-solidarity-with-those-fighting-ice/>*

The following statement comes from Jailhouse Lawyers Speak, one of the groups pushing the #August21 prison strike across the US. Solidarity with those detained (children, women, and men) by immigration and Customs Enforcement and the families you are forcibly kept from. You are held in those for profit gulags, whose aims are to maintain a rotten nationalist- racist- capitalistic social order. The August 21st National Prison Strike called for strikes and boycotts in and against those so called immigration detentions for a reason, to acknowledge for the world that our struggles are not separate.

The Prison Industrial Slave Complex is a massive dehumanization business. With the ongoing rages against the detentions, we now feel justified in our call for National Strikes and outside protests against these places (immigration, federal, state, and jails) that for the most part are warehouses of human bodies.

Those occupying the so called immigration detentions must not allow a small concession by a policy change make you go away. You hold the keys to change. A full demand to abolish Immigration and Customs Enforcement should be the only resolution on the table. Otherwise the same problems will persist. Strike now, and strike hard while the momentum is going. August 21, thousands of prisoners in other places of detention will be joining at all costs. We will keep the beam on so called immigration. No let up. Educate, organize, mobilize! Resist! Abolish ICE!



# 10. LUKE, “ABOLITIONIST CONTINGENT BREAKS AWAY FROM #FAMILIESBELONGTOGETHER, PROTESTS AT STEPHEN MILLER’S CONDO”

Published June 30th by DCIndyMedia

<https://dcindymedia.org/node/1948>

On the 30th of June, the Abolitionist Contingent broke away from the huge #FamiliesBelongTogether march, and protested at the fancy condo home of Trump’s senior policy adviser Stephen Miller. It was Stephen Miller who both designed Trump’s Muslim Ban and encouraged Trump to start ripping children from their parent’s arms at the border. Now he has to answer to the public at the very gates of his home.

The main rally at Lafayette Park was so massive that the staging area, portajohns, medic tents etc had to be set up at Farragut Square. Heavy pedestrian traffic was evident as far away as K street. The Abolitionist Contingent joined in the huge march down Penn Ave before breaking away at 9th st, and when this was in front of Trump Hotel the crowd seemed to fill the street as far as the eye could see.

When the Abolitionist Contingent broke away, they marched up 9th st against traffic, a tactic that blocks pursuit by police cars and vans. From somewhere nearby a swarm of police bicycles and motorcycles came up 9th st and started hugging the sides of the march, in a tactic that looked eerily like some of the police behavior during Trump’s inauguration. This time though police did not open fire with pepper spray and grenades. When the march turned the corner and reached the palatial condo building in which Stephen Miller lives, police quickly set up a line of bikes defending the building. The cops acted like they feared an Occupy-style storming of the building which was never attempted. Still, being known as the originator of a policy that rips small children screaming from their parents’ arms is close to the most unpopular possible behavior with the general

public. Even a registered child sex offender who also killed puppies at Huntingdon Life Sciences for his job probably would be no more harshly regarded.

One of the chants outside Stephen Miller's home was "Stephen Miller we will fight, we know where you sleep at night!" On a related note, the Washington Post reports that Wikileaks has published a dossier of the home addresses of many ICE agents. Some of them will no doubt be receiving similar protests from angry neighbors and local activists disgusted with their crimes.

Earlier, at about noon a single anti-choice disruptor walked back and forth on Penn Ave in front of the White House. He was escorted by a dozen or so cops, He screamed antiabortion slogans into his bullhorn and seemed to be trying by any means possible to incite a crowd that outnumbered him by tens of thousands to one. Even when he assaulted someone (and was not arrested), the crowd did not take the bait. He was booed and shouted down, but the discipline of the crowd held and nobody punched him in front of all those cops. Right-wing tricks like throwing one punch only to run and hide behind police are just too well known.

On the first of July, the Washington Post did cover the #familiesbelongtogether march, though it was exiled to page C1 while Trump defending ICE was on the top left side of the front page. The Post also mentioned that a few Democrats are now endorsing the demand to Abolish ICE, even though the Post was mostly covering the GOP condemning that demand. This, however, means serious pro-migrant and pro-Indigenous activists have succeeded in putting the total abolition of ICE on the agenda.



