

# denver fights back



solidarity and action against police  
and state violence in the mile high  
city 2010-2011





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# Editor's Introduction

May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011

This zine was originally intended to go to press on the eve of the May 6<sup>th</sup> demonstration against police terror, an action that saw the most repressive response yet to the growing anti-police movement from a besieged Denver Police Department. As the date got closer, it was clear that May 6<sup>th</sup> was going to produce startling results both locally and nationally. The demonstration, as detailed in the communiques towards the end of this publication, was heavily policed. In a climate of fear generated by pre-march police sweeps through the haunts of possible participants and the nervous chatter of unsure activist circles in the preceding weeks, May 6<sup>th</sup> went down with an anxious knot of angry demonstrations swinging wildly; and a person still sits in jail facing trumped-up accusations of attempting to murder police officers during the dispersal, among a host of other charges.

Also seeing further developments since the original date for publishing is the case of Marvin Booker, the homeless street preacher killed in the jail in July 2010. His death sparked many of the protests and organizing that lead to the movement that continues today. On May 9<sup>th</sup>, three days after the march, the city released the surveillance video of his death and made the decision not to discipline the five deputies involved.

Undoubtedly, more demonstrations will be called for, because to most people, this problem is not being solved by the government and for all the heated debates on tactics and critiques of presentation, the outrage towards the cops has not abated. For many, now is a time to build infrastructure, organize further agitation, reflect, learn and analyze. To many, the demand for action has never been higher.

More than \$7.6 million has been paid out to brutality victims since 2004. The Denver Police Department, per capita, had the worst excessive force rate in the entire country. Within the confines of the local jail system and in the streets, beatings, rapes and murders are perpetrated by the authorities all over the state. A number of groups and individuals have jumped into organizing a confrontation to these conditions and the following texts are their communiques, reports and calls to action.

Outside of mass demonstrations and claimed actions, it is clear the city is being progressively transformed by struggle. Anti-police and anti-capitalist graffiti has become exponentially more prevalent within the last year, and almost everyone has an opinion on the police. The conversations teem on the transit systems and in the parks.

The revolutions seen over the last few months in the Middle East and

Africa were in part started by the issue of police violence. The root cause is clearly the State abusing authority over the people it subjugates. In Denver, perhaps people are talking about solutions, attempting to map out progress, and looking to create the space for confrontation towards the existing order as well a place to struggle for alternatives. Because of the events of the last year, there are people asking questions they might not have previously thought of, reading things they may have never bothered looking for, and most importantly trying to do things they possibly never thought they could do.

The talks and arguments and ultimately the actions that follow them over the next few months hold tremendous promise in strengthening and growing the diverse local radical community as well as furthering an anti-police culture among denizens of the city. It is monumentally important and inspiring to see Denver fighting back and engaging on a myriad of fronts in an attempt to solve issues through direct action. This publication is by no means a comprehensive guide to the police brutality problem in Colorado and the resistance to it. Further reading into other cities' departments reveals even more misconduct, showing that the problem is not just in Denver but permeating through the state and likely the country.

In solidarity to all struggling for liberation,  
The Editor

\*Special thanks to Colorado Indymedia ([colorado.indymedia.org](http://colorado.indymedia.org)) for hosting and maintaining many of the news reports, West Denver CopWatch ([westdenvercopwatch.wordpress.com](http://westdenvercopwatch.wordpress.com)) for their organizing, the Denver Anarchist Black Cross ([denverabc.wordpress.com](http://denverabc.wordpress.com)) for providing legal support and coverage, Queen City Antifa ([queencityantifa.wordpress.com](http://queencityantifa.wordpress.com)) for their organizing efforts and analysis, and the media contributors whose work is used in this publication.

# A Time Line of Denver Police Terror and the Resistance Against It

**July 2010:** Ron Perea, former special agent in charge of the LA secret service, replaces Al Lacabe as Denver's Manager of Safety.

**July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010:** Solidarity rally with Oakland opposition to police in relation to the Oscar Grant murder case.

**July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010:** Homeless preacher Marvin Booker killed by deputies in new Denver detention center.

**July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010:** Rally and vigil outside detention center to demand justice for Marvin Booker.

**July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010:** Banner drop in Lafayette denouncing the murder of Marvin Booker.

**August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010:** Rally and press conference by the Booker family for release of the videotape of his death.

**August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010:** City pays out \$20,000 to James Watkins for a police beating in April, 2009.

**August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010:** Perea opts not to fire Randy Murr and Devin Sparks over the vicious beating of Michael DeHerrera in April 2009. The beating was caught on tape and was widely considered by the public and press to be unprovoked. The story goes nationwide, considerably raising the brutal profile of the Denver police in the eyes of the rest of the country.

**August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010:** Video of Mark Ashford being beaten by police in March, 2010 surfaces, adding more pressure against the DPD. Then-candidate for governor and mayor of Denver John Hickenlooper announces the FBI should investigate the department.

**August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010:** Local Latino and African American community leaders meet with Perea and demand the firing of Murr and Sparks or immediate resignation of the safety manager. This is echoed by local politician Judy Montero.

**August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010:** Denver police re-open internal investigation of the DeHerrera beating.

**August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010:** Perea's decision not to fire Officer Eric Sellers after an incident in which he beat a volunteer firefighter for criticizing him in November 2008 and then proceeded to lie about it prompts many to call for Perea's resignation.

**August 23, 2010:** Perea re-opens the internal investigation into the Sellers incident, then hands in his resignation, effective August 31. Deputy Manager of Safety Mary Malatesta will take over until a new Manager can be found.

**August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010:** 150+ people take to the streets to march against police brutality.

**September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010:** Marvin Booker's family rallies and holds another press

conference in front of the jail where Marvin was killed.

**September 15, 2010:** In response to City Council inquiries, the City Attorney's office announces that Denver has spent nearly \$6.2 million since 2004 to settle lawsuits involving police officers, a number the office says has remained fairly static.

**September 19, 2010:** Denver police announce that in the previous month, officer-initiated investigations declined by nearly 25 percent from the year before, a drop that some officers attributed to fears about losing their jobs if other media controversies break out.

**September 23, 2010:** Rohit Mukherjee files a lawsuit alleging that he was brutalized in his home on April 10, 2010 by three Denver officers -- one of whom was Abbeigayle Dorne, a former American Gladiator candidate.

**October 2010:** Two police internal affairs officers, Bryan O'Neill and Daren Ciempa, are reassigned after secretly filming internal affairs head John Burbach with a video recorder disguised as a pocket pen, apparently to prove Burbach was biased against his officers.

**October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010:** 100+ people march through downtown Denver, blocking traffic and aggressively confronting police and police property.

**January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011:** Hickenlooper's mayoral replacement Guillermo "Bill" Vidal is sworn in as interim mayor, promising that police brutality is at the top of his list of concerns and vows that all police misconduct cases will be wrapped up before he leaves office in July 2011.

**January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011:** Community College of Denver student Alexander Landau files a lawsuit alleging Denver police nearly beat him to death in January 2009. One of the officers was Randy Murr, who was also involved in the DeHerrera incident. Landau also levels accusations that the beating had racist overtones.

**January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011:** Vicki Fernandez, aka Vicki Ferrari, another American Gladiator-turned-Denver cop, is cleared from a police brutality case by a federal jury. Vicki was accused of assaulting a Grease Monkey employee after he asked her to move her patrol car.

**January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011:** A Mexican family band files a lawsuit against the department after a January 2009 incident in which the District 1 Special Crimes Attack Team entered the family's house without a warrant and beat several of them without cause.

**January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011:** A demonstration of between 200 to 300 people or more snakes through downtown, blocking traffic and erecting barricades against the police. One arrest is made after the gang unit attempts to grab dispersing participants and the detainee is released without charges.

**February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011:** A federal judge rejects a claim by Nick Lynch that he was unjustly beaten by cops in March 2008 after an altercation in LoDo.

**February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011:** A panel discussion about the nature of police and the role of policing in society is held in a radical space in Denver.

**March 14, 2011:** As one of her last acts before ceding the position, Safety Manager Mary Malatesta fires two police officers for lying about the details of an incident in which they chased a stolen car.

**March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011:** New Manager of Safety Charles Garcia fires officers Sparks

and Murr for their involvement in the DeHerrera incident after determining they lied during the internal investigation.

**April 7, 2011:** Mayor Vidal announces the elimination of the city's Discipline Review Board as a way to speed up police-discipline investigations.

**April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011:** Charles Garcia fires Ricky Nixon and Kevin Devine over a brutality incident in which they beat three women and maced one outside the Denver Diner in July 2009. Nixon is one of the officers accused in the Alex Landau case and widely known as a notoriously brutal cop.

**May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011:** Denver settles the Alex Landau case for \$795,000, one of the largest police brutality payouts in city history. Officers Murr and Nixon have been fired for other incidents at this point.

**May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011:** In the fourth round of street demonstrations, protesters scuffle with police and snake through downtown for two hours. The police department spends tens of thousands of dollars confronting the small demonstration. During the dispersal, participants reported seeing a firework go off near several trucks of riot police. One arrest is made when cops chase a participant down an alley and charge them with several felonies a week later.

**May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011:** All deputies involved in the Marvin Booker case are cleared of any wrongdoing and the video of the incident is released to the public. A group of protesters locks down the jail following the announcement.

**May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011:** Booker's family calls for a federal investigation into the incident.

**May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011:** The US Justice Department announces to the media that they are weighing whether or not to investigate the Denver Police Department for civil rights violations on the heels of opening investigations against the Seattle, WA PD and the Newark, NJ PD.

# Oscar Grant: Denver stands in solidarity with Oakland

## From Denver ABC's Blog

Denver, July 8, 2010:

At the same time that crowds started to gather in Oakland to respond to the verdict in the trial of BART police officer Johannes Mehserle, residents of Denver rallied in opposition to the murder of Oscar Grant and to the occupation of our neighborhoods by the police.



### Denver Anarchist Black

Cross put out a call for a solidarity demonstration to start at 7pm local time at the Sheriff's Department headquarters at 13th and Cherokee in downtown. About 35 folks showed up with 2 hours notice with banners and signs that read "All cops are murderers" and "From Oakland to Denver, we will always remember".



After spending half an hour at the Sheriff's Department, the crowd moved to a busier intersection outside the U.S. Mint at Colfax and Cherokee. After another half hour, and many honks, raised fists, and cheers of support, the group marched to the corner of Broadway and Colfax, one of the busiest intersections

in downtown Denver.

Honks, raised fists, cheers, and cries of support were constant. Folks that were waiting for the bus at the nearby RTD bus shelter motioned for the demonstration to come to the bus shelter. Cries of "fuck the police"



echoed from the folks gathered at the bus shelter, as they swelled the ranks of the protest. For the next hour, the spirited crowd grew to over 50.



A couple of motorcycle cops made a small effort to intimidate independent journalists and photographers, but left

shortly after being “schooled” by members of the crowd.

The action laid the foundation for more solidarity actions to come, and for a renewed energy in the local anti-authoritarian movement.

**Editor's Note:** Several hours after this demonstration, homeless street preacher Marvin Booker was killed by five Sheriff's Deputies in the new Van Cise-Simonet detention center.

## **Rally and Vigil Call for Marvin Booker**

**July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010**

### **Call from West Denver CopWatch**

Join us, on Thursday July, 22nd at 6:00pm, at the New Denver Jail, for a rally and vigil to Demand Justice for the brutal murder of Marvin Booker.

**WE DEMAND JUSTICE FOR THE BRUTAL MURDER OF MARVIN BOOKER!!!!!!!!!!**

**WE DEMAND TRANSPARENCY REGARDING THE BRUTAL MURDER OF MARVIN BOOKER!!!!!!!!!!**

**WE DEMAND THE THE RELEASE OF ANY AND ALL ALL RELEVANT INFORMATION REGARDING THE BRUTAL MURDER OF MARVIN BOOKER!!!!!!!!!!**

**WE DEMAND THE RELEASE OF ANY VIDEO SURVEILLANCE REGARDING THE BRUTAL MURDER OF MARVIN BOOKER!!!!!!!!!!**

**WE DEMAND PUNISHMENT FOR THE BRUTAL MURDERERS OF MARVIN BOOKER TO THE FULLEST EXTENT OF THE LAW!!!!!!!!!!**

West Denver Copwatch, Aurora Copwatch, and concerned community members will be converging to to make these demands known.

**When: Thursday July 22, 2010 at 6:00pm**

**Where: Van Cise-Simonet Detention Center, located at 490 W. Colfax Ave (the new jail)**

**Bring signs and solidarity**

# **Banner Drop in Lafayette Denouncing Marvin Booker's Murder**

**July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010 – Lafayette, CO**

A banner reading “All Cops R Murderers, Justice 4 Marvin Booker” was hung on the Emma Street overpass in the afternoon along Highway 287, according to a communique posted to Colorado Indymedia. This came on the heels of rallies and vigils in Denver over a homeless man murdered in Denver's new jail facilities early in July 2010.

## **Marvin Booker Rally Wednesday August 11th: DEMAND JUSTICE**

**Circulated by West Denver CopWatch**

Marvin Booker was a street pastor tased and beaten to death in the new Denver jail. His family, including his father and brothers have just arrived in Denver to get answers around his brutal murder.

The family, along with his attorneys, are demanding entrance into the jail to relive and attempt to put to rest the horrific tragedy that occurred by the hands of the Denver Sheriff's department.

Join the Family for a press conference and to Demand Justice for Marvin Booker

When: Tomorrow, August 11th @ 10:00 am

Where: Van Cise-Simonet Detention Center, located at 490 W.Colfax Ave



# Times and Places: On Consequence

by anonymous for Colorado Indymedia

**August 20th, 2010 - Denver, CO**

The police in Denver are rabid. Folks are saying the cops and the city are "circling their wagons" after multiple high-profile brutality incidents were caught on video. By the actions of the Denver Sheriff's Department and Denver Safety Manager Ron Perea, it would be hard to say those folks are wrong. At the new detention center, fully equipped with state of the art surveillance, a small but lively 54 year old black houseless street preacher brought in on a minor drug charge is beaten, choked out, and tased before succumbing to death over a pair of shoes; the Sheriff's Department and the District Attorney do everything they can to suppress the release of the video in the name of a "pending investigation." His killers, five guards, continue to work in the facility despite a Denver Corner ruling of homicide this week. More rallies are planned.

Meanwhile, the video from a beating in April 2009 surfaces. Michael DeHerrera calls his father, a Pueblo police officer, in a panic while Denver Police arrest a friend of his outside a LoDo nightclub. According to the father, the cops began to beat DeHerrera because they thought he was recording the arrest. Footage taken from a police security camera suspiciously pans away from the beating shortly after it starts, and an internal investigation let the officers off. Amid a public outcry for Safety Manager Ron Perea to step down after the ruling, he is standing by his decision although the police department is reopening the investigation.

Another man, Mark Ashford, comes forward amidst these stories alleging he was beaten by Denver cops, too. While walking his dogs last March, he assures a motorist stopped by police for running a stop sign that he will testify in court that the man obeyed the traffic law. The police confront him, apparently upset over Ashford's support of the motorist as well as Ashford using his phone to take pictures, and wrestled him to the ground, throwing punches along the way. Ashford was hospitalized with a concussion and cuts on his face.

Within the last month and a half, local sentiment has turned against the police. A rally organized by the Denver Anarchist Black Cross in solidarity with those revolting over the Oscar Grant verdict in Oakland last month was reportedly met with "honks, raised fists, cheers, and cries of support were constant. Folks that were waiting for the bus at the nearby RTD bus shelter motioned for the demonstration to come to the bus shelter. Cries of "fuck the police" echoed from the folks gathered at the bus shelter, as they swelled the ranks of the protest." Radical propaganda is spotted in LoDo and Highlands, some if it already deteriorating from people attempting to tear it down, it's pasted on walls and dumpsters with slogans against the police. Even the local

corporate media seems to be dogpiling atop the stories, smelling blood in an election year. The journalists seem to be asking honest questions at the vigils and rallies, following up on older stories and tying tales of brutality together, painting a portrait of a poisonous tree instead of a few bad apples. People ask "wasn't the [outcome of] the Emily Rice case supposed to fix this?" referring to the landmark case in which a woman died of internal injuries after her calls for assistance went ignored in the old Denver detention facility. Famously, the police "lost" that tape, prompting concerned people converging upon the Marvin Booker case to wonder if the department was going to continue its long-standing policy of covering up its mistakes.

The police did not learn from the Emily Rice case. No lawsuit pay-out or amount of bad publicity is going to stop this rampage against the public. This an abusive relationship the citizens of Denver have with the Denver Police, and the only thing that stops the abusive behavior pattern is palpable and firm consequence. Firing the murderers of Marvin Booker isn't enough, more academy rejects from the DPD will step in to take their place. Imagine if a citizen was suspected of being responsible for the death of a police officer, would they be eligible to return to work the next day? Or would they be held without bail indefinitely until the conclusion of the trial? This double-standard, this act of the State protecting the frothing, bloodthirsty dogs it sics on the public without a second thought, contributes to the growing trend of turning the public into just another complex form of livestock. Keep the line moving or get the prod.

In Oakland, CA, the public went wild when the police murdered Oscar Grant, causing the city, in an appeal for calm, to arrest the offending officer. In Greece, the popular insurrection sparked by the murder of a 15 year old in a radical neighborhood continues to help destabilize a country in the throes of the ugly side of capitalism. Plenty of other examples can be found all over the world where the people fight back, take a stand against the State and its violence, and refuse to take this shit by setting a real precedent for resistance. These smatterings of rage provide a fiery consequence to police violence, helping blaze a path to where the policemen draw their weapons nervously out of fear of what sort of hellish storm could be brought down should they go too far or even do their "job" in a less-than-invisible fashion. A world where there is no machismo-caused "collateral damage" like 7 year old Aiyana Jones in Detroit, slain by pigs in a raid on the wrong house.

But those that seek to manage this anger, channel it politically or attempt to minimize the possibility of damage to the police and State tell folks that "there is a time and a place" for that kind of rage, that yearning for some real action. Well, Denver has a dismissed and paid for negligent homicide, there are two investigations into brutality caught on camera, and a secretive investigation into the death of Marvin Booker. The cops don't show any signs of letting up, despite the system attempting to clean itself. The public is powerless, the police protect themselves and each other, and people are beginning to realize this. The fight isn't in the courts, where consequences can be neutered and the

public's anger defused, it's in the streets. This isn't about what color you are, where you come from, your sexuality or politics. "This is about being a human being." They abuse us all and they aren't going to read the picket signs and start changing their minds.

**Denver, isn't now starting to look like "that time"? Isn't this city starting to look like "that place"? Where you at?**

**Editor's note:** This piece originally had numerous hyperlinks in it and can be viewed in its original form at Colorado Indymedia. An amendment was also posted after Safety Manager Ron Perea resigned:

### **An amendment**

"from the author" or whatever

Just because Perea resigned or the officers are on paid leave doesn't change a thing. They are attempting to minimize the systemic problems with police and prison systems by falling on swords and absorbing accountability. I can only hope the public understands that and dodges the press's attitude that this is some kind of "fresh start." More abuse will come and more injustice will demand action.

See you in the streets this Saturday.

# **Community March and Rally Against Police Brutality**

**(August 28<sup>th</sup> call from West Denver CopWatch)**

**Join West Denver Copwatch, Aurora Copwatch, the hood, the barrio, the community, and concerned folks for a tour of police brutality.**

Denver Law Enforcement has been brutal for years, however the situation has reached a pinnacle.

We will be marching to the sites of the most recent incidents of brutality

The march will begin at 20th St and Little Raven where Mark Ashford was brutalized.

It will continue to 15th street and Larimer where Shawn Johnson and Michael DeHerrera were viciously assaulted.

The march will end at the Van Cise Justice Center where Marvin Booker was murdered by the hands of Denver deputies, and the rally will ensue.

Be there to demand JUSTICE, TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY, OVERSIGHT, and an END TO POLICE BRUTALITY

Where: Gather at 20th and Little Raven

When: Saturday August 28, 2010 @ 2:00pm, Step off @ 2:30pm

Bring your love and your rage

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

Media Contacts:

Glenn Spagnuolo (All Nations Alliance) number omitted

Omar Gutierrez (West Denver Copwatch) number omitted

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 26, 2010

**COMMUNITY MARCH AGAINST POLICE BRUTALITY: RESIGNATION IS NOT ENOUGH!**

The Denver community will be joining West Denver Copwatch, Aurora Copwatch, the All Nations Alliance, the LGBTQ community and other community organizations for a march in response to the spree of civil rights violations and criminal behavior carried out by the Denver Police Department (DPD) and the Denver Sheriff's Department. The event will take place Saturday, August 28th at 2:00 p.m. The march will begin at the corner of 20th and Little Raven, where Mark Ashford was viscously assaulted by DPD officers. The march will proceed to the corner of 15th Street and Larimer, which is the scene where DPD officers brutalized Shawn Johnson and Michael DeHerrera. The march will conclude at the Van Cise-Simonet Detention Center, where Denver deputies murdered Marvin Booker. A short rally will commerce once arriving at the Detention Center.

The resignation of Safety Manager Ron Perea may have been a first step in restoring trust within the community regarding community and law enforcement relationships, but much more is needed from Mayor Hickenlooper's administration and city officials. West Denver Copwatch, The All Nations Alliance and others demand that the officers involved in the above mentioned cases be terminated from their positions and be charged criminally for their illegal behavior. Additionally, justice must be served for Marvin Booker's family, who are seeking answers to his homicide. We demand that the videotape showing the murder of Mr. Booker be released to the public. Furthermore, we demand an increased level of community input in the hiring of the new Safety Manager as soon as possible. Anything less, only serves to distract from the fact that Denver Law Enforcement Agencies' behavior has become so egregious that they have caused the death of a beloved community member. Something must be done to prevent yet another murder in our community!

It is anticipated that Denver police will be present during the march. We want to be clear in our position that due to the actions of its officers, we no longer trust DPD with the ability to protect our community. We request for the safety of the community members present at the march and rally, and that law

enforcement officials keep a reasonable distance from the participants. We are engaging in a peaceful, non-violent exercise of our federally protected First Amendment rights and DPD interference is not welcome.

# Community Protests Police Terror

Tina Braxton for Colorado Indymedia

On Saturday, August 28, activists and concerned community members marched through the streets of Denver to protest murders and beatings of unarmed persons by Denver and Aurora police officers. About 150 marchers gathered at 2 pm, at the corner of 20th Street and Little Raven, where Mark Ashford was brutalized. The march followed a route that visited the scene of police violence against Shawn Johnson and Michael DeHerrera at Fifteenth and Larimer Streets, and finally ending at the Van Cise Simonet Detention Center, where Marvin Booker, a homeless street preacher arrested on a misdemeanor charge, was beaten, tased, and crushed to death by deputies on July 9, 2010, as he tried to retrieve his shoes, before being taken to another area of the jail.

There were several protests shortly after Mr. Booker's death. This larger event, organized by All Nations Alliance and West Denver and Aurora Copwatch, was the first since the usually complacent court termed Mr. Booker's death a homicide. The deputies involved in the death have been put on paid leave—hardly a punishment--and Safety Manager Ron Peria has resigned. However, outraged community members are calling for full prosecution of the case, with murder charges against the officers. They are also demanding the release of a video-tape that captured the murder of Mr. Booker.

The march was completely non-violent and drew interest from non-participants. As we set off, I remember young people in the skateboard park coming over to watch and asking us about the reasons for the march. Similar responses were observed all along the route, especially on the Sixteenth Street Mall. At the head of the procession, marchers carried a black coffin bearing Marvin Booker's picture, which they deposited at the jail where he was killed. Many of the signs carried by the marchers bore the names of persons killed or beaten by Denver and Aurora police, and some survivors of police violence were present.

One survivor, Mr. Thomas Armstrong, drew intense interest from marchers, press, and onlookers, with his emotional descriptions of the violent attack against him by Denver Police, on November 11, 2005. Mr. Armstrong was beaten unconscious, pronounced dead on the scene when his heart stopped, placed in a body bag, and revived later at University Hospital, where he remained on life support in a coma for three weeks. He has been called "Lazarus." As he marched, Mr. Armstrong carried a t-shirt bearing pictures of himself after the attack, holding it high for the crowd to see, while repeating his story again and again, interspersed with various warnings: "Don't let them kill you! Don't let them kill your kids! They'll sweep it under the rug and get away

with it! If you want to be a serial killer, become a Denver cop; you'll get away with it every time!" He also told us that his own father, Mr. Earl Armstrong, had been killed by police years earlier, and he did not know why. The horror in Mr. Armstrong's voice was still evident, despite the passage of nearly five years since he was brutally attacked, and bystanders were frequently seen following him for a time, listening to his story. Some of them were visibly upset as they heard the details of his story.

After the marchers arrived at the Detention Center, a rally ensued. Glenn Spagnuolo addressed the crowd first, asking, "Where is our humanity when we do not, as a community, react with outrage when a homeless preacher is beat to death for merely wanting to get his only possession, his shoes?" He compared the Denver Police to a roving gang of criminals, noting that they are organized, armed, and brutal. He told the crowd to "remember that Marvin could have been your brother, your father...or even you, if you are arrested on a misdemeanor charge..."

Other speakers compared recent police violence with the historic patterns of violence integral to American Empire—the destruction of indigenous peoples, the kidnapping and enslavement of African peoples and their descendants, the subjugation of women, and the recent attacks of La Migra against migrant workers. Thomas Armstrong also spoke, this time to the entire crowd, about his nearly fatal experience at the hands of the police, and the terror that still haunts him.

The final speaker was David, of West Denver Copwatch. David called for justice for Marvin Booker's family, including prosecution of the criminals who wore blue uniforms and murdered a poor, gentle preacher. He demanded release of the video-tape the police are hiding from the public, and called for real community oversight of police, with authority to discipline and fire officers who are a menace to the community they are supposed to protect.

After the rally broke up, I talked with a friend about the recent incidents of police violence, as he took me back to my car. We could not come up with any scenario in which such brutal behavior could be excused. We concluded that the problem is not police error; it is not impaired judgment of officers in stressful situations. Such things might occur sometimes, but the recent epidemic of police violence in Denver fits a different pattern. It is deliberate violence, apparently just because those officers want it.

# Marvin Booker family holds press conference

By mbc for Colorado Indymedia

On September 9, two months to the day after Marvin Booker was murdered by five sheriffs deputies in Denver's brand-spanking new jail, members of Mr. Booker's extended family, in Denver from all over the country to mark the occasion, gathered with their attorneys for a press conference on the steps of the City and County building. Earlier in the day, they had met with Mayor Hickenlooper, who, they said, had expressed condolences and sympathy to the family. And the mayor appeared at the press conference, for which he certainly deserved credit, since I'm sure the city attorney told him not to; though when asked by a reporter about his appearance, and its relevance to the inevitable civil lawsuit, Hickenlooper was quick to say that it did not in any way constitute an admission of wrongdoing on the part of the city. Reverend Spencer Booker, speaking for the family, thanked the mayor for showing sensitivity to their pain, but also called on the District Attorney to quickly bring criminal charges against the officers responsible for Marvin Booker's death. Darold Kilmer, the lead attorney for the family, also called upon the mayor and the city to achieve swift accountability and take measures to ensure that nothing like this happens again. Imagine, he said, if five inmates had killed a deputy; imagine how much further along the process of holding someone accountable would be. He called on the DA to act promptly to bring appropriate criminal charges, noting "the unfortunate history in Denver of a failure of courage to charge law enforcement officers criminally." Which was a diplomatic way of noting that a DA criminally charging a cop or sheriff for even the most egregious criminal act occurs with roughly the same frequency as a sighting of Halley's comet.

The issue of the video of the incident of course came up. The mayor said that the DA has told him that the state Criminal Justice Records Act prevents the city from showing the video to anyone, because it may be evidence in a trial (in fact, the act allows officials considerable discretion. Kilmer was quick to disagree with the DA's interpretation of the law; nothing, he said, prevents the city from allowing members of the family to privately review the video, in order to see their relative's last moments, as they have requested over and over again. But apparently the city has no intention of allowing them this closure. Dr. Timothy Tyler, of Shorter AME, reiterated what so many people in the city have tried to make clear to the mayor, that the longer the tape is withheld, the more people think the city is trying to hide something, and that the reports of the witnesses to the incident, that Marvin Booker was the victim of a vicious murder, must be true.

While Hickenlooper promised that the city is doing everything it can to

move the process along, one very disturbing note emerged. The mayor mentioned in passing that the DA might em-panel a grand jury as part of the process. While required at the federal level, grand juried are not at the state or municipal level. So why might he do so? Because he doesn't want to charge the officers (prosecutors are always reluctant to do so, because they depend on police testimony for convictions), but neither does he want to face the political heat for not charging them, so he can pass the buck to a grand jury, present a weak case to them and when they don't return a true bill, say, what can I do, it's out of my hands. Which leaves, of course, a civil suit, and the city will inevitably settle for a bunch of money, as they always do, to avoid allowing the deputies' actions to become part of the public record. And Denver law enforcement will continue to commit abuse and literally kill people with impunity.



# **This Friday/O22 : March for Justice for Marvin Booker!**

English callout appears below.

O22 DIA INTERNACIONAL CONTRA LA REPRESION POLICIACA  
VIERNES, 22 OCTUBRE 7PM  
MARCHAMOS PARA EXIGIR JUSTICIA!

ELLOS LO ASESINARON MARVIN BOOKER  
Y ELLOS QUEIREN ZAFARSE DE ESTO.

ALMENOS QUE NOSOTROS ACTUEMOS AHORA

EXICIMOS

HACER PUBLICO LOS VIDEOS DEL ASESINATO DE MARVIN BOOKER  
JUSTICIA EN CONTRA DE LOS ASESINOS  
TERMINAR CON LA GUERRA EN CONTRA DE LA GENTE DE DENVER  
POR PATRE DE LA  
POLICIA

TRAE A TU GRUPO, TU FAMILIA, TUS AMIGOS, Y TU CORAGE

-----  
O22 International Day Against Police Repression:  
Friday October 22nd, 7pm  
Confluence Park, Denver  
March for Justice for Marvin Booker!

They murdered Marvin.  
And now they will get away with it.

Unless we stop them.

For the last decade, October 22nd has been marked as the International Day to Stop Police Brutality, Repression and the Criminalization of a Generation.

Join Queen City Antifa, Comite Defensa Del Pueblo, and West Denver Copwatch for a night in the streets of Denver to demand justice!

We are calling on everyone and anyone in Denver and the surrounding area to fill the streets to demand justice for Marvin Booker and others that have been murdered, attacked, and targeted by Denver area police departments and agencies.

The Denver DA's office announced just several weeks ago that no charges will be filed against the deputies responsible for the death of Marvin while he was in custody at the new Denver Justice Center.

We demand justice!

We demand an immediate release of any videographic evidence of Marvin's

murder!

We demand an end to the war by Denver policing agencies against the people of Denver!

Bring your friends, families, crews, and your rage. Join us on O22.

Spread the word.

See you in the streets.

## O22: Taking it to the streets to remember Marvin Booker

In communities across North America October 22nd has become a day to commemorate victims of police repression and violence. For many communities, October 22, 2010 took on a more urgent meaning in the wake of severe police repression and violence that has plagued cities large and small. In Denver, this year's October 22nd event saw a rise in hostility towards the cops and an increased militancy from years' past.



Throughout 2010, police in the metro area have repeatedly made headlines with horrific acts of violence directed at community members. Ranging from allegations of sexual assault, rapes of children, murders, and beatings, news stories have painted a picture of a department that is clearly running amok and waging war on the residents of Colorado. Offending officers are rarely held accountable and department leadership deftly sweeps incidents under the rug to stave off an increasingly angry public.

One of the most violent and high profile incidents occurred in July. Denver Sheriff's Deputies serving as guards at the new Denver Justice Center murdered 56 year old Marvin Booker, a homeless preacher being held as a prisoner at the jail. Marvin had asked for access to his shoes before he would comply with orders to return to his cell. In response, five deputies tackled him, placed him in repeated choke and pain compliance holds, tasered him, and beat him. Marvin died shortly after the attack. While the local coroner deemed the death a homicide, the DA announced in late September that no charges would be filed against any of the officers involved.



In response, an ad hoc coalition called for a demonstration in the city in observation of O22. A cluster of diverse participants, most hearing of the march

through fliers and handbills diffused around town, began to amass in Confluence Park. Folks were given access to candles, stickers with Marvin Booker's face, and a bilingual handout to give to passerby on the route of the march. A banner was unfurled, "When cops attack, we will fight back" and quickly the group, numbering at about eighty, took the street and marched towards the 16th street mall, the commercial center of downtown Denver.

The makeup of the crowd is a particularly important and revealing factor in how this march went down. Few members of the local "left" were present. About two dozen Denver based anarchists, most of whom were involved in organizing the demonstration were on hand along with several members of RAIM and Comit  Defensa Del Pueblo. Otherwise, the crowd was nearly entirely made up of street youth and other homeless people. The participation of liberals, non-profit organizers, radical collective house dwellers, and even other militant revolutionaries and most of Denver's anarchists was visibly lacking from the event. The march was almost entirely comprised of people that have direct experience with the police on a daily basis, who were motivated more by hatred at their direct social conditions than any reading of political theory.

Because of this, the mood of the march was pretty clear at the onset. Chants of "No justice, no peace, fuck the police" and "Cops, Pigs, Murderers" were loud and spirited. Previous debates that have plagued local activist circles for the last several months, about violence and nonviolence, about whether every cop is our enemy or not, were non-existent. The crowd was united by rage and a militancy that is all too rare in political actions in Denver or elsewhere.

Masked demonstrators dashed to passerby handing out fliers and slapping the stickers of Marvin on every imaginable surface, including shop windows, higher-priced cars, buses, and posts. The crowd gained more participants from the street, screaming Marvin's name and jeering at the cops beginning to follow.

Halfway along the route, a parked police car was redecorated by the demonstrators. Stickers of Marvin were put on the windows, tires were slashed, people took keys to the paint and various projectiles were thrown at it. This was all done directly in front of an unmarked police car coming to respond to the march, a real indicator of how fearless and angry the crowd was.

The crowd proceeded along the 16th street mall and towards the capitol building. Demonstrators blocked the large multi-lane street of Broadway, stopped traffic on Colfax street, and weaved the wrong way down several nearby streets in an effort to thwart the mounting police forces attempting to block the demonstration in from all sides. Originally, the march was set to go to the Justice Center, but several people pointed out that it would be easy to block the crowd in and that there weren't the numbers for a larger confrontation. Instead, the crowd filtered into Civic Center park where an impromptu rally was held and space was given for participants to share stories of police violence.

Shortly after the speakout session, a tactical decision was made to disperse into smaller groups and end the march. The event ended with really high energy and a feeling of collective power, and no arrests. Revolutionaries and street kids parted ways with hugs and laughs and promises to fill the streets together again very soon.

## Text of O22 Handout

The text of the handout which was given to several hundred onlookers and passerby:

*The cops murdered Marvin Booker.  
And they'll get away with it.  
Unless we stop them.*

*On July 9, a homeless black man, Marvin Booker, was murdered by jail guards at the Denver Justice Center. After demanding access to his shoes, Marvin was tackled, punched, placed into chokeholds, shocked repeatedly with tasers, kicked, and beaten by five guards. He died shortly after the attack. Video of the entire beating exists, but has never been made public. Marvin's family has never even been allowed access to the video.*

*On September 28, the Denver DA's office announced that no charges would be filed against the deputies. Marvin is dead. Beaten to death while in police custody because he wanted his shoes. Marvin posed no threat. He had no weapon. He was a 5 foot 6 older man who was overwhelmed by the physical force of five sheriff's deputies and died. And now, no one will ever be held accountable for his death.*

*The deputies still guard other prisoners. At least one deputy, Faun Gomez, was involved in another questionable death of a prisoner in the past. They pose a threat to the lives of every prisoner they guard, yet they will face no repercussions for their actions.*

*The police of Denver have made it quite clear that they are at war with the people of Denver. News of their attacks and beatings make daily headlines in the local media. In the last several weeks Denver Police officers have been implicated in multiple beatings, sexual assaults on children, rapes, incidents where officers threatened jail time in efforts to solicit sex, and murders.*

*It has also been made quite clear that the perpetrators of these injustices will never be held accountable by the same system that they protect. There will be no accountability unless we, as ordinary people, are the ones to create it.*

*Until people physically fight back and stop police officers from attacking them or their friends, until there is civil unrest every time a cop murders someone, until our communities are able to defend themselves and deal with anti-social behavior without relying on outside police forces, cops will continue to murder,*

*maim, rape, and assault.*

*While we spend our time watching talking heads lie to us on TV with false political promises in exchange for our votes, the police run amok. If we think change will come from politicians, from elections, from people other than ourselves, then we'll continue to be beaten in the streets and die in their jail cells.*

*It's up to us. To fight back. To shoot back. To riot and rebel. It's up to us to act. Every time the cops attack someone, we must respond. We must respond as if our lives and the lives of everyone around us depend on our action. Because in the end, they do.*

*In July, it was Marvin. Next month it could be any of us. Unless we all stop them.*

*Los policías asesinaron a Marvin Booker.*

*Y ellos quieren zafarse de esto.*

*Mientras nosotros no los paremos.*

*El 9 de julio, un pordiosero negro, Marvin Booker, fue asesinado en la cárcel por los custodios, en el Centro de Justicia de Denver. Después de pedir sus zapatos, él fue atacado, golpeado, trataron de aflojarlo (ahorcarlo), electrocutado repetidas veces con una pistola eléctrica y pateado por cinco policías. Él murió poco después del ataque.*

*El video del ataque existe, pero nunca ha sido hecho público. Inclusive la familia de Marvin no ha tenido acceso al video.*

*El 28 de septiembre, la oficina de la policía de Denver anunció que no pondrá cargos contra los custodios. Marvin está muerto. Golpeado hasta la muerte mientras estaba en custodia de la policía, solo porque él quería sus zapatos. Marvin no era una amenaza, él no tenía armas, él medía 5.6 pies, un hombre viejo quien fue aplastado por la fuerza física de cinco policías hasta la muerte. Y ahora nadie es responsable de su muerte.*

*Los policías todavía resguardan a los otros prisioneros. Al menos uno de ellos, Faun Gomez, estuvo involucrado en la muerte sospechosa de otro prisionero. Ellos son una amenaza de muerte para cada prisionero en custodia. Ellos (los policías) no enfrentarán ninguna repercusión por sus actos. La policía de Denver ha dejado claro que están en guerra contra la gente de Denver. Las noticias de sus abusos y golpizas están diariamente en primera plana en los noticieros locales.*

*En las últimas semanas los oficiales de la policía de Denver han sido implicados en golpizas, asaltos sexuales de niños, violaciones, asesinatos e incidentes donde los oficiales piden tener sexo o amenazan con cárcel.*

*Queda claro que los perpetradores de estas injusticias nunca serán juzgados por este sistema que ellos protegen. No serán juzgados mientras nosotros, la gente común, seamos los que la creamos.*

*Hasta que la gente peleè físicamente y le pongamos un alto a ellos y a sus aliados de estos ataques. Hasta que nosotros actuemos sin descanso cada vez que un policía mate a alguien, hasta que nuestras comunidades esten preparadas para defenderse y hacer frente a esta conducta antisocial sin contar con la fuerza policiaca. Los policías seguiran asesinando, mutilando, violando y agrediendo.*

*Mientras nosotros perdamos nuestro tiempo viendo en la television las mentiras del día con falsas promesas políticas a cambio de nuestros votos la policía mata gente de forma indiscriminada. Si nosotros creemos que los cambios vendran de los politicos, de las elecciones, de otra gente que no seamos nosotros mismos, entonces continuaremos siendo golpeados en las calles y asesinados en las celdas.*

*Depende de nosotros; defendernos, amotinarnos, revelarnos. Depende de nosotros que actuemos. Cada vez que un policía ataque a alguien, nosotros debemos responder. Nosotros debemos responder como si nuestras vidas y la vida de cada uno alrededor de nosotros depende de nuestras acciones, porque sino, al final, ellos lo haran.*

*En julio fue Marvin, el proximo mes puede ser uno de nosotros. Hasta que nosotros los paremos.*



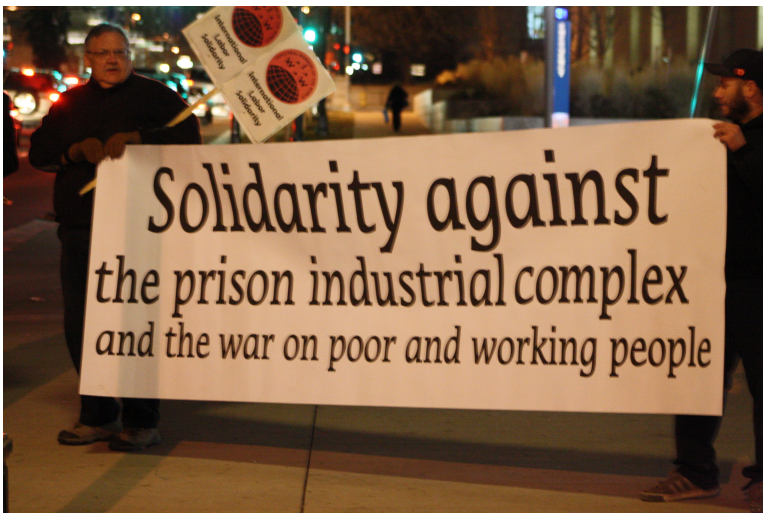
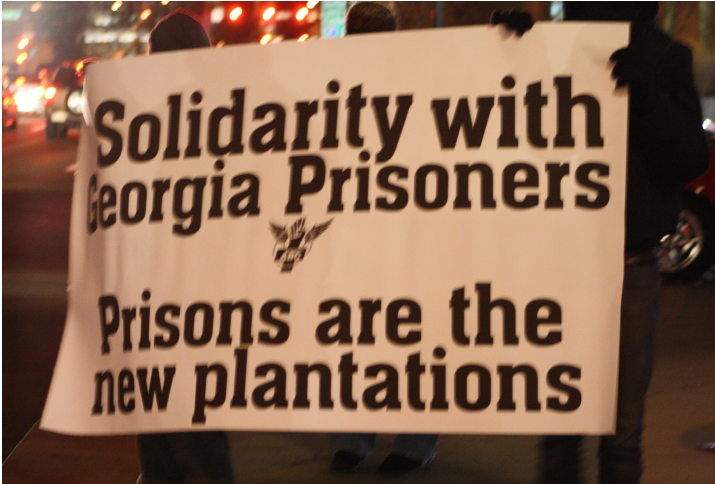
Marvin Booker

Murdered by cops July 2010 in the Van Cise-Simonet Detention Center

# Georgia Prisoners Solidarity Rally

December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010

The Denver Anarchist Black Cross called for a solidarity rally December 16<sup>th</sup> in support of the prisoner's strike in Georgia, one of the largest coordinated actions ever seen in the North American prison system. Around 20 to 30 people attended the rally on a particularly cold evening in front of the Van Cise-Simonet detention center.





# March for justice for Marvin Booker and all the victims of police terror!

Saturday January 29, 6pm, Meet at the Denver Skatepark

No justice, no peace...

Six months ago, Denver sheriff's deputies murdered Marvin Booker. Since then, there has been no justice.

We are still here, we are still angry, and we are still demanding accountability. Until then, there will be no peace.

In the six months since Marvin's murder while in custody at the Van Cise-Simonet Justice Center, nothing has changed. The deputies that murdered Marvin still guard other prisoners, after the Denver DA refused to press charges. The videotaped evidence of the entire incident has never been released to the public, under the claim that an internal affairs investigation is still ongoing.

Six months later, and nothing has changed. In the months since Marvin's murder, dozens of allegations have been leveled against Denver metro area law enforcement departments of abuse, assault, rape, and misconduct.

In Aurora, a DARE officer distributed child pornography. In Denver, a police officer raped women and threatened them with arrest if they failed to give in to his advances or tried to report his actions. In Denver, lawsuit after lawsuit has been filed alleging extreme police violence. In Denver, police assaulted a disabled woman for not opening the door fast enough for them. In Lakewood, police killed an unarmed man who was stealing money to pay his rent and take care of his family.

This isn't just about a few bad apples. This is about the role of police and policing within our society.

While the economy crumbles, and millions of people in the US are unemployed, and millions more face evictions and homelessness, the police are at war with the people. Working to protect what little is left of the social order and the power that the rich struggle to maintain, the police wage an unrelenting assault on the people of the U.S.

From police murders in Seattle to Oakland, from Baltimore to Denver, the pattern is easy to understand. We are all targets.

Join us to march against police terror. Let's take the streets to show them that we aren't going away... that we're still angry... that we will always remember Marvin and all the other victims... that we will take action.

Six months have passed, and nothing has changed... but WE can make

this whole situation change. It's up to us.

# Endorsing Call for Demonstration Against Denver Police January 29<sup>th</sup>

## Queen City Antifa

It has been more than six months since the senseless murder of Marvin Booker by the Denver Sheriff's department. Marvin, a homeless street preacher booked on minor charges, was only asking to grab his shoes when he was choked, beaten and tazed by five jail guards before succumbing to death. His killers were cleared of any wrong-doing, even amidst a roar of public outcry, and internal affairs refuses to release the multi-angle video of the incident to the family or the larger community demanding accountability.

Marvin isn't the only casualty of Denver's police. In fact, it's getting difficult to keep track of how many people have been brutalized by the police across the state this year. Lawsuits are flooding the courts, ranging from accusations of racially motivated assaults to coercive rape. Presently, there are police in the Denver metro area being investigated for sexually abusing children and possessing vast troves of child pornography. The police are shooting first and spinning it in the media later far more often than the typical "isolated incident" pattern their public relations departments shill us. These are not "our neighbors" or "people just trying to do a job." They are sociopathic, power-hungry, violent fiends. They are our enemies, they are extremely powerful, and they are at war with the people of this city.

But there is resistance. In the last six months, Denver has seen numerous rallies and vigils, and they all too often end in a defeatist state of mourning where participants typically resort to shouting reasonable demands to unreasonable and uncaring institutions which are hardly even listening. There have been marches and demonstrations where revolutionary militants, marginalized people and street folk united to block traffic, trash a police car, and face the cops in the streets. This battle must expand and it won't stop until there is real justice, vengeance, and palpable accountability. Real actions need to be taken. We will not be stomped on, exploited, or abused by this false authority any longer.

Join us and others at the Denver skate park at 20th and Little Raven on Saturday, January 29th at 6 PM for a demonstration and march through the city. Take a stand against police violence and reclaim the streets for our community. Bring your friends, family, crew or colleagues. On the 29th, we will stand in solidarity with the victims of police violence everywhere, and we will remember Marvin Booker. We will remember the bloodied faces and cracked

skulls courtesy of the Denver police. We will be angry, loud, and unforgiving. Our rage won't be stopped until we are truly free from oppression.

**REMEMBER THE VICTIMS, NEVER FORGET MARVIN BOOKER!  
FUCK STATE AUTHORITY, POWER TO THE PEOPLE!  
EVERYONE TO THE STREETS JANUARY 29th!**

-Queen City Antifa

(A)

## **Text of Speech Read Before 1/29 Demonstration**

**author/speaker unidentified, video available from Denver Open Media**

We have gathered tonight to remember Marvin Booker and all the victims of police violence. Marvin, as many people know, was a homeless preacher booked at the Denver Justice Center for a minor infraction in July. He was only trying to grab his shoes when five Sheriffs Deputies savagely beat him, shocked him, and choked him before carrying him back to a cell to leave him for dead. The district attorney refused to press charges, instead leaving the murderers comfortably collecting paychecks of taxpayer money without having to work. It's been six months, and all we've gotten are lies, delays, elaborate bureaucratic excuses and poorly executed cover-ups.

Meanwhile, hardly a day goes by without more bad press for law enforcement in Colorado. Brutality lawsuits in Denver are piling up to the tune of \$6.2 million in payouts over the last six years. The Denver Police department, per capita, has an excessive force rate ten times the national average; the worst in the entire country. In Aurora, officers are facing allegations of sexually assaulting children as well as possessing a large collection of child pornography. There are so many victims of horrific beatings at the hands of the police that it's becoming difficult to keep track of all the stories.

Over and over, despicable acts of violence against the public go without punishment to the offending officers. John Heaney was beaten by undercover detectives near Coors Field in 2009, the officers slammed his face in the sidewalk and shattered his teeth. The cops got off, using the defense that the sickening smack heard when the victim's teeth were broken was actually the crack of a bat at the stadium. Alberto Romero was murdered in September 2009 by police who tased and beat him until he died. Romero had eight broken ribs and his tongue was split in half. He was wearing only a pair of boxer shorts. His family was paid \$225,000, but the cops weren't ever charged. Nicolas Alvarado was shot and subsequently beaten to death by police a little over two years ago.

The police got off. If the police are continuously found not guilty and cleared of their actions, why are there such large payouts to the victims and their families?

These scum, and make no mistake, that's what these swine are, are protected by their departments and the sniveling politicians whose interests they serve. John Hickenlooper promised the family of Marvin Booker that they would be allowed to watch the multi-angled security footage of Marvin's last night alive. To this day, nobody outside of police and city officials have seen the tape. Hick was all-too-happy to sweep the matter under the rug and make his way to the governor's office. In Denver's upcoming mayoral race, candidates will surely dodge the issue of the city's barbaric police department. The police union is too powerful for slick politicians to challenge. They are playing political games with our lives, and it's time we put a stop to it.

The solutions to these problems won't come from some pampered official, courtroom or internal affairs stooge, they will come from our communities, our people, and our neighborhoods. It is up to us to fight back. Marvin Booker, like so many people in this city, needed help. He had fallen through one of the many cracks in this rotting system. That too, falls on our shoulders. We need to work together to build strong, healthy communities. Reform is not enough. We need to prove and assert the fact that we can live without the cops, take care of each other and build our collective power.

Tonight, we march for Marvin Booker and the victims of police brutality everywhere. We march for Michael DeHerrera, John Crespín, James Watkins and Mark Ashford. We march for Juan Vasquez, a 16 year old boy who had his ribs broken and liver lacerated after three cops beat him senseless. We will not forget the victims, nor will we rest while these perversions of justice go unpunished. The police are acting like an occupying army, and if that's what they want, tonight we are all insurgents. No Justice, No Peace. Fuck the police.

# We ain't takin' this no mo': the streets fill with rage against the Denver PD

## Queen City Antifa Reportback on 1/29 Demonstration

Denver, Colorado. January 29, 2011.

We ain't takin this no mo'!

### The Action

In a third round of street demonstrations against police terror in the Denver metro area in the last six months, hundreds took to the streets of downtown Denver on the night of January 29<sup>th</sup>. A crowd that started as 150 and at times fluctuated to almost twice that number stormed the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Mall, a commercial epicenter of downtown Denver in a display of rage that hasn't been seen in Denver in quite some time.



The actions come on the heels of an endless series of police misconduct incidents, including the killing of a prisoner named Marvin Booker by Denver County Sheriffs at the Van Cise-Simonet Detention Center in July 2010. A laundry list of beatings, rapes, child pornography and drug charges has marked police activity in the metro area. Lawsuit after lawsuit

has been filed, with the city of Denver paying out millions of dollars over the last several years.

The crowd gathered at the Denver Skatepark at 19<sup>th</sup> and Little Raven Streets at 6pm. Because of its proximity to downtown and the locations of several high profile police misconduct cases, the Skatepark has been the launching site of two of the three street actions that



have happened since the murder of Marvin.

The crowd assembled for several short speeches, and stormed off into the night, filling the streets. Banners accompanying the crowd included messages such as “Marvin Booker was murdered” and “6 months later, we have not forgotten”. Several more pointed banners also illustrated the anger seething within the crowd. One banner displayed a picture of a Glock pistol with the words “They have left us no other option” printed below the weapon. Another depicted twin unicorns impaling stereotypical renderings of a businessman and a police officer.

As the crowd moved toward downtown, united chants filled the air: “From Denver to Greece, Fuck the Police!”; “Cops, Pigs, Murderers!”; and “Oink, oink, bang, bang, every day the same old thang” were among the crowd’s favorites. Marvin Booker’s name was also chanted excitedly and for long periods of time, to remind the cops and other passerby of one of the many victims at the hands of Denver metro law enforcement agencies.



The march passed over the pedestrian bridge into the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Mall district, taking both lanes of the street, shutting down all bus traffic on the mall. As with the demonstration on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, hundreds of stickers of Marvin’s face were placed on storefronts, street poles, and other targets.

Although no permit existed, police worked to direct traffic away from the march, and kept their distance while the march worked its way toward the capitol and the detention center.

After an unexpected turn toward the jail, the march took over Colfax Ave, one of the busiest streets in Denver, blocking all traffic on the street. Several blocks later, and the march was at the steps of the Van Cise-Simonet Detention Center, the new jail where Marvin was murdered by guards



just six months ago, and where so many other victims of police terror end up on a daily basis.

The crowd surged toward the doors of the center, covering the large glass entrance with stickers. The whole entrance shook as marchers pounded and kicked on the doors and windows, while the crowd loudly screamed Marvin's name. A deputy that came out to try to intimidate the crowd found himself momentarily pinned in between the frame and the door he attempted to exit from. After the door being slammed on his arm several times, he retreated back inside the building. The crowd had demonstrated its militancy and willingness to engage the deputies. No other jail guards attempted to confront the crowd.

The march proceeded to 14<sup>th</sup> Ave, and took a turn back toward downtown. At this point, construction barrels and security fencing from a large event that had taken place earlier in Civic Center Park were pulled into the street behind the marchers. A series of low level barricades were erected.

The march turned yet again, this time onto Broadway, another of the busiest streets in Denver. The march proceeded the wrong way down the one way street, and police frantically tried to clear traffic out of the path of the march.

Their attempts failed, and the crowd continued back toward the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Mall.

By the time the crowd reached the mall, the march had been in control of the streets for well over an hour. A sense of power and rage seemed to be emanating from the crowd. The second pass through downtown would not be as peaceful as the first.

Trash cans, benches, chairs, and anything else not bolted down filled the streets behind the marchers. Christmas decorations, pay phones, and displays were destroyed by the crowd. Even more trashcans and chairs were thrown at bank windows, though few, if any of the windows seemed to break.



Anti-cop graffiti filled the walls and windows of businesses as the crowd continued to work its way back up the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Mall. The crowd wanted to make sure that people would not forget this night. The city and the police would not be able to ignore the anger and rage seething from this march.

Somewhere near Champa and 16<sup>th</sup> Street, a decision was made to disperse, as riot police were finally mobilizing nearby. With a quick group countdown, the marchers dispersed themselves into the night.

One arrest was confirmed during the dispersal, though the person arrested was later released without charges after the police failed to identify them in any photos they had taken of the acts of property destruction.

### **The Actors**

Much has been already noted about the mood of those in attendance, and the actions they took. But what of those that took the streets?

Much like the crowds that assembled in October, the participants in the march were mostly youth. Many were homeless and poor street kids who are frequently targeted by police downtown. Anarchists and other radicals were much better represented in this march than the previous October action. However, many familiar faces from the various scenes that make up the Denver anarchist movement were yet again missing. More mainstream activists and progressives were also in attendance, but yet again, constituted a very small minority. Probably the biggest difference from October was that local graf crews and hip-hop heads were well represented at this march.

Overall, the crowd was widely diverse, but was overwhelmingly comprised of poor or working class youth. Just as in October, this factor was one of the largest reasons that the march was as militant as it was.

### **Finale**

In the several days that have passed since the march, very little media coverage has been aired of the events of January 29. Two small snippets appeared on the local ABC and FOX affiliate news channels. A photo-montage of the police response that took place at the end of the march appeared in the local entertainment weekly, the Westword. But these few examples represent all of the local mainstream coverage of the event. Several photo essays and videos have been released from participants or independent and movement journalists. These reports, as has become typical, are the best representations of the events of the night.

Even as the media and the police try to black out the events that transpired, the news has reached thousands of residents in Denver already. Of course, the visible reminders of the march still litter parts of downtown days later, spurring conversations and storytelling about the nighttime melee.

### **The Next Act**

The future looks promising for a movement that is both anti-cop and anti-authoritarian to continue to strengthen in the Denver area. With each successive action organized by radicals in response to the growing police terror



in our communities there has been an escalation of tactics. The participation level has also increased, but not merely in the area of numbers, but in the amount of participation a single person puts into each action. Instead of a march with just several people controlling all the messaging, and the tactical decisions, the vast majority of the crowd became an active part in shaping the demonstration. Whether through tagging, erecting barricades, confronting cops, constructing banners, or controlling the chants, the march participants nearly all left behind the role of spectator by engaging in the actions of the night.

The reign of police terror does not seem poised to cease any time soon, and neither does the anger rising from our communities. As one march



participant pointed out our mission is to “create crisis and break the peace.” The actions of January 29<sup>th</sup> definitely succeeded.

The police may still attempt to take actions against the participants, but as of yet we know of no charges having been filed against anyone involved in the march. This lack of immediate repression has also done much to embolden the participants of the march.

The next few months could be tumultuous indeed for the city of Denver. Even if elected officials fire a few of the officers involved with the endless list of misconduct cases, it doesn’t appear that the thirst for vengeance will be quenched.

People in Denver are starting to realize that they can become powerful. That can only spell trouble for the people that attempt to steal that power.

There are certainly challenges that face this movement. Questions of tactical efficacy need to be posed, especially as several march participants were almost hurt by others within the march wildly throwing objects. The general tactical decisions of the group seemed sound, but the relative inexperience of the participants could have injured fellow comrades.

Could the crowd have defended itself if directly attacked by the police? In case of mass arrest, were networks strong enough to deal with dozens of arrests, bail scenarios, and court dates? How easily can various elements of the participants be turned against each other? Does solidarity only exist between social groupings during these marches, or is solidarity an everyday experience?

Education and training will certainly be needed, as well as much more practice in the streets. Most of these questions can only be answered if the needs themselves arise. Others, however, need to start to be answered now, before the situations they reference become reality.

January 29<sup>th</sup> was just the latest chapter!

The rest of the story is unwritten!

In solidarity and rage!

Queen City Antifa

**January 31, 2011**

## **Panel Discussion February 26th: Our Enemy, the Police**

**Circulated on Colorado Indymedia**

It has been seven months since the murder of Marvin Booker and there has been a resurgence of a movement to combat police terror. As we ask questions of where this movement can go from here, we must also come to an understanding of what it is we're fighting against.

Join panelists from a variety of movement backgrounds and experiences in a discussion of the role of policing and imprisonment in our society and who these forms of social control benefit and why.

Saturday, February 26th 4PM-6PM

27 Social Centre 2727 W. 27th Ave Unit D (27th and Decatur, 2 blocks east of Federal, alley entrance to building) Denver, CO

# Denver Women's Correctional Facility Demonstrations

In March and April, the Denver Anarchist Black Cross organized demonstrations outside the Denver Women's Correctional Facility in response to allegations of sexual assault perpetrated by guards. Their blog has more information:

**“Saturday April 9th, 3:00pm**

**Stand with women prisoners resisting abuse!**

Last month, members of Denver ABC along with allies confronted guards and administrative officials at the Denver Women's Correctional Facility in East Denver in response to the recent filing of a lawsuit against the culture of sexual assault and violence at the hands of guards at the facility. We stood with giant banners and signs to show the women at DWCF that they had allies on the outside. They responded with raised fists and pounding on the windows of their cells. This month, we will go back, and again show our solidarity for the women held captive inside the facility. @ DWCF, 3600 Havana, Denver”

The April demonstration carried a banner with the mailing address for the Denver ABC, which inmates copied down and eventually sent letters to the organization. Both demonstrations invited a police response, and the demonstration's participants held their ground each time even when police arbitrarily ticketed cars and a guard brandished a shotgun. The demonstrations will likely continue and the prison abolition group will continue to organize around this issue.

## Denver FBI Headquarters Protest

April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011

The Denver Anarchist Black Cross organized a protest in front of Denver's FBI Headquarters on April 11<sup>th</sup> due to a member of the local radical movement being continually harassed by FBI Special Agent Stephan Hale. The member told members in the community that agents from the FBI were calling him on nearly a weekly basis pressuring him to work as an informant.

With banners demanding the FBI to take their “hands off” the community member, several demonstrators attempted to deliver a stack of letters from the community to Stephan Hale themselves. Gate guards eventually called an agent down to deal with the situation, and when he was asked for his name (in case the letters were mysteriously never delivered) he refused. The agent became irate when the demonstrators demanded a meeting with Agent Hale and denied the agent at the gate the letters, and eventually the local police as well as the Department of Homeland Security were called.

When the protest dispersed, police attempted to follow participants back to their cars. This was foiled creatively, however en route to a meeting space a car full of protesters was stopped but not detained relatively close to the FBI HQ.

To date, the community member hasn't been contacted again by the FBI.

## **May 6<sup>th</sup> March: March against police terror! March for Marvin, Oleg, and all the victims!**

**Queen City Antifa**

Friday, May 6 · 7:00pm – 10:00pm  
Sunken Garden Park  
8th and Speer  
Denver, Colorado

The police are at war with the people. It's time for the people to be at war with the police.

9 months ago, jail guards in the Van Cise-Simonet Detention Center in Denver, murdered a homeless street preacher, Marvin Booker. Videotape of his brutal murder exists, but has never been made public. The Denver District Attorney declined to file charges against the deputies responsible.

No one has faced any justice for Marvin's murder...

On May 3rd, Denver will host city wide elections for a new mayor and new city council members. Though most of the mayoral candidates have promised a change in the local police forces, the results of this election will change nothing.

No matter who is elected, the police will still terrorize our communities. High profile cases of police violence fill the headlines of local media. Officers beat, taze, and pepper spray residents of the Denver Metro Area with impunity. Though several tolkeinized terminations have recently taken place, these firings will ultimately not stop the police terror raging in our neighborhoods and streets. In Aurora, police execute Russian migrant youth merely for being in the wrong place at the wrong time. In Denver, police raid homes and beat whole families.

This isn't a case of a few bad apples. The whole orchard is diseased

and rotten.

As the U.S. military occupies countries across the world to maintain control over a global economy that impoverishes billions, police forces across the United States occupy neighborhoods to maintain a social order that impoverishes millions in this country.

The poor and working class are beaten, murdered, imprisoned, evicted, raped, abused, and tortured in Iraq and Afghanistan by U.S. soldiers and in Denver by local police officers and other state agents.

We've marched three times in the last year, and our rage has become something that cannot be dismissed.

On May 6th, on a weekend that will see celebrations honoring the memories of struggles, revolutions, and people's victories from centuries ago, we will fill the streets. Whoever is elected on May 3rd, they will understand the power of the people they hope to control and govern after May 6th.

**May 6th- Into the streets!**

**For Marvin Booker!**

**For Oleg Gidenko!**

**For all of us!**

## **We don't negotiate with terrorists**

**a communique from Queen City Antifa regarding the May 6<sup>th</sup>  
demonstration**

The Denver Police Department doesn't want the anti-police demonstration this Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup> to happen. In fact, they went so far as to call the Justice Department's Civil Affairs liaison in an attempt to "broker a deal" between police and march organizers. Only problem is that they failed to reach anyone taking responsibility for the organizing, and instead they plan to plant someone in the crowd Friday night to relay instructions to officers looking to repress the demonstration.

We aren't interested in sitting down to talk with police, much less attempt to hammer out any kind of deal with them. This burgeoning movement won't hold itself back because the police are "nervous" about the situation. That's precisely what we set out to do in the first place. It goes without saying that we are well aware that negotiating with the police would only lead to a loss in momentum, in messaging, and in the power that is coming from the streets.

It isn't like they would ever cave to the theoretical demands we would give them in order to call off the march anyway. Here is a brief sampling:

1. The abolition of the police department and the capitalist State in order to make way for a horizontally organized society based on the concepts of solidarity and mutual aid.
2. The immediate release of all material relating to the Marvin Booker case, specifically the video of his death, which we request be looped and broadcast on the side of one of Denver's high rises.
3. The home addresses of all officers involved in excessive force and police brutality cases.
4. All police resources relinquished for recycling and re-purposing.

The list goes on, but you get the idea. Queen City Antifa refuses to engage in a dialogue with the Denver cops, mainly because they are swine that shouldn't be trusted, ever, but also because we abstain from negotiating with wantonly murderous terrorists.

Rest assured, we'll be in the streets Friday night and we'd recommend you come too.

# Even With Our Backs Against a Wall: a reportback from the Denver May 6<sup>th</sup> March Against Police Terror



(Disclaimer: This reportback is authored by several participants and members of Queen City Antifa. However, it should not be assumed or insinuated that the comments, conclusions, or descriptions of events in anyway represent the feelings or experiences of anyone else, including other organizers, collectives, or participants. So, let's just be clear: This reportback does not represent the opinions of West Denver Copwatch, Denver Anarchist Black Cross, or any other supporting groups or individuals other than the authors. Clear? Cool.)

Since the nearly year old murder of Marvin Booker at the hands of Denver Sheriff's Deputies in the Van Cise-Simonet Detention Center, a movement against police and policing has grown in the Denver metro area. Between July 2010 and May 2011, at least 3 militant and unpermitted street marches have been organized. Press conferences, vigils, rallies, panel discussions, and other protests and events have also been held to protest not only the murder of Marvin at the hands of his jailers, but also others who have been murdered, beaten, attacked, raped, and assaulted by police in the greater metro area.



## Buildup

In early April, an announcement started appearing on the internet and through handbills and posters calling for another march to be held on May 6<sup>th</sup>. This would mark the 4<sup>th</sup> march in a series of increasingly militant and larger street actions challenging police terror in the metro area.

The call was the first that explicitly intended to link foreign occupations by militaries with local occupations by police forces, as well as make connections between local police terror to the ongoing class and social conflicts raging in the U.S. and countries all over the world. (<http://queencityantifa.wordpress.com/2011/04/22/march-against-police-terror-march-for-marvin-oleg-and-all-the-victims/>)

The callout would not be the only aspect that clearly set apart this march from the events preceding it.

As the momentum from the previous protests fueled organizers and supporters, the increasing militancy of the previous protests alarmed and frightened others. At least one anonymous comment appeared on Colorado Indymedia, “warning” people of the many dangers they faced if they attended the demonstration.

The logic presented seemed to rely on the idea that the past marches had gotten lucky, but this time the cop response would be much worse. Since the militancy of the previous protests had upped the ante, the cops would respond in full this time around.

As an indication that this logic had basis in reality, a representative of the Department of Justice Office of Civil Rights attempted on seemingly multiple occasions to contact protest organizers to set up “negotiations” between



the organizers and local police. The local movement responded to this in a variety of ways. Queen City Antifa released a communique denouncing the attempts to negotiate, while other organizations simply took down the initial callout for the march to avoid being pegged as organizers. The latter response, coupled with the anonymous comment on Indymedia, illustrated the fear present within the local movement. These early responses to the march would also serve to keep some people away from the protest. Fear was already crippling the march, before it had even begun.

The cops would also take the pre-march repression to an even higher level. Stories were related to us by several supporters and participants in past marches, that they and other homeless youth had been receiving threats from the cops in the week before the march. The police threatened that they would just identify march participants and later arrest or “find them”.

The impacts of the culture of fear permeating throughout the movement would definitely be felt on May 6<sup>th</sup>.

## **Verse**

In a tradition that had been set by marches held on October 22 and January 29, organizers called for a nighttime march. These previous nighttime marches had seemingly allowed for increased militancy and participation. Organizers hoped that this next protest would provide space for yet another militant and participatory confrontation.

As the starting time of the march approached, two banners were unfurled near the intersection of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Speer Boulevard. “Marvin Booker and Oleg Gidenko: We will never forget or forgive” and “Stop Police Terrorism” were the messages that greeted rush hour motorists.

The crowd that started in the park was noticeably small, and the mood not as festive or empowered as previous marches. Police cars had started to surround and even enter the park. Three squads of riot police had been seen in the parking lot of the nearby hospital. The mood of the participants was far from hopeful. While the march of January 29<sup>th</sup> had initially mobilized 150 participants and grown to 300 in the streets, this march was starting with barely 50 people.

Speeches were made. Banners and signs were distributed, as well as nearly 4000 stickers with anti-police slogans and pictures of Marvin Booker's face, although it was unclear at this point whether those stickers would be put to use or if the crowd would even march.

But, despite the police buildup, the rumors and warnings that had circulated beforehand, and the general uneasiness of march organizers and

supporters alike, the march entered 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, intent on holding the streets.

## Chorus

As the march entered the street, several squad cars pulled up behind the crowd. They slowly followed as the crowd took over 3 lanes of traffic on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and eventually the police closed the street to all traffic.

Chants of the classic and well worn chant: “Who’s Streets? Our Streets”, filled the air. The march proceeded to Santa Fe Drive, where hundreds of people were gathered for the monthly First Friday Artwalk.

As the crowd turned onto Santa Fe, we were greeted with a mixture of cheers and jeers. The march blocked all lanes of traffic, and hundreds of fliers were distributed, while the stickers started to hit every surface that could be found.

Police started to form lines blocking off side streets, armed with AR-15s and shotguns, presumably loaded with non-lethal ammunition. This was a huge change from previous marches, where police rarely exited their vehicles.

The march doubled in size as it moved down Santa Fe, numbering around 100 as it passed 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Shortly thereafter, the police presence noticeably increased, with motorcycle and other mobile units starting to direct traffic away from the marchers, and close down sidestreets.



The march took a sudden right turn onto 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue, turned onto Speer, and shut down one of the major arterial roads of the downtown area. A quick right turn onto Colfax and the march proceeded toward the jail.

During the January 29<sup>th</sup> march, the crowd had charged the jail, pounding on the windows, pinning a deputy between the door and the door frame, and covering the front windows with stickers of Marvin's picture. During this latest march, however, the crowd generally kept some distance from the front of the jail. Small groups left the march to put stickers up and bang on the windows, but quickly rejoined the ever tightening march.

Police kept their distance, and the march turned the wrong way onto 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and again took to Speer Boulevard, back toward downtown.

The march weaved through the downtown streets, leaving a path of stickers and overturned construction barrels and other debris in its wake. Squad cars following the march were forced to stop so the debris could be cleared, or take other routes to continue following the march.



The mood of the march participants at this point seemed to be high. The march had so far had no major altercations with police, and had controlled the streets for over an hour without much influence from the police. As the march entered the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Mall, that mood would quickly change.

## **Breakdown**

The riot police that had been previously seen at Denver Health were waiting for the march at 16<sup>th</sup> Street. Dozens of riot cops flanked both sides of the march as it proceeded South, back toward the Arts District and Santa Fe Drive.

The 16<sup>th</sup> Street Pedestrian Mall had been the site of some of the more intense actions during the January 29<sup>th</sup> march, and the police seemed intent on not allowing another mini-riot to damage the downtown commercial district. The overwhelming police presence was not enough to force the march out of the streets, or even stop some of the more petty vandalism that was occurring, but no one was seemingly interested in trying to re-create the actions of January. (<http://queencityantifa.wordpress.com/2011/02/01/we-aint-takin-this-no-mo-the-streets-fill-with-rage-against-the-denver-cops/>)

As the march snaked out of the downtown core and back toward the Arts District, more and more police officers started to flank and follow the march. To try to deter this unwanted police presence, the march took an

unexpected turn into oncoming traffic on Speer. The move temporarily shook the police escort.

Several blocks down, the cops started to divert traffic off of Speer and again were able to move units alongside of us. The march took another series of quick turns, and started to head back to Santa Fe Drive, where march participants hoped they could disperse into the crowds still present in the Arts District for First Friday.

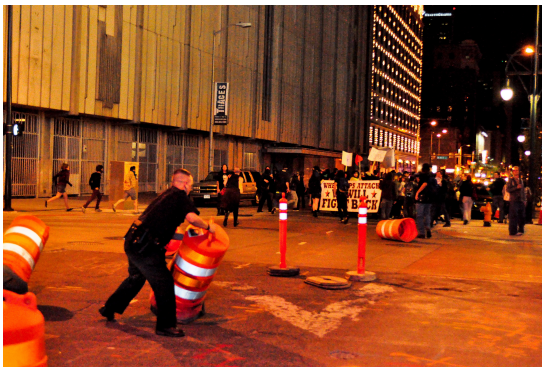
As the march attempted to turn onto Santa Fe, a line of police blocked the route, and a series of scuffles occurred. The crowd pushed and shoved the cops who responded in kind. A demonstrator was grabbed by police as they tried to dip behind the blocked route, but a person in black bloc clothing yanked them back into the crowd. A scuffle ensued, and the cop received spit to the face as the two demonstrators melded back into the protest. The march had started to become disorganized and had lost many participants since it left downtown. The remnants of the march would be unable to get through the police lines back to the relative safety of the Arts District.

The march proceeded to Kalamath, and with a right turn, headed south. Near the intersection of 11<sup>th</sup> and Kalamath, a decision was made to disperse. After a hurried countdown, the remaining participants scattered.

During the confusion, a large firework was thrown at police. The explosion was mistaken for tear gas by some, and a panic erupted.

One participant was chased down an alley and tackled by police officers. This is the only participant that we know of who was arrested. The rest of the crowd dispersed into the night, leaving banners and signs littering the street.

## Encore?



The actions of May 6<sup>th</sup> were obviously not as successful as previous marches. Police were well mobilized and prepared for the march, unlike the previous three mobilizations. Their presence was overwhelming, and at times, they seemed to outnumber those of us in the streets. However, the

march took the streets and held them for over two hours. Hundreds of pieces of

literature were distributed, thousands of anti-cop stickers were placed on light poles, storefronts, cars, and even light rail trains. Barricades were placed in the streets of downtown. The action happened without any mass arrests or major injuries, despite the worst fears of some organizers and supporters.

This march resembled a more tactical and closed off black bloc than the generalized mob of hooligan youth Denver is used to seeing. A lot of this presumably has to do with the “hard core” of May 6th's participants, people who were not afraid of police retribution and actively sought to confront the department in the streets regardless of consequence. Banners enclosed most of the demonstration, allowing marchers to stay tight and because of the prevalence of black clad and masked protesters, allowed for groups and individuals to lash out quickly and retreat to the safety of the bloc.

If all this was possible with such a relatively small crowd, what could have been possible with more participants? Could we have broken through that police line on Santa Fe? Could we have been able to effect an unarrest? Could we have seen a repeat of what happened on January 29<sup>th</sup> but with much more widespread results?

We won't ever know the answers to those questions, obviously. But for those of us in the streets, we will probably always be wondering.



The fear generated before the march seemed to be a major contributing factor in the lack of numbers. Members of our own movement not only helped the police in spreading this fear, but sometimes even acted on their own in promoting it.

Early on at one point during the march, we passed by a well know punk house in the area. People with “circle-A” patches and beers in their hands waved and smiled. But they didn't join the march. Was it out of fear? Or was it something deeper? A raised fist from a rooftop ultimately does nothing during a street confrontation, especially when these demonstrations have by and large relied on people along the routes to bolster numbers. It's also exasperating to think that people that likely share a lot of affinity with many of the demonstration's participants couldn't be bothered to show up in the first place, much less drop their beers and join the march *as it's passing their house*. The punks' reaction was not measurably different from most of the gawking yuppies indulging in the art walk or shopping on 16<sup>th</sup> Street.

Denver has been a city plagued by the effects of the Non-Profit Industrial Complex for years. Struggle has been reduced to a career. “Community organizers” and other activists consistently watch struggles develop, and dare not enter into anything that may jeopardize their cushy non-profit job.

Those of us that have been active within Queen City Antifa have been ridiculed time and again for the value that we place on militancy and confrontation. We have been told many times that people that we think are allies will never come to marches or actions that are confrontational and militant. We've been told that we need to have clear demands. We need to be treating this work like an activist campaign.

Our only response to people who make these assertions should be clear. “Then organize something yourself.” If you don't want to throw down with angry working class folks against the cops, then don't. But don't sit on the sidelines and offer nothing. The sad truth is that these marches have become the only game in town outside of small press conferences with members of Marvin's family and some supporters. No mainstream NGOs or other non-profits are organizing anything that we have been made aware of around this issue that is plaguing our communities. If folks are tired of militant street demos, or think that they have some concrete demands that they want to try to fight for, then we would encourage them to start to actually organize around this critical issue. We'd even show up and support their efforts.

QCAF has never wanted to be the only game in town when it comes to anti-cop organizing. However, that doesn't mean that we're willing to pander or water down our politics. We're pissed off working class folks. We think the rage we bring to these demonstrations is well justified, and that there are no demands that the police can offer us that will actually stop the police terror in our hoods. More oversight, a new police chief, sensitivity training, etc... These things will not stop the daily attacks at the hands of the police.

It's a strange dichotomy some apparently pro-revolutionary folks in this town have created for themselves, in that in order to attain a mass working class revolutionary movement, the working class must become politically and socially conscious. However, when politicized working class people organize around an issue, their militancy and willing to confront it is shunned by the activist left because of political orientations. Seems awfully self-defeating in our opinion. Just because someone is an “activist” or an “anarchist” does not remove them from the working class.

Until local “activists” and others active within Denver's Left pick a real side within the class struggle, these contradictions will continue to develop and widen, ultimately weakening any chance of real and fundamental change.

Three days after the march, on Monday morning, Safety Manager Charles Garcia announced that the deputies that murdered Marvin Booker would not face any discipline. On July 11<sup>th</sup>, it will have been a year since Marvin was beaten to death in Denver's detention center. After this is posted online, people will be gathering outside the Van Cise-Simonet detention center protesting this result. Further convergences are already in the works.

We are undeterred by recent repression. A Denver pro-insurrectionary blog had it's account locked presumably for reporting on anti-police activity after a "third party complaint". The harassment of proletarian and homeless youth will not go unnoticed. With the year anniversary coming up, it is time to organize and continue to build this movement into something that is irrepressible and even more aggressive. We will not lose. We will not let fear stifle our actions because they must be taken. This won't be over until we are all free from oppression, and through every action we gain experience and knowledge we will wield in the coming confrontations.



To the streets!  
Queen City Antifa  
**May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011**



# Burying the Hatchet to Defend Against the Gun

**May 13<sup>th</sup> communique from Queen City Antifa**

In light of the recent and atrocious attack that has been leveled against our movement by the Denver Police Department, the authors of Queen City Antifa's "Even with our backs against the wall" communique would like to offer some thoughts in an effort to move forward and be able to create a united defense against the police and their attacks.

In our previous communique, we raised critiques that we feel are still valid regarding ideas of solidarity and action. In response, various discussions, articles, and responses have circulated around the internet. The discussions that have come out of this have at times been helpful, and at others been harmful. But overall, the critiques, analysis, and discussions have started to bring to the surface many important ideas and dialogues that have not seen much light before this time.

Understanding that debate, criticism, and challenges are all important parts of an effective social movement praxis, QCAF would like to take this time to "bury the hatchet" of the internal divisions that have been a topic of discussion for the last week. Let's be honest. Though we still stand by our critiques, our methods were not the best. We accept responsibility for an irresponsible method of communication. We were wrong to have publicly aired the frustrations the way we did. Whatever feelings we were processing, publicly announcing those frustrations in the way we did created even more animosity and distrust. We helped widen a schism that we feel has formed within our movement. We acted "holier than thou". We pretended to have all the answers, when in fact, we definitely do not. We ended up erasing the important work and contributions to struggle that have been forth by comrades that we cherish and respect a lot. We came off as smug assholes.

So yeah. We fucked up with the way we addressed the wider Denver based movement(s) that exist. No matter how strongly we may feel about certain critiques, our methodology did nothing to actually solve the issues we were hoping to address.

We say this in an attempt to move forward and directly address the very serious attack that has been leveled against us today by the Denver Police Department and Denver District Attorney Mitchell Morissey.

Today, Thursday, May 12th, the Denver District Attorney announced formal charges against Amelia Nicol, an alleged participant in the May 6th March Against Police Terror, that include two charges of Attempted Murder of a Law Enforcement Officer. She is currently facing 90 years in prison for allegedly throwing "an improvised explosive" at police officers during the end



of the march on Friday night with the intent to kill them.

The truth of the matter is that no one who was present at that march saw “an improvised explosive” or as some media outlets have reported, “a molotov cocktail”. At the end of the march some participants witnessed a small firework explode in the street as the march was dispersing. Later, someone alleged to have participated in the march was tackled and arrested in a downtown alley. That person has been identified as Amelia Nicol.

These charges are a clear attack not only against Amelia, but against the growing movements that have been challenging police terror in Denver, and to all people who are struggling against oppression and state sponsored terrorism. If we allow the DA to peg these charges against Amelia, if we allow the local capitalist media to paint a completely and alarmingly false picture of what happened that night, these same tactics can and will be used against anyone that struggles for freedom in Denver.

QCAF openly calls for all people active within local liberatory social movements to set aside our differences and come together to defend Amelia and our movement against these attacks. As the old IWW motto goes “An injury to one is an injury to all.” This attack must be treated as an attack against every single one of us.

No matter what our differences, as members and participants of liberatory social movements of all stripes, we are not enemies. The enemies are those in power that would use police and the prison industrial complex to intimidate those of us struggling for freedom.

Our differences are real. And they are important to discuss. And we must keep the discussion and dialogue alive. But attacking each other, trying to appear better than each other, and all other tactics that weaken our movement must stop. Our enemies are taking advantage of this situation, and we must respond, in a united effort.

In closing, we ask that no matter what hard feelings you may harbor toward QCAF, that you do not let these feelings affect the much needed support for Amelia and the struggle against these charges. Our support work must be principled. Our personal grudges should not weaken and threaten those of us that are vulnerable and under attack by the state and other repressive forces. Even if you do not want to support QCAF, please support Ameila and our joint struggle against this repression.

Our comrades at Denver ABC will most likely be offering updates on supporting Amelia. We in QCAF ask that we all do everything in our collective power to support her and repel this attack. We look forward to working with you and burying the hatchet to defend against the state’s guns.

In defense, solidarity, and mutual respect,

QCAF

# **Support Anti-Police Terror March Participant Amelia Nicol, Facing 90 Years in Prison!**

## **Statement from the Denver Anarchist Black Cross**

Support resistance to police terror!  
Support Amelia Nicol!

On Friday May 6th, over one hundred people, mostly young, poor, and angry, took to the streets in defiance of the Denver Police Department. They participated in a march, called to confront “police terror” in the Denver Metro area. Specifically, they marched to remember the deaths of Marvin Booker and Oleg Gidenko, two people murdered by area police departments in the last year.

As the the march ended, a small firework was set off in the street. Police used this act as a justification to chase one alleged participant down an alley, where she was tackled and beaten by police. This person would later be identified as Amelia Nicol, a 20 year old Colorado resident. She now faces outlandish charges including attempted murder.

We call on all people to support Amelia as she fights these attempts at intimidation and repression, and the police’s broader attack on social movements in Denver.

## **Background**

Marvin Booker, a homeless street preacher, died at the hands of five sheriff’s deputies in the Van Cise-Simonet Detention Center in downtown Denver on July 9, 2010. He was tackled, beaten, placed into chokeholds, tazed, and kicked. He eventually succumbed to the officers’ brutal attack. He was murdered for refusing to leave his shoes in the booking area of the jail.

Oleg Gidenko was shot in the head by Aurora Police Officers. Oleg was in a truck with several friends. They had been hanging out, allegedly drinking in the truck while it was parked in a lonely industrial park in Aurora. Aurora Police Officers approached the truck, armed, supposedly because they suspected the occupants of breaking into cars in the area. As the police aimed their weapons at the truck, one officer shot Oleg in the head. Another occupant, Yevgeniy Straystar. was also shot, but would survive. With two occupants, including the driver, shot and a passenger trying to hide on the floor of the truck as it took repeated fire from police officers, the truck lurched forward, bumping into one of the officers. This action, though it took place after the firing had started, and after Oleg was dead, was used as the justification for the shooting.

Many other high profile cases of police terror have been documented in

the metro area over the last year, including the beating of whole families, rape and child molestation, and mishandling of evidence. Few, if any, officers are ever punished.

On May 6th, the fourth in a series of marches was held to show direct opposition to the police terror plaguing the metro area. For several hours the crowd snaked through downtown and the arts district. The police response to this fourth march was much heavier than previous marches, and riot police flanked the march for a good portion of the route. Despite the heavy police presence and attempts at intimidation, Amelia would end up being the only arrest during the march.

On Thursday May 12th, news agencies across the metro area reported that Amelia would be charged with a host of felonies and misdemeanors, including two counts of attempted murder of a police officer, criminal arson, possession and use of explosives, and inciting a riot. Police alleged she threw the firework, only now in the news reports the firework had become a “molotov cocktail”, or in some news reports, an “improvised explosive.” The small green firework now became a dangerous implement of attempted murder of two police officers. Amelia is now confined to a jail cell in the Denver County Jail, held on a \$50,000 bond.

Just days previous, on Monday May 9th, Denver Mayor Guillermo Vidal announced that the deputies implicated in the death of Marvin Booker would face no discipline for their use of force. This announcement came after months of public outcry in response to a September 2010 decision by District Attorney Mitch Morrissey to not file any criminal charges in response to Marvin’s murder.

The charges now being filed against Amelia are a slap in the face to every person that struggles for justice. The City of Denver has made it clear that the life of a black street preacher is worth less than the relative comfort of several police officers that may have been scared by a small firework. Murderers with badges receive no criminal charges, while a young woman who allegedly attended a protest to hold those officers accountable now faces over 90 years in prison.

We must rally to support Amelia! The Denver Anarchist Black Cross calls on all justice and freedom loving people to mobilize for the defense of Amelia in the face of these atrocious criminal charges!

There are many ways to show support:

- 1) Attend Amelia’s public hearing on Monday May 16th at 9:30 am in Courtroom 2100 of the Denver County Courthouse at 490 West Colfax in downtown Denver.
- 2) Donate to Amelia’s legal defense. Denver ABC will be accepting donations on behalf of Amelia’s family and friends. You can mail donations to Denver ABC, 2727 W. 27th Ave Unit D, Denver CO 80211. Checks should be made payable

to P&L Printing. A paypal account where donations can be made is available through the username [plpress@riseup.net](mailto:plpress@riseup.net)

3) Sign up for updates on Denver ABC's twitter account. Our username is DenverABC.

4) Send a letter to the Denver DA demanding that the charges against Amelia be immediately dropped. All letters or postcards can be mailed to: Denver DA Mitch Morrissey, 201 W. Colfax Ave #801, Denver CO 80202-5328

5) Keep checking the Denver ABC blog at [denverabc.wordpress.com](http://denverabc.wordpress.com) for all news, announcements, and other ways to show support for Amelia and other political prisoners.

We must clearly view these charges as an attack on our movement as a whole. Amelia's fate determines the fate of our social movements active across the metro area, and even the rest of this country and the world. This type of repressive act, if successful, will only work to embolden and strengthen a police force that has openly been waging a war of brutal terror against the people of the Denver metro area. If they can put Amelia in prison for what would amount to the rest of her life for attending a demonstration, then any of us who organize for justice and against oppression could be next.

If you have any questions, offers of support or resources, or want to get involved with the support work, please contact us at [denverabc@rocketmail.com](mailto:denverabc@rocketmail.com)

Until Amelia is free, and all cages are emptied!

Denver Anarchist Black Cross  
May 15, 2011

## **Banner Drop Against Police Brutality Over I-25 Downtown**

**Communique posted to Colorado Indymedia:**

During the morning traffic rush, on Monday, May 16th, a banner was dropped over one of the most central highway overpasses downtown. The text read "ALL COPS ARE KILLERS, R.I.P. MARVIN BOOKER". The banner was dropped shortly after two recent advancements in the Booker murder case, one being the officers involved in his death being cleared of any wrong doing, and the other being the arrest of a protester at a march largely protesting his death, on bogus charges that could lead to up to ninety years in prison.



**they are not  
invincible.**

**they are not  
infallible.**



**so we will be  
unafraid. we will  
not back down.** those  
that murder and oppress will be  
fought with everything we have.  
we cannot be stopped.





# to the streets!

