

**"The UK is restructuring and the rich and citizenry have declared open war on the poor and deviant. We won't all take it lying down though, as has been shown, and will take our revenge on their corrupt and hypocritical society."**

# **AUGUST 2011 REVOLT**



## **ANARCHY IN THE UK**

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*COVER: Rioters in Liverpool (top front) and London, attacking police, (bottom front); a cop gets battered by rioter in Birmingham (back).*

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**"Sustained attacks on the social peace of the rich will continue"** - *Interview with anarchist Marcelo Villaroel* - Thoughts of a insurrectionary from High Security Prison, October 2010, Santiago (Chile).

## No Future, Just Vengeance: Reflections on the August revolt by a young anarchist rioter

THE AUGUST INSURRECTION SET ALIGHT THE GREY MURK OF the day to day urban grind as life exploded into the streets where the law of the land tells us only selfpolicing drones can walk under the watchful eyes of the CCTV controllers. I can't really offer anything profound or point to any better future or make any predictions – other than that nothing is over! It was one of the most alive moments in my short life though so far. It was *my* moment, *our* moment – time to go for it, let our rage out of the box on the prison society's streets, where the veil came off and we see how our individual isolation on the street comes from mass paralysis, where we could face our enemy the cops, in it together against them and the Law and Order they protect.

To me there was no hesitation – I couldn't wait for the rioting to spread out of London, and the pictures of the capitol burning made me impatient to join the insurrection. I think that divides everyone – those for who the uprising was ours and those who saw it as something foreign, strange, problematic, and scary. At the soonest opportunity when the lawlessness spread we were out there, euphoric, trying to spread it more: Running riot through the temples of consumerism,



fighting the police, smashing and burning. Off we went to unleash decentralised and chaotic destruction and looting. If we had been experienced and confident as a large body, those of us rioting in the area where I was, we could have achieved much more in terms of fighting the cops, attacking targets and looting. There's always a next time, and I know there's plenty looking forward and preparing themselves for just that.

The riot is a form of anarchistic organisation, a coming together for specific purposes (destruction and looting), and is a collective way in which the individuals involved can meet their own desires, based on small groups of friends and accomplices informally coordinating in the larger body, ready to split and remain agile and decentralised. There's no leaders except those who lead by example (propaganda of the deed, you could say) and there

Fuck the Cops & the Government  
Take what you want & burn the rest!







paved for acceptance of the next stage in British neo-fascism, the Olympics and the related massive installations for surveillance and control.

The struggle against the existent continues, opening up new encounters and fields of experimentation to combine with the unyielding ingredients of all our interventions: affinity, solidarity and self-organisation of the attack.

*(Published in 325 # 9, October 2011)*

politics. The uprising was fun, uplifting, satisfying, serious, and an expression of people in revolt against what holds us down and tortures us every day. I remember thinking that I was living through the best moments so far in all my days, shared by many all over the grey prison island factory farm UK– for a moment the war I feel on my skin every day was made explicit by our rage as we wrecked and burned the country, all sparked off by authority's violence – the police execution of Mark Duggan. The shock and horror in the Media in the aftermath as rioters they interviewed said things like *It was one of the best times of my life* and how they'd do it all over again, even knowing they'd get caught, made me laugh.

After the Western excluded explode in rioting the talking heads of society talk of "feral youths" and





stolen from the reprobate witch to become the symbol of citizenship as hundreds sweep and sweep in this neo Civil Defence corps.

The media and soft cops are hard at work to find the magic formula, the new superglue to hold together the untenable. On the margins, some good anarchists and leftists will give a hand, no doubt.

Nothing will ever be the same after what has happened over the past few days. Our task is not to join forces with the recuperators but, using every means, to start to identify significant objectives and contribute to creating the conditions where the excluded, on whose backs they come into existence, can do something to destroy them.

We are moving into a phase of new, more brutal, more fascistic levels of repression with full consensus of reawakened, engaged citizens. The way has been

look to the control institutions to try to more thoroughly domesticate the uncontrollables. The Left want to integrate the marginal through education and work, the Right discipline us through law and the family. Social disintegration causes chaos and opens up the possibility of a broad range of human behaviours, including anarchy, because above everything it is a devaluation of the monolithic system, dissolution of the unitary reality tunnel, leading to individual and small group autonomy.

More and more, in the urban high-tech prison society, it seems to me, the choice becomes total submission or total revolt. Submission takes many forms: The ironic fatalism of all those who look with a jaded eye on the world but keep in line, sardonic consumerists and children of the blatantly insincere money-crazed society, cynics who apparently can't think of anything better to do with themselves than what society offers, peddling the hamster wheel; those who stick their head in the sand of idealism to distance themselves from their individual power and the consequent responsibilities; those who embrace the dictates of the system as their own values, eagerly mutilating themselves to be cogs working with the least friction. Above all, domination is buttressed by the submissive attitude which is terrified of the unknown – the refusal to think about one's life and see through any lenses other than those society prescribes, accounting for social hysteria against psychoactive substances that peel



away the socialised lenses through which reality is viewed.

Insurrection, as far as I can see, is unlikely to spread beyond the excluded and discontent minorities that are often temperamentally insurrectionary. Globally those excluded from, or in a precariously marginal position in relation to, the capitalist system are a huge and growing number. In the core capitalist territories ("The West" or "First World") the excluded are a smaller minority, though a growing one. As the social war escalates and "Western" populations are polarised, the majority's attachment to and support of the state can more clearly be seen as the active participation in repression and domination that it is.



imperatives of the corporate cartels defended by their servants, government, cops and media, is being reasserted.

Now the party's over, the CCTV footage is being analyzed, facial recognition software is being deployed, the snitches are queuing up for payment. 'Wanted' photos are being displayed on huge 'digi-trucks' driven throughout the cities. People's doors are being smashed in by screaming gangs of riot cops wielding battering rams. Families are being given eviction orders in the old fascist ardor for collective punishment. Welfare payments are to be discontinued. Kangaroo courts are working 24/7 and the cell doors are slamming shut as the "community" is polarised in open conflict. Almost 2,000 arrests so far. Police and politicians argue the toss as to who subdued the battle and Twitter and Facebook have been saved from banishment by becoming the instrument of the good citizens. The broom has been



fighting for the noble cause of 'freedom' but were fighting for themSELVES. Selves alienated and stunted by the voracious reality they have been born into, spurred into action in an immediate assault on forbiddance. Now they are being demonised by those who should know better, for their lack of 'political awareness' and altruism. In such situations anarchists can only take stock and seek to put into action elements of a projectuality that is already being elaborated and experimented in small agile groups. What is evident from this flash-point of insurrection is that the anarchist movement, for want of a better term, here in Britain, is largely inadequate as to be insignificant in terms of the attack and the capability to prepare a line of flight beyond the existent, let alone during a mass riot.

If the uprising has caught us unprepared, if we have not already found our affinities, worked out our ideas and put into practice minimal attacks on the reality of dominion and class oppression, it is not from the 'children of men' that we will get the best indications to enter and extend the struggle. Anarchists risk being passive spectators, 'provocateurs', or simply clumsy gatecrashers of someone else's party.

Some comrades have already begun the trajectory of their own projectuality, their own experimentation and attack, which has also materialised over these days alongside or within some of the attacks on the structures of the consumer god and its servants. Without flags, banners or high-sounding political claims. Others are asking themselves how to move in that direction, how to carry on now that 'society', the great myth, the centuries-old swindle adapted to the

This widens a hostile gulf between the included majority and the excluded minority. Particularly as many of the excluded minority in "The West" are immigrants and descendants of immigrants from outside the core, from lands whose excluded people are being brutally dispossessed, exploited and murdered by a global system and world powers whose violence is only set to increase – all with the silent (and not so silent!) support of the integrated included. Of course I'm not suggesting that the excluded are some kind of "revolutionary subject", a historical agent as Marxists imagine propertyless wage-slaves to be – the only revolutionary "subject" to me is the revolutionary individual. It is simply a matter of potential. The interlocking matrix of social relations, the institutions such as the family, education, work and the law, domesticates the individual. Where social breakdown occurs, a widespread revaluation of life becomes possible. As has been pointed out elsewhere, the classical European anarchist and insurrectionary anti-capitalist movements were born in the upheaval of social relations in which populations were shifted by the elites from rural agrarianism to urban industrialisation. Factories, trade unionism, and socialist parties killed the insurrectionary spirit and social democracy and consumerism put the final nail in the Western proletariat's coffin. Now a hostile minority of unmanageable and nihilistic 'internal enemies' stands against a society of consumers and

citizens who have internalised the system and whose socialised group-think is an endless closed circuit of obedience (of course including the political Left, most “anarchists” and eco activists, in the UK at least).

In fact the August insurrection showed up the majority of UK “anarchists” and “revolutionaries” as cowardly citizens who though they like to whine and complain about the “evils” of the world, are fundamentally content as passive slaves. Currently most UK “anarchists” appear happily bitter simply tagging along behind state socialists and liberals as the impotent “good conscience” and/or the “rowdy margin” who wear black and use swear words. This is pathetic. Speaking the language of politics, of creating a reasonable and programmatic anarchist project, the result is an anarchism that’s neither fish nor fowl. Failing both as political pragmatics and as anarchic rebellion, civil anarchism limps along sadly. The idea that reasonable ideas of social transformation are what draw people to rebel is totally false, although it does draw leftists and liberals to the political philosophy “anarchism” who generally remain such though calling themselves anarchists. I have never had any non-political friends or acquaintances EVER be interested in the boring dribbling of “social anarchism” but many who have been interested by anarchism as an extreme position of proud revolt. “Talking serious to the people” generally means churning out sub-leftist rhetoric that fails as political leftism because it is unrealistic and

dozen workers committed suicide at Foxconn, a contract manufacturing plant in China, he flew to visit the company – and pressured them to improve working conditions. One move was to hang large nets from the factory buildings.

To see the recent events as something that do not concern anarchists and conscious rebels would be just as absurd as to simply take them at face value and join in the looting spree for a moment of quick gratification or to be 'in the reality of the struggle'. That doesn't mean staying at home safely out of the way of these amoral 'greedy' rioters. What can a movement of predominantly vegan, bicycle-riding anti-commodity anarchists or their moralising anarcho-workerist counterparts have to do with the pluri-appropriation of plasma screens, trainers and fashion labels? The dividing line, which anarchists cannot stomach in spite of their heritage, is that the rebellious protagonists of the past days were not



the divide and rule policy that characterises British power was instrumental in the partition of India and creation of Pakistan, an operation that resulted in over a million dead, has been erased from the annals of history. Rule Britannia! This Disney-like multicultural paradise is a fragile mosaic of erstwhile plundered peoples seeking to survive, living shoulder to shoulder each with their miserable prospects of inclusion or exclusion according to their capacity for collaboration, subservience, and self-mutilation.

One part of the equation that has been totally ignored over these days are the producers of the much coveted goods themselves. Crimes spring from fixed ideas. The sacredness of property is one of these ideas and is the crime par excellence that is dangled before the disinherited masses. Just as war is disconnected from murder in the psyche of the common man or woman, the plunder of the resources of the planet and subjection of the invisible producing slaves is totally absent from their diatribes about 'stealing' and 'looting'. What is a high street store in flames compared to the existence of the store itself? Every supermarket is a 'crime scene', MacDonald's and Coca Cola are veritable motors of mass destruction. After babbling sensational accounts of the riots from the teleprompter, the newsreader's disapproving frown erupts into a beaming smile as she announces the news that Apple has surpassed Exxon Mobile to become 'the world's most valuable company'. Wonderful Apple, such style, smart gadgets. Perhaps the searing profits should be put down to good management as we read in the daily press: The man now running Apple, Tim Cook, had a delicate job last year. After nearly a

fails as anarchic agitation because it doesn't break with the certainties of society. Leftism has proved to be a social force for improving existing society in terms of the rate and conditions of exploitation, acting as a barrier to the excesses of the elite in highly industrialised and post-industrial societies, while acting as a vanguard of the capitalist mode of production in non-industrialised and semi-industrialised areas. Leftism (including leftist anarchism) is an expression of social struggle over the terms of social oppression. The point is to create insurrectional openings, lines of flight beyond normality that go beyond representation and mediation, which broaden the destruction necessary to free ourselves (or at least to satisfy our desire for revenge and moments of liberation).

There seems to me to be a wide-spread unspoken awareness of how interconnected and monolithic the system the population depends on is. This is a reality that many would-be revolutionary idealists try to smother with idealistic spookery. The masses of the population are aware, however semi-consciously, that this society – the economic, technological, scientific specialised infrastructure – depends on "coordination" (specialisation and hierarchy). Contrary to the leftist idealists, society is not run in such an "inefficient" way and its' "injustices" are necessary for its' functioning – for example higher pay for more specialised management/experts/technicians encourages

efficiency and the necessary ambitions for the functioning of mass social organisation. Of course in power the leftist idealists end up just as a new management, adjusting their ideology to fit the pragmatics of running the social machine – the Russian revolution of 1917 and the Spanish revolution of 1936 show this clearly. So although people may not desire hierarchical domination (though the majority certainly seem to! – unsurprisingly after thousands of years of authoritarian socialisation) they see no other horizon of possibilities. Compare this with the experience of those not separated from the land, from folk knowledge and potentially autonomous communities. The Spanish, Ukrainian, Korean and Manchurian anarchist/anti-authoritarian peasant movements could simply drive the handful of state officials and few rich landowners out of their village and declare a liberated commune, as happened on countless occasions. Or more contemporarily you can look at the anarchic revolt of rural populations in Algeria, in an area like the Kabyle region where villagers have driven out police, tax collectors and representatives of the state, simply continuing to live a subsistence agrarian life, resisting outside interference and communally self-organising through the old traditional village and regional gatherings. This is not to idealise peasant life or the reality of these communities, but to point out that as civilisation has integrated us into itself and become increasingly

resulted had the clash been kept at a certain social level, possibly drawing in anarchists, leftists and angry students.

The front line of the clash – that against cops, police stations, media, politicians, started to disappear as the target of these attacks withdrew or were overcome. This channeled the affray into the requisitioning of goods by uncontrolled masses. The design was to secure the forces of the police following their defeat on the streets in order to prepare the massive repressive operation from CCTV surveillance, snitching and investigation - and provoke a media-boosted backlash from those who identify with the system of work and law demanding that the police enforce a severe crackdown. A backlash which was not only seen in the posses of marauding shop-keepers and British nationalists, but also in the citizenist outcry for an open prison society by tidy controlled individuals not adverse to controlling others.

On Wednesday August 10th the moment that power had been waiting for in some form or another occurs. Three young men defending local Asian-owned shops in Birmingham are killed when a car is rammed into them. An irreparable loss for those who knew and loved them, a great gain for power. The articulate appeal of one of the fathers in his heartfelt call for 'peace' (how many rivers of tears were spilled that day for sons killed by the capitalist moloch all over the planet) is relentlessly exploited by the class enemy, just as the resulting coming together of Sikhs and Muslims to defend their structures is depicted as a triumph of democracy. The fact that

Very soon it became clear that this seemingly strange police tactic of standing by and watching looters empty stores was no accident, as it had already been reported by right-wing media that the police would let the situation play itself out for 3 days before going in with heavy repressive blows, a story which subsequently disappeared from the news. This standard British counter-insurgency tactic, developed in the colonies and in Northern Ireland, is used in the preliminary stages of the social insurgence to attempt to create a situation of havoc where all the contradictions of the mess of society can exacerbate, to force the false question: Do you want an authoritarian regime to maintain repressive order, or do you want 'lawless chaos'? The question is posed by power to the servile masses, using the rebellious as their spear of inquiry.

The police removed their personnel from the most seriously affected areas, giving space for the riot to literally burn out - letting the 'violence' reach such a point as to deny the intensification which could have



technologically sophisticated, our ability to live autonomously has been systematically eaten away at.

Total revolt is nothing other than destructive nihilism. It's biting the hand that feeds us – the hand of a totalising system. At this point in the integration of human life into the matrix of domination, into the economic-technological-social system, the choice really is between obedience and chaos, the unknown, the dangerous.

The prospect of autonomous areas liberated from the state and the rule of the economic-technological system is impossible to imagine without a minority struggle that shatters the consensus society defensively fosters, suspending "normality" and opening the horizon of possibilities. Only destruction can bust us out of the dead end of daily normality. Revolutionary anarchists have been fighting the world states for several hundred years, bloodily and bitterly. (Even if we haven't been particularly bloody recently!) So far we have not achieved the goal of the first international anarchist conspiracy – to destroy the states of Europe – not to mention later plans to destroy all the world's governments and elite classes! Perhaps the social revolution to destroy class society and replace it with a federation of autonomous individuals and communities was once a possibility. Wide-spread conscious social change no





longer seems to be on the cards, if it ever was. The only certainty is the impossibility of the present.

As the global system judders in devastation, picking up steam even as it seems impossible to go on, the included cling to an increasingly totalitarian and repressive state as the only barrier to protect their way of life amidst the chaos of collapsing societies, the consequences of mass destruction of the planetary biosphere, civil wars, resource wars, and mass population displacement. Obviously this is a description of present reality as much as a forecast of tomorrow. If destructive nihilism can be defined as the feeling and realisation that social conditions are so bad as to make destruction desirable without any particular (or clear) causal link to some desired better future, than this destructive nihilism can only



they prepare to greet their daily enemy - the cops in their anti-riot vans - with a hail of bottles and stones, the outsider, immediately recognisable by age and colour, is viewed with suspicion. Who are you? What do you want? In various areas, the odd gang, spurred by the momentary shift in the balance of power in the streets, starts high-jacking people's cars and driving off in them or setting them alight, or trashing and looting corner shops, holding no attraction but for the benefit of diversionary chaos so that other small groups can organise and initiate their own attacks. For some, black clothes and face masks are a sign of organised illegality and command respect accordingly. Each area and particular environment creates differing possibilities and modes of co-operation and confrontation. Still days after the clashes there is a changed air in the glances and atmosphere between those in the different sectors of the clash, put under the same rule. Open fighting against the police and the system they defend is a unifying feature for popular resistance against all regimes.

branding the people 'scum', 'thieves' and other low simple catchphrases of demonisation. The failure in this to stop young people identifying with the uprising is obvious when it is seen how quickly the riots replicate and need little trigger to begin breaking the Queen's peace. Mainstream media reporting becomes incredibly formulaic, and the bosses make mileage from their scenes of interest in reaching their political objectives, looping the same images over and over, overlaid with the stereotypical talking heads' condemnation and reassurance. The widespread disorder does not stop. The people who lost their fear go outside, collect themselves to attack and take as much as they can.

The police are overwhelmed and beaten by the small fluid groups who don't wait around to be crushed, but instead move quickly, spreading terror in those who can't identify themselves as belonging to the mob.

Some anarchists and 'rebels with consciousness' did rush towards the smoke signals on the horizon. For some only to stop in their tracks, in many cases riveted to the spot as spectators of a scenario never played out in their wildest dreams: crowds of young people queuing up outside high street stores like customers at the January sales, calmly forcing their way inside under the implacable gaze of rows of riot cops, to reappear later with huge bags, even trolleys, overflowing with consumer goods.

Elsewhere, behind the hastily improvised barricades erected and set alight by local kids in back streets as

be something that will grow – outside and against a society whose sometimes more active, sometimes more passive, collaboration with an increasingly disgusting state will become more and more clear in all its sickening detail.

The UK is restructuring and the rich and citizenry have declared open war on the poor and deviant. We won't all take it lying down though, as has been shown, and will take our revenge on their corrupt and hypocritical society.

#### **– Angry Youth (Dark Matter Publications)**



## An Incomplete Chronology of the August Riots

### Prelude



IN THE MONTHS BEFORE AUGUST, SMALL GROUPS OF masked rioters caused extensive damage in central London during the protests against budget cuts.

During the November 10 (2010) demonstration against education fees an active minority of anarchists and other combative marchers moved in to attack the Conservative Party Headquarters, and many from the formerly passive march occupied and trashed the Milbank building in scenes of joyous destruction broadcast around Britain. From this point on demonstrations in London (such as the ones on



The hostages of the open prison, the young people of the ghettos of London, rise up and the capitalists' nightmare finally materialises, as the last link in the consumer chain of submission snaps. It explodes into a free-for-all when, in a flash of illumination the solution to the existential dilemma is found: MUST HAVE/CAN'T HAVE = TAKE. It's simple: learn and apply, possibly burning store to ashes on retreating.

The rioting escalates, scores more people come into the area responding to call outs on twitter to come up and fight the cops and loot shops. Over the following days it spreads to many other parts of London and onward towards other cities.

The rage also spreads beyond the main clashes in Nottingham, Manchester, Bristol, Gloucester, Liverpool, Birmingham. In many incidents the stories escape categorisation or quantification. One thing sure that is not reported and deliberately ignored is the chiefly anti-authoritarian flavour to the uprising, the government and corporations relentlessly





ends up a twisted wreck after being engulfed in flames, press photographers are beaten and relieved of their equipment for the decades of lies they have propagated. Bank windows smashed. Countless shops looted, stuff thrown all over the streets. Young guys storm McDonald's and start frying up burgers and chips. Indignant anger clears the brain, flushes out the cops in the head. Collective fury at this latest police murder combines with the daily bullying and humiliation of being stopped and searched, the moralising, the false promises, useless lives, no future, desire for status-affirming 'needs' unattainable due to increased taxes, unemployment and cutting of benefits, 4 million cameras, glaring security cops at the entrance to every store, the colonization of all remaining urban space by trendy bars filled with the noisy chatter of the carefree... that and much more that we don't know and will never experience welled up and fueled the will to smash through the invisible and plate glass barriers that hold everything in place.



November 25 and December 9) got markedly wilder and more riotous and drew in youth from London's ghettos whose boiling rage was a sign of things to come.

Again, on the March 26 (2011) trade union demonstration a **large and fast-moving 'Black Bloc'** roamed around the posh West End, attacking and outmanoeuvring police, smashing and paintbombing banks, shops, a car showroom and luxury hotels including the Ritz Hotel in Piccadilly.

In July (2011) the City of Westminster police's "counter terrorist focus desk" called for businesses and members of the public to take part in anti-anarchist repression stating: *"Anarchism is a political philosophy which considers the state undesirable, unnecessary, and harmful, and instead promotes a stateless society, or anarchy. Any information*

*relating to anarchists should be reported to your local police."*

How much the scenes of carnage in London contributed to the August insurrection can only be guessed at.

### Thursday, August 4



- 29-year old **Mark Duggan** is executed by armed police in Tottenham, London. Police then tamper with evidence, including planting a gun on their victim, shooting a police radio to suggest their victim had fired on police, and moving the vehicle from which they dragged their target. Police then boast of their killing of the Broadwater Farm estate resident in the media.

## The Struggle Against the Existent Continues

*(work in progress)*

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, MARK DUGGAN, A 'REAL STRAIGHT UP and down respected man' (words of London rapper, Chipmunk) from Tottenham in London, was blasted to death while on his way home in a cab by a mob of cops wielding Heckler & Koch MP5 carbines. 29 year old Mark, father of four young children, lived on the housing estate known as Broadwater Farm, a depressed predominantly Afro-Caribbean area. The area is infamous since the riot of 1985 after 49 year old Cynthia Jarrett collapsed and died of a heart attack as police raided her home. (During the riot a policeman, PC Blakelock, was hacked to death with a machete.) Today, in the words of a resident, '*if you're from Broadwater Farm, police are on you every day, you're not allowed to come off the estate. If you come off the estate they follow you.*' They followed Mark Duggan and he ended up dead.

August 6 - The arrogance of the killers in uniform in the face of the protest by the victim's family and supporters, plus the brutal attack on a 16 year old girl by police during the vigil was the last straw.

That night in Tottenham the police station was attacked, police cars set on fire, a double-decker bus



different ways break out of line when everything in the dominant culture advises silence, assuring us of their strength and feeding us poisoned whispers of our own powerlessness and insignificance.

And of course as the clash continues and escalates with increasing recognition that everything we desire lies beyond the ruin of their rule, the enemy will carry on retaliating against those people with every vile method in their book: propaganda to misrepresent our passions and aims; the loyal "opposition" of political parties and unions presented as the democratically acceptable way we should amend our "extreme" expressions to; the surveillance, infiltration and invasion of our friendship groups and spaces; the arrest, interrogation and imprisonment of our comrades-in-struggle.

We don't forget, and we don't forgive.

Enough silence.

Action replaces tears.

*for solidarity and self-organisation,*

**Huw 'Badger' Norfolk**

just another fugitive.

**Saturday, August 6**



- In the afternoon, around a hundred residents of Broadwater Farm demonstrate outside Tottenham police station calling for "justice" for **Mark Duggan**.
- In the early evening, after police assault a teenage girl, two cop cars are attacked and then burned.
- A double-decker bus and several vehicles are burned, shops looted, smashed ATMs, and many shops are devastated by fire.
- A BBC vehicle is targeted.
- A photographer from the Mail on Sunday is beaten and several teams of journalists have to escape the violence.

- The cops are attacked with stones and petrol bombs – 26 are injured and 8 are hospitalized that night.
- 71 people are arrested.



### **Sunday, August 7**

- Around 3 am, hundreds of people loot the shopping centre in Tottenham Hale, located less than 1km from the epicenter of the riots which began a few hours earlier.
- Fire-fighters are called to 49 arsons between Saturday night and Sunday in this area. In mid-morning the police still face a mob.
- Members of the family of **Mark Duggan** calls for calm but seemingly go unheard.

rioters” within the constant revolt against all that and more. We are your children, and those of your society. And it is time today for the components of that society to decide if they will be the hand trying to stop us, or the hand lighting their own conspiracy for self-determination.

Today we are here. Today we throw our rage and anarchy against the station that this order would prescribe us: an open-ended contract to be locked in the cage of modern living, of humiliating routine, withdrawn into quiet desperation despite all distractions, cast into inexplicable loneliness, into inner exile from any greater values, divorced from any connection to the Earth, walking commodities to be used and discarded.

Each day, be sure that we are faced with constant battle as each individual must strive to make their own path and decisions against the flow of the conformity and submission demanded of us by the jailers of everyday life – if the revolution is not here, truly it is nowhere. Let us live proud lives of rebellion and compassion, reclamation and antagonism, poetry and fire.

So, in the midst of this incessant war underlying all in this world – I acknowledge with a glad and thankful heart all who have ever stood next to me, with the rebels wherever and whoever they are against the disguised violence that is passivity, the disguised violence in the suppression of the hostilities and tensions around us that urge to be realised. Here's to those who make choices that in

many towns and moments – indeed, for many they started long before this summer. There have also been at least two more deaths at the hands of the Law in August alone...

My decision is not to comply with my judicial persecution, and I greet D.C.I Will White and their kind reading this by the names they are known here and everywhere in different words and tongues: COPS – PIGS – MURDERERS.

I am one of those who simply cannot and will not stomach the social, economic, moral, psychological, physical conditions not of our making that we are born into at this point of history. I have never sought to decorate the walls of my cell with exam certificates, job promotions, sports prizes, status-symbols borrowed from the wealthy by our labour. I curse those who sell themselves so cheaply to buy such unimaginative dreams at the expense of a possibility of a freedom truly of their own making. Since an early age this unwillingness and refusal has put me in conflict, like countless others, with that reality. And our understanding is growing along with our fury.

We are the “lost kids” angry and disappointed by false promises, the “uncontrollable youth” unsatisfied with the paltry futures offered to us, the “useless components” who reject or are excluded anyway from wage-slavery or the “disruptive elements” who fight to destroy it from within, the “minority of trouble-makers” within the constructs of obedient-hierarchical-racist-patriarchal normality, the “hooded



- In the early evening, incidents break out in other parts of London, including Brixton (where 3 policemen are injured), Waltham Forest, Walthamstow, Islington, Ponders End, Chingford Mount, Oxford Circus (in downtown) and Dalston and Enfield (north), where shops are vandalized and looted, and a police car is destroyed.
- 9 policemen are injured, including 3 hit by a car.
- In Brixton a large sporting goods store is destroyed by fire and looters rob another store. The windows of McDonald's and KFC restaurants are smashed and graffitied.
- In Waltham Cross, Hertfordshire, rioters attack 2 police cars and 2 jewellers in Waltham Cross High Street at around 21:50. A specialist public order unit is sent to the area, along with sections of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Police Dog Unit.

- In Morlanwelz, Belgium, two luxury cars are set on fire and politicians and the media say the arsons were inspired by the riots in England.



**Monday, August 8**

- In the late afternoon, the riots have spread throughout the capital, including Hackney (near the site of the Olympic Games of 2012), as well as Notting Hill and Clapham and Peckham (south), Lewisham, Camden, Newham, Bethnal Green, East Dulwich, Croydon (where a Sky News satellite truck is attacked, and several journalists are beaten), Woolwich, Ealing and the periphery (where police vehicles are destroyed, and a supermarket is burned down), and other cities. Many shops and vehicles are looted and burned, and several underground stations are closed in London.

## Letter from Anarchist Huw 'Badger' Norfolk

*BELOW IS AN OPEN LETTER PUBLISHED ON THE INTERNET from the anarchist comrade Badger, on the run from the police since his DNA was forensically recovered from the scene of the 21 August attack on the local newspaper offices in Bristol (see Page 29 for details).*

*We also do not forget the thousands of other rebels that the State has in it's vengeful sights, those fugitive, those under judicial controls and of course those in prison. For the contact details of some of the many prisoners of the August uprising, check out [bristolabc.wordpress.com](http://bristolabc.wordpress.com)*

**1st communication, October 2011**

*An open letter to whoever wants to be concerned,*

Two months have passed since the police execution of Mark Duggan tipped the already-fragile balance of power in the UK, unlocking an orgy of defiance across this island. A well of frustrations finally boiled over and the system was left reeling by a determined insurrection from a wide range of people. Following these days and nights of brazen attacks in Bristol (as in other places) a house is raided in a police and media orchestrated scene as part of their revenge operation for the blows they have both received in the uprising – they leave without the hostage they sought there, but I am made aware by their blunder that I am on their wanted list.

Two months have now passed of successful evasion, and meanwhile the winds of insurgency still blow in



kicked off inside, and not wanting to abandon the prisoners. Later, after the vanloads of cops drove away, everybody left, explaining why they had come to curious (some quite sympathetic) neighbours in the street behind the prison as they went.

A few days later news arrived from inside through the grapevine that the prisoners were very very happy about the demo, it gave them strength and courage to carry on.

*Solidarity with the uprising!*

*Everybody to the streets!*

*Fire to the prisons!*

### ***random london anarchists***



- In Bristol some 150 rioters attack shops.
- There is rioting in Leeds and Liverpool and arson attacks in Luton and Oxfordshire.
- In Nottingham a police station is attacked by rioters and a barricade of car tyres is ignited in the St Ann's area
- In Medway rioters burn cars and confront the police in Gillingham and Chatham.
- In the posh neighbourhood of Notting Hill, London, a luxury two Michelin-starred restaurant and its customers are attacked. A horrified wealthy tourist later reported: *"Around the fourth dish of the tasting course, there were loud bangs outside. The restaurant staff was yelling at us to get away from the windows. Before I knew it, the front door, a solid piece of glass shattered and people came crashing in*



*with hoodies, masks, and random weapons."* The rioters relieve the rich bastards of cash, jewellery and mobile phones.

- A restaurant in Birmingham belonging to **Jamie Oliver**, media chef, was also ransacked.
- Downing Street announces that **David Cameron** is cutting short his vacation in Italy and returning to London in a military plane.
- The Mayor of London, **Boris Johnson**, announces that he will also cut short his vacation and return as soon as possible.
- 6000 extra cops are deployed in London.
- RIM, the manufacturer of BlackBerry phones, announces that they will fully cooperate with British police if anything is asked of them.



*PEACE, FUCK THE POLICE*, music full volume, wild war cries, sustained very loud banging on the corrugated prison fence with bike locks, etc. One of a group with a Free Mumia banner made a strong militant speech through a loudhailer.

The greatest emotion exploded when the clenched fists of some of the prisoners emerged from some of the 'windows', and cries of *FREEDOM NOW! OUT NOW!* broke out from the depths of that rotten dungeon. The passion was so strong and everything continued, shouting backwards and forwards, for about 20 minutes, half an hour.

The cops, a few dozen of them, didn't seem to know what to do. More vans arrived, including two dog vans which made some of the demonstrators decide to stay behind, not knowing whether something had

First, some vociferous slogans against the police outside the police station, then off through the market area before moving into Brixton Road up to the notorious prison in Jebb Avenue. In spite of its size, the demo, some people walking, some with wheels, took over the main road (A23), and was immediately surrounded by police. As well as the cops that moved with the demo, many more could be seen all the way along the route to the prison, both standing in the side streets and parked in vans.

Passersby looked curiously on at this noisy, clearly anti-police march at a time when we are all supposed to be subdued and living in fear of a knock on the door. This had already occurred concerning those for whom the demo had been called in solidarity.

What the march lacked in numbers was compensated for with the passionate anger of the participants who had come from various parts of London and beyond, in answer to this urgent callout in solidarity with those being held in Brixton prison following the recent uprising, against the heavy sentences being meted out on absurd charges, and against the very existence of prison itself.

This became really clear when everybody stormed through the barrier blocking the pedestrian road on the edge of that disgusting gloomy Victorian edifice. By this time passions were running high, everybody screaming slogans in unison to the prisoners: *FREEDOM NOW! FREEDOM NOW!; THE PASSION FOR FREEDOM IS STRONGER THAN THE PRISON (also in Greek); COPS, PIGS, MURDERERS; NO JUSTICE NO*

- 334 people have been arrested since the beginning of the riots.
- In Denver, Colorado, USA, a cop car is smashed and the action is claimed in solidarity with the riots in England.

### **Tuesday, August 9**



- In the early hours, a massive Sony media corporation warehouse in Enfield is looted and torched.
- *"It was like a war zone. It was total anarchy ", according to a resident of Ealing (a green residential area of West London) commenting on the events of the day. A rioter in Hackney says: "It's us versus them, the police, the system. They call it looting and*



*criminality. It's not that. There's a real hatred against the system."*

- Early in the morning, a riot van is set on fire at a police station in Bristol. The action was claimed by anarchists in a statement. *"We rejoice the uprising of many State-brutalised, marginalised youths as they establish a new relationship to their surroundings, and whatever other insurgents who have chosen revolt across England. To all the disgusted 'citizens' who can only see the daily class violence, inherent in this society, when the tables are turned - what did you expect? We see a new decade of urban war forged anew by various shades of social combatants - within that our role as revolutionaries and anarchists being to constantly push forward our trajectory and ideas, spread destructive attacks to new areas and levels of engagement, find accomplices through the clashes (where and when our desires correlate), and maintain and expand an international informal network of comrades. Making this action, in our minds was everyone killed by the cops, arrested in the rioting, the anti-fascists imprisoned in this country."*

- In the morning, the London police arrest 3 people suspected of "attempted murder" of a cop. They allegedly tried to run over a police officer who tried to stop their car on the night of Sunday to Monday, suspecting them of involvement in looting a store nearby.

- Emergency meeting of the Government, after which **David Cameron** announces a meeting of

## Riot Prisoner Solidarity Demonstration, Brixton, London (21 August)

*ANARCHISTS IN LONDON ORGANISED A SOLIDARITY DEMO outside Brixton prison, just as the media and society were red-faced in their condemnation of the rioters.*



*Sunday, 21st August, a demo took place in Brixton, south London*

It gathered outside Brixton police station, about 30-40 people, many very young, but not only. It was headed by a group with a mobile sound system playing very loud anti-police hip hop, rap etc. music and carrying a couple of banners.



- A subsidiary of Lloyds TSB in Fishponds, Bristol, is attacked, all its windows broken. Action claimed in solidarity with the rioters and looters who face judicial repression, and those who escaped its' clutches.

*DMP note: Rebellious greetings to the comrades of **Ravage Éditions** ([ravage-editions.blogspot.org.uk](http://ravage-editions.blogspot.org.uk)) from whose publication on the August 2011 insurrection *Now War is Declared* we drew much of the chronology of events - Paris to London, the insurrection continues!*



Parliament on Thursday and more police on Tuesday night. He promises he will do "everything necessary" to restore order in a strategy of zero tolerance for rioters, after four nights of looting and arson throughout England.

- Since the beginning of the riots, more than 450 people have been arrested in London.
- The friendly football match England - Netherlands scheduled Wednesday, August 10 at Wembley Stadium in London is cancelled.
- A 26 year old man, shot in a car Monday night during the riots in Croydon (London), dies of his wounds.
- In Salford (Greater Manchester), rioters attack police with stones, many shops are looted and burned. A BBC cameraman is assaulted. 46 people are arrested.



- In Nottingham, several police stations, including those of Canning Circus, Meadows, Oxclose Lane, Bulwell and St Ann's are attacked. A police car parked outside the Meadows police station is set on fire. Police cars patrolling the streets are hit with bricks and other projectiles.

- In West Bromwich and Wolverhampton many vehicles are burned and shops are looted, while some form barricades.
- In Toxteth, Liverpool, 2 fire trucks and police cars are burned. About 200 people face the police and ransack shops. The police arrest 37 rioters.
- In Gloucester an abandoned building (a former art college!) is set on fire. Vehicles and bins are torched and youths attack police with stones and bottles.

- In Bristol, 2-3 unmarked vehicles are hit with paint-stripper at the CID's Serious Crime HQ for the South West. A communiqué by '**(Thorn in your side) Splinter division**' states: *"Why not look at the frustration caused by poverty, when the only vision is bleakness, mickey mouse crimes being trumped up to heavy charges an no way out of the ghetto, sure we disobey and do it for the kicks, what else is there? Window shopping and crack, and they leave us feeling hollow. We are never going to make it in your fairytale world [Chief Inspector] William [White], so we've chose to back a dead cert, the one your having difficulty catching, the odds are in our favour, he runs fast, the evening post smasher."* This is a reference to the anarchist attack on the *Bristol Evening Post* and the Bristol police's inability to catch those responsible.

### **Sunday, September 25**

- New series of raids in London, forty suspects are arrested following investigations by Scotland Yard on virtual "social networks".
- The City of London is on standby and more than 10,000 policemen are mobilized in anticipation of possible rioting before the new Notting Hill Carnival after the petrol bomb attack by masked men on a police van (with cops in) in Edmonton in the north of the capital. The cops were not injured.

**'North London Solidarity Federation'** for collaborating with the police-media language of repression.

### **Monday, September 19**

- In Bristol, a Tesco and Lloyds are attacked, their windows broken and ATMs sabotaged. The action was claimed a few days later, in solidarity with those arrested during the riots.

### **Saturday, September 24**



- In Hoveton, a small Norfolk village, a local authority 4 x 4 vehicle is set on fire outside the police station.



- More riots in Birmingham, Luton, Cambridge, Birkenhead, Leicester, Milton Keynes... In Cambridge youths gather to loot the shopping centre and attack police – 2 cops are injured and 5 rioters arrested.
- On Canvey Island, in the Thames estuary, eleven arson attacks are reported with the targets ranging from rubbish bins to vehicles.
- 80 people confront police at Salford Precinct. A library is set alight and there is looting. A mob of up to 200 youths raid an off-licence and the main shopping precinct in Salford. The Lidl supermarket on nearby Fitzwarren Street is looted, trashed and set alight by rioters.
- In Derby, over 20 cars and a local shop are damaged in a series of overnight disturbances in the Campbell Street, Allenton and Brighton Road,

Alvaston areas. A pair of 15 year olds were arrested afterwards, according to the police.

- An event described as an "incident of disobedience" is reported at a young offenders' institution in Ashfield, Bristol.

- During the riots in Bristol a van of the energy company Eon and a BMW are set on fire in the St Pauls neighbourhood by '**Informal Anarchist Federation / Eco-anarchist Insurrectionaries**' "for Eons total disregard for the natural ecosystems" and in solidarity with those arrested that night by the police.

### Wednesday, August 10

- In Birmingham, 3 vigilantes patrolling to protect shops are hit by a car and die soon after. Three suspects are questioned on Friday by police in connection with the homicide investigation.

- New clashes between police and rioters in Eltham (South London).

- During the day, the Metropolitan Police announce that 768 arrests have been made in London and reported 111 injuries in its ranks.

the Newton part of Birmingham.

### Sunday, August 21

- About 30 people march from a police station to Brixton prison against the cops and in solidarity with those arrested during the riots. At the prison the anarchist demonstration exchange shouts with the prisoners including "Freedom Now!" "The passion for freedom is stronger than any prison", "Cops, pigs, murderers", "no justice, no peace, fuck the police". See the report of the demonstration on Page 41.

### Thursday, August 25

- Following Facebook and RIM (BlackBerry), the social networking business Twitter is willing to meet with the **Home Secretary Teresa May** about the riots.

### Monday, September 12

- In Athens, Greece, two incendiary devices made of gas cylinders explode in the entrances to a Marks & Spencer and a Benetton store, avoiding danger to passersby. This action is claimed in solidarity with the UK rioters, as well as Chilean anarchist combatants, and criticizes the leftist-anarchist group



station where police department vehicles and cops' personal cars are parked. Two cars burn, a communiqué claims the action in solidarity with the UK rioters.

### Saturday, August 20

- RIM, maker of BlackBerry phones, complain of cyber attacks on its site and its databases. A hacker group, '**TeaMp0ison**' claim responsibility and threaten to publicly release sensitive information stolen from the company if RIM continue to disclose information to the police about the rioters.



- West Midlands Police release pictures of rioters shooting at police officers in both Birmingham and Wolverhampton. A police helicopter was shot at in

- **PM Cameron** gives police authorisation to use rubber bullets and water cannons to disperse the rioters.
- In Enfield, Eltham and Southall, citizens and traders form vigilante groups to stop the spread of rioting. Members of the nationalist '**English Defence League**' are involved. Police say that these groups "hinder its operations."
- In Madrid, Spain, two trucks of the company GDF-SUEZ are burned. A communiqué claiming the action says: *"the attacks will continue against all that which enslaves us; also **for our sisters in England** who, having understood that the misery in your lives is caused by the world of commodities, have fiercely launched yourselves to destroy them — **from here, strength in your struggle, and may the insurrection that these days ravages England spread everywhere. FREEDOM FOR BILLY, SILVIA, COSTA AND MARCO! FREEDOM FOR THE ANTI-AUTHORITARIAN PRISONERS INCARCERATED BY THE GREEK STATE! To Mark Duggan, never forget, never forgive"***

### Thursday, August 11

- In Bristol, the local newspaper the Evening Post is targeted by anarchists. Office windows are smashed and the facade is paintbombed resulting in damage



estimated as £20,000. The communiqué that is later released states: *"The media demonises those who choose to resist and fight back, opening the way for more repression against us all. They attempt to divert our attention away from the real everyday thugs and looters - the cops and capitalists, who routinely get away with large-scale theft and murder. This is part of the divisive strategy of rulers to get us fearing and fighting each other and taking sides with authority against rebels. This action was made by people who are not fooled. They do not understand our anger as an unstoppable force that will not be stopped by batons or bullets - we fight with all means for a future of complete liberty we have yet to know. When the gloves come off and the social war has never been clearer, the class enemy reply on corporate media to be used as just another weapon against us all who want something better for our own lives and those yet to come. Let's see the bosses and politicians scramble to be seen with*

- In Berlin, Germany, the windows of the Sparkasse bank on Heinrich-Heine Straße are broken and "brennt UK" (UK burns) is spray-painted on the bank. A communiqué claims the action in solidarity with the UK riots.

### **Tuesday, August 16**

- In Portland, Oregon, USA, the Police Station 47th & SE Hawthorne Street has its windows broken. The action is later claimed in solidarity with the UK rioters and is signed "a few anarchists."

### **Thursday, August 18**

- In Fresno, California, USA, petrol bombs are thrown into the underground parking lot of a police





station in Bristol, and the smashing of windows at two banks several days earlier (the night of Tuesday 9 to Wednesday 10, August) on White Ladies Road in Bristol as well. The claim says: *"both actions where in solidarity the uk's latest resistance. keep the flames burning till the cites turn to ash"*

### Sunday, August 14

- Scotland Yard estimate that there have been 2140 arrests since the beginning of the revolt, and about 1000 people charged.
- In Battersea, London, a group of people attack an RBS bank with stones, and spray the messages "SOLIDARITY TO THE REBELS" and "FIRE TO THE PRISON", claiming the action in solidarity with rioters and the **Antifa England** prisoners.

*brooms on the streets - it's their mess come back to bite them, the lines are drawn: this is what Big fucked Society looks like."* A man's DNA is found at the crime scene later leading to a raid on a Bristol squat by 10 van-loads of police (plus *Bristol Evening Post* journalists!). The wanted man, **Huw "Badger" Norfolk**, is not found by the cops, but the police seize material (including computers and phones) to continue their investigation. (See Page 45 for a letter from Badger in clandestinity).

- The police open a murder investigation after the death of a 68 year old London man, who was hospitalised by rioters after attempting to put out flames in industrial bins on August 8.
- In the evening, incidents break out in Banbury (Oxford) and Dunstable (Bedfordshire), where shops are burned.
- Shortly after midnight, a transmitting antenna of the BBC is set on fire in Bedminster, Bristol. The action is later claimed by '**International ELF-FAI**' dedicating the action to those captured and in prison and those fighting the cops in the streets.
- **David Cameron** announces that 30 million pounds will be made available to help traders to repair the damage. He mentions the possibility of a curfew and deployment of the army if the riots continue.
- The presence of at least 16,000 cops on the streets of London until the weekend is confirmed.



- 922 people have been arrested in London alone, including 401 charged.
- 50 photographs of suspects captured by surveillance cameras, are exposed to plain view on a giant screen mounted on a van, which from 7 am to 9 pm will drive around the centre of Birmingham.
- Faced with the unexpected influx of defendants, judges of the courts of the capital and other major English cities sit up all night to try and imprison the rebels.
- In Zurich, Switzerland, eight windows of a bank are broken and the messages "*Londres partout*" (London everywhere) and "*Liberté*" are spray-painted.

### Friday, August 12

- Courts in London, Birmingham and Manchester remain open for the second consecutive night to deal with those captured by the State.
- The **Prime Minister** and the **Mayor of London** propose to evict tenants of social housing in the event of direct or indirect participation in the riots.
- The Metropolitan Police announce that 1051 arrests have been made and that there have been 591 indictments in London in the wake of the riots and looting of recent days.
- In total, authorities say that more than 1,500 people have been arrested in connection with the riots throughout Britain.

### Saturday, August 13

- **Cameron** mentions the possibility of installing **William Bratton** (former chief of police in the American cities of New York, Boston and Los Angeles) as special advisor.
- A communiqué is published anonymously claiming the attack with bricks in the early evening (7:30pm) on 3 unmarked police cars at Trinity Road police