



September

ANTIFENIX UPDATE 2016

17 months have passed since the Czech Republic's repressive forces insulted the mythological bird Phoenix, by using its name for the national police crackdown against anarchist, radical left, animal and earth liberationist movements. What happened and what is the situation of radicals today?



Operation Fenix

The first wave of Operation Fenix started April 28th 2015. In the early morning police raided several apartments, as well as the anarchist central Ateneo in Most, confiscating many electronic devices including a major server which hosted many anti-authoritarian web pages and arrested 11 people. At the end of the day police accused six people of a conspiracy to prepare a terrorist attack against the train carrying military equipment. Three of them were locked away in pretrial detention.

Very soon police had to produce their major evidence – two state agents. These two agents-provocateurs had infiltrated a group of anarchists, gained trust, and later on started to talk about the plan of attacking the military cargo train. They recorded every meeting and activity and when they had enough material the entrapment was done and the trap was shut.

Police interrogated and harassed many people in the first days of the repression and haven't stopped since.

This was the first time police used the method of entrapment against the anarchist movement and the very first time any organized group was accused and charged for terrorism.

Lukas Borl – Caught by police...

A long term anarchist organizer from the city of Most, one of the 11 people arrested during the first night of Fenix, Lukas Borl announced that he went underground in autumn 2015. He stated that he couldn't bear the spying and nonstop monitoring by the state agents. Lukas was worried that he would end up going mad with paranoia or sent to prison, because even for an outspoken radical anarchist, everyday police harassment isn't a normal thing. In the spring of this year it proved that Lukas made a good choice by going into clandestinity – the police revealed their suspicion that Lukas is a founder of an insurrectional group called the Network of Revolutionary Cells (SRB) and unofficially accused him of several arsons against police vehicles. They portrayed him on their webpage as wanted, armed and dangerous. It was obvious that the state's repressive apparatus is trying to make his underground time harder by spreading lies about him.

Lukas was still active during his clandestine, publishing articles and according to his blog he moved pretty freely around the world. It seems that the police were totally desperate in their search for Lukas. Since the beginning of April, police have entered several flats without warrants, tried to officially and unofficially interrogate many people, used some old KGB practices in an attempt to get any information about Lukas Borl or the Network of Revolutionary Cells (SRB). Unfortunately, he was caught on Sept. 4th in the city of Most. His former classmate from elementary school recognized him while working as a cop. This proves the only old true: All Cops Are Bastards even if they were once classmates.

He is held in the custody prison in Litoměřice. You can support him by any kind of action, send him a letter, pictures or money (to the abc account). His actual address is also available at antifenix.cz.



Igor Shevcov – “pro Putin anarchist”

With food the hunger grows and this works all the more when a repressive state starts to go after anarchists. After two months, another anarchist was accused of terrorism and remanded. Igor Shevcov (comrade from Russia who came to Prague to live and study) was accused of taking part in an attack on the home of the Minister of Defense. Not only have anarchists never used a tactic such as attacking a house with a nine year old child and other people inside, but there wasn't even a fire in the house, no firemen were called, no police were called till the next day, and the evidence against Igor was a police dog named Rina who barked when the detectives asked her if Igor was the attacker.

The police – followed by the media – labeled Igor a “pro-Putin anarchist” – an absurd term chosen to provide people a false reason why he would have wanted to burn the minister and his family. With all the attention on the “Russian terrorist,” the Czech minister of defense Martin Stropnický was busily signing treaties cementing US military presence and the US army bases inside Czech borders. Stropnický also tried to push through a new law reinstating the mandatory military draft – using as an argument that the war with Russia is around the corner and that the USA is the only choice Czech people have. He is also a big advocate of TTIP.

Igor was held in the highest restricted-security remand facility for three months without access to a proper vegan diet, any visits and his post was delayed for weeks. His case was also connected with participation in criminal damage. That is a ridiculous accusation, alleging that a video recording of someone else spray painting a prison wall during a spontaneous demonstration also showed Igor helping the graffiti to be finished smoothly.

The dramatic and sometimes theatrical court decided that there was unfortunately not enough evidence to prove that Igor took part in obviously preplanned attack on the minister's house, but for the charge of “complicity in criminal damage,” Igor was sentenced to 2 years of expulsion/exile. As the main argument for expulsion, the judge said that Igor does not have any substantial social bonds and that he doesn't have the correct visa. No one could expect that any judge would respect any bonds beside marriage or any relationship which is not based on a profitable contract but still she forgot to mention that the reason why Igor lost his student visa was because of his stay in custodial jail by the same court – and for no reason since he was found innocent in the terrorism case.

This is a “very nice” way for the Czech state to apologize for already ruining someone's life. So it's hardly surprising that “Igor Shevcov doesn't show any respect for our system based on democratic values”: another argument by the judge.

Igor appealed the sentence, and the appeal court took place in the end of July. The new sentence: Igor is banned from attending any supporting or cultural event or any event like a manifestation, demonstration, benefit, mobilization, protest or any other action within the anarchist movement. If you want to support Igor, rather than congratulating him on his “better” sentence, ask him what kind of support he needs, for he is in a very uncomfortable situation. And mostly, keep changing your environment into a world where repression, exclusion and borders are exchanged for mutual solidarity and freedom.

And the Police?

They advocated that Fenix was a hunt for the anarcho-insurrectional group Network of Revolutionary Cells (SRB) and even claimed that Operation Fenix destroyed this group responsible for several acts of sabotage. Now it's clear that police were lying. The accused ones have nothing to do with SRB and police fortunately have no clue who is behind their vehicles going up in flames. As proof, since the beginning of Fenix there were many more actions than before and SRB's sabotage of property even forced a businessman – who bullied his employees instead of paying their wages – to pay a big part of his debt to them. Seems like with the spreading hunger across society there is also growing anger.

Since the repression started the state's agents have been monitoring, spying, following, interrogating, threatening, hustling, arresting, accusing, lying, imprisoning, bullying, stealing from, and confiscating the belongings of many people, and definitely not only from anarchist circles. For many this is something new, but we know that the police are only showing their real face.

Don't forget who they are. The same people who imprisoned Igor for no reason, keep Martin locked down and away from proper vegan food, break into peoples homes and so on are from the same institutions which several times evicted Klinika and all the previous squats, which sent thousands of migrants back to war zones, which kick homeless people out of the trams to let them freeze, among so much more.

Solidarity is our real weapon

Whether or not you are already experiencing similar repression in your country it is good to prepare yourself for the moments when it comes. In the moments like this, solidarity is all we have and compare to individuals or sometimes unfortunately lives could be unbreakable. Sometimes people are accused of actions we wouldn't carry out ourselves or which we even find foolish. Also it can appear that by taking a step back, away from the “terrorists” we may save ourselves from the repression. First of all, we have to remember that it is police who accused them and the police are the last ones to be trusted. Also by stepping back or letting them make a gap between the radical and the peaceful ones we do exactly what the police hope to accomplish with the repression. Because then they know that they can always crack down on the radicals using the same tactics and the same narrative, and the rest will just bend.

In our movements, it's certainly true that we have a lot of internal disagreement and splits, but when it comes down to it, we must stick together and refuse to let the institution which wants to erase us to build walls between us. Remember that if some of us are in prison it is not the end, and that the bigger win for the repressive apparatus is in creating divided and paranoid individuals. We can still come out of this situation as a diverse movement based on solidarity and integrity. Repression will exist as long as state does and as long as we challenge it. So get ready!

Take care of each other, so we can be strong together.

Prepare your locale for the possibility of the repression coming to your city one day. Don't get trapped in paranoia, or be paralyzed by fear. In that case, our enemies will have been successful. Create strong bonds with people you trust, spread a security culture and most importantly tell everyone around you **“DO NOT TALK TO POLICE!”** It can only ruin your life and the lives of your loved ones.

Martin's sister:

“If they know we're here for them, determined to do whatever it takes to offer support and encouragement, they will be stronger and become harder to break. They must know that we are here for them...”

Martin:

“Thank you all for your support. Prison isolates and I just refuse such institutions which destroy human beings. Sending a lot of strength to everyone. The struggle continues.”

Igor (the last speech in the court)

“My Russian citizenship is not enough and my anarchist ideology is fundamentally against the idea of trying to attack a minister's children. (...) In the end of my last speech I will add that I consider the view of the state institutions on people's relationships to be very inhumane – they look at it from a very bureaucratic point of view and it doesn't respect what is not confirmed in a bureaucratic/official way. I don't have here in the Czech Republic either property or “official” family, but still I have comrades and close friends and those whom I really care about. They are my family here. I don't have any property but I do have an emotional bonds to places, people and concrete commitments and activities. The state apparatus doesn't respect that and I consider that disgusting. The end.”

HOW TO OFFER SUPPORT?

Since the beginning of Fenix, many support actions have taken place. From letter writing nights, food and money collection, demos, marches, benefits, info talks, flying to banner drops, spontaneous noise demos with fireworks, actions at Czech embassies, graffiti, wheat-pasting, bomb threats to liberation of hens, sabotage against fur farms, fires against police cars and a bank in Poland and much more.

We definitely agree with Martin when he said: *“I am not gonna tell anyone what kind of actions to choose, that's against my basic values”*. We would just add that we aren't going to ban any type of actions as well. It is up to you and your horizons. But still, think twice about what can really help the people you support in the moment of your action – especially consider those awaiting trial.

Here are some tips:

- ↳ The court hearings are coming again and we CALL FOR INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY ACTIONS. Come to the court rooms or show support in your location especially at Czech embassies and consulates. The next hearing with comrades entrapped in the attack against the military cargo train will take place on October 3rd to 7th.
- ↳ Spread the information. Talk to people about the repressions, share this info, take some materials in our distro or download them and print. All information and materials to download are on the webpage of “Czech” Anarchist Black Cross focusing on local repression ANTIFENIX.cz.
- ↳ Organize an event at your place, let us know and we will help promote the event.
- ↳ Send a letter to Martin, or any prisoner you have a closer connection to. For the people locked behind bars the mail is very often the only connection they have with the outside world. Martin speaks very little English, but you can teach him. His address is: Martin Ignáčák 10.8.1986, V.V. Praha – Pankrác, P.O.BOX – 5, Praha 4, 140 57
- ↳ Send a noisy greeting over the wall to Martin. Even a very small group of people meeting spontaneously can make a very big mess using horns, fireworks, pots and their voices. Martin and the other prisoners love it.



- ↳ Initially you can call, write or even visit (if possible) to Pankrác prison authorities and request adherence to their statutes regarding the diet of inmates. Address: Vězeňská služba ČR, Vazební věznice Praha – Pankrác, PO Box 5, 140 57 Praha 4, Czech Republic. Phone: +420 261 031 111 Email: vvpankrac@vez.pan.justice.cz
- ↳ Support Martin's diet. If you can drop some VEGAN food at the infoshop Salé in Prague. Please do so. Everything must be originally packed, before expiration and no glass. Or you can send him money directly to prison so he can buy veggies, fruit, bread and tobacco. His new direct bank contact is on antifenix.cz
- ↳ Support us – donate. Last but not least, the repression means high monetary costs for us. Legal support of all the accused and indicted comrades, phone cards, stamps for Martin etc. You can make money by throwing a benefit party, show, barbecue, bar, etc...
- ↳ Lukas's address: Lukas Borl 1.3.1982, V.V.Litoměřice, Veitova 1, 41201 Litoměřice

The ABC bank account is: 8760190237/0100 IBAN CZ98 0100 0000 0087 6019 0237 SWIFT CODE: KOMBCZPPXXX (KOMBCZPP).

FIGHTING THE REPRESSIONS IS NOT A POLITICALLY OR GEOGRAPHICALLY ISOLATED CAMPAIGN. IT IS A PART OF BROAD AND INTERNATIONAL STRUGGLE. IF YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO SUPPORT US OR YOU ARE FROM TOO FAR AWAY, DON'T WORRY. WHAT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT IS TO LEARN FROM OUR EXPERIENCE AND KEEP FIGHTING STRUCTURES OF HIERARCHY AND OPPRESSION FROM WHERE YOU STAND. NEITHER OPERATION FENIX NOR THE SOLIDARITY IN RESPONSE ARE ABOUT THE FEW INDICTED ONES BUT ABOUT THE FUTURE OF AUTHORITARIAN SUBVERSIVE ACTION ITSELF. SO STAY ACTIVE WHATEVER YOU DO AND WHEREVER YOU ARE.

THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES

