

With all means possible

Mario Lopez

Contents

With all means possible	3
Letter written on the occasion of the day of unrest and solidarity with anarchist prisoners	5

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This text was written by Mario on the 9th of August for an Anti-Prison Gathering in Mexico which took place the 17th and 18th of August 2012.

The silence and the distance so widely suggested by Power, do nothing more than increase the thickness of the walls of the prison where they are locked up. The path of complicity is very distinct, the path which opens way for those who want these walls to jump in the air. — “The resolution of a problem.” Italy, 1994.

Now, when I find myself behind these walls and still in the sick-bay of the southern prison of Mexico City, waiting for my partial recuperation, I see through the barred window and my vision is struck with two big barbed-wired walls, protected by a look-out tower, which only marks one long division between one prison and another, between the prison and its terror, and the city and its enclosure. Two parallel worlds, uniformed in only one color. Two societies with one unique end: control. Being here I give credit to Xose Tarrío and Marcelo Villaroel, I affirm that analysis as much as critique against prisons must come from the political axis and from ideas, but also — and very importantly — it must come from the personal experience of it, from the perspectives of those who live and walk within it.

Prisons are also centres of self-extinction, in occasions one of all against all, a place where one struggles to survive, where more than acquiring respect, it induces fear. But I have to and we have to be clear, that this self-extinction is brought about directly by the state and capital, which through terror, fear, corruption, overcrowding and overpopulation, drugs, medical negligence etc. put the individual in a situation of stress, confusion, euphoric depression and anger. In a whole, an environment of pressure that makes this place a true and permanent battlefield. Obviously I am speaking of the prison that I have ended up living in. Even despite all of this, I can make out the minimal solidarity and companionship between prisoners, even despite the principle rule: *“In jail you walk alone and you look out for yourself and only yourself”*.

Prison is a clear reflection of the exterior world, of a society that rots and decomposes, saturated in the same contradictions of the system.

The “module” is the penitentiary space inside the prison, meaning a prison within a prison. All of this is a structure of social control, but unlike some prisons or modules of maximum security, here perhaps the punishment is to survive the worst and vilest conditions of life.

The “module” is the worst punishment for the problematic prisoners as much as those who put up a protest. The beatings of the guards, the psychological terror are, together with the module, the principal methods of control. Proof of the cowards with badges and truncheons’ power.

The prison where I find myself is in some ways different to many others that compañer@s have lived through: the permanent isolation modules, the maximum security prisons, the FIES, were created in a strategic and coldly calculated manner to physically and psychologically rob an individual of their capacity to question, create, criticize, think and, finally, to make her or him a living ghost and dependent on the system- without autonomy, without capacity of free and conscious decision.

The white walls, without natural light, without recreational activities or sports, with surveillance 24 hours a day. They are looking to kill the warrior spirit of the “social rebels” at its root; those who do not accept and who rebel even without academic analysis or without political conscience. They are made to annihilate the conviction and the fight of our affinities and political

prisoners. This prison is a clear reflection of the capitalist society, its failures, its social vices, its hypocrisy and its spectacle. The clear difference is the fact that here everything is more intense: the prisoners stabbed, burnt and beaten are an every day occurrence, and all caused by the reduction of vital space to a dear minimum.

Despite all of this, not all here is mere submission. Actually the opposite, I also find myself with buddies who maintain an open and critical mentality, with a clear and visible tension to break the apparent “existing order” and to fight, at least to “better their life conditions”. Being not so politicized and with the intention of radicalising their thinking, they value their fight and don’t leave it to one side, well those who live in these conditions know very well what their re-vindications are. However, we won’t lose our direction, I maintain another stance on the fight against prisons, one which, more than abolitionist, my perspectives and my acts are directed towards the total destruction of prisons as both physical and mental structures of social control.

The so boasted “rehabilitation” or “social reinsertion” is nowhere to be found here, it all becomes a farce, a circus in a power game of which psychologists, criminologists and sociologists all contribute to. This is something that all of the prisoner population knows: “prison is the best crime school”. To this point, as an anarchist, the proposal of rehabilitation doesn’t mean anything positive, it would simply be – or is – an attempt to reinsert all the dissidents into the capitalist community and that, by one form or another, contribute to the perfect functioning of the mega machine. This is the only positive rehabilitation for the State / Capital.

Before I conclude this brief explanation, I’d like to make a clarification that I consider necessary. In this text I have put attention only in the prison systems, but when I talk about prison, I also refer to whatever type of mental or physical enclosure: from the enclosure and torture of non-human animals, such as in circuses, zoos or vivisection laboratories, the conditions of overcrowding that humans imposes itself on nature in the search for well-being and progress. The punishment that is imposed in schools, the torture of the mental institutions, of the “husband” who locks up and deprives his children and compañera of their freedom, even kidnappings based on political or common motives etc. All of these are also situations of imprisonment- social relations which have to be destroyed.

This brief experience, and the rest of it I still have to live, has made it clear to me that we need to sharpen our knives and direct ourselves towards a more objective and direct fight against the prison system. We have to open up our proposals to other fields, to other fights and increment the anti-prison activities- like this one where we find ourselves. Because we have the absolute necessity of propagating the idea of the destruction of this and any prison society.

Without reforms nor abolition. Let’s sharpen our knives, our critiques and our analysis, leaving behind the luke-warm positions and the waiting, eliminating the false discourse of “guilty” and “innocent” from our struggle, a discourse of the juridical system of the state that only contributes to the multitude and criminalization of compañer@s who are prisoners for being consequent with their ideas of attacking the power. An anti-prison struggle that maintains in the social, a true and real social interruption and not a fictitious one, an anti-prisons struggle with projectuality from the grassroots, and not just a simple activity that limits itself to reaffirming our theory. A struggle within a struggle, against all and for total liberation.

Compañer@s, lastly I want to take advantage of this space to send my revolutionary solidarity- although only words- for the anarchist prisoners in Italy, Greece, Spain, Bolivia and Indonesia, with the Chilean compañero on the run Diego Rios and Mono. A strong embrace to Gabriel Pombo da Silva and Marco Camenisch. Solidarity with all the anarchist prisoners of

the world whose names I don't remember at this moment, but who are present in the struggle. Solidarity with my sister of affinity Felicity Ryder, who from the clandestinity maintains herself face to face with the enemy- her attitude of life.

Compañer@s, I have a long journey to take and, all of us together, a fight to continue.

For freedom. For anarchy.

Tear down the walls of the prisons!

By all means necessary- without symbols or leaders.

Social war on all fronts!

Thanks for the space and for the solidarity.

Mario Antonio Lopez

Anarchist prisoner of Mexico City, Reclusorio Sur

Mexico City, 9 August 2012

P.S. The fight against prisons is part of the fight against all, is only a battlefield against power without leaving all the rest to one side. Total Freedom.

Letter written on the occasion of the day of unrest and solidarity with anarchist prisoners

25th October 2012 Comrades, at last I got news from the outside world. I am very angry as I learn that many more comrades are still being hit by the repressive waves of international dominion. It is obvious that the enemy want us to be knocked down. Its repressive blows are meant to destroy, physically as well as psychologically, the many individuals, groups, projects, occupations and nuclei of anarchist action that we can generally define as movement.

I've recently heard about the imprisonment of comrade Massimo Passamani in Italy, but unfortunately I don't have much information about this. I've also heard about the house arrest inflicted on Italian comrade Daniela Battisti. I send her all my solidarity. At dagger drawn with the existent!

But in spite of all the hostility against our comrades in the world there is something that made me very much happy: the open letter of our dear comrade Braulio Duran. I was very happy as I read that in spite of the non-life conditions he is enduring, he remains coherent with his ideas as vegan and straight-edge, and proudly claims these ideas. Along with Conspiración Ácrata, we have always expressed (and we are still doing so) solidarity and total support to comrade Braulio. As individuals different from him we've always had great complicity with his positions. Even if I'm imprisoned I keep on expressing my support and solidarity with Braulio, no matter if we never met face to face or shook hands, all the same we have shared ideas and events, in particular as regards his action against the structures of dominion. This is why I am very pleased that he is starting to communicate publicly. I wish he did this more often because it is very important to maintain communication for an anarchist prisoner.

Prison, 'incidents', death, repression, life on the run: nothing of the sort could stop us nor will it ever do. Since 1887, when in the United States the mass media at the service of the State-Capital were demanding the blood of the anarchists who wanted to subvert the democratic order, up to this day in Chile, when the media of mass alienation are doing the job of the police as they investigate and expose our comrades on struggle, a constant trend has been going on in spite of everything: the incorruptible struggle against Power. People who struggle with all means

they have in order to destroy all material structures and relations of dominion, comrades in the struggle ready to anything. And if we fall down we stand up again and firmly continue on our trajectory of daily war against Power, on the road for total liberation.

As an anarchist individual, even if I am a prisoner in the dungeons of the democratic State, I carry on my daily war with all possible means. Even if only by words I try to contribute to the process of destruction of the system of dominion through coherent practices and informal relations that allow us to materialize our struggle. I try to contribute, within the limits imposed by prison, to the process of destruction of the values of the system, to the destruction of the material structures that maintain technological capitalism. I try to contribute to the process of destruction of the relations of Power on which society is based by making mechanisms of dominion function.

I am not a political prisoner, I am an anarchist prisoner who stands absolutely intolerant at the whole existent, in conflict and constant critique with the system of dominion and the lifestyle it imposes on us. By refusing its values and practices, by denying its relations of Power, its language and its domestication. Even less I accept the resignation that Christianity or Catholicism imposes on us so that we accept oppression. Religion is the best way to induce people to submission, resignation and ignorance. In spite of all this, here many individuals whose spirit and mind are weak stick to religion in order to endure imprisonment, and in so doing they increase the weight of their chains. Religion in prison is the best way they have to neutralize and catalyze any chance for conflict.

Now I'd like to clarify some aspects of my second-last letter because I got some comments that make this clarification necessary, in particular the paragraph where I talk about drug trafficking. I reckon that to treat this subject so lightly, using a language that is usually extraneous to our perspectives can lead to confusion. In this sense, I must say that my declaration on this subject refers to a very particular context. It is a defensive response to the attempts by the media of alienation at linking me with groups of so called 'organized crime', which are connected to the internal fights of the groups of Power and drug trafficking. It has never been my intention to place myself in the discourse of the populist-reformist left. But I recognize that behind the pantomime of the war between cartels and/or government-cartels a low profile war is being waged against other struggles opposing the government.

As a consequence, the fact I treated this subject was not an attempt to 'gain the friendship' or the 'support' of sectors of the left. I must point out that I can count on another kind of support and that I am content with the solidarity that I am already receiving. I am content with the honest solidarity of my comrades and of all those who want to support me in a disinterested way. The only compromise I accept and the only thing I want is the insurrectionist anarchist tendency, and I believe that I've already explained what this means to me in my previous letters. I don't think that the fact I treat subjects which can also interest us contradicts my ideas, positions or my way to live Anarchy. I am not struggling for a 'good government' or a better society, nor am I struggling for reforms or 'revolutionary' laws. Less than ever do I struggle for the 'abolition' of prison or the change of certain laws on terrorism. Nor do I express myself in favour of a more human capitalism or equal distribution of wealth. I struggle for total and absolute destruction of the system of dominion and all that represents the existence of the latter: society, values, morals, prison, laws, sexism, technology, etc. I struggle for free life, real life without authority. This is not utopia. This destruction-construction I aim at is necessary today, here and now.

We live in a society that shows its contradictions every day, and one of these is its revolting 'social peace'. Social-democracy, the left-right of capital, imposes on us an empty life, deprived of

passion, and forces us to live a non-life of consumerism, conformism and ignorance by offering us apparent and inexistent comforts where a television set is worth more than a desire, where a desire turns into a market commodity, where any piece of material 'bullshit' is more important than the pleasure of having a good time with our friends and comrades. A society where your dignity is bought with a free cinema ticket and discounts in supermarkets, where citizens sell themselves for a miserable wage and accept consciously their slavery only deserves total destruction.

But in its harmonious order there are included, excluded and self-excluded. I am among the latter, as they don't complain in front of the grey and troubled daily life imposed by the system, but with all their anger they refuse the false illusion of comfort delivered to us. And they turn their lives into constant propaganda of struggle and throw themselves in the battle and don't get any rest until they see the ruins of this horrible society. They are those who carry a free world without authority in their hearts.

All my support goes to the day of unrest and solidarity with anarchist prisoners, from 21st September to 30th September 2012. With all means necessary, for the total destruction of the system of dominion. No acronyms no leaders. Social war on all fronts.

Mario Antonio López Hernández

Anarchist prisoner.

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