

MUTUAL AID MONTHLY

A Production of Des Moines Mutual Aid

December 2023



This Whole Damn Country is a Haunted House

A revolution is needed to exorcize capitalism's material ghosts

Comrade Pat

'Spooky Season' reached its peak on Halloween, and by now the costumes have returned to the closets and the jack-o-lantern pumpkins have rotted on the porch. But the haunting of this country never really stops: the mountain of its historic crimes weighs on us like a nightmare, the horror of its daily operation visits us daily.

The US, and the global capitalist order it leads, was founded on indigenous genocide, built by slavery, birthed, as Marx tells us, "dripping from head to foot... in blood". This past refuses to stay dead, and the ghosts it produced are with us still. This empire is cursed to eternally repeat its founding crimes: you can forgo the horror film this year and watch the colonial violence that built America, 21st-century style, in Israel's attack on Palestine. The racism colonialists invented centuries ago grows a life of its own, possessing not just the US state but our individual minds. Capitalists extract profit from our labor as a vampire extracts blood from its victim, engorging itself and abstracting our lives into the furtherance of its awful ends. Capital mutilates the earth itself, releasing literal material ghosts, greenhouse gasses, beckoning the specter of climate apocalypse to visit untold horrors on us all.

No priest can help us here: the demons of America fear no crucifixes. The only means to exorcize this unholy land, for generations of dead slaves to reclaim the debt owed them, natives to take back stolen land, and workers to build a society not founded on a graveyard, is for us to band together against the dark and embrace the cleansing fire of revolution.

Iowa Department of Corrections Board: What Is It Good For? *Absolutely Nothing!*

Subcomandante Jade

In response to public outcry regarding the evils of the carceral state at the November Iowa Department of Correction board meeting, Denise Bubeck, a board member sporting a blue and white "I support genocide" pin, confidently proclaimed, "This department has to put facts before feelings...we have to follow rules. I hear that you want more visitation hours, but some people broke some rules, and now you can't have them...You know what you can do, though? Pray. Let's all pray for solutions." Not addressed was the "fact" that rules were/are broken by prison staff members on the daily, resulting in incidents used to deem all incarcerated people unworthy of human contact.

The blatant support of collective punishment and patronizing dismissal of audience members pleading for their loved ones' freedom echoed across the boardroom. Revelations abound when board vice chair, Webster Kranto, closed the meeting stating, "What I've learned from my years on this board is that we cannot change anything." Perhaps it was faux sympathy aimed to discourage further public comment, but the message couldn't be clearer: the Iowa DoC board self-proclaimed itself useless.

Iowa prison conditions are worse than they've been in decades, but with no state entity claiming responsibility over changing policies, the path forward has never been more obvious.

There's no reforming this clown show. Locking people in cages and cutting them off from their families and support networks will never result in public safety. Abolish the DoC. Abolish all prisons. Free the people.

Learn more at <https://linktr.ee/demandsfordoc>



Breaking News: Chauvin Stabbed and Liberated Chiapas Marks Three Decades

All we need now is a dead kissenger

Subcomandante Ronnie

Pig shit stain Derek Chauvin, the Minneapolis cop that murdered George Floyd, was stabbed in prison on Nov. 24th, Black Friday. Reportedly stabbed 22 times by an inmate, this enemy of the people is said to be in serious but stable condition. Bummer, we'll get him next time. New Black Friday tradition?

As abolitionists, should we applaud this act of violence? Do we condone Mussolini being dragged through the streets and Richard Spencer getting his face caved in on TV? Yes, yes we do.

These are the public faces of those that bring class war from above into our neighborhoods. Our violence is an act of self-defense and self-preservation.

Jan. 1st, 2024 will mark 30 years since the Zapatista rebellion was launched against the state of Mexico, capitalism, colonialism, and neoliberalism. The rebels seized over 10,000 square miles of formerly Chiapas, Mexico and distributed it back to Indigenous communities that have inhabited it far longer than colonizers have known how to clean their asses.

The mostly Mayan Zapatistas began guerrilla organizing in the Lacandon jungle in the 1970's. On Jan. 1st, 1994, the day imperialist NAFTA went into effect, they seized six towns and cities in Chiapas, forcing the government to a negotiation table that the insurgents built.

They have since held and expanded their territory, maintain their own medical, educational, and agricultural systems that sustain many large communities, all organized in Mayan tradition and futurisms.

In Nov. 2023 the Zapatistas announced that due to worsened violence by the state and state-protected cartels and paramilitaries, they are further devolving decision-making power into the hands of local communities, an example of effective horizontal organization. The Zapatista's stated revolutionary goal is to "create a world in which many worlds fit". They demonstrate that successful rebellions adapt their strategy to local circumstances and that there is no universal theory or tactic that will lead us to liberation.



This flyer is a production of Des Moines Mutual Aid, which is a local network of anarchists, communists, and socialists building community autonomy from capitalism and the state. Below are our points of unity - basically, the political and social outlook which binds us together.

o. We believe in working shoulder to shoulder and standing in solidarity with all oppressed communities. We ourselves are oppressed, and our mutual aid work is a fight for our collective liberation. We do not believe in a top-down model of charity. Instead, we contrast our efforts at horizontal mutual aid, the fostering of mutually beneficial relationships and communities, to dehumanizing and colonizing charity.

1. We believe in community autonomy. We believe that the communities we live and organize in have been largely excluded from state social services, but intensely surveilled and policed by the state repressive apparatus. Capitalism is fundamentally unable to meet people's needs. We want to build self-sustaining communities that are independent of the capitalist state, both materially and ideologically, and can resist its repression.

2. We are police and prison abolitionists. Abolition and the mutual aid that we practice are inextricably linked. We don't rely on capitalist institutions or the police to do our work. We believe in building strong and resilient communities which make police obsolete, including community systems of accountability and crisis intervention.

3. We work to raise the political consciousness of our communities. Part of political education is connecting people's lived experiences to a broader political perspective. Another component is working to ensure that people can meet their basic needs. It is difficult to organize for future liberation when someone is entrenched in day-to-day struggle.

4. We have open disagreements with each other about ideas and practices. We believe there is no formula for resolving our ideological differences other than working towards our common aims, engaging with each other in a comradely manner, and respecting one another, whether or not we can hash out disagreements in the process.

If you want to get involved, let a collective member know. For more information, including how to donate, visit <https://iowamutualaid.org/>.