Police shootings, killings, mass arrests, beatings, harassment... And what is the reaction from the city? The media is filled with panel discussions between some indignant presenter, some diplomatic cop and some displeased mayor. But this is the same old story: media, cops and politicians are all in one boat, all working for the same agenda. Perhaps some heated words can be exchanged, perhaps some 'new guidelines will be in place', just for the sake of the democratic script, where of course there is all the space in the world to act indignant, because everyone can express their lawful opinion. But this democratic script can only follow its own rules: to protect the interests of profit and power. So how could we ever expect them to have any solution, beyond putting a band-aid on the problem that they created to begin with? These indignations are themselves the biggest part of the problem. They make it seem like a solution to authority can come from authority itself, when the problem is the very existence of such authority, and that they are- and use- weapons to protect it.

So, let the politicians give great speeches about better training and more friendly policing. The truth is, police will always be violent, and will always murder. Our entire economy is based on exploitation, on wage-slavery, on violent blackmail: spend your life working for those who own everything, otherwise you sleep on the streets. Here in Holland the reality of violence seems so distant, almost unnecessary, and this is why people get indignant in the moment that power finally shows its teeth. It seems shocking that those who carry around truncheons all day finally use them. But authority is violence. Because authority is not something that people agree with but something that is imposed upon them.

That's where the police come in. It's their job to keep people in their assigned places, to use violence against those who resist, those who step out of line, those who don't fit in. That's why we keep hearing of cops shooting, harassing, beating, evicting, arresting, hunting illegals, attacking protesters. It's their job. All of these actions are a logical consequence of the authoritative position they have been given. They are given truncheons, pepper-spray and guns for a very specific reason: to either intimidate people into submission (usually they get away with just needing to show these weapons) or, when people are resisting, or disobeying their orders, or showing that they are not afraid, then to use these weapons. They maintain the full privilege of being the only people (legally) allowed to use violence. They have the monopoly on violence. Their job is to intimidate or hurt people to force them to obey the laws of the rich and powerful.

It is important to remember that both the passive and active use of violence (just intimidation or actual beatings) are violence. So even though we are used to the fact that police in this country rarely show their teeth by pulling out their weapons, just the fact that they carry these weapons shows them for what they are: institutional, violent scum.

But this violent scum, they are people – not in the sense that they show humanity or compassion, but in the sense that humans are not, and can never be, 'perfect' (besides the fact that there cannot be any absolute definition of perfection). Therefore holding absolute power over others is
a ridiculous contradiction. Because no one is perfect, no one is immune from making mistakes, fucking up, making a bad decision, and no training or rules can ever make them so. And no one expects that people can ever be perfect, but when people are put in a position of authority, of being able to decide over others’ freedom, others’ movement, others’ lives, this creates the biggest problem of this society – because then nothing can be experienced based on our own choice, ethics or desires. People cannot relate to each other, solve problems or live without the imposed mediation of power.

The three police murders in this country over the past month, the dozens of untold stories of police arresting homeless or illegal people to use them as punch-bags, the brutal repression on the 1st May demonstration in Amsterdam and then a few weeks later on a squatting action in the east of the city, are only a few examples. This is just a reminder that these pigs, that we see in the streets every day, are there to protect at all costs the interests of the few upper classes and to suffocate anyone who wants more than the crumbs they have been given. People thinking and acting disregarding their book of rules is the most scary thing that could happen to them. And while their fear they show through the blows of the truncheons, our fear is shown by the silence and apathy that we maintain in these situations.

In such a pacifist and pacified country as this one, police violence seems like one of these stories from some country on some other continent. Not something that could happen here, in one of these truly democratic countries. Wrong. Police violence happens here like everywhere else where there exist police. Whether or not we are confronted with it everyday in the same obvious way as elsewhere is not the point. Maybe here people are a bit too rich, a bit too stoned, a bit too scared, or a bit too cold to confront it, or to do something about it, and usually decide to avoid it, to remain indifferent, silent, forget about it... or maybe ‘doing something about it’ would mean posting on a news blog, writing some letters to politicians, complaining about it... in other words just acting indignant. Expecting the world to change without doing anything about it. But how many more times do we have to watch our friends and families getting beaten up, arrested, humiliated, harassed and shot? How long will it take before we tell television presenters to shut the fuck up, that they don’t get to represent and discuss our anger, how many more beatings do we still need to take before we give the cops a taste of their own medicine, how much more manipulation and hypocrisy can we swallow before we let the politicians know that we are neither numbers, statistics nor pawns in their disgusting games of power and profit? How much longer can we take it that others are deciding over our lives for us?

The problem can’t be reformed away. It’s useless to talk about freedom and happiness as long we live in a world based on isolation, coercion, and exploitation. That’s why we are not ashamed to talk about abolishing the police, abolishing prisons, abolishing the entire government. We can start right now by fighting back against police violence, against new laws of social control. We can start right now by reclaiming our relationships, learning how to deal with conflicts on our own terms, without mediation by getting to know our neighbors, and learning how to defend ourselves without relying on the police. Let’s not forget, those who have power, have and use it because we let them...
Often we tend to give more attention to material things, those which are quantitatively measurable. So we are left to consider the misery that overwhelms this society only by its material poverty – in other words, measured by the absence of money. But capitalism does not only take away the material means to live how we prefer. It does not only oblige us to work or to bow down in front of welfare institutions. It does not only impose upon us to live in an environment that is contaminated by industrialization, intoxicated by its useless and harmful overproduction, radiated by its impressive nuclear apparatus that leaves everyone dependent on the state and its experts, especially to manage its risks and its possible catastrophes. No, it’s not only about this. What is perhaps worse than our material poverty is the emotional misery prevailing in this society, generated by the entirety of the relationships that outline the rottenness of this world. We go from depression to depression, we witness suicides, we see relationships soaked in mistrust, competition, violence and hypocrisy, while a few handfuls of pills or glasses of booze ease us for a few moments from a brutal and foul reality. Our dreams and desires do not go beyond the sad horizon of what is in front of us: adventure, passion, discovery... they have been banished and can only be lived in the virtual world (through films, video games, etc.). Sadness paralyzes us as much as do the shadows of a prison, the jail of work, the constant need of money. This world has even come up with a wide variety of “cures” and “healers” for this misery which is less “visible”, more intimate. From psychiatrists to psychologists, from drugs to anti-depressants, from moments of “entertainment” like parties on a Saturday night and the football match on the Sunday afternoon, to living happiness in front of a screen (be it internet or television)... entire markets are being built on emotional misery. Even less than for material poverty, there is no miraculous “cure”. Sadness always comes back, it sticks itself to human beings, it follows them and hunts them. However, something else exists. Very well hidden by power, away from normality, suffocated by social order. It is not a bail-out, it is not a final goodbye to all sadness, but it is a beginning: from the moment that we decide to not take it anymore, but to act; to not resign ourselves but to rebel; to not drag ourselves through life but to live, sadness begins to disappear. Revolting, not only do we offensively go against that which is suffocating and oppressing us, but- much more importantly- we find again the joy of living, happiness within our relationships, with our revolting accomplices, sincerity and courage in what we think and what we do. “Happiness” in fact does not consist in accumulating money, in exercising power over others, in some promised paradise, but for example in the sweet coherence between what we think and what we do. Sadness comes from the fact that we can no longer recognize ourselves reflected in a mirror, looking ourselves straight in the eyes. The generosity of our being, of our thoughts, of our actions, is substituted by indifference, escapism, hiding. Because our lives seem to have lost all value, something that this society will never be able to give us. Because we have stopped trying to conquer the capacity to give value to our own lives. All the wealth of our existence is here, right in front of us. We only need to stretch out our arms with our hands armed with trust, ideas and freedom. It is through the search for freedom and the revolt against an existence with no meaning that we will hunt away the darkness in our hearts.
It goes a long way to speak about the misery of our society and our relationships when we start thinking about the idea of snitching. Snitching comes in many different forms, from people letting a boss know when a colleague was 10 minutes too long on their break, people that follow and participate in such shows as “opsporings,” people pointing out shoplifters to the security guards of supermarkets, neighbors calling the municipality to report that the renter downstairs is sub-letting their social housing apartment, prisoners talking to guards about who and what so that they can have an extra chocolate bar...unfortunately the list goes on and on.

These kind of acts are a symptom of how rotten our social relations have become, something that is endorsed and encouraged by those in power. Partly because it is easier to manipulate and control people when they are not bound by relationships of solidarity or trust, but instead are divided because they are focused on climbing the social ladder. Unfortunately many put more trust in the protection and approval of authoritarian institutions than in discussing conflicts on an equal level; or act based on the jealousy and frustration of seeing someone get away with something that you yourself find annoying to do (“if I have to do it, so do you”); or some people have a bigger desire to save their own ass by sacrificing those who are as exploited or oppressed as they are, instead of finding a common solution in the collective revolt against their common oppressor.

There are those who think of themselves as guardians of the book of rules, helping enforce the ‘proper’ conduct, adopting the ‘good citizen’ attitude. Some come up with moral speeches of “everyone has to contribute” in the way that the law asks, because they fear what would happen if no one did, -take out(or because they are too jealous when someone gets away with not following the rules), or because they hold a status in this society where it’s beneficial to them for the status quo to remain as it is.

This kind of morality is the one of law and authority. Where you expect everyone else to follow the same rules of conduct that you think are right, or just impose the fact that since you think that obeying the law is the right thing to do, everyone else has to obey it as well, and if not then they deserve to be punished. That is moralism: what I think is ‘right’ behaviour is what everyone else has to follow. And when this moralism is backed up by the law, defining what can and cannot be done, it seems that it cannot be contested, since without question it is the law that determines what is wrong or right.

Another motivation could be just kissing ass to authority by fucking over someone else that is in your same position. This completely vile betrayal of someone who is as fucked over by authority as you are, be it to your boss (“my colleague was 10 minutes late to work”), be it to a prison guard (giving information about your fellow inmates just to make it easier for yourself), tattletaling to a teacher on your classmate that is cheating...and so on. This kind of snitching is plainly servile and sleazy, since you are shortsightedly only thinking only of your own gains, at the expense of others: either having your eyes on climbing the power ladder, or getting a pat on the back from authority (better to anyways be on the “more powerful” side), or using the benefits gained to your exclusive advantage.

Perhaps it is also due to these kinds of selfish or super-hero behaviours that most people have stopped respecting each other, that most people don’t want to find to each other based around organizing against those who are the real enemies. Perhaps people have started to find it pointless to talk about solidarity and trust whilst snitches can clearly show how low people can act towards each other.

The most disgusting aspect of this is that it is hardly one of those things that we are forced to do. Rather, it is something that people choose to do, something that people volunteer to do, and which only creates further divisions between people who could meet each other on the basis of their common exploitation, finding new ways of making relationships on a horizontal level. Collaboration with authority is one of the worst contributing factors to the misery of this society, to the alienation between people, the mistrust and antagonism between individuals. Whether it be acts that serve the authoritarian system by furthering the imposition of their morality or the lowest form of selfishness, snitching on people does hide the fear of this society as we know it know could finally stop, since these acts follow and reinforce the logic of authority, the structures of power, of the bosses. And yes we cannot wait to see a world where no-one has to do anything anymore because others force them to, and everyone acts according to their own self-determined responsibilities, rather than those that are imposed.
nieuws

10 May
The imprisoned immigrants at the detention center for illegal people in Merksplas (BE) started a revolt against the prison. Several prisoners are on a hunger strike and the general demand in the prison is to be released immediately. The prison guards couldn’t handle the revolt and called in the help of 40 cops, from inside the people said there were very violent clashes. Everybody got beaten and 5 people have been put in isolation.

12 May
A person managed to escape from the prison de Havenstraat in Amsterdam. Another prisoner reports that the man climbed over the more than six meter high fence in a moment when the guards were distracted. The prisoners got arrested an hour after his escape and brought back to the prison where he was put in isolation.

15 May
In the morning a storage of a jeweler at the business park at Diemerhof in zuid oost gets successfully robbed. The police uses for the first time (without success) the newly introduced snitch program; Burgernet. The robbers drove off in a transporter van which they set alight 10 minutes later, after they continue in a faster car.

18 May
In Noord-Holland some people smash several cash machines by driving in to them with a van. It is unclear whether they intended on taking the money. They got away and without leaving any traces leading to their identities.

20 May
A building of the Dutch Bank (at the Sarphatistraat) and the building of the Authority Financial Markets at the Weteringcircuit have been hit with paint in the night. The paint throwers mention in a statement the following: The destruction of all the last social provisions in our society is now bigger and more radical than most of us have ever experiences in our life times. Take a nightly tour on your bike now and then for a small round of painting. Make our struggle visible, hassle our enemies, make it costly for them, and do not forget to enjoy yourself! Enough choices: temp agencies, police stations, villa neighborhoods, banks, your old employer that you so hate, media buildings, and so on.
10 reasons to attack the court house (at pernassusweg)

• Because everyday tens of people have to listen to the judgment of ‘society’ about their behavior. To hear if they will be wrenched out of their lives or not. If they, in the coming years, will only see the four walls of a prison, or if this time they happen upon the mercy of arrogant men and women dressed in gowns.

• Because from our birth on, the judiciary implements its laws and punishments upon us, and in our eyes could never have anything to do with what we could understand as a certain ‘justness’.

• Because in a courthouse it becomes frighteningly clear how the world outside of it turns. Because a court case can only brutally confirm that everything in this world turns on coercion, money, and repression of everything that is seen as outside of their made-up guidelines. Because in the end prison is a place where the ruling morality of society is at its peak.

• Because the state with its judicial process takes away the possibility to deal with conflicts ourselves. Because we want to address everything in our lives, also our conflicts, in the first person, and don’t want to hand things over to a predefined codex, that we moreover never signed up to ourselves.

• Because we will always only ever be files for the courthouse. Numbers they can classify, modify or delete.

• Because the courthouse constantly locks people up in prisons, and by doing that tries to take away all initiative from them and to keep them as small as possible. Because a society that needs prisons can only show us that it doesn’t care about our freedom. Because we don’t want any prisons anymore, for anybody.

• Because the court claims to exist to judge and punish forms of violence. But the biggest kind of violence lies within the court itself, and in the daily life that it protects. The daily life of the wars that nations conduct, the forgotten wells in which they dump their difficult clients, the generalized wage-slavery that suffocates every chance of a free life.

• Because the courthouses, police and judges are always standing ready and enthusiastic to hunt down, judge and lock up those who don’t follow the rules, or even more, those who revolt against this society.

• Because with every word of a judge he has the conscious or unconscious pretension to speak in the name of the people. In the name of each of us. Because supporting the judicial process means that you let yourself be represented by the state, lead a life according to its principles, rights and obligations. Whilst many rebels refuse this sheepish existence and daily make the choice for a life according to their own ideas and beliefs.

• Because it is possible ...
The following text was found spread around the demonstration in the Baarjes neighbourhood (Amsterdam) on the 1st May 2012.

On the 1st of May we take over the streets and squares around the world, a tradition existing for over one hundred years. We take to the streets to strengthen our dignity and struggle, and show that it is possible to fight what oppresses us.

Queens day was once invented to make sure that Holland is experiencing a collective hangover on the 1st of May… It does not surprise us that the 1st of May tradition in Holland is only developing slowly, because social movements have always been recuperated and destroyed. But we do not want a walk around the park so people can go home having done “something”, we want a confrontational collective experience, that goes further than just that day.

We live in a time of economical and political crisis, actually a crisis of the states, banks and big companies, but the people pay the price. The political and corporate vultures just found a new stick to beat the people down with. They expect us to carry the whole weight, to not complain - everything to keep their position and bank account safe. Just because their economy has always needed rich but even more the poor, and because they want to have us addicted to work and money to keep their economy functioning.

While the ‘social securities’ are vanishing, the banks have more power than ever. In both Italy and Greece the clumsy politicians were replaced by characters of the european bank, without an election. Their ‘crisis’ is only being used to keep and increase their money flow and their democratic system. We are being kept afraid, frightened to loose our job or house, afraid of foreigners… While we should be furious. Without any shame they are destroying the earth we are living on. Everything is for sale, from war and safety, till ‘green’ feelgood-products and a social life on your smartphone.

The ‘crisis’ only exists as an excuse to locally frighten the people, and like that keep them under control with new laws and less money; elsewhere on the world the crisis is the perfect excuse to increase ruthless exploitation, and to care even less about people and the world.

The whole existence of the crisis can be doubted, because there is more than enough food to feed the whole population- its about who claims it. They can no longer fool us with their ridiculous contracts, consumerism, chipcards, cameras, bankcards and IDcards. They are not necessary at all and never have been. What is necessary, is that people take their life and their city in to their own hands. We do not take it when people are being stopped and searched on the streets because of the colour of their skin, and then arrested because they don’t have the right papers. We do not take it to be exploited by any company or boss. We do not take when our lives are being dominated by religion.

We want to fill in our lives ourselves and together, but before we get to that point we will have to fight for it. Fight for a free world, where people are not being hindered by borders, authorities and capital. Fight for a world in which we are not numbers, and where the circus of school, work and consuming until death does no longer exist. We will not wait any longer for their next blow to hit, we wont let ourselves be frightened, we think and act for ourselves and each other. Because of all of that: lets take the streets

We will no longer let ourselves be judged on productivity
We will certainly not submit to their system
We will destroy their control and profit
Anarchy, solidarity …and never work again!
De Moker group

“(…) so agitation means: waking people up from their sedation, from the ‘oh, whatever’ politics, and pointing out their co-responsibility (…)”

The spreading of anarchist words and deeds is nothing new in the Netherlands. Already in the 1920s newspapers were spread that propagated anarchism – one of those was de Moker. This publication was made by several youths, that together and with others spread the paper and undertook actions against, for example, the military service and the army, wage slavery, work, and capitalism. Their activities included distributing propaganda, refusing military service, sabotage, but also participation in wildcat strikes by peat bog workers. The Moker youth was not part of a big organisation, but acted in small groups, which made police infiltration practically impossible. At a time when the anarchist movement was mostly made up of peaceful socialists and trade unionists, the Moker youth rebelled against such sleepy consensus-politics and tried to shake-up the movement and society with words and deeds that had to be received like a club hammer blow. Or, as they said it: “The annoying, repetitive complaints for years on end, considering the right to work, we are changing into the right to laziness, because these are the first symptoms of destruction.” The Moker group went its own way, not caring very much about possible prison sentences, police repression, or complaints and critiques from others in the movement. These rebellious youths called out for agitation and sabotage, and turned their words into deeds, to make it clear to this world that they refused to live their lives in fear of repression, but instead were willing to fight for their freedom and their own choices.

Editorial

We want freedom. Not the one that can be bought, sold, voted, judged, forced, delegated, regulated, watched, downloaded...

And while an infinite amount of commercial choices choke us;
while the speed of life rots us;
while we can’t make any movements outside imposed borders;
while everything is manipulated for the ends of progress and competition;
while decisions and discussions are reduced to the circus of politics;
while we accept that this world is built for and by the few who are benefiting off the backs of the many,
while the morality of the law thinks for us about what is wrong or right;
while disagreeing to any of this means punishment...

Well, there is the need more than ever to think, to talk and to act against all of this and try something else. Without the interference or the agenda of a political party, or any form of representation for that matter.

We want to talk about freedom, starting by recognizing those power structures that are fucking up everyone’s potential for having relationships on their own terms: without ruling or being ruled.

How can we point out more the urgency of this discussion when by standards of normality, bringing up talk about revolution, you are considered either a helpless dreamer, a fool, or even worse, as being ungrateful for the “great progress of civilization”?

So consider this newspaper as a modest attempt to try to break with the daily grind we are forced and fed everyday. By confronting the oppression that surrounds us, that tries to swallow everything, with the perspective of uncompromisingly destroying it.

Kaduuk is a monthly anarchist newspaper that is spread throughout Amsterdam.
It is distributed in English and Dutch.
contact:
kaduuk@riseup.net
kaduuk.noblogs.org