

# PHILLY FIGHTS ALONGSIDE FERGUSON



a chronology of revolt in  
the wake of Michael Brown's death



This zine is intended to be a short and incomplete chronology of conflictual activity that took place in Philadelphia following the killing of Micheal Brown in Ferguson, MO. We've put together this zine to highlight the combative spirit that characterized the actions, especially in light of the contained and reform-oriented direction anti-police (brutality) momentum has taken on locally. We hope that this zine will be a small contribution toward an honest and combative tendency that we'd like to see grow here.

We're also interested in taking steps toward creating a collective memory of opposing the state, white supremacy, patriarchy and capital that focuses on our ability to revolt and fight instead of seeking out narratives that prioritize our victimhood within the system. We understand that victimization is an inevitable consequence of life in a society based on domination, we want to learn from this, not to gain a moral high ground over our oppressors, but to better fight our enemies.

### Foreword

On August 9<sup>th</sup> 2014 Michael Brown, a black teenager was killed by police officer Darren Wilson in Ferguson, MO a suburb of St Louis. The killing was quickly followed by uncontrollable riots in Ferguson that in turn sparked waves of unrest across the country, as well as fomenting a national dialogue about the relation between black people and the police. The following are all anonymous accounts collected from the internet: a communique, a call for a march and a report-back. All were initially posted on anarchistnews.org and reposted online and printed in a number of zines.

August 11<sup>th</sup> 2014

## **Substation Vandalized In Solidarity With Ferguson Rioters**

In the early hours of August 11th we sprayed “RIP MIKE BROWN” on the door of a police sub-station in Philadelphia.

Micheal Brown was a young black man killed by police in Ferguson, Missouri yesterday. The police regularly kill black and latino men and boys, and Micheal's death is not unusual in terms of policing.

We took this action to memorialize Micheal Brown's life and also as a gesture of solidarity and complicity with the rioters in the St Louis area, as well as all others attacking the police, white supremacy, the state, and capital.

August 13<sup>th</sup> 2014

## **FTP in Solidarity with Ferguson @ Clark Park**

For too long Philly has been pacified despite the large militant history ingrained in our radical community. Despite one of the largest repressive, and brutal police departments enforcing economic domination, we have rarely found one another in organized moments breaking from the framework of reform and party politics. Our Anti-authoritarian community is large, yet beyond social gatherings.. we often find ourselves thinking; “What is going to break us from this comfort of lifestyle activism? What is going to push us from fulfilling a scene towards an active force of resistance and solidarity?”

We find ourselves now contemplating on how we can express our utmost solidarity with not only the rebellion in Ferguson, but all communities who have increasingly been thrown into the spotlight following the onslaught of state-sponsored murders. Many of us feel powerless, and disconnected from others thinking the same exact thing, “We have no basis to act on”. Well it's time to start building that base, and now is as good a time as ever to break that isolation that has been building up. We watch Ferguson in resistance, and are inspired. We see them confronting the fear that the state thrives on, finding one another, building bridges, and replacing tears with action. We are heartbroken over the constant deaths, many people of color and other less privileged classes have fell to at the hands of police. Yet Ferguson has taught us, it is simply not enough to be isolated in heartbreak. We must support one another, and build a base for unity through action. We can no longer weep, or simply talk about our solidarity. We can only act on our solidarity.

This is why, we, as an autonomous affinity of a few folks, are calling for a FTP, Solidarity With Ferguson March in Philly. We have no organizational affiliations. The call out is set for August 23rd, 7:30pm beginning @ the 45th & Regent section of Clark Park (think the big hole). Wear black to both mourn those who fell to state violence, and to negate the forces that kill on a daily basis. We decided as an affinity, that according to the location of an earlier event, this location would be most convenient. We are only few, but know there's more of yous out there feeling the same way no doubt. Help promote this amongst those peoples. Tell a friend, and tell them to tell a friend. We decided not to use Facebook ourselves due to both pending legal situations, and to the fact that we just don't got that social media swag to generate much invites. Anyone who wishes to, is welcome to create an event page though.

In love, solidarity and rage –

A few isolated Philly bould sick of our own isolated tears and rage.

August 23<sup>rd</sup> 2014

## Reportback on FTP March in Solidarity with Ferguson

Context: This event took place the same night as the anarchist book fair. Additionally, a vigil that had been planned for the night before at 7pm was pushed back one day and took place a half hour earlier than the FTP march the same night.

A call (<http://anarchistnews.org/content/ftp-philly-solidarity-ferguson-clark-park>) was put out for an FTP march in solidarity with Ferguson on August 23rd.

At first, a small group of people wearing black appeared at the called-for location at around 7:30pm, and after some confusion and discussion moved to the vigil where others in black joined them. As the vigil was winding down, masks and pamphlets were distributed throughout the crowd. A group of about seven young boys (some on bikes) joined the bloc, and were given masks as well. As the vigil dispersed there was an air of uncertainty in the crowd, at most 60 people were gathered. The start was awkward, no one person or group taking the initiative to start the march, eventually people began marching after shouting and frustration built.

The march went south, further into Clark Park. A trash can was knocked over, and the lid was thrown into the street toward a line of police cars. The tone was set; an uneasy antagonism hung over the group. A banner was unfurled (“revolt against the misery of daily life”) and the bloc tightened, heading north toward Baltimore Ave. Bags of paint-filled balloons were passed around between masked demonstrators. Markers and paint sticks were also distributed within the march. Once on Baltimore, the march headed West and immediately began blocking the street with a dumpster and some trash cans. With some distance between the march and the police cars (no cops were on foot), the march went North, against the direction of traffic, up a smaller residential street, where people jumped on top of cars and shouted “fuck the police”. At the end of the block there was confusion as to where to go, some wanted to head further West, others toward the University City neighborhood, and others still wanted to return to Baltimore Ave, after cries of “stay tight!” the march went one block East, then began heading south toward Baltimore Ave once again.

Near the corner of Baltimore Ave, with police right behind them, some demonstrators turned around and threw paint balloons at the leading police cruiser. Others quickly joined in. The march, more tense than before, turned East onto Baltimore Ave. The same dumpster was again pushed into the street as the paint covered cruiser sped toward the sidewalk, and a cop stepped out. This is when the march dispersed.

Two people were arrested, one of whom was tazed after a foot chase. The other was tackled to the ground and then kicked by a few officers. Both were taken to Mercy Hospital and then to jail. They have since been released.

This was the first event of it's kind in Philly in years. There is a lot of ferocity and anger toward the police. It was impressive and courageous to attack the police quickly and unapologetically. People in bloc for the most part dressed the part well, going above and beyond simply tying bandanas over their faces. There are some things that rebels in Philly should work on. Asking who someone is or speculating on their identity during or after an illegal demonstration is not acceptable (not including undercover police). The march lacked direction and did not seem to have any predetermined destination or direction, it's unclear if those who put out the call intended to lead the bloc anywhere. There was a decent amount of people present, but because march took place the same weekend as the anarchist book fair, it's possible that many of those in attendance were from out of town. It would be great if more Philly-based rebels come out to events like these in the future. Coming to demonstrations

materially prepared is vital for effectively confronting the police in the streets. The march could have benefited from large banners to both keep it tight and prevent the police from entering the march should they try. At least a few people took photographs of young kids before and as they were donning masks, this is dangerous and undermines the efforts people take to remain anonymous.

Fight The Police!  
Solidarity With The Rebels In Ferguson!



FTP March August 23<sup>rd</sup>



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Graffiti seen in West Philly