



THE WARSAW 3 CASE

MARCH 15th 2017 UPDATE

On the night of May 23rd 2016, the police in Warsaw arrested three anarchists on charges of an alleged arson attempt of a police vehicle. The three were transferred to a remand prison where they were held in custody for over four months, awaiting trial. They face up to 8 years in prison. Media frenzy broke out over the arrest in the next few days, with high-ranking politicians and experts on terrorism discussing the matter on TV. Photos and video reruns of the arrested walking with chains around their feet and hands are broadcast on public television.

The accusations were: possession of explosives and the intention to use them by setting police car on fire. They were called terrorists by police and media, despite the fact that the arson didn't actually take place. These accusations were quite serious – they were facing from 6 months to 8 years of prison. First hearings of the accused took place at District Prosecutor's Office on **24th May**. Marks of tortures were visible on their bodies. One of them was beaten so severely that police had to select for the media only photos taken from the rear.

On **25th May**, during prosecution session at district court, prosecution decided to hold them in custody for three months. A few days later whole issue was transferred to the special section of the State Prosecutor's Office for organized crime and corruption. All three have been qualified as particularly dangerous ("N" for Niebezpieczni), detained in isolation and during the first week none of them had access to a lawyer.

On **July 4th** two days after solidarity demo that took place at the prison gates in Warsaw, all three were moved to the city of Radom, away from their lawyers, families and friends.

18th of August, court decided to hold three anarchists next 3 months in custody. All of them

were still in single cells and treated as "the most dangerous" prisoners.

On **September 14th** during a court sitting concerning the complaint for prolonging the arrest, a decision was made to release them on bail. A fee of 20 thousand PLN (4600 euro) was set for each of them.

Thanks to an outstanding support from the international anarchist community, the first of three was released already on **September 16th** and the next two on the **19th**. They had strict parole rules, had to sing in a police station every day and cannot meet each other as well as case witnesses. Thank you for all the support!

On **January 16** 2017 during another interrogation at the prosecutor's office the three were informed about the change of charges. The fourth (and final) analysis of the supposed explosives they were caught with, has finally proven that the device was not able to cause explosion. The charges were changed to trying to destroy property of big value. All three anarchists pled guilty to the new charges. They are now facing from 3 months up to 5 years of prison.. Also the conditions of the parole were lessened and they only need to go to police station once a week.

7 February 2017 brought a court decision to reopen a case of the police brutality against one of the anarchists after his arrest. The investigation was demanded by one of the prosecutors after the first hearing of the anarchists' case, when police beatings were visible on the body of the arrested to an extent that it wasn't possible to ignore. The case was soon dropped but the defence appealed this decision.

Mass media in the service of the state reproduce authorities propaganda. Witch-hunt begun, creating mass hysteria and the image of the country threatened by terrorism. By doing this, the authorities and their collaborators are trying to justify the

implementation of the new Anti-Terrorism Law. Significantly, just before the entry into force of the Act on 10th May, on 23rd May and 30th May in several Polish cities a series of false bomb alarms took place, leading to evacuation of sites such as the editorial office of the press and television, shopping mall and banks.

The Anti-Terrorism law, among many other changes, introduced possibility to create special security zones that are very vaguely described but where strict measures can be applied, such as the use of military force against citizens or shooting to kill. The maximum time of detention was prolonged from 48 hours to 14 days. Non-polish citizens can also be deported without any reason, and possibility to defend themselves, which is a case of Ameer Alkhawlany, who is awaiting deportation since september 2016, after he refused to cooperate with Polish Internal Security Agency (ABW). Many new anti-freedom laws were implemented last year., among them a so called "surveillance law", which gives cops and all intelligence agencies possibility to collect data and spy on anyone, without ever having a need to announce that or give reason for that. They can also keep the collected data without time limit, even if the person under surveillance is not accused of anything or connected to any investigation.

The wave of repression against the anarchist movement is rising. On May 23rd 2016 the police four times raided one of Warsaw's collectives involved in fighting the real estate development industry and empowering the struggle for the food sovereignty. Since then, the collective is constantly harassed by uniformed visitors, recently again they started coming every day to spy on the activities of the collective. In Kraków, they searched the apartment and questioned a person who have set up a social media site ridiculing with irony the inflated police accusations. In Warsaw information multiply about police bothering people associated with the movement, and surveilling the places that are important for the movement. During big protests police (sometimes with military) can be seen outside of the autonomous spaces in Warsaw, trying to stop it's inhabitants from joining the protesters.

In February 2017 R10 squat in Kraków was raided by police and closed down.

The witch-hunt atmosphere of the campaign against the broad anarchist movement is building consent for repression and surveillance targeting social movements, that are fighting against the most influential interest groups in this country.

The anarchist movement has been active, among other, in workers, tenants, ecological, anti-racist groups and the fight against land-grabbing. It acts without compromise for social justice, against the repression from business and political elites. Lack of social control over the police, for years allowed them to use uncontrolled violence against people fighting the system of violence in various fields.

What we need at this moment is the firm stance of solidarity with all the oppressed and against upcoming attacks from the state!

We are now waiting for the trial of the Warsaw 3 to begin. There is still hope that they will not become prisoners of the state again.

We count on your solidarity actions in the days of the trial. Lets show international solidarity in face of repressions.

**We will not be intimidated!
Freedom for all the prisoners
of the State!**

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