

June 10, 2011

Dear Friends and Comrades,

As June 11th quickly approaches we wanted to share some thoughts with you about what this day means to us, and why we have felt it necessary to give it to all of you - to build and strengthen the work you do in your own communities, but also to weave us all together a little tighter and bring our bonds that much closer to unbreakable.

For that is partly why we find ourselves in this predicament to begin with, is it not?

Both Eric and Marie are in cages due in no small part to the fact that people they loved betrayed them – and people that they thought were deeply committed to the same causes they were proved to be more interested in saving their own asses than in struggling for the earth and for liberation.

In organizing for June 11th, we are forced to remember why we do the work that we do in the first place. And why supporting each other can be such a powerful tool with which to attack the very systems and institutions we are struggling against.

Eric and Marie are locked away because they felt like they could no longer sit idly by while everything they loved was being destroyed. Their motivations were the same as ours when we do the work we do every day. And when we feel the people we love being torn from us, we know that searing pain in our chests will only be quelled by working against that which would tear us apart.

But this needs to be more than some well-intentioned, youthful rebellion. Marie and Eric know this. They are both spending 2 decades in prison. Marie will be in her 60s when she is released, and Eric well into his 40s. But they carry on from inside those walls – having sacrificed their freedom for resistance. A resistance free of spatial or temporal limits.

And if we are going to continue supporting them – we need to be just as committed. For the earth, for Eric and Marie, for each other. For ourselves. We need to be in this for the long-haul. And for longevity's sake, we need to be rock solid in understanding *why* these struggles matter. Otherwise, when the shit hits the fan people's priorities seem to suddenly shift in unacceptable directions.

If we are serious about liberation, we also need to be serious about how we deal with the consequences of fighting for it. Because repression is an inevitable part of any real, viable struggle. And prison is an inevitable part of repression. We will not let our friends disappear into the belly of the beast. They are an integral part of our movement – they were on the outside and they remain so on the inside. If we let their voices go unheard, we are complicit in their silencing. If we don't include them in our strategizing, our process, the work we do – we are the ones who lose.

June 11th is for those who are forced to fight against this prison society in it's most tangible manifestation. For people who are quite literally fighting for their lives and their liberation. The forms are probably eerily similar to what they experienced on the outside – but the content is horrifyingly more blunt and forceful.

What we ask from each of you is a commitment. A commitment to the work that you do. To the people that you love. To movements of resistance. A commitment that is unwavering and timeless and indestructible. It is no small ask. But it is the only thing that will see us through to the end. And to a new beginning. . .

Until all are free,

The Sacramento June 11th Crew