



De Copenhague a Barcelona...

It's a rough new year that's starting in Barcelona. After months of a well prepared media criminalisation campaign against the local squatting movement, police have already evicted two squatted living spaces and social centres in the last week and do not seem to have any plans of stopping there.

Fortunately, the squatting movement doesn't plan to stop either. It is as alive as ever. In a city that's being devastated by speculation and gentrification, growing numbers of people have shown their opposition by "recycling" empty buildings. Not only do these buildings provide us homes that satisfy a fundamental need we believe no one should have to pay for, but they also provide a home for community spaces, resources for neighborhood and activist groups, social movements, and counterculture and grassroots initiatives that make that city more liveable for many people.

For years the squatting movement has been fighting against capitalist development by contributing to local struggles against the destruction of popular districts; it has provided alternatives to profit-making & consumer culture by running social centres with a myriad of public participatory activities outside of the mainstream economy; it has experienced and demonstrated that it is possible and desirable to self-manage and organise horizontally, without hierarchy; it has changed the life of many, in breaking away from social control and providing safer spaces for all sorts of people..

This is precisely what authorities want to get rid of - unaligned and ungovernable spaces, exceptions to the social control they're enforcing more and more everyday, resistance to attacks against freedom which they try to force the populace to accept by manipulating people's fears. And it's not only about squatters; by repressing squats and similar initiatives, authorities are taking a step against everyone by erasing possibilities for autonomy, self-expression and experimentation. And it's not just happening in Barcelona; all over Europe, repressive agendas are being pushed forward by governments, autonomous spaces are being shut, independent cultures are being threatened.

Ungdomshuset is one of these rare and precious spaces, located in Copenhagen, Denmark. Since 1982, it's been self-managed by activists, and, as a resource centre, has hosted thousands of projects, concerts, workshops, performances, meetings, screenings, and thousands of countless and unique life moments and experiences. For years, the government and police in Denmark have been at work repressing autonomous movements and cultures, as is now happening in Barcelona. Today, Ungdomshuset is the only social centre left in the whole of Denmark, but it might not be there for long... Eviction is imminent.

Ungdomshuset's occupants have been calling for widespread support and international solidarity to try and save this unique space. Their calls have been answered by hundreds of people travelling to Copenhagen from across Europe in order to help fight for the survival of their culture; to help fight against the suppression of a house, of a story, of one part of a movement of many. On December 16th 2006, the police tried to prevent a pro-Ungdomshuset demonstration in Copenhagen and in the following confrontation, some 300 people were arrested, 4 of which are still being held in detention.

Today, we are occupying the Danish embassy in Barcelona in order to show our complete solidarity with Ungdomshuset. We are motivated by the same passion, feel the same determination, face a common enemy in repression, and are united across borders by our desire to build a world of equality and self-determination. We are here today to shout out loud to the Danish government: stop harrasing Ungdomshuset, drop all charges against the protesters, and free the detainees immediately! We will persist in acting in solidarity, internationally, no matter how many kilometers there are between us and our peers. We will make it impossible for the authorities to enjoy victory.

*Barcelona
January 12th 2007
autonomous supporters*

...resístete y okupa!

