

TENANTS TALK

NEWSPAPER OF THE ALL-CHICAGO TENANT ALLIANCE

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ALIANZA DE INQUILINOS DE TODO CHICAGO



ALL-CHICAGO TENANT ALLIANCE

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ROGERS PARK TENANTS ON STRIKE!



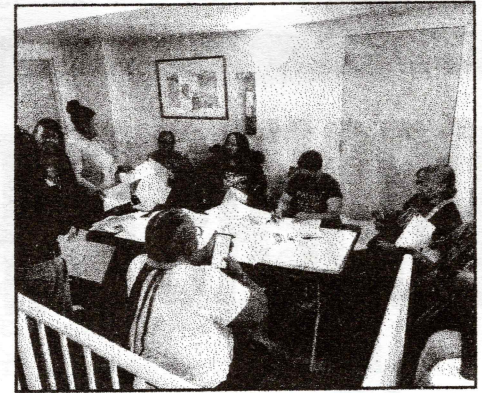
Slumlord Imran Khan seeks to gentrify Rogers Park. The dozens of striking tenants of union Fuerzas Activas de la Damen are on the frontline of neighborhood defense.

SOLIDARITY WITH THE STRIKING TENANTS OF FUERZAS ACTIVAS DE LA DAMEN

ICE and CBP out of Chicago



★ NEWS FROM THE TENANT POINT OF VIEW ★



PARKSIDE TERRACE ALLIANCE

For the haters who expected PTA to throw in the towel after their big win, we have some news for you: the lions are still roaring! Two major projects are beginning to unfold. The first is a campaign to force Eastlake to make repairs in individual units. This slumlord enabling management company hasn't touched a single unit since the deal was made and the lions aren't going to let them walk free. A coordinated 311 campaign was followed up Saturday, November 8 at 1pm with a rally outside the Parkside apartment.

The other project is perhaps even more exciting. PTA's leaders and ACTA have decided that they will collectively create a leadership handbook over the course of the next three months. The handbook will consist of all the basics of running the PTA, with the hopes that it will be a handy resource for the current leaders, and a vital training tool for any new leaders who arise in the pride.

WHITMORE LIVES MATTER

After months of meeting with a small group of tenants at the Whitmore buildings in Austin, ACTA and the leadership decided they would not continue to hold meetings. This follows several attempts on the part of the leadership and ACTA organizers to hold full building meetings. Despite the dangerous state of the buildings, it seems that the wave of repairs following the delivery of the Whitmore Tenants Matter demand letter have satisfied those living in the worst conditions. Although the regular organizing has ended, ACTA remains in contact with the leaders of the union building in case the momentum for a union picks up again or a larger crisis occurs.

To the leaders and tenants of Whitmore Tenants Matter,

Thank you for giving you time and energy to build something for your neighbor. We learned a lot from you and we hope you learned just as much from us.

*Forward ever, backward never,
M, L, B, and K ★*

Keep your eyes open!
Don't let your landlord isolate you from the tenant movement blossoming in Chicago!

Be ready!
Decades of landlord control over our neighborhoods won't end without a fight!

Stay smart!
Landlords pump their perspectives into every news outlet in Chicago; it's time tenants had a voice of their own!

Tenants Talk has eyes on the landlord. Do you?

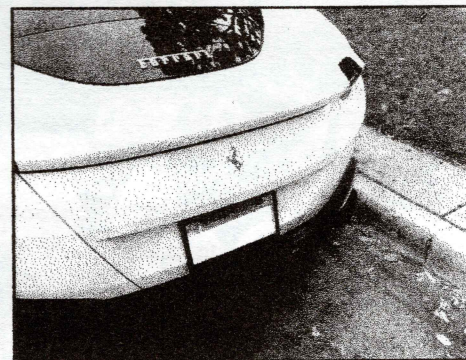
KHAN MAN STAYS LYING LIKE A RUG

In a huge show of force, dozens of members of Rogers Park's Fuerzas Activas de la Damen sent a coordinated wave of 14 day letters to their increasingly hysterical landlord Imran Khan in September, demanding that if he doesn't fix up their apartment units to match the exorbitant rent increases he's forcing on them in October, he's not getting the increase. Naturally, the union's demonstration kicked off a batshit reaction from Khan; a campaign of repression that has included security guards, an intoxicating beautiful woman hired to sweet talk the rebellious tenants, spying on the union's group chats, damage control pizzas, and the like.

Having the tactical mind of a genius as he does, his scramble to snuff out the union culminated in him driving his Ferrari to the building to convince the tenants face to face that he understands their plight, that he's not a bad guy, etc. In the throes of his delirium he couldn't keep his story straight. Khan lies so much that even his lies tell lies. First he told us that of the 70+ members of the union, only 12 remained after he'd

hassled the rest to sign contracts at the increased rents. He told us that the union had been "dismantled." Later, the number of unionists he remained to persuade shot up to 30.

No matter which fairy tale he wanted to tell, the stories all blew away like dust when 70 tenants showed up to pay their reduced rent at the beginning of the month, a crystal clear indication that not only has Khan not broken the union, he's hardly scratched it. If he keeps acting like a lunatic, he's only going to make the Fadistas stronger. Take our word for it, Khan: save yourself a world of pain, give the tenants a fair contract!



WEEK OF ACTION WITH FUERZAS INQUILINOS

Months into negotiations with Fuerzas Inquilinos, Drew Millard and his team suddenly walked away from the table, shut down discussions and vowed to proceed with the evictions. This comes in the middle of the I.C.E. takeover of Chicago. ACTA hit back with a week of action dedicated to pressuring Drew back to the table, enhancing our force by creating an atmosphere of moral shame around the idea of evicting hispanic tenants in the middle of the crisis. A surprise protest, a planned protest, a phone blockade and one press conference later, Drew came crawling back. He's asking the union to give him a new offer. He's on the ropes, and FIBC is just getting warmed up for the championship rounds.

★ NEWS FROM THE TENANT POINT OF VIEW ★



FUERZAS ACTIVAS DE LA DAMEN BEGIN HISTORIC FOUR-BUILDING-WIDE RENT STRIKE

The tenants of union Fuerzas Activas de la Damen (FAD) find themselves in the exact same situation as Fuerzas Inquilinoas de Broadway y Cuyler: their buildings were bought by a multimillionaire who seeks to extort them through extreme rent increases during ICE's terror.

On October 26th, FAD announced their authorization of a 4-building-wide rent strike against landlord Imran Khan to negotiate against \$700 rent hikes. Reasonable rents and safe building conditions is all they ask for, and starting November 1st, over 50 tenants are withholding their rent payments

to pressure Khan to bargain with their demands.

Criminal Khan, like Drew Millard, has begun pursuing evictions against striking tenants. As clear as day, Khan is using tenants' fear of deportation to his advantage! Tenants have been met with private security guards, nearly indistinguishable from federal agents, patrolling their homes. Khan's cronies planted threats on each of the tenants' doors calling residents "trespassers" in their own homes, and threatened to call the police on them. But what Khan doesn't understand is that the tenants of FAD are a force to be reckoned with. Despite his attempts to scare tenants and push them to leave the apartments out of their own volition, the union remains firm and is standing their ground. Their message is clear: if you want the rent, you're going to have to bargain with the people who have lived in this building far longer than you've had your name on the deed.

The tenants of FAD hope to see you at the negotiation table soon, Mr. Khan. ★

ACTA CALLS FOR EVICTION MORATORIUM NOW

On October 24th, members of the All-Chicago Tenant Alliance (ACTA) and Fuerzas Inquilinos de Broadway y Cuyler (FIBC) spoke at a press conference to call on city and state housing organizers and legislators for an eviction moratorium.

Gentrifier Drew Millard bought two buildings at Broadway and Cuyler earlier this year, and the Mexican tenants who have lived in there for decades organized into a union to defend against exorbitant rent hikes of around \$500. FIBC have been on a rent strike since February 2025 in order to negotiate their ability to stay in their homes for reasonable rents, and since the beginning of their historic strike, Millionaire Millard has looked to scare and evict striking tenants in order to raise his profit margins.

Today, as ICE lurks around every corner in our city, and with eviction dates for these striking tenants nearing, FIBC members are between a rock and a hard place: either pay Millionaire Millard's fees for shelter or get put out on the streets where violent federal agents wait. Beyond FIBC, all Hispanic tenants in Chicago have been forced into making the difficult decision of venturing out to their jobs or hiding in the safety of their apartments. Skipping work means losing wages, and losing wages means tenants are forced to choose between paying for shelter, medicine, or food. Whether they like it or not, the landlords are extorting Hispanic tenants' need for shelter and safety during ICE's terror for profits!

In March 2020, during the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor J.B. Pritzker instated an eviction moratorium that prohibited the enforcement and later the filing of most residential eviction actions. In the wake of the crisis, tenants were afforded the basic decency of being able to stay in their homes instead of being booted onto the streets by money-hungry, profiteering landlords. ACTA's call is simple: we need an eviction moratorium for all Chicago's tenants while ICE terrorizes our city! ★

★ NEWS FROM THE TENANT POINT OF VIEW ★

SMASH THE DEPORTATION MACHINE! BASTA TO THE DOMESTICATION OF THE MEXICAN PROLETARIAT!

Undocumented workers are the most exploited and oppressed workers in the United States. This is a fact. The mechanism by which this type of oppression reaches its extremes hardly needs explaining. It can be partially summed up in the dictum, "If you don't like it, you can leave."

It's true that all workers are confronted by this situation. A worker is *technically* free to work where they like and does not *technically* need to accept the rules dictated by their boss. In reality, we all know this is an idea of freedom that is highly conditional. In reality, jobs are not easy to come by and this coerces workers into accepting the bosses' rules.

For undocumented workers, however, there is an additional wrinkle in this situation. The dictum goes more like this, "You *will* like it, or you *will* leave." Whether a boss explicitly threatens an undocumented worker with deportation is irrelevant. The threat exists objectively as a social code and its validity is independent of the activity of particular individuals. It arose during the last century of Mexican immigration to the United States. The threat is also wielded by landlords, police, schools, politicians of different kinds, the whole ensemble of economic and state power, whether the individuals know it or not. They all benefit in their own ways from what I call the domestication of the Mexican working class.

The entire history of Mexican immigration in the United States can be broadly categorized as one that alternates between two types of periods. One, in which the deportation threat is merely latent and operating "behind our backs" in the way just described. This was the case for example during the whole of the 1910s and most of the 1920s, when the Mexican Revolution created the solution for American industry's need for labor-power to fuel its conquests in World War 1 and postwar boom domestically. The other type are periods in which the deportation machine actively and openly makes good on this threat, for example during "Operation Wetback" in the mid 1950s.

During both types of period, the faces behind the mask that the ruling class wears—the boss, the landlord, the politician, the cop, the judge, the I.C.E. agent—each smile upon the oppression of the Mexican worker. But I believe we are

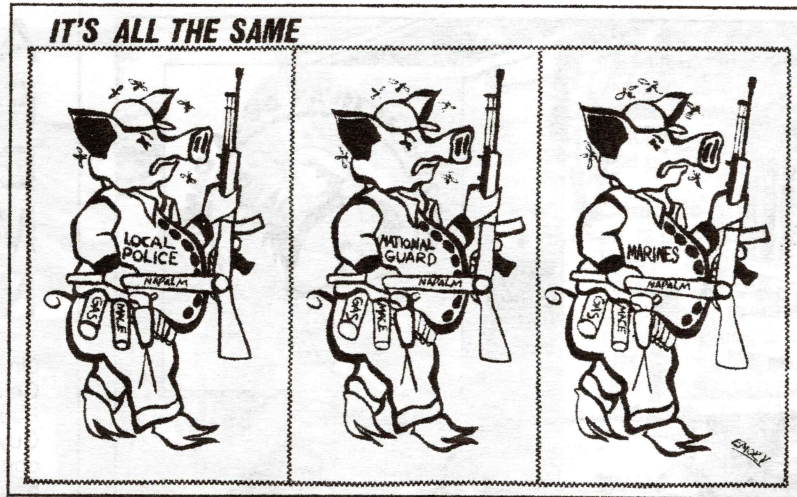


Illustration by Emory Douglas of the Black Panther Party

currently beginning a period of the second type. During this period, the function of the deportation machine will be to remove surplus elements of the Mexican working class, divide the Mexican people and discipline them ideologically. In this period, the real activity of the members of society will reassert itself and the real system of deportation will become plain to see. The threat will become a promise. The same cast of characters as always will enjoy a windfall of benefits that arise from the intensified terrorization of Mexicans.

Let us tear the mask off of one of these faces, the landlord, and see how he is already reaping his rewards in the deportation machine.

It is in the interest of every landlord that the margin between the rent they collect/price for which they sell and the money they invest in their property is as large as possible. It follows, therefore, that the ideal dollar amount of investment for any landlord is \$0. No property can be bought or operated for \$0 in reality, so the landlord looks for the properties and the ways of managing his property that come closest to \$0. Fortunately for him, these types of buildings and managing practices are not randomly occurring, they emerge in patterns through economic activity and have specific, recognizable forms. To cut to the chase, cheap properties and the people who operate them are slums and slum landlords.

It is not an exaggeration to say that there are certain slums in which the slumlord will invest genuinely trivial amounts of money, not even 1% of the total value of the annual rental income. The bare minimum of investment required by a landlord is conditioned at the end of the day by the extent to which desperation has gripped the working class.

Say, as a thought experiment, there are three people in the world, two are tenants each with \$1,000 in their hand desperate for a house, and the third is a slumlord renting

out a dumpster for \$950. The first tenant says to the landlord, "I will take it, on the condition that you pay to have the rats exterminated." Never slow to shop around for a better deal, the landlord checks in with the other tenant and in the process learns that he is an undocumented worker. Not only does the landlord offer the same dumpster with the same rats, he raises the asking rent to \$975. The

undocumented

worker is forced not only against the risk of homelessness, but he is forced against the risk of deportation as well. "Your secret is safe with me," the landlord says, winking, "I promise." The undocumented worker acts here as a pressure valve, relieving the landlords from the imperative of improving the conditions of housing that can be sold at a given price. It is this general condition that is the foundation of the standard of living of the Mexican proletariat.

Once this standard is established and generalized throughout the society, how is it then that the landlord perpetually maintains order on this basis? Certainly, pure economics alone does not determine the way things go. The struggle between classes with contradictory interests—like tenants and landlords—shapes the trajectory of society. So, now, if we imagine a group of organized Mexican tenants fighting to improve the conditions of their houses, how then does the landlord wield the deportation machine to his advantage? For this example, a thought experiment is not necessary, we can look at real life.

The Mexican tenant union Fuerzas Inquilinos de Broadway y Cuyler is in the 9th month of their historic rent strike. The strike started as a tactic to bring their landlord Drew Millard to the negotiating table to reach an agreement instead of converting their houses into luxury apartments and pricing them out without anything in return. His leverage is his unilateral power to evict them, the union's leverage is their occupation of the building and the accumulating back rent, over \$100,000 at this point. However, Fuhrer Millard has an additional weapon at his disposal today: the I.C.E. invasion. Everyone knows that the safest place for an immigrant to be is in their home, where at least warrants are needed by immigration agents to enter. The threat of being thrown in the street carries a risk that is magnified many times over in the current period. Drew Millard knows this, and is relying on desperation to squeeze the union into

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accepting a worse deal in exchange for a bare minimum of compensation amid the horror of eviction in the middle of the I.C.E. raids.

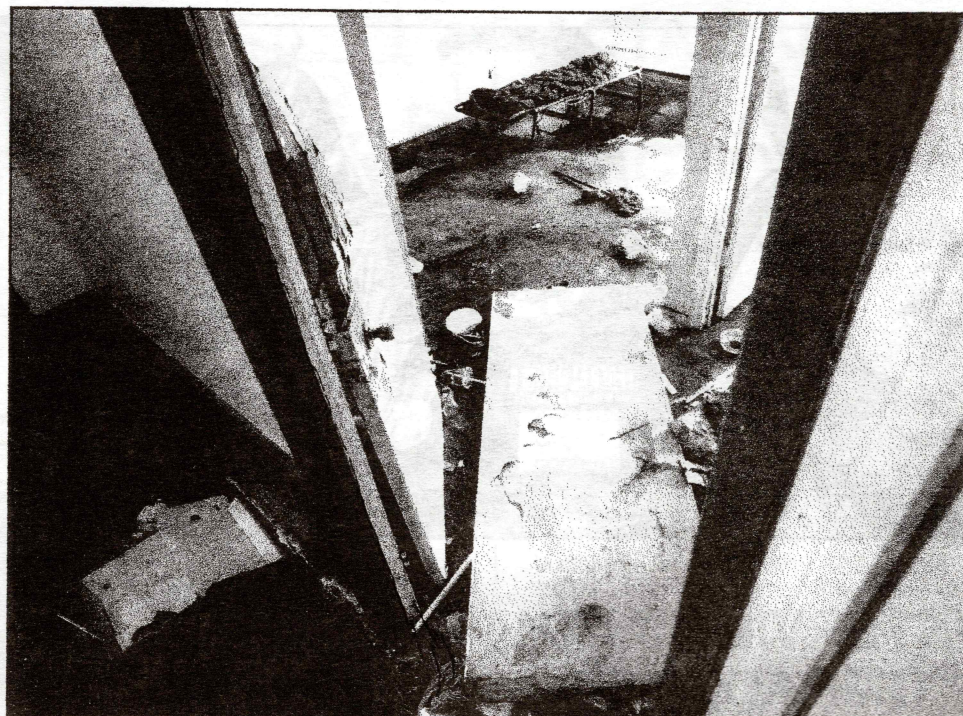
Another example of a landlord using the deportation machine to crush the organization of the working class can be found in the case of Fuerzas Activas de la Damen in Rogers Park in their struggle against millionaire Imran Khan. This union is also entirely Mexican, and they are fighting off Khan's \$700 rent increases, an amount that signals eviction for the minimum wage cleaners, cooks, cashiers and construction workers. As the union has been meeting in the courtyard of their building, recently Khan delivered notices to members of the union saying that they are forbidden from congregating in the meeting area, and if they are found there again they will be subject to criminal trespassing charges.

Khan knows that the way I.C.E. finds immigrants is by using the criminal justice system, which will provide the agents with warrants for detaining individuals in ways that would otherwise be illegal, including by raiding apartment buildings and private residences. If the tenants continue to meet, Khan's security guards and cameras will detect them and he will send the police. Khan is blatantly criminalizing the organization of the working class in order to spare himself the same fate that has befallen Drew Millard—a rent strike—so he can skate off with superprofits without any resistance.

The I.C.E. crisis is a mass terror campaign meant to condition the working class into accepting their lot, by taking away their weapons of self-organization and struggle. Its objective is to remind a generation of immigrants that they belong where the ruling class says they belong—they will like it, or they will leave. As individuals disappear off the street and families are torn apart, it is self-evident how the other objectives of the deportation machine are being carried out. But Fuerzas Inquilinos de Broadway y Cuyler and Fuerzas Activas de la Damen are not putting up with this bullshit. They are standing up heroically to the oppression, exploitation and degradation by the racist, capitalist state. They are fighting for their dignity and freedom from this slavery. They are organizing themselves together and resisting capture. That is why ACTA stands with them.

We say: We will not be housebroken anymore like dogs.

We say: "¡Basta! We'd rather die standing, not on our knees!" ★



ICE IN SOUTH SHORE: BORDER PATROL AND SLUMLORDS WORKING TOGETHER

Just after midnight on September 30th, hundreds of federal agents raided a large apartment building at 7500 S South Shore Drive. Some agents descended on the building via Blackhawk helicopters, while others launched flashbang grenades, and video footage taken by a neighbor shows CPD helping ICE by directing traffic around the operation. 37 people were arrested, handcuffed with zip ties, and left to wait for hours outside the building before anyone told them what was going on. So who was responsible for this militarized sting operation?

If you ask The Department of Homeland Security, they claim they had evidence of criminals and gang members living in the building. No such evidence has been presented or verified. This version of the story not only justifies ICE violence inflicted on tenants — it also stokes more animosity between the black working class and Venezuelan migrants. If you ask us, it's clear who the real enemies here are: ICE and landlords.

While the raid on the building made national news, 7500 S South Shore Drive was not an exceptional building to begin with. In fact, there are many apartment complexes in Chicago just like it. Over the years, ownership has changed hands among various slumlords, but no one has done anything to improve conditions for the tenants living there. Sound familiar?

The most recent slumlord and property management combo are no different. In 2020, an out-of-state investor named Trinity Flood bought the building on S South Shore Drive, likely hoping to cash in on the gentrification of South Shore promised by the construction of the Obama Presidential Center. But she soon realized the investment wasn't exactly what she bargained for, as years of neglect meant the building needed major repairs and increased security, and is now facing a major foreclosure lawsuit. Block Club Chicago recently reported that in the four years prior to the raid, 500 calls to 311 were made about the building, and 2,600 calls were made to 911.

Maps found strewn throughout the halls in the aftermath of the raid—during which ICE agents bashed in doors and windows and ransacked apartments—included layouts of the building and information about which units were vacant and which were occupied by tenants, which is information they would only have been able to get from property management. Was ICE sent as a way to evict these tenants, knowing many Venezuelans in the city had been relocated from tent cities to buildings just like this one?

It's clear from this story that the government and landlords have the same interests, and that those interests are directly opposed to protecting tenants. Now more than ever, it's time for tenants to organize and build power to fight back against their landlords, who clearly have no issue collaborating with the racist ICE agents terrorizing our streets. ★

★ NEWS FROM THE TENANT POINT OF VIEW ★



INTERVIEW WITH COMRADES ON THE GROUND AT BROADVIEW DETENTION FACILITY

Trump and his goons have managed to turn their disturbed fantasies into realities: in major cities across the nation, militarized federal agents now lurk around every corner, kidnapping and deporting men, women, and children at random. A defensive movement has spontaneously emerged against ICE, and the people of Chicago are now chasing ICE out from every corner they lurk. The frontline of this defense is located 12 miles outside of city limits in the village called Broadview, where protests have erupted and sustained over the weeks since ICE's "Midway Blitz" operation in Chicago. Tenants Talk had the opportunity to speak with two comrades on the frontlines against the government's latest and most egregious reign of domestic terror.

WHAT IS THE BROADVIEW DETENTION FACILITY AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO PAY ATTENTION TO TODAY?

Comrade 1: The ICE facility in Broadview, Illinois is a key site in their deportation machine in the Midwest. The facility has long been used for "processing" the people who are being detained, often being their last stop in Illinois before moving to detention facilities in other states or to airports like the one in Gary, Indiana for

direct deportation. Though it was designed for brief stays, ICE is using it as a de facto detention facility, holding people in inhumane conditions. People are sleeping on office floors, using bathrooms with no toilet paper and no doors, and receiving cold bread and a little water for sustenance for days on end.

In the past month, protests at Broadview have grown from a few people bravely sitting in front of cars exiting the facility to large scale, autonomously organized actions that have drawn hundreds of people, elected officials, and media. With all eyes on Broadview, ICE has escalated its violence towards protestors, indiscriminately unleashing chemical weapons and rubber bullets on people holding signs, using mobility devices, playing guitar, or documenting.

On the other hand, communities in Chicago are building power and getting more organized. Whether it's neighborhood rapid response networks, actions targeting ICE operations, or organic resistance on the streets, we are seeing our collective outrage turn towards solidarity and action. Rather than just reacting to the violence ICE is waging on our streets, Broadview is one site among many where we are standing up and proactively taking action against their dehumanizing and cruel deportation machine.

WHAT ARE YOU AND YOUR FELLOW COMRADES LOOKING TO ACHIEVE AT BROADVIEW?

Comrade 2: From my perspective, I want that place to be shut down and I want all the people that have been kidnapped to be returned to their loved ones. There's no reason that a facility like that should exist. It's a torture camp. It could be a death camp. At the very least it's laying the groundwork for something like that on a mass scale. We've seen that groups like Core Civic (a US jail and detention contractor) use facilities like this as a way to

gain slave labor. This is something that could escalate very deeply, especially down the line, and I want to make sure that that doesn't happen, that the gears of that machine are brought to a screeching halt so that people can be free.

Comrade 1: Every minute they waste on us, is one more minute someone stays free. Every trigger-happy Special Response Team (SRT) agent they deploy at Broadview is one less menace on our streets. Putting pressure on their operations also forces them to constantly react and reveal their own ineptitude. This means we also need to stay nimble and continually evaluate our strategic goals and tactics.

WHAT TACTICS HAVE THE STATE EMPLOYED AGAINST YOU AND HOW HAVE YOU DEALT WITH THEM? WHAT ARE SOME TACTICS THAT HAVE BEEN MOST EFFECTIVE IN PUSHING YOUR STRUGGLE FORWARD?

Comrade 2: At this point I feel like the question is what haven't they done! We've seen tear gas, pepper spray, fireworks, flash bangs, rubber bullets, foam or sponge bullets. Lots of physical violence as well. Just large numbers of arrests. Throwing people to the ground. Shooting at people that are elderly, people with canes, people that have disabilities. It has been pretty jarring in a lot of ways to just see the raw naked use of force that they're willing to use against people that are demonstrating at that facility. They've been shooting at the press, they've been kidnapping the press. They've deployed this whole gamut of terror against anybody questioning or having eyes on that facility.

One [tactic] is trying to make them look ridiculous, or play their hand. They've been assaulting clergy and very vulnerable types of people. This has had the effect of energizing the broader community and internationally to some extent. People have their eyes on what's going on here and are mobilizing within not just Broadview but within the broader communities as well. I've seen a lot of people wanting to get tapped into the rapid response groups, mutual aid groups, other community defense projects as well such as patrols and things of that nature. It has been an energizing force to glue together lots of different kinds of people that may not have interacted with each other otherwise.

Comrade 1: The state's most powerful tool is fear. They continue to threaten protestors with fabricated federal charges, but that is not stopping people from taking action. In the earliest stages of the Broadview protests, when there were just a handful of people, Broadview police threatened to arrest them for doing chalk art on the sidewalk. Two weeks later, when more people came flooding in to occupy the

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street, police didn't bat an eye at the full scale demonstration happening, let alone the sidewalk chalk. What seems impossible one day can become normalized the next.

HOW IS YOUR WORK CONNECTED TO OTHER STRUGGLES IN CHICAGO, AND INTERNATIONALLY?

Comrade 1: Community defense is not just about protecting our communities from ICE. It's a framework that encompasses many struggles against repression: including our landlords that extort us, the police that brutalize us, and the bosses who profit off of our labor. When we stand up against ICE, we are standing up against all the systems that interlock to oppress us.

It was a landlord who called ICE on his tenants, which resulted in the horrific apartment raid in South Shore on September 30, in which 37 tenants were arrested, including children, some of whom were zip tied while being unclothed. It is no surprise that this raid happened in a Black neighborhood, given the roots of our current police state. Our struggle is one that impacts not just immigrants, but the whole of the working class.

The fascist overreach we are experiencing is a natural progression of American imperialism and late-stage capitalism. In what is termed as the "imperial boomerang", the techniques and technologies of terror employed in colonization are making their way back home. The latest example can be found in ICE using the same Israeli software used for surveillance of Palestinians. Under the Biden administration, the Department of Homeland Security initiated a contract with Paragon Solutions, an Israeli spyware company, that enables them to hack into any mobile phone.

Our solidarity extends from tenants in Chicago to Gaza, because our fates are intertwined.

Comrade 2: This has been a question that has really come up in a lot of the organizing work – the background work. How can we connect this to all these different struggles? I think one of the issues that has been identified for a lot of people is the siloing of different organizing efforts. So for instance, maybe this group is the anti-ICE group, this group is the Palestine solidarity group, this group is the tenant union group. But they're all kind of in their own lanes.

Especially in Black communities on the South and West sides of Chicago, these raids are not anything new. The tanks have rolled in and it has been a big show of force, and a lot of people have seen that in a new way, but those are the same tactics that are routinely being

deployed on people in those areas all the time. CPD is kidnapping families very routinely. I think the task is making sure that people see all these connections and plug into each other's work so that we can all support each other to the best of our abilities.

ACTA IS A REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATION THAT ORGANIZES TENANT UNIONS, ESPECIALLY TOWARDS RENT STRIKES. FUERZAS INQUILINOS DE BROADWAY Y CULYER IS ONE UNION ON STRIKE, WHOSE MEMBERS' FAMILIES HAVE BEEN TARGETED BY ICE. WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY TO TENANTS UNIONIZING AGAINST LANDLORDS IN CHICAGO, AND TO FUERZAS IN PARTICULAR?

Comrade 1: Tenant organizing is one of the most fundamental ways we can build power and create new futures. Your courage and vision is an inspiration to the rest of us. You have a lot of neighbors who want to see you win!

Through organizing with my neighbors, the joy and solidarity I have experienced far outweigh the harms inflicted by state repression. We can plant seeds of solidarity by building relationships with the people in our buildings, on our blocks, and in our neighborhoods. When people say that joy is resistance, it's not because there is no fear. The joy exists alongside the fear and the grief. They want us to be afraid, but we can be brave together. By coming together across lines of difference, we have the ability to use our collective power to take

radical action. You don't have to wait for a nonprofit or a government official to let you make a change in your community.

Comrade 2: To the folks in Fuerzas in particular: stick together. Please stand in solidarity with each other and reach out to the broader community for help if needed. There are a lot of people that want to support. You are not alone in this. If they try to do some sort of raid like what happened in South Shore, having as broad a support system as humanly possible can help support if disaster strikes. God bless you all, please keep up the good work, much love and solidarity to you.

WHAT CAN OUR READERS DO TO SUPPORT YOU?

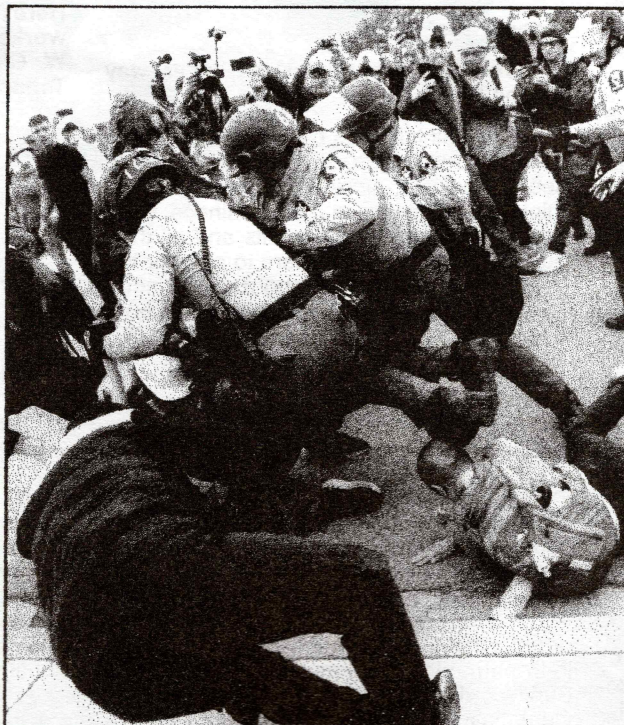
Comrade 2: There are lots of ways to get tapped in to Broadview – being there on the ground, autonomously organizing, planning stuff – any interesting ideas that you have are welcome. A lot of this is – people are figuring stuff out as we go along, there's no grand master plan but there are a lot of things in the works. But even if you don't think that you can be on the front lines in that way, a lot of people need rides. There have often been supply tents where people can bring things like medical gear, or food. Even just emotional support for people, like families, that do have loved ones within the facility, or people that are facing repression.

Comrade 1: Join us in turning our fear, outrage, and hopelessness into action! Here are some ways you can engage:

- Donate to mutual aid efforts that directly support people who are most impacted
- Organize an ICE watch patrol around your school, church, park or other area that could be targeted. Use this as a way to get to know your community!
- If you see someone being kidnapped, don't just record. Form a crowd, stay loud, and make it stop.
- Save the FSN number on your phone (855)-435-7693, and educate yourself on how to identify and report ICE
- Download Signal and join the Chicagoland Deportation Watch channel for calls to action at Broadview and beyond. ★

In order for these interviews to fit the print format, we were forced to cut out some interesting parts of this interview.

To read the full text, scan this QR code:



★ NEWS FROM THE TENANT POINT OF VIEW ★

TENANT GRAPEVINE



TT Correspondent: So, as a member of the community, what are some things that you do, some activities or organizations that you're a part of, or even just weekend things that you do in order to feel more connected to the community?

Moose: I feel like connecting more to the people that come in just to store themselves, is communicating, getting to know more about where they're coming from and how they are and going, all the activities that go on, like the 5K mile runs. We passed out water to the bloggers and runners, and when they were doing the 5K mile runs, we had a worker out there standing there. So anything we can help out with the community, we try our best to do, even though we're just new. We're trying to slowly get there, so everybody can know we're here for the community, not just business.

TT Correspondent: OK. That's fair. This is sort of unrelated. Just a scenario-based question. What is a social problem that you would bring up to members of your community and what would be the solution you think? It could be any social problem.

Moose: Any social problem...

TT Correspondent: It doesn't have to be political either.

Moose: I don't know. I'm not a political

person. I'd say it's more like trust people more often. That's it, trust people more often.

The front door chimes

Moose: Let me get some time to think about it. That's a good question. You got me thinking. I can take you down there (to customer)

Customer 1: Yes.

Moose: It's trusting people and it's the communication I think. Because there's a lot of communication that can happen where I think the stories can be more involved with the people that are outside and looking around and walking and it's in the community especially. So communicating with like the store[owner] is not just thinking they're like a boss that needs just money all the time. Actually going up to them, talking about seeing if you can set up events like in your parking lots or helping with donations. I think that's something that can be reached out better.

TT Correspondent: Okay, so would you say it's like part of the responsibility of store owners and managers to build trust in the community?

Moose: Yes, yes.

TT Correspondent: Not the other way around?

Moose: I think it goes both ways. Definitely goes both ways. Because a lot of people see us, bosses, store managers, they just think of it money-wise. Like business, strict business, every penny counts and all that, but it's not that. They're here to stay for the long run. To stay in the long run, you need the community to keep telling people about it, being inside, and actually making it feel like it's a store for everybody.

Customer 2: Ay y'all have [unintelligible] in

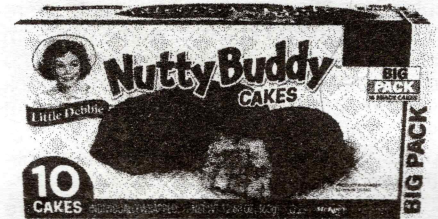
here?

Moose: Next door, the beauty supply, or right here.

Customer 3: How are you doing?

TT Correspondent: One last question, what is your go-to snack?

Moose: My go-to snack, oh my goodness. Off the top of my head, I'd have to go with a Nutty Buddy cake.



TT Correspondent: A Nutty Buddy cake. Great. Well, thank you so much for answering these questions. Thank you. What's your name?

Moose: Moose.

TT Correspondent: We'll be back. ★

Here are the song recommendations that workers at Avers Express Foods, at 3825 W Chicago Ave, have for readers of Tenants Talk:

Wegz - EIBakht ويجز - البخت

Amr Diab - Wala Ala Balo عمرو دياب - ولا على باله

Here are two song recommendations from customers:

2Pac - Dear Mama

Frankie Beverly and Maze - We Are One

ACTA REPORTS: NOVEMBER 2025

INTERNATIONAL NIGHT MARKET

ACTA's commitment to internationalism was put on display this month when we participated in an international night market.

In a room filled with crowded tables, Chicago-based organizations sold merch to raise money for their comrades around the world in places like Palestine, the Philippines, and El Salvador. For its part, ACTA raised nearly \$400 for three organizations: Juventudes Revolucionarias in Panama, the Thomas Sankara Center in Burkina Faso, and the Frente Anti-Gentrificación in Mexico.

ACTA GOES TO BRITAIN

Members of the All-Chicago Tenant Alliance were invited to speak at The World Transformed conference in Manchester about the ongoing rent strikes in Chicago. It was a pleasure to meet fellow tenant unionists around the world engaged in the global working class struggle. ★

The Collector of Homes

CHAPTER 7: EMULATION



Freddy watched in amazement as Archie, who had been indistinguishable from the others only minutes before Freddy had stumbled upon him, filled with life and vigour. Archie turned to the person next to him and gave him a firm shake. "Wake up everybody, we've been here too long! It may feel like everything is lost, but we will prove that victory is possible!" Archie called out to the hopeless sleepers laying around in a tremendous voice.

Freddy began to feel small and insignificant compared to the heroic figure Archie struck, standing tall in the flat grey expanse. He stayed frozen until Archie turned back to him.

"What are you waiting for, comrade Freddy? We have work to do!" Archie said to his young friend with a wide grin.

"But, I've tried this, I'm no good at it. I can't do what you're doing, and besides, there are so many people to wake up," Freddy answered meekly.

"You're talking like one of them now. Listen, I would still be on the ground if it weren't for you, but now here I am with my feet beneath me and ten toes on the ground. You woke me up and now I'll wake up two more. Follow what I do and wake up four. We will both watch and learn from each other, that is emulation," Archie said before continuing to call all the hopeless to wake up.

Freddy watched as the people laying around started to stir. Many only sat up and stared at the source of the commotion. A few others furrowed their brows angrily and grumbled to themselves, but a few here and there seemed to start as if struck by lightning. They stretched, yawned and stood up, the grey of the surroundings fading from them.

"Emulation" Freddy whispered the unfamiliar word to himself. He wasn't sure he understood its full meaning, but he did not want to let Archie down. He thought about the people in his life who inspired him, his teacher, his mom, but also his big sister, Angie. She had been with him through all of their troubles, helping him stay calm and pushing

him to face his fears. Freddy wanted to emulate Archie, but he also wanted to emulate Angie's bravery. He started to hum the tune he had been humming earlier, then shouted: "Wake up! Wake up everyone! We need everybody to help stop the Collector of Homes!"

To Freddy's surprise people actually listened. Everyone seemed to recognize the name of the Collector of Homes. The people who had been hopeless one moment before remembered that name and with it all of the fear and misery the Collector had caused. They remembered the loss of control and the feeling that their freedom was secondary to the Collector's freedom to expand his collection. They also remembered their family and neighbors, living breathing people who the Collector only saw as objects for his own benefit. This made them angry and so they stood up.

Soon there was a small crowd of people standing and chanting, each person followed the one who had shaken them awake and helped wake up another.

"You've done a good job, comrade Freddy," Archie said, putting a hand on Freddy's shoulder.

"Thank you, but there's still someone I have to find," Freddy told Archie before breaking away from the growing crowd. His sister was still nowhere to be seen.

In Freddy's excitement he almost trampled Angie, who was still on the ground, but had sat up a little and was watching the growing movement cautiously.

"Angie!" Freddy shouted, "I almost gave up, but look! Everyone here is ready to face the Collector!"

"I can't believe it, Freddy. I thought it was hopeless," Angie answered.

"You got us here, I couldn't let all that work go to waste," Freddy said, extending a helping hand to his sister. With Freddy's help she pulled herself up and dusted herself off.

From behind the two children came a bellowing call, echoing out over the growing noise of the crowd, "Everyone! This way! We have a bus to catch!"

The source of the call was Archie, marching out ahead of the crowd towards Freddy and Angie. Freddy quickly introduced Angie to the vivacious leader of the people.

"Pleased to meet you, comrade Angie. If you are anything like Freddy, then I'm sure you'll be a wonderful leader," Archie said, making Angie feel drawn irresistibly towards a greater role in what was

to come. "I would like to spend more time learning about you two, but that might have to happen on the bus!" Archie pointed past them and the children turned to see the bus waiting at the lonely stop past the end of the line. *Had an entire day passed since they arrived?* It didn't feel like it to Angie and Freddy, it had felt like both an eternity and only minutes since they stepped off the bus the day before.

When the crowd reached the bus, the bus driver from before swung open the doors.

"I was worried you kids wouldn't make it back. Nobody ever has before," the weathered old driver said with a grandmotherly grin.

"We almost didn't!" Angie answered, "We brought a few more for the ride back."

"I see that. I'll have to call for a few more buses!" the driver cackled warmly.

With the help of Archie, the once-hopeless people began to pack onto the bus. Gradually every seat filled up and people squeezed into the aisle. When the driver finally shut the doors the bus was more full than it had ever been before and still people waited outside for the next one. Inside the bus, the air was alive with excited conversation.

"Where do you all want to go?" the bus driver shouted over the cacophony.

"Take us to the Collector's house!" Angie called back. With a thunderous roar the engine started and the bus carried them off towards their final confrontation.

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**WANT TO READ THE REST
OF THE STORY? SCAN HERE:**



TO BE CONTINUED...

COLOR AND DRAW FOR THE CHAT ROOM

Find a parent and some tools for coloring. Find a quiet place too with a table to draw on. Read the poem out loud together, alternating turns between each line. Then finish coloring in a special frame for the poem using some of the prompts and questions below...



Assata Shakur wrote this poem. She was a political activist and one of the few female leaders of the Black Liberation Movement. Assata was imprisoned after being falsely accused for a crime by the New Jersey police department. She wrote many poems in prison to keep her spirits up and her mind stimulated. She wrote about different aspects of living in a world with such intense inequality, but always believed that freedom was attainable through collective resistance with her peers.

Questions/ Prompts:

1. Go outside and look closely: can you each find a brave blade of grass growing through the cracks of the sidewalk? Who does it remind you of? Tell each other about that person and why you chose them.
2. Return to your poem. Take turns drawing that person as a blade of grass growing through the cracks of a sidewalk in the space around the poem.
3. Now imagine the sun that gives energy to this blade of grass, sustaining it with life. Who or what is the sun that sustains that person's growth? How can you be the sun? Draw yourself as the sun in the top right corner of the poem.

*Watch, the grass is growing,
Watch, but don't make it obvious.
Let your eyes roam casually, but watch!
In any prison yard, you can see it - growing.
In the cracks, in the crevices,
between the steel and the concrete,
out of the dead gray dust,
the bravest blades of grass shoot up,
bold and full of life.
Watch, the grass is growing.
It is growing through the cracks.
The guards say grass is against the Law.
Grass is contraband in prison.
The guards say that the grass is insolent.
Watch, the grass is growing.
Watch, but don't make it obvious.
Let your eyes roam casually, but watch!
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