COPS ARE MURDERERS

In the past five months, Montreal area police have shot on five people, causing serious injury or death in all cases. As is often the case, the police keep a tight seal on information about these shootings, refusing to disclose more than summary details about the situation.

Police violence is not an accident—its business as usual. Since 1987, the SPVM has killed 47 people, and the police continue to beat, arrest, injure, and harass people every day. Stories of police brutality and impunity are everywhere, and not because of a few bad apples. The police are paid and trained to be brutal in their protection of property, the rich, and business-as-usual of capital and profit at any expense. The problem is not that some cops kill people. The problem is the police, and that’s why we fight to push them further and further out of our lives.

These shootings cannot be separated from the larger context of increasing austerity measures and strengthening social control, of new prisons, tougher laws, and ballooning surveillance technologies. The spreading of repressive measures and the intensifying of social control demand our response as much as any police murder does. Time and time again, the police and the state have shown us that they will only take us seriously when we bring our anger to the streets, just as people showed their rage after the killing of Fredy Villanueva in Montreal North in 2008, and as people have done in response to police killings on the West Coast of the US.

Until there are no police patrolling the streets, arresting our loved ones, and hassling us at every turn, we will fight the police, their cages, and the world of domination they seek to protect.

NO PEACE IN THE STREETS WITH POLICE IN THE STREETS!

This week, screws opened fire on prisoners at Millhaven Maximum prison in Kingston, ON for the third time in half a dozen months, killing one prisoner and critically wounding two others. These shootings have come in the wake of prisoners at Millhaven repeatedly fighting the conditions of their incarceration, barricading parts of their wings, and refusing to comply with guards’ orders. These sorts of uprisings are increasingly common in Canadian prisons; nine disturbances have been reported since the new year.

Similar riots in 1954 and 1971 at the Kingston Penitentiary and the subsequent decades of unrest in Canadian prisons which followed prison expansions and reform show the very delicate balance that maintains these structures. Along with expanding police forces and extensive police power, we see more money being spent on prisons and the correctional apparatus, and more people shoved in cages. The slew of three dozen prison expansions across Canada in the last eight months give us a clear sense of the desire of the state: to sustain a society of constant surveillance and control.

Prisons, like the police, have not and will not make our lives any safer. No matter how we struggle, to pay the rent or to live without it, the police will always stand between our desires and us. In the end, we all stand on the other side of the barricades, and we will not let what happens behind prison walls stay there.