

THE MANIFESTO OF WILLEM VAN SPRONSEN



Statement from Crimethinc Ex Workers Collective

On July 13, Willem Van Spronsen was killed by police while apparently taking action to disable the fleet of buses that serve the Northwest Detention Center, a private immigration detention facility. His final statement, reproduced below, conveys that he was acting in response to the continuous raids and deportations carried out by Immigration Customs and Enforcement (ICE). His action occurred on the one-year anniversary of a hunger strike inside the Northwest Detention Center and an encampment outside.

We understand why Willem Van Spronsen decided to give his life to interrupt the violence that is perpetrated against undocumented people in the United States every day.

It is not hyperbole to say that the ICE raids are targeting our friends and neighbors, people who have lived and worked alongside us for years or even decades. The vulnerability of long-term undocumented people as a hyper-exploitable class has helped billionaires like Donald Trump to profit even more than they could have by legal means. To put the icing on the cake, capitalists then turn to the other workers they are exploiting and tell them that the poverty and misfortunes they experience are the fault of those who are poorer and more oppressed than them. It's hard to imagine a more cynical strategy.

WILLEM VAN SPRONSEN'S FINAL STATEMENT

There's wrong and there's right. It's time to take action against the forces of evil.

Evil says one life is worth less than another.
Evil says the flow of commerce is our purpose here.
Evil says concentration camps for folks deemed lesser are necessary. The handmaid of evil says the concentration camps should be more humane.
Beware the centrist.

I have a father's broken heart. I have a broken down body, and I have an unshakable abhorrence for injustice. That is what brings me here. This is my clear opportunity to try to make a difference,
I'd be an ingrate to be waiting for a more obvious invitation.

I follow three teachers:

Don Pritts, my spiritual guide.

"Love without action is just a word.",

John Brown, my moral guide.

“What is needed is action!”

Emma Goldman, my political guide.

“If I can’t dance, I don’t want to be in your revolution.”

I’m a head in the clouds dreamer, I believe in love and redemption. I believe **we’re going to win.** I’m joyfully revolutionary. (We all should have been reading Emma Goldman in school instead of the jingo drivel we were fed, but I digress.) (We should all be looking at the photos of the YPG heroes should we falter and think our dreams are impossible, but I double digress. Fight me.)

In these days of fascist hooligans preying on vulnerable people in our streets, in the name of the state or supported and defended by the state, in these days of highly profitable detention/concentration camps and a battle over the semantics, in these days of hopelessness, empty pursuit and empty yearning.

We are living in visible fascism ascendant. (I say visible, because those paying attention watched it survive and thrive under the protection of the state

for decades. [See Howard Zinn, A People's History of the United States.] Now it unabashedly follows its agenda with open and full cooperation from the government. From governments around the world.

Fascism serves the needs of the state serves the needs of business and at your expense. Who benefits? Jeff Bezos, Warren Buffet, Elon Musk, Tim Cook, Bill Gates, Betsy de Vos, George Soros, Donald Trump, and need I go on? Let me say it again: rich guys (who think you're not really all that good), really dig government (every government everywhere, including "communist" governments), because they make the rules that make rich guys richer. Simple. **Don't overthink it.**

(Are you patriots in the back paying attention?)

When I was a boy, in post-war Holland, later France, my head was filled with stories of the rise of fascism in the '30s. I promised myself that I would not be one of those who stands by as neighbors are torn from their homes and imprisoned for somehow being perceived as lesser.

***You don't have to burn
the motherfucker down,
but are you going to
just stand by?***

This is the test of our fundamental belief in real freedom and our responsibility to each other. This is a call to patriots, too, to stand against this travesty against everything that you hold sacred. I know you. I know that in your hearts, you see the dishonor in these camps. It's time for you, too, to stand up to the money pulling the strings of every goddamn puppet pretending to represent us.

**I'm a man who loves you all and this spinning ball so
much that I'm going to fulfill my childhood promise
to myself to be noble.**

Here it is, in these corporate for profit concentration camps.

**Here it is, in Brown and non-conforming folks afraid to
show their faces for fear of the police/migra/**

Proud Boys/the boss/beckies . . .

Here it is, a planet almost used up by the market's greed.

I'm a black and white thinker.

Detention camps are an abomination.

I'm not standing by.

I really shouldn't have to say any more than this.

**I set aside my broken heart and I heal the only way I
know how—by being useful.**

I efficiently compartmentalize my pain . . .

And I joyfully go about this work.

**(To those burdened with the wreckage from my actions,
I hope that you will make the best use of that burden.)**

To my comrades:

I regret that I will miss the rest of the revolution. Thank you for the honor of having me in your midst.

Giving me space to be useful, to feel that I was fulfilling my ideals, has been the spiritual pinnacle of my life.

Doing what I can to help defend my precious and wondrous people is an experience too rich to describe.

My trans comrades have transformed me, solidifying my conviction that we will be guided to a dreamed-of future by those most marginalized among us today. I have dreamed it so clearly that I have no regret for not seeing how it turns out. Thank you for bringing me so far along.

I AM ANTIFA.
I STAND WITH
COMRADES AROUND
THE WORLD WHO
ACT FROM THE LOVE
OF LIFE IN EVERY
PERMUTATION.

COMRADES WHO
UNDERSTAND THAT
FREEDOM MEANS
REAL FREEDOM FOR
ALL AND A LIFE
WORTH LIVING.

KEEP THE FAITH!

**ALL POWER TO
THE PEOPLE!**

BELLA CIAO.

Don't let your silly government agencies spend money "investigating" this one. I was radicalized in civics class at 13 when we were taught about the electoral college. It was at that point that I decided that the status quo might be a house of cards. Further reading confirmed in the positive. I highly recommend reading!

I am not affiliated with any organization, I have disaffiliated from any organizations who disagree with my choice of tactics.

The semi-automatic weapon I used was a cheap, home-built unregistered "ghost" AR-15, it had six magazines. I strongly encourage comrades and incoming comrades to arm themselves. We are now responsible for defending people from the predatory state. Ignore the law in arming yourself if you have the luxury, I did.



This zine was formatted, produced and distributed by the West Michigan Anarchist Federation.

