



COYONER

comics as eyewitness

September 2020

Italy

Nicaragua

India

front line defenders



cypher

/ˈsaɪfər/

The dictionary definition of cypher is ‘a secret or disguised way of writing’. In many ways, this is the essence of comics storytelling – the image, rather than the word, is a disguise for many words, that can convey meaning, emotion, and can re/frame an entire narrative.

Rap and hip hop culture has taken the word and ascribed a new meaning: ‘an informal gathering of rappers, beatboxers and/or breakdancers in a circle, in order to jam musically together.’ This, too, we find relevant to this project, in that we are bringing together artists and HRDs in freestyle collaboration of activism and art with the aim of informing, elevating and inspiring.

For us, this captures the spirit of why we are working in comics and guides how we facilitate the process of creative production.

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adam shapiro

The events that are depicted in the stories in this edition of **Cypher** all occur during the period that the COVID-19 pandemic is changing the way we live, the way we work and the way we interact with each other. One thing that has continued unabated is the way governments and regimes pursue power and profit and how they target those who dare speak up, stand up or organize.

The human rights defenders in this edition are all activists who are facing sanction, punishment and persecution for taking action to defend their communities' rights. The mere fact of challenging the core of power by not sitting and abiding whatever the government insists on, especially when that policy can have devastating consequences, is what human rights defenders are all about, and why they are feared by 'democratic' and 'authoritarian' leaders alike.

At the heart of the global human rights movement is the notion that the ruled have the ability to deny the rulers absolute power or the ability to dictate terms of existence. When organized into states, citizens further are guaranteed not only certain protections, but also rights that are not meant to be words on paper, but lived experiences.

It is our hope that these stories leave the reader with inspiration, with hope and with outrage, and provoke the reader to learn more about these HRDs and their struggles. **Cypher** is about generating solidarity through storytelling – solidarity is the life force of the human rights movement, the struggles for justice and accountability, and what sustains HRDs in times of darkness. Thank you for reading, learning and hopefully, doing.



beldan sezen

“Just some regular cowards”

That is the name which the artist of our 2nd story put as their credit. In this edition, the artists of all four stories work under synonyms or preferred to be credited as anonymous. Stories about Human Rights violations from Italy, India and Nicaragua have in common that people speaking up have to be cautious in one way or the other for their well-being. This is unacceptable. Yet it also points out that there are artists willing to step back from receiving well-deserved credit in order to bring attention to human rights defenders at risk and under threat. I salute them for their courage to do so. No regular cowards here.

September 2020

India

The space for dissent and peaceful expression in India is fast shrinking. Since the 'BJP-led' government came into power, there has been a steady erosion of protection and safeguards for ethnic or religious minorities, Dalit and indigenous groups, and those seeking to assert their rights peacefully against State intrusion. Laws and policies are enacted to further marginalize the economic poor and minorities. Peaceful human rights work is met with violent reprisals, legal, police persecution and malicious media attacks and labelling.

While human rights defenders and protesters have united in solidarity across ethnic, religious and class lines, the government continues its campaign to demonize minorities, students, indigenous rights activists, and to target their cultural and religious expressions and identities. It has initiated efforts to try to make them 'lesser' citizens in the country.

The two stories presented here demonstrate the lengths to which the Indian government under Modi's leadership to silence critics and remove any challenges to the nationalist discourse.

The use of the First Information Report (FIR) by the police as a kind of 'blank check' to arrest and charge HRDs is a new tactic of using otherwise legal procedures in ways they were not intended and marks a dangerous new development for civic space in India

1st Story written and illustrated by: [Neelima](#)
[Instagram](#)

2nd Story written and illustrated by : "Just Some Regular Cowards"

In December 2019, the Indian Parliament passed the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). It amended the Citizenship Act of 1955 by providing access to Indian citizenship for immigrants who fled religious persecution from neighbouring countries of Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan. This list of religious minorities in these countries included Hindus, Sikhs, Budhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians, and excluded Muslims as an overt act of using religion as a criterion for citizenship.

Following the passing of this act, the government also announced the preparation of the National Register of Indian Citizens (NRIC), to identify persons of 'doubtful citizenship' throughout India. A similar exercise in Assam, called the National Register of Citizens (NRC), to verify the citizenship status of residents resulted in the exclusion of close to 2 million persons, putting them at risk of statelessness. No remedy has been provided to them yet, despite the passage of over a year.

The CAA-NRC package, hence in as many words a potential tool of ethnic cleansing, threatened that the Muslims citizens of India will likely be tagged as foreigners by declaring their documents insufficient. Detention centers were being built in various locations across the country. Non-Muslims similarly identified as non-citizens will have the option of taking advantage of the CAA to reclaim Indian citizenship.

This led to an uprise of protests across the country.



At the forefront of these protests were primarily students and women, from varying class, caste and religious backgrounds. In a country where women do not have easy access to public spaces, and often one has a voice based on the privilege she holds, the gathering of women in not so privileged localities was almost revolutionary. The voices and the support of students strengthened these protests, which in turn put them in the forefront of the backlash that followed.

Masked goons and state machineries attacked educational institutions such as Aligarh Muslim University, Jamia Millia Islamia, Jawaharlal Nehru University, and other universities across cities. Police lathi charged students or aided vigilante mobs to attack students and faculty, damaging property, and leaving them injured. Photos and videos of these attacks were circulated alleging that the students were rioting and being violent.

In the midst of this, in Shaheen Bagh, Delhi, the site of a peaceful sit-in protest primarily led by women, became the emblem of anti-CAA protests in India. These protests lasted 101 days and garnered a lot of support from citizens, artists and activists across Delhi and the rest of India. Similar protests led by women rose in other cities, and continued until the country went into lockdown in March 2020, due to COVID-19.



"I'm saying this on behalf of all of you. We will walk away peacefully until Trump is here. After that, if the roads are not vacated, we won't even listen to you (the police)." **Kapil Mishra, BJP Leader**



In the last week of February 2020, several parts of northeast Delhi witnessed communal violence. Predominantly Muslim neighbourhoods saw violence through rioting, arson, burglary and shooting. Mosques and shops were vandalised and around 53 people, including 36 Muslims, 17 Hindus, were reported dead.

These attacks were triggered after leaders of the BJP, including a central minister, instigated their supporters through hate speeches, on camera, leaving a trail of several video footages raising questions on role of the Delhi Police. Violent and heart wrenching videos of rioters and police attacking civilians, leading to some of their deaths, were circulated. These videos became a sort of live documentation of the riots.



You want azaadi?

Sing the national anthem

Ruling party politicians and their cronies openly called for violence against the sit-in protests, while the police stood beside them and seemed to render their support in silence.

"We have had enough of the attacks on Hinduism. We will not tolerate such attacks anymore. Hindus, come out; die or kill. The rest, we'll see. If your blood does not boil even now, it is not blood, it is water!" **Ragini Tiwari, self-styled Hindutva leader**



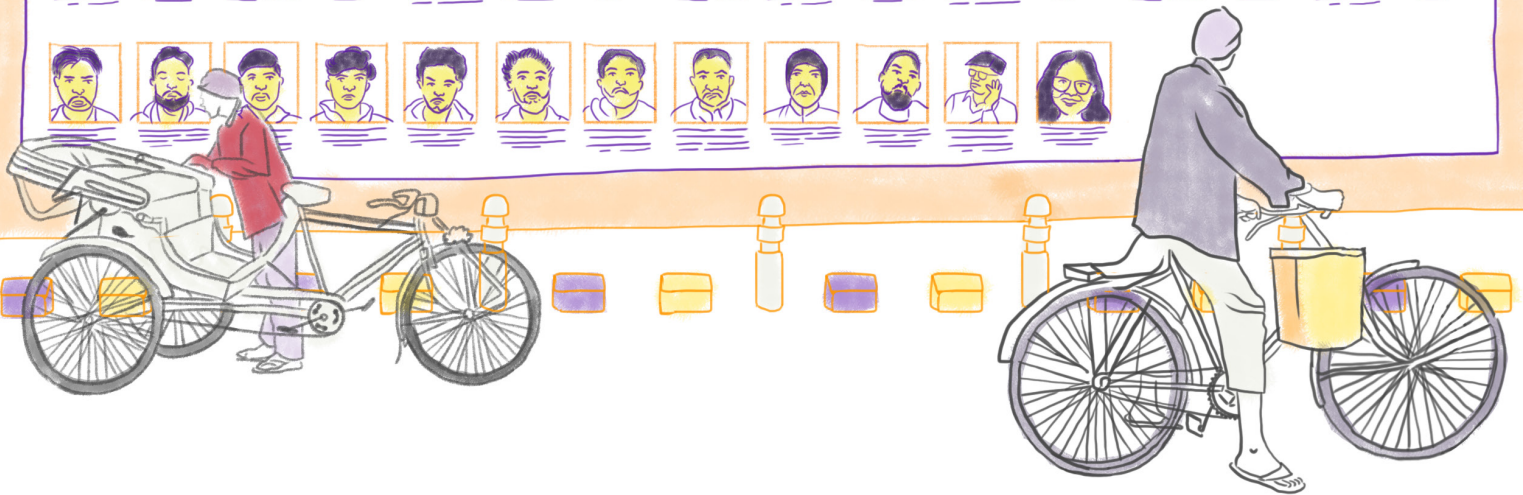
Over hundreds of arrests have been made so far in connection with the anti-CAA protests.

A hoarding* in Hazratganj in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh named and shamed people that participated in the protests, demanding them to pay a fine for the damages caused by rioting. These hoardings had photographs, names and addresses of the accused.

**Hoardings are walls of posters with the pictures of people who participated in protests - as if they are meant to be 'wanted posters'.*



जनपद लखनऊ के थाने हज़रतगंज क्षेत्र में सरकारी / निजी सम्पत्ति दिनांक 19.12. 2019 की हिंसा में क्षति पहुंचाने वाले सभी व्यक्ति नियत तिथि तक पूरी वसूली की रकम जमा करना सुनिश्चित करें, अन्यथा की स्थिति में सम्बंधित व्यक्ति की सम्पत्तियों को नियमानुसार कुर्क करके निर्धारित धनराशि वसूल की जायेगी. कुल क्षति का मूल्यांकन - ₹ 64,37,637/- के सापेक्ष निम्न लिखित व्यक्ति सामूहिक रूप से एवं प्रत्येक व्यक्ति, व्यक्तिगत रूप से भी उत्तरदायी है. (JOINT AND SEVERAL LIABILITY)



First Information Reports (FIRs) had been filed against the anti-CAA protestors for inciting violence through hate speech. The reports alleged that the riots that rocked northeast Delhi were premeditated by certain protestors, and it incited people to take to the streets during US president Donald Trump's visit.



Despite the lockdown, which led the now nationwide movement to dissipate, the arrests of protestors went on. In fact, the lockdown became a smokescreen for the police to track down and arrest protestors, since it left people isolated, vulnerable and with not enough access to legal aid. FIRs were filed against activists for “allegedly hatching a conspiracy to incite communal riots”.

31 December, 2019
Shaheen Bagh brings in 2020 by singing the national anthem

01 January, 2020
Huge protests in Kochi, Kerala

04 January, 2020
Protests in Hyderabad

05 January, 2020
Women gather for the Burqa-Bindi Protest at Town Hall, Bangalore

11 January, 2020
Protest march in Kolkata

12 January, 2020
PM accuses opposition of misleading people about CAA

16 January, 2020
Fishermen join protests in Mangalore

25 January, 2020
"Press the button (to vote for BJP, Delhi Elections) so hard that the button is pressed here, but the current is felt in Shaheen Bagh" Amit Shah

27 January, 2020
BJP MP and Union Minister of State for Finance & Corporate Affairs, India Anurag Thakur raises slogans in a rally, saying "Desh ke gaddaron ko, goli maaro saalon ko" (Those who are traitors of the country, shoot and kill them.)

31 January, 2020
A teacher and a mother of a student arrested for anti-CAA play in a school in Bidar, Karnataka

03 February, 2020
50 students charged with sedition in Mumbai for sloganeering in support of Sharjeel Imam

03 February, 2019
Plea filed in Supreme Court for removal of Shaheen Bagh protests, as it blocked roadways connecting Delhi and Noida.

09 February, 2020
Seattle and Cambridge pass resolution against CAA

10 February, 2020
Police lathi charge protestors in Jamia

31 December, 2019
Kerala passes resolution to rollback the act, the first state to do so

05 January, 2020
Armed and masked goons enter and attack students and faculty of JNU, damaging property. While the Delhi police waited outside the gate

22 January, 2020
Supreme court refuses to put a stay on CAA

27 January, 2020
Punjab, West Bengal and Rajasthan also pass resolution against CAA

28 January, 2020
JNU student Sharjeel Imam arrested in Delhi

29 January, 2020
Social and women's rights activist Jagriti Rahi arrested in UP

30 January, 2020
17 year old fires gun at an anti-CAA protest organised by students of Jamia Milia, while the police watches

01 February, 2020
Shots fired in Shaheen Bagh

The FIRs and summons suggest that the police systematically targeted members of one or more WhatsApp groups created by students and political/cultural activists who openly opposed CAA. The arrests followed the same modus operandi, i.e. to arrest the accused in one case, keep them for a few days for interrogation and once bail is granted, re-arrest them in Special Cell case.

Nearly all defenders arrested in relation to the CAA in Delhi have multiple fabricated FIRs filed against them. Each time a court grants bail/release orders – a fresh FIR is produced, ensuring that the defender remains in jail. The most insidious is the use of FIR 59/20 which includes charges under the UAPA, effectively preventing bail.

This FIR is based on a complaint by a police officer, relying on 'secret information' supplied by an informant and initially carried only bailable offences. Additional severe sections of the IPC and other laws, including UAPA, were added in this FIR to obstruct bail. There is no evidence produced by the police to substantiate such serious charges.

On 23 May 2020, the Delhi Police* arrested Devangana Kalita and Natasha Narwal, two members of the women's collective Pinjra Tod, in connection with the Jafraabad protests. They were members of the WhatsApp group named Delhi Protest Support Group. The initial FIR contains charges under sections 186, 341 and 353 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC): obstructing a public servant in discharge of public functions, wrongful restraint, and assault or criminal force to deter a public servant from discharge of his duty. The following day, the Duty Metropolitan Magistrate granted bail after a special hearing at the Mandoli Jail. The judge noted that Kalita and Narwal were merely exercising their right to freedom of expression by protesting and did not engage in any form of violence. The judge, keeping in mind the COVID-19 pandemic, declined the police's request to remand them.

16 September, 2020
A chargesheet of over 17000 pages filed by Delhi Police has referred to several defenders who have a long standing history and work advocating for peace and justice. Delhi University professor **Apoorvanand**, economist **Jayati Ghosh**, civil rights lawyer and activist **Prashant Bhushan**, social activists **Anjali Bhardwaj** and **Harsh Mander**, filmmakers **Rahul Roy** and **Saba Dewan**, CPI leader **Annie Raja**, senior Congress leader **Salman Khurshid**, CPI (M) leader **Brinda Karat**, CPI (M) general secretary **Sitaram Yechury**, Swaraj Abhiyan leader **Yogendra Yadav**, and many others have been named.

26 February, 2020

Lawyer **Ishrat Jahan** and activist **Khalid Saifi** arrested in Delhi

22 March, 2020

Before the lockdown, for COVID-19, during the one day Janata Curfew, **petrol bomb hurled at Shaheen Bagh protest site**

24 March, 2020

COVID lockdown begins, Shaheen Bagh protest site is cleared

01 April, 2020

Jamia student **Meeran Haider** arrested in Delhi

09 April, 2020

MBA student **Gulfisha Fatima** arrested in Delhi

10 April, 2020

Jamia student and Congress Student Union member **Safoora Zargar** arrested in Delhi

26 April, 2020

President of Jamia Alumni Association, **Shifa-Ur-Rehman** arrested in Delhi

18 May, 2020

Student Islamic Organisation member **Asif Iqbal Tanha** arrested in Delhi

23 May, 2020

Members of the women's collective Pijra Tod, **Devangana Kalita** and **Natasha Narwal** arrested in Delhi

08 July, 2020

AMU student **Sharjeel Usmani** arrested in UP

13 September, 2020

Activist and member of United Against Hate **Umar Khalid** arrested in Delhi

*The Delhi Police comes under the purview of the Home Ministry, as opposed to Delhi state government.

Despite being granted bail, they were not released and on 26 May, the Delhi Special Crime Cell filed a further FIR 50/2020 against them. The new FIR contains allegations of serious offences including sections 302, 307 and 120B of the IPC: murder, attempt to murder and criminal conspiracy; offences under the Arms Act and offences under the Prevention of Destruction of Public Property Act. It is evident that despite failing to prove the earlier charges, the police intended to hold them in prison at any cost. There was a hearing held on 28 May inside the jail citing COVID-19, making it difficult for them in obtaining legal representation. Both Kalita and Narwal were sentenced to a further 14 days in Tihar jail.



Pinjra Tod (Break the Cage) is a collective of women students and alumni of colleges from across Delhi, India, that seeks to make regulations for hostel and paying guest (PG) accommodation less restrictive for women students. They aim to counter a perceived official narrative that women need to be protected. The main goals of Pinjra Tod are to end the imposition of curfews on women, to provide affordable accommodation for women, to regularise the situation for paying guests, and to obtain the formation of elected Internal Complaint Committees for prevention, prohibition and redress of sexual harassment in universities.

Following this, on 29 May 2020, Kalita and Narwal have been charged by the police with the non-bailable Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). This was the fourth FIR filed against Devangana Kalita.

On 1 September, the Delhi High Court granted bail to Devangana Kalita, as the police failed to share evidence of her alleged instigating speech. On 17 September, Natasha Narwal was granted bail citing that while she was present at an unlawful assembly, one does not see her indulging in or inciting violence. However, both Kalita and Narwal will not be released as they are in custody under UAPA.



Name: **SHARJEEL IMAM**
Profile: **JNU Student**
Arrested on: **28 January, 2020**
Charges: **UAPA**



Name: **ISHRAT JAHAN**
Profile: **Lawyer and former Congress municipal Councillor**
Arrested on: **26 February, 2020**
Charges: **UAPA**

The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), is primarily meant to combat terror and condemn known terrorist organisations. In July 2019, the UAPA went through an amendment that authorises naming individuals as 'terrorists' even though they may have no affiliations to the terrorist organisations. Claiming that the National Investigative Agency (NIA) finds it difficult to deal with individuals involved in acts of terrorism under the existing act, the provision to name individuals as terrorists were introduced via the amendment. The Bill also authorises the Director-General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to allow either confiscation or attachment of property when a case is under investigation.



Name: **KHALID SAIFI**
Profile: **Activist and member of United Against Hate**
Arrested on: **26 February, 2020**
Charges: **UAPA**



Name: **MEERAN HAIDER**
Profile: **Activist and state president of Rashtriya Janata Dal, Delhi youth wing**
Arrested on: **01 April, 2020**
Charges: **UAPA**

This amendment of the UAPA, enables the government, under the pretense of curbing terrorism, to in turn curb the right to dissent of an individual citizen. Additionally, it curtails personal liberty by detaining them for a long period without trial, in the pretext of investigating a 'terror' case. Not only is this detrimental to a democracy, but instead of preserving the dignity of an individual, the government violates it.

The multiple FIRs and arrests show that the centre's only intent is to silence dissenters by putting them behind bars. This isn't the first time the state has used UAPA or National Security Act (NSA) or accusations of sedition as an instrument of clout and power.



Name: **GULFISHA FATIMA**
Profile: **Activist and MBA Student**
Arrested on: **09 April, 2020**
Charges: **UAPA**



Name: **SAFOORA ZARGAR**
Profile: **Jamia student and member of Congress affiliated students union, NSUI**
Arrested on: **10 April, 2020**
Charges: **UAPA**



Name: **SHIFA-UR-REHMAN**
Profile: **President of Jamia Alumni Association**
Arrested on: **26 April, 2020**
Charges: **UAPA**



Name: **ASIF IQBAL TANHA**
Profile: **Member of Student Islamic Organization**
Arrested on: **18 May, 2020**
Charges: **UAPA**

On the night of 13 September 2020, Umar Khalid, activist and member of United Against Hate, was arrested by the Delhi Police for his alleged role in the conspiracy of inciting the communal violence of February 2020.

"We won't respond to violence with violence. We won't respond to hate with hate. If they spread hate, we will respond to it with love. If they thrash us with lathis, we keep holding the tricolour. If they fire bullets, then we will hold the Constitution. If they jail us, we will go to jail singing, *Saare Jahaan Se Acha Hindustan Hamara**."



*"Anthem of the People of Hindustan" written by poet Muhammad Iqbal. It became a symbol of resistance to the English rule of British-occupied India.

अगर आप इस वीडियो को देख रहे हैं, तो इसका मतलब यह है कि मुझे गिरफ्तार कर लिया गया है। इस वीडियो के जरिए मैं आपको एक संदेश देना चाहता हूँ।

दिल्ली दंगों पर जो पुलिस की कार्यवाही है, उसमें वो दंगाइयों को नहीं पकड़ रहे हैं। जिन्होंने खुले आम दंगा किया, दंगा भड़काया, पुलिस की मौजूदगी में भड़काया, टीवी-कैमरे के सामने भड़काया, हम सबने देखा। उन पर FIR तो दूर की बात, उन्हें एक बार भी पूछताछ के लिए बुलाया नहीं गया। वहीं दूसरी तरफ जो सरकार के आलोचक हैं, जो सरकार की नीतियों का और खासतौर पर CAA क़ानून का विरोध कर रहे थे, NRC का विरोध कर रहे थे, उन्हें झूठे मुकदमों में फँसाया जा रहा है। कोई सबूत नहीं है उनके पास। कई नौजवान छात्रों को गिरफ्तार कर लिया गया है। पिछले कई महीनों से मुझे भी गिरफ्तार करने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं। झूठे-झूठे बयान चलाते रहते हैं टीवी पर। पहले मेरी एक स्पीच, जो कि 17 मिनट की स्पीच थी, उसमें से 20-30 सैकेंड निकाल कर वायरल किया गया और बताया गया कि यह दंगे की साज़िश है, कि मैंने लोगों को बोला कि सड़कों पर आकर विरोध प्रदर्शन करें।

जब मैंने वह पूरी 17 मिनट की स्पीच अपलोड कर दी, जिस स्पीच में मैं दंगा और हिंसा तो दूर, सत्याग्रह, अहिंसा और गांधी के संदेश की बात कर रहा था, तो अब वो मेरे खिलाफ़ और नए-नए झूठे बयान TV में चलाते हैं, मीडिया में चलाते हैं। पुलिस द्वारा डरा धमकाकर लोगों को झूठी गवाही देने के लिए मजबूर किया जा रहा है और कोशिश की जा रही है कि जो भी सरकार की आलोचना करता है, उसे जेल की सलाखों के पीछे बंद कर दिया जाए।

क्या ख़ता है मेरी? क्या ये ख़ता है मेरी कि मैं बोलता हूँ, कि यह देश जितना आपका है, उतना ही मेरा भी है। यह हमारा हिंदुस्तान, जो इतना ख़ूबसूरत देश है, यहाँ इतने सारे धर्मों को मानने वाले लोग रहते हैं, इतनी सारी भाषाएँ बोलने वाले लोग रहते हैं, इतने अलग-अलग प्रकार के लोग रहते हैं, लेकिन वह सारे लोग क़ानून के सामने, संविधान के सामने बराबर हैं।

आज इसे बदलने की कोशिश की जा रही है। आज हमें बाँटने की कोशिश की जा रही है। और इस बाँटने की राजनीति के खिलाफ़ जो बोलता है, उसे डरा धमका कर जेल के पीछे बंद करके, उसकी आवाज़ को बंद करने की कोशिश की जा रही है। वे हमें डरा रहे हैं लेकिन वे साथ ही मैं आपको भी डरा रहे हैं। वो हमारी आवाज़ को बंद कर रहे हैं, हमें कैद कर रहे हैं जेलों में, लेकिन आपको भी झूठ के अंदर कैद करना चाहते हैं। आपको डराकर चुप करा देना चाहते हैं। बस एक अपील करके मैं अपनी बात ख़त्म करूँगा।

डरिए मत! नाइंसाफी के खिलाफ़ आवाज़ बुलंद कीजिए। जिन लोगों को झूठे मुकदमों में फँसाया जा रहा है, उन लोगों की रिहाई की माँग कीजिए। हर ज़ुल्म के खिलाफ़ बोलिए!

Petitions have been filed in the Supreme Court against UAPA, citing that the right to reputation is an intrinsic part of the fundamental right to life with dignity under Article 21 of the Constitution. Tagging an individual a "terrorist" before trial or due judicial processes does not comply with the procedure established by law.

All this while Hindutva leaders who have blatantly incited violence on camera, with proof, are protected unashamedly and continue to enjoy their freedom of thought, speech and action, while citizens become terrorists without evidence.

"...What is my fault? Is my fault that I believe this country is as much mine as it is yours? Our Hindustan, this beautiful country of ours, with people following so many religions, people speaking so many languages, so many kinds of people live here, but in the eyes of the law, in front of the constitution, we are all equal. Today, there is an attempt at trying to alter that. Today, there are trying to divide us. And those who speak against this divisive politics are getting threatened, thrown into jail, and their voices are being curbed. They are scaring us, but they are also scaring you. They are silencing us, putting us behind bars, but they also want to imprison you in their lies. They want to scare you also into silence. I just have one appeal before I end this message.

Do not be afraid! Raise your voice against injustice! Raise your voices to free those who are getting caught in false cases! Speak up against every oppression." Pre-recorded statement from Umar Khalid, released after his arrest

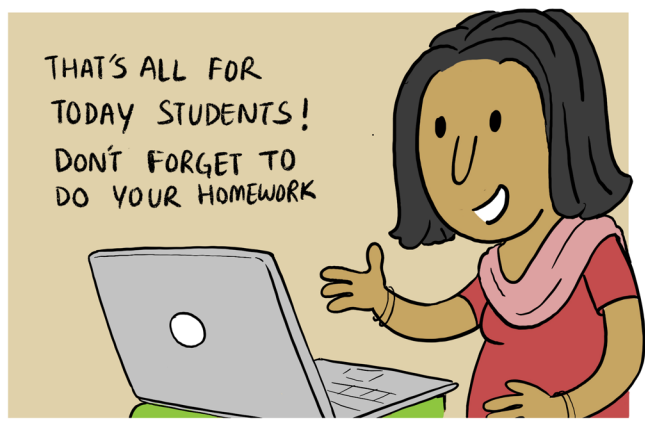


WILL BE ARRESTED UNDER UAPA PRESENTS

THE PRESSURE COOKER

WRITTEN & ILLUSTRATED BY
JUST SOME REGULAR COWARDS

CONTROVERSY



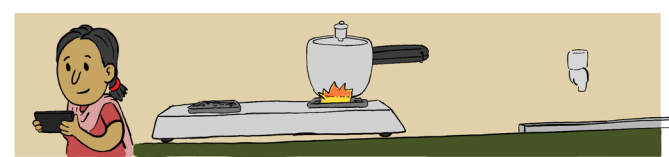
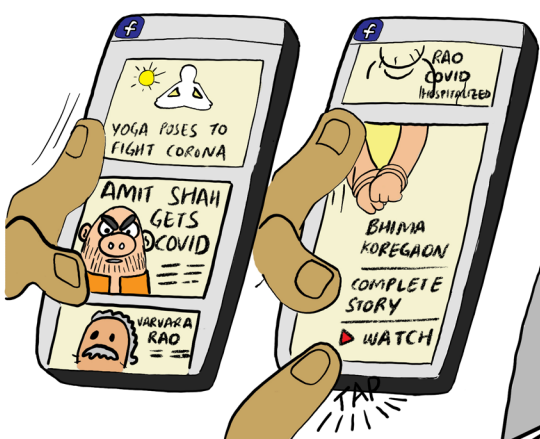
THAT'S ALL FOR TODAY STUDENTS!
DON'T FORGET TO DO YOUR HOMEWORK



7 JUNGLE JUNGLE
BAAT CHALI HAI
PATA CHALA HAI JB



7 JUNGLE
JUNGLE BAAT



1st JANUARY 1818, MAHAR SOLDIERS IN BRITISH ARMY DEFEAT PESHWA BAJI RAO II



BHIMA KOREGAON

WE ERECT THIS VICTORY TO CELEBRATE THE SACRIFICE OF BRAVE MAHAR SOLDIERS

EVEN AFTER 200 YEARS, PEOPLE WILL ASSOCIATE THE WORDS "BHIMA KOREGAON" WITH YOUR VALOUR & BRAVERY

AND TODAY ON BHIMA KOREGAON BATTLE'S 200th ANNIVERSARY

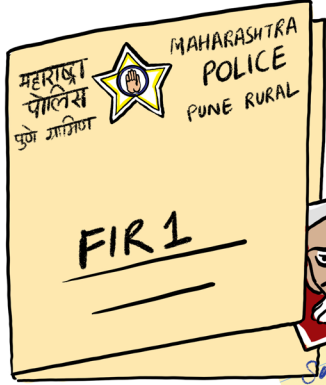
1st JANUARY 2018



BHIMA KOREGAON RIOTS



RIOTS ERUPTED AT 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF BHIMA KOREGAON CELEBRATION • 30 INJURED • 1 DEAD • LOCAL TRAINS IN MUMBAI AFFECTED



WHAT DO YOU THINK?



WHAT MODEL CITIZENS!

Jambhaji Bhide
 • Known for destroying Cinema-halls
 gem: Said mango helps
 Convince a boy

Milind EKbote
 - Known for instigating violence
 against Muslims



BRING SOME PAPER

MORE!

THIS MUCH?

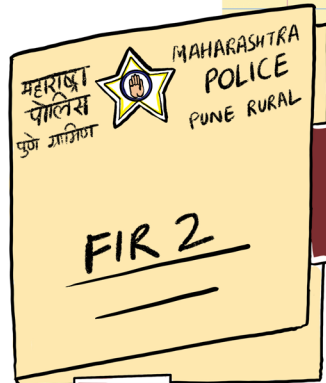
SIR CALL FOR YOU



YES SIR...

WHAT NAMES SHOULD WE ADD?

Varvara Rao: writer, teacher, activist, jailed during emergency, Labour movement, helped Peace talks with naxals, Telangana movement-supporter arrested after Telangana was formed, Arrested, released arrested, released, arrested, released, arrested... (ex-govt. employee)



Sudha Bharadwaj: trade unionist, communist, Civil rights activist against land acquisition IIT alumni, born with U.S citizenship, gave it up at age 18 to be Indian



Gautam Navlalkha: Human rights activist, Journalist, Critic of atrocities in Kashmir



Surendra Gadling: Human rights lawyer



Rona Wilson: Committee for release of Political Prisoners & those arrested under UAPA

Sudhir Dhawale: Activist, actor



Shoma Sen: Assistant Professor English, Nagpur University.



women's rights Activist

Mahesh Raut: Activist working for adivasis. Studied at Tata Inst. of Social Sciences



Arun Ferreira: Activist, Lawyer

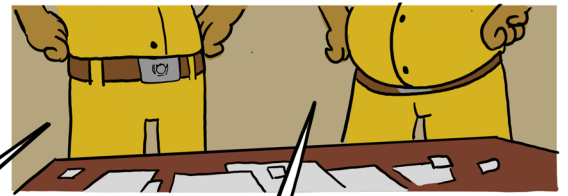


Vernon Gonsalves: Academic, writer adivasi rights.



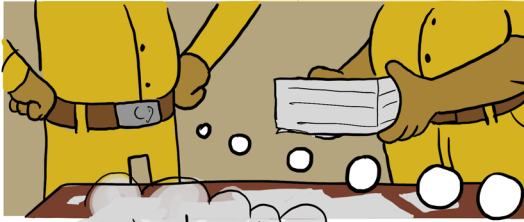


11 Anand Teltumbde
 Scholar, writer, Dalit
 rights activist, PROFESSOR
GOA INSTT. OF MANAGEMENT



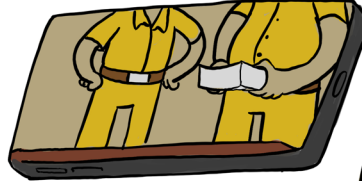
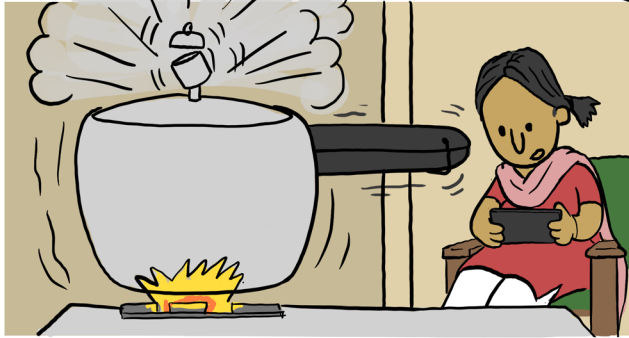
SUCH DEGENERATES

BLOT ON THE NATION!



YOU'LL SEE

BUT, THESE ARE JUST 11 NAMES,
 WHY SO MANY BLANK PAGES?



IN THE FILM 3 IDIOTS,
 HE WAS MILLIMETER



IN LADAKH HE BECAME
 CENTIMETER



UNEMPLOYMENT
 SE AZADI

BHOKHMARI
 SE AZADI



AFTER PHD IN JNU, HE WILL BECOME KILOMETER

ONE DAY AFTER PROTESTS HE
 WENT WITH HIS FRIENDS TO
 EAT CHOWMEIN

HE IS EATING CHINESE
 FOOD, WITH CHOPSTICKS!

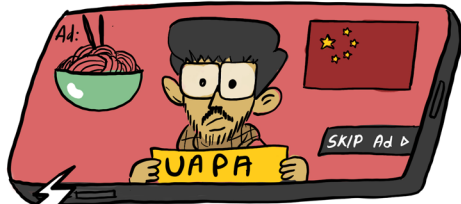


IS HE A CHINESE AGENT?

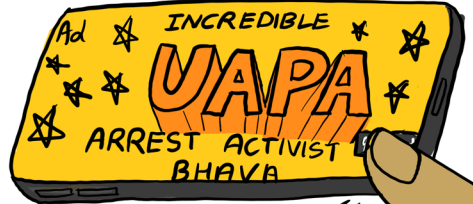
POLICE!



THESE PEOPLE EAT CHOWMEIN
 WITH CHOPSTICKS HERE AND
 CHINESE COMMIES GET FUNDED THERE



LET'S USE UAPA AND PUT
 THESE STUPID INTELLECTUALS IN
 JAIL



TAP



THESE 10... I MEAN 12... WAIT 14
 ACCUSED ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR



INSTIGATING VIOLENCE AT BHIMA
 KOREGAON, THREATENING THE INTEGRITY



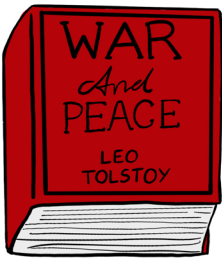
AND SOVEREIGNTY OF THE NATION



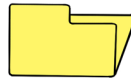
WE HAVE CONFISCATED EVIDENCE FROM THEIR HOMES WHICH ESTABLISH THEIR LINK WITH NAXALS



HOW IS A BOOK EVIDENCE?



COMPUTER & OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES SWITCHED ON, EVEN AFTER SEIZURE



R BACKUP

THIS FOLDER IS FOUND WHICH HAS LETTERS, DOCS, LEADING TO...



POLICE'S CLAIM THAT THERE WAS A PLAN TO ASSASINATE "SUPREME LEADER"...uhm PM MODI



DEFENCE LAWYER

IN SOME CASES SUCH A FOLDER IS FOUND WITH "LETTERS & PLANS"

1 MINUTE AND SOME SECONDS

FOLDER CREATED

COPY & PASTE

EDITS CLOSE



ELECTRONIC EVIDENCE IS SEALED HOURS AFTER SEIZURE

WARRANT XXX

RAIDS CARRIED WITHOUT WARRANT

EVEN A LETTER APPEARS IN SOME CASES

Dear Comrade,
Sent for training in Jungle.
Okbye, Comrade

PM MURDER LETTER.docx



TARGETED SPYWARE ATTACKS ON ACTIVISTS AND LAWYERS

LETTERS SAVED COMFORTABLY FOR POLICE TO FIND.

MY LORD, BUT THESE EMAILS ARE FABRICATED AND CAN NOT BE RELIED UPON

Heh Heh Heh

UAPA

- GOVT CAN LABEL ANYONE A TERRORIST
- CAN ARREST ANYONE
- NO TRIAL
- 3-6 MONTHS, CAN KEEP WITHOUT TRIAL AND INDEFINITELY UNTIL TRIAL IS COMPLETED.

Blank PAPER

Blank

Blank

Blank

JUSTICE IS BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH...

DISSENT IS THE SAFETY VALVE OF DEMOCRACY

IF DISSENT IS NOT ALLOWED THE PRESSURE COOKER MAY...

I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ELSE, MY HANDS ARE TIED, THE LAW IS SUPREME, CONSCIENCE, BLAH, BLAH





Aaargh

DONE! WHAT HAPPENED?

WHAT WAS THIS VIDEO THAT HOOKED YOU SO BAD?

I WAS SO ENGROSSSED IN WATCHING A VIDEO, I FORGOT MY PRESSURE COOKER, WHICH EXPLODED!

WHY ARE THERE SO MANY POLICE OFFICERS IN THE HOSPITAL

YOU DON'T KNOW? HON'BLE HOME MINISTER AMIT SHAH & ONE URBAN NAXAL VARVARA SOMETHING ARE GETTING TREATED HERE FOR COVID

COVID

VARVARA RAO!

THE ONE WHO GOT ARRESTED ON FAKE CHARGES UNDER VAPA?

HMMM

DO YOU KNOW

UNDER VAPA GOVT. HAS ARRESTED SO MANY ACTIVISTS

BAIL REJECTED

ON THE BASIS OF FLIMSY EVIDENCE, THEY'VE BEEN ACCUSED OF KILLING THE PM!

THEY ARE ACTIVISTS! NOT ASSASINS!

IN JAN 2020, AFTER BSP LOST MAHARASHTRA ELECTIONS THE CASE WAS TRANSFERRED (COVERNIGHT)

I THINK { 2 HOURS }

THE ONLY WAY THEY CAN KILL SOMEONE IS BY BORING THEM TO DEATH WITH LONG DISCUSSIONS

FROM MAHARASHTRA POLICE to NIA

RUN DOVAL RUN

WHAT DO YOU DO?

WHAT DO YOU TEACH!

HMMMM

I'M A TEACHER

ENGLISH

TODAY I TAUGHT THEM JUNGLE BOOK, MOWGLI, YOU KNOW

HOW DO YOU KNOW SO MUCH?

SAW IT IN THE VIDEO I MENTIONED

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

NITISHA

I'LL BE BACK

MISS NITISHA

YOU ARE UNDER ARREST

I'M ARRESTED? FOR WHAT?

DOCTOR TOLD US

DOCTOR TOLD US, YOU KNOW A LOT ABOUT BHIMA KOREGAON, ABOUT THOSE ARRESTED TERRORISTS YOU ARE TEACHING YOUR STUDENTS ABOUT AN ADIWASI BOY, A NAXAL, "MOWGLI" WHO SPREADS THE IDEAS OF REVOLUTION IN THE JUNGLE

BUT THAT'S A BOOK!

YOU CAN'T ARREST ME FOR A ...

VAPA

NEWS PAID

BREAKING NEWS

#NAXALTEACHER

NAXAL TEACHER

NEWS PAID

BREAKING NEWS

PRESSURE COOKER KILLER

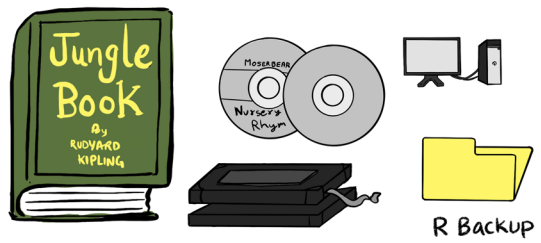
- TEACHER
- ARRESTED
- HOSPITAL

NEWS PAID

BREAKING NEWS

- WAS MAKING BOMB
- USING PRESSURE COOKER
- EXPLODED
- CAUGHT AT HOSPITAL

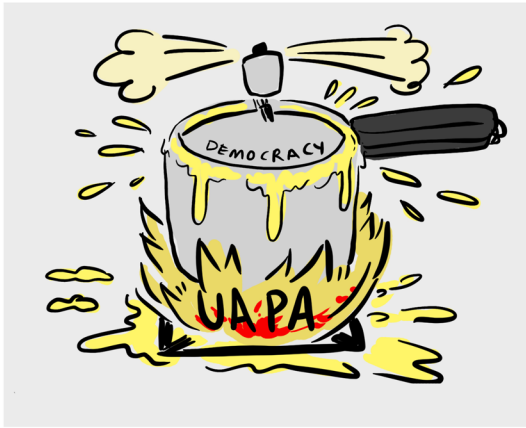
BREAKING NEWS | NAXAL TEACHER • ASSASIN



NEWS PAID

BREAKING NEWS

- TARGET WAS HOME MINISTER AMIT SHAH
- TO FREE HER "COMRADE" VARVARA RAO

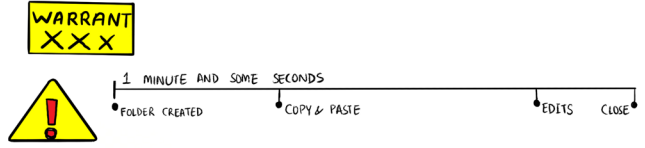


Dear Comrade,

Sent for training in Jungle.

Ok bye, Comrade

Amit shah attack.docx



Italy

The No-TAP Movement is a spontaneous citizen's initiative organising peaceful marches and events since 2017, aimed at raising awareness about the environmental impacts of the TAP project (Trans Adriatic Pipeline). The government of Italy approved the project, sparking a movement that has been going strong for over three years.

The protests started in the town of Melendugno, located in the province of Lecce, where the terminal of the pipeline and the gas processing plants are being built. They have been staged primarily by residents of Melendugno, but also neighbouring towns which will be affected by the project.

Human rights defenders have been protesting as the construction of the pipeline threatens ancient olive farms, water sources, cultural heritage sites and the local coastline, in a region which heavily depends on agriculture and tourism. Moreover, the local population was not consulted when the project was being discussed and approved, the environmental impact was not adequately assessed, as the "Seveso Law" (a law related to the prevention of industrial accidents) was not applied, and the project is contrary to the provisions of the Paris Agreement about progressively ending fossil fuel production.

In January 2020, 25 HRDs who have been part of the protest movement were brought up on a variety of charges in a trial widely seen as an effort to shut down the environmental movement. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the trial was postponed, rescheduled to resume in September 2020.

Despite the attempt to criminalize the protests, the No-TAP Movement continues to struggle against the devastation of the environment and the impact the pipeline will have on communities.

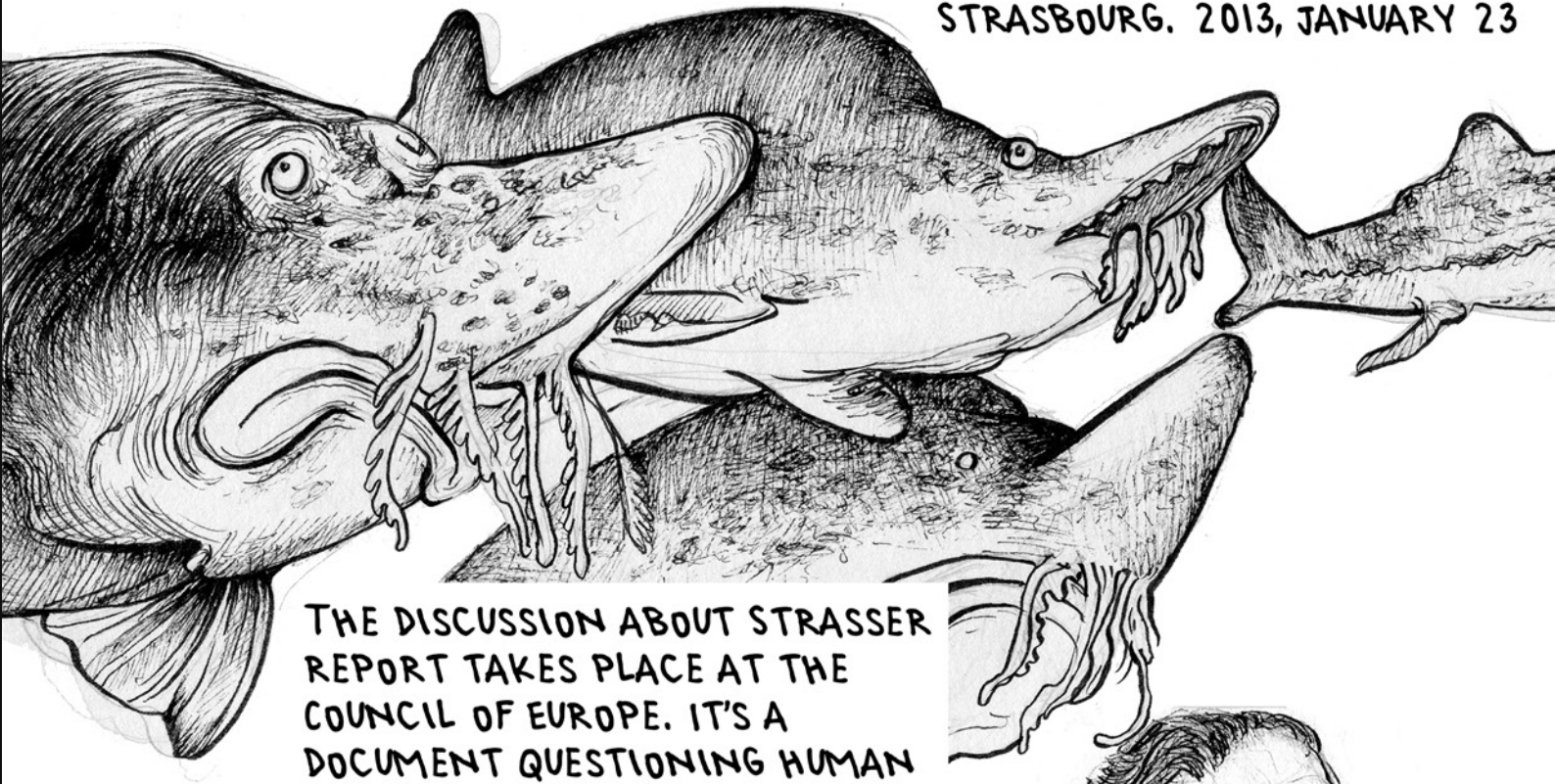
Artist: Bambi Kramer bambikramer.ink

Bambi Kramer is a comics author and illustrator based in Rome. Her work has been exhibited on L'Aquila's buildings as much as at MACRo in Rome, AVA Gallery in Cape Town and Centro Centro Cibeles in Madrid.

She has worked with fashion brands and her illustrations and comics are published widely. Since 2016, together with Fortepressa ed., she is the editor and designer of GROW - an international magazine project. As part of the KOMIKAZE #19 anthology, she won the Angoulême award for alternative comics in 2020.

YOUR WISH IS MY COMMAND

STRASBOURG. 2013, JANUARY 23



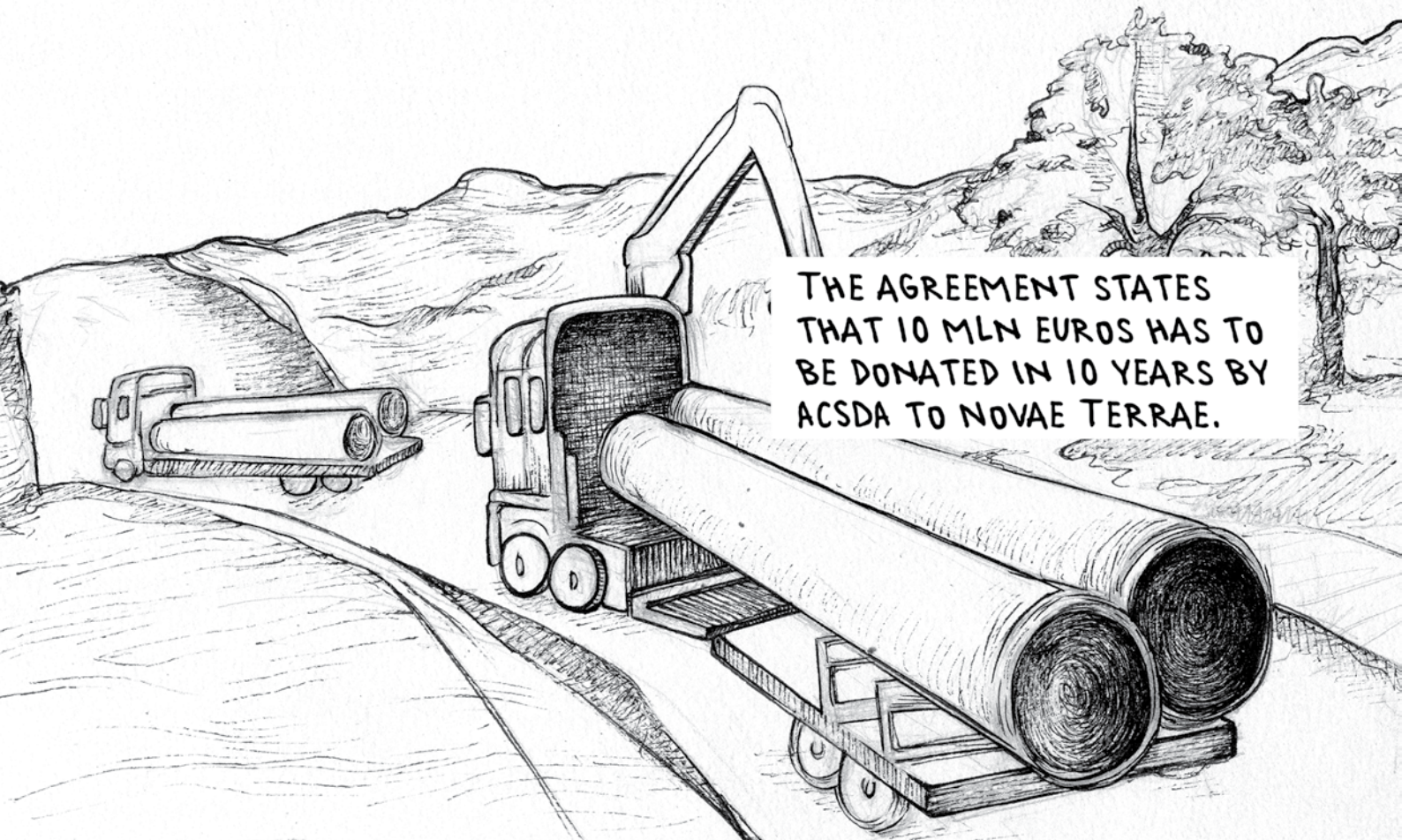
THE DISCUSSION ABOUT STRASSER REPORT TAKES PLACE AT THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE. IT'S A DOCUMENT QUESTIONING HUMAN RIGHTS RESPECT 'N AZERBAIJAN.



THE MOTION IS REJECTED THANKS TO THE DECISIVE CONTRIBUTION OF THE PPE AND LUCA VOLONTÉ, PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN PEOPLE'S PARTY AND COUNCIL OF EUROPE'S VICE-PRESIDENT.

THERE ARE TWO WITNESSES FROM THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE CLAIMING THAT THE HIGHEST AZERBAIJANI REPRESENTATIVE IN EUROPE DISPOSED OF 30 MLN EUROS TO SPEND ON "CAVIAR DEMOCRACY".

THE ASSOCIATION FOR CIVIL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT IN AZERBAIJAN (ACSDA) HEADED BY ELKHAN SULEYMANOV EARLIER ENTERED INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE ITALIAN FONDATION NOVAE TERRAE, WHICH DEALS WITH PRO-LIFE AND HOMOPHOBIC INITIATIVES.

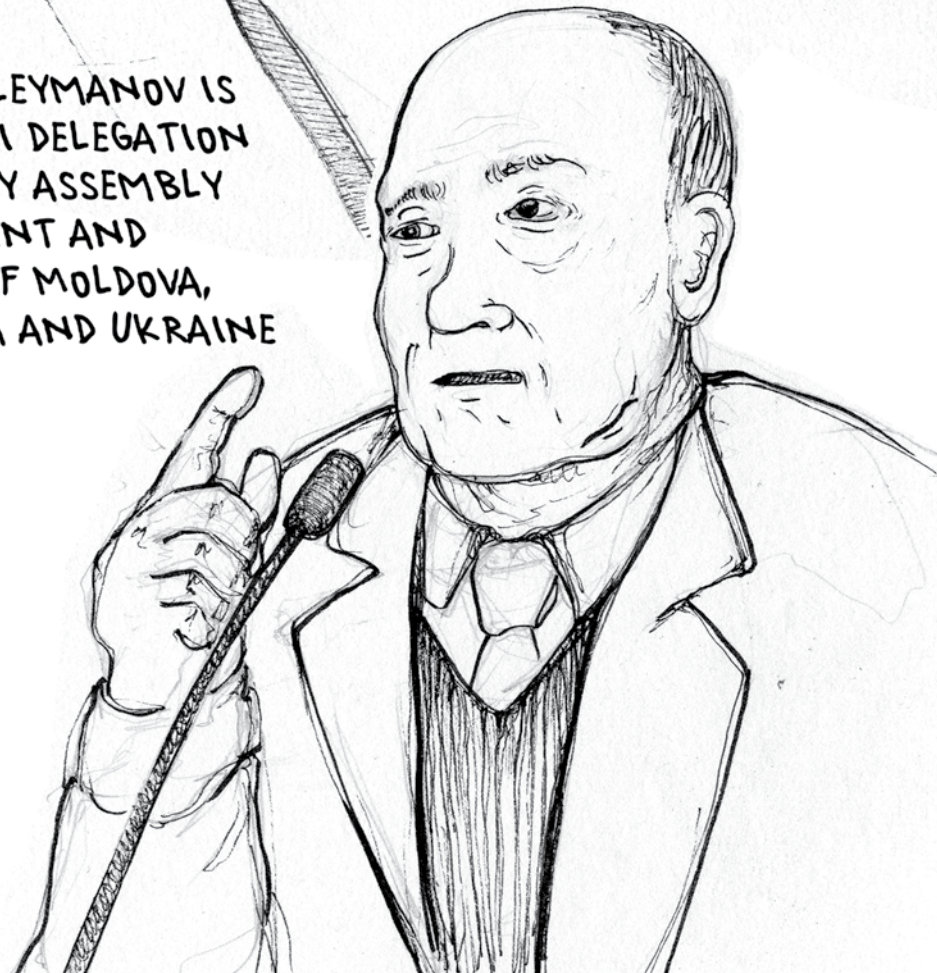


THE AGREEMENT STATES THAT 10 MLN EUROS HAS TO BE DONATED IN 10 YEARS BY ACSDA TO NOVAE TERRAE.

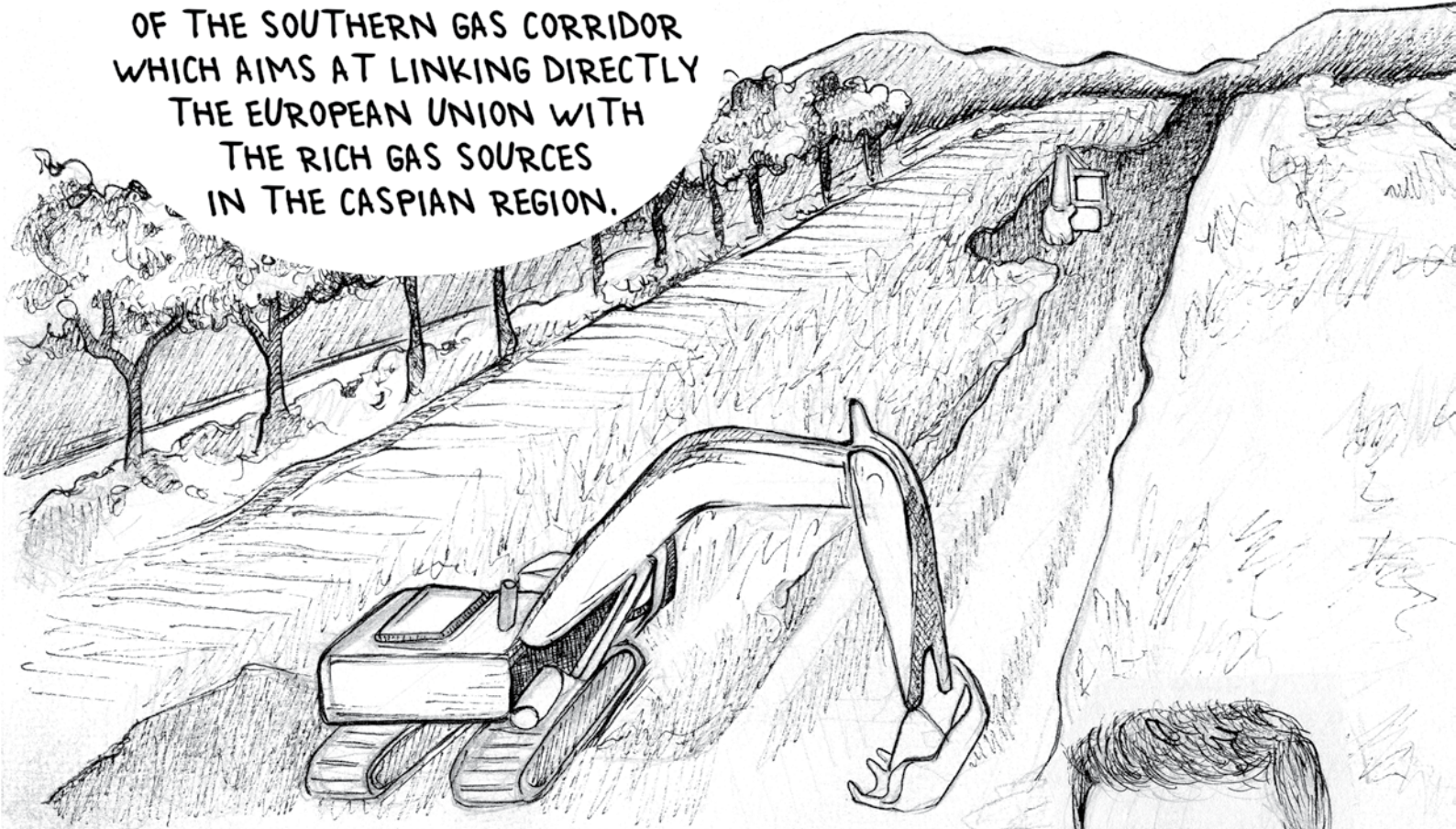
PAYMENTS STARTED IN 2012.

AT THE SAME TIME, ELKHAN SULEYMANOV IS THE PRESIDENT OF AZERBAIJANI DELEGATION TO EURONEST A PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY BRINGING EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS OF MOLDOVA, ARMENIA, AZERBAIJAN, GEORGIA AND UKRAINE ALL TOGETHER.

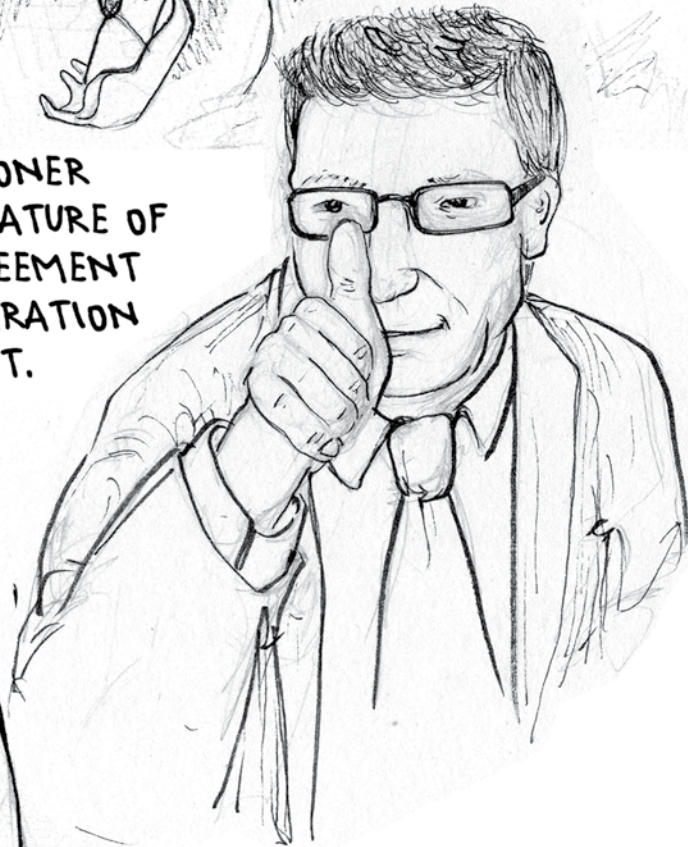
THE PRESIDENT OF NOVAE TERRAE IS LUCA VOLONTÈ.



THIS PIPELINE COULD BE AMONG THE FIRST COMPONENTS OF THE SOUTHERN GAS CORRIDOR WHICH AIMS AT LINKING DIRECTLY THE EUROPEAN UNION WITH THE RICH GAS SOURCES IN THE CASPIAN REGION.



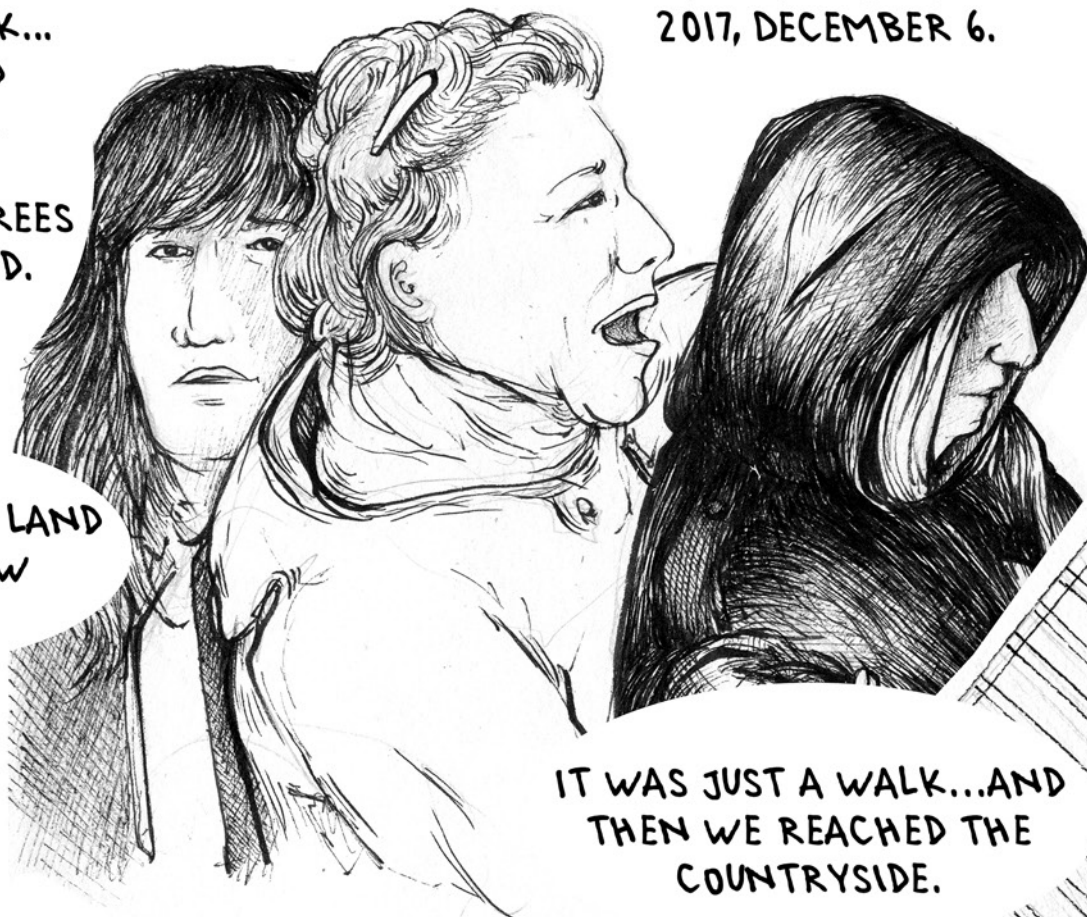
WITH THESE WORDS EU ENERGY COMMISSIONER GÜNTER OETTINGER WELCOMED THE SIGNATURE OF A TRI-LATERAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT (IGA) AS AN ESSENTIAL STEP IN THE PREPARATION OF THE TRANS-ADRIATIC PIPELINE PROJECT.



TAP IS A GAS PIPELINE BETWEEN ITALY, ALBANIA AND GREECE WITH A STARTING CAPACITY OF MINIMUM 10 BILLION CUBIC METRES PER ANNUM (BCMA).

SAN BASILIO COUNTRYSIDE.
2017, DECEMBER 6.

YES,
IT WAS JUST A WALK...
WE JUST WANTED
TO TAKE A WALK
ON OUR LAND,
AMONG THE OLIVE TREES
AND THE PINWOOD.

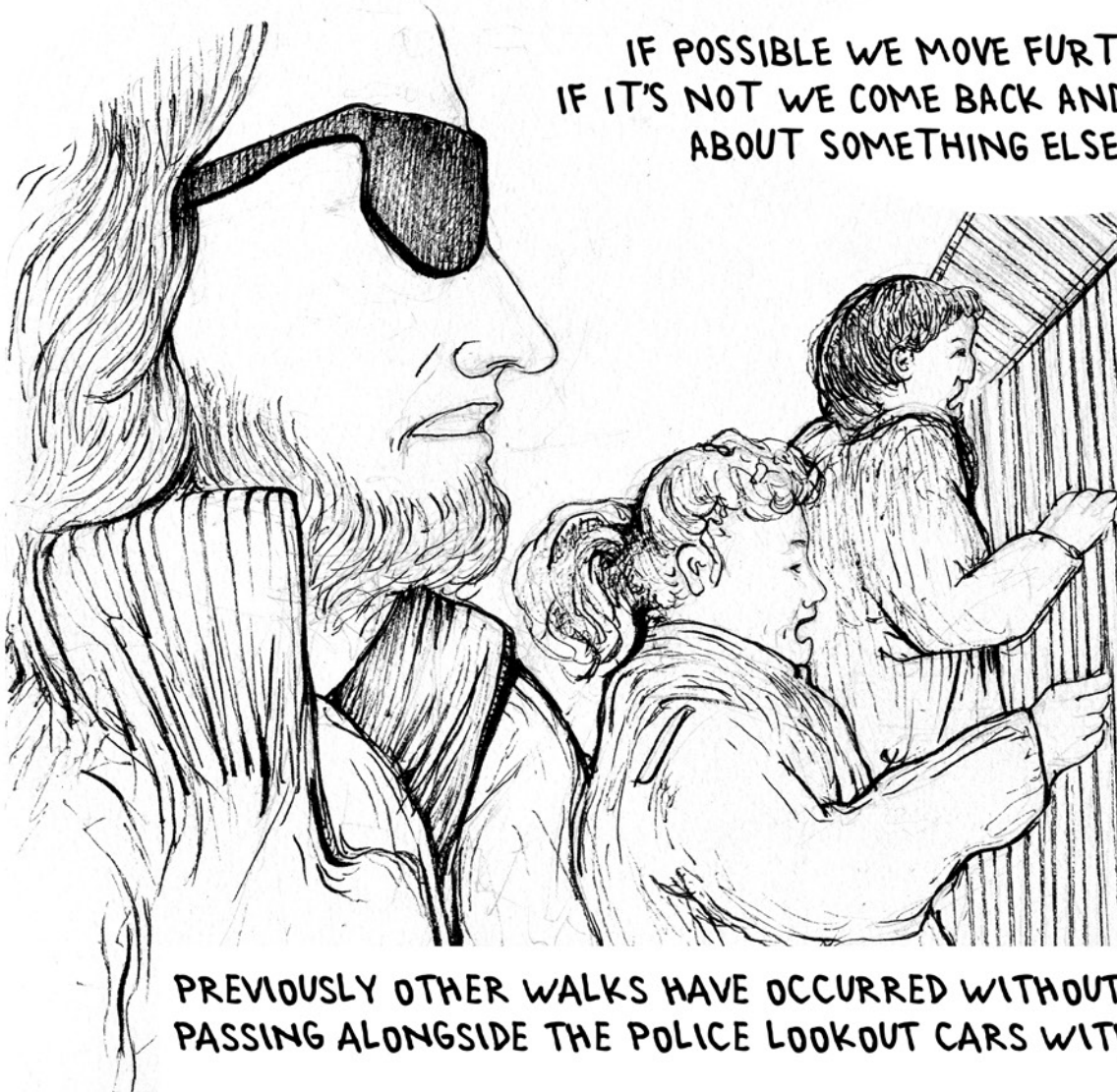


A PART OF THAT LAND
IS CAGED NOW

IT WAS JUST A WALK...AND
THEN WE REACHED THE
COUNTRYSIDE.

WAGNUNI, THERE ARE PEOPLE ALREADY WAITING.
LET'S GO AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS.

IF POSSIBLE WE MOVE FURTHER,
IF IT'S NOT WE COME BACK AND THINK
ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE.



PREVIOUSLY OTHER WALKS HAVE OCCURRED WITHOUT ANY PROBLEM, EVEN
PASSING ALONGSIDE THE POLICE LOOKOUT CARS WITHOUT ANY PROBLEM.

WHERE THEY WERE HIDING?

THIS WAY

COME ON...

NOW THEY SLAUGHTER US

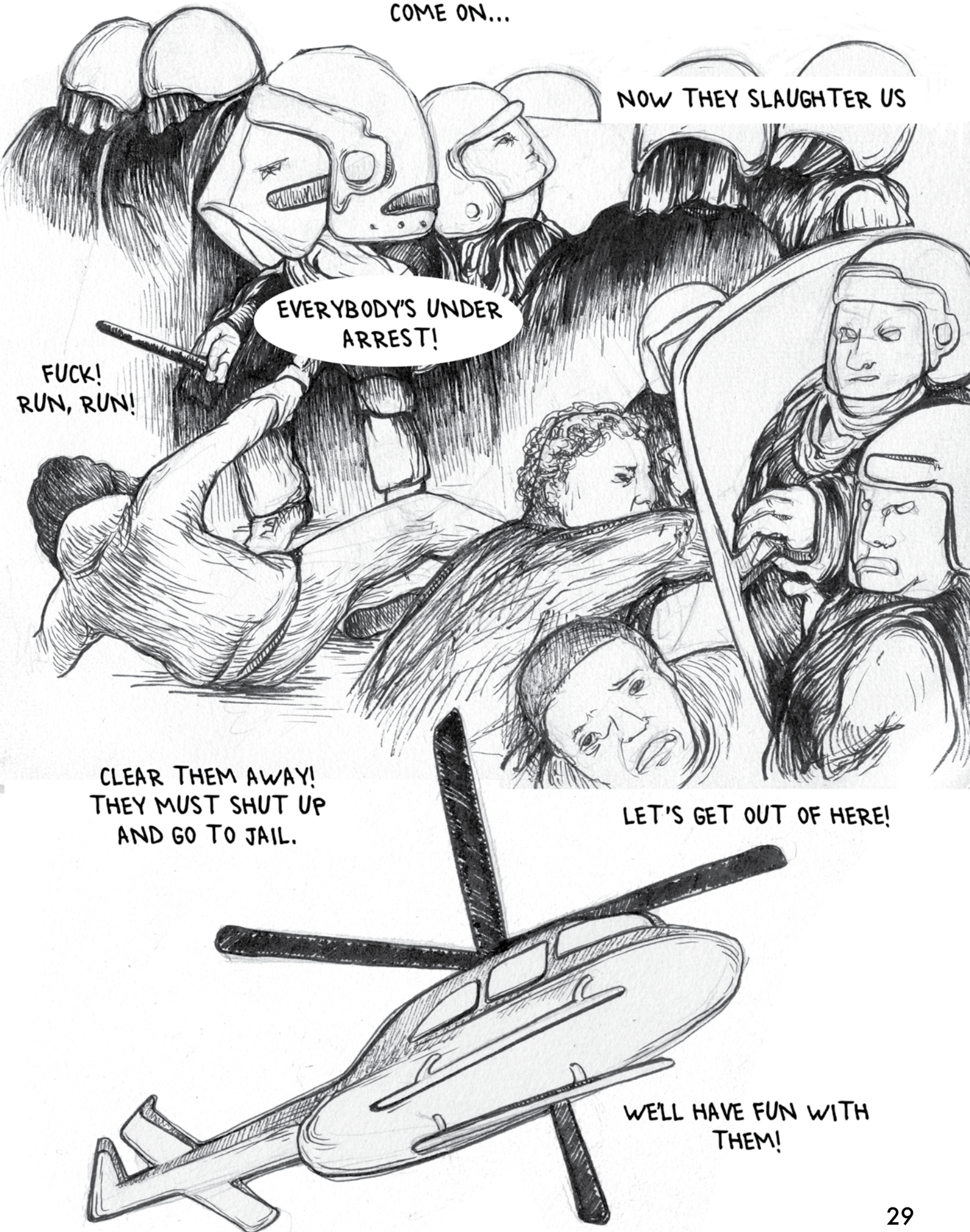
EVERYBODY'S UNDER
ARREST!

FUCK!
RUN, RUN!

CLEAR THEM AWAY!
THEY MUST SHUT UP
AND GO TO JAIL.

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

WE'LL HAVE FUN WITH
THEM!



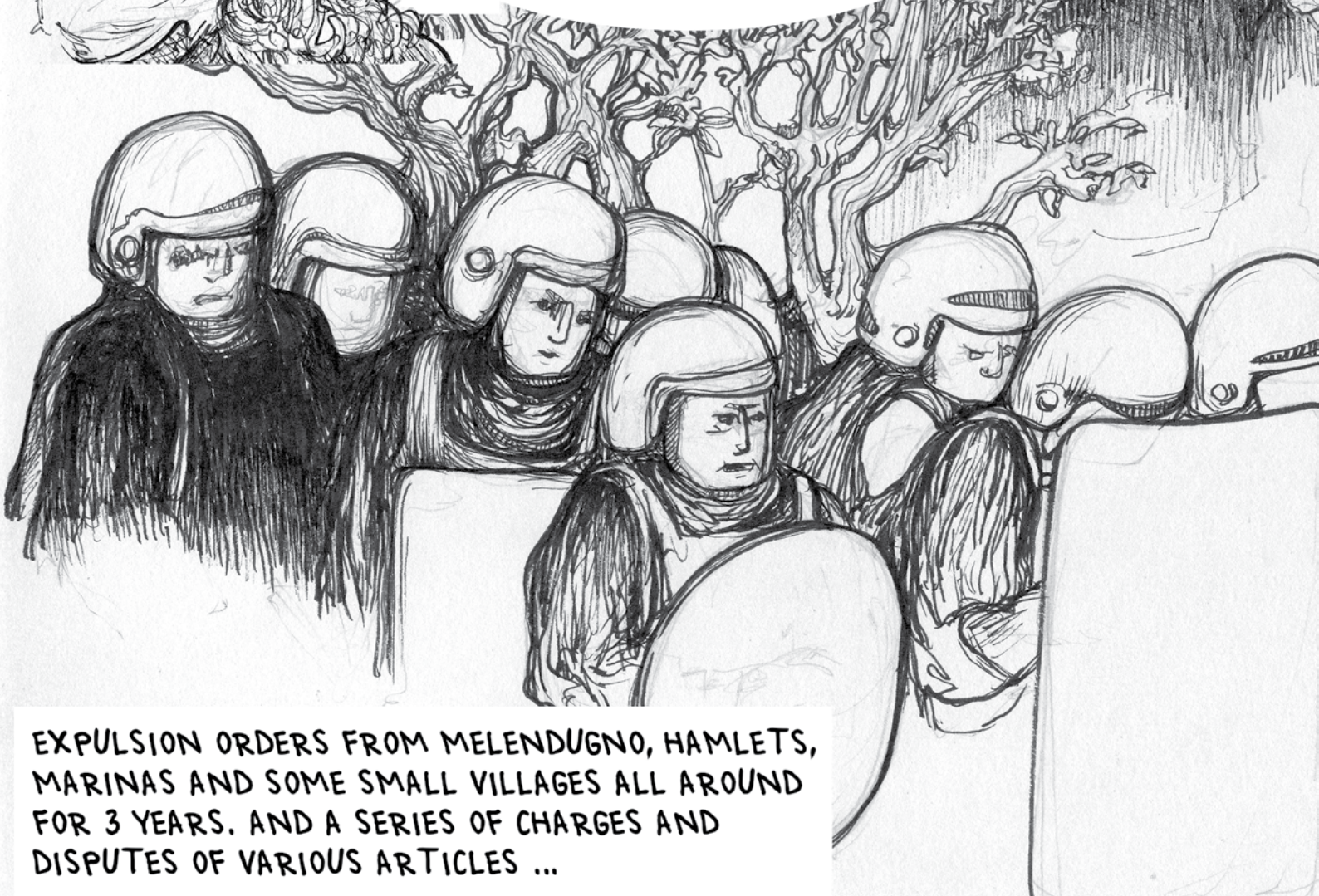
MY BODY ACHES ALL OVER,
MY WRISTS HURT FROM OF THE
HANDCUFFS, MY MOBILE HAS BEEN
SEIZED BECAUSE IT COUD HELP
CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES.

HOW ARE YOU?
ARE YOU INJURED?



THEY ARE IMPOSING
EXPULSION ORDERS?

EXPULSION ORDERS FROM LECCE,
ITS MARINAS AND HAMLETS
FOR 3 YEARS...



EXPULSION ORDERS FROM MELENDUGNO, HAMLETS,
MARINAS AND SOME SMALL VILLAGES ALL AROUND
FOR 3 YEARS. AND A SERIES OF CHARGES AND
DISPUTES OF VARIOUS ARTICLES ...

WE HUG. EASY, BECAUSE THEY HURT US



MY NAME IS VALENTINA, I CREATE TOYS AND ACCESSORIES FOR CHILDREN. I CARE FOR MY LAND, A LOT. WE DON'T NEED THIS GAS... OUR SUPPLIES EXCEED THE DEMAND

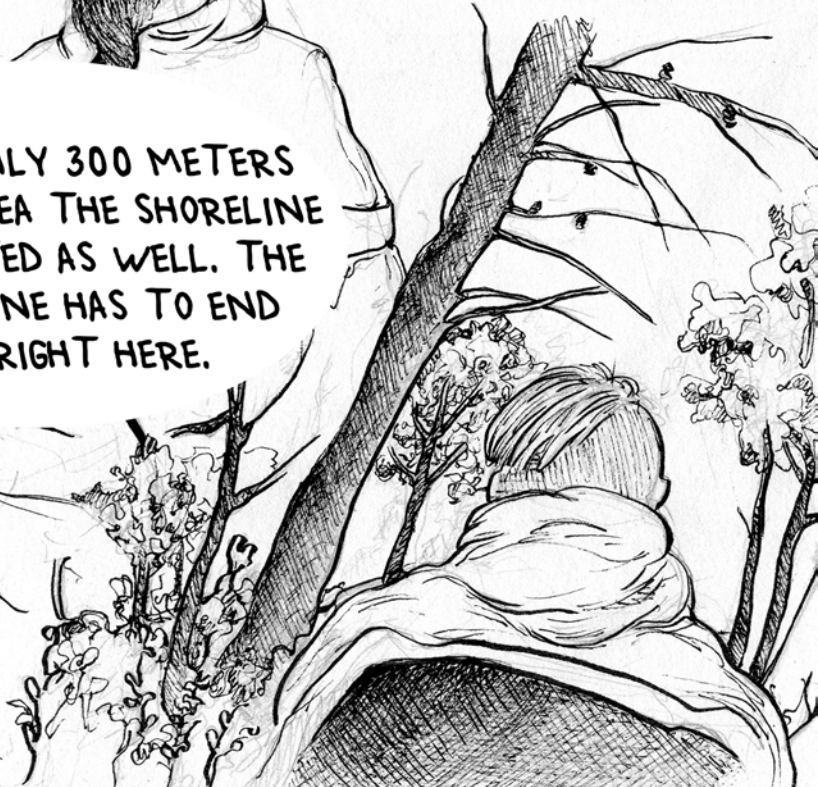
I'M HERE DEFENDING THE ENVIRONMENT I LIVE IN. IT'S A RIGHT OUR COUNTRY COMMITTED ITSELF TO DEFEND. THERE IS SUCH A LARGE NUMBER OF POLICEMEN MOBILIZED NOW JUST FOR PRUNING OLIVE TREES. YOU SEE: THEY ARE DEFENDING THE INTERESTS OF A PRIVATE CORPORATION...



I'M FRANCESCO. YOU FIND ME HERE IN THE WOODS BECAUSE I'M TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHETHER THEY STARTED DRILLING. NEXT TO THIS PINEWOOD THERE IS A VERY IMPORTANT PROTECTED AREA ... THERE ARE TWO GROUNDWATER BENEATH US...



WE ARE ONLY 300 METERS FROM THE SEA THE SHORELINE IS PROTECTED AS WELL. THE GAS PIPELINE HAS TO END JUST RIGHT HERE.



AURORA, THERE ARE SOME OTHERS
ON THE TREES LIKE YOU?



YES, YOU CAN SEE SOME
GUYS ON THE TREES
OVER THERE, AND SOME OTHERS
LYING AROUND...

ENGINEERS AND RESEARCHERS
HAVE UNDERSTOOD THAT TAP IS A
PROBLEM. TRANSFORMING A SCENIC INTEREST
AREA TO AN INDUSTRIAL ONE WILL IMPACT
ON TOURISM AND THEN WORK.



WE ARE FIGHTING AGAINST THE SAME EXTRACTIVE
SYSTEM THAT ALWAYS DESTROYS PEOPLES AND
TERRITORIES. BUT WHEN YOU SEE THAT LAWS,
AND POLICE, RATHER THAN PROTECT YOU MAKE
YOU JUST THE MORE AND MORE POWERLESS THEN
YOU REALISE THAT.. SORRY, I'M SO ANGRY...

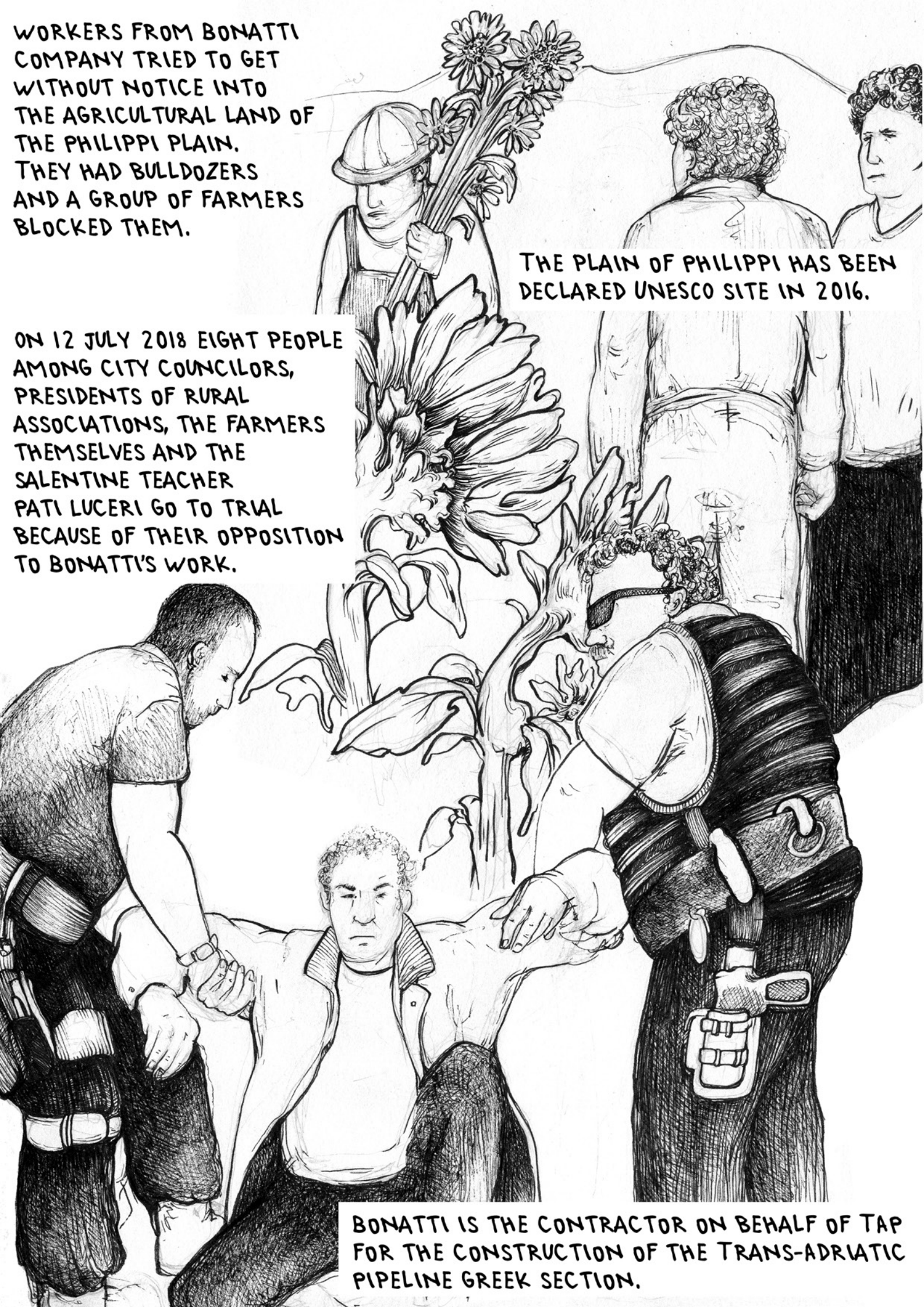
2018 JUNE, 25.
KAVALA DISTRICT, GREECE.



WORKERS FROM BONATTI COMPANY TRIED TO GET WITHOUT NOTICE INTO THE AGRICULTURAL LAND OF THE PHILIPPI PLAIN. THEY HAD BULLDOZERS AND A GROUP OF FARMERS BLOCKED THEM.

THE PLAIN OF PHILIPPI HAS BEEN DECLARED UNESCO SITE IN 2016.

ON 12 JULY 2018 EIGHT PEOPLE AMONG CITY COUNCILORS, PRESIDENTS OF RURAL ASSOCIATIONS, THE FARMERS THEMSELVES AND THE SALENTINE TEACHER PATI LUCERI GO TO TRIAL BECAUSE OF THEIR OPPOSITION TO BONATTI'S WORK.



BONATTI IS THE CONTRACTOR ON BEHALF OF TAP FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TRANS-ADRIATIC PIPELINE GREEK SECTION.

DIMMI BEL GIOVANE,
ONESTO E BIONDO: DIMMI LA PATRIA TUA QUAL'È

ADORO IL POPOLO,
LA MIA PATRIA È IL MONDO,
IL PENSIER LIBERO
È LA MIA FE'

LA CASA È DI CHI L'ABITA
E UN VILE È CHI LO IGNORA,
IL TEMPO È DEI FILOSOFI
IL TEMPO È DEI FILOSOFI.



LA CASA È DI CHI L'ABITA
E UN VILE È CHI LO IGNORA,
IL TEMPO È DEI FILOSOFI,
LA TERRA DI CHI LA LAVORA... *

IN THE SUMMER OF 2016 THE MAGISTRATES OF THE MILAN PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE INDICT LUCA VOLONTÉ ON CHARGES OF CORRUPTION AND MONEY LAUNDERING.

IT MEANS THAT HE FULFILLED HIS PUBLIC FUNCTION OF COUNCIL OF EUROPE MEMBER IN EXCHANGE FOR AZERBAIJANI MONEY. EIGHTEEN BANK TRANSFERS BETWEEN 2012 AND 2014 HAS BEEN PAID TO NOVAE TERRAE FROM THE BRITISH COMPANIES POLUX MANAGEMENT AND HILUX SERVICES THROUGH THE ESTONIAN DANSKE BANK.

ON 27 JANUARY 2017 THE JUDGE FOR THE PRELIMINARY HEARINGS DROPS THE CORRUPTION CHARGE, STATING THAT IT INTERTWINES THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF OPINION AND THE IMMUNITY FOR IT. ACCORDING

WITH THE 68 ART OF THE ITALIAN CONSTITUTION: " MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENT CANNOT BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED AND VOTES CAST WHILE EXERCISING THEIR FUNCTIONS".

THE MONEY LAUNDERING CHARGE STILL REMAINS.

ON 11 SEPTEMBER 2020, IN LECCE, ABOUT 70 NOTAP ACTIVISTS STOOD BEFORE THE JUDGE, CHARGED FOR HAVING IN VARIOUS WAYS: VIOLATED THE EXPULSIONS ORDERS, FOUND THEMSELVES IN THE AREA NEARBY THE TAP CONSTRUCTION SITE, SHAKEN THE FENCE AROUND TO THE SITE AND/OR SPRAY-PAINTED IT, RESISTING ARREST AND INSULTING A PUBLIC OFFICIAL.

HOWEVER DURING THE SAME DAY AND BEFORE THE SAME COURT, 19 PEOPLE AMONG THE TOP MANAGEMENT OF TAP AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COMPANIES IN CHARGE OF THE WORK ARE CALLED TO TRIAL.



THE ACCUSATIONS INCLUDE: TOTAL LACK OR ILLEGALITY OF THE AUTHORIZATIONS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT WORKS IN AREAS SUBJECT TO LANDSCAPE, HYDROGEOLOGICAL OR SIGNIFICANT PUBLIC INTEREST RESTRICTIONS; CONTAMINATION AND DETERIORATION OF THE AQUIFER AND SURROUNDING SOIL WITH HEXAVALENT CHROMIUM, NICKEL, ARSENIC, NITROUS NITROGEN AND MANGANESE;



ILLEGITIMATE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SO-CALLED "RED ZONE" FOR WHICH THE PREFECTURAL ORDER DOES NOT IN ANY WAY CONSTITUTE AUTHORIZATION. TAP ITALIA IS EXPRESSLY SUED, THROUGH THE MANAGERS REPRESENTING IT, IN RELATION TO THE CRIMES COMMITTED UNDER ITS DIRECTION AND SUPERVISION, AND FOR THE BENEFIT AND INTEREST OF TAP ITSELF.



LA CASA È DI CHI L'ABITA E UN VILE È CHI LO IGNORA,
IL TEMPO È DEI FILOSOFI, LA TERRA DI CHI LA LAVORA...

Nicaragua

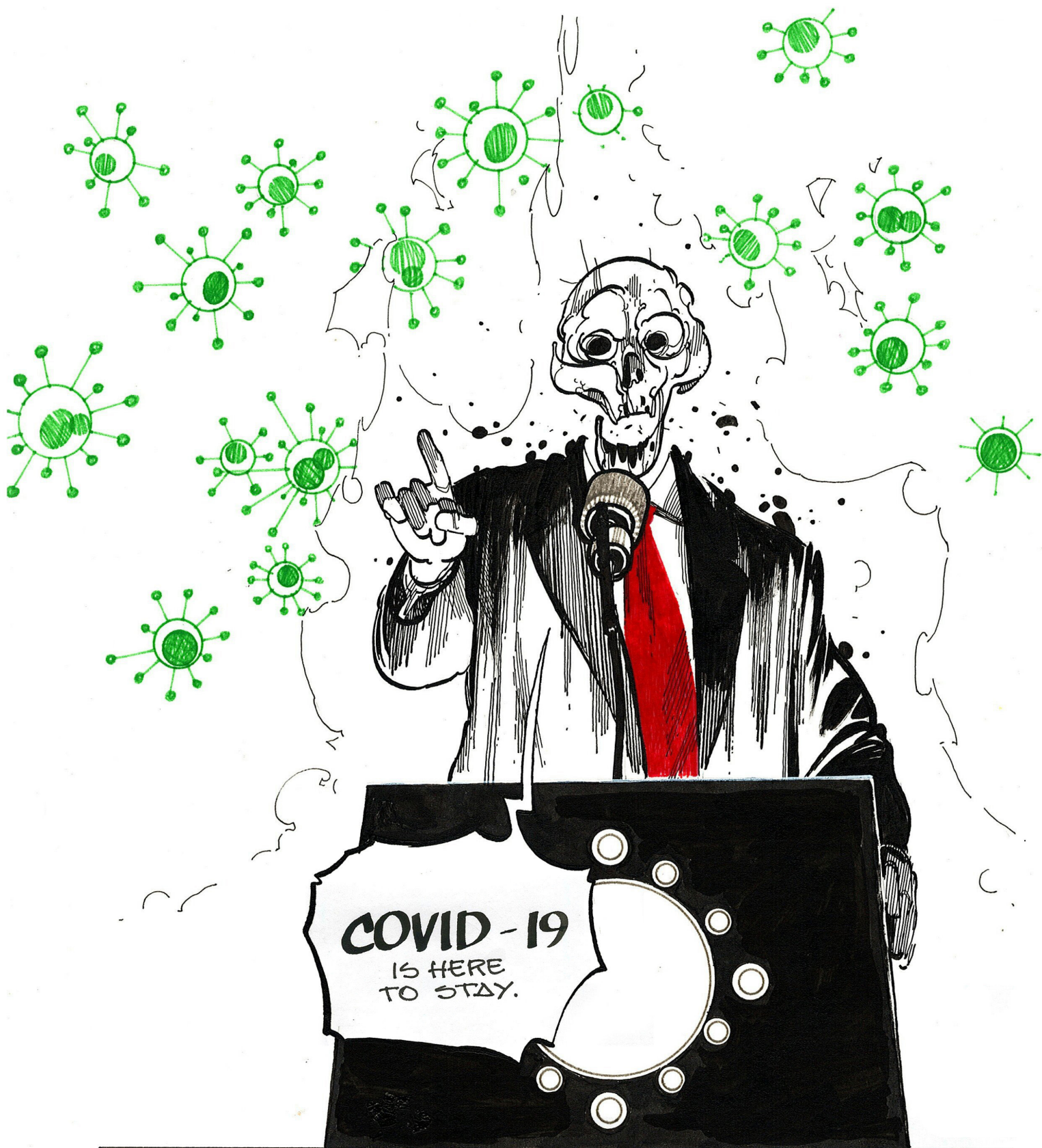
Jorge Maldonado grew up in rural Nicaragua, hoping to make a difference in his community. Nicaragua has known war and conflict, and in recent years, has seen a youth-led movement for political change, away from corruption and the dominance of Daniel Ortega and his Frente Sandinista de Liberación Nacional (FSLN, Sandinista National Liberation Front).

For a young man trying to serve his community, Jorge did not find many options and was content working within the structure of the local FSLN. However, when he decided to become independent and speak up about abuses and corruption he witnessed, he became targeted.

On 1 June, more than 700 Nicaraguan doctors who are members of 34 specialist associations, signed a joint statement in which they warned about the collapse in the public and private health systems. They denounced the saturation in hospitals, the lack of supplies and the infections suffered by many health professionals treating patients with COVID-19. Many doctors were fired, as the government took a position of denial about the pandemic and did not implement measures promoted by the World Health Organization.

In his village, Jorge took measures into his own hands, and has paid a price. Yet he persists, because he still wants the same thing he wanted when he was a boy – to help his community.

Artist: Sacha Lebákov



EVERYONE REPEATS THIS LIKE A MANTRA,
REFERRING TO THE PANDEMIC AS SOMETHING NEW.
TO ME, I JUST FEEL LIKE YET ANOTHER NOTATION OF THE REAL SICKNESS:
MAN AND POLITICAL LIES.

I WAS BORN IN LATIN AMERICA,
IN A COMMUNITY MARKED BY POVERTY,
SUFFERING AND HUNGER.

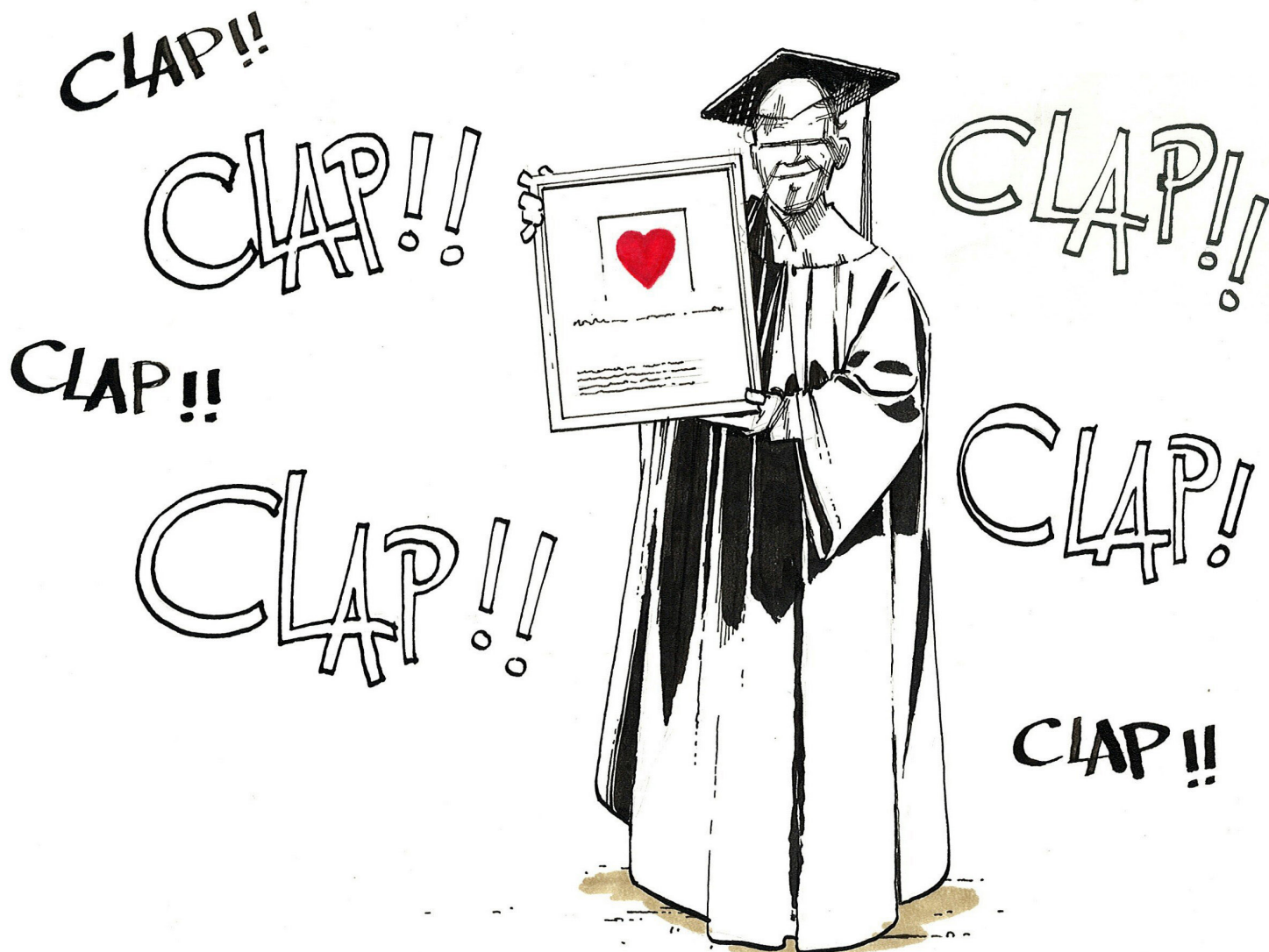
DEATH REIGNED SUPREME,
LIFE WAS VIEWED IN A NEGATIVE LIGHT,
AND THE COMMON
MANTRA WENT LIKE THIS:

I WAS BORN POOR
AND
I WILL DIE POOR.

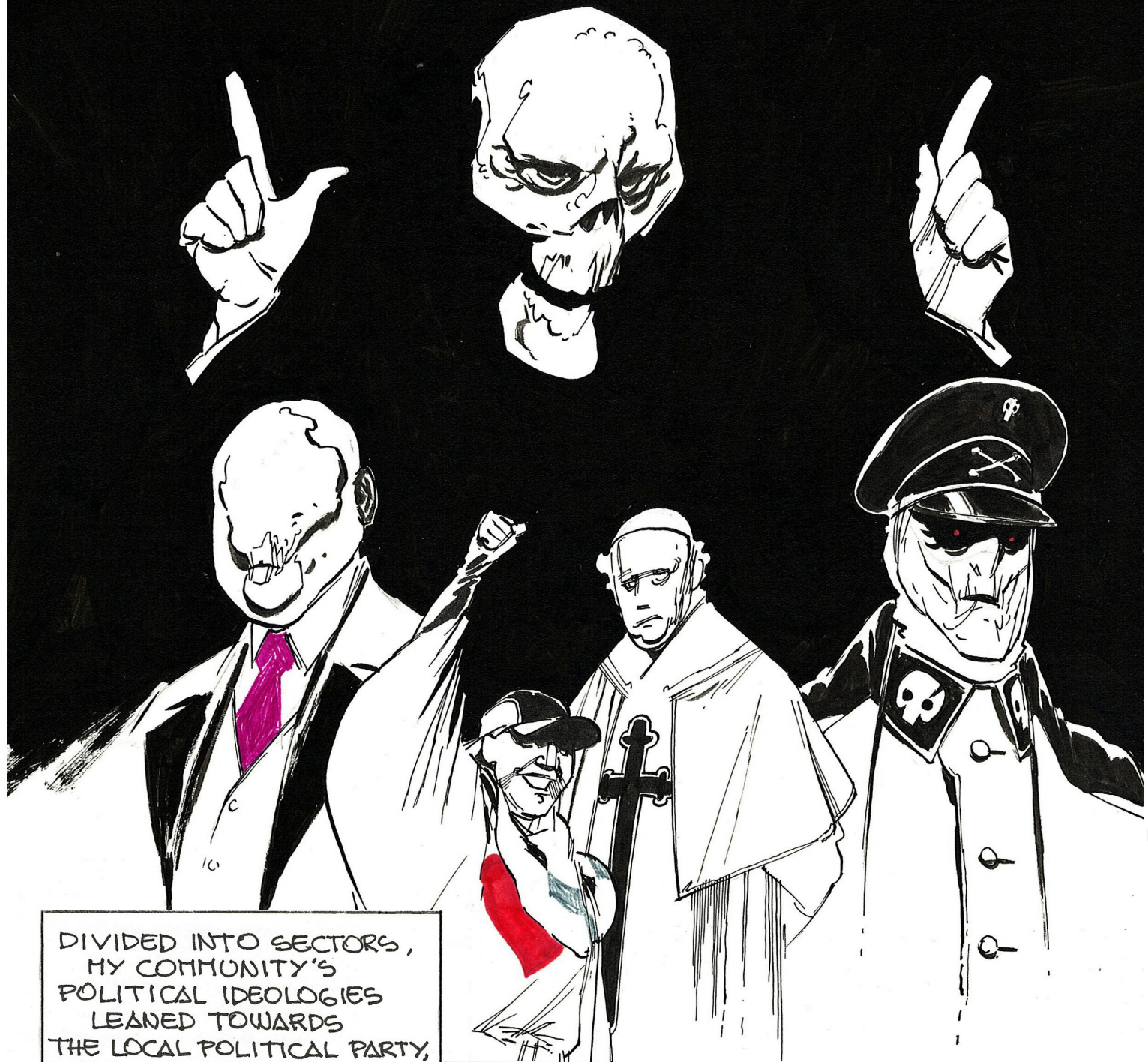
ANY HOPE THAT CHILDREN
AND YOUNG PEOPLE
MIGHT HAVE OF GETTING
AN EDUCATION WAS LOST,
BLOWN AWAY WITH THE WIND.
MY FAMILY'S FINANCIAL SITUATION
FORCED ME TO START WORKING
WHEN I WAS 14 YEARS OLD,
BUT IN MY MIND
I ALWAYS HAD THIS ONE GOAL:

I NEED TO STUDY
FOR A PROFESSIONAL CAREER
AND HELP MY COMMUNITY
TO IMPROVE
ITS WAY OF LIFE.

I GRADUATED WITH A PROFESSIONAL DEGREE
AND MY LIFE GRADUALLY CHANGED.
I MET PEOPLE WITH BIG HEARTS AND A DIFFERENT,
REALLY POSITIVE WAY OF LOOKING AT THINGS.
THEIR SUPPORT HELPED ME BECOME THE PERSON I AM TODAY.



I GREW TO FEEL STRONG AND SURE
OF BEING ABLE TO HELP MY COMMUNITY
FACE THE PROBLEMS IT SUFFERED FROM.



DIVIDED INTO SECTORS,
MY COMMUNITY'S
POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES
LEANED TOWARDS
THE LOCAL POLITICAL PARTY,
MAKING TO THINK THIS WAS THE KEY
TO HELPING THEM WITH NEW PROJECTS
TO IMPROVE THEIR LIVES.
SO I BEGAN TO WORK,
ORGANIZED BY PEOPLE
FROM THIS POLITICAL PARTY,
TOGETHER WITH MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS
AND THE POLICE,
YET ALWAYS MAINTAINING A SCIENTIFIC,
COMMUNITY-BASED APPROACH
AND REACHING OUT TO THE CHURCH
AND MY OWN COMMUNITY FOR ASSISTANCE.

THAT YEAR
I DID A LOT OF WORK
ON BASIC NEEDS,
WICH BROUGHT GOOD,
QUANTIFIABLE RESULTS.

I WAS NAMED COMMUNITY LEADER.

THEN THERE WAS POLITICAL UPHEAVAL IN MY COUNTRY,
AND THIS IS WHAT TRIGGERED THE PARTY
TO TAKE ISSUE WITH ME AND WHAT I WAS ALL ABOUT.
THE PARTY WAS DEDICATED TO ORGANIZING
POLITICAL PROTEST,
WHILE MY GOAL WAS TO DO COMMUNITY WORK,
AND THIS WAS ONE OF THE THINGS THAT DIVIDED US.



SINCE I DID NOT ATTEND THE PROTEST AND SPENT MY FREE TIME
WITH MY COMMUNITY, THERE WAS NO LONGER ANY RAPPORT
WITH THE POLITICAL LEADERS OF THE MUNICIPALITY
AND ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT. WHILE THEY MARCHED IN THE STREETS,
I CONTINUED TO ORGANIZE ACTIVITIES AND ASSISTANCE FROM MY CO-WORKERS.



THE PARTY LEADERS SAID:

WE ARE THE ONLY ONES RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING PROJECTS. LEADERSHIP POSITIONS WILL BE FILLED BY OUR COMMUNITY STAFF.

THIS CANNOT BE. THE PROJECT IS NOT POLITICAL AND THE PEOPLE SHOULD CHOOSE THEIR LEADER.



I BECAME PRESIDENT AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY HAVE SERVED AS LEADERS TO THIS DAY.

THE PARTY THREATENED ME, SAYING:

IF YOU DON'T ACCEPT THAT THIS IS POLITICAL, WE'LL MAKE SURE THAT YOUR PROJECT IS SHUT DOWN.

I RESISTED, SO THEY BRANDED ME AS A TROUBLEMAKER AND SAID:

AT ANY MOMENT, WE'LL HAVE YOU ARRESTED.

IT WAS THEN THAT I STOPPED COORDINATING MY ACTIVITIES WITH THEM. AS A RESULT, THEY DECLARED:

YOU NO LONGER BELONG TO THIS PARTY; YOU'RE ACTING AGAINST US. YOU'RE TRYING TO OVERTHROW US.



THAT'S WHEN THE HARASSMENT BEGAN, AND IT HAS BEEN NON-STOP EVER SINCE. ALL OF MY ACTIVITIES ARE MONITORED AND, ABOVE ALL, SABOTAGED WITH LIES ABOUT ME.

WHAT, ARE YOU TRYING TO STEAL THIS BRIDGE ?

THAT'S NOT TRUE. WE'RE JUST TRYING TO CLEAN IT.

WHO'S PAYING YOU TO DO THIS ?

YOU'RE COMING WITH US.

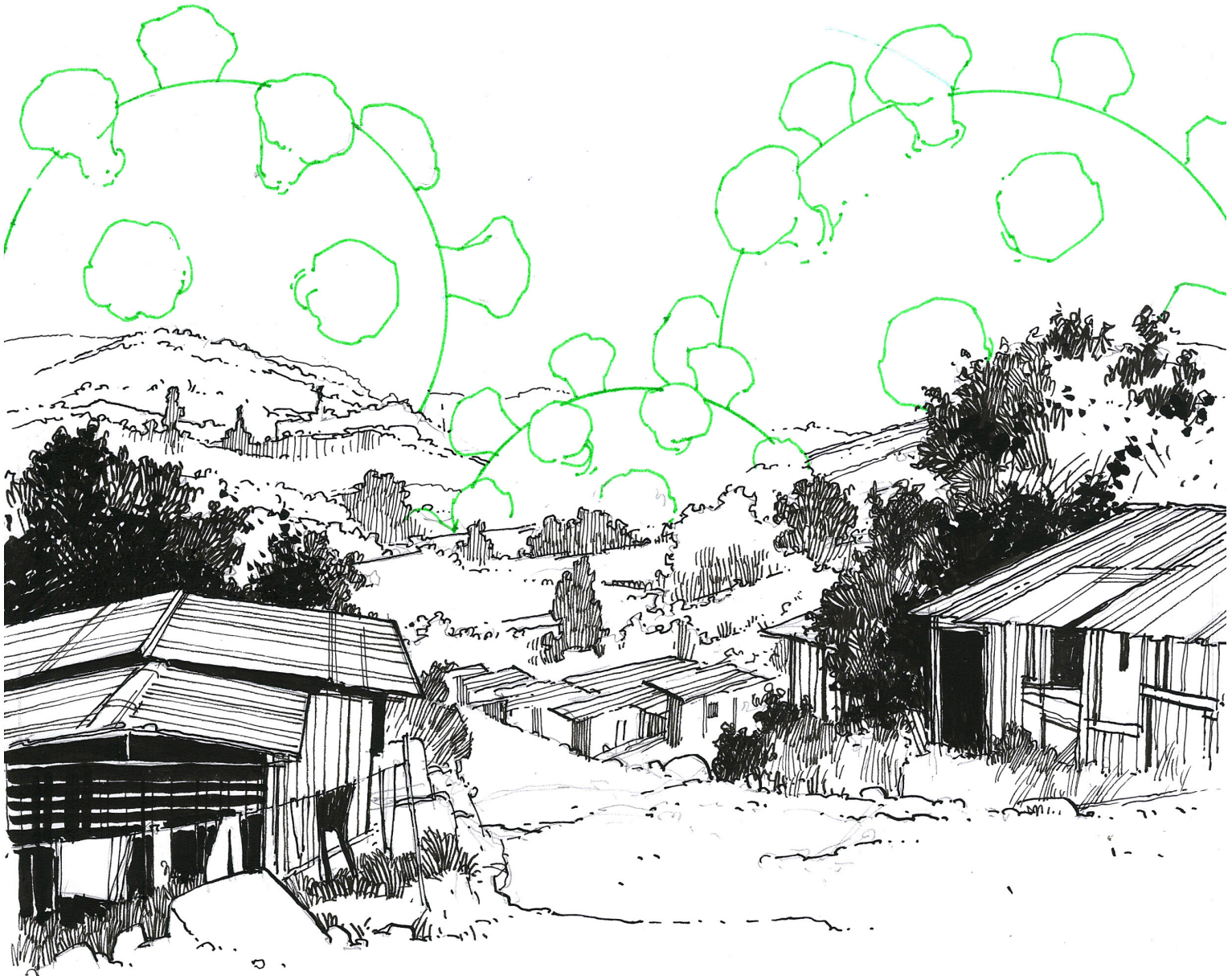
THEY TRIED TO DAMAGE MY CREDIBILITY WITH THE COMMUNITY, BUT THEY DIDN'T GET ANYWHERE.

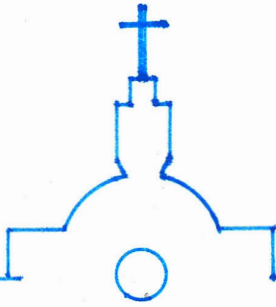
THIS IS A VIOLATION; WE WON'T ALLOW IT.

THE PEOPLE TOOK ACTION AND, THIS TIME, PREVENTED MY ARREST.

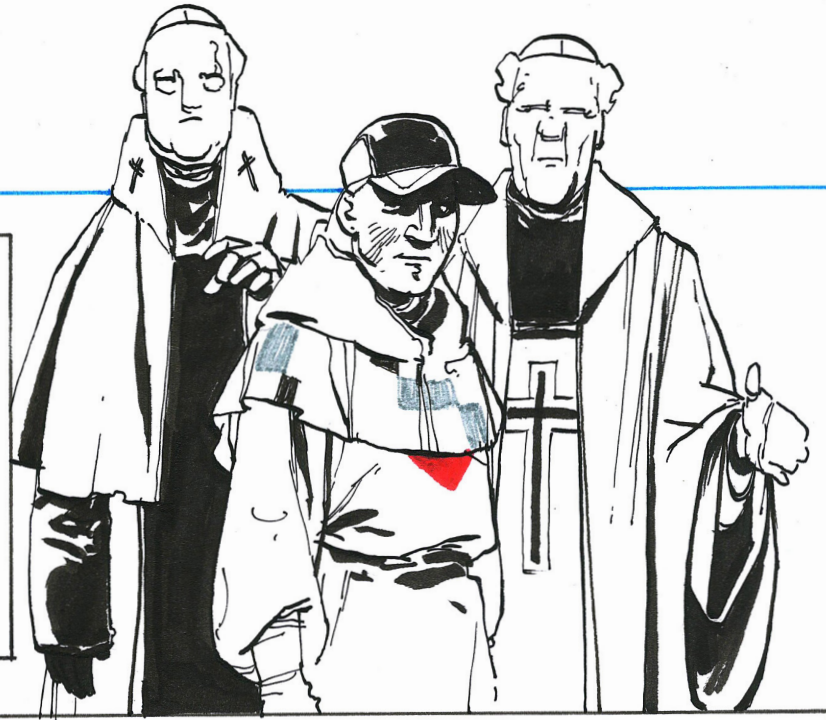


AS A RESULT, WE BEGAN TO SEE CERTAIN SERVICES CUT OFF, INCLUDING HEALTHCARE (MY HOUSE AND THOSE OF MY RELATIVES WERE SKIPPED OVER DURING IMMUNIZATION CAMPAIGNS), AND DELIVERY OF DRINKING WATER. THESE SERVICES ARE SUPPOSED TO BELONG TO US BY OUR RIGHTS AS CITIZENS. WITH NO SUPPORT, WE WERE TOTALLY CONDEMNED, AND NOT ONLY BY THE PARTY. COVID-19 ALSO BECAME AN ALLY IN THE PERSECUTION: IN THE VIRUS' SEARCH FOR A PLACE TO SETTLE INTO, OUR COMMUNITY PRESENTED ITSELF AS THE PERFECT HOST.





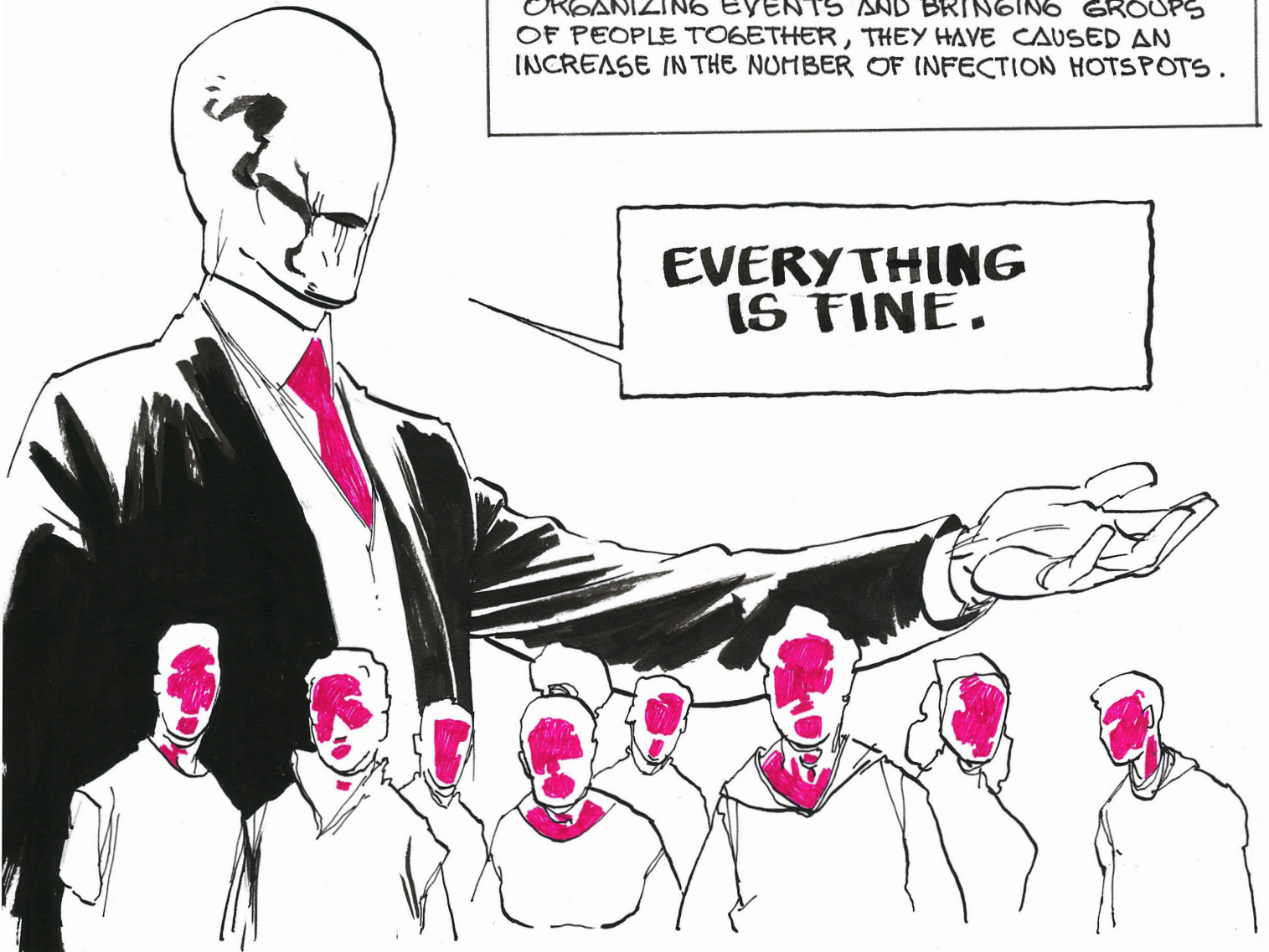
AS PART OF MY COMMUNITY WORK,
AND TOGETHER
WITH THE CHURCH PASTORS,
I CREATED A SUPPORT TEAM
TO EXPLAIN
THE PANDEMIC SITUATION,
SHARE PREVENTIVE MEASURES
AND PREVENT THE FORMATION
OF INFECTION HOTSPOTS.



PARTY OFFICIALS WAGED A COUNTER CAMPAIGN.

ORGANIZING EVENTS AND BRINGING GROUPS
OF PEOPLE TOGETHER, THEY HAVE CAUSED AN
INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF INFECTION HOTSPOTS.

EVERYTHING
IS FINE.



IN MY EFFORTS TO SOUND THE ALARM AND PREVENT THE SPREAD OF THE VIRUS IN OUR COMMUNITIES, I GOT SICK. I'M ALMOST SURE IT WAS **COVID-19**, BUT WHEN I WENT TO THE CLINIC, THEY REFUSED TO TREAT ME:



NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, IT'S JUST A COLD.

THIS WAS THE DIAGNOSIS THAT THE HEALTH AUTHORITIES GAVE ALL OF US. NONE OF US WERE EVER TESTED. TAKING ALL OF THIS INTO ACCOUNT, WITH MY SYMPTOMS AND THE SERIOUS STATE OF MY HEALTH, I DECIDED TO GO INTO QUARANTINE, STAYING AT HOME WITH NO VISITORS AND COORDINATING EVERYTHING BY PHONE:

.... A PERIPHERAL ?

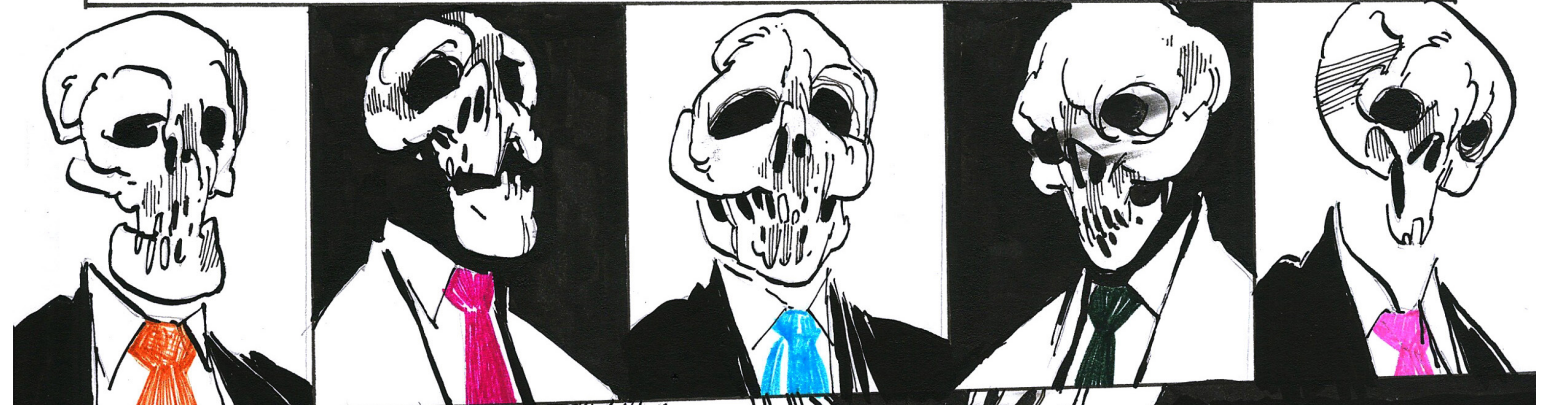
iYES!
WE HAVE
A CAR WITH A
LOUDSPEAKER

WE CONVENE
OUR COMMUNITIES
AND GO OVER
THE PRECAUTIONS
THEY NEED TO TAKE.



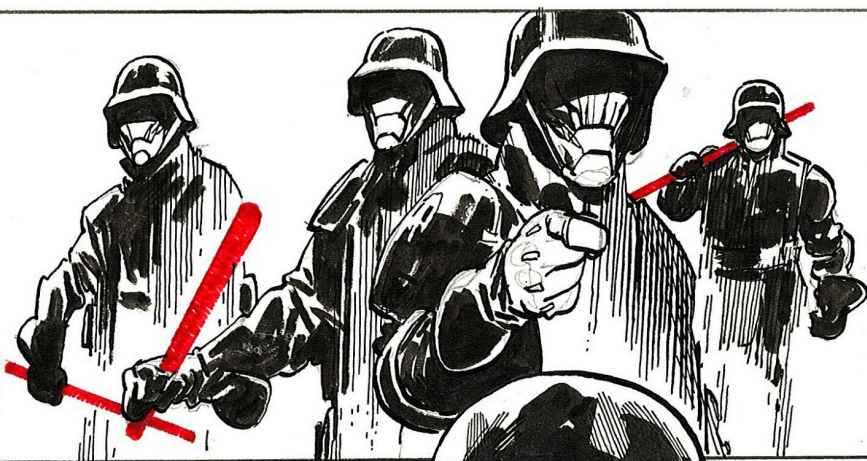


THIS PROVOKED THE ANGER OF THE MUNICIPAL POLITICAL LEADERS.



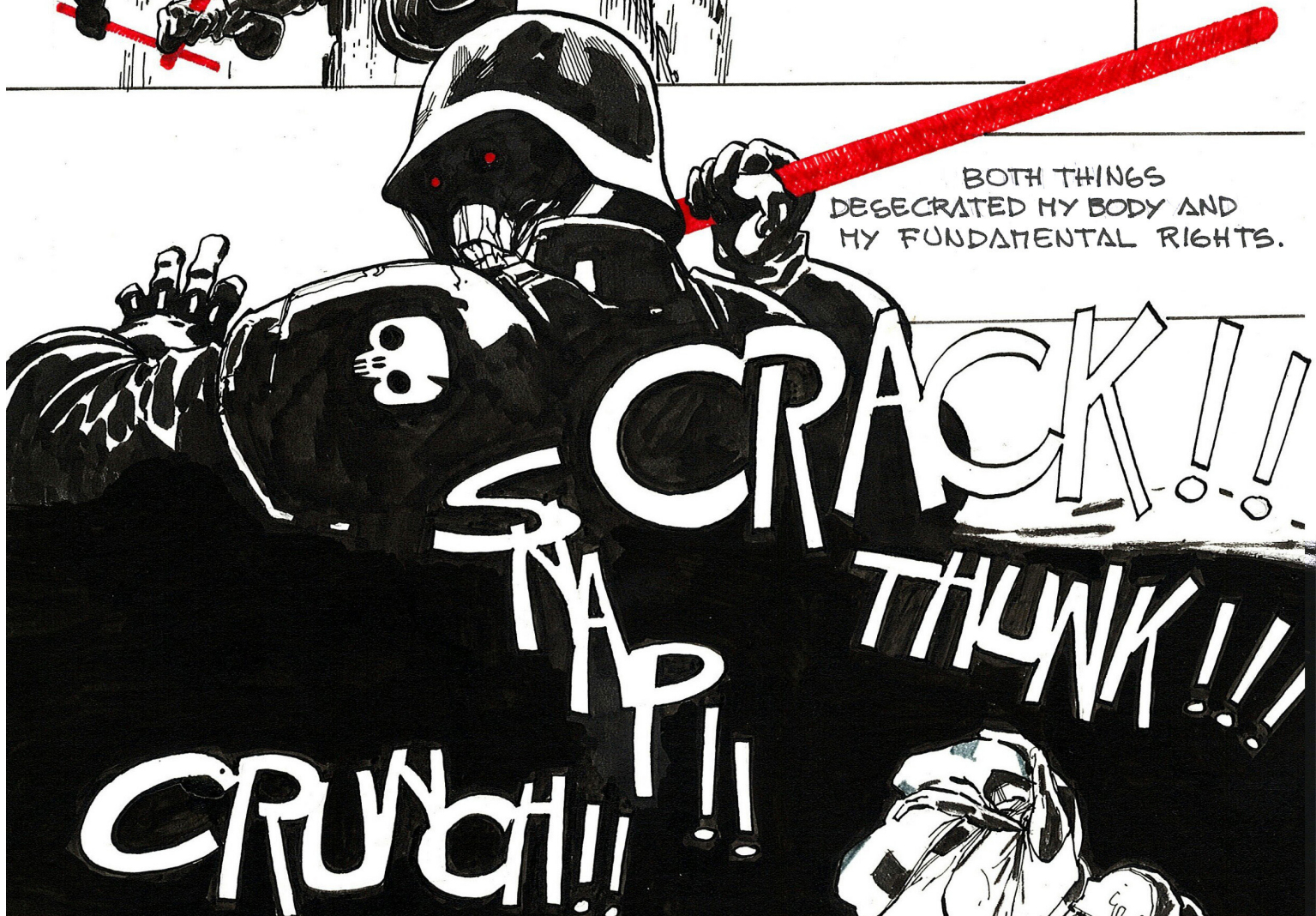
WHO WASTED NO TIME IN SENDING FOR ME.

COVID-19 HAD ALREADY
FLATTENED MY LUNGS.



THEY DID
THE SAME
TO MY HOUSE.

BOTH THINGS
DEBECRATED MY BODY AND
MY FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS.



THE PRIMORDIAL RIGHT OF EVERY BEING

TO THIS DAY, I HAVE BEEN RESTRICTED
IN CARRYING OUT MY WORK
AND HELPING THOSE IN NEED.

THEY HAVE VIOLATED MY RIGHT TO BE HUMAN.



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