
The White Terror.

(unsigned reportage from *The Toiler*, May 21, 1921).

Reprinted in *The Communist Review* [London], v. 1, no. 3 (July 1921), pg. 45.

The “Iron Heel” again crushes. On April 29th [1921], without warrant, New York’s infamous “bum squad” pulled off a raid, seized “evidence,” and arrested Abraham Jakira and Israel Amter. The same evening, E. Lindgren was arrested in a movie theater. Police claim Lindgren had been followed from Pittsburgh, Pa. These men are alleged to be high in the counsels of the United Communist Party. The police charge them with circulating literature that advocated the forcible overthrow of government. Bail was set at \$50,000.

Their hearings were set for May 5th [1921]. The case against them was so flimsy that Magistrate Rosenblatt ordered their dismissal for lack of evidence. As they were leaving the courtroom they were again arrested without warrant, and held pending a grand jury indictment charging them with Criminal Anarchy. Announcement is made that bail will be reduced from \$50,000 to \$5,000, which indicates the extent of the collapse of the “bum squad” bubble.

(Later: No guidance was found against them, and they were released but immediately rearrested by plainclothesmen).

During the week four women were also arrested in New York, charged with distributing May Day literature. They are held under \$5,000 bail pending the return of the grand jury indictments alleging Criminal Anarchy.

In Philadelphia the police also made the headlines on the first page. On April 25th [1921], 48 men and women were arrested, 38 of whom are held under bail of \$2,500. Here, too, homes were entered without warrant, private papers seized, and men and women assaulted. One group of Philadelphia police added variety to the situation by getting drunk on wine they stole, and making gun plays against each other.

In Chicago the police “fizzle” was a bit more fizzley than ever. Two people were arrested for displaying the Red Flag; two others for buying and selling “illegal” literature, and probably will face deportation proceedings; and in East Chicago, a May Day speaker was arrested on the completion of his address, but was released without being booked. Minor disturbances occurred in other places.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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