

THE JOY



and comradery of chanting at protests

with a list of european chants
and an intro into tactics

Because I like to go to protests and join in the chanting I made this zine so we can all have joyful moments of comradery instead of boredom. I remember this moment when I was on my own in a climate march, there had been some mainstream slogans and some that got repeated a lot, when there was a long enough pause I took the opportunity to start a different one hoping others would join in. I shout:

NO GODS NO MASTERS...

(leave a little pause so others can respond) And I was a bit startled when I hear multiple people from behind me:

NO CLIMATE DISASTERS!

Direct after they do the call again, and now I answer with some of them. Looking over my shoulder I see some people I know from protesting and one of them is grinning at me. This was a nice march with many more moments that I felt like part of the group, seeing and hearing others join once they knew the text. In hopes of getting more of these moments I have written down some tactics to keep chanting fun, and also a big list so you never get stuck with a boring chant. I also remember fun moments confusing the crowd by chanting with 5 or 10:

BE A MOUSE,

SQUAT A HOUSE!

Only once and 30 minutes later once again where more people join and feel part of the ingroup Do you remember the moments you were in a protest situation and you felt part of it? Or had to laugh at fun stuff others chant? There are many options as you can find in this list but try to bring a list of your own favourite chants to protests to use, exchange or give to the boring person with the megaphone.

I dislike megaphones they create a distance between the initiator and the rest of the crowd, and I do not feel motivated to shout along when there is a megaphone. In a crowd without megaphones anybody can start a chant. Doing repeat chants are often boring, extra when someone with a megaphone does them both, the exception is when there is melody in the chant so it is nice when the person starting it can give the melody or rhythm. Or when the text is too long and few people know it, like the text on the back of this zine, it also has melody so having someone sing per line and the crowd respond per line works there.

It feels good when I am in a crowd shouting in unison, where different people initiate a chant, that might catch on or not. Often the person with the megaphone doesn't listen to response and keeps repeating even when the crowd barely shouts along. That should be the moment to wait and let someone else do a call.

When starting a possibly unknown chant you just ask some people near you if they can do three times the response to the call you will do, and if it does not catch on you can just stop. It is important to say this in advance. Sometimes it will catch on at a second try when people have heard it before and know how to respond.

If you are in a protest where you can't start yours own you can make the chanting more interesting by choosing if you join the call or the answer. You can be a lot louder by shouting a single word so it can be interesting to emphasize certain parts or do an echo. It always makes me smile when I hear someone perform the 'overthrow the system revolution anarchista' in unison with the main chant:

avanti anti
kapitalista

That chant is often repeated 3 times with sometimes clapping the rhythm in between, this gives opportunity to get used to the rhythm of the crowd. And do the canon in unison.

In the list of chants the **call** is bold, when a chant has been used a couple of times before on that day. Sometimes it is enough to only shout the first word and others shout the rest. I feel sad when I hear someone scream in a megaphone ‘One we are the people’ and everybody repeats, and he continues ‘two we won’t be silenced’

‘three stop the bombing now now now now one we are the people

and without a break on the same tone continues

This makes me sad because it can be so much fun when someone only shouts **One!** ...

The crowd responds; we are the people

Two... we won’t be silenced...

Three... stop the bombing now now now now

and this time leave a break long enough for someone else to start a new one or to continue on. When you have no

megaphone people will join in the call and you can hear if people join or not. If not just be quiet and let others start new chants. If it gets boring it can be fun to do a rude or silly chant like: **Heb je geen intelligentie of ambitie?**

Ga bij de politie! [no intelligence or ambition? Join the police]

You will find many examples in this zine, also as inspiration for your own version for different situations. It is nice to use well known children songs for the melody they catch on more easily.

When shouting try to stay at 90% of the max volume, you can last longer and it is easier to understand when a voice does not crack. Try to have a straight back and breath from the belly.

Using a lower voice can also make it carry further. And limiting the amount of words makes it easier to maintain volume. There are moment when it is fitting to go full volume and scream. To me it is most important to have fun, I think the repeating of a line is boring.

But when you are in a stationary situation it can be interesting to do a line by line repeat of a speech or longer text, this human amplifier is sometimes initiated by shouting 'mic check'. Stick to 4 or 5 words and a long pause after each line to allow the crowd to repeat.

Next a compilation of chants in some different languages. Please make your own compilation zines to bring to events and and share them around, I really like the weird ones or the overly rude to break a boring chanting streak, like:

123	(or) ABC
fuck the bourgousie	
456	DEF
fuck the bourgousie	

Be a mouse!
Squat a house

[stad] wees paraat
hou [tegenstanders] van de straat

city] be ready
keep [opposition] of the street

Off with their helmets

Off with their heads

Get those animals

of those horses

Politie, fascisten

staatsterroristen

no gods

no masters

all cops

are bastards

Ik kan niks, ik wil niks

geef mij een uniform

[I am useless, I want nothing
give me a uniform]

jullie kinderen

worden net zo als wij

[your children will become just like us]

Politie, fascisten

staatsterroristen.

No justice, no peace,

fight the police

Zwischen Bullenhelm und Nasenbein,

passt immer noch ein Pflasterstein

[between the cops helmet and nose there is still room for
a cobblestone]

tout le monde
deteste la police
[everyone hates the police]

Cops don't need to go to hell
we can burn them very well.

bullshit get off it
the enemy is profit

Whatever they say
squatting will stay

Vuur en vlammen
voor elke staat
[fire and flames for every state]

He regering
krijg de tering
[hey government get Tuberculosis]

Bezet, blokkeer
dit beleid pik ik niet meer
[occupy block I no longer accept this policy]

1 2 3 4,
we are not afraid of class war,
5 6 7 8,
organize and smash the state.

Achter de smeris staat het kapitaal
vecht voor je vrijheid internationaal
(anti-nationaal)
[behind the police stands the capital fight for your freedom]

politie, staat en kapitaal
naaien doen ze ons allemaal
[police state and capital, they all screw us]

a-vanti
Anti
captilista

in canon: overthrow the system, revolution
anarchista

Who's street,
our street

Staat,
nation,
kapital,
scheisse
[state nation capital shit]

Eat the rich,
feed the poor,

one solution
revolution
one direction
insurrection

Smash the state, break the law,
were not afraid of class war

Brick by brick, wall by wall,
we will make this system fall

Geen bazen of politici,
maar zelfbestuur en anarchie
Tegen vertrutting en apathie,
leve leve leve de anarchie.

[no bosses or politicians,
but self-government and anarchy
against sterilization and apathy
live live live the anarchy]

We are here,
We are queer,
We are anarchist and fuck shit up

Li, li liberta,
anarqia totaal
[freedom, total anarchy]

Vecht, vecht, vecht,
vecht voor je studie recht
[fight fight fight,
fight for your right to study]

He ho, he ho,
het onderwijs verneuk je zo
[this is how you fuck up education]

Alerta Alerta,
anti fasista

No nation, no border,
fight law and order

No borders, no nations,
stop deportations

Geef de staat de straten terug
steen voor steen,
[give the state the street back, brick by brick]

racisme,
nee,
fascisme
nee,
PVV
nee, nee, nee

Nazi,
raus,
Nazi
raus,
nazi, nazi, nazi,
raus, raus, raus

R.A.F. P.K.K.
autonome antifa

Wir sind hier,
wir sind dare,
autonome antifa
[we are here, we are there, autonomous antifa]

siamo tutti
anti fascisti
[we are all anti-fascists]

Tonight we are
gonna fuck shit up

Liever links en radicaal,
dan rechts en asociaal
[rather leftist and radical than rightwing and anti-social]

Resist, resist,
resist to exist

Refuse, resist,
reclaim, revolt

Dood, verderf
en rode verf

hey hey ho ho
schaliegas has got to go

fight fight fight
turn the tide
stop the climate genocide

pollution and exploitation
will not be solved by corporations

system change
not climate change

change your diet for the climate
eat the rich

Royal Dutch shell,
hey, fuck you
we deserve a future too

less pollution
is the best sollution

no more coal, no more oil
keep your carbon in the soil

that's bullshit get off it
our lives are not for profit

download a copy at fakkelplem.nl/zine/chants.pdf
for more mainstream chants:

<https://goodchants.org>

and some songs

<https://code-rood.org/en/songs/>

and some protest song history for the Dutch readers
the book: Verzet per koeplet