Repression Survival Toolkit

Mitigation Tactics Against Regime Suppression and Dissent Repression

TRANS ARMY

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Version 1.1 – April 2025

Every regime refines its tools of control, but so do we.

This guide exists because trans, disabled, undocumented, neurodivergent, and poor communities are not only enduring repression, but we are also *outliving it*. Whether it arrives as surveillance, economic violence, or narrative warfare, authoritarian suppression can be countered with **tactical refusal, decentralized resistance, and cultural insurgency**.

This field manual gives you the tools to survive not just a moment of repression, but a system built to erase you. It doesn't rely on the courts or elected allies. It offers what the state fears most: **functional memory, decentralized networks, and coordinated rage**.

Inside you'll find:

- Legal evasion tactics and anti-bureaucratic organizing

- Facial recognition avoidance, drone countermeasures, Stingray resistance

- Decarceral tactics for economic survival under surveillance

- Narrative warfare, pirate media, meme-based dissent

- Psychological tools for trauma cycles, fear reframing, and resistance rituals

- Strategic culture work: joy as armor, art as disruption

Repression is not failure. It's feedback. This guide is our answer.

MITIGATION STRATEGIES BY SUPPRESSION TYPE

1. Legal & Bureaucratic Suppression

Threats: Anti-protest laws, criminalization of mutual aid, state weaponization of legal processes

Tactics:

- Pre-arranged legal defense collectives and bail funds

- Off-grid organizing: no permits, no official announcements

- Distribute Know-Your-Rights zines widely (in multiple languages)

- Use mobile protest forms: flash mobs, pop-up actions, decentralized marches

- Conduct court-watching, cop-watching, and record suppression hearings

2. Policing & Surveillance Expansion

Threats: Drones, Stingrays, facial recognition, unmarked squads

Tactics:

- Facial obscuring through masks, LEDs, and pattern-disrupting designs

- Pre-mapped blind spots and camera-free zones for regrouping

- Counter-surveillance training for community patrols

- Create Faraday bags for phones; store devices in metal containers

- Use offline comms where possible (walkie-talkies, visual codes)

3. Economic Warfare

Threats: Asset freezing, employment retaliation, denial of public benefits

Tactics:

- Mutual aid networks for housing, food, meds, and emergency funds

- Redundant economic identities: cash-only systems, secondary banking accounts

- Skill-sharing economies (repair, bartering, teaching, care work)

- Anonymous employment collectives or syndicates

- Protect worker-activists through unions or covert co-ops

4. Psychological & Cultural Control

Threats: Fear, isolation, erasure, trauma loops, performative tolerance

Tactics:

- Rebuild memory through zines, oral storytelling, and ritual

- Normalize fear responses and offer communal grounding spaces

- Reframe trauma as intelligence: share debrief tools, healing maps

- Center art, fashion, joy, and rage as tactics, not luxuries

- Amplify "unacceptable" voices and support banned creators

5. Digital Suppression & Algorithmic Targeting

Threats: De-platforming, shadowbanning, AI-based surveillance

Tactics:

- Mirror accounts and build across multiple platforms (e.g., Mastodon, Signal, Matrix)

- Use image-based info sharing (text within memes or comics)

- Create archive clouds that can be restored after takedowns

- Employ encrypted and decentralized hosting (IPFS, Tor)

- Rotate digital identities and switch up posting patterns

6. Narrative Warfare & Media Censorship

Threats: "Both sides" framing, state mouthpiece media, information blackouts

Tactics:

- Train rebel scribes and narrative warfare pods

- Run guerrilla media: zines, pirate radio, anonymous TikToks

- Pre-load social media with counter-narratives before state campaigns hit

- Hijack hashtags, flip slogans, distort regime language into satire

- Archive real events with geotags, footage, and sworn accounts

7. Divide & Fragment Tactics

Threats: False flag infiltration, internal splits, performative inclusion

Tactics:

- Internal security protocols: code names, roles, minimal data exposure

- Conflict mediation circles that avoid carceral logics (call-in, not out)

- Strategic alliances built across difference, disability, race, class, migration status

- Rotate leadership, decentralize decision-making, and avoid hierarchy traps

- Support comrades under pressure, even if disagreement exists

PREPAREDNESS INFRASTRUCTURE TO BUILD

- Legal affinity teams per neighborhood or cell

- Digital resilience teams to restore deplatformed content

- Psychological first aid pods trained in debrief, trauma response

- Community defense formations for rapid deployment

- Cultural resistance teams (poster crews, muralists, poets, media bombers)

CONCLUSION

Every tactic they deploy is a confession. It shows us what they fear: our voices, our connections, our refusal. They have militaries. We have memory. They have budgets. We have networks. They have uniforms. We have everything to lose, and we choose to keep fighting.

Resist strategically. Rebuild constantly. Remember everything.