



BIOGRAPHIES

So along the way, I met you, Lorenzo. You were the first Black anarchist I ever met. I didn't even know there were any black anarchists. I assume there were but you were the first black person I met who was an anarchist. And so I began to understand that my impressions about anarchism that I had formed observing the white anarchists were not about what you and the other people who had started the original black anarchist collectives, that's not what it was about. You were talking about poor people, black people fighting for our survival.

So that's when I began to take a look at anarchism as something that maybe. Well, maybe, you know, this is something that I could believe in, because it's not dealing with what I had observed white anarchists dealing with.

So meeting you and realising that there were Black Anarchists and realising that anarchism was not what I thought it was. I began to get a broader understanding of it. That's when I became interested in it and involved in it.

L: When we first talked about you joining Black Autonomy you expressed your ideas as almost like a Libertarian Marxism, rather than just Anarchism, you know, because of that negative impression you'd gotten. And I understand why a lot of people don't understand that Libertarian Marxism, along with Anarchist Socialism or Anarchist Communism, forms the basis of Anarchist Communism. I should say Libertarian Socialism and Libertarian Marxism are two of the types of ideology that went into creating Libertarian Socialism.

So when I explained that to you, that's when I can remember you being more interested in making the step and actually joining a group.

J: Yeah, I didn't want to call myself an anarchist just because of my own perceptions about what I thought anarchism was. I didn't want my name to be associated with that. So as I developed a deeper understanding, yes I was able to get a better handle on it, appreciation of it, and realise this is something that I could belong to.

L: Ok, you've got one book out and another in the works. Give us a summary of those two projects.

J: Well, back in 2000, I guess it was late 2011, I published a book called *Driven by the Movement - Activists of the Black Power era*. In the book itself, I think it's about 20-25 people whose interviews actually appear in the book.

My inspiration for writing it was actually the beating of Rodney King in Los Angeles, the severe beating he received. And then, of course you had the Los

