

BALACLAVA!

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Drop All the Charges and Free All the Prisoners!



by Bineshii

VANCOUVER - On Jul 4, 250 people marched in solidarity with the Toronto anti-G20 900. Most arrestees were released without charges, but at the time of going to press, six remain in jail and over 200 are facing charges. Many of those released have conditions including house arrest and non-association.

Led by a banner reading, "Solidairty Against Police Repression," the rally started at the Clark and Broadway skate park and marched to the Vancouver police station in the Downtown Eastside. Over 12 km, the march stopped at different points of conflict in Vancouver.

A diverse range of people participated in the march - pro-democracy activists, anarchists, indigenous people, unionists, students, poor people, people with disabilities, families, and so on. The march was in solidarity with all arrestees, all prisoners, and everyone who experienced abuse and intimidation at the hands of the police during Toronto anti G20 days of action/protests. Also importantly, the march was in very strong support of the Black Bloc and other militants during the June 26 "Get Off the Fence" day of action.



photos by annie elation and tami starlight

Countering Conspiracy Theories on Police Response to Black Bloc

by Zig Zag

Despite a \$1 billion security budget and some 19,000 security personnel during the Toronto G20 Summit, police appeared incompetent and confused as militants inflicted extensive property damage and torched 4 police cars. While the protests failed to breach the 6km security fencing, the attacks were a significant victory for the resistance, which had vowed to humiliate the security apparatus in the weeks prior to the summit.

Toronto Police chief Bill Blair attempted to rationalize police inaction during the Black Bloc attacks by claiming they sought to distract police and lure them away from the fence. The police's main priority, according to Blair, was to protect the G20 Summit. Mission accomplished. Yet, just two weeks prior, he had stated that his "biggest fear was that radicals would destroy property by 'breaking windows, burning cars, overturning street furniture.'"

The 'burning question' of why police failed to respond more aggressively to the Black Bloc quickly gave rise to conspiracy theories that they "allowed it to happen." This is a common response from conspiracy theorists and liberals and has a number of contributing factors.

On the one hand, there is a deeply-rooted cynicism and distrust of government that sees sinister motivations behind any major disturbance or event (the Reichstag syndrome). This attitude itself has a subversive tendency, but it also leads to a distorted view of the powers of the ruling class.

The idea that police allowed the destruction to occur also arises from a belief in the all-knowing,

all-seeing and all-powerful state. This view corresponds to conspiracy theories that the world is ruled by a secret elite that manipulate all major events, including social disorder, as a means of imposing ever-greater state control and repression. It is ultimately defeatist, as by this logic, resistance falls into the orbit of 'state manipulation.'

Liberal reformists do not believe that the state can be fought through militancy. For this group, conciliation, negotiation, and adherence to strictly legal measures are the only way to succeed. When

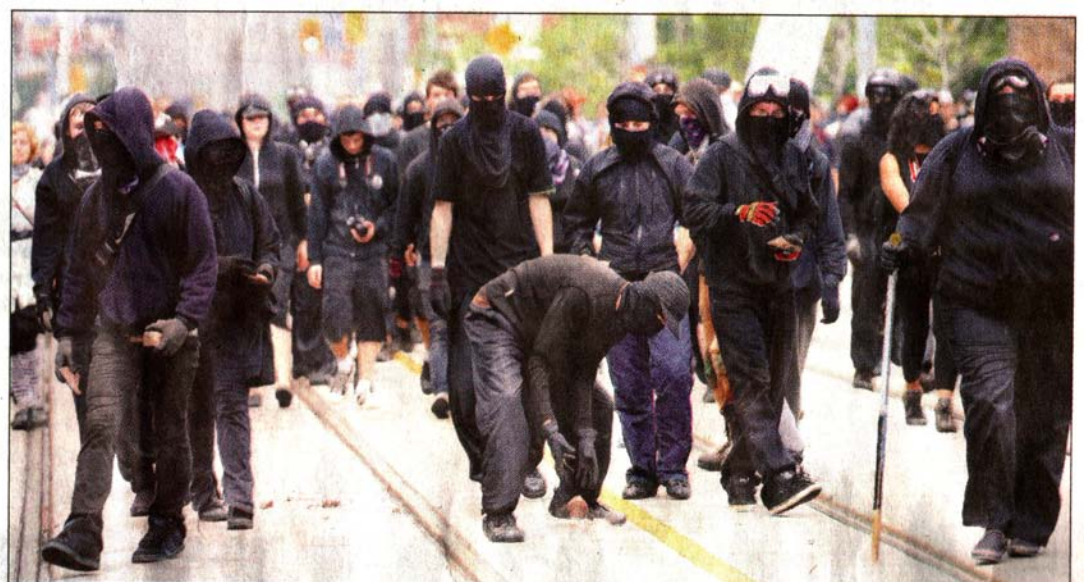
militants carry out an effective attack, especially against such a massive security operation, it shatters this defeatist premise upon which reformism is based. The liberal response to such attacks is that they must be part of a 'greater conspiracy,' a reaction based on pure speculation with no regard for the facts. In the long term, it will only make them look like the fools that they are.

- Excerpted from *Fire & Flames! A Militant Report on G20 Resistance*, available in full at vancouver.mediacoop.ca

Fire and Flames!

A Militant Report on Toronto Anti-G20 Resistance

by Zig Zag, July 2010



Snitching on the Resistance: How Celebrity Activists Have Set Off a Witch Hunt Against Anarchist Militants

A Letter from The Stimulator

When I was twenty-three I was given the task of handing over my father to the authorities. No, I wasn't collaborating with the police. My father had been found guilty after a long legal battle with the state, and had to turn himself in at a federal penitentiary. Out of all my family members, most of whom reside in the US colony of Puerto Rico, I lived the closest to where my Dad was expected to pay his debt to society, by serving a 63 months sentence.

The drive down to the jail must have been one of the worst experiences of my life. I knew that with every mile I drove, I was bringing my father closer to his cage.

My father is one of the toughest and smartest persons I know. He has been involved in Puerto Rican politics since he was nineteen. During the 1970s he spearheaded a campaign that succeed in granting Puerto Ricans the right to vote in US Presidential primaries. In the 1980s he started an ambitious all news TV station on the island, the first of its kind in Latin America. Canal 24 (Channel 24) focused on investigative reporting, something that disrupted the action news model of most local evening news programs and made the station the most popular TV News outlet at the time. Their reports revealed connections between Colombian drug cartels and the CIA. In short, Canal 24 pissed off a lot of powerful people off, and my dad being the head of the station, became the target of several politically motivated government investigations.

The story of my father's odyssey with the penal system is not one that I share often. But in light of the events that took place in Vancouver during the Olympics and more recently in

Toronto during the g20, I feel it's important to put it out there so that those who've never had a loved one in jail get a taste of the hell families go through. More specifically, this story is directed at those who would carelessly endanger our comrades, and who value their egos and personalities more than the freedom of those who choose to fight differently.

On June 27th, well known Toronto activist and writer Judy Rebick furthered the idea of "good protester vs. bad protester" with a twist: Now there are good militants and bad militants. The good militants just wanted to go down to the fence that was erected to protect the G20 leaders and the bad militants were the ones who smashed corporate stores and bank windows. It is important to note that Rebick paid homage to the voting rights group the suffragettes, in her book Ten Thousand Roses. The suffragettes were a first wave militant feminist group who engaged in direct actions such as smashing store windows and setting off bombs.

Following Rebick's lead, "progressive" political commentator Murray Dobbin suggested that the

next time a black bloc came around that social activists take the law into their own hands and "swarm these people and stop them if the police refuse."

Now that denouncing and unmasking militants has been approved by high profile "lefties", the witch hunt to identify and hand over the "vandals" over to the police is alive and well on "progressive" websites and on Facebook. People are combing the internet for video and photo evidence and the Toronto Police has set up a webpage where people can "anonymously" upload their own digital tips. In Vancouver, a civil rights rally being held in "in accordance with police" will not welcome the black bloc and one organizer says she does not "necessarily blame the police" for the civil rights abuses that happened in Toronto during the G20. The rally will feature speakers from Stopwar.ca and BC Civil Liberties association.

Just like my Dad, the charges against some of the comrades involved in organizing in Vancouver and Toronto are of a political nature, whether the state admits it or not. The

public denunciation by celebrity leftist activists and "civil libertarians" validates the state's position and weakens the defense arguments of those comrades who face serious jail time. While in state custody, our comrades face beatings, torture, intimidation and extreme fear. As someone who's had a family member and several friends in government cages, I have zero tolerance for those who would endanger the freedom of people working for a better world. If we are going to build a successful culture of resistance, our position regarding this matter should be uncompromising and our outrage towards those who betray our comrades should be loud and fierce.



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**UPCOMING
EVENTS!**

Saturday July 24, Noon
The People's March V. Jason Kenney.
Central Park outside Patterson Skytrain
Station in Burnaby. Snacks will be
served.

Sunday July 25, 10 am
Organizing Centre Fundraising Garage
Sale. 1145 Commercial Drive, outside
REACH Clinic. 1/2 the proceeds go to
local organizing work; 1/2 to Free the
Morong 43 campaign



**Free the
Toronto 900!**

For more info, and to
support our comrades
facing charges from
anti-G20 mobilizations
check out the

**Movement
Defence
Committee!**

g20.torontomobilize.org

**Freedom for
all Political
Prisoners!**