

# BAKALAGAWAN!

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unceded Coast Salish Territory

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## Demo in Solidarity with Tamil Refugees

by Isaac Oommen

VANCOUVER 22 August - A bright afternoon saw close to 200 people assembling at the Vancouver Art Gallery in solidarity with the 490 Tamil immigrants being processed by Canada Immigration.

“People all across the country are saying that we’re with the refugees: let the boat stay,” said No One Is Illegal organizer Harsha Walia at the beginning of the rally. “Every single person who says the boat should go back: we will overcome your dehumanization.”

After hearing words of solidarity from a number of speakers, including indigenous elders from the downtown East Side, the rally marched along Robson St., bringing a dose of harsh reality to the city’s shopping district.

The demo ended at the Vancouver Public Library’s central branch.



## Israeli Ships not Welcome in Vancouver

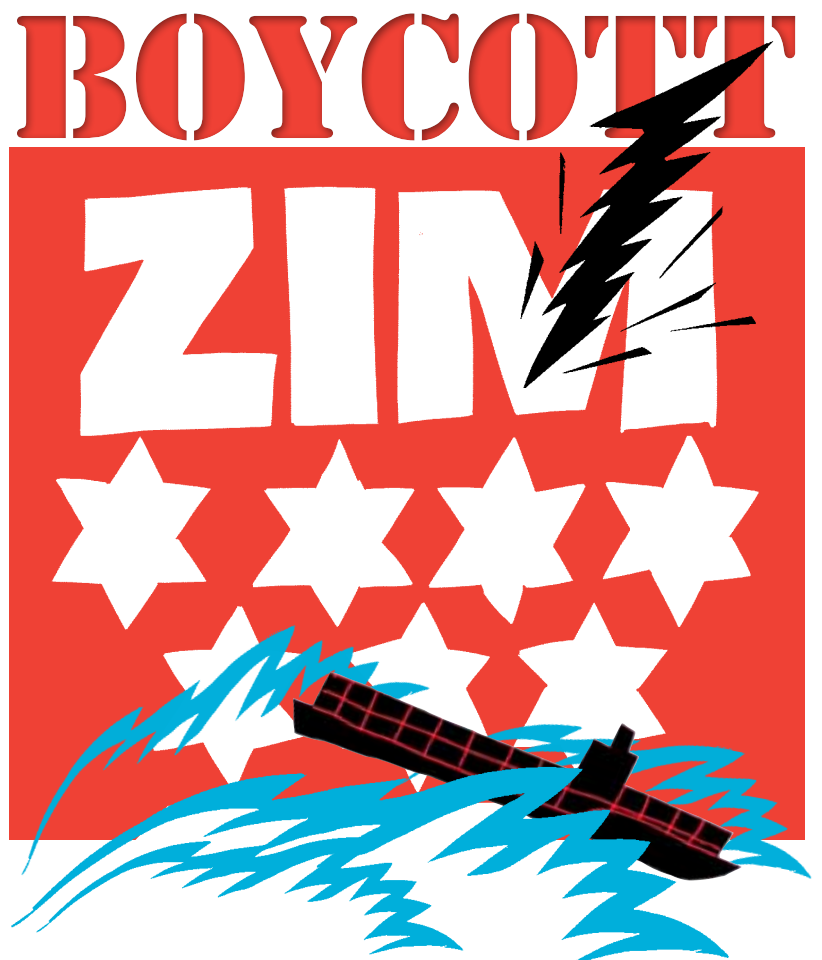
### Zim Cargo Ship Triggers Protest

DELTA 24 August - The arrival this morning of the largest cargo ship of the Israeli ZIM line prompted a two-hour information picket outside the Delta container port.

Dozens of activists gave truckers and dock workers information about Israel’s war crimes and the growing refusal by workers around the world to handle cargo from Israel or shipped by Israeli companies.



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# The Ugly Story of Short Term Incentives for Rental

by Joseph Jones

Like a vicious zombie, the Short Term Incentives for Rental (STIR) program keeps on coming back to chew on Vancouver City Council. In the splatteriest encounter, three Vision representatives exchanged nasty cracks over a council chamber microphone that they thought was dead. Then the recording went up on YouTube. Viral infamy forced mainstream media to cover a story that would usually get deep sixed.

On the evening of 8 July 2010 Mayor Gregor Robertson and Councillors Tim Stevenson and Heather Deal exposed their contempt for speakers who had waited hours to say how the West End should be represented by an advisory committee. The seven presenters were derided as

“fucking ... NPA hacks” and “100% owners” who expect “democracy cubed.”

To control the damage, much of the reporting attempted to spin attention sideways toward forgivable earthy language and understandable frustration at long hours. The real story, though, remains a group of disrespected West Enders whose petition has now been signed by almost 10,000 persons. West Enders have struggled in particular against fast-tracked top-down proposals to dump huge densities onto sites at 1401 Comox and and 1201–1215 Bidwell Street and 1726 Davie Street.

What ignited this grassroots uprising in one of Vancouver’s densest neighbourhoods – and

caused the formation of West End Neighbours? It all goes back to STIR.

In essence, politicians boost developer profits by no longer collecting ordinary municipal revenue, and leave (often low income) renters who live in Vancouver to cover the resulting financial gap. Then, they use “expedited processing” (aka queue jumping) to let developersglom onto major financial concessions. The icing on the cake for the developers is the option of negotiating additional density. Floor Space Ratio (FSR) is developer crack cocaine, and translates into how tall and wide a building can go. The higher the condo, the more dollars the developer can extract from the view.

-Read this article in its entirety on [vancouver.mediacoop.ca](http://vancouver.mediacoop.ca)

# Vancouver Mining Company Sues for Right to Poison Rivers

by Murray Bush

VANCOUVER August 25 - Pacific Rim Mining held its annual general meeting downtown, attended by a few directors and more than a dozen protesters.

Most of the demonstrators were from the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES) in the US Pacific Northwest. They wore tags describing themselves as shareholders in democracy, human rights, access to clean water and “our future.”

Vancouver-based Pacific Rim Mining is suing the people of El Salvador after the government refused to allow it to mine using methods that would poison El Salvador’s rivers. The suit for millions in “lost profits” has been filed under the Central American Free Trade Agreement. CISPES is calling on the company’s directors to drop the suit.

Two CISPES representatives were allowed into the meeting, then ejected after they tried to speak.

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## EVENTS!

Saturday September 4 - Roaming Street Party  
Venue: Victoria Park Music, DJs and dancing.

Saturday September 11 - Victoria Anarchist Bookfair. Venue: 640 Courtney St. Cost: Free

Wednesday September 15 - Rap For Freedom  
feat. the Outspoken Wordsmiths with Testament  
Venue: 1814 Pandora St. Cost: \$5-15 benefit for G20 and J18 defendants

**DON'T MISS THESE STORIES ON  
VANCOUVER.MEDIACOOP.CA!**

• Documents revealing Olympic VISU budgets and agreements between CBSA-RCMP

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A brief history of the Black Bloc

• G20 arrestee updates



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