



A publication of the Urbana-Champaign
Independent Media Center
<http://urbana.indymedia.org>

100,000 take to streets to protest G8 summit in Genoa, Italy

Analysis from IMC Portland

As leaders from the major industrialized countries meet for the Group of Eight (G8) summit in Genoa, Italy, thousands of protesters have taken to the streets to voice their dissatisfaction with the status quo.

The G8 is made up of the United States, Britain, France, Italy, Germany, Japan, Canada, and Russia. These countries consume the majority of the world's natural resources and use their strong militaries to keep the rest of the world under their control, in what is essentially a colonial arrangement. Corporations, in turn, control the G8 governments, and represent a tiny (less than 1%), but very wealthy segment of the world's population.

Understandably, this lopsided state of affairs has awakened the anger of millions of people worldwide, and thousands descended on Genoa last week to demand justice.

Italian authorities had prepared for the summit by emptying all nearby hospitals, jails and mortuaries, and ordering 300 body bags. They also closed down the airport and railway station, and suspended most civil rights, including freedom of movement. So much for "democracy" while the "leaders of the Free World" are meeting.

Week of July 22, 2001

Special Supplement

Violent raids on journalists, sleeping protestors in Genoa

Adapted from IMC-Italy

GENOA, ITALY - The Genoa Social Forum and the Independent Media Center facilities in Genoa were raided by police late Saturday night, July 21, 2001.

The carabinieri (police) started by pulling up about 300 meters up the road in four to five vans. They got out and started to jog down the street in riot gear. People saw them and started to enter both buildings - the main Genoa Social Forum (GSF) building where IMC-Italy is located, and the local school across the street, which was serving as a convergence center for the protestors.

The school had been a safe space for people to sleep for a few days. As the convergence center for the G8 demonstrations was quite close, many people came to get information on the counter conference and the solidarity marches and also to use computers. Many people who slept in the school were participants from the marches.

The carabinieri, reaching the school and the GSF building started to arbitrarily beat people with their batons as they scrambled to get inside either building. The main doors were locked on the GSF building but they entered from side doors.

The IMC staff tried to calm people down as the carabinieri came in and demanded that everyone stand spread-eagle against the wall for about 30 minutes. The police wandered in and out of the rooms, looking for anything incriminating.

They then moved everyone into one area and ordered them to sit. What they found (and took) was various media (discs, tapes). They also took some salad knives from the kitchen and a couple of gas masks, and apparently the police took all available passports and wallets and diaries from people's bags on the ground.

The carabinieri tried to take one of the IMC reporters but another journalist with G8 accreditation stepped in, and he was left alone. The police eventually left, but the GSF Lawyer's office was ransacked



Damage to IMC-Italy by Genoa police

and the computers destroyed, hard drives taken and the phones smashed. After they left, people immediately checked their gear and recorded what was taken.

Then it was learned what had happened across the street at the school.

When the police approached they grabbed the first people they could outside the school and beat them. One of the first was a UK reporter who was hit repeatedly by a group of police, who held him by his neck while the other carabinieri beat him with clubs. He was left in the street in a pool of blood, and is presently in a coma at a local hospital.

When police entered the school, many people inside raised their hands, but the police started smashing the windows. Some people then ran to the third floor and managed to escape out of an upper window. Those left inside were severely beaten. At least five were brought out unconscious.

Later, after more arrests in the street, the police and fleet of ambulances departed. Entering the school, witnesses found blood on the walls, on the floor and at the bottoms of stairs. The scene was horrible. Even the ambulance staff were obviously shocked, yet there are reports that those taken to hospitals are

being arrested.

The local media and other reports have said police were here searching for weapons or drugs. The testimonies of people in both buildings, the blood on the street and inside the school and the number seriously injured tells the true story.



Blood on the wall at the school



Injured activist awaits evacuation from the school

G8 leaders fail to solve climate negotiations

Adapted from IMC-Climate

GENOA, ITALY - The three-day G8 summit in Genoa, Italy finished July 22, 2001. World leaders conceded they were unable to resolve U.S. and European differences over global warming.

The draft of the leaders' final statement says all of the Group of Eight countries "firmly agree" on the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but "there is disagreement on the Kyoto Protocol and its ratification," The Associated Press reports.

The hope that the G8 summit would offer a way out for the failing climate negotiations in Bonn has been smashed. Once again it becomes clear: present world leaders are only interested in short term economic progress.

The Kyoto pact is aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming. It was negotiated in 1997 by the U.S. and major industrialised nations, but U.S. President George W. Bush has since rejected it.

The G8 summit, which cost in itself \$110 million (US), went together with protests by a hundred thousand people from all over Europe. Police forces have been extremely brutal. Hundreds of activists were beaten into the hospital, many of them seriously injured.

Italian police shooting to kill

Adapted from IMC Italy

GENOA, ITALY--On Friday, 20 July, an Italian police officer shot a protester in the head at point blank range with a revolver.

According to Radio IMC Italia, protesters had been chasing a police jeep down a street. When the jeep stopped, protesters caught up and began attacking it, one eye-witness has reported. The witness saw no fire arms or other deadly weapons in the hands of the protesters.

The police officer driving the jeep leaned out his door and fired three or four shots at Carlo Giuliani, age 23, of Genoa, who immediately fell to the ground. A one-foot stream of blood came out of his head and began puddling on the ground.

The police officer then backed the jeep over Giuliani's body, shifted gears, and drove over it a second time before leaving the scene.

According to the same eye witness, other protesters immediately surged forward to check the body. The first to arrive checked for a pulse and yelled for a medic, and then was hit in the head with a tear gas canister fired by the police. He retreated, and the police surged forward and separated the body from the protesters.

Protesters are expecting the police to justify this brutal murder as "self-defense." An eye-witness to the shooting is already countering this claim, saying that the officer was safe in his jeep and could have driven away at any time.

Additionally, this incident took place outside the special security zone set up by Italian law enforcement. The G8 summit is taking place inside the Red Zone, and non-attendees are not allowed there. Around this is the Yellow Zone, where only city residents are allowed. This murder occurred even further out than that, in the Green Zone, where people are supposedly allowed to protest.

The Independent Media Center in Italy has reported that many others have been wounded.

For more information check
<http://urbana.indymedia.org>



A fellow protester checks Giuliani's condition



The jeep running over Giuliani's body, earlier



Mourning Giuliani's death while surrounded by police.