



PHOTO: ACTIVESTILLS

## Queering the G20 Resistance gets fierce and fabulous

BY HILLARY LINDSAY

TORONTO—Hundreds of people took over the Queen and Yonge street intersection yesterday, many fabulously dressed in sequins, boas, fishnet stockings and lots of hot pink. Dozens of police watched as participants chanted, made music, and made out.

“We’re queer, we’re fabulous, we’re against the G20!” they shouted.

Ro Velasquez, a member of the Queer

Resistance Network, helped organize the march. “We know the G20 represents the rich and the few,” she said. “We’ve organized a carnival of resistance.”

Queer people – like many other marginalized groups – are targeted, and suffer under the current system, said Velasquez.

“Queer people are people of colour. Queer people are criminalized every day by police brutality. Queer people

“We have a history of resisting police brutality, of resisting against the state’s repression of our bodies.”

are not let into this country because of their gender and their immigration status. Queer people are poor. Queer people have disabilities. Queer people need special diets, they need the welfare rates to go up by 40%, and this is not happening in our city,” explained Velasquez.

The demonstration was surrounded by police on all sides. “No sexist police, no justice, no peace!” chanted the crowd.

“We have a history of resisting police brutality, of resisting against the state’s repression of our bodies,” said Velasquez. “We knew there would be a lot of cops out here. We decided to take it on.”

As the group began to disperse one organizer made an announcement into the megaphone.

“The streets are not safe these days,” she yelled, referring to the increased police presence. “Stay in groups. Make sure that none of us are taken down and we show them how fucking fierce we are.”

## Police and Military raid Toronto House G20 crackdown continues

BY JESSE ROSENFELD

TORONTO—A joint police and military raid of a house at 58 Elderwood resulted in the arrest of a man in his 30’s on Tuesday afternoon.

According to RCMP Corporal Glem, a warrant was obtained and executed by the Toronto Police Service in coordination with the Ontario Provincial Police, the RCMP and the military. “The search and arrest is G20 related,” she stated, but refused to provide a copy of the warrant or explain its contents, despite acknowledging the warrant was not sealed. As of deadline, police said they were still interrogating the man and had yet to be charged.

Neighbours described undercover police watching the house for several days before the raid. One man, who chose not to be identified, said snipers were perched on the roofs of surrounding houses and that officers in SWAT gear and military



PHOTO: ACTIVESTILLS

fatigues armed with assault rifles were stationed in the street throughout the afternoon.

The home invasion and arrest is the latest escalation of police targeting those connected to opposition to the G20. Yesterday afternoon a young

man was beaten and arrested by police during the Queer Kiss-in against the G20, while on Monday two people were arrested during an economic justice and anti-poverty demonstration.

## NGOs join Presidents behind the G20 Fence

BY DAWN PALEY

TORONTO—As the people of Toronto prepare community level mobilizations against their lived experiences of the negative effects of G20 control, a much smaller group of people is planning to sit down and speak directly with G20 leaders on behalf of Canadian civil society.

These groups are clustered together as a G20-focused campaign called At the Table.

But while the At the Table campaign calls for Canadians to “take bold action to end poverty at home and abroad,” their members are actively pacifying people who want to take to the streets to make their message heard.

“We’re trying the critical engagement approach,” Make Poverty History head Dennis Howlett told the Globe and Mail in March. “Doing anything outside the security perimeter, it’s going to be a nightmare with security.”

Howlett’s comments reflect a broader issue in movement building in North America.

“Usually when we use the word NGO we’re talking about groups that are financed by the government and regulated by the government,” said Yves Engler, a Montréal based author who is writing his fourth book about international development NGOs. It’s important to differentiate between their work and that of grassroots community organizations, says Engler, and tracing the flow of money is one way to make that distinction.

“There’s a history of these organizations sort of defining the parameters of critique,” said Engler.

The Assembly of First Nations, Oxfam Canada, Development and Peace, the World Wildlife Federation, World Vision Canada and other members of the At the Table are heavily funded by various agencies of the federal government. Some groups facing defunding

continues...



# Women's Groups Respond to G8 Health Agenda

BY GWALGEN GEORDIE DENT

TORONTO—The G8's release of details on their Women and Children's Health Initiative in April has made it one of the more heavily reported issues for the G8 meetings this coming week.

Though the Canadian government's decision to stop funding abortions has drawn attention and criticism from political parties and numerous women's rights groups, little attention has been paid to their refusal to fund family planning (contraception). Little is also known about what else is contained within the initiative and how successful past G8 initiatives have been.

Many believe that future budget cuts will hurt women's rights issues across the globe.

"We only talk about austerity after we've bailed out the rich. Women will bear the brunt of austerity costs," says Anna Willats, a professor at the Assaulted Women's and Children's Counsellor/Advocate program at George Brown College.

While the G8 has historically introduced a number of initiatives,



PHOTO: TOBAN BLACK

the success of such initiatives is often scrutinized.

Fariah Chawdhry, an organizer with the Shelter Sanctuary Status Campaign says that this is one of the major problems with the G8, a group that she feels is both undemocratic and dominated by men.

"I think there is no process to ensure these [initiatives] are followed in a meaningful way and no accountability when people do not follow through on them. Rather than coming up with another issue, the summit should focus on the fact that their policies have not been followed," says Chawdhry.

Check out the ongoing G20 issues series online at [toronto.mediacoop.ca](http://toronto.mediacoop.ca).



Legal aid can be reached at 416 273 6761.

## "Inside the Pigpen"

What it's like inside the G20 detention centre

BY ANONYMOUS; EDITED BY G20 ALTERNATIVE MEDIA CENTRE

TORONTO—Housed inside an old Toronto film studio, the jail for G20 opponents has been set up in the working class deindustrial area just east of the Don Valley Parkway.

From the outside, it looks like several fenced in blocks with one entrance and one exit. There are three holding areas: First a trailer where they film everything, tag you, take your picture, and search all your property and put it into a bag. A court cop will be assigned to you and the staff sergeant will talk to you. Here You will Level 2 -- catch and release or Level 3 -- held for a bail hearing the next morning.

Second is a small, plywood 8X8 foot cell where they can strip search you.

The third holding station is a large

room with 16X8 foot cells in the front, with smaller one and in the back. Three sides are made from sheet metal, the other is made from poorly welded wire fencing. There is a two inch gap between the floor and the 8ft sheet metal walls.

The interrogation rooms are opposite the phones. The rooms are small with a table and chairs. Here the cops attempt to gather info on the movement and your friends and loved ones. They will lie to you to get intelligence, so don't give it to them.

After questioning, they will either release you if you are a Level 2 or you may go back to the third holding area if you are a Level 3. If you are released at this point, the pigs will take you out of the building and out to the exit.

For the full account, visit [toronto.mediacoop.ca](http://toronto.mediacoop.ca)

NGOs, cont'd from page 1:

from Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), including the Canadian Council for International Cooperation and Kairos, continue to participate in the campaign.

In the context of mobilizing around the G20, Stephen Lewis, former UN special envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa who helped launch the At the Table Campaign, told the Globe and Mail that demonstrators engaging in "violence" must be kept "under control" in order for groups like his to gain concessions from world leaders.

Engler has a warning for people who support the work of large NGOs.

"It's very dangerous for people who think they're involved in progressive causes to be so dependent on government money," he said. "The effect that has in terms of limiting political independence is very extreme... in many cases the NGOs have simply become an arm of imperialism."

## Twitter this! Police enter world of "social media"

BY KATE MILBERRY

TORONTO—The Toronto Police Service and Integrated Security Unit have waded in to unfamiliar territory with their use of microblogging and social networking services in their effort to keep G8/G20 messaging "on point." Following the buzz around social media, they have followed grassroots organizers, media activists and community groups onto Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

The Toronto Police Service released "A Social Media Guide to G20 Summit" to solidify public confidence in the security measures authorized by the Harper government and enforced by various law enforcement agencies. "If the purpose of the security measures are properly explained... from the source, the payoff will be an educated and informed public..." stated TPS public affairs liaison Meaghan Gray.

However, this does not include educating people on the controversy

## Today's Events: Wednesday, June 23

8:30am: Protest outside the "Making the Case for Global Economic Governance" conference by the Munk Centre. Park Hyatt Toronto, 4 Avenue Rd.

10am: Court hearing on banning LRADs 361 University Ave, Toronto, courtroom 2-2 (second floor)

11am: Toxic Tour of Toronto Alexandra Park (Dundas and Bathurst St.)

3pm: No Campus Closure legal rights primer. U of T Peace and Conflict Studies Lounge (downstairs from Diablos), UC H-12, 15 King's College Cir

7pm: Assembly on Climate Justice: Moving Forward from Cochabamba. Ryerson Student Campus Centre (SCC115), 55 Gould St.

surrounding the negative policies of the G8/G20, nor why thousands of Canadians will be protesting them.

Despite their Twitter feeds, Facebook pages and YouTube channels, police don't seem to have much social media capital. While social media are generally held to decentralize information, foster the democratization of knowledge and transform consumers into creative producers, TPS seems more concerned with "correcting" information and doing PR.

The Alternative Media Centre, on the other hand, reflects how "the way we share information has changed," said Dru Oja Jay of The Media Co-op. The multimedia website aggregates social media feeds from across the web, enabling the AMC to "amplify those voices and keep people better informed."

If you want to contribute to the G20 conversation online, use the hashtag #g20report or visit [2010.mediacoop.ca](http://2010.mediacoop.ca)



Hauled away by police into Queen subway station, this participant in the Queer resistance to the G20 was pinned to the ground and beaten by several officers as he was cuffed. He was repeatedly kned in the back while officers smashed his face against the ground as police formed a bike chain around him, trying to block the view of the beating from media and march participants. — Jesse Rosenfeld