



On Saturday, June 19, about two hundred protesters marched from Oxfam's Gender Justice Summit to the Ministry of Health and Education. Their demands included: 1. The implementation of changes to Ontario's sex education curriculum.; 2. Full funding for family planning and safe abortion in Canada's G8 Maternal/Child Health Initiative. ;3. Action on all women's health inequalities and injustices faced globally. PHOTO: ALLAN LISSNER

People's Summit Opens Week of Resistance in Toronto

Alternative to G8/20 boasted Open Agenda, Open Membership

BY GEORDIE GWALGEN DENT

With one week until the the G8 and G20 meet, people from all over Canada and around the world came together at Ryerson University in Toronto to hold their own summit this past weekend.

The People's Summit, an open membership forum set up as a grassroots alternative to the G8 and G20 meetings, aimed to be a place to "debate, discuss and learn about the issues that really matter to people the world over," according to the Summit's Program.

The opening night of the People's Summit saw hundreds of people attend a launch event entitled: "Stories and Solution from the North and South" held at the Carlu theatre in downtown Toronto.

Speakers included Lorena Aguilar, Dorthy Ngoma, Ambet Yuson, Jessica

Yee, Maude Barlow, Robert Lovelace, and Victor Baez, placing everything from the Cochabamba climate

"The G8 and G20 should be abolished and replaced by a democratic process."

—Maude Barlow, speaking at the launch of the People's Summit

summit, to critiques of the Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement, to condemnations of the arrival of Colombian President Alvaro Uribe, on the table.

Over 100 groups presented at over 100 workshops between June 18th and June 20th on topics ranging from the Economics of the Canada-EU Free Trade Agreement and Women in Politics to Building Coalitions and Activism in the Attawapiskat Nation.

Marya Folinsbee, a coordinator for

the Summit, says that a lot of the impacts from the People's Summit are intangible. "A lot of the partici-

pants tell me that the relationships they build...are helpful. There's lot of ideas being advanced [at the summit] like the financial transaction tax," she said. The tax, also known as the Robin Hood tax, has been rejected by the G20 with strong opposition coming from the US and Canada.

The cost of the People's Summit was equivalent to the funding allocated for six seconds of the G8/20 Summits.

Bikers Beware

BY TIM MCSORLEY

If you're biking in Toronto this week, you may want to be careful to obey every rule in order to avoid being stopped by police – especially if you're visibly questioning or challenging the G20 summit.

Dan Kellar, in town from Kitchener-Waterloo, was biking on Wellington Street. He stopped to take pictures of the security fence, but when he went to ride off he was blocked by a police officer on a bicycle and told he was being ticketed for not having a bell. After his ID was taken for verification, he was quickly surrounded by another seven officers on bike, all apparently part of the same bike squad. Kellar said he was told he was stopped for "his own safety" and then given a ticket for \$110.

"I wasn't stopped for a bike violation," said Kellar. "I was stopped for taking a picture, and they used the bell as an excuse."

If you plan on biking around Toronto this week and want to avoid giving the police a reason to stop you, make sure to have:

- a bell
- front and rear lights
- at least one working brake
- reflector strips (front forks and rear seat)

Also consider walking your bike at times: you can only be stopped for a violation if you are actually seen riding.

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Colombian Politics get Canadian Support

Uribe special guest of Harper

BY BLANDINE FUCHS AND DAVID PARKER

Outgoing Colombian President Alvaro Uribe Velez will be one of ten specially-invited guests of Stephen Harper at the G8 summit in Huntsville this Friday.



Protesters in Montreal during Uribe's last visit to Canada, in June 2009. PHOTO: PASC

Diplomatic relations have accelerated since 2008 when, during a visit to Bogota, Harper announced the negotiation of a bilateral free trade agreement between the two countries.

The Canadian Parliamentary Standing Committee on International Trade published a report recommending the agreement be studied by independent parties. Meanwhile, the Harper government signed the accord in November 2008 in Lima at the same time as a similarly negotiated agreement with Peru.

The imminent implementation of the agreement follows nearly two years of debate surrounding its ratification. The agreement was adopted by law in its third reading on June 14th, during an evening vote when numerous ministers were absent, effectively cutting short the studies of the Standing Committee.

Asked about the impacts of the agreement on employment by the Standing Committee in May 2010, Tania Hallé of Project Accompaniment Solidarity Colombia said, "If we create employment by displacing populations, if we kill women and children to create employment, I don't think it's worth creating those jobs."

Numerous Canadian and Colombian social organizations such as the Movement of Victims of State Crimes in Colombia denounced the agreement in recent years on many levels. Ivan Cepeda of the Movement,

emphasizes that beyond the negative impacts of free trade policies, the signing of agreements with Europe, US or Canada constitute specific political support for criminal politicians.

The International Criminal Court is currently investigating Colombia's nearly five million internally displaced people, and is conducting preliminary reviews to examine crimes against humanity in the country.

The current Uribe government's policies are expected to continue after his term and throughout 2010, as his successor, ex-minister of defence Juan Manuel Santos won the second round of presidential elections yesterday amidst an electoral fraud scandal.

Today's Events: Monday, June 21

Check out these events today, and pick up a copy of Tuesday's issue of The Spoke for coverage of these stories, breaking news, and un(der)reported analysis of the G8 and G20:

10:00
Press Conference to open the Alternative Media Center.

13:00-17:00
The Walmart Globalization Forum. Lester B. Pearson Room, Best Western Primrose Hotel, 111 Carlton Street.

14:00
All Out in Defense of the Rights of All! March beginning at Allan Gardens

19:00
Harper's Attacks on Reproductive Health. Panel Discussion. 25 Cecil Ave.

19:00
Iraq, Afghanistan, Palestine: The Legacy of Occupation and the Challenges for Independent Media in the Middle East. Beit Zatoun House, 612 Markham St.



On Thursday, June 17, Stephen Harper led a procession of wealthy bankers through the streets of Toronto. Harper and his bankers were followed by a human oil slick. Overworked tax-payers scrambled behind the oil slick with mops and brooms to clean up the mess while Harper and his bankers counted their giant \$1 billion bills. The action, which was organized by the At the Table Coalition, was a tongue-in-cheek commentary on spending for the G8 and G20 summits when foreign aid has been frozen and Canada's fair share on climate adaptation has yet to be paid.

PHOTO: ALLAN LISSNER



Tuesday, June 22 4:30pm, at Yonge and Queen: Queer Resistance to the G20 are hosting a roving kiss-in to take on the G20. For more Tuesday events, pick up a copy of The Spoke, published daily during the G20 mobilization and summit. PHOTO: SAM T