



Toronto Resistance Gets it On!



BY KATE MILBERRY IN TORONTO

The Toronto Community Mobilization Network launched a week of themed actions yesterday against the G8/G20, and together with local journalists, officially opened the Alternative Media Centre.

Members of the media gathered outside the Alternative Media Centre to hear TCMN representatives discuss the various issues around the G8/G20. Monday is a day of resistance organized around migrant justice, income inequity, community control over resources and end to war.

“There are 289 million people globally who are unemployed and more than half the world’s population lives on \$2.50 a day as a direct result of the banking and corporate policies of the G8,” said

Syed Hussan of the TCMN. “This is an outrage.”

Hussan challenged the mainstream media’s portray of protesters as “disconnected from communities.” He stressed that the various actions taking place over the week are autonomous, self-determined actions of regular folks impacted in various ways by the economic policies of the G8/G20. “This is a network of people and communities—not protesters. Toronto is our city and we will fight back.”

Jesse Rosenfeld, an independent journalist with the AMC, explained the difference between mainstream and alternative journalism for a crowd of mostly bewildered journalists. “We focus

on critical investigation, taking a front-line journalism approach. We will be at all the flashpoints and creative actions, working in support and solidarity with the communities who come out.”

“We’re part of a dialogue of social movements. We’re interacting with people in the street and looking at the broad social context. We’re examining questions like how power works, how the G8 works, what are the problems with the G8,” said Rosenfeld.

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PHOTO: ACTIVE STILLS



Lost Work Employees lose work during G20 Summit

BY KEVIN O’TOOLE AND TIM GROVES IN TORONTO

While the public is being shut out of numerous spaces across Toronto to make way for the G20 summit, many of the workers who are employed in these locations are also being shut out of their jobs. Closed locations thus far include the Art Gallery of Ontario, the Rogers Centre and the University of Toronto. It was recently announced that seven LCBO stores will be closed during the summit. Hotdog vendors, small businesses, and workers at closed down facilities will also feel the impact. The closed buildings include the AGO, the Rogers Centre (home to the Blue Jays), and the CN Tower. TTC, VIA, GO Transit, and Island Ferry service is being cut in various places around the GTA.

“I’m a casual library worker at UofT and we are losing all of our shifts during the closure and not being compensated at all,” said Ryan Hayes. Casual workers are among the lowest paid workers at UofT. Academics, food servers, maintenance workers and cleaning staff are among those losing work.

“The entire St. George Campus is being shut down during the summit, with residents and workers on the Campus being pushed out” said a statement by CUPE 3902, which represents over 6000 contract and part-time academic workers. Among the few spaces that will remain open on campus is the Munk Centre for G8/G20 Research.

A statement signed by a broad range of worker, student, faculty and social organizations condemned UofT’s “refusal to compensate casual staff for lost income resulting from its rash decision.” UofT did not consult workers, students or faculty before making this decision.

Stay tuned for more coverage on the G20’s impact on workers in Toronto.

All Out March Launches the Week of Action



BY HILLARY LINDSAY IN TORONTO

PHOTO: SEAN DECORY

About 200 people marched through downtown Toronto on June 21 surrounded by almost 100 police in a march organized by Stratford Action for Equality, Kingston Coalition Against Poverty and Sense of Security. The demonstration kicked off a week of action leading up to the G20 meetings.

The march started at Allan Gardens and made its way to an Esso station at

Church and Dundas. About a dozen participants briefly occupied the convenience store at the station.

Police tackled and arrested Mark Corbiere as the march was dispersing. “I would say it was unprovoked brutality,” says witness and independent journalist Dan Kellar. A bystander was also wrongfully arrested before the demonstration began and later released.

“We all have to stand together as people whose rights are being violated. We have to stand together as women, as trans people, as poor people, as immigrants, as people of colour, as youth. Our strength is in our numbers.”

—Kelly Pflug-Black, anti-poverty activist

For more information on Mark’s arrest and G20 jail solidarity, read on...

Toronto Cops Don't Deserve a Free Ride

Police track record of violence, murder goes unexamined in the run up to the G20 summit

BY DAWN PALEY IN TORONTO

Toronto cops are getting a free ride in the corporate media in the lead up to the G20 summit, as protesters are presented as the biggest threat to security in the city. But what the media is ignoring is the track record of the Toronto Police, which indicates they represent a far larger threat to the community than protesters.

"Toronto police have been involved in 500 deaths in the last five years, they've tried themselves 31 times and acquitted themselves 31 times," Syed Hussan from the Toronto Community Mobilization Network told the Toronto Media Co-op Tuesday morning.

Most recently, Toronto cops have come under fire for the murder of Junior Alexander Manon, an 18-year-old who was killed after running from police on May 5. Manon was beaten to death and his neck was broken, said Hussan, and the police have since lied about the incident. "These are huge concerns, and the community is mobilizing," said Hussan.

The corporate media won't take the word of Manon's parents, who saw his body at the morgue, and have confirmed that their son was beaten by police.

"The media is racist, straight up... It doesn't matter if it is the CBC or a privately owned broadcaster," said Noaman Ali, who works with BASICS Free Community Newspaper, when he spoke in Toronto last month.

The racism Ali refers to is reflected particularly strongly in the media's coverage of police violence. Extreme cases like the killing of Manon usually only make a blip on the corporate media landscape. But the daily realities of police harassment and brutality in Toronto most often go totally unreported.

"Every day I hear about...people who are harassed and intimidated, I've done workshops in Jane and Finch where the police have just barged in, just walked around, and just walked out, so there's ongoing harassment and intimidation," said Hussan.

But top politicians are targeting people with particular political views as legitimate targets for police repression during the G20 summit.

"I think it shows the unfortunate power that a small group of thugs has," Treasury Board President Stockwell Day told CTV on Sunday. "And when I'm talking about thugs I'm talking about thugs, I'm talking about the anarchists and the violent groups who have already indicated that they're going to be there and they're going to cause trouble," he said.



Junior Alexander Manon

Today's Events Tuesday, June 22

9:00

Gender Justice

Keep an eye out across the city!

15:00

Abya Yala Antimining

Coordinating Meeting

St. Paul United Church,

427 Bloor Street West

16:30

Queer Kiss-In

Corner of Yonge & Queen

And don't miss Wednesday's
Toxic Tour, starting at 11:00.

More details in Wednesday's
edition of The Spoke!



Solidarity in a police state

BY DAN KELLAR IN TORONTO

Following the his arrest, Mark Corbiere was abducted from his community and held at the movie studio detention centre at Eastern Ave. and Pape Ave. Immediate jail solidarity was mobilized, with people organizing food and blankets for those able to wait in solidarity with an abducted ally. After over 7 hours of isolation, Mark was welcomed back from incarceration by the warmth of his friends, lovers, and allies.

The "no one left behind" mantra advanced by the TCMN presentation at past weekend's Peoples Summit is holding true. Also proving true is what hip-hop artists Testyourlogik explained to the crowd as yesterday's demo's speeches ended – *This is a police state!*



Photos from Monday's All Out March by Active Stills



From Afghanistan to the Streets of Toronto: Canadian Forces Counterinsurgency Comes Home

BY ANDY CROSBY

The army:

- will maintain observation posts and surveillance, while conducting joint patrols of the Toronto Pearson airport and the Huntsville area
- Soldiers from across Ontario have already begun to move into the G8/G20 summit areas, comprising the largest deployment of Reserve soldiers in a planned operation in history

The navy:

- will support the RCMP's maritime security operations, including providing port security and dive teams

The air force:

- will conduct surveillance missions, early warning detection, and the air lift of people and equipment in conjunction with regular NORAD duties

Monday's Tweet of the Day:

really sick of everyone referring to citizens as "protestors", and to political participation as "protesting" #g20 #g8 #howdumb #stopit

about 3 hours ago via web
Retweeted by 2 people

Reply Retweet



ocirrot

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