



Toxic Toronto

Tour showcases Canadian environmental injustices

BY DANA HOLTBY, WITH FILES FROM JESSE ROSENFELD

TORONTO—Tar sands themed floats, oil slicked activists and frontline community members wound their way through city streets on Wednesday as part of the Toronto Toxic Tour. The tour made stops at RBC, the University of Toronto Mining Building and the Toronto Court House.

While G8 and G20 countries produce over 80% of global greenhouse gas emissions, these countries continue to shirk responsibility, supporting large-scale mining and industrial projects that damage the environment and displace marginalized communities worldwide.

Jasmine Thomas, of Carrier First Nations, spoke in front of RBC, a major investor in the Alberta tar sands. “The largest point source of industrial carbon emissions in Canada, and the source of

millions of liters of toxic waste water, the tar sands are turning First Nations aboriginal and treaty rights, land, water and the atmosphere into a dumping ground.”

With chants of “Shame on you Barrack Gold, human rights cannot be sold” the tour also highlighted the injustice and violence committed against communities in the global south by Canadian mining companies.

“Canadian mining companies are destroying lives around the world

through practices and projects that destroy the environment and tear the social fabric of the communities they operate in, especially communities of colour and Indigenous communities” mining justice activist Dave Vasey said.

The colourful tour of approximately 500 people brought together groups such as Defenders of the Land, KAIROS, the Canadian Youth Climate Coalition, No One is Illegal and Climate Justice Montreal.

PHOTOS BY ACTIVESTILLS



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G20 Insecurity

Illegal detention and police harassment on the rise in Toronto

BY DIDI OHRI

TORONTO—In the last two days, there have been at least 3 reported incidents of individuals being arrested without provocation and detained at length, according to Syed Hassan of the Toronto Community Mobilization Network.

In the last week, there have been 20 illegal detentions reported to the Movement Defence Committee (MDC), many of which were targeting Toronto’s homeless population.

Irene Ceric of the MDC described the trend as “disproportionate criminalization of protestors,” a pre-emptive tactic to intimidate activists and prevent people from “being heard outside of the fence.”

Peter Hopperton was stopped and detained on Tuesday by the police at Dundas and University. Hopperton says he was walking home with a few friends when four police officers got out from a large black SUV and placed the group under arrest after they refused to state their names. Hopperton and company were handcuffed, questioned and searched “up against the wall” for two hours. Following this, he was issued a ticket for failing to provide identification under the Highway Traffic Act.

The Act has nothing to do with Hopperton’s actions, says Ceric. In Ontario, it is not legally required for a pedestrian to carry ID, and it is within the limits of the law for any civilian to refuse



to identify themselves to a legal authority, unless under arrest. “The laws have not changed,” she says “and heightened security does not mean the police get to rewrite the law on the spot.”

“None of these arrests, detentions, and fences are about G20 security,” says Hassan, “They are about G20 harassment.”

PHOTO BY ACTIVESTILLS

Border Blues

Activists and journalists stopped at the border

BY AMY MILLER

TORONTO—The border crossing between Canada and the United States has become increasingly difficult to pass leading up to the G20 summits.

Despite already having a visa to Canada, Climate Justice organizer Sakura Saunders had her visa revoked on Tuesday when returning to Canada from Detroit. Her replacement visa is a two-day visitors visa, thus forcing her to leave the country before the summit on the weekend.

“This is a blatant attempt to block out any dissenting voices. The guards even told me it was because of the G20.” Saunders told The Spoke.

Wednesday afternoon at the New York-Niagara Falls border crossing, media makers from the Glass Bead collective based in NYC, were removed from their train and given a long list of materials they would need to provide in order to enter Canada. Vlad from Glass Bead spoke with The Spoke by phone. “We were asked to give our rent receipts, income tax forms, proof of education, proof of where we will be staying in Toronto, along with having \$100 per person per day among other things. With these demands, you would expect us to be asking to immigrate rather than coming for a four day visit.”

The Glass Bead collective is attempting to gather all the materials and try to cross over tomorrow.

From Wet'suwet'en Country to Toronto

Indigenous people struggle to defend the land, demand accountability from environmental groups

VANCOUVER—Instead of taking his one year old son fishing and berry picking this weekend, Mel Bazil has come to Toronto to join the rising chorus of dissent against the G20.

"I'm spending time away from my laws, opposing this," said Bazil, a member of the Wet'suwet'en Nation. "I shouldn't have to be here."

Bazil and his people are fighting to uphold their laws and keep their lands free from a series of proposed oil pipelines, which would carry tar sands crude to the BC coast. Wet'suwet'en

PHOTOS BY ACTIVESTILLS

lands, which were never ceded to the British or to the Canadian government, span 22,000 square kilometers in central British Columbia.

Today, Bazil joined with hundreds of people as they took a "Toxic Tour" through the streets of Toronto to demand an end to false solutions to the climate and environmental crises.

Notably absent from the rally was Greenpeace, which has come under fire for the recently announced Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement. Negotiated in secret, the agreement between nine

environmental organizations and 21 forestry companies, the CBFA has added another burden on Indigenous people who are organizing to defend their land.

"We have to know so much about pipelines, we have to know about the mining, and all of a sudden we have to catch up with the NGOs," he said.

"We want them there, we want them to fly their flags at our events... But this top down approach, making agreements with forestry companies... It's a farce, it's a danger," he said.



Today's Events: Thursday, July 24

11:00
Canada Can't Hide Genocide
March beginning at Queen's Park

16:00-20:00
Indigenous Assembly
Council Fire, 439 Dundas St. E.

16:30-19:30
STRIKE! and Solidarity Rally with
Workers of the Novotel Hotel
45 The Esplanade

17:00-22:00
People's Summit Doc Film Series
Toronto Underground Cinema,
186 Spadina Avenue

20:00
Confront the Invasion:
Down with the G8/G20!
25 Cecil St.

"Age of Austerity"

G20 cuts will hurt the poor first

BY GWALGEN GEORDIE DENT

TORONTO—A key issue that will be discussed during the G20 will be "austerity measures" or budget cuts. Bank of Canada Head Mark Carney recently stated that governments are entering an "Age of Austerity."

Austerity measures are being pushed by Canadian Finance Minister Jim Flaherty. Speaking in Reuters this month he stated, "We are all agreed in the G20 that fiscal consolidation is mandatory. In Toronto we will push for clear, credible, concrete, timely fiscal consolidation plans."

Lisa Scofield, an Organizer with the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty, believes this will mostly impact the poor. "I think [recent cuts in Ontario are] precedent setting. They start with the lowest rungs of people, people on OW [welfare] and disability, and the

public sector [through wage freezes]." She notes that programs that support people living in poverty should be well funded during a recession, but instead are being cut. "One of the first things they went to cut was the transit accessibility plan."

Sabrina Gopaul doesn't think the issues being discussed at the G20 summit will affect the people in her community. She lives at Jane and Finch, an area of Toronto known for high levels of poverty, and says credit card debt, child care costs and tuition are the more important issues.

But Scofield fears the G20 will only make things worse for the poor. "I think it's going to getting a lot meaner over the next 20 years. The IMF, G20 are calling for 20 years of austerity," she said.




No, you don't look like an undercover officer at all! PHOTO BY ACTIVESTILLS

Each helicopter in the sky this week will burn...

193 litres of jet fuel
each hour

41700 litres of jet fuel
over the weekend

105,375 kg of CO2
per chopper during the summits



THE G20
CLIMATE
AGENDA

Canada's Climate Debt:
\$8 billion/year by 2020

G8 Climate Debt:
min. of \$141 billion by 2020