

# offline



Bypass the corporate media – get your news direct from the streets – [www.indymedia.org.uk](http://www.indymedia.org.uk)



## G8 'leaders' show their contempt

200,000 people from all over the world converged on the Italian port of Genoa

If, by blocking borders, building barricades and putting 20,000 riot police on the streets, the G8 wanted to turn Genoa into one giant crime scene, then they succeeded. While the eight most powerful leaders on the planet hid behind a 18ft high, seven km wide steel fence, renouncing the protesters outside and insisting that their showcase summit (costing £140 million) must continue, the streets filled with blood, teargas, broken bones and broken glass. One protester was shot dead by police. Around 400 people were injured.

Hundreds of people were arrested. As we write, 100 protesters are still missing; they could be in hospital, in prison, in a gutter, or just escaping the repression in Italy, no one knows.

The logic of indiscriminate police violence reached its gruesome conclusion with a midnight raid of the Indymedia and Genoa Social Forum (GSF) buildings.

Twenty people were seriously injured by police, including a UK Indymedia journalist who was repeatedly beaten until he fell unconscious into a pool of his own blood. Police smashed people, phones, and computer equipment. They confiscated videos, documents and disks, including legal evidence of the previous days abuses and witness statements.

Over 200,000 people from all over the world converged on the Italian port of Genoa between 19-21 July, to voice dissent against the closed meetings of the G8 and the policies they espouse, and to discuss alternatives to the current undemocratic nature of global planning.

Protest began peacefully on Thursday 19 July, with at least 50,000 protesters meeting late afternoon to march through Genoa on an immigration demo. Migrants, greens, anarchists, communists, NGOs and many more united in opposition to policies that open borders to trade, money and power, while closing them to migrants, refugees and dissenters.

On Friday, over 100,00 protesters were back on the streets for a day of direct action. Various groups, such as the Pink Block, ATTAC, many Autonomous affinity groups, COBAS, Tutte Bianche (the Italian civil disobedience group) and Globalise Resistance, marched towards different points along the sealed Red Zone, behind which the G8 summit was taking place. While tens of thousands of protesters remained peaceful, some threw stones and trashed banks, a prison, cars and other buildings. Throughout the day, police responded indiscriminately with baton charges, tear gas and water cannons.

A 23-year-old Italian male, Carlo Giuliani, was

**LATEST NEWS:** After days of efforts by Indymedia and activists, friends and family of those beaten in Genoa, journalist and free press organisations and human rights groups the truth about the paramilitary style attack at the GSF buildings in Genoa has finally been reported in the corporate media. Most of the British have now been deported back to the UK, Sky remains in hospital recovering, confirmation has arrived that Joe Moffat is in prison. Thanks to everyone for their support and solidarity in the face of such brutality. There are many questions still to be answered and much work still to do. A better update of all of the news and material will be provided this weekend, for now check IMC Italy or [indymedia.org](http://indymedia.org).

There were 280 arrests in the three days; between 500 and 700 injured (both hospitalized and healed by the GSF doctors on the field and in the raided school); more than 100 people still missing; complete denial of prisoners' rights until being moved to jail.

killed - shot in the head and run over by a police van.

At least 93 others were injured that day, often severely. Alternative press members were beaten, and their equipment destroyed. Groups of protesters were chased into corners or small streets or surrounded by police before being charged, beaten and teargassed. One eyewitness describes a pacifist demo remaining passive while individuals were beaten and arrested; another reports that police were arresting injured protesters in hospitals. Later, as demonstrators returned

Continued on Page 2



Indymedia is an open network of information produced by groups and individuals, that address the bias of main stream media. To report on actions in your own words visit the publish section of the IMC UK website at: [www.indymedia.org.uk](http://www.indymedia.org.uk)

Continued from front page...

to the convergence centre at Carlini Stadium, police controlled anyone entering or leaving the building. At one point, anyone leaving the stadium was arrested. The Head of the Procura issued an ordinance denying arrested protesters the right to speak to a lawyer until transfer to jail (up to 48 hours, in some cases 96)

On Saturday, shocked by events of the day before, but still determined, an estimated 200,000 gathered for the main march. Some NGOs, such as Oxfam and other UK charities, decided not to go ahead with the planned Drop the Debt action. Within hours, as the demo moved along the coast towards the final rally point at Piazza G Ferraris, the police took over. Numerous teargas attacks, arrests, baton and tank charges ensued throughout the day. Police seemed to be pursuing a tactic of splitting the huge demo into smaller groups to charge, contain or arrest protesters. Riots persisted throughout the afternoon and evening as cars and buildings were set alight. Police and mainstream media put the blame for all the trouble on Black Block protesters, but there are doubts as to how much the level of violence was inflamed by police agent provocateurs (see backpage articles).

Then, just after midnight, the horrific police raid on the IMC and GSF buildings took place. Witnesses describe scenes of bloodshed, brutality and terror, of the sort associated with military states rather than Western 'democratic' nations. Predictably, much of the mainstream media reported this incident as a legitimate raid of an anarchist base, a search for weapons (which have, miraculously, appeared) and riot ringleaders (who have been charged, anyone's guess what for). Mark Covell, now in hospital with head wounds, broken ribs and a collapsed lung, was branded "the mastermind of the bloody Genoa riots" by the Daily Mail.

Solidarity demonstrations against police violence have since taken place in Amsterdam, Athens, Barcelona, Buenos Aires, Edinburgh, Istanbul, London, Los Angeles, Manchester, Melbourne, Montreal, New York, Philadelphia, Salzburg, Stockholm, San Francisco, Montreal, Washington DC, Germany, Italy, and the US. As the unaccountable and unelected leaders of the G8 Summit stay determined to meet again, protesters across the globe are still determined to stand up to them and to the prevailing world order.

## Immigration protests in Campsfield

On Saturday, about 200 people including a samba band marched through Oxford, since it was impossible to approach Campsfield, demanding immigration rights and the closure of the detention centre. The actions continue, over this weekend, and also at the monthly protests of the longstanding Campaign to Close Campsfield. Check out background interviews about the noborder camp and the Detention Centre.

Early on Thursday, several Wombles had bypassed police lines in a dawn action. Their protest camp, designed to coincide with immigration day at Genoa, has been evicted at 4 pm the same day; two people were arrested.

Over 500 police were in the area around Campsfield detention centre, with two helicopters circling overhead. On Wednesday, the police had closed all the pubs in the nearby town of Kidlington, and officers checked on public transport buses for "agitators". Police have also used disinformation to scare local people away from the camp, and have stolen the keys to one of the camp group's vehicles; legal action has already been initiated. Extra fences have been built around the detention centre, and around 80 of the immigrants have been dispersed to prisons all over the country. [For more information see: [www.noborder.org](http://www.noborder.org) [www.wombleaction.mrnice.net](http://www.wombleaction.mrnice.net)]

## Community uprising against the far right

For the third time in less than two months, clashes between Asian citizens and the police took place in Northern England this weekend. Again, the trouble was sparked by British Nationalist groups trying to hold a rally in an area with a large Asian community, this time in Bradford. Inevitably this was met by the strongest protests from local people.

When after a peaceful anti-Nazi demonstration police moved in to protect the few fascists around, people focused their anger on the police. Read eyewitness report on Indymedia. [For more info see: [www.noplatform.antifa.net](http://www.noplatform.antifa.net)]

## GM farm protest leads to six arrests

GM protesters organised a Carnival Against The Crop event at Sunnymead Farm, Wivenhoe, in Essex. Six people were arrested on suspicion of causing criminal damage during the 100-strong demonstration against the genetically modified crops. Eleven people were acquitted at Harwich Magistrates Court earlier this week of damaging GM maize on the same farm. [see: [www.gm-info.org.uk](http://www.gm-info.org.uk) [www.dmac.co.uk/gen.html](http://www.dmac.co.uk/gen.html) ]

## Chain of Bordercamps starts

As the chain of bordercamps started at the borders of fortress Europe, activists were busy connecting four bordercamps through the J7 borderstream on Saturday 7th July at 9pm: Tarifa (Spain), Krynky/Bialystok (Poland), Petisovci (Slovenia) and Campsfield (England) were being connected through a live video stream, an experiment to show that hope and solidarity are just as "everywhere" as the cruelty of the border regime itself.

[For more information see: [www.noborder.org/stream/](http://www.noborder.org/stream/) ]

## WTO Plan to 'Sell' Itself to American Youth

GENEVA, July 17, 2001

Ever since the disastrous "Battle of Seattle" in 1999, the World Trade Organisation has been trying to remake its image, trading in the persona of global tyrant for that of a "hip," "with it" agent of change. The group's efforts took a bizarre turn today with the unauthorised release of a memo outlining a sophisticated WTO public relations campaign intended to win the support of American youth.

The memo, leaked to the Swiss newspaper, Le Matin, was prepared by the American marketing firm Y Not, Inc., which specialises in advertising campaigns aimed at 12 to 19-year-olds. Entitled "Positive Anarchy," the document lays out a detailed plan for selling the WTO brand to American youth through merchandising, product placement and so-called guerrilla marketing.

[For more info see: [www.alternet.org/story.html?StoryID=11172](http://www.alternet.org/story.html?StoryID=11172)]

## Chiapas - Indigenous Rights Bill rejected

CHIAPAS, MEXICO

On June 28th, the Chiapas state legislature voted against the Indigenous Rights Bill passed by the Federal Congress (passed by both chambers on May 25 and 28, respectively). The Chiapas state legislature result was a landmark decision in a process that currently has 13 states approving the bill and 9 voting against it. Scores of human rights organisations, indigenous peoples and the Zapatistas have all rejected the watered down version of the COCOPA bill that was passed by the Congress of the Union. These groups considered the gutted bill to be a "counter-reform" and a breaking point of the Chiapas peace process.

[For more info see: [www.chiapas.indymedia.org](http://www.chiapas.indymedia.org)]

### YOUR LOCAL VOICE

How to publish your own reports on the Indymedia UK Website:

## offline

THE INDYMEDIA NEWS SHEET

Offline is a monthly publication bringing the highlights of the IndyMedia website news back onto the streets. IndyMedia is a global network of news websites that encourage the public to report their own stories to the world uncensored. Aiming to providing background stories the corporate media continuously ignores. We would encourage you to photocopy this and spread it far and wide. For more info and latest copies download a PDF from the site or send an SAE to: PO Box 587, London, SW2 4HA, UK

Step One: All you need do to start is hit the 'PUBLISH' link on the front page of the site ([www.indymedia.org.uk](http://www.indymedia.org.uk)).

Step Two: Follow the instructions on the Publish page (they're easy to follow) - you have to enter some information about the report you are uploading - a Title for your report and your name, which can be anything you like. There are also other spaces on the form for your email and telephone number etc, but you don't have to fill them in.

Step Three: You then just need to select what it is you want to publish on the site.

Text: If you are submitting a text report then simply type straight into the part of the form called 'Text Stories - the article', and then hit the 'Publish' button at the bottom of the form - That's it! Your report will now be added to the website.

Photographs: If you are submitting a photograph you need to select the picture from your hard drive using the 'Browse' button in the 'Multimedia Stories' box, then select from the drop down menu what type of picture it is (either jpeg/jpg image or gif), and then hit the 'Publish' button at the bottom of the form - That's it! Your picture will now be added to the website.

Audio / Video: If you are submitting either an audio or video file select it from your hard drive using the 'Browse' button in the 'Multimedia Stories' box, then select from the drop down menu what type of file it is (either mp3 or realaudio for audio files, or realvideo for video), hit the 'Publish' button at the bottom of the form - That's it! your sound or video clip will now be added to the website.

It really is that easy! There are some guidelines covering what type of reports should be uploaded on the publish column, where to post announcements, current debates and a mission statement in the making.

# Better than nothing?

Thousands of activists came to Bonn, to put pressure on the delegates at the UN Climate Conference to rethink their direction.

The original reductions, initially agreed at Kyoto (5.2% on 1990 levels, to be delivered by by 2010) will not be achieved. Reductions will be closer to 1.8%, possibly less when all the proposed "loopholes" are taken into account. (The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change say that CO<sub>2</sub> reductions of at least 60%, and more like 90%, are necessary to prevent further planetary damage).

Because of these concerns, many NGO's and some delegates were not happy with the proposed treaty but they knew that they had to accept the proposals or risk getting nothing at all.

The Bonn agreement saves the Kyoto protocol from total collapse it will hopefully provide a framework for future reductions in Greenhouse gases. The EU's chief negotiator, Olivier Deleuze, said: "I prefer an imperfect agreement that is living than an imperfect agreement that doesn't exist."

However, as Kate Hampton, climate campaigner of Friends of the Earth International, said: "The Kyoto Protocol is still alive. That in itself is a triumph for citizens all over the world who have campaigned so hard for governments to act to tackle dangerous climate change. But the price of success has been high. The protocol has been heavily diluted. Its effect on the climate has been massively eroded. We warn the world's governments: this is only a small step forward. You have a very long way to go."

Thousands of activists came to Bonn, to put pressure on the delegates at the UN Climate Conference.

Demonstrations, activist initiatives, and many



environmental and social solidarity events were held during the course of the talks.

Streets actions at the talks were dramatically turned into a road blockade by activists from the Rising Tide Network and other groups.

Demanding that their twelve-point manifesto be read out in the COP 6.5 conference halls, over 100 activists from the 500 strong parade locked arms around a central ring of people chained together for what turned into a four-hour blockade of a main street in Bonn.

Whilst some police used excessive force against blockaders and IMC, in general the situation was very calm and focussed. The people blockading the street were strong and determined at all times, with a jubilant crowd of dancing activists and a samba band supporting them on the other side of the police line. Members of the world's press, cameras wrapped against the rain reported from close quarters throughout the tense afternoon, resulting in regional, national and international media coverage.

The activists called on environmental NGOs to return to a position of environmental integrity, walk out of the climate talks, and join the people on the

streets. Whilst most NGOs did not respond, Friends of the Earth offered some support and worked to persuade the UN to contact the police to ask that the protesters not be arrested.

Reports are that NGOs mistakenly took the protesters demands to be an outright rejection of the Kyoto Protocol and feared connection with such a critical voice. However, this was a misreading of the protesters demands, since the variety of critical groups and individuals taking part in the blockade included a diversity of views on the future of the Kyoto Protocol and to what extent the protocol is a first step in the right or the wrong direction. The demands were decided by consensus during meetings in the first days of COP6.5 and the 12 principles are the exact points on which the protesters agreed (see below).

Activists persuaded the UN to enter into dialogue and there were intense discussions for several hours to realise the right of the demonstrators to have their voices heard in the climate talks. Only days earlier Jan Pronk, the president of the climate talks, had told the Dutch bike tour that he wanted to "listen to people" and have information and updates from "the outside" whilst he was "locked in the conference for 2 weeks".

However, Pronk and the UN failed to deliver on their public commitment to freedom of speech and democratic decision-making. Over a period of nearly an hour the police forcibly removed and detained 123 people to stop the blockade and allow the city traffic to resume 'business as usual'.

This was the largest direct action at the climate talks since COP1 in Berlin 1995.

## "Principles for an effective and equitable protocol" - Demands from street blockade

In 1997 governments of the world agreed on an international treaty that aimed to reduce emissions and prevent climate change from destroying people and the environment. Despite being symbolic, the treaty, called the Kyoto Protocol was a start. Now 4 years later, the treaty remains unratified by any 'developed' country; and the US government has chosen to reject even the basic reforms included within the treaty. The future of the world hangs in the balance as big business and the neo-liberal world elite attempt to ensure a right for climate trade. We are calling on the people of the world to support the implementation of a new environmentally focussed treaty, based on the following crucial principals.

### 1. Valuing the environment in its own right.

Carbon trading perpetuates the psychosis that money is the only thing that people value. The environment is not for sale. Trading in pollution is not a solution.

### 2. The atmosphere as a global commons.

The Kyoto protocol, if implemented, will essentially see the introduction of a new form of colonialism, since the commodification of carbon facilitates the appropriation of the global commons, the atmosphere, by private and public corporations. Future generations and indigenous peoples, both effectively ignored by the Kyoto Protocol and the UN process, have a stake in the

atmosphere and we have no right to privatise it.

### 3. Repayment of the ecological debt of the North to the South.

Ecological debt is caused by the extraction, use and degradation of southern resources such as petroleum, minerals, forest, marine and genetic resources. This is all for the development of export goods within an unequal terms of trade - typically to pay back the third world debt. There is a responsibility and obligation of industrialised countries of the North to repair and stop the damage caused to the biosphere and countries of the world and to pay back.

### 4. The prevention of cultural genocide.

Culturally rich communities, typically those that are economically poor, lack the financial and therefore the political weight to adapt and protect themselves from climate change. These communities are not only vulnerable to climate change but to the imposition of monocultures which work against cultural diversity and environmental sustainability. Ironically monocultures can also be imposed by sustainable development aid and adaptation funds.

### 5. Restructuring global financial institutions.

Globalisation has exhausted the environmental and social wealth of the planet. The neo-liberal world order is built on the colonial theft and appropriation of land, people and culture. There is no such thing as a market based solution to a

market based problem. 'Free' trade will not provide a solution to the climate crisis.

### 6. Rights of environmental refugees.

Climate Change is a classic example of the industrialised countries causing displacement of people and therefore the responsibility of these industrialised countries to ensure the safety and dignity of these people.

### 7. Immediate use and introduction of available renewable energy.

A moratorium on bilateral and multilateral loans, export credit and on national credits and subsidies for hydrocarbon extraction projects and for fossil fuel energy generation projects. These subsidies should be reallocated to clean and low impact renewable energies, i.e. nuclear energy is excluded. Shift taxation from low-income labour to the non-renewable energy industries.

### 8. Abolition of carbon sinks.

Sinks in the CDM would constitute a worldwide strategy for expropriating indigenous lands and territories and violating fundamental rights that would culminate in a new form of colonialism. Sinks in the CDM would not help to reduce Green house gas emissions, rather it would provide industrialised countries with a ploy to avoid reducing their emissions at source.

### 9. A commitment to a 60-90% reduction in carbon emissions immediately.

It is estimated that in order to stabilise carbon

dioxide at a safe level it will require a 60 to 80 percent cut in carbon emissions from 1990 levels. This can be achieved by adopting all of the principals laid out in this declaration.

### 10. An end to fossil fuel exploration.

Oil, gas and coal are the main sources of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, despite this the supply of oil on the market continues to rise as a result of new reserves. The new oil reserves are mainly located in countries with large areas of natural forest and in deep seas. The extraction of oil in these cases has a double impact on climate change. Oil companies to be declared responsible for the impacts of globalisation based on fossil fuels, leading the process at every level, including production, distribution, processing and commercialisation of fossil fuels.

### 11. Effective public education campaigns

that allow people to take initiatives within their own lives to reduce their personal impact on the environment and enhance their enjoyment of life.

### 12. To protect and promote ecologically sustainable communities and practices and to learn practices from campesino and indigenous communities that ensure the preservation of both agricultural and wild diversity.

[For more info: <http://www.risingtide.de> & [www.risingtide.org.uk](http://www.risingtide.org.uk) [www.stopesso.com/](http://www.stopesso.com/) [www.climate.indymedia.org](http://www.climate.indymedia.org) [www.pbamoco.org.uk](http://www.pbamoco.org.uk) ]

# Whats all this about the 'Black Block'

Reports on Genoa focused on Black Block, linking this tactic to mindless destruction and splits in the movement. An eyewitness responds:

The common march of around 300 Black Block people conceals an important difference between the various groups that took part in the demo - a different political objective which eventually helped to split the group. The majority of Black Block people supported property damage only when it happened against important symbols of capitalism (such as banks) or against international corporations with a history of human rights abuses. For example, they smashed a window of a Lufthansa office and wrote, "Stop deportation" next to it - Lufthansa fly refugees back to countries where they are tortured and often killed. This part of the Black Block is strictly against damaging small shops or cars.

However, a minority of other Black Block people started to attack cars, shops and other property, mostly out of frustration at the difficulties of getting near the Red Zone. The first Black Block group did not appreciate this, tried to stop some of the destruction and eventually moved away. Similarly, another Black Block demo later on split up when the majority of Black Block activists no longer wanted to demonstrate together with some people who damaged anything, and not just specific targets.

When talking about the "Black Block", it is

important to define which Black Block we mean. The majority of Black Block demonstrators target specific property but do not engage in random destruction. Certainly, the vast majority of Black Block demonstrators are NOT infiltrators!

But, rumours of police infiltration abound...The Genoa Social Forum (GSF), in a press release on Saturday 21 July, says that the Italian state deployed foreign plainclothes policemen, some dressed in black with masks, speaking foreign languages and seen - on video - to be co-demonstrators with Carabinieri.

GSF, the broad coalition group co-ordinating the G8 protests, says that police did nothing to hinder those dressed in black who roamed freely as they destroyed property, until those in black ran into isolated, non-aggressive protest groups, when the police took the opportunity to maul indiscriminately.

The picture that emerges, in the view of GSF, is one of a plan on the part of the state to disrupt the days of action, using a combination of indiscriminate violence, provocation, and counter-provocation, to create an upward spiral of confrontation.

A spokesperson for the 'White overalls' in Italy said "We should not criminalise the Black Bloc or accuse anarchists, for what happened in Genoa,

this has very little to do with their tactics, and there is ever more evidence that the top trashers were cops in disguise. I was in Genoa... and I say: do not go hunting anarchists, do not criminalise the international Black Bloc. It is our duty to draw distinctions between the Black Bloc and what happened in Genoa."

Other evidence? Theresa Mattei, a member of the Constituent Assembly of Italy after the 2nd World War and a very respected elderly lady, said that the behaviour of the vandals reminded her of fascist professional destruction groups that the Italian state has historically deployed to disrupt and divide movements of mass protest. She gave examples such as the professionally trained way in which some broke the windows of banks.

An Indymedia reporter recognised undercover police within the crowd on Saturday, during the mass march. They were wearing black clothes, one had a mask, and the other had a helmet. She saw one of these two fire a gas canister directly into the middle of the crowd from a short-range, hand-held pistol.

Documentary footage of the Genoa protest by prominent Italian filmmaker, Gillo Pontecorvo, shows two men dressed in Palestinian scarves and anarchy T-shirts and carrying baseball bats, talking to and directing police lines.



## Legal battles go on over Carlo's death

Notice from the Genoa Social Forum (GSF) lawyers, Saturday 21 July The Italian Government is concerned to reduce the responsibility of the carabinieri who shot Carlo Giuliani, speaking about "legitimate defence." That argument is completely unfounded.

Even if it turned out that the police vehicle had been hit by demonstrators, it is sure that none of these demonstrators was armed. According to the Italian criminal code, defence is only legitimate when proportional to the gravity of the endured offense. In this case, the police officer could have defended himself easily by simply shooting in the air, or even aiming at the earth. His choice to shoot Carlo Giuliani point blank in the face was unjustified considering the danger in which the police officer was found. It is therefore completely beyond legal limits, not only of legitimate defence but also of culpable homicide and

of any attenuating circumstances provided by law. For elementary reasons of justice, it seems clear that the preliminary imputation that the prime minister will have to form regarding the shooter is one of voluntary homicide, for having consciously caused the death of Carlo Giuliani.

Notice from the GSF medical staff, Saturday 21 July. The emergency medical team of the GSF thinks it necessary to signal that the number of hurt protesters from July 20th is greater than the number indicated by the hospitals. In fact we have brought medical assistance to tens of protesters who have been brutally hit by the police. We want to signal, moreover, that two of our medical colleagues, one of whom was declaring himself a medic of the GSF have been hit heavily by policemen, and were forced to run back to the hospitals for treatment themselves.

