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## Quebec City protesters still in jail

by Orlando, IMC print team

After 17 days in Orsainville prison, Jaggi Singh, famous for being kidnapped for no apparent reason, has been released on \$3,000 bail. Judge Laurent Dubé forbade Jaggi to organize any demonstrations or carry a megaphone, conditions which Jaggi is considering appealing. Jaggi's trial is set for June 4.

Jaggi was not the last FTAA protester remaining in jail. To this day 6 people are still incarcerated in Orsainville prison, including Fredericton resident Vaughn Barnett. He was arrested after crossing the security fence on the last day of the summit. Vaughn could have posted bail, but he argues that his arrest was illegal and that he was being coerced to sign a recognizance. He is staying in jail in protest of the lack of due process.

The other 5 prisoners are members of the Germinal group who were arrested on their way to Quebec City. Reports in the corporate media state that police claim they found stun grenades, highway flares, slingshots, smoke bombs, and other items (that weren't identified). Police further assert that the group planned to tear the wall down.

Police had infiltrated the group in the months leading up to the event in an elaborate undercover operation. Seven members in total were arrested, but only five remain in jail.

For more information about political prisoners in Quebec City visit <http://www.quebeclegal.org/>

# Zapatistas in Mexico demand justice

from the IMC Chiapas newswire

Mexico. April 29, 2001. To the People of Mexico; To the Peoples and Governments of the World; Brothers and Sisters:

The EZLN ["ELZN" is the Spanish acronym for "Zapatista Army of National Liberation"] has learned of the constitutional reform on indigenous rights and culture which was recently approved by the Congress of the Union. This is our position:

**First:** The constitutional reform approved in the Congress of the Union in no way answers to the demands of the Indian peoples of Mexico, of the National Indigenous Congress, of the EZLN, nor of national and international civil society.

**Second:** Said reform betrays the San Andrés Accords in general, and the so-called "Cocopa legislative proposal" in particular, in substantive points: autonomy and free determination, the Indian peoples as the subjects of public right, lands and territories, the use and enjoyment of natural resources, the election of municipal authorities and the right to regional association, among others.

**Third:** The reform only serves to block the exercise of indigenous rights, and it represents a serious offence to the Indian peoples, to national and international civil society and to public opinion, since it disregards the mobilization and the unprecedented consensus which the indigenous struggle achieved at that time.

**Fourth:** Señor Fox hailed the current reform, knowing that it is not even remotely similar to the one he represented as his own. This proves that Fox only pretended to embrace the "Cocopa proposal," while negotiating a reform with hard-line groups in Congress which does not recognize indigenous rights.

**Fifth:** With these reforms, federal legislators and the Fox government are closing the door on dialogue and peace, since they are preventing a resolution of one of the causes which led to the zapatista uprising. They give a *raison d'être* to various armed groups in Mexico, by invalidating a process of dialogue and negotiation. They shirk the historic commitment to settling a



(photo from Chiapas IMC)

debt which Mexico has been dragging along in its almost two hundred years of sovereign and independent life. And it is an attempt to divide the national indigenous movement by handing over a federal legislative obligation to state congresses.

**Sixth:** The EZLN formally refuses to recognize this constitutional reform on indigenous rights and culture. It does not embrace the spirit of the San Andrés Accords. It does not respect the "Cocopa legislative proposal." It completely ignores the national and international

demand for the recognition of indigenous rights and culture. It sabotages the incipient process of rapprochement between the federal government and the EZLN. It betrays the hopes for a negotiated solution for the war in Chiapas. And it reveals the absolute alienation of the political class regarding popular demands.

**Seventh:** Consequently, the EZLN communicates the following: A) That it has indicated to architect Fernandez Yáñez Muñoz that he completely suspend his work as liaison

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## Twenty-two dead in deathfasts in Turkish prisons

Adapted from IMC Belgium

Twenty-two prisoners in Turkish prisons have fasted themselves to death during a hunger strike that has gone on for seven months. Thousands of people are currently incarcerated in Turkey for political reasons; in many cases, because of their support for the Kurdish minority within the country, which the government has been attempting to eradicate.

Prisoners in Turkey are tortured regularly, and have in some cases been burned alive. 282 prisoners originally began the current hunger strike to protest conditions in the new "F-type" prisons, which place people in solitary confinement.

Among those in F-type prisons are journalists who wrote only a single article, students who hung posters, and senior citizens who provided food to Kurdish political activists.

## Ohio Valley IMC served subpoena

by Global IMC

On May 8, the owner of the Ohio Valley IMC domain (ovimc.org) was served with a subpoena directing him to appear before an Ohio grand jury this Friday, and to hand over server log information related to a particular article posted to their open-publishing newswire. This development comes as the Seattle IMC remains burdened with an FBI court order seeking the surrender of server logs, also in relation to newswire postings.

Unlike the court order served to the Seattle IMC, the Ohio Valley subpoena was not issued under seal, and the server log request applied to a single post rather than two days of website traffic.

The posting in question at the Ohio Valley IMC includes what might be interpreted as an implied threat to Cincinnati Police Officer Steve Roach. On May 7, Officer Roach was indicted by a Hamilton County, Ohio grand jury on misdemeanor counts of Negligent Homicide and Obstructing Official Business for his role in the April 7 shooting of Timothy Thomas. If convicted on both counts,

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## Ohio Valley IMC served subpoena

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Roach faces a maximum of nine months in jail. The Thomas shooting, the latest in a string of Cincinnati police shootings of young black men, sparked a wave of protests in the city. The grand jury's decision is widely seen as a mere slap on the wrist, and has provoked further protests. The owner of the ovimc.org is currently in consultation with lawyers and activists who have been dealing with the recent federal request for logs from the Seattle IMC site.

According to a post at the Ohio Valley IMC, the request is for naught, as the "custom written software [for the site] doesn't keep IP logs, or ANY tracking information for that matter".

# NAFTA: Mexico forced to pay \$16.7 million to U.S. polluter

*compiled from various IMC stories*

In early May a British Columbia (Canada) court ordered Mexico to pay damages to Metalclad, a U.S.-based waste disposal company.

In the early 1990s, Metalclad reopened a waste-management site in Guadalucazar County, Mexico, which had once been shut down while under different ownership.

The governor of the state of San Luis Potosi blocked the reopening after public protest and a geological audit which showed the facility would contaminate the local water supply. The site was

then declared part of a 600,000-acre ecological zone.

Metalclad used NAFTA's "Chapter 11" to argue that Mexico had "expropriated" its investment.

In August 2000, in Washington, a three-person panel awarded Metalclad \$16.7 million. This was the first ruling in an investor-to-state lawsuit under NAFTA.

Mexico appealed and the trial was heard before the British Columbia Supreme Court this spring. In mid-February 2001, the Vancouver IMC made news when they filed notice of their intention to apply to the B.C. Supreme Court to videotape the trial.

Extensive footage of the trial can now be found on the Vancouver IMC site.

The final ruling was in favor of Metalclad; however, the conclusion did state "that the Tribunal made decisions on matters beyond the scope of the submission to arbitration."

Metalclad's chief financial officer, Anthony Dabbene commented, "Mexico won in that Chapter 11 can't hurt them as much anymore. . . . Our case has shown it is almost frivolous to pursue your rights."

Metalclad vs Mexico is only one of a number of "Chapter 11" cases. In 1997, U.S. company Ethyl Corporation used Chapter 11 to sue Canada for banning a gasoline additive called MMT. The original amount was US\$250 million, but Canada agreed to withdraw the ban and pay US\$13 million in damages. MMT is still legal in Canada.

Many are concerned that the FTAA will contain something similar to Chapter 11.

## Protests planned against financial meetings in Washington, DC

*by Sascha Meinrath, Urbana-Champaign IMC*

The 50 Years Is Enough Network ([www.50years.org](http://www.50years.org)) has recently put out a call for activists to mark their calendars: September 28 - October 4. Over this long weekend the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank will be holding their Joint Annual General Meeting. The 50 Years is Enough Network press release asks "activists from all over the world to come to Washington during that week to protest and expose the illegitimacy of the institutions and officials who continue to claim the right to determine the course of the world economy."

The spring meeting of the IMF and World Bank drew an estimated 30,000 activists and a few hundred IMF and World Bank officials attended. The fall meeting, on the other hand, may bring many more protestors and as many as 20,000 bankers and bureaucrats are expected to participate.

The mainstream media will probably eagerly report the protests surrounding the meeting. However, the informational tours that are currently being organized and the general educational efforts

of the 50 Years Is Enough Network and other groups will most likely be ignored by the corporate press. One explicit goal of anti-IMF/World Bank activists is to educate citizens about the detrimental aspects of IMF and World Bank policies.

The 50 Years Is Enough Network plans 'teach-in tours' "featuring colleagues from the Global South who will share their experiences and struggles of resistance to corporate-led globalization, the international debt burden, structural adjustment programs, the HIV/AIDS crisis, economic and political oppression, [and] their organizing efforts." The main goal of the protests is to demonstrate that "the movement for global justice continues to grow, and will not stand for continuing efforts by these institutions and the G-7 governments to structure the world for the benefit of corporations and the wealthy and to deny basic justice to the majority of the world's people."

*For more information contact the 50 Years is Enough Network. E-mail: [wb50years@igc.org](mailto:wb50years@igc.org); telephone: +1-202-463-2265; website: [www.50years.org](http://www.50years.org).*

## Zapatistas in Mexico

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between the EZLN and the federal government. There will be no more contact between the Fox government and the EZLN. B) That the EZLN will not take back up the path of dialogue with the federal government until indigenous rights and culture are constitutionally recognized in accord with the so-called "Cocopa legislative proposal." C) That the zapatistas continue in resistance and in rebellion.

**Eighth:** We are calling on national and international civil society to organize, and, with mobilizations in Mexico and in the world, along with the EZLN, demand that the Mexican government turn back from the legislative mockery, and fulfill the constitutional recognition of indigenous rights and culture.

**Ninth:** We are making a special call to the brothers and sisters of the National Indigenous Congress to organize and to keep up forms of civil resistance throughout the national lands. Democracy! Liberty! Justice! From the mountains of the Mexican Southeast. [By the *Clandestine Revolutionary Indigenous Committee - General Command of the Zapatista Army of National Liberation. Subcomandante Insurgente Marcos. Mexico, April of 2001*]

### About Indymedia

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