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## “Virtual sit-in” against U.S. Navy a success

From Free Speech TV

The Virtual Sit-in for Vieques declared victory on June 13 after nearly 1,300 people worldwide participated in an electronic civil disobedience action targeted at the US Navy's website. The action was in protest against the Navy's preparation for continued bombing exercises on the island of Vieques, Puerto Rico.

The electronic action worked by automatically filling out the Navy's online enlistment form ([http://www.navy.com/join\\_now.jsp](http://www.navy.com/join_now.jsp)) with a protest message in place of the name, address, and other information fields.

Around 6pm a Navy web administrator called organizers with a plea for an end to the action, exclaiming “You've flooded the enlistment database with thousands of messages and now our servers are slowing down; you've got to stop it.” Organizers called a stop to the action, which was not intended to slow Navy servers but rather to flood the recruitment database with protest messages, and declared victory.

The action was organized with support from the Electronic Disturbance Theater and the Comité Pro Rescate y Desarrollo de Vieques. The purpose of the site, as posted online during the action:

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# Anti-Bush protesters shot in Sweden

Compiled from reports at  
IMC Sweden

(Gothenburg, Sweden)–The Swedish national and local government had promised to rely more on dialogue than sheer force during the Anti-European Union (EU) protests that were planned for U.S. President George Bush's visit to this city. However, the promise was blatantly broken when police laid siege on a school on Thursday, 14 June, where demonstrators were legally living.

The police used dogs to attack the occupants, who responded by throwing stones and building barricades while trying to escape without having their luggage or clothes to be searched.

Friday morning, while the arrested demonstrators were gradually being interrogated and

released, there was a pre-planned break-in action getting underway at the Conference Center.

Still angry from the previous day's events, and now even more angry that the police were blocking a legal march, the demonstrators began to chant against the police and peacefully tried to inch their way forward.

Many people can recount how the conflicts continued throughout the day; police hit journalists, dogs turned on their police masters, and police threw stones back at the demonstrators. The afternoon's big “No to the EU” demonstration went peacefully but a large amount of freight containers were being placed around downtown during the day.

Then, around 8:00p.m. on

Friday evening, Reclaim The City started their street party. The mood was festive as people listened to music and danced. It is, however, not legal to dance in the streets and the police closed in with riot gear and dogs.

After a period of fighting between police and the Reclaimers, a small group of the 50 police in riot gear entered the area. The police stated they were going to “clean up” the area. Even the media were sent away.

Some people in the crowd became outraged and threw themselves upon the police, beating them and then chasing them.

The police ran away but found themselves cornered. As the people surrounded them, the police started shooting with live ammunition. Three activists were shot and one policeman was

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## Disturbances in detention centres ignite concerns over human rights in Australia

Adapted from IMC Adelaide, Australia

Rioting, a break-out and self-mutilations are bringing the world's attention to Australia's immigration policies.

The last two Australian governments have embarked upon harsh policies against illegal immigrants, including compulsory detention. The detention camps are run by Australasian Corrections Management [ACM], a subsidiary of America's notorious Wackenhut Corrections Corporation. Long running disturbances in the camps are blamed on a small group of trouble-makers by Immigration Department officials. Critics of the Department believe it is an appalling lack of services, understaffing and the inhumane treatment of legitimate asylum seekers as criminals that is fuelling the unrest.

Seven detainees have escaped into the central Australian desert. In the last week riots have broken out in the Woomera detention centre in northern South Australia, during which one detainee sewed his lips together in an attempt to illustrate the denial of democratic rights in the camps.

Detainees have also successfully disrupted a media circus ACM attempted to hold at the

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Photo by Redkitten

### “The Earth asks U.S.A. to change president”

On June 12, more than 2000 people protested against the visit of George W. “Baby” Bush to Brussels, Belgium. Bush is being met with active dissent on every stop of his European tour.

## Dutch passengers demonstrate against railway privatization

*From IMC Belgium*

On Saturday, 9 June, many demonstrators gathered in the big main hall of Utrecht Central Station, the biggest railway hub of The Netherlands. They had come to protest against the privatization process of the Dutch railways. Privatization would bring decreased workers' rights, higher fares and less safety for passengers. Already, management used privatization as an excuse to vote themselves a pay raise; they now make three times as much as a government minister.

The demonstrators were diverse: a blond female conductor was next to an African immigrant passenger; toddlers in their parents' perambulators were alongside students and pensioners.

Led by a samba band including Brazilians living in The Netherlands, the demonstrators marched through the station to the city center, wearing banners proclaiming worker-passenger solidarity, and shouting: "The railways are not for sale!" Hundreds of demonstrators entered the railway directors' building.

A spokesman demanded to see Mr Huisinga, the CEO. The commissioner said he was not in. The passengers' spokesman was surprised since

the new regulations of the railways—widely predicted to cause chaos—were due to start the next day.

The demonstrators then glued a giant one-way ticket to Warsaw [Poland] to the commissioner's wall, to represent how the management is using railway funds to buy assets in Poland, to the neglect of public transport in The Netherlands.

As the demonstrators left to continue the march, some pies were thrown against the directors' building; as in slapstick movies, pie-ing exposes foolishness among the high and mighty.

After continuing to march through the city center, the demonstrators went to De Kargadoor hall. There, trade unionists, historians, and MPs spoke. A Zambian labour activist made a declaration of solidarity. Debaters from the floor emphasized the need to strengthen local actions everywhere.

Starting on Monday, 11 June, the railway workers will execute "work to rule" actions to protest the anti-labor, anti-passenger "reforms" imposed by the management. Also, the Passengers' Collective will support the workers' actions, forming locally active groups everywhere.

## "Virtual Sit-in"

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"Why a Virtual Sit-In? To support the demand that the US Navy cease their wargames and leave Vieques in peace. To add our virtual bodies to the presence of the physical bodies of Puertorican activists who will occupy the bombing ranges of la Isla Nena. To attract media attention by engaging in a new form of protest action. To send a message to the United States government that we will not be silenced until the people of Vieques can live without the sound of jets screaming overhead, without the destruction of their beaches and coral reefs, without the high cancer rates caused by depleted uranium found in bullets and shell casings, without the 'accidental' deaths of civilians. To add our voices to the cry 'Deja Vieques en Paz! Ni Una Mas! [Leave Vieques in peace! Not one more Bomb!]"

*The Virtual Sit-in site:*  
[www.freespeech.org/provieques](http://www.freespeech.org/provieques)

*Vieques Libre:*  
[www.viequeslibre.org](http://www.viequeslibre.org)

## Australia

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Curtin Detention centre. On top of this, seven Middle Eastern detainees have escaped from the Woomera camp after rains loosened soil underneath the perimeter fence.

Australia has long prided itself on its human rights record, yet this record has been placed in jeopardy. In the last twelve months teargas and water cannons have been employed against detainees, multiple hunger-strikes have been undertaken and a mass break-out saw over 150 detainees enter the Woomera township. Ex-ACM employees and detainees have also brought allegations of sexual abuse and violence against the camps.

*For more information, visit:*  
[adelaide.indymedia.org.au](http://adelaide.indymedia.org.au)

## Sweden

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badly injured from a stone thrown at his head. One of the activists was shot through his stomach and his condition, though still critical, has stabilized.

Late at night the following day, a group of police—including the National Special Force (similar to a U.S. SWAT team)—raided one of the schools being used by activists for lodging and events. A policeman with an automatic weapon forced observing journalists to depart.

People inside were forced to lie on the cold, wet ground outside the school. The excuse given for the raid is that the police were searching for a "German bearing a weapon."

Considering that the mainstream media has frivolously referred to the previous day's demonstrators as "terrorists", one can imagine the sort of attitude with which the police entered the school.

Everyone here in Sweden is shocked by all these incidents since police using live ammunition to shoot at demonstrators has not happened here since 1931.

*For updates, visit:*  
[sweden.indymedia.org](http://sweden.indymedia.org)

### About Indymedia

The Independent Media Center (IMC) is a collective of independent media organizations and hundreds of journalists offering grassroots, non-corporate coverage of events and issues around the world. The IMC started in the fall of 1999, during the anti-WTO protests in Seattle, and has since grown into a global network of fifty regional centers. Anyone can post text, photos, audio and video to most IMC websites. "Every Reader is a Reporter." Visit [www.indymedia.org](http://www.indymedia.org) to learn more about participating. This document contains only a small fraction of the content that appeared on IMC sites during the last week. The articles here were gathered and edited by the IMC Print Team, which does not claim to represent the IMC network as a whole. For questions and comments, or to join, visit [print.indymedia.org](http://print.indymedia.org), or write to [imc-print@indymedia.org](mailto:imc-print@indymedia.org).

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### U.S. Government drops court order against IMC

On June 13, the U.S. Government withdrew a court order directing the Independent Media Center in Seattle to hand over computer server logs. FBI and Secret Service agents had claimed they needed the logs for an investigation related to sensitive documents which had been stolen from Canadian police and then posted to the IMC website by an anonymous journalist.

The IMC did not comply with the order, which would have involved handing over the individual internet protocol (IP) addresses of over 1.25 million journalists, readers and technical volunteers who accessed the IMC website on April 20 and 21. According to IMC counsel Lee Tien of the Electronic Frontier Foundation, "This kind of fishing expedition is another in a long line of overbroad and onerous attempts to chill political speech and activism."

IMC volunteers speculate that government lawyers realized the order would likely be struck down on constitutional grounds, and decided to retreat rather than risk a court defeat.

*For more information, visit [www.indymedia.org/fbi](http://www.indymedia.org/fbi)*