



30 Journalists Shot in Israel in 9 Months

adapted from Reporters Sans Frontières

Since 29 September 2000, Reporters Sans Frontières (RSF) has recorded thirty journalists shot in the Occupied Territories. With one exception, there is little doubt that the gunshots were fired from Israeli positions.

"It is certainly lucky that none of the many journalists covering this conflict have been killed to date," said Robert Manard, RSF secretary-general. "Israeli authorities must immediately launch transparent and impartial investigations into each of these incidents and make the results public," he insisted, adding that Israeli Armed Forces should also introduce emergency measures to guarantee the safety of journalists in the conflict zone.

Wounded French journalists worked for Magnum, Agence France-Presse, Paris-Match, Liberation, the Associated Press, Gamma, and French TV TF1 in Jerusalem. Though it is impossible to confirm that all were deliberately targeted, cameramen and photographers were clearly identifiable by Israeli forces. This invalidates the authorities' explanation that journalists expose themselves to gunshots by mingling with demonstrators.

Many narrowly escaped death and will suffer lifelong effects. Yola Monakhov from the AP suffered a serious abdominal wound, and Gamma's Laurent

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Protecting Profit in Genoa: How Far Will the G8 Go?

by IMC Print Team

In preparation for the Genoa G8 meetings of July 20-22, and in obvious collusion with the global industrial-military complex, the Italian government suspended the basic human rights of its own citizens as well as visitors, to a degree unprecedented in "First World" recent history.

On 02 June, the government issued the Genoa Prefect Ordinance, citing a 1931 law enacted during Mussolini's regime. The Ordinance imposes a wide area surrounding G8 meeting venue Palazzo Ducale, within which will be prohibited: "public demonstrations of any kind, including the distribution of flyers," placarding, pedestrian and vehicular traffic, commercial activity, and use of public grounds. Railroads, highways, subways, ferries, and

the airport will be shut down. Jails were emptied, hospital space was cleared for temporary morgues, and 300 body bags were ordered.

Then, in what ABC News called "an extraordinary move," the Italian government suspended the Schengen Treaty which permits free travel of citizens among its European Union countries: "Every citizen of the Union shall have the right to move and reside freely within the territory of the Member States."

With the 1997 Treaty of Amsterdam, the European Union "confirm[ed] attachment to the principles of liberty, democracy and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms," and "resolved to facilitate the free movement of persons in which decisions are taken as openly as possible and

as closely as possible to the citizen"--which citizens are the very ones denied a voice in these recent decisions and whose basic human rights are negated by them.

Among rights specified in the European Convention on Human Rights, the instrument cited by the EU as the basis of its human rights agenda, are "freedom of expression ... [including] freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers"; and, "freedom of peaceful assembly and...freedom of association with others."

But the Italian government freely announced the extreme means of violence it will employ to intimidate, control, and repress its own citizenry and visitors. The now-standard arsenal of tear gas, batons, bullets, tanks (euphemistically referred to as "armored vehicles"), water cannons, and, since Quebec, the "ring of steel," are reported by the mainstream press as if normative. The other common element is riot police: a force of 10,000 Italian police officers plus thousands loaned from Britain, France, and Spain will be augmented by military troops and "elite" Folgore

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Exxon-Mobil/Esso Global Protest

from Global IMC

July 11th's "International Day of Action" against the world's largest corporation, Exxon-Mobil/Esso, focused attention on the multinational's poor environmental and human rights record. Campaigners in cities around the world protested at Exxon-Mobil/Esso headquarters, boycotted company service stations, fax-blasted company offices, dropped banners in public areas, and carried out other forms of action to highlight the company's enormous wealth (the company made \$17.7 billion in profits last year) and disproportionate, unaccount-

able power in global decision-making.

In the days leading up to important international negotiations on climate change (July 21 in Bonn, Germany) activists have chosen to attract public scrutiny to many of the company's policies and positions including:

- Exxon-Mobil/Esso publicly questions the existence of global warming and supports scientists and politicians who call climate change a myth.

- Exxon-Mobil/Esso will spend \$7.9 billion this year on

- oil and gas exploration and a miniscule amount on renewable energy; and,

- Its complicity in human rights abuses in the Aceh province of Indonesia,

- Its support of the Chad/Cameroon pipeline, and

- Its support of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

More information at Climate.indymedia.org and Germany.indymedia.org.

Genoa

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paratroopers. Divers, mini-submarines, and frogmen will monitor port waters, while the Bay of Genoa itself will be filled with warships armed with ship-to-air missiles, the minehunter Vieste, and the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Enterprise. The skies will be patrolled by helicopters and reconnaissance aircraft, the ground by Spada ground-to-air missiles, which Ministry of Defense Colonel Alberto Battaglini calls just a "little missile."

To justify itself, the government pulled out the convenient Osama bin Laden card. At least three G8 governments (US, Russia, Germany) have allegedly warned of a possible bin Laden terrorist attack.

Meanwhile, The (London) Times reports that police are taking steps to prevent demonstrators from arming themselves with beach pebbles. Some activists say, "Since they forbid us to be heard on the ground, to walk on the ground, to use our freedom of speech on the ground, we will take the air. Hot air balloons, little planes, soap bubbles...because let's say it, they are full of...air."

Mayor Giuseppe Pericu calls Genoa a "City of Dialogue." Nonetheless, Italy has already begun arresting journalists, including Pulika Calzini of the Genoa Social Forum. The Forum further reports that press access has been heavily restricted and, it is difficult to obtain the required credentials from the same Foreign Ministry whose Prime Minister Berlusconi claims he "wants dialogue with protestors."

Journalists in Israel

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Van der Stockt is still paralyzed in the leg five months later.

Few formal investigations were initiated, especially where Palestinian journalists were involved, and those few inquiries launched as a result of international pressure were not made public.

Honduran Military Report Reveals US Complicity in Disappearance

adapted from an article by Kari Lydersen

In Honduras, as in many Central American countries over the years, it is known that political activists have their security threatened by U.S.-supported repressive government forces and the paramilitary groups aligned with the government.

On June 16, the Chicago activist group La Voz de los de Abajo ("The Voice of Those Below") released an internal document from the Honduran military that confirms the existence of an interrogation center where many opposition leaders were said to have disappeared, and confirmed the U.S.'s support of this secret jail and spying operations.

The document, which is a report from Commander Angel Ricardo Luque Portillo to his superior, Commander in Chief Walter Lopez Reyes, refers to the operations of the notorious Intelligence Battalion run by General Alvarez Martinez. Martinez worked closely with John Negroponte, who was recently nominated by President George W. Bush as the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. A nomination that La Voz de los de Abajo would like to contest.

The 1984 military document lists the names of 20 "suspects" being held at the CREM (Regional Center for Military Training) detention center in Trujillo, Honduras and a secret jail with 30 cells 14 kilometers away. But the center's official purpose was to train troops, 4000 according to the document, from Honduras and El Salvador and for the Nicaraguan Contras. 160 U.S. instructors with

"competency in irregular warfare" were assigned to the center.

The detainees, all of whom were never heard from again, were captured through spying operations run by a joint U.S., Honduran and Nicaraguan task force. Microwave surveillance was used by the Honduran national phone company to spy on the victims.

To cover this situation the document demands "absolute discretion regarding the internal situation, and even more so, regarding financing by the United States of this project." It also orders that the report not be divulged to the government Superior Council, and outlines plans for preventing information leaks within the military. "Develop through PROMITEC psychological actions in the zone and among troop personnel to avoid information leaks."

It also says that, "in view of claims made by some of the leaders of organizations that are a front for the national left, the recent questioning about this center, for example, it is imperative to move the prisoners." The document was translated from Spanish by La Voz de los de Abajo.

This document was released to the Honduran media in 1998, but received little publicity. Now, by publicizing the document in the U.S., La Voz de los de Abajo are hoping to raise U.S. awareness of the complicity of the U.S. government with oppression, interrogation, murder and torture in Honduras.

English Community Uprising

adapted from IMC England

For the third time in less than two months, clashes between Asian citizens and police took place in Northern England this weekend. Again, the trouble was sparked by British "Nationalist" groups holding a rally within a large Asian community, this time in the Manningham area of Bradford. Organized by the fascist National Party, opposition was apparent two weeks in advance. The government of internal affairs forbid the rally, but the police didn't do anything to prevent it. Inevitably this was met by the strongest protest from local people in twenty years. When, after a peaceful anti-Nazi demonstration, police moved in to protect the few fascists around, people focused their anger on the police.

After all the damage was done, authorities and media blamed "violent" Asian youth, while many people in Bradford are convinced that all the trouble could have been easily prevented had police arrested the provoking National Party members.

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