G8 leaders fail to solve climate negotiations
from IMC-Climate

GENOA, ITALY - The three-day G8 summit in Genoa, Italy was finished today. World leaders conceded they were unable to resolve U.S. and European differences over global warming. The draft of the leaders' final statement says all of the Group of Eight countries "firmly agree" on the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but "there is disagreement on the Kyoto Protocol and its ratification," The Associated Press reports.

The hope that the G8 summit would offer a way out for the failing climate negotiations in Bonn has been smashed. Once again it becomes clear: present world leaders are only interested in short term economic progress.

The Kyoto pact is aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming. It was negotiated in 1997 by the U.S. and major industrialised nations, but U.S. President George W. Bush has since rejected it.

The G8 summit, which cost in itself US$ 110 million, went together with protests by a hundred thousand people from all over Europe. Police forces have been extremely brutal. Hundreds of activists were beaten into the hospital, many of them seriously injured. One man was shot in the head at close distance by a policeman, and died at the scene.

The carabinieri (police) started by pulling up about 300 meters up the road in four to five vans. They got out and started to jog down the street in riot gear. People saw them and started to enter both buildings - the main Genoa Social Forum (GSF) building where IMC-Italy is located, and the local school across the street.

The school had been a safe space for people to sleep for a few days. As the convergence center for the G8 demonstrations was quite close, many people came to get information on the counter-conference and the solidarity marches and also to use computers. Many people who slept in the school were participants from the marches.

When police entered the school, witnesses found blood on the wall, at the school.

The carabinieri, reaching the school and the GSF building started to arbitrarily beat people with their batons as they scrambled to get inside either building. The main doors were locked on the GSF building but they entered from side doors.

The IMC staff tried to calm people down as the carabinieri came in and demanded that everyone stand spread-eagle against the wall for about 30 minutes. The police wandered in and out of the rooms, looking for anything incriminating. They then moved everyone into one area and ordered them to sit.

What they found (and took) was various media (discs, tapes). They also took some salad knives from the kitchen and a couple of gas masks, and apparently the police took all available passports and wallets and diaries from people's bags on the ground.

The carabinieri tried to take one of the IMC people but another journalist with G8 accreditation stepped in, and he was left alone.

Police eventually left, but the GSF Lawyer's office was ransacked for weapons or drugs. The local media and other reports have said police were here searching for weapons or drugs, The testimonies of people in both buildings, the blood on the wall and the number seriously injured tells the true story.

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