

June 17, 2011

We, the collective members of Exile Infoshop, are writing to endorse Jaggi Singh's call for the expansion of justice and liberty in dismantling the illegitimate 'security' fence at the G20 summit held in Toronto in June 2010. The criminalisation of Jaggi's words is really a criminalisation of freedom of expression and a further attempt to incite fear in the public for voicing dissent against attacks to our democratic rights. Jaggi's arrest and charge is but one example of the state's assault on free speech which is evident in the indiscriminate mass arrests of thousands of people during the summit.

As a volunteer-run nonprofit social justice bookstore, library, event space, and small publisher, Exile Infoshop has worked in collaboration with Jaggi Singh on a number of events including bookfairs, workshops, concerts, and human rights speaker tours. We recognise Jaggi's arrest as a blatant attempt to silence people who voice their opinions. The state-sponsored repression enacted by the Toronto police at the G20 is a clear affront to the core values of a democracy where all individuals have the right to express their beliefs to promote discussion without fear of detainment or arrest. Jaggi's criminalisation represents the violence of a system which upholds rights for the rich and powerful in their expression for global austerity measures - such as those articulated at the G20 - to the detriment of the people on the streets who are directly impacted by brutal injustice of these policies.

Exile Infoshop has full knowledge of the charges facing Jaggi Singh and his decision to plead guilty to counseling to commit mischief over \$5000. We wish to express our support of Jaggi's desire to see the G20 wall fall. We wish also to express our desire to see the court uphold the right to express dissent without fear of being criminalised.

Sincerely,

The Collective of Exile Infoshop  
Ottawa, Ontario