

## **Transcript of remarks by Jaggi Singh at the G20 Security Fence during the the No One Is Illegal Press Conference, June 24, 2010, Toronto.**

The transcript below is from the following video excerpts:

i) At The G20 Fence: Jaggi Singh, No One is Illegal Montreal

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ymRoN54CCc>

ii) At the G20 Fence: Question and Answer]

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v9NnAorPigc> (start at 0:30)

### **MAIN REMARKS:**

*So, I'll just say a few quick words.*

*First of all, for me, there's this phrase that organizers use: "the action is in the organizing"; which means that it's in our other spaces, when we're doing popular education work, awareness raising, that's where we do our actions. I really commend and I'm really inspired; I feel like hugging every organizer here in Toronto for what they've accomplished already, in the midst of an unprecedented fear campaign by this billion-dollar security operation by Stephen Harper.*

*Essentially starting tomorrow and the days after, the executive board of global capitalism will be meeting here in Toronto behind these fences. They are people responsible for enormous misery and oppression, and they are people who deserve to be confronted.*

*There are people who feel like we should enter into a logic where we want to sit down with them and negotiate the terms of our own misery; or talk about how to make the cages that we're in a little bigger*

*I'm not interested in that, and groups that we're part of and the mobilizations we're part of are not interested in that. We're interested in expressing that anger, and that rage, and real hope that people have against that capitalist system.*

*This fence is more than a metaphor. There are fences like this all over the world that are responsible for essentially a global apartheid; where on one side you have the global elite. On the other side you have people who are a little more privileged who jet town. And then you have others who survive every day who have to deal with the police state.*

*What we see in Toronto is a microcosm of what we see all over the world.*

*We can fall for this logic of violence versus non-violence, or about lobbying. But, I guess I'm here today to stand with people who question the legitimacy of this fence, and support those who want to take down the fence. To take down those fences and walls that separate us. To take down those fences and walls that prevent us from attacking, and I*

*use that word, from attacking the people who are responsible for enormous misery in the world.*

*To think that you can convince the leaders of the G20 and the managers of global capitalism, who are basically going to spend three days engaged in a massive unprecedented transfer of wealth to themselves as a result of this financial crisis; to think that somehow you can convince them to be nicer is a lot like thinking you can convince a tiger to become a vegetarian.*

*I feel proud, and I feel like where my place is is with protesters who are using a variety of tactics and strategies to confront this summit. I'm glad to be here, there's no where else I'd rather be.*

*I'll turn it over to others. Thank you.*

### **QUESTION PERIOD:**

Q: Jaggi you said you were going to take down the fence, is that metaphorically or literally?

*J: I didn't say I was going to take down the fence myself. I think the fence deserves to be taken down and I hope people do organize to do so. Whether we can in the context of this police operation, and the rest of it, is something to be seen. But I do think we need to re-establish parameters of things here. This [gesturing to the fence] is completely illegitimate and deserves to be taken down. And I commend anyone that tries to do it. It's more than just one person or one group. As people have emphasized we do day-to-day organizing. We're part of that, we come from those places, and it's because we come from those places that we're so offended by this.*

Q: So who's going to try and take down the fence?

*J: You guys should. There was a journalist who threw a shoe at George Bush, and I thought that was an amazing step for journalism. It's not about protesters. I've been talking to journalists who don't like this who feel the psychological fear as well. Why does it have to be a question you ask of us? You should ask it of yourselves. We should all be doing that. There are communities in the world where this would come down. This wouldn't even be thought of. Let's make Toronto the Good something else, and do it together.*

Q: What was your name again?

*Jaggi Singh .... J-A-G-G-I S-I-N-G-H.*