

Greater Toronto Workers' Assembly

To whom it May Concern

June 18, 2011

This is a letter of support from the Greater Toronto Workers' Assembly for Jaggi Singh. Jaggi has been charged as part of a major campaign of criminalizing dissent and social justice activism, beginning in the lead up to the 2010 G-20 meeting in Toronto, and continuing since then. This has included: police surveillance and covert infiltration of social movement organizations, the mass arrests of protesters, illegal searches, and other forms of police brutality against the people of this city to try to stifle the voices of dissent.

The Greater Toronto Workers' Assembly is deeply concerned that Jaggi Singh is facing charges for an act of political speech. Jaggi Singh stood at the so-called "security perimeter" and called for it to be taken down. That fence stood at the centre of the aggressive policies aimed at stifling dissent during the G-20 meetings in Toronto. Extraordinary measures even criminalized proximity to that fence, behind which the global elite planned and implemented an international assault against the working class, poor and marginalized.

Today, we stand with Jaggi Singh in full support of his statements, and the sentiment behind them. The fence was no mere piece of property. It was a physical manifestation of the inequalities that mark this system and its presence prevented us from making our voices heard to G-20 the leaders. Its very existence was a violation of our freedom of speech, of our freedom of association, and we commend Jaggi's role in calling for its removal.

Jaggi Singh is a long-time community organizer and activist who has fought for social justice across the country. Despite a clear and relentless pattern of police repression directed against him personally, Jaggi has never wavered in his convictions that the capitalist system is unjust. The fact that he is being criminalized for literally speaking truth to power is a testament to the fragility of Canadian democracy.

The fact that other activists and protesters continue to face serious charges for their actions, words, thoughts only confirms what we already know: that dissent is being criminalized by the Canadian state. Jaggi Singh and others have been targeted by the state for their political beliefs. We believe that Jaggi should not face penalties for his statements or beliefs. Rather, we should be holding government officials and policy makers to account for the violence that was perpetrated by the police during the G-20. We should be holding the government leaders of the G-20 and their capitalist partners to account for the devastation their policies of austerity have wrought on the working class and poor people around the

world. The Greater Toronto Workers' Assembly stands in support of Jaggi Singh and the other G-20 defendants.

Coordinating Committee of the Greater Toronto Workers' Assembly on behalf of the Greater Toronto Workers' Assembly

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