



17 June 2011

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

We are deeply concerned that the Crown is asking for a six-month sentence *not to deter Jaggi Singh but to deter the broader community*. Using the justice system to deter citizens from freedom of expression in the service of defending their rights, is a shocking violation of democracy. We are confident that the sentencing judge will not use the power of the courts to violate these rights.

We have earlier written a support letter for Jaggi Singh for his sentencing, to let the judge who is delivering sentence know the high esteem in which we hold Jaggi Singh and why we do so. The South Asian Women's Community Centre works to improve the lives of women. Our focus is particularly on feminization of poverty, violence against women and promoting gender equality. In the current climate of the narrowing of political space, economic crisis and global insecurity, it is more important than ever that groups and individuals who advocate and work for justice and to ensure that the rights of the marginalized do not get trampled on.

For many years we know Jaggi Singh and his commitment to social justice. He is a community organizer, an activist and a speaker who puts his knowledge and thoughts in the service of communities and especially to serve people who have the least voice in our society. We know that Mr Jaggi Singh has been charged and he has pleaded guilty to counselling to commit mischief over \$ 5,000.

We know that the majority of the charges against Mr. Singh constitute only the distribution of information, (brochure, press releases) and helping people who gathered to fight for justice.

We watched and understood the two short videos in which Mr Singh supports people who were trying to bring down the "security" fence of the G-20. We don't see it as a criminal act. He acted according to people's wishes, as the policies promoted by the G-20 generate misery and destruction for millions of people around the world including people of Canada.

We believe that Jaggi Singh should not receive any prison sentence for the actions he took with people who speak out to defend social justice. We do not consider his past and present actions are harmful to people, in fact, quite the contrary.

Sincerely,

Dolores Chew