

Toronto Anarchist Black Cross (ABC) Statement of Solidarity with Jaggi Singh

As a group that works to support political prisoners and prisoners of war in North America, we are very familiar with the attempts of the state to criminalize dissent. It is within this context that we stand in full solidarity with Jaggi Singh and that we fully support his statements made at the “security” fence during the G20 summit held in Toronto 2010.

Jaggi is an extremely principled, thoughtful and compassionate human being, as well as a tremendously effective social justice organizer. He has also been repeatedly targeted for harassment by police as a result of his political activism over the past decade.

We echo the words of Anti-Capitalist Convergence (CLAC):

“Like us, many people think that the fence is illegitimate, as all fences around the world are. For this reason we must all support those who take the risk to say it publicly.

“We support Jaggi Singh's remarks, but we also support him because of his endless work for the community in Montreal and elsewhere, and for his dedication to the struggle against social injustices, especially for immigrant rights, despite the legal repression that he has suffered over the years. His arrest at the G20 is a clear attempt to silence him for being a voice of political dissent that the state fears, because his ideas, similar to those who stand up against the state, resonate throughout the population and spreads to those who no longer accept misery. For these reasons, we consider the charges against Jaggi to be absolutely illegitimate and categorically reject the fact that he is facing up to six months in prison for daring to express his ideas.

“We affirm our support for all the G20 arrestees, especially for the people who still have charges related to this Summit. Many face prison sentences for daring to express their disagreement with those who exploit us and force us to live in poverty in order to enrich themselves. The arrests that took place during the G20 summit in June 2010 were politically motivated, and were not intended to merely prevent vandalism, but rather, to prevent us from opposing injustices. We support all those who opposed the G20, through popular education, chanting slogans on the street, engaging in civil disobedience or direct action against the symbols of capitalism, because we cannot stand idly in the face of exploitation of the poor by the wealthy few, of repression against political dissent, environmental destruction, the annexation of land, the injustices against women and minorities, and all forms of apartheid throughout the world. These injustices are designed by world leaders at summits such as the G20.”

We join the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, No One is Illegal, Solidarity Across Borders, Ontario Coalition Against Poverty, QPIRG Concordia, People's Commission Network, Community Solidarity Network and others in saluting Jaggi Singh for his solidarity with communities under attack and reject the ongoing criminalization of dissent in the name of so-called ‘security’.