

peacefully demonstrating, with permits issued by the City, and which people believe is their 'right' under the Constitution, was an aberration or "over-reaction."

However, what we saw was an emerging police state further testing new weapons and tactics, and learning how much they can get away with.

In St. Paul, the repression began with over a year ago with infiltration by paid informers of protest organizers, and "pre-emptive" raids on private homes and meeting places, leading to overtly political "conspiracy" charges. Police from around the country were led by Homeland Security in the wanton use of concussion grenades thrown in succession at retreating protesters; smoke bombs; an array of tear gas & pepper gas; wooden batons (bats); weapons, including AR15 automatic assault rifles drawn on unarmed and passive people; riot control horses and dump trucks with blades down as if to scoop up anyone in the streets.

This fierceness of control is what is done in Iraq and Afghanistan over the last 7 ½ years in our names by our military and mercenaries alike, and what has and always will be done in communities of color when no one is looking. But now we see it going high-tech, and co-ordinated with charges of "furtherance of terrorism" under the Minnesota version of the PATRIOT Act.

818 people were arrested in St. Paul, including

nearly 40 media from alternative and mainstream outlets. The "RNC8," members of "The RNC Welcoming Committee," are charged with felony "intent to riot in furtherance of terrorism" and face a sentence of 7 ½ years.



People of conscience must stand together in outrage and not accept this repression from the government on the people. We cannot allow these actions to go quietly into the night and forgotten. A massive outpouring of support for the RNC8 is critical. Every detail of the illegitimate detentions in Guantanamo-like conditions, beatings, taserings, denial of medication, medical treatment, food, legal representation and threats must be uncovered, denounced, and never repeated.

We are seizing the opportunity to have our voices heard in unison, denouncing the fascist direction of this country. It is with the utmost urgency and for the sake of stopping the police state and reversing this course that WE WILL NOT BE SILENT.

By signing this statement we pledge to do everything we can to call attention to, and demand justice for those unjustly arrested and charged at the Denver and St. Paul protests.

ACTION

Add your name to the previous statement at http://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/1170/t/5806/petition.jsp?petition_KEY=1395

Your signing will also allow the following letter to be sent to Local Elected Officials and Law Enforcement in Denver, St. Paul and Minneapolis and to the Dept. of Homeland Security. This statement and letter were composed by World Can't Wait.

A LETTER

To: Local Elected Officials and Law Enforcement in Denver, St. Paul and Minneapolis:
CC: Homeland Security

Thousands of people came to your cities during the recent national political conventions to protest the U.S. occupation of the Middle East, widespread violations of international law by the Bush administration, and abuses of the rights of people living in this country.

They were met in each instance with \$50 million military tactics and material, and:

- involvement of US "fusion centers" combining domestic and military agencies for the purposes of surveillance of the protesters;
- riot squads on bicycles, motorcycles, horses, and military troop transports;
- use of agent infiltrators into political groups, and provocateurs on the streets;
- revocation and denial of permits to

assemble and mass arrests of protesters & bystanders alike, with pepper & tear gas, concussion grenades, and batons;

- raids featuring drawn weapons at homes and offices and on private cars, on the basis not of crimes committed, but of speech.

Nearly 1000 people were arrested, including nearly 40 members of the press, and including juveniles. Many of them were detained for days. Some were denied medication, medical care, and timely legal representation. Some were illegally interrogated as to their political beliefs and associations. Some were physically abused, with reported use of tasers, hoods, batons, and denial of food and bathroom facilities.

The charges range from vague misdemeanors to “conspiracy to commit riot in the 2nd degree in furtherance of terrorism” in the case of the RNC 8. These are demonstrably political charges devoid of actual crimes committed.

It may be that with the huge budget, the designation of the conventions as “national security events” and the ominous and baseless warnings from federal authorities that the political protests would be violent, such abuses against protesters were predicable. But they are NOT acceptable. We demand:

- 1) Charges against people involved in political protest at the conventions be dropped immediately. In particular, the indictment of the RNC8 must be withdrawn.
- 2) A thorough investigation of methods employed by law enforcement, and directed by Homeland Security, including the methods and justification for surveillance of political activists; the insertion of agents into political organizations; the crowd control methods and mass arrests; the conditions

of detention of those arrested; and any ongoing surveillance and interference with the rights of those accused, arrested, or involved in the protests are contrary to the expectation of the rights to freedom of speech and assembly. Such investigations must include public hearings, and a real search for the truth in what happened.

3) A public report, dissociating your city from those methods found to suppress speech and assembly, and guarantee to the people that they will not be used again.

4) Rejection of the use of military involvement in surveillance, activation of national guard units or active duty military in future political protests.

Note: Other Peace Leaflets produced by the 8th

Local contact:

8th Day Center for Justice

*A Catholic Faith-based NGO
for Social Change*



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www.8thdaycenter.org

Day Center can be found at <http://www.8thdaycenter.org/resources/leaflets.html> You may wish to use them for your own vigils, in classrooms, etc.

Note: Four members of 8th Day Center for Justice participated in the protests at the Republican National Convention. You may hear their report on “The 8th Day” radio show at <http://www.8thdaycenter.org/resources/radioshow.html>

Political Protesters are Not Criminals!



The police repression of anti-war protest that took place at both national political conventions deeply angered members of the peace community, as well as the many people in this country who were shocked at the behavior of law enforcement. There are those who might believe this brutalization of those who were