

Witness Reports

This morning we uploaded 13 witness reports to the internet. If you haven't yet provided an oral statement see Aaron. We also need people to help with transcribing them for the legal team. See <http://vancouver.indymedia.org> or email violetta_sera@hotmail.com.

Police raid Woodward's tent city: brutalize homeless people

APC PRESS RELEASE *Monday September 23, 2002 at 02:29 AM*

At 11:30 pm Sunday night, the police attacked the tent city that has been outside of the Woodward's building for the past eight days. This marks the second time in 48 hours that police arrested and brutalized people at the building site.

Dozens of people were arrested and the belongings of sixty people thrown into four waiting garbage trucks. The police stated that the reason for the brutal raid was that people were committing a bylaw infraction by obstructing the sidewalk.

Police cordoned off Abbott between Hastings and Cordova and two blocks squatters off the premises, and then without allowing people to gather their belongings and leave, the police started to arrest people at the site. Many were thrown to the ground and witnesses saw police beating people up during the arrests.

"I witnessed a homeless woman being grabbed by the scruff of the neck and thrown down by three police officers after she asked them where their heart was. They are picking on the homeless and poor," said Jack, an original squatter from the Woodward's building.

Police went so far as to arrest John Richardson, lawyer for the squatters arrested on Saturday morning, when he asked to speak to an officer who could provide more information on the charges under which people were being arrested.

Last Saturday the homeless squatted the Woodward's building to demand the province make good on their promise for social housing in that building. Early Saturday morning, 58 squatters were brutally arrested and evicted from their home in the Woodward's building.

The Anti-Poverty Committee demands the unconditional release of all people arrested at the Woodward's building tonight.

There will be a Community Meeting Monday morning at 10 am at Victory Square.

Contact: Mike Krebs, 604-779-7430

Photos

Photos inside are by Illara Sunburn, who lives across the street from the squat. Check out more photos & her journal at www.sunburn.net. Thanks Illara!

W.O.O.D.S.Q.U.A.T. #3

we
will
win

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WHERE IS YOUR HEART?

