

Sept 23

For Immediate Release

Anti-Poverty Committee

Press Conference

2:30 PM Tuesday, Sept. 24th

Blood Alley Sq.

Woodwards squatters fight police brutality and unlawful arrest

There will be a press conference to discuss the police assaults on the Woodward's squatters that occurred over the past weekend. The press conference will take place on Tuesday, September 24th at 2:30 PM at Blood Alley (the alley between Cordova and Water street, between Abbott and Carroll).

On Sunday evening between 11:00 and 11:30 PM, the police cordoned off Abbott St. between Hastings and Cordova and attacked the tent city that has been outside the Woodward's building for the past eight days. This was the second time in 48 hours that police arrested and brutalized people at the building site. This time, 11 people were arrested, and all of the beds, food, bags, and other items were thrown into garbage trucks without giving the people an opportunity to collect their belongings.

"I witnessed a man, seated on the sidewalk, being grabbed, beaten and smashed, face-first into the pavement. His glasses were crushed between his face and the ground." said Anton Pilipa, a fellow arrestee from the Woodward's building.

John Richardson, the lawyer for the Woodward's coalition, came to the site to provide support for those arrested, but was immediately targeted by the police and arrested. The arrestees were continually brutalized while transported to and held in the prison.

Pivot legal society lawyer John Richardson will be outlining some elements of the upcoming litigation suit against the Vancouver police department for unlawful arrest and detention of the people in the area.