



## Walls of G8 school left smeared with blood

By Gideon Long

GENOA, July 22 (Reuters) - Stairs and walls were smeared with blood on Sunday at a Genoa school where police swooped overnight to round up anti-globalisation activists.

About 200 police officers in riot gear raided the Armando Diaz school in the early hours and arrested 92 activists who they suspected of taking part in fierce street battles with security forces at a Group of Eight summit in Italy.

"I was asleep in the building opposite and I was woken up by people shouting 'Police, police!'," said Simone Bertino, a volunteer computer technician with the Genoa Social Forum (GSF), an umbrella protest group.

"I ran to the window and I could see the police vans and the ambulances below. They were inside for about 20 minutes and then they started taking people out, some of them on stretchers."

A scene of destruction greeted visitors to the school on Sunday.

Blood was splashed on the pale green walls and smeared on stairs and a radiator in the assembly hall.

Everywhere were plastic bags, bits of food, empty water bottles, socks and broken plastic chairs. The windows of the head teacher's office were smashed, and toilets daubed in graffiti urging resistance and revolution.

The school, in a residential district a short walk from secluded private beaches, has for the past week been the operation centre of the GSF, which brings together some 700 anti-capitalist groups.

The GSF has condemned the violence that has overshadowed this weekend's summit, in which one protester was shot dead while attacking a police van. It has distanced itself from anarchists who have smashed up Genoa and fought pitched battles with police.

Police said 61 of those arrested had injuries from fighting earlier in the day. They showed reporters an array of knives, wooden and metal bars, gas masks and motorcycle helmets which they said were seized in the raid.

Forty of those detained were German, 15 Italian, six British and the others from around the world.

Italian media said the police had targeted a group of feared 'Black Bloc' anarchists but GSF members picking through the debris of their headquarters said that was rubbish.

"There was no Black Bloc here," said Luca, a medical volunteer. "We're all part of the same movement. If those guys who were dragged away were Black Bloc then so am I."

GSF lawyers said police smashed their offices and took away computer hard disks. They pointed to shattered monitors, smashed keyboards and telephone lines hanging limply from the wall."

"Police came in and told us to lie down on the floor. I was in the school gymnasium," said Andres, a Swedish protester.

"They looked around a bit and then went across the road to the other part of the school. We got up and went outside and saw them carrying people out on stretchers from the other building.

"I guess they met more resistance in there."

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