

POLICE ACTIONS & SECURITY MEASURES DURING THE G20 PROTESTS



Brief Description of the Incident

The G20 Toronto Summit meeting was the fourth meeting of the G20 heads of government to address the global economy and the ongoing world-wide recession. The summit took place on June 26-27, 2010 in downtown Toronto, Ontario.

Past G20 summits had resulted in violent clashes between the protesters and the host city's police and security forces. As such, the Toronto Police Service (TPS) created the Integrated Security Unit (ISU), which consisted of officers from different regional departments, and began working on security issues three months in advance of the summit. Approximately 10,000 uniformed officers, and 1000 security guards and Canadian military forces were deployed during the summit. The ISU also created a security perimeter, including the erection of a \$5.5 million security fence, around the Metro Convention Centre in Toronto— where the summit took place. It is estimated that the total cost of preparations for the G20 cost \$1.1 billion (CAD) – the largest and most expensive security operation in Canadian history.

As with past G20 summits, it was anticipated that the summit in Toronto would have widespread protesting. Protests began the week before the summit and were mainly determined to be peaceful. However, on the first day of the summit, the protests grew in numbers and were followed by what is known as 'black bloc' tactics. These tactics included damaging the windows of businesses across downtown Toronto and lighting police cruisers on fire. Vehicles of media corporations were also physically damaged.

The following day, the ISU tightened its security and a large group of protesters were kettled, a policing tactic whereby large rows of police officers move to contain a crowd in a limited area. The only option for leaving the secured area was to be arrested. More than 900 people were arrested throughout the weekend of the protest, including bystanders and observers as well as protesters.