

# *The Oscar Grant Plaza Gazette*

*Saturday, October 29, 2011*

*Day*

*20*

## ***TAHRIR SAYS: DON'T BE AFRAID . . . STRIKE!!!***

On Wednesday, November 2nd as part of the Oakland General Strike, we will march on the Port of Oakland and shut it down. We will converge at 5pm at 14th and Broadway and march to the port to shut it down before the 7pm night shift. // We are doing this in order to blockade the flow of capital on the day of the General Strike, as well as to show our commitment to solidarity with Longshore workers in their struggle against EGT in Longview, Washington. EGT is an international grain exporter which is attempting to rupture longshore jurisdiction. The driving force behind EGT is Bunge LTD, a leading agribusiness and food company which reported 2.4 billion dollars in profit in 2010; this company has strong ties to Wall Street. This is but one example of Wall Street's corporate attack on workers.

The Oakland General Strike will demonstrate the wide reaching implications of the Occupy Wall Street movement. The entire world is fed up with the huge disparity of wealth caused by the present system.

Now is the time that the people are doing something about it. The Oakland General Strike is a warning shot to the 1% – their wealth only exists because the 99% creates it for them. for more info on the strike:

[www.occupyoakland.com](http://www.occupyoakland.com).

The *Oscar Grant Plaza Gazette* aims to be a voice & record of the historic Occupy Oakland movement, part of a national & international movement of resistance. Please consider writing your thoughts, reflections, opinions, and what you've seen – you are part of this movement & we want to get your words out there! Send submissions to [oscargrantplazagazette@gmail.com](mailto:oscargrantplazagazette@gmail.com) -- we'll strive to publish all materials received. We reserve the right to decline to run materials which would render us legally liable.

### ***SOLIDARITY CORRESPONDENCE: LETTERS FROM AN OCCUPIER AND A RETIRED COP***

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Are you ok L? It looks like things got ugly there, I hope you weren't a recipient of police overreaction, it's shameful. Be safe girl you hear? Love, Unc. T

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Hi Uncle T,

Thank you so much for asking. S and I marched today and did get tear gassed, which was pretty

unpleasant, but we're fine now. I was worried about my contact lenses but they didn't end up being badly affected. Thank goodness for our demonstration medics who were prepared with malox (I think) to use as eyewash. A good friend of mine was closer to the police line and was shot with rubber bullets or bean bags (hard to tell), but he seems to be okay too. Friends who were arrested this morning during the raid of our camp are being released every half hour or so. From the media coverage I've seen, it looks like several people were badly injured in this morning's and this evening's demonstrations. // The force used was truly excessive. Shock and awe sort of tactics, especially the flash bang canons. Bleh. // Mom said that you had visited Occupy Portland and found them doing good work. That's good to hear. I feel a real sense of loss for all that we built here, especially the kitchen that served thousands of free meals each day and our free school and lending library, which I had been involved with. I know we'll rebuild, but it's definitely a blow to see people in power treat something so genuinely creative and positive with such callous destruction. // Thinking of you and M and sending love your way. // Love! L

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Hey L

I'm glad you're safe. It's unfortunate to have to talk about one being safe from the police, but it seems that white folks are figuring out what minorities have known for a long time, that the police are the handmaidens of the power elites who don't want to give up control. // I was disturbed by my fellow officers siding the media hate mongers who demonized the poor, liberals, minorities and muslims. This right wing influence is evidenced on occasions like what happened in Oakland, when you have a police riot wherein they engage in excessive violence and destruction against people exercising their constitutionally protected rights of speech and assembly. // I think that change has to come from the outside, and I hope the "Occupy" movement is the beginning of new engagement of the young in this country, and indeed the world to work toward changing the course of events which seemed to be heading back into feudalism. // It won't be easy, and it will be long, but if you guys can't do it, no one can eh?

## The Suppression of Dissent: How the State and Mass Media Quash Dissent

from *Beyond Bullets: The Suppression of Dissent in the United States* by Jules Boykoff (AK Press, 2007)

- **Direct Violence** – beatings, bombings, shootings, and other forms of violence against activists.
  - **Public Prosecutions and Hearings** – forcing political dissidents to testify at hostile hearings and defend themselves in court.
  - **Employment Deprivation** – the deliberate threat of being deprived of one's job or the actual loss of employment because of one's political beliefs.
  - **Surveillance and Break-ins (including "black bag jobs")** – forms of surveillance include wiretapping, microphone installation, and tracking activists through global positioning systems in mobile phones. The Church Committee defined "black bag jobs" as "warrantless surreptitious entries for purposes other than microphone installation, e.g., physical search and photographing or seizing documents."
  - **Infiltration, "Badjacketing," and the Use of Agent Provocateurs** – "badjacketing" is when an infiltrator intentionally generates the suspicion that legitimate, committed members are actually FBI or police informants. Agents provocateur are informants who urge others to engage in violence or deliberately provoke violence.
  - **"Black Propaganda"** – an FBI term that means fabricating documents in order to forge schisms or prevent solidarity between social movement organizations. These false documents purportedly originate with one organization—the target of state suppression—and are sent to other organizations that are current or potential allies.
  - **Harassment and Harassment Arrests** – when dissidents are arrested for minor charges that are often false, and that are sometimes based on obscure statutes that have remained on the books, buried and dormant but nevertheless vessels for legal persecution.
  - **Extraordinary Laws or Rules** – when the U.S. government—trumping the

topography of “crisis” — writes laws, rules, or executive orders that aim to suppress dissent.

→ **Mass Media Manipulation** – there are two types of mass media manipulation: (1) story implantation, and (2) journalist strong-arming. Story implantation is tantamount to the state writing and leaking denigrating portrayals of activists to media allies. Strong-arming is when state officials prevent journalists from publishing unwanted information and deter the use of undesirable frames in future mass-media accounts.

- **Bi-level Demonization** – when the media link dissidents to a demonized group or individual from the international arena (e.g. terrorists or communists), even if the activists are not working directly with or supporting the demonized external foe. As long as the social movement *appears* to be supporting the external demon, even if tacitly, bi-level demonization may kick into motion.