

On Police Repression in Southern Ontario

for anybody in conflict with the State



with excerpts from

“Hamilton Police Service 2008
Hate/Bias Crime Statistical
Report”

In May 2009, the Hamilton Police Services (HPS) released the Hate/Bias Crime Statistical Report for 2008. The information in this report reveals strategies the police across Southern Ontario are implementing to repress anti-capitalist movements and individuals fighting against the State.

This pamphlet includes:

- Excerpts from the police report
- Some Conclusions and Points for Discussion
- *Ding-Dong-Dash* on repression in Guelph

Excerpts from the Police Report:

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In 2009, several upcoming international, national and local events have been identified as having the potential to impact hate-bias related crime incidents in Hamilton. These include the 2010 Olympics, the 2010 G8 Summit, the anarchist movement and the current economic climate. To effectively and proactively deal with these issues the H.C.U. recommends retaining its current position within the Intelligence Unit and Intelligence community, developing additional community outreach and educational programs and participating in the H.P.S. Graffiti Steering Committee.

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Hate/bias Crime:

Hate/bias crime is defined as, "a criminal offence committed against a person or property which is motivated solely, or in part, by the suspect's hate/bias against a person's race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability group, age or gender."

Hate Crime Unit (H.C.U.):

The Hamilton Police Service's *Hate Crimes Unit* (H.C.U.) is a sub-unit of the Intelligence Branch in the Investigative Services Division. The H.C.U. was established in 2003 and concentrates on incidents where hate or bias has been identified as a precipitating component in the commission of a criminal offence.

The unit has been mandated to:

- Conduct investigations, arrest offenders and prepare cases for court in relation to hate/bias based offences.
- Provide investigative support and specialized skills to officers in all other sections who are involved in the investigation of hate/bias crimes.
- Collect intelligence and maintain intelligence files to enable the monitoring and tracking of known, active hate crime groups and individuals.
- Liaison with other police services to ensure the passage of relevant information pertaining to hate/bias crimes and groups.
- Liaison with the Community Relations/Race Relations section and act as a resource to community groups assisting with education and crime prevention in the area of hate/bias crimes.
- Maintain and track all reported hate/bias incidents for statistical purposes.
- Develop and implement internal training on hate based crime.

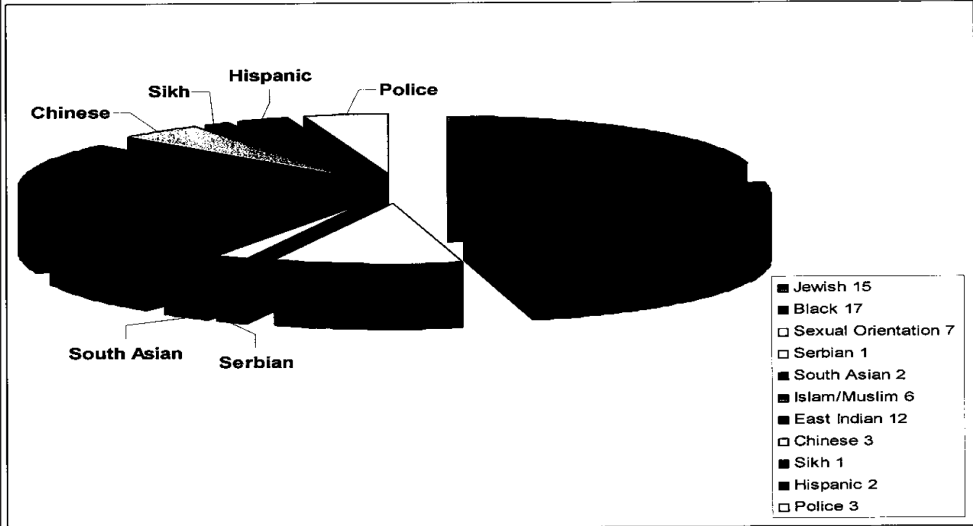
Hate Crime/Extremism Investigative Team (H.C.E.I.T.) of Ontario:

In 2003, the Hamilton, Ottawa, Guelph, London and Waterloo Regional Police Services, in partnership with the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services, came together and formed the Hate Crime Extremism Investigative Team (H.C.E.I.T.). The team expanded to 13 police agencies by including Toronto, Oxford County, Halton, York Regional, Peel Regional, Brantford and Durham Police Services. The mandate of the team is to conduct coordinated, multi-jurisdictional strategic and tactical intelligence enforcement operations and to target those individuals or organized groups involved in hate motivated activity and criminal extremism:

- Collect, evaluate, collate, analyze, disseminate and effectively utilize information / intelligence on targeted activities.
- To provide specialized investigative support with matters involving hate propaganda, the promotion of genocide, hate motivated crimes, and the diverse variants of criminal extremism.
- To contribute and maintain a database of relevant intelligence to be utilized where appropriate.
- To facilitate the exchange of information with other law enforcement and/or government agencies.
- To assist with the training of law enforcement officers with the identification and investigation of hate crime criminal extremism.
- To provide specialized, up to date intelligence to assist each respective police agency in response/planning of major events.
- To develop Provincial consistency in the investigation, occurrences reporting, intelligence gathering and statistic gathering of hate crime extremism related incidents.

reported incidents. In 2008, three hate-bias crimes against law enforcement were observed. (See Figure 3)

Figure 3: 2008 Victimization by Group



Although the statistics of police-reported crimes gives a measure of quantity of incidents, the overall impact on each group can be profound regardless of the numbers. It is important to acknowledge there are secondary victims for each crime that include family, friends and community members that identify with the targeted groups. It is also important to consider there is under reporting of hate/bias crimes. The Hate Crime Working Group studies indicate that only 10% of all hate crimes are believed to be reported.

OUTLOOK:

In 2009 and beyond, the H.C.U. anticipates that the unit will continue to remain active in investigating hate/bias crime incidents and liaising with the numerous distinct communities within Hamilton. The H.C.U. is cognizant that several upcoming international, national and local events may have significant impact and repercussions on the Hamilton community in terms of hate/bias related incidents. The following emerging trends and areas of concern have been identified:

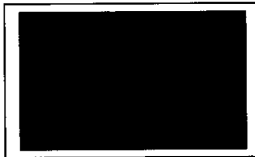
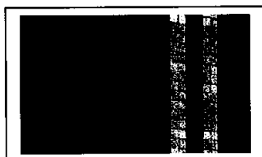
- **2010 Winter Olympics (Vancouver)**
 - Direct action against the Olympics (Anti-2010).
 - Targeting of corporate sponsors (nationally & internationally).
 - Native land claim issues (nationally).
 - Environmental, poverty, public debt and homelessness issues.



- **2010 G8 Summit (Huntsville)**
 - Civil disorder in surrounding areas.
 - Protests – anti-capitalist, anti-globalization, environmentalists, etc.
 - Counter-conference – religious counter-summit planned in Winnipeg (Desmond Tutu, Dali Lama & Aga Khan IV).



- **Anarchist Movement**
 - HPS “swarming” incident – Mex-i-can Restaurant, January 22nd, 2009.
 - Guelph Police vehicle arsons.
 - Anarchist Bookfair – June 6th, 2009 (Westdale Highschool).
 - Anarchist reaction to the HPS graffiti strategies.
 - Anarchist graffiti/Anti-police graffiti observed in Hamilton.



- **Local Native Land Reclamation Issues**
- **Anti-government & Anti-establishment reaction of economic crisis & job losses**

Hamilton Police Service - 2008 Hate Bias Crime Statistical Report

Recommendations:

- 1/ To deal with upcoming international, national and local events that may have an effect on hate-bias crime incidents in Hamilton, it is recommended the H.C.U. continue to work in the Intelligence Branch. This allows the H.C.U. to liaise within the Intelligence community, collect and maintain intelligence files and to monitor and track known hate crime groups, arising issues and potential threats.
- 2/ The H.C.U. and the Intelligence Unit should continue to support multi-disciplinary, multi-jurisdictional units aimed at monitoring and dismantling hate crime groups, proactively dealing with arising situations and supporting the many distinct communities within Hamilton.
- 3/ As 55% of all hate-bias related crimes reported in 2008 were graffiti incidents, the H.C.U. should be invited to sit on the Graffiti Steering Committee to add input into the H.P.S. graffiti prevention strategy and to offer intelligence information on the reaction to these strategies by distinct communities and anarchist groups.



Some Conclusions and Points for Discussion

HCEIT and VISU

The police force in Ontario has to find money to monitor and repress groups that oppose the State and the police. Ontario has mandated the Hate Crime/Extremism Investigative Team (HCEIT) to serve this function. The HCEIT is operating and funding intelligence gathering and repression of anti-capitalist organizing, including anarchists and native land defenders. The newly exposed political motivations of the HCU show a similar mandate to that of VISU (Vancouver Integrated Security Unit). VISU, with a budget of almost \$1 Billion, is responsible for security at the 2010 Olympics. They have been collecting intelligence and bringing down repression on groups and people opposed to the 2010 Olympics. Some groups targeted by VISU are anarchists, native land defenders, anti-poverty activists, the poor, graffiti artists and environmentalists. This appears to be the same mandate as the HCU/HCEIT in Ontario, who define many of the above groups as "involved in hate motivated activity and criminal extremism." In Ontario, there isn't an organization like VISU to funnel money into repressing radical organizing. It is through the HCEIT that the police fund their strategies of repression.

police: haters not victims

The police have added themselves to the victims of hate crime list, even though they don't fit the definition. ("*a criminal offence committed against a person or property which is motivated solely, or in part, by the suspects hate/bias against a person's race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability group, age or gender.*") The police are often the most violent perpetrators of hate crime according to this definition. The police are well known for racial profiling, sexual harassment, and countless disgusting and hateful acts. Police violence against women, people of colour, the poor, and everyone are essential for their function in society – to maintain fear as social control. Police are the haters, and that is why people hate them. To profile people as hate criminals who are actively involved in struggles against oppression is just absurd.

economic crisis to social revolt

The report also mentions an expected rise of anti-government sentiments spreading due to the economic slowdown. This is because people are able to realize clearly how fucked over we are by capitalism. This realization will cause people to take out their frustration and misery on the capitalist structures: the police, the government, banks, etc. If every person who has been affected negatively by the economic crisis is a potential hate criminal, we are not left with very many people who aren't. When money is tight and work is scarce, people are more likely to redefine their social relationships in order to support themselves. This can look like people sharing food and their frustrations, breaking away from the isolation inherent in this society. Social revolt is a possibility, and the police are very afraid of this.

where can we go from here?

Police repression affects everyone. For anarchists, land defenders and radical organizers, police surveillance and criminalization is a daily reality known all too well. Based solely on this repression, it is obvious that the State would love to squash us out, instill fear into our veins. With the information in this police report, we can understand better how the police are able to justify and fund this repression. It is also important to consider how the profiling of radical groups as hate crime organizations can influence public opinion. The police are already thinking about repressing everyone who is getting fucked over by the economic crisis. They're preparing for intensified class conflict; it is time we start preparing as well. The State's efforts show that they consider us a threat. We know the police are trying to eliminate the capacity for people to revolt against them and the system they protect. What is important, is for us to stay strong, defend ourselves, and continue building social struggle against the State and its repressive forces. Let us be a threat.



DING – DONG – DASH (Out the back)

*“We know you’re not a rat, but maybe we can help each other...
If nobody talked we wouldn’t have a job”*

–An agent of the OPP Hate Crimes / Extremism
Investigative Team (HCEIT) in Guelph, 2008

To analyze the current repressive situation in Guelph, it’s important to look back and observe its progression. There’s a recent history in this city of illigalism, disruption, destruction and confrontation. The latest period begins around 2004-2005, after a lull following the ‘90s ALF-claimed vandalism of property. This period primarily characterizes a shift in intensity. While targets were still getting smashed, painted and vandalized in creative ways, property began getting burned. Arson of big box stores, golf and country clubs, a police car, newly developed town houses, telephone and telecommunication poles, construction vehicles and equipment, telecommunication vans, etc, seems to have shaken this town for almost five years now. It can be debated how effective any of these disruptions and attacks have been. It is obvious that they have not brought about significant social transformation and evidently they are not effective enough. However, these actions have garnered the “loving” attention of all echelons of law enforcement from across the country. This all becomes relevant when we take it into context. In this city of 118,000 people (including suburbia) there has yet to be a single person charged with any of these fires.

The police were not just sitting around the whole time that people were burning this city down, smashing it apart and blocking the roads and railroads that keep it alive. They began following people, staking out houses and tapping phones. They have been investigating possible suspects and narrowing down their lists of names. Around the same time the local paper stated that the Canadian Secret Intelligence Services (CSIS) was opening an investigation in Guelph. They are still looking to slam a 15 to life prison sentence on someone.

Things have changed a bit since then however. They seem to have narrowed their focus a lot more on radicals and others who are engaged in local struggles. This is possibly a result of the past responses to repression that were carried out by anarchists and other radicals. They have also had a hard time getting any information from people in Guelph because no one is willing to cooperate with them. This is most likely the reason for the broader investigation which is now taking place.

People in Kitchener-Waterloo, Ottawa, London, Guelph and possibly elsewhere have had CSIS, Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), Hate Crimes/Extremism Investigative Team (HCEIT) and Canadian Pacific Railway

(CPR) cops coming to their doors and asking about arsons or specifically about Guelph.

This investigation will never really end because its focus is on the dismantling of "extemist groups." It just continues with the next action and response to investigation or repression. Anarchists and other radicals in Guelph have recently responded to the police's actions in Tyendinaga, Guelph and Six Nations. They burned barricades on the highway and railroad, torched vehicles, slashed tires, spray painted and paint bombed police cars and buildings, almost every action claimed by communiqué has been an act of solidarity or a response to some form of repression, and a quick look into the timing and communiqué of certain attacks will provide a more relevant example of this solidarity. (*See confrontation.wordpress.com*)

It is within this context of solidarity that we place the five arrests which took place on November 10th, 2008. On this day a barricade was burned to stop traffic, the flow of commodities and to show solidarity with the Mohawk Nation. After several interrogations from Guelph Police investigators and plain clothed HCEIT investigators, who described themselves as OPP, not one of the accused has broken the ongoing tradition of silence. No one implicated anyone in the blockade or actions that took place years ago. These "OPP" investigators were not as concerned about the blockade as the Guelph Police. They were trying to cut deals with people for information relating to arsons that took place anytime from a few months to 4 years ago. This is the same investigation, which led CSIS, HCEIT and the other agents to question people in different cities around Ontario.

There is a mounting tension to the growing repression by state forces attempting to maintain social control. One positive example is the collectively uncooperative and tight lipped responses to the state's attempts at getting us to snitch, or even cooperate with their strategies to gain information and incapacitate us.

Repeatedly, people have refused to speak during interrogations; several people have spent interrogations making fun of police, people have refused to record conversations or take police cell phones when asked to cut deals or accept money. The majority of the time in simple ticketing and low-level police harassment people have refused to give information or answer questions.

Today the police are watching people in Guelph very closely, and with the recent arrests they have been granted more legal power to come down harder on suspected subversives. More power in routine surveillance means more tickets for minor by-law infractions, more police in the neighbourhood, and less privacy. It means more power to criminalize greater numbers of people and larger parts of our lives.

They are finding out where people are going and what they are up to and have shared the information, through HCEIT, with OPP and

other police forces. The first of two examples was the blockade of a dump truck in Cayuga on the 8th of December, 2008. This was just one of many blockades in Cayuga where anarchists and other radicals from Guelph have fought alongside other radicals, locals and warriors from Six Nations. However, this was the first blockade since the arrests and escalation of repression. This time the police were there in large numbers and surveillance equipment, from microphones to cameras, the extent to which we had never seen before at this type of action (1). The second was a concert in Hamilton, where many people from Guelph attended. It was raided by police and anarchist literature was seized (2). This escalation of repression in Cayuga and Hamilton was no coincidence, it was planned and part of the HCEIT led crackdown happening in Guelph and the rest of Ontario.

This repression is taking place elsewhere and has been for a while. It's difficult to pinpoint when the current repression first began in places like Tyendinaga or Six Nations, some might tell you that it began before "Canada" was even a country. However, what we can discuss is how the repression in Guelph is not separate from the repression happening in Ontario, Quebec and places on the West Coast. The repressive strategy in Guelph and Ontario is part of a greater crackdown which is targeting the rise of disruptive and destructive direct actions that express the desire to act immediately against power, without mediation.

This method shows its potential as it clarifies in the moment the separation between exploiters and exploited, and brings to life the social tension which is needed for the continuation of a culture that rejects any cooperation, dialogue or solidarity with the state and its police. We need to continue to develop our relationships of affinity, because without our close friends we would be nowhere right now, or worse. But, we must remember to strengthen and broaden these relationships as well, in order to break our isolation, expand solidarity and spread the attacks. Let's strive to create a revolutionary culture which rejects the mediation of power and despises the police; this cannot be done without all the people who have and will continue to close their doors and shut their mouths to the cops.

Keep it up as you step it up!

"Guelph is a hotbed of radicalism"

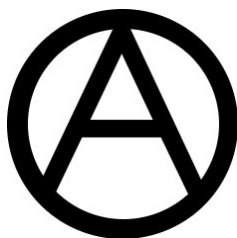
—CSIS agent in Guelph speaking about
investigating a string of arsons

1. <http://supporthamiltonabc.blogspot.com/2009/02/5-arrested-at-cayuga-blockade.html>

2. <http://supporthamiltonabc.blogspot.com/2009/02/5-arrested-for-barricade-in-guelph-nov.html>

" If we loot banks, it is because we have recognized money as a central cause of all our unhappiness. If we smash windows, it's not because life is dear, but because commodities prevent us from living at all costs. If we break machines, it is not because of a wish to protect work, but to attack wage slavery. If we attack the police bastards, it's not to get them out of our faculties, but to get them out of our lives. The spectacle wanted to make us appear dreadful. We intend to be much worse."

- Os Cangaceiros



June 2009