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Occupation in London enters fifth day

ORIGINAL REPORT

In solidarity with the Occupy Wall Street and other "Occupy" protests, activists set up camp outside St Paul's Cathedral in London on Saturday, and they plan to remain indefinitely. The protest thus far has been described as "largely peaceful" by a police spokesman.





An overview of the protest Image credit to:Crispin Semmens and Neil Cummings

On Saturday, an estimated thousand or more people attempted to protest in Paternoster Square, the site of the London Stock Exchange, but were blocked by police enforcing a High Court judgment. Julian Assange from Wikileaks also joined

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the protest to address the activists. A flag flies over the occupation showing the 'Anonymous' logo of a headless man in a black suit. At around 9:30am Wednesday, many campers were still asleep, but around 30–50 people were listening in solidarity to trade union representatives from the National Shop Stewards Network, while 20 to 30 officers from the City of London police watched on. On the steps of St. Paul's Cathedral, the speakers spoke about a variety of struggles including strikes by electricians that started in August against Balfour Beatty, one of Britain's largest construction firms. Solidarity was expressed with the travellers at Dale Farm, and speakers described how the media and others were trying to "divide" workers, students and elderly people. One of the speakers said that while today they are occupying the square in London, "tomorrow we will be occupying universities and colleges" and spoke of the suspension of Vik Chechi, the Unison branch secretary who has been suspended by Queen Mary University. By 9:45am, the trade union talks had finished and the sound system was reactivated and reggae music started playing.

After the talks peter out, activity begins to resume on the site: people sorting out tents and serving food, under signs and banners playfully mixing politics ("The London Stock Exchange: Britain's Biggest Casino") with Internet memes (a Reddit cartoon man depicted saying "Y U NO JOIN US?").

Jailed Swedish journalists tried as terrorists

he trial for two Swedish journalists being tried for terrorism in Ethiopia began yesterday. The freelance journalists were arrested after entering from neighboring country Somalia without permission. They allegedly aided a terrorist group and were wounded in a gunfight, in which 15 rebels were killed.

Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi says the two imprisoned Swedish journalists "made their way into Ethiopia with a terrorist organization that had killed 70 people who worked for a mining company in an attack." He says "I think it would be a criminal relationship in any country".

If that is journalism, I don't know what terrorism is

—Meles Zenawi

"They are, at the very least, messenger boys of a terrorist organization. They are not journalists," the prime minister said. "Why would a journalist be involved with a terrorist organization and enter a country with that terrorist organization, escorted by armed terrorists, and participate in a fighting in which this terrorist organization was involved? If that is journalism, I don't know what terrorism is," says Zenawi.

The journalists were jailed after entering into Ethiopia's troubled Ogaden region to cover rebel activity in the area. Zenawi claims one of the journalists was arrested on a previous attempt to enter illegally. "The second time he was seized with a terrorist organization in combat."

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The Swedes were found travelling with the Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF), and were investigating actions by a company with ties to Sweden's Lundin Petroleum, oil group, and claims of human rights violations in the Ogaden region.

Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt has been criticised for inaction post-arrests. Kerstin Lundell, who worte a book on Lundin in Africa, says "the fact that Carl Bildt has reason to hide what is going on in Ogaden could explain why these journalists are still in prison."

Bildt Lundin board member but left previous to the firm gaining an Ethiopian concession for oil exploration.

Journalist Anna Roxvall, who is acting as facilitator of the Swedish journalists says the claim that one of the journalists was arrested previously is wrong. "No, no, no. It is clean cut a lie", she says.

Sveriges Radio, Sveriges Television, TT and Dagens Nyheter journalists applied for visa to attend the trial but were originally denied entry to the country. Ola Larsmo, writer and chairman of the Swedish Pen says access to information will be restricted if Swedish journalists do not attend. Zenawi says "we do not need to Swedish journalists to prove that our courts operate in accordance with international standards."

Amongst the crowded court audience were eighteen Swedish journalists and several Western diplomats, including US ambassador to Ethiopia Donald Booth.

Voice of America says legal experts expect a quick resolution. The accused's lawyers claim a four-to-six month trial is likely. An unnamed attorney close to the trial has claimed a negotiated settlement is still possible. The two journalists face fifteen years in prison if convicted of engaging in terrorist activity. The trial is scheduled to resume tomorrow.

Kenya troops enter Somalia after kidnappings

The Kenyan army moved into Southern Somalia Sunday, acting against the al-Shabab militant group. Two recent kidnappings by Somalis from island resorts have cost the Kenyan tourist industry.

The UK Foreign Office has issued an advisory against travelling to the Kenya-Somalia border. Kenya's foreign minister has said Kenyans must "defend your country, you must defend the security of your people and in doing so, you have to go for these people where they are". He also went on to say they were acting on request of the government of Somalia.

A spokesperson for the al-Shabab militant group shouted, "Are you ready to live under Christians?" on a militant local Somali radio station, advocating a holy war.

Omar Osman, a spokesperson for the Somali government, said Kenyan logistical support was welcome, but Kenyan troops were unnecessary.

Herman Cain: SimCity rumor 'a lie'

U.S. presidential candidate Herman Cain denied a suggestion from Huffington Post reporter Amanda Terkel that his 9-9-9 tax plan derived from Maxis' 2003 computer game SimCity 4. During an interview that aired on The Rachel Maddow Show Friday, Cain bluntly characterized the suggestion as "a lie".

Cain, the former CEO of Godfather's Pizza, has risen to first place in some polls for the Republican Party's presidential nomination. His campaign features the 9-9-9 plan, which calls for the implementation of a 9 percent national sales tax, and a shift of the personal and corporate income tax rates to 9 percent.

Terkel compared Cain's plan to that of the default setting on SimCity 4, which institutes a 9 percent rate for commercial, industrial and residential taxes. She contacted both Maxis and Rich Lowrie, a Wells Fargo employee credited with helping Cain formulate the plan. Though Lowrie did not respond, Maxis producer Kip Katsarelis commented:

We encourage politicians to continue to look to innovative games like SimCity for inspiration for social and economic change. While we at Maxis and Electronic Arts do not endorse any political candidates or their platforms, it's interesting to see GOP candidate Herman Cain propose a simplified tax system like one we designed for the video game SimCity 4

Cain maintains that the plan is original. When probed on the issue, he remarked "that's the difference when you become one or two in the polls. People make up stuff."

Cain received similar attention in August after closing a GOP debate with a quote from the theme song for Pokemon: The Movie 2000, which he referenced to an unnamed poet. It was later reported that Cain had quoted the song on previous occasions

On this day-October 20

- 1917 The Military Revolutionary Committee of the Petrograd Soviet, in charge of preparation and carrying out the Russian Revolution, holds its first meeting. 1935 The Long March ends.
- 1939 Pope Pius XII publishes his first major encyclical entitled Summi Pontificatus.
- 1941 World War II: Thousands of civilians in Kragujevac in German-occupied Serbia are killed in the Kragujevac massacre.
- 1943 The cargo vessel Sinfra is attacked by Allied aircraft at Suda Bay, Crete, and sunk. 2,098 Italian prisoners of war drown with it.
- 1944 The Soviet Army and Yugoslav Partisans liberate Belgrade, the capital of Yugoslavia
- 1944 Liquid natural gas leaks from storage tanks in Cleveland, then explodes; the explosion and resulting fire level 30 blocks and kill 130.
- 1944 General Douglas MacArthur fulfills his promise to return to the Philippines when he commands an Allied assault on the islands, reclaiming them from the

Japanese during the Second World War.

- 1947 The House Un-American Activities Committee begins its investigation into Communist infiltration of Hollywood, resulting in a blacklist that prevents some from working in the industry for years.
- 1947 United States of America and Pakistan establish diplomatic relations for the first time.
- 1951 The "Johnny Bright Incident" occurs in Stillwater, Oklahoma
- 1952 Governor Evelyn Baring declares a state of emergency in Kenya and begins arresting hundreds of suspected leaders of the Mau Mau Uprising, including Jomo Kenyatta, the future first President of Kenya.
- 1961 The Soviet Union performs the first armed test of a submarine-launched ballistic missile, launching an R-13 from a Golf class submarine.
- 1962 China launches simultaneous offensives in Ladakh and across the McMahon Line, beginning the Sino-Indian War.
- 1967 A purported bigfoot is filmed by Patterson and Gimlin.
- 1968 Former First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy marries Greek shipping tycoon Aristotle Onassis.
- 1970 Siad Barre declares Somalia a socialist state.
- 1971 The Nepal Stock Exchange collapses.
- 1973 "Saturday Night Massacre": President Richard Nixon fires U.S. Attorney General Elliot Richardson and Deputy Attorney General William Ruckelshaus after they refuse to fire Watergate special prosecutor Archibald Cox, who is finally fired by Robert Bork.
- 1973 The Sydney Opera House opens.
- 1976 The ferry George Prince is struck by a ship while crossing the Mississippi River between Destrehan and Luling, Louisiana. Seventy-eight passengers and crew die and only 18 people aboard the ferry survive.
- 1977 A plane carrying Lynyrd Skynyrd crashes in Mississippi, killing lead singer Ronnie Van Zant and guitarist Steve Gaines along with backup singer Cassie Gaines, the road manager, pilot, and co-pilot.
- 1982 During the UEFA Cup match between FC Spartak Moscow and HFC Haarlem, 66 people are crushed to death in the Luzhniki disaster.
- 1991 The Oakland Hills firestorm kills 25 and destroys 3,469 homes and apartments, causing more than \$2 billion in damage.
- 1991 A 6.8 Mw earthquake strikes the Uttarkashi region of India, killing more than 1,000 people

Commons Picture of the day



A mountain massif of Flakstadøya island backgrounding the road (Fylkesvei 807) to Nusfjord village, Lofoten, Nordland, Norway in 2010 September.

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Quote of the day

Every writer wants to be believed. But every writer knows he is spurious; every fiction writer would rather be credible than authentic.

~ John le Carré ~

Word of the day insensate adj

Having no sensation or consciousness; unconscious; inanimate.

Senseless; foolish; irrational.

Unfeeling, heartless, cruel, insensitive.

(medicine, physiology) Not responsive to sensory stimuli

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Quote of the Day

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