

Statement at Press Conference:

Melissa Hill

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I'm Melissa Hill - a journalist working with Twin Cities Indymedia to help cover and take footage of the events surrounding the G20 Summit. On the evening of Friday, September 25, I was videotaping footage of the rally and crowds and police presence in the Oakland area near the University of Pittsburgh. I was mass arrested with a group of about 30-40 people – many students, medics, protesters, and at least 3 other journalists including others who worked for both corporate and independent sources. I was wearing a press badge during this entire time leading up to the arrest and repeatedly identified myself as a journalist after the arrest.

We were escorted from the grass area to the street and my bag, press pass and a plastic bracelet were all removed. My booking officer was a bit kinder and I said I'm missing a camera and noticed it again on the windshield of a police van with other people's stuff. He asked for identifying information about the camera and I mentioned the brand name and a description. He seemed satisfied and left with the camera and the rest of the stuff to put it in a garbage bag along with my press pass that was cut off of me.

I was filming the event including the moment we were told to lay on the ground and my camera was still rolling. Immediately a riot cop approached me and told me to stop filming immediately and this "will not be another Seattle". They snatched my camera away from me and eventually placed it on my other side of me out of my possession. I shouted out that this was my camera and none of the arresting officers acknowledge it.

During the detainment process, I was brought to the SCI Pittsburgh facility and greeted by both civilian and military personnel who were in

charge of booking and guarding the people in this facility. I along with maybe 50 or more people who were going in and out of the facility at one point had to submit to digital fingerprints, health questions and tests, and sitting around for hours on end until I was finally released at around 5 a.m. the next morning. Immediately after leaving the facility, I checked to see if my camera was in there and checked to see if my footage was there – it was missing! My camera was also broken and is unable to record anything now.

As of today, I have no knowledge of being formally charged with anything – however in the arresting process, I lost the footage that lead up to the mass arrest and highlighted some disturbing instances of police misconduct that occurred in that area that evening. It is outrageous that I along with others was not able to properly and thoroughly cover all the events and let the whole world know what was going on.