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WTO protest moves back to nonviolence

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SEATTLE - Protesters outside the King County Jail created a carnival atmosphere Thursday as they demanded the release of people arrested for demonstrating against the World Trade Organization.

In contrast to the beatings and tear gassings of Wednesday, Thursday's massing at the jail saw topless women dancing, a huge puppet moving through the area and people playing drums and hacky sack.

'We're demanding the release of all people inside arrested in the last two days for nonviolent action," said Stephanie Guilloud, 22, of Olympia.

Demonstrators locked arms in front of the entrance to the jail, which was also locked from the inside to prevent entry. They wore bandanas dipped in vinegar to lessen the pain if tear gas was used. Six women standing at the

courtyard of the jail removed their shirts. One had "gas this" written on her chest and stomach.

When one protester smashed a bottle into the street, he was hounded out of the area by others who insisted the demonstration remain peaceful.

After a rally at Pike Place Market, at least 1,000 people marched to the jail at the south end of downtown to express support for those arrested this week.

Motorcycle police escorted protesters to the site, which is blocks away from the WTO meetings. It was a contrast to Wednesday, when police cracked down on protesters and arrested more than 500.

"We're here because there are over 100 nonviolent protesters [inside] who were arrested for exercising their right to free speech," said one man on a bullhorn. Most of those arrested are being held elsewhere.

Some protesters were denied access to lawyers because they refused to give their names.

"It looks like the Constitution doesn't apply in Seattle any more," said Scott Schawver, attorney for Associated Counsel for the Accused, which represents some of the arrested people.

King County Superior Court Judge Michael Spearman issued an emergency order Thursday requiring authorities to give defense attorneys access within eight hours to protesters, except for those who are "physically uncoop-

"Access to counsel is not contingent on answering police questions, including 'What is your name?" Spearman said in his handwritten order.

Police were acting differently, said David Roman, 26, an organizer with the umbrella group Direct Action Network. Where Wednesday some were "out of control," they were cooperative Thursday.

The rally at the market was one of the first peaceful demonstrations since Tuesday's vandalism downtown and police response Wednesday with tear gas and rub-

Activists were wary of renewed police efforts to distinguish between vandals and criminals and those engaged in peaceful protest and civil disobedience.

'It's never too late to say you're sorry," said Lori Lofton, 25, of Portland, Ore., walking with about 300 other demonstrators as the market crowd dispersed into smaller groups.

But then she added of police: "Many of them should be punished. An apology is not enough."

For activists concerned about WTO power to override national laws protecting the environment and workers, this week's meeting was supposed to be a historic show down between civil society and the forces of corporate globalization.
Instead, the battle has been be-

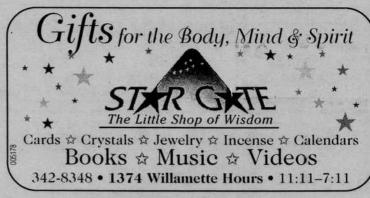
tween protesters and police, with concerns about human rights, labor and the environment taking a back seat to allegations of police

More than 570 people have been arrested since Tuesday, when tens of thousands of protesters took over the city's core and some smashed entire blocks of storefront windows, spray-painted buildings and slashed policecar tires causing an estimated \$2

million in property damage.

Mayor Paul Schell has imposed
a 24-hour "limited curfew"
through midnight Friday around the Washington State Convention and Trade Center, where trade delegates, media and interest groups from 135 nations are meeting.

Activists made clear they did not condone Tuesday's violence and vandalism, which they said involved a very small percentage of the estimated 40,000 demonstrators. People wearing black ski masks were seen smashing windows and kicking squad cars.





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