

## E-mailed Report of Stop Torture Rally

***“My notion of democracy is that under it the weakest shall have the same opportunities as the strongest...no country in the world today shows any but patronizing regard for the weak... Western democracy, as it functions today, is diluted fascism...true democracy cannot be worked by twenty men sitting at the center. It has to be worked from below, by the people of every village.”***

Mahatma Gandhi

## Point of View from Stop Torture Rally

20 March 2006 in San Francisco USA

All of a sudden the police start surrounding us with heavy, metal barricades. Their eyes are filled with fear. Approximately 12 protesters, dressed in orange prison jumpsuits, heads covered with the characteristic black hoods and connected by a chain, make their way to the center of Market Street. They kneel and bow their heads while others dressed as guards wave cardboard guns in the air and yell orders. The police are not amused. When the demonstrators start dragging out their own cardboard jail cells, the three dozen police dressed in riot gear break ranks and come running toward us. I start to think about how to protect the puppet from their long batons.

Just at that moment the rain miraculously turns from a drizzle to a full downpour and cooler heads prevail. The police handcuff seventeen people and take them away. The Gandhi Puppet is a little wet, but all in one piece and ready for another day. (See details and attachment below about the "Steps for Peace" event at Lake Merritt in Oakland on April 9. The Gandhi Puppet will be leading the parade.)

Peace.

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