

# As Genoa's Summit Wounds Heal, Sympathy Grows for Police

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GENOA — An elderly priest unlocking the door of his church on the square where a young protester was shot and killed by police officers three weeks ago summed up what seems to be the prevailing feeling of the Genoese in the aftermath of the recent summit meeting here.

"Time passes," he said.

"There was tumult, and violence is always terrible. People are certainly upset these protesters came and burned hundreds of cars and broke windows. But you could say in a way it went well — there was only one person killed."

The priest, the Reverend Giovanni Timossi, pastor of Our Lady of Salvation church on Piazza Gaetano Alimonda, rushed into the street after that one person, Carlo Giuliani, 23, was shot. He wanted to give the young man last rites but he was held back by security officials.

Still, like the overwhelming majority of people interviewed here on the street this past weekend, Father Timossi made clear that he felt more sympathy for the police than for the protesters — despite reports of brutality against even peaceful demonstrators during the meetings of the eight major industrial nations on July 20 to 22.

"For two days, the police were attacked, offended, pelted with stones," he said. Finally, "frustrated and depressed, they did what they had to do."

In front of the church, there is a makeshift shrine for Mr. Giuliani: a pile of floral bouquets, mostly dead now, alongside poems, news clippings, pictures of Bob Marley and Che Guevara.

Several young visitors with backpacks were looking these over on Sunday afternoon, along with one local man, Pietro Giammona, 42. His four-and-a-half-year-old daughter, Francesca, was with him, drawing a picture on which her father had written, "To Carlo, from Francesca."

"We should leave a sign here, otherwise it will all be forgotten," Mr. Giammona said.

He said he had not thought much about economic or industrial globalization one way or the other before the

meeting, but had joined the protests in anger over what he saw as police over-reaction. "Some people care," he said.

A number of protesters are still in jail, including Susanna Thomas, a New Jersey woman who is a student at Bryn Mawr. Her case was to be reviewed Monday in court, where she was to appear with three other Americans and 16 Austrians who were part of a group that performed street theater as a form of protest.

The Genoa police chief has acknowledged that excessive force was used in some cases, and three top officers have been removed. The worst reports came out of a local preschool, where a number of apparently nonviolent protesters had been staying. In the middle of the night, 92 demonstrators sleeping there were dragged from bed, beaten and taken to jail.

A parliamentary inquiry into the protests and the violence and at least half a dozen criminal investigations are under way. But many people here said they did not need official reports.

"I can't believe it's the police who are on trial," said Franco Guazzini, 52, who watched looting from his window. "I love Genoa, and suffered a lot to see it so beautiful, all dressed up and ready to welcome our important guests, and then to hear everyone in the world speaking of Genoa in this terrible way."

Though an estimated \$20 million in damage was done, surprisingly few traces remain — only some graffiti and a few broken windows. The ancient port itself looks almost like a movie set, with new wooden benches, freshly potted plants and brightly colored, neoclassical facades painted onto old buildings.

Some tourists said they had come specifically to see how the city had come through the riots. "In fact, it's much more beautiful now" than before Italy spent \$100 million sprucing up Genoa for the summit meeting, said Linetta Passalacqua of Parma.

Roberto Atzei, who lives near the site of the worst rioting, along Corso Torino, said most of his neighbors had already begun to put the unpleasantness behind them. "The Genoese are strong and not easily moved," said Mr. Atzei, who works in a hospital pharmacy.

Even Piazza Tommaseo, where busi-

nesses were heavily damaged, is mostly clean, though there is still graffiti in English declaring "Vegan Power" and "Disorder Is a Must!"

A sandwich shop owner there said he saw the summit meeting as a disaster for small-business owners like himself. He boarded up his store and stayed away. "People are really upset because the police had orders not to do anything, and by the time they were allowed to advance, the damage was done." He too feels terrible for the police.

At a police station around the corner, an officer at the front desk said he and his colleagues had not really known what to do when protesters marched on the building, throwing rocks and a Molotov cocktail. "Even if there were excesses, and probably there were, it's the police who are suffering now," said the officer.

"These weren't peaceful demonstrations, or even demonstrations against globalization," the officer said. "I myself have strong feelings that Third World debt should be forgiven, but these protesters didn't solve anything by ruining what some other people had worked a lifetime to build."

