



Blacklisted Britons find freedom ends at Genoa

PROTESTER John Harper who was deported from Genoa knows only too well the tight security that has surrounded the G8 Summit.

Glaswegian Mr Harper, 30, and Julie Quinn, 20, along with London vet Richard Byrne, 29, were stopped by police who had received details from their British counterparts as they arrived in Italy and were sent back on Wednesday night.

None of the three have any criminal convictions but they believe they were deported after British police told the Italian authorities that each had been arrested during protests at the Faslane Trident nuclear submarine base.

The group were deported after it was made known that anyone with a criminal record or people regarded as potential troublemakers would be refused entry to Genoa.

Yesterday Mr Harper, a factory worker and member of Globalise Resistance Scotland, claimed he had just wished to exercise his right to demonstrate peacefully.

He added that he could not understand why he had been allowed to leave Britain, because he believes it was the British police who were behind his deportation.

He said: "When I arrived at Stansted for my flight to Genoa, there were three of us who were stopped by police.

"The only thing that linked us was the fact that we had all been arrested at previous Faslane blockades, although none of us have ever been convicted.

"The police filled out cards, listing what we looked like and giving a detailed description of what we were wearing.

"But then we were allowed to board the flight and I thought that was the end of it.

"I didn't think I was going to be troubled any longer, in fact I was even told to enjoy my trip and to have a safe journey."

Mr Harper and the other two campaigners were planning to join tens of thousands of anti-globalisation demonstrators at the summit.

It is estimated that more will arrive in the city where Prime Minister Tony Blair, US President George W Bush and other world leaders will hold talks this weekend.

However when they arrived in Italy they were detained by the authorities at Genoa Airport for seven hours and later put on a flight back to Stansted.

Mr Harper said: "At first we were surrounded by nine armed officers and it was very frightening.

"Their behaviour was very threatening and we weren't even allowed to the toilet unaccompanied.

"They were faxing between there and Rome, then they took us away individually and told us we weren't being allowed entry into the country.

"We were then taken into a back office where there were two British Special Branch police officers and things began to calm down a little.

"But we were still refused entry and told we were being deported.

"All they said to us was that the British police had told the Italian police not to let us in," he added.

John Staples

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