

# Genoa cleans up after protesters who wanted to change the world

From Richard Owen  
in Genoa

GENOA began to count the human and material cost of the rioting yesterday as recriminations began over why it was not contained.

Shopkeepers and businessmen of the ancient Mediterranean port city started to sweep up a sea of broken glass and assess the damage of looted and burnt out properties.

Officials said that during the street violence nearly 300 people had been injured - more than 70 of them police - and 126 people had been arrested, including Italian, British, French, Spanish, German Swiss nationals.

The British protest group Globalise Resistance said one of those arrested was Mark Harrison, from Pontefract, west Yorkshire, who arrived on a train chartered by the organisation from Calais but was not among the returning passengers yesterday. At least six Britons were detained by police overnight.

One 33-year-old Briton is at the San Martino Hospital in Genoa after suffering a brain haemorrhage and chest injuries. His condition was said to be stable.

The Centre Left opposition, meanwhile, called for the resignation of Claudio Scajola, the Interior Minister.

Silvio Berlusconi, the Centre Right Prime Minister and summit host, said Signor Scajola would make a statement to Parliament in Rome today. Looking sombre, Signor Berlusconi said it was a shame that the main message conveyed to the public had concerned the violent disorders, overshadowing the agenda.

"This G8 has done good work, giving space for the first time to civil society," he said, a reference to his attempts to strike up a pre-G8 dialogue with leaders of peaceful protest as well as trade unionists and church groups. He said, however, that there could be no dialogue with those who used violence, and alleged that

moderate leaders of the Genoa Social Forum, the largely pacifist umbrella organisation for protest groups, had colluded with the extremists.

Police began dismantling the security barriers around the "red zone" which, to many residents of the old city, had begun to look permanent.

Earlier, police made what protesters said was a "brutal raid" on a school housing the headquarters of the Social Forum and later displayed weapons they had found, including batons, petrol bombs and homemade nail bombs. Police said they had also been searching for members of the "Black Bloc", which caused much of the mayhem.

*Il Giornale* said: "They came to change the world, and they destroyed Genoa." *La Stampa* spoke of a "a devastated city" and carried carrying several pages of photographs of the riots, including the death of Carlo Giuliani, the 23-year-old Genoese student shot dead by a Carabinieri officer last Friday at the height of the first day of the riots.

Signor Berlusconi visited some of the injured in hospital yesterday, stopping on the way to get out of his car and thank police officers. At Genoa city hall, inside the "red zone", he vowed to compensate Genoa's businesses and civic bodies for the damage caused, estimated at £30 million. As he arrived some residents leant out of their windows and shouted "assassin" and "fascist" at him.

Signor Scajola is expected to argue today that the Carabinieri reserve officer who fired the fatal shot on Friday acted in self-defence after his vehicle was besieged by angry protesters who smashed the vehicles windows. Photographs show that Signor Giuliani was about to hurl a fire extinguisher at the officer when he was shot in the head.

The protester's father, a local trade unionist, said his son was not an anarchist but was "against injustice". He hoped the death would prompt the po-

lice to remember in future that their duty was to respect life.

*Corriere della Sera* quoted an unnamed senior police officer as saying the Carabinieri had deployed inexperienced and inadequately trained officers. "There was no need to shoot to kill," he told the paper. "He could have fired in the air or at the boy's legs."

Many Genoa residents, including Giuseppe Pericu, the Mayor, said that they felt badly let down by the fact that while the 20,000 police and troops deployed for the summit had protected the "red zone" around the summit venue, they had left the city's ordinary citizens almost defenceless in the face of violence and destruction.

"The Government said it would protect us," Signor Pericu told me as he walked around the ruins of the city named "*La Superba*" because of its Renaissance palaces. "Why did they not isolate the extremists? How were they allowed in? What they have done to our city is worse than what happened at Gothenburg."

President Bush left Genoa yesterday for Rome, where today he will meet the Pope. The pontiff expressed yesterday his "pain and bitterness" over the violence. Diplomats said that the Pope and Mr Bush agreed on some moral issues, such as abortion, but disagreed strongly on others, such as the death penalty.

Bono, the Irish rock singer and debt relief supporter, yesterday denounced the violent protests but said he understood the anger of protesters.

"Violence is never right," the U2 lead singer told a news conference in Genoa organised by the London-based group Drop the Debt. "But I do think anger is understandable in the face of the obscenity of the ever-widening gap on the planet."