

The People's Commission Network is a Montreal network monitoring and opposing the "national security agenda". The network is a space for individuals and groups who face oppression in the name of "national security" – such as indigenous people, immigrants, racialized communities, radical groups, social justice organizations, labour unions – and their allies, to form alliances, share information, and coordinate strategies to defend their full rights and dignity.

## PEOPLE'S COMMISSION NETWORK

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The People's Commission Network is a working group of QPIRG Concordia.

# WHOSE SECURITY? OUR SECURITY!

POPULAR FORUM  
4-6 FEBRUARY 2011

PEOPLE'S  
COMMISSION  
NETWORK

Concordia University  
Hall Building  
1455 Maisonneuve, W

## COUNTERING THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENDA

The last decade was marked by a trend towards expanding government powers of surveillance, arrest and control of movement in the name of national security and the war against terror. This is happening in the context of full-scale neoliberalisation across the globe, with states and governments serving the interests of corporations whose only ethic is turning over huge profits. Informed and articulate opposition, dissent and resistance is not tolerated – it is undermined, crushed and marginalized.

A host of repressive measures and increased powers of police, intelligence and border agencies have allowed Canadian authorities to more easily control, intimidate and criminalize social movements and expressions of international solidarity – as well as communities, organizations and individuals associated with them.

The recent \$1 billion “security operations” around the G20 summit showcased some of these developments, while recalling past events such as the use of the War Measures Act in the 70s and the deployment of the military in Oka in the 90s.

Fear and racist stereotypes have been evoked to justify the violence of torture, occupation, war and capitalism and effectively contain opposition and meaningful political debate. While the national security agenda marginalizes entire communities, creating scapegoats and silencing resistance, legalistic debates over human rights vs national security obscure the underlying struggles over power, privilege and the control of identities, bodies, land and resources.

The People’s Commission Network is organizing a conference to mobilize our networks to collectively address the growing threat of the national security agenda. Through a process of consultation, several areas have been identified as priorities for public debate and action:

- Historical Perspectives on National Security: Delegitimization of Dissent and Marginalization of Communities;
- Military-Security Industrial Complex;
- CSIS Watch
- Blacklists, blacklisting and the Anti-terrorism Act; and
- Immigration Security Measures.

The forum will provide a space for open public discussion on each of these issues, as well as an opportunity to develop action plans.

To get involved in organizing or to endorse the forum, please email us at [commissionpopulaire@gmail.com](mailto:commissionpopulaire@gmail.com).

To donate, write cheques to “Réseau de la Commission populaire”, with “Forum” in the memo line. Send to QPIRG Concordia (People’s Commission) c/o Concordia University, 1455 de Maisonneuve O., Montréal, Québec H3G 1M8

