

Excerpts from
10 POINTS ON THE BLACK BLOC

by Harsha Walia

VIOLENCE:

"[...] we're asking the wrong side the question about violence. If we're going to talk about violence, we need to be talking about corporate sponsors, the state, the military, and the police who daily commit violence on people."

MASKS:

"State surveillance [...] means people need to protect themselves. To me, the black bloc is not anonymous. It's a tactic and the members of the black bloc are known to me."

State surveillance [...] means people need to protect themselves.

EFFECTIVENESS:

"[...] there is no monopoly on the mass movement. There are a lot of people who don't engage in what is the monoculture of the mass movement, in symbolic protest, and who find direct action to be very empowering."

"Direct action happens because there is a need for it. Direct action happens because people are fighting back, and we're not waiting for millions of people to stand beside us for the revolution to happen."

Direct action happens because there is a need for it.

MEDIA SMEARS:

"The media is not the gauge of the success of our protests, and the corporate media and the police should not be let off the hook by us replicating their smears and their denunciations. Instead, we should be very clear about not denouncing our comrades as violent."

SOLIDARITY:

"Solidarity does not equal censorship. As far as I'm concerned, I don't think that anyone who engaged in black bloc tactics or supports them is asking for our allies to censor themselves. What I am asking for is for people to not have facebook comments like "silly black bloc" and "fuck diversity of tactics". We can emphasize communication between our allies. Let's not denounce people publicly. Let's not denounce people in vague generalizations. Let's have a commitment to dialogue. Let's have a commitment to doing that in person."