

**Aaron Vogel**  
**Globalization Protestor**

Remember that old saying, "People who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones?" Well, global capitalism is throwing stones at people world wide, making life hell for billions of them, and here in Honolulu the bankers of the Asian Development Bank -- the ADB -- are meeting in a glass house, this Honolulu Convention Center. Ironic, isn't it. Imagine all of the poor this place could house, but it sits empty most of the time.

Although Americans have the right of free speech, we had to sue to the City and County of Honolulu to get the right to protest publicly at this ADB meeting. It's a typical picture showing just how far even local governments sometimes go to protect transnational corporations and their banks.

Waikiki is a famous all over the world, so its visitor industry -- part of the worldwide visitor industry -- is just one piece in the pattern of globalization -- and it shows us the terrible gap in the distribution of wealth around the world.

Here you see people wealthy enough to come to the islands to enjoy vacations, but meanwhile these ADB bankers are loaning money to transnational firms that pay workers as little 20 to 40 cents an hour, and displace many of them with huge dams and public works..

Globalization protests are about social justice, about protecting the environment, and stopping transnational corporations from taking control of governments.

But the banks and transnationals influence even local governments. Honolulu closed nearby parks to keep us from organizing, and we had to sue to get a simple parade in Waikiki.

I've been at the protests in Seattle, Washington D.C., and Quebec, but I couldn't get to the demonstrations in Genoa, Italy. I can tell you that the [anti-globalization demonstrators](#) are much more than just a bunch of idealists throwing rocks at capitalists.

And the globalization protest movement is not really harboring terrorists, as the Italian police have claimed. The movement to stop globalization has real substance and purpose, with organizations in countries all over the world. Transnational corporations and these international lending agencies continue to ignore the hardship and disasters they create. They're the ones creating the opposition to globalization that's picking up momentum around the world.

By the time we got to Quebec in April of 2001, there were more than 350 international citizens organizations protesting –

[Debt relievers](#)

[Save-the-earthers,](#)

[Human rights watchers,](#)

[Anti-free traders,](#)

[International Capital flow taxers,](#)

[Wealth Redistributers.](#)

The same is pretty much true here in Honolulu. There is a whole political spectrum of protestors non-violent to violent.

For the first time in history global capitalism has found itself in a fight wherever it goes, and those of us who oppose globalization are educated, well funded, and relentless.

Why? Because we need to stop the exploitation of people and environments around the world.

Why? Because we have many millions more living in abject poverty than we did in 1990.

Why? Because global warming is raising the oceans and 50% of the earth's species are threatened with extinction in the next 50 years. Worse, the rate at which they are dying out is accelerating.

Just look at the numbers:

20% of the people -- the world's rich -- control 85% of what's produced.

The income of the top 20% is 37 times higher than the income of the bottom 20 %

1.2 billion people live on less than \$1 per day

Another 1.3 billion people live on \$2 a day .

We have [one-third of the world's people in abject poverty.](#)

People needlessly starve and suffer from preventable illnesses. Epidemics such as AID's, TB, and cholera are on the rise again worldwide.

Environmentally we have put the earth at risk.

[In the US, 95% of our original forests are gone.](#)

[Forests around the world are disappearing.](#)

[Our oceans are becoming seriously polluted,](#)

2200 scientists from countries all over the world agree that [global warming is rising, and the seasonal hole in earth's ozone layer at either pole is enlarging.](#) Our planet is undergoing the greatest extinction of plants and animals in the last 65 million years. Transnational corporations just claim its phony science, and go on searching the [world for the cheapest labor and the least effective environmental regulations.](#) They create a *race to the bottom* for both people and nature.

[Who has what human rights and what control over national laws and their enforcement has subtly shifted.](#) The World Trade Organization has silently become an un-elected world government controlling how national governments will protect their environments or trade. Elected government officials in democracies have silently given up their power to make and enforce national laws, and have been replaced by appointees in international organizations such as the [World Trade Organization.\(WTO, and the Asian Development Bank.](#) We believe that the ADB is heavily influenced by transnational corporations, and that it has no accountability to countries or voters.

By supporting investors at the expense of governments and poor people, international organizations such as the International Monetary fund ([IMF](#)) and [ADB](#) create crises instead of solving them.

The [Asian Development Bank](#) is essentially a regional branch of the World Bank, one of the institutions that has to change its practices. In Asia in 1997-8 international banking organizations nearly set off a worldwide currency crisis that could have led to a worldwide depression. They set off crises that destroyed the middle classes in Thailand, Indonesia, and elsewhere in Asia. Read Robin Hahnel's short book on it, *Panic Rules*

The anti-globalization movement is people like you and me who want to force businesses to serve, not exploit the people who work for them and buy from them; force them to save the earth's environments, the plants, animals and natural processes that support all human life.

If we don't succeed, our children and grandchildren won't have much of a world to live in. #

## QUESTIONS

1. Don't take my word for it. If you think I'm wrong, explain to me just where and how globalization is helping anyone?
2. Of the problems globalization is causing -- human rights violations, the exploitation of labor, environmental destruction, or subversion of democratic governments, increasing poverty -- which do you see as most in need of a solution?
3. Some of the business practices we are protesting are actually violations of the law, crimes. Find where a business or government is violating the law.
4. What have businesses already done to respond to and take care of the problems we are protesting?
5. Are all the problems Aaron mentions caused by globalization and those advocating it?
6. What might someone say about these protests from another perspective? A sweatshop worker in Thailand? A local government official in Honolulu? The head of the Asian Development Bank? Someone working for less than the US minimum wage in an auto factory in China?

Aaron Vogel Websites

**[anti-globalization demonstrations](#)**

<http://www.csis-scrs.gc.ca/eng/miscdocs/200008e.html>

Canadian Security Intelligence Service Report: The Anti-Globalization Movement surveys the movement discussing who is involved, tactics and technology, funding and the likely future of the movement.

<http://www.undercurrents.org/>

Undercurrents is focuses on international actions on global issues. Their primary focus is video activism. This site contains a large collection of Real Audio streaming video files as well as ordering information for VHS tape.

[http://www.protest.net/day.cgi?limit=25&state\\_values=ADMISSION\\_INFO\\*.Globalization%20&%20Imperialism](http://www.protest.net/day.cgi?limit=25&state_values=ADMISSION_INFO*.Globalization%20&%20Imperialism)

Protest.net provides and international lists of meetings and scheduled protests relating to globalization as well as a host of other social issues.

<http://www.commondreams.org/views/042300-101.htm>

April 23, 2000 LA Times article "Mixing '60s Activism And Anti-Globalization"

### **Prague**

<http://www.x21.org/s26/index.shtml>

September 26<sup>th</sup> Global Day of Action website with links to various protest activities surrounding the World Bank/IMF summit protests.

<http://www.imf.org/external/am/2000/am.htm>

IMF site containing overview of the World Bank/IMF 2000 annual meeting.

### **Debt relievers**

<http://www.odc.org/commentary/ibaug99.html>

Overseas Development Council (ODC) brief of 1999 G7 Cologne debt relief initiative.

<http://www.worldbank.org/whatwedo/>

Description of what the World Bank does, including strategies, policies, and projects.

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/pam/pam51/contents.htm>

Discussion of the IMF's Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative.

<http://www.jubilee2000uk.org/main.html>

Jubilee 2000 is an international movement calling for debt cancellation to heavily indebted poor countries. Lists latest news, ongoing actions throughout the world, as well as country profiles.

**Save the earthers** (I think we can come up with a better way to describe these groups, coalitions, etc., they are often concerned about improving human rights as well as the earth, i.e. sweatshops, etc.).

<http://www.oneworld.org/>

OneWorld is dedicated to harnessing the democratic potential of the internet to promote human rights and sustainable development. One World has hundreds of partner organizations working in many different topic areas each accessible from this site.

<http://www.enn.com/index.asp>

Environmental News Network is the largest and longest running internet portal providing environmental information and services. An excellent source for recent articles and press releases.

<http://www.wri.org/index.html>

World Resources Institute provides information, ideas, and solutions to global environmental problems. An excellent source for hard data regarding the effects of globalization and environmental issues.

### **Human rights watchers**

<http://www.hrweb.org/intro.html>

Introduction to the human rights movement

<http://www.hrweb.org/legal/udhr.html>

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1948.

<http://www.hrweb.org/resource.html>

Human Rights Web directory of human rights organizations and resources

<http://shr.aas.org/dhr/about.htm>

American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) directory provides descriptions and links to hundreds of human rights organizations worldwide on the Internet, organized by site name, topical focus, and geographical focus.

### **Anti-free traders**

<http://1912.history.ohio-state.edu/tariff/motherof.htm>

Cartoon illustrating a historical roots of free trade and protectionism arguments.

<http://www.ifmx.com/pages/articles/free%20market/anti.htm>

Article from The Free Market gives historic background to anti-free trade policies arguing that free trade is more beneficial to Americans and the world in general.

<http://www.igc.org/trac/feature/humanrts/globalization/freetrade.html>

Martin Khor, economist and director of the Third World Network, examines the Uruguay round of GATT and examines the impact of free trade policies upon the Third World.

<http://www.globalissues.org/TradeRelated/FreeTrade.asp>

Comprehensive page on free trade and globalization, includes links to WTO Seattle protests, neo-liberalism, criticisms of current forms of free trade, etc.

<http://www.tradewatch.org/>

Global Trade Watch site is a division of Public Citizen, Ralph Nader's consumer group. GTW is critical of global trade policies which tout "free trade".

### **International Capital flow taxers**

### **Wealth Redistributors**

### **One-third of the world's people in abject poverty**

<http://www.globalissues.org/TradeRelated/Facts.asp>

Poverty facts and stats from Global Issues.Org

<http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/irp/povlinks.htm>

Poverty related links

<http://arabia.com/article/0,1690,Life|29245,00.html>

UN press release from Reuters regarding poverty levels in the world

<http://www.worldbank.org/poverty/index.htm>

World Bank PovertyNet provides resources and support for those working to understand and alleviate poverty.

### **In the US, 95% of our original forests are gone**

[http://www.environmentaldefense.org/pubs/Reports/Timber\\_Report/](http://www.environmentaldefense.org/pubs/Reports/Timber_Report/)

Environmental Defense article "Global Deforestation, Timber, and the Struggle For Sustainability: Making the Label Stick" examines timber consumption in the United States, the timber trade and global deforestation (in temperate and tropical forests), and analyzes the links between the timber trade and deforestation

<http://www-personal.umich.edu/~mblowers/def.html>

Link to maps showing the decreases in virgin forestation in the US from 1650 to to 1926.

### **Forests around the world are disappearing**

<http://www.wri.org/wri/trends/fragment.html>

World Resource Institute article "Fragmenting Forests: The Loss of Large Frontier Forests".

<http://edcwww.cr.usgs.gov/earthshots/slow/tableofcontents>

USGS satellite images of environmental change around the world

<http://www.oneworld.org/panos/briefing/brief38.htm#intro>

Examines worldwide concern that economic growth based on free trade is having negative impacts on society and the environment, especially in poorer countries.

### **Our oceans are becoming seriously polluted**

<http://www.ukrivers.net/pollution.html#general>

Comprehensive list of links from the United Kingdom relating to ocean and river water pollution

[http://seawifs.gsfc.nasa.gov/OCEAN\\_PLANET/HTML/ocean\\_planet\\_oceans\\_in\\_peril.html](http://seawifs.gsfc.nasa.gov/OCEAN_PLANET/HTML/ocean_planet_oceans_in_peril.html)

Smithsonian site Ocean Planet explores many aspects of ocean pollution and its causes.

<http://www.american.edu/tes/NEW.HTM>

Trade and Environment Database article describing devastating effects of Maquiladora ocean and river pollution, particularly the Salton Sea and New River region.

<http://www.uswaternews.com/archives/arcglobal/6mexfre.html>

Mexican Free Trade Zone a major source of water pollution.

### **San Diego water quality**

<http://www.sdbaykeeper.org/articles/artsdhg9805.html>

Published in San Diego Home and Garden in August 1998 "FOUL WATER: Ocean Pollution - it's enough to make you sick" examines the toll pollution has taken on a family and it's ocean recreation.

<http://home.san.rr.com/saldana/cwa.html>

The San Diego Clean Water Alliance is a joint effort of [San Diego Baykeeper](#), the [San Diego County Surfrider Foundation](#), the San Diego/Imperial County Chapter of the [Sierra Club](#), the [Environmental Health Coalition](#) and Surfers Tired of Pollution (STOP). The

site is a one stop source for recent news and actions regarding water quality in the San Diego area.

<http://www.sdcwa.org/>

San Diego County Water Authority homepage

### **Florida water quality**

<http://www.keyswaterquality.org/4report.htm#top>

Report on water quality in the Florida Keys indicates live potentially disease causing viruses have been found in two canals and a cove.

<http://www.pirg.org/reports/enviro/poison/>

Poisoning Our Water: How the Government Permits Pollution. U.S PIRG Education Fund Report examines ways in which corporations bypass and violate the Clean Water Act.

[http://www.peer.org/action/pr\\_122297\\_flwater.html](http://www.peer.org/action/pr_122297_flwater.html)

Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) critically examine Florida's record enforcing industrial polluters.

### **China water quality**

<http://www.wri.org/health/prcindus.htm>

World Resources Institute discusses the impact of rapid industrialization upon water resources in China.

<http://www.ied.org.cn/Case/en/huaihe.html>

Case Study on Environmental, Social and Economic Impacts of Pollution Treatment Action in Huaihe River Basin

### **2200 scientists agree that global warming is rising, and the seasonal hole in earth's ozone layer at either pole is enlarging**

<http://www.globalwarming.org/>

Global Warming.Org website is a comprehensive page with many links including a student research page.

<http://www.epa.gov/globalwarming/>

Environmental Protection Agency global warming website

<http://www.newscientist.com/nsplus/insight/global/faq.html>

New Scientist website presents concise overview of the issues and includes links to skeptic perspectives on the existence of global warming.

<http://www.atm.ch.cam.ac.uk/tour/index.html>

University of Cambridge's Ozone Hole tour page

<http://csab.wustl.edu/research/125.asp>

William Lash III

### **world seeking the cheapest labor and the least effective environmental regulations**

<http://www.brookings.org/comm/transcripts/20000411.htm>



April 11, 2000 Brookings Institution transcript of press briefing on trade, labor and the environment. The briefing is held just before the IMF/World Bank Spring meetings in Washington and 4 months after Seattle WTO protests. Very informative discussion.

<http://www.american.edu/TED/ted.htm>

Trade and Environment Database (TED) is a unique inventory of the impacts of trade on environment, culture, and a variety of other issues. You can search TED, participate in TED virtual conferences and create your own TED case studies.

## **World Trade Organization**

<http://www.wto.org/>

World Trade Organization website

<http://www2.netdoor.com/~aminyard/>

Mississippi State University student website that traces the history, structure and provides an analysis of the World Trade Organization.

<http://www.oneworld.org/panos/briefing/brief37.htm#intro>

Panos press briefing examines the power and influence of the WTO upon the world, arguing that although many do not know it, but what they eat, how much shirts or drugs cost, whether they have a job or not, the freedom of peasants to replant seeds, the subsidies offered by governments are all being touched by trade rules.

## **IMF**

<http://encarta.msn.com/find/Concise.asp?z=1&pg=2&ti=761553862>

Encyclopedia Encarta's definition of the International Monetary Fund.

<http://www.imf.org/external/index.htm>

International Monetary Fund official website

[http://www.findarticles.com/cf\\_0/m0FQP/4417\\_128/53889586/p1/article.jhtml](http://www.findarticles.com/cf_0/m0FQP/4417_128/53889586/p1/article.jhtml)

Christopher Huhne of the New Statesman criticizes IMF policies advocating a return to Keynesian economics.

[http://www.findarticles.com/cf\\_0/m1252/n1\\_v125/20417278/p1/article.jhtml](http://www.findarticles.com/cf_0/m1252/n1_v125/20417278/p1/article.jhtml)

1998 Commonwealth magazine article defending IMF strategies

[http://www.findarticles.com/cf\\_0/m1104/n2\\_v77/20356348/p1/article.jhtml](http://www.findarticles.com/cf_0/m1104/n2_v77/20356348/p1/article.jhtml)

Martin Feldstein of Foreign Affairs magazine argues that the IMF'S emphasis on imposing major structural and institutional reforms as opposed to focusing on balance-of-payments adjustments will have adverse consequences in both the short term and the more distant future for South East Asia.

[http://www.findarticles.com/cf\\_0/m1104/n4\\_v77/20951587/p1/article.jhtml](http://www.findarticles.com/cf_0/m1104/n4_v77/20951587/p1/article.jhtml)

Stanley Fisher argues in Foreign Affairs magazine that Martin Feldstein's criticisms of the IMF's structural reforms in Southeast Asia overlook the fact that the crisis is the result of structural problems.

## **The World Bank**

<http://www.worldbank.org/>

Website of The Worldbank. Contains an abundance of information and resources, including the Annual Report 2000.

<http://www.oneworld.net/anydoc2.cgi?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww%2Ecorpwatch%2Eorg%2Ffeature%2FIndia%2Fglobalization%2Fimfwb%2Ehtml>

August 1994 "Global Impoverishment and the IMF-World Bank Economic Medicine" by Michel Chossudovsky of the University of Ottawa argues that the IMF/Worldbank policies have led to the economic ruin of many developing countries.

[http://www.findarticles.com/cf\\_0/m1104/n2\\_v77/20356348/p1/article.jhtml](http://www.findarticles.com/cf_0/m1104/n2_v77/20356348/p1/article.jhtml)

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