There’s a large gap in the fence: G13

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Aesthetics of Resistance Appendix 3.2.3.1.

10.03 : On Saturday morning Grøndalsvænge 13 is filled with police. By the entrance towards Hillerødgade witnesses have observed that a little before 10 o'clock there are 20 to 30 police officers in place. There have been police officers on the site since yesterday evening, but at 6 o'clock Saturday morning fresh supplies of officers have turned up. The officers at the entrance will not disclose the total number of police officers, but concede that "we are many". The earlier posting of police officers on the site was probably with the object of impeding activists from trying to enter the old waterworks buildings before time.

10.35 : About a hundred demonstrators have turned up at Grøndals Torv and have just set off towards the waterworks building on Grøndalsvænge. Their average age is comparatively high, by far the most of the participants are middle-aged or older. Rasmus Jarlov, the Conservative candidate to the municipal council and a member of the Grøndal local council, has made a speech, saying among other things that the Youth House activists often make it out to be only politicians and the police who are against a Youth House. The demonstration this morning is meant to show that ordinary citizens as well do not want a Youth House. He says that the neighbourhood around Grøndalsvænge is a peaceful neighbourhood, and that the residents want it to stay that way. Even if the action group G13 has set the scene for a peaceful occupation, he still thinks that it's the same kind of environment which has thrice fostered unrest and street fighting on Nørrebro. Finally, Rasmus Jarlov urges the residents to keep calm in the course of Saturday, and let the police manage the task of keeping order. He argues that in that way, the neighbourhood would show "moral superiority".

10.52 : The police have put up a red-white police tape within the Grøndalsvænge site. It is put up about 5 metres within the fence. At the same time there are posters announcing that the area is now blocked, and access is prohibited. People who cross the line are threatened with fines or arrest. Simultaneously private security guards have begun to walk around the neighbourhood and push people around. Among others, they have asked people from the press to move away.

12.05 : Everything is now again quiet and calm around the Grøndalsvænge site. The neighbour demonstration is over, and people have gone home. However, there are still many police officers on the site. A Modkraft journalist on the spot estimates that the police will probably not block the access road to the site, but will let the Youth House demonstrators reach the fence around the site.

12.16 : A pre-demonstration from Christiania to Nørrebrohallen which started at 11 o'clock has now reached Christiansborg. A source on the spot estimates that there are between 300 and 500 participants. Some of the demonstrators are dressed in clown costumes and many are carrying Christiania flags.

12.47 : Demonstrators have started to gather at Nørrebrohallen on Outer Nørrebro. A journalist on the spot estimates the present number of people at appr. 300. At the same time several demonstration cars are being decorated in clear colours corresponding to the blocks of activists who have announced that they will try to occupy Grøndalsvænge 13.

13.17 : Several sources report that dog carriers are placed on the roads around Grøndalsvænge 13. One source has reported 10 carriers on Vindruevej with 6 dogs in each with a further 3-4 carriers at Mariendalsvej on the corner with Vagtelvej.

13.24 : At Grøndalsvænge a considerable group of police officers are now gathered around the main entrance. Nine personnel carriers are gathered outside the entrance. At the same time loose dogs are running around inside the area which has earlier been the site of a waterworks.

13.35 : It seems that there is a difference of opinion between the leaders of the demonstration and the police about the demonstration route. At a negotiation with a G13 activist, the police are said to have further emphasized that they will crack down on demonstrators wearing masks. This may be a source of confrontation later on, as several of the action groups which will split out during the demonstration will be wearing clothes in different colours. That might be interpreted as masking, one estimate says. Sources report that there's a crowd at Nørrebrohallen, as the demonstration has already gathered about 1000 people. At the same time there's a jumble sale on the spot, so that a lot of local traders are mixed in with the crowd. In front is the Green block, then follow the Yellow, the Turquoise, and finally the Red block . The police is in the area with among other things 10 motor bikes on Nørrebrogade.

13.53 : At Grøndalsvænge a private security guard is situated on the KPMG site which lies between Borups Alle and Grøndalsvænge 13. Guards have barricaded the building with chip boards to protect it against broken windows. The guards say to a source on the spot that they will not interfere, if activists from G13 want to use a parking lot as take-off for forcing an entrance to the occupied house. Their only task is to try to protect the KPMG building.

14.01 : The press group for G13 estimates that there are 4000 participants in the demonstration at Nørrebrohallen. The spokesperson at the same time calls the pre-demonstration from Christiania fantastic.

14.01 : A source reports that the police is present with 4 personnel carriers at the viaduct under Borups Alle, appr. 100 metres from the Grøndalsvænge site. 15-20 officers are said to stand outside the carriers. The police are said to have asked a resident to move a removal van.

14.14 : According to sources at Nørrebrohallen, the demonstration route dictated by the police is to be along Nørrebrogade towards the city, Hillerødgade towards Lundtoftegade, and then along Borups Alle towards Fuglebakken station. One source estimates that that route will be considered a trap, and that the demonstrators will maybe try to reach the site by another route.

14.17 : The demonstration at Nørrebrohallen has started to move along Nørrebrogade. According to sources at the spot, the four blocks have informed the participants about their task during the demonstration and about the police directions as regards the demonstration route.

14.31 : It’s become a little easier to get a general view of the size of the demonstration after it has started to move. A witness on the spot calls it ”very, very big”, possibly up to 10.000 participants. The different blocks of the demonstration include activists in black wearing ribbons around arms and heads in the colours of the block. There are several hundred demonstrators in each block.

14.31 : At Grøndalsvænge the police have drawn personnel away from Grøndalsvænge. The dogs are now withdrawn from the site, but police officers are patrolling the neighbourhood. At Vagtelvej, the police has closed off the area with 8 armoured and transit vans, 3 dog carriers and 34-40 officers. Vagtelvej lies at the opposite side of the railway which runs along the site towards the city from where the demonstrators are expected to come.

14.32 : A photographer has observed a series of police demolition vehicles. At least three loader tractors, a police truck and a technician van have driven via Tuborgvej towards the G13 area with police escort.

14.46 : The G13 demonstration has now reached the intersection between Hillerødgade and Lundtoftegade. It is led by Green block. The demonstration turns into Lundtoftgade, following police directions.

15.05 : The demonstration is now approaching Borups Alle along Lundtoftegade. Many police officers and personnel carriers are posted near the intersection. If the demonstration turns away from Borups Alle, it may be fenced in by the police at each end. According to a source, 12 transit vans are positioned on Borups Alle with 50 officers in battle dress ready behind the vans. It is the first time today that there seems to be a confrontation between police and demonstrators in sight.

15.17 : Flemming Steen Munch, the spokesman for the Copenhagen police force, says to Modkraft that the massive police presence at Borups Alle is to prevent the demonstrators from moving up over Bispeengbuen. He further confirms that the police will not let the demonstrators come closer to the Grøndalsvænge site than Fuglebakken station at Borups Alle.

15.23 : The police have now blocked Borups Alle at Fuglebakken station. There are 100 police officers and several transit vans by the S-train passage over the road. The road has narrowed down – and it is to this point that Flemming Steen Munck has said that the demonstration may come.

15.27 : A witness on the spot reports that the four blocks are now being asked to operate on their own by the loudspeaker vans in the G13 demonstration. The demonstration is situated at Borups Alle underneath Bispeengbuen. By the viaduct under the railway, police vans are now so close to each other that you can hardly slip between them, a source says.

15.41 : Green block has reached the viaduct at Borups Alle. There are five metres between the police and the demonstrators. The police have tried to talk to them over their megaphone, but have been drowned out by the shouts of the demonstrators. The demonstrators are advancing towards the police. From the loudspeaker van the demonstrators are encouraged to crawl over and under the police cars. Those demonstrators who crawled up on the cars are being followed by officers using truncheons, and according to witnesses also aiming for their heads. The police have now donned gas masks and are advancing towards the front of the viaduct.

15.45 : Tear gas has now been thrown over Borups Alle, and the police are advancing towards the demonstrators wearing masks. The demonstrators are standing still, holding on to each other. Supposedly, there’s also police on the other side of the demonstrators, so they are fenced in.

15.50 : It is said from several sources on the spot that the demonstrators are moving back from the police. Appr. 10-12 tear gas grenades have been thrown. Lemons are distributed among the demonstrators – and the music from the loudspeaker van continues. According to sources, Red block has been stopped by the police on Drosselvej, but is now seeking other routes towards Grøndalsvej.

15.54 : A tear gas grenade fired by the police in the viaduct at Solsortevej and Borups Alle is said to have ricochetted from the ceiling of the viaduct and back at the police officers.

15.54 : At Fuglebakken station it is reported that an injured male demonstrator has been driven away in an ambulance. He’s said to have a bloody face.

15.54 : 50 activists from Red block are said to have come over the fence around the site , and have been met here by truncheons and tear gas. Two press photographers are supposed to be among those hit by truncheons.

15.54 : 300-400 activists from Turquoise block are said to have forced their way onto the permanent way running along the site. They are followed to the east by a group of police officers.

16.07 : Turquoise block has reached the school garden area south of the Grøndalsvænge site via the permanent road.

16.07 : A group of 15-20 demonstrators are said to be arrested at Vagtelvej and Godthåbsvej.

16.15 : Yellow block is advancing along Nordre Fasanvej and calling on people via the loudspeaker van to find an alternative route to Grøndalsvænge.

16.15 : At this moment Red block is being arrested as a group at the corner of Mirabelvej and Montagevej. As of now, there are up to 20 people under arrest.

16.20 : The police have arrested a group of appr. 8 demonstrators at the corner of Grøndalsvænge Alle and Morbærvej.

16.25 : There’s a rumour that the people in Green block have succeeded in tieing a rope to a police car and pulling it away. It is supposed to have happened at Borups Alle.

16.25 : A few hundred demonstrators in Yellow block have blocked Hillerødgade, they are moving back towards Borups Alle and positioning themselves in the intersection. They then move towards Grøndalsvænge Alle, but are being stopped by the police with cars driving in among the demonstrators shooting tear gas.

16.40 : Politiken writes that between 50 and 100 activists are supposed to have entered the site. They are said to have cut a hole in the fence at the corner of Borups Alle and Hillerødgade. Not yet any police at the site. Yellow block annonces that they are 500 activists. They say they are throwing tear gas back at the police.

16.40 : Turquoise block then withdrew across the permanent way to the highrise at Godthåbsvænget. Here they got the message that Yellow block had forced their way into the site, which was met with loud cheers. The group now makes for Godthåbsvej to try to cross the rails over the bridge there.

16.40 : The turquoise block which is trying to cross the permanent road and move through the gardens was met by 30 to 50 police officers on Grøndalsvænge Alle appr. 500 m south of the Grøndalsvænge house who struck the demonstrators hard and without cause.

16.45 : Turquoise block is moving forward on Godthåbsvej, a smaller group of civilian police officers with drawn truncheons are barring their way. The block moves forward, hands in the air to signal non-violence. Sources have been told that several children all the way down to 6 years have been hit by tear gas during the police's first gas attack.

16.50 : There’s a large gap in the fence around the G13 site. 400-500 demonstrators have penetrated the hole at the KPMG building which is next to the site. The demonstrators are making speeches from within the site, people are cheering, while more and more are forcing an entrance. The police are now cordoning off the neighbouring site and are preparing to make their way to the demonstrators at Grøndalsvæng Alle 13.

16.58 : 4 transit vans are driving towards turquoise block which is dispersing in the area. 30 demonstrators are being arrested.

17.01 : Around 200 demonstrators are now inside the house and on the roof. The police have surrounded the area, but are remaining passive for the moment.

17.08 : Green block has crawled onto the motorway at Åboulevarden where there is a massive police presence. There are now 12-15 transit vans, and the police are donning gas masks.

17.18 : Three loudspeaker vans in the intersection between Hillerødgade and Borups Alle call on several hundred people to storm the fence around the site. The police are putting on gas masks, the atmosphere is very tense.

17.19 : Appr. 1000 demonstrators are in the tunnel under Bispeengbuen. The police announce in loud speakers that the demonstration is dissolved owing to violence and vandalism, and that people must withdraw towards Nørrebro. Tear gas is thrown against the demonstrators under Bispeengbuen.

17.25 : The tear gas at Bispeengbuen is very massive. An eye witness says it looks like a state of war.

17.31 : The demonstrators are apparently playing tricks on the police. Several times they have been forced up to Bispeengbuen from Fuglebakkevej and have blocked the traffic. Right now they are again on the bridge, while the green flag again draws the demonstrators down on Fuglebakkevej.

17.38 : According to eye witnesses, there are still people in the house on the site. A small group is located on the roof with a pirate flag. On the ground there is a large group of persons under arrest, and it’s said that there are also people under arrest at the KPMG building facing Borups Alle. One source says that the Press had permission earlier to be at the KPMG building, but that they would be arrested, if they came closer to the Grøndalsvænge site. Immediately afterwards, so much tear gas was discharged that it was impossible to manage without gas masks.

17.41 : A group of demonstrators on Hillerødgade on their way towards Nørrebro are being shot at with tear gas. A source estimates the number of demonstrators at several hundred, perhaps up to 800. Four group vans, three armoured vans, and police officers on foot have been brought to bear on the demonstrators here.

17.46 : The group on Hillerødgade has been forced back by massive quantities of tear gas. A Modkraft journalist on the spot relates that it’s the police who are behaving aggressively and using tear gas, truncheons and dogs at the smallest provocation. The demonstrators, on the other hand, keep to the concept of the action and only seeks confrontation as physical bodies – no stones or bottles are thrown, he says.

17.46 : Within the site 80 people are hemmed in by the police. They are taken out one at a time by the police and placed in a ”choo-choo-train”. According to TV2News, at least 200 persons have been arrested. Politiken says 300 people, and two persons have lost consciousness after being hit by tear gas grenades, and several persons are being treated after truncheon blows and dog bites.

18.02 : After a count, a source estimates the number of arrested on the site at 200. Everything is calm, the persons under arrest sit surrounded by dogs and are successively taken into police buses.

18.07 : The police are now clearing the intersection at Nordre Fasanvej. According to sources on the spot, a woman has fainted at Fuglebakken station earlier in the day because of tear gas. Twenty minutes ago, when the police cleared Hillerødgade, they used not only tear gas, but also truncheons. However, no one was arrested this time.

18.12 : Appr. 500 demonstrators at Nørrebro station is now on their way back to Nørrebrohallen. Probably to carry out the unknown Plan B.

18.23 : A substantial group of demonstrators at Nørrebro station have now reached Nørrebrohallen. Police officers have formed lines facing the square and are trying to keep people away. The police have announced over the loudspeaker vans that the crowd is dispersed. The demonstrators are waiting on developments. A journalist estimates the number of demonstrators at Nørrebrohallen at 1000 persons.

18.31 : There’s comparative calm at the Grøndalsvænge site, apart from a lot of vicious dogs. The persons under arrest are transported from the location in green police carriers as well as in HT-busses. There are still activists on the roof.

18.46 : On the other hand, the activists on the rooftop of the house have been raided by the police. A journalist on the spot estimates that 10 persons have been arrested. The police officers climbed the roof on ladders, and they brought dogs with them on the roof. Two persons tried to climb the chimney. There are still activists in the house whom the police have not yet tried to get out.

18.46 : The police threat to dissolve the demonstration by Nørrebrohallen has turned out to be empty stage thunder. The police have disappeared from the area again – and a relaxed, almost festival-like atmosphere has spread. Reggae music is playing from a green loudspeaker van, and everything breathes peace and quiet.

19.01 : The police is by and large through with transferring arrested persons from the Grøndalsvænge site into busses.

19.52 : At the end of the day of action, the G13 press group has issued a press release declaring the action a success: We, as Youth House Movement, have shown how strong we are, when we stand together, and we have achieved our goal of occupying the place. We have adhered to what we have planned in spite of massive brutality on the part of the police, says Troels from G13. Ritt Bjerregård has a huge explanation problem. She has stated that she wants a dialogue which we have accepted, but when she does nothing to prevent the violent attacks by the police on a non-violent demonstration, we think she's sending out some very ambiguous signals. The house belongs to the municipality, and it is Ritt's responsibility, he says. The police spokesman, Flemming Steen Munch, claims that after mass arrests and widespread use of tear gas, it is the G13 demonstrators who escalated events by attacking the police personnel carriers.

20.55 : Sources report that tonight the police is massively present on Nørrebro. Among other places, the police is patrolling Nørrebrogade heavily.

21.38 : One source reports that the police on Nørrebro registers and searches everyone who looks like an activist.

21.40 : About 30 police officers are moving into Folkets Park at Stengade 50 and surrounding appr. 15 persons who are sitting around a fire and inside the house, eating. The police are saying nothing, but sources on the spot call police behaviour "confrontational". In Griffenfeldtsgade, three small sticks are burning. Everywhere on Nørrebro, "autonomous-looking" types are stopped and searched by the police.

21.50 : At least 12 personnel carriers have surrounded Folkets Hus and Park. One of the carriers has parked in the middle of the park. 50-100 police officers are in the area where, according to eye witnesses, nothing happens. It has a very, very provocative effect, as if the police want to initiate some action, says a bystander.

21.54 : 10 personnel carriers are stationed at Skt. Hans Torv on Nørrebro. The police make random searches of people on the street and the square.

22.05 : The police have left the People's Park again. Apparently no arrests. On the other hand, an individual has been arrested further down Griffenfeldtsgade outside the Solidarity Shop at No. 41. The person in question has no idea why.

23.02 : Sources reveal that several hundred arrested activists are held in the parking cellar underneath Valby police station, including many of those who came into the house. The arrested activists are sitting on the raw concrete floor, and have done so since 17.00 o'clock. They are in strips, and according to the information from Modkraft.dk, they are not given water, and they don't have access to toilet facilities. Alledgedly, some of them are under age.

00.17 : It is rumoured that there are still activists under arrest in strips at Valby police station.