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# PROTEST

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## YOUNG PEOPLE FOR CHANGE

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Type of module	Creative communication
Level	B1
Target group	16–19-year-old learners
Written by	Csíky Anna, Fehér Judit

A kiadvány az Educatio Kht. kompetenciafejlesztő oktatási program kerettanterve alapján készült.

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A teljes programcsomag elérhető: [www.educatio.hu](http://www.educatio.hu) címen.

Szakmai vezető: Kuti Zsuzsa

Szakmai bizottság: Enyedi Ágnes, dr. Majorosi Anna, dr. Morvai Edit

Idegen nyelvi lektorok: Mark Andrews, Peter Doherty

Alkotó szerkesztő: Sákovics Lília

Szakértők: Enyedi Ágnes, Tartsayné Németh Nóra

Grafikai munka: Walton Promotion Kft.

Felelős szerkesztő: Burom Márton

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Szerzők: Csibi Erzsébet, Csíky Anna, Dóczy Brigitta, Fehér Judit, Prievara Tibor,  
Victor Mónika

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## 1.2 TASK SHEET

- Tick the positive changes in which young people had an active role.

- 1 China became a more democratic country.
- 2 America stopped the war in Vietnam.
- 3 In Europe and the USA, young people are quite free in deciding what they wear and what hair style they have.
- 4 Segregation (having separate schools, restaurants, buses, etc. for black and for white people with black people having a much worse quality of all these) ended in the USA and black and white children are educated together now.
- 5 Having sex before marriage and using contraception (so that you don't have a baby unplanned) is generally accepted in many countries in Europe and Northern America.
- 6 The Berlin Wall came down and Berlin is one city again.
- 7 There is freedom of speech in democracies.
- 8 Soviet repression ended in Central and Eastern Europe.
- 9 There is no compulsory military service in many democratic countries and civilians cannot be sent to war.

- Listen to a short lecture given by a young activist to fellow students and check your answers.

## 1.2 RECORDING

### Script

Hello everyone! For those of you who don't know me, my name is Richard Freeman, but most people here call me Freebie, which I've learnt to like. Boss Susie asked me to do a little research on effective protests by young people in recent history, and to give you a short talk on this. Well, I have done my homework and this is what I have found.

The civil rights movements, the human rights movements and the peace movements have a lot to thank young people. The freedoms we enjoy these days were largely achieved because young people took an active part in starting social change. I won't be able to give you all the facts, as we don't have for ever, but I would like to give you some significant examples.

First, let's go back in time to the period when segregation was still present in the United States. That meant that black and white students went to different schools and the schools for black children were often in terrible condition. In 1951, 16-year-old Barbara Rose Johns of the all black Moton High School in Farmville, Virginia organised a student strike in protest at the unequal conditions of the black and white schools. During the strike, Barbara and her fellow students found legal help, and their case became one of five law suits that are known in history as the *Brown v. Board of Education* cases. Judges ruled against segregation in these cases, and this greatly contributed to the end of segregation in the USA.

Next, let me tell you about the counterculture movement of the 1960s. Young people actively protested against the Vietnam War, nuclear weapons, racial and sexual discrimination and fought for freedom of speech and sexual freedom. Let me give you some examples of these.

First of all, the students of the University of California, Berkeley played a leading role in the freedom of speech movement as well as in the peace movement against the Vietnam War.

The Free Speech Movement was a student protest which began in 1964-1965 on the campus of the University of California, Berkeley under the informal leadership of student Mario Savio and others. The university administration banned on-campus political activities and did not recognise the students' right to free speech and academic freedom. The protesters wanted to change these. The centre of the protest was Sproul Hall, the campus administration building. Protesters took over this building in a massive sit-in. The sit-in ended on December 3, when police arrested over 800 students. Eventually, students' demands were met and people are free to protest and give speeches or organise political demonstrations in the area around Sproul Hall now.

One of the many important events organised by young people against the Vietnam War happened on May 5, 1965, when student activists at the University of California, Berkeley staged the first public burning of a draft card in the United States. Draft cards were documents ordering men to go into the armed services. This was followed by many men refusing to go to war and eventually lead to creating an army of professional soldiers.

## 1.2 RECORDING (CONT.)

I suppose you find having sex before being married kind of OK. (“Depends with whom”, “No, not me, I follow Madonna and I’m Like a Virgin” “Like – that’s clear, isn’t it?”) If you do, thank the San Francisco counter culture movement of the mid 1960s. They started a new culture of “free love”, they believed in the power of love and the beauty of sex as part of ordinary student life. In the 1980s though, due to AIDS, many people returned to family values, and we are more careful these days than those hippies used to be, I guess. (“Sure, god bless you, condom! I bet it was a young person who invented it.” “I read it in Wikipedia that the ancient Egyptians already used it 3 thousand years ago.” “I don’t believe it.” “Well, check it.”)

I also believe that you wear the clothes and hair style you want. (“Well, not always, depends on how much money I get from my mom”, “How about the school uniform? I don’t want to wear it.”) Well, it wasn’t always the case. In the 60’s, young people were actively hated by older folks e.g. because they had long hair and wore casual clothes like jeans. Even in the 70’s in countries like Hungary, students who refused to change their hairstyle could be forced to leave a school. But a lot of those young people did not give in and now we have more freedom to wear what we want.

Sometimes though, young people made great sacrifices and did not get the result they wanted. A sad example was the Tiananmen Square protests of 1989 in China. The protesters believed the Communist government was too corrupt and repressive; they wanted more freedom and democracy. They also protested against inflation and unemployment. Large numbers of students were killed. Unfortunately even today, this topic is a taboo in China.

However, it can give us hope that a lost battle can later bring the result people originally wanted. An example of this can be the 1956 Hungarian Revolution. It was started by peaceful student demonstrations in the streets of Budapest, which later attracted more and more support from workers and other Hungarians. Though the revolution was brutally crushed, the communist regime in Hungary became much softer afterwards and finally ended in 1989.

That was just to get you thinking about how young people have protested in the past and what they have protested for. I would be interested to know what you think and if you know of any other examples of young activism.

## 1.3.A LISTENING TASK

A

- Complete the table.

<b>Protest/ Movements</b>	<b>Cause</b>	<b>Result</b>
Barbara Rose Johns student strike		Segregation is banned in the USA
Free Speech Movement	Fighting for free political activity, freedom of speech and academic freedom	
May 5, 1965, Univ. of California	Stopping the Vietnam war	
San Francisco “free love”		Love before marriage is OK, contraception is OK
60’s and 70’s clothes and hair	Wearing casual clothes and long hair for men	
Tiananmen Square		A lot of students were killed. You still cannot talk about it.
‘56 Revolution in Hungary		A softer version of socialism, which was replaced by democracy in 1989

## 1.3.A LISTENING TASK (CONT.)

B

- Complete the table.

<b>Protest/ Movements</b>	<b>Cause</b>	<b>Result</b>
Barbara Rose Johns student strike	Stopping bad conditions in black schools in the USA	
Free Speech Movement		Free political activity, freedom of speech and academic freedom are given now
May 5, 1965, Univ. of California		A lot of men refused to go to fight in Vietnam. It also contributed to creating a professional army.
San Francisco “free love”	Making people accept that love and sex are natural parts of life	
60’s and 70’s clothes and hair		More freedom in choosing what you wear
Tiananmen Square	Fighting for more freedom and democracy, protesting against unemployment and inflation	
‘56 Revolution in Hungary	Fighting for more freedom and democracy, protesting against the Soviet and communist dictatorship	

## 1.3.B LISTENING TASK

- Fill in the table.

<b>Protest/ Movements</b>	<b>Cause</b>	<b>Result</b>
Barbara Rose Johns student strike		
Free Speech Movement		
May 5, 1965, Univ of California		
San Francisco “free love”		
60’s and 70’s clothes and hair		
Tiananmen Square		
‘56 Revolution in Hungary		

### 1.3.B LISTENING TASK (CONT.)

- Fill in the table.

<b>Protest/ Movements</b>	<b>Cause</b>	<b>Result</b>
Barbara Rose Johns student strike		
Free Speech Movement		
May 5, 1965, Univ. of California		
San Francisco “free love”		
60’s and 70’s clothes and hair		
Tiananmen Square		
‘56 Revolution in Hungary		

## 1.3.B KEY

<b>Protest/ Movements</b>	<b>Cause</b>	<b>Result</b>
Barbara Rose Johns student strike	Stopping bad conditions in black schools in the USA	Segregation is banned in the USA
Free Speech Movement	Fighting for free political activity, freedom of speech and academic freedom	Free political activity, freedom of speech and academic freedom are given now
May 5, 1965, Univ. of California	Stopping the Vietnam war	A lot of men refused to go to fight in Vietnam. It also contributed to creating a professional army.
San Francisco “free love”	Making people accept that love and sex are natural parts of life	Love before marriage is OK, contraception is OK
60’s and 70’s clothes and hair	Wearing casual clothes and long hair for men	More freedom in choosing what you wear
Tiananmen Square	Fighting for more freedom and democracy, protesting against unemployment and inflation	A lot of students were killed. You still cannot talk about it.
‘56 Revolution in Hungary	Fighting for more freedom and democracy, protesting against the Soviet and communist dictatorship	A softer version of socialism, which was replaced by democracy in 1989

### 1.3.B KEY (CONT.)

<b>Protest/ Movements</b>	<b>Cause</b>	<b>Result</b>
Barbara Rose Johns student strike	Stopping bad conditions in black schools in the USA	Segregation is banned in the USA
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San Francisco “free love”	Making people accept that love and sex are natural parts of’ life	Love before marriage is OK, contraception is OK
60’s and 70’s clothes and hair	Wearing casual clothes and long hair for men	More freedom in choosing what you wear
Tiananmen Square	Fighting for more freedom and democracy, protesting against unemployment and inflation	A lot of students were killed. You still cannot talk about it.
‘56 Revolution in Hungary	Fighting for more freedom and democracy, protesting against the Soviet and communist dictatorship	A softer version of socialism, which was replaced by democracy in 1989

## 1.3.C LISTENING TASK

A

<b>Protest/ Movements</b>	<b>Cause</b>	<b>Result</b>
Barbara Rose Johns student strike	Stopping bad conditions in black schools in the USA	
Free Speech Movement		
May 5, 1965, Univ. of California	Stopping the Vietnam war	
San Francisco “free love”		
60’s and 70’s clothes and hair	Wearing casual clothes and long hair for men	
Tiananmen Square		A lot of students were killed. You still cannot talk about it.
‘56 Revolution in Hungary	Fighting for more freedom and democracy, protesting against the Soviet and communist dictatorship	

## 1.3.C LISTENING TASK (CONT.)

B

<b>Protest/ Movements</b>	<b>Cause</b>	<b>Result</b>
Barbara Rose Johns student strike		Segregation is banned in the USA
Free Speech Movement	Fighting for free political activity, freedom of speech and academic freedom	Free political activity, freedom of speech and academic freedom are given now
May 5, 1965, Univ. of California		A lot of men refused to go to fight in Vietnam. It also contributed to creating a professional army.
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60’s and 70’s clothes and hair		More freedom in choosing what you wear
Tiananmen Square	Fighting for more freedom and democracy, protesting against unemployment and inflation	
‘56 Revolution in Hungary		A softer version of socialism, which was replaced by democracy in 1989

## 1.4 READING TEXTS

Protesting against what?

- Match the reasons for protesting in the box to the extracts from articles on protests. There is one more reason than texts.

pollution, discrimination against women, buying more than you need, police action against immigrants, cruelty against animals, poor standard of living, discrimination against gay and lesbian people, war, increasing the cost of education

A

On Saturday there was a march and rally organized by the Coalition of the Working People and the Poor. In a speech, Bishop James Dixon emotionally described the differences in this country. "There is a group of children" he said, "that worry about baseball and soccer practice while there is another group of children that worry about whether or not the lights will still be on when they get home." He also stated that minimum wage has been set for 10 years while inflation has risen by 27% in the same period.

<http://indymedia.us/en/index.shtml>

Protesting against .....

B

Have you ever felt powerless watching aggression spread like wildfire, wishing someone would do something?? It's time to become POWERFUL!!!

Drums Across America for Peace is an opportunity for the rest of the world to see that thousands upon thousands of Americans stand for Peace. Simply drum for 1/2 hour for Peace at the given times.

This is an action, not an organization, but I am a contact, so please feel free to contact me at any time. Thank you for your assistance in increasing the vibration of Peace.

[http://miami.indymedia.org/archives/archive\\_by\\_id.php?id=867&category\\_id=1](http://miami.indymedia.org/archives/archive_by_id.php?id=867&category_id=1)

Protesting against .....

## 1.4 READING TEXTS (CONT.)

### C

Plastic bags eat up fossil fuel, litter streets and choke wildlife. What's more, it is estimated that plastic bags can take between 500 and 1000 years to decompose!

Show your support for San Francisco's ban on plastic bags, so that other cities may follow suit. Sign the petition.

<http://www.thepetitionsite.com/takeaction/140125322?l=1175058236>

Protesting against .....

### D

On Thursday, February 1st 2007, Peter Young walked into the free world. He was greeted by a small crowd and immediately taken to a celebration dinner in Los Angeles.

In early 2005, animal rights activist Peter Young was captured in San Jose by Federal officials who accused him of freeing some 8,000 mink from fur farms in Wisconsin, South Dakota and Iowa. Young has spent the better part of two years behind bars.

<http://www.indybay.org/animalliberation/>

Protesting against .....

### E

On Wednesday March 21st 2007, the California Faculty Association announced that members had authorized a strike. Faculty at San Francisco State University, San Jose State University, and five other California State University (CSU) campuses could walk out of classrooms as soon as the beginning of April.

Student fees have increased 94 percent since 2002. In the past four years, the faculty has only received a 3.5 percent pay raise.

<http://www.indybay.org/education/>

Protesting against .....

### F

Anti-capitalist activists call the day after Thanksgiving Buy Nothing Day. Buy Nothing Day isn't just about changing your habits for one day. It's about starting a lasting lifestyle commitment to consuming less and producing less waste.

<http://www.indybay.org/globalization/>

Protesting against .....

## 1.4 READING TEXTS (CONT.)

### G

The Marin Interfaith Council, in cooperation with numerous local civic and community groups, announced that vigils will be held each morning from 5:00 am to 8:30 am in solidarity with immigrant neighbours in the Canal District of San Rafael. The first vigil of witness and solidarity took place on Friday, March 9th, at Medway and Canal Streets in the San Rafael Canal District, and these actions will reportedly continue “until no longer necessary”.

<http://www.indybay.org/immigrant/>

Protesting against .....

### H

Last week, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said he will not sign legislation this year giving same-sex couples the freedom to marry in California.

Write the governor today and remind him that all Californians deserve the freedom to marry.

<http://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2007/02/21/18366831.php>

Protesting against .....

## 1.5 TASK SHEET

- Find a protest activity on the Internet and prepare to tell other students about it in the next lesson in about two or three minutes. Take notes using these headings:

1 The situation \_\_\_\_\_

2 The aim of the protest \_\_\_\_\_

3 Rationale (Here you tell why you think it is a good cause) \_\_\_\_\_

4 History: \_\_\_\_\_

Starting: \_\_\_\_\_

Participants: \_\_\_\_\_

Action(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Result so far: \_\_\_\_\_

5 How can you join? \_\_\_\_\_

- To start your own research, type "protest" in a search engine.

You can also use the links given after each text of 1.4 Reading texts, or these:

<http://www.eightcitiesmap.com/students1.htm>

<http://www.notinourname.net>

<http://www.indybay.org>

<http://pax.protest.net>

<http://protest.net>

<http://www.greenpeace.org>

<http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/index.html>

And a Hungarian site: <http://www.peticio.hu>

If you decide to look for a protest here, you will read about it in Hungarian but you will have to give all the information in English. Watch out as some of the petitions here are either not serious or are against basic democratic principles!

## 2.2 READING TEXTS

Methods of protesting

■ Match the encyclopaedia entries from <http://en.wikipedia.org> describing methods of protesting to the names of these methods in the box. There's one more method than definitions.

petition, peace camps, strike, riots, protest songs, public nudity, demonstrations,  
die-ins, sit-in

(a)..... are a method of activism, usually taking the form of a public gathering of people in a rally or walking in a march.

(b) ..... occur when people gather to commit acts of violence and property damage. They typically involve vandalism and the destruction of private and public property. Targets can include shops, cars, restaurants, state-owned institutions, and religious buildings.

(c) ..... are a form of protest where participants simulate being dead (with varying degrees of realism). Possible motivations include: 1. prevention of violent conflict, war; 2. raising awareness of an existing conflict; 3. expressing disapproval of technology which is seen as deadly.

A (d) ..... is a document addressed to some official & signed by numerous individuals.

(e)..... has sometimes been used to attract more attention to a public protest. Protesters either go totally naked, or show a part of body not conventionally exposed in public such as female breasts. Modern slogans used by protesters include “Naked For Peace” and “I’d rather go naked than wear fur!”

## 2.2 READING TEXTS (CONT.)

A (f) ..... is a form of direct action that involves one or more persons non-violently occupying an area for protest. They often promote political, social, or economic change. They were first widely used by Mahatma Gandhi in the Indian independence movement and later by student movements.

(g) ..... are physical camps that are set up outside military bases by members of the peace movement who for one reason or another oppose either the military bases themselves or the politics of those who control the bases.

A (h) ..... is a work stoppage. It usually takes place because workers feel that the management of their company ignores some problems like bad working conditions or low wages. They first became important during the industrial revolution, when mass labour was used in factories and mines.

## 2.3 TASK SHEET

How to protest?

- Complete the table. If you think that any of the causes listed in the table are not good causes, and you would not want to protest against it, cross the method out and give your reasons why you would not want to protest.

Cause	Suggested method	Rationale (Why is it a good cause and a good method?)
1 Your county is sending professional soldiers to fight in a war. The reason they give is that there are terrorists in that country.		
2 There are no separate bins for waste paper in your school.		
3 The local government is planning to sell the plot where the playground is. They want to build a shopping mall there.		
4 There are two schools in your area and you realise that one of them mostly takes Roma children and the other one mostly takes non-Roma children.		
5 Wind mills will be built in a green area near your home.		

## 2.4 READING TEXTS

A

■ Read the text below and answer these questions:

- 1 Where is the protest?
- 2 What do the protesters want?
- 3 How did the protest start?
- 4 What method of protest are they using?
- 5 How much is the protest supported?

### **Courageous mother renews vigil outside Bush vacation ranch during Thanksgiving**

November 24, 2005

On August 6, Cindy Sheehan travelled to George Bush's vacation ranch in Crawford, Texas to demand that "Bush tell me why my son died in Iraq". She was told that if she and her companions did not leave, they would be considered a "national security threat" and arrested. Dozens more joined Cindy at "Camp Casey," and on Saturday, August 27, over 2,000 people trekked to Camp Casey for a day of music and protest.

Cindy Sheehan has decided to camp on the road to Bush's ranch near Crawford and remain there until Bush either speaks with her or he returns to Washington. She puts a white cross in the ground every time a new American soldier dies in Iraq. As she says, the crosses for all the Iraqis killed in the war would cover the land around Bush's ranch. It is one of those individual acts of resistance that has inspired tens of thousands of others to act.

Cindy's son, Army Specialist Casey Sheehan, was killed in Sadr City, Iraq on April 4, 2004. Since Casey's death, Cindy has become an active and vocal protestor of the war in Iraq.

Cindy first arrived on the road to Prairie Chapel, Bush's ranch, on Saturday, August 6, accompanied by more than 50. Since then, hundreds more have come from around the country to join her encampment, to bring food and drink, or just to thank her for her courage. Her email box is full with messages from supporters.

Cindy said to crowds:

"3000 of us were tragically slaughtered on 9-11 and we have used this as a justification to destroy two countries that didn't attack us and commit genocide on people who just want to be left alone. Now Bloody George has killed more Americans than Osama bin Ladin and many, many times more Iraqis. "I want [Bush] to honour my son by bringing the troops home immediately . . . I don't want him to use my son's name or my name to justify any more killing."

Some of George Bush's supporters, though, have protested against Camp Casey and want Cindy to go home.

Read more and find photos here: <http://www.notinourname.net/war/sheehan.htm>

## 2.4 READING TEXTS (CONT.)

### B

#### ■ Read the text below and answer these questions:

- 1 Where is the protest?
- 2 What do the protesters want?
- 3 How did the protest start?
- 4 What method of protest are they using?
- 5 How much is the protest supported?

#### **Eviction of Danish Social Centre Fuels Anger across Europe**

01.03.2007 23:33

The occupied house in Copenhagen, Denmark named ‘Ungdomshuset’ (“The Youth House”) has functioned as a very important political and social cultural centre since 1982, home to political demonstrations, political debates, concerts and many more cultural events.

But yesterday morning at around 7 am Danish police made an end to this by entering the roof of the building using a helicopter and starting an unannounced full scale eviction. Riot-police sealed off nearby streets quickly and attacked the building using teargas. The whole area was closed off. Some witnesses say that teargas and police violence was plentiful.

Over 1000 people are reported to be back onto the streets last night and (burning) barricades blocked off some major roads in the city. Some people have been admitted to hospital. Riots have continued throughout the day and night and solidarity actions spontaneously broke out in cities across Europe: Berlin (300+), Köln, Hamburg (700+), München, Karlsruhe, Göttingen, Frankfurt, Bremen (300+), Magdeburg, Hannover, Vienna, Heidelberg, Gothenburg, Oslo, Helsinki, Stockholm (100+), Flensburg, Marburg, Potsdam and Leipzig. Over the next few days many more demonstrations and actions are planned and Danish activists have called for people to make Saturday 3rd March an international day of action.

In 2003 the fundamentalist Christian sect “Faderhuset”, which had bought the property in 2001 prompted the authorities to evict the “Ungdomshuset” and its users. They bought the building from the local council, which gave the building to the young in 1982 in a political compromise.

**Total arrested:** 600+

Read more and find photos here:

[http://www.ungeren.dk/en.php3?id\\_rubrique=4](http://www.ungeren.dk/en.php3?id_rubrique=4)

<http://www.indymedia.org.uk/en/2007/03/363973.html>

[http://www.youtube.com/view\\_play\\_list?p=97565E62AFBFA97A](http://www.youtube.com/view_play_list?p=97565E62AFBFA97A)

### 3.1 ROLE CARDS

A

1 You are at Camp Casey. Decide which of these you are:

- You are neutral, just somebody walking by. But you are well-informed.
- You take part in the demonstration with Cindy.
- You take part in the demonstration against Camp Casey.

B is a stranger who does not know about this protest. Tell B about what is happening at Camp Casey.

NB! It is a role-play and your decision about where you stand does not have to reflect what you really think.



Adapted from: <http://www.indybay.org>

You are in Copenhagen near Ungdomshuset, the Youth House. You see crowds and walk up to somebody, B, and find out what is happening there.

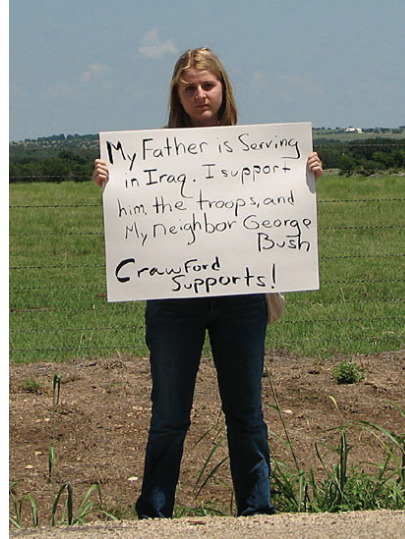


Adapted from: <http://www.indymedia.org.uk/en/2007/03/363903.html>

A

B

1 You are near George Bush's vacation ranch in Crawford, Texas. You see crowds and walk up to somebody, A, and find out what is happening there.



Adapted from: <http://www.indybay.org>

2 You are in Copenhagen near Ungdomshuset. Decide which of these you are:

- You are neutral, just somebody walking by. But you are well-informed.
- You take part in the demonstration with the Young.
- You are a police officer on duty near Ungdomshuset.

B is a stranger who does not know about this protest. Tell B what is happening at Ungdomshuset.

NB! It is a role-play and your decision about where you stand does not have to reflect what you really think.



Adapted from: <http://www.indymedia.org.uk/en/2007/03/363903.html>

B