

German activists' scent gathered

by UPI

BERLIN - Left-wing activists in Germany said recent police raids have only increased their resolve to demonstrate at the upcoming G8 summit.

Anti-globalization activists are also challenging a ban on protests at the G8 site in the Baltic seaside resort of Heiligendamm, formerly in East Germany, Deutsche Welle reported.

Police expect up to 100,000 protesters at the summit, which runs from June 6 to June 8 and will be attended by leaders of Germany, the United States, Russia, Britain, France, Italy, Canada and Japan.

Activists and some politicians were outraged to learn that German security forces had gathered the scent of some activists during the recent raids.

"It's unsavory that our intelligence officials are using methods that were also used by the Stasi," the deputy parliamentary leader of the opposition Greens, Hans-Christian Ströbele, told the newspaper Leipziger Volkszeitung, referring to the former much-feared secret police in East Germany.

A police spokesman told Deutsche Welle radio that the scent samples were not taken to track down demonstrators but to compare with evidence from past crime scenes.

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