

Support the Resistance Conspiracy Case:

An Open Letter to the Progressive Community

The Contra war... the invasion of Grenada... increasing racist attacks... more violence against women, lesbians and gay men here in the U.S....

The U.S. government wants us to "forgive and forget" those responsible for these crimes.

Yet some activists who opposed these crimes now face life in prison.

One of Ed Meese's last actions before leaving the Justice Department was to order the indictment of six long-time political activists on charges of protesting U.S. domestic and international policies through "violent and illegal means."

Like other recent political trials, *U.S. v. Whitehorn, et. al.*, (The Resistance Conspiracy Case) targets domestic opponents of illegal practices such as the contra war against Nicaragua and the invasion of Grenada. The investigation of these defendants is linked to the recent illegal FBI investigations of CISPES and the Central America solidarity movement. Like them, it's characterized by massive FBI misconduct and illegality.

The six — Alan Berkman, Tim Blunk, Marilyn Buck, Linda Evans, Susan Rosenberg, and Laura Whitehorn — are charged with being part of a network of groups that claimed responsibility for bombings of government and military buildings in 1983-85, including the 1983 bombing of the U.S. Capitol after the invasion of Grenada. No one was injured in any of these actions. The government makes no claim to know who actually carried out the bombings. Rather, it wants to convict the defendants by proving that they shared a "common purpose" of resisting illegal U.S. war crimes: "guilt by political association."

The government has already put these defendants through fourteen separate political prosecutions. Five of the defendants are already serving sentences of up to 70 years. The sixth has been held in preventive detention for 2 1/2 years. This April, the trial judge dismissed all charges against three of the defendants on the grounds of double jeopardy, but the Justice Department has vowed to fight the decision.

The government wants to stage a show trial to have a chilling effect on activists. It uses the guise of security to create an atmosphere of fear and intimidation to make a fair trial impossible. A bulletproof plexiglass wall in the courtroom separates the defendants from their families and supporters. Surveillance cameras in the courtroom are trained on defendants and spectators.

This is political persecution, not a criminal prosecution. The targets are people who have shown a deep commitment to human rights and social justice over many years. There may be political disagreements among us, but we are all part of the community of people in the U.S. who have opposed and tried to stop the murderous, inhumane and illegal practices of the Reagan administration. The defendants in this case, like the other political prisoners in this country, need to be returned to our communities and not disappear into the prison system. We must lend our voices and support to ensure their rights — and thereby our own. We ask you to join in a campaign to halt this vindictive prosecution. Stopping this last prosecution brought by Reagan and Meese can be an important step in dismantling their legacy of a politicized criminal justice system and resurgent FBI.

- Drop this politically motivated indictment
- Stop preventive detention/Release Laura Whitehorn on bail
- Remove the bulletproof wall and surveillance cameras from the courtroom

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