

As of November 1989, nearly 1000 organizations and individuals had signed an Open Letter to the Progressive Community, endorsing the demand to Drop the Charges Now! Listed below are a few of the signers:

12 chapters of **ACT-UP & ACT-NOW** affiliates
Vernon Bellecourt, American Indian Movement*
Reverend Dan Borrigian, Peace Activist
Haywood Burns, Past President, **National Lawyers' Guild**
Ken Butigan, National Director, Pledge of Resistance*
Rev. Dr. Benjamin Chavis, Jr., Commission for Racial Justice*
Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES)
Angela Davis, National Alliance Against Racist & Political Repression*
Dave Dellinger, Peace Activist
Luis Nieves Falcón, President, Puerto Rico PEN*
Peggy Halsey, General Board of Global Ministries, United Methodist Church*
Lennox Hinds, National Association of Democratic Jurists*
Sue Hyde, National Gay & Lesbian Task Force*
John Brown Anti-Klan Committee
A. Billy S. Jones, National Coalition of Black Lesbians & Gays*
Jane Jordan, Writer
Arthur Kinoy, Attorney
Yuri Kochiyama, Human Rights Activist
William S. Kunstler
Mark Lane, Attorney
José López, Movimiento de Liberación Nacional Puertorriqueña
Elizabeth McAllister, Peace Activist
National Lawyers' Guild
Holly Near, Redwood Cultural Worker
New Afrikan People's Organization
Filiberto Ojeda-Rios, Puerto Rican Political Prisoner
Prairie Fire Organizing Committee
Margaret Randall, Writer
Pete Seeger
Barbara Smith
Dana Smith, Former Director, Washington Office on Africa*
Mitch Snyder, Community for Creative Non-Violence (D.C.)
Thomas Stanley, New Afrikan Network in Defense of Pol. Prisoners & POWs
Urvashi Vaid
Rev. Michael S. Yasutake, Prisoner of Conscience Project, United Church of Christ*

**And hundreds more activists,
political prisoners & other supporters.**

*Organization for identification purposes only.

☐ I want to organize support in my area.
☐ Please send more information on the case.

Enclosed is a contribution of:

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$

Make checks payable to:

Emergency Committee for Political Prisoners.

For a tax deductible contribution make checks payable to:
John Brown Education Fund (earnmarked RCC Education)

Name (Please print) _____

Organization (if any) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Send to: Emergency Committee. for Political Prisoners
P.O. Box 28191, Washington, D.C. 20038-8191

*Resistance is
not a Crime!*

*Stop the
Political Show
Trial!*

*Drop the
Charges Now!*

*A Campaign to Support the Resistance
Conspiracy Case Defendants.*

Imagine a courthouse ringed by snipers and armed guards... a courtroom with a ten foot bulletproof wall and surveillance cameras aimed at both defendants and spectators... the defendants are long-time political activists, the charges are that they opposed unjust and internationally condemned practices of their own government, and that same government's political police label the defendants criminals and terrorists.

What city does it bring to mind? Johannesburg? San Salvador? Belfast?

Unless we do something about it, the answer will be Washington, D.C.



Resistance Conspiracy defendants (from left to right): Alan Berkman, Tim Blunk, Susan Rosenberg, Linda Evans, Marilyn Buck and Laura Whitehorn.

The Resistance Conspiracy Case

Laura Whitehorn, Susan Rosenberg, Linda Evans, Marilyn Buck, Tim Blunk, and Alan Berkman are the six activists named in the Resistance Conspiracy Case. The indictment charges them with conspiring together and with unnamed others "to influence, change and protest policies and practices of the United States government concerning various international and domestic matters through the use of violent and illegal means."

The "international and domestic matters" they are accused of trying to change include:

- the Contra War against Nicaragua
- the invasion of Grenada

- U.S. support for South Africa in violation of U.N. sanctions
- the colonization of Puerto Rico
- racist attacks by the police against the African-American community and other Third World people in cities across the United States

The indictment alleges that the six were associated with a network of underground groups that claimed responsibility for a series of bombings of government and military buildings in 1983-85. The bombing of the U.S. Capitol following the invasion of Grenada is one of the acts specifically charged. Each of these actions was preceded by a warning call and no one was injured. If convicted, each of the six defendants could receive 40-45 years in prison.

The prosecution stated in court that they don't know who did the bombings. Instead, they want to convict the Resistance Conspiracy six by showing they shared a "common purpose" of resisting U.S. war crimes. When that same legal theory of "common purpose" was recently used by the South African government against anti-apartheid activists, it was loudly

condemned by the world community, including the U.S. government.

It should be condemned here as well.

The indictment and the massive display of military power in the courtroom is an effort to criminalize not only the six people actually on trial, but all of us who share a "common purpose" with them.

Political Persecution not Criminal Prosecution

THIS IS POLITICAL PERSECUTION, not a criminal prosecution, and we should demand that it be stopped.

The arena may be the courtroom, but the battle is part of the ongoing one in our society about what our values are, what role this country will play in the world community, and whether those in power can direct and control political opposition.

Reagan came into office declaring a "war on terrorism" as a pretext for overseas aggression and domestic repression. Bush has now adopted this war as his own.

The "war on international terrorism" was used to justify the invasion of Grenada, the Contra War, and the ongoing support for the death squad government in El Salvador.

The "war on domestic terrorism" has justified the politicization of the criminal justice system and the resurgence of the FBI's role as political police.

Throughout the 1980's, the FBI conducted a massive, illegal investigation of the Central America solidarity movement and disrupted the lives of its activists.

Sanctuary churches were infiltrated and criminal charges brought. Puerto Rican independentistas, Black/New Afrikan revolutionaries, and white radicals were targeted and imprisoned for the "crime" of fighting for human rights and national liberation.

That is the context in which the Resistance Conspiracy Case indictment was brought, and the very same context in which it must be fought.

The Bush administration is pursuing the case despite the fact that the defendants have been dragged through 14 separate trials and are already serving sentences totalling 235 years. They received those outrageous sentences because they continued to promote the need for active grassroots resistance to government crimes and refused to allow themselves and the political movements they are part of to be criminalized.

Stopping this prosecution would be not only an act of justice, but an assertion of the righteousness and strength of the real movement for human rights in this country.

In the Interest of Justice, Drop the Charges!

IN A SOCIETY DEEPLY DIVIDED over basic values, what acts get labelled as crimes and how seriously they're dealt with are a function of the political agenda of those in power.

The Justice Department has openly stated that it wants to "warehouse these people (the Resistance Conspiracy six) for the rest of their lives" in U.S. prisons.

That same Justice Department has done everything it can to prevent the full exposure of the Iran-Contra crimes and protect those responsible for them. Reagan and Bush have been placed above the law; Oliver

North's trial was a parody of justice. John Poindexter will be tried before the same judge that is hearing the Resistance Conspiracy Case, but we'll see no bullet-proof glass at his trial.

The six defendants in this case face 40 years in prison for aiding and abetting four bombings in which great care was apparently taken to see that no one was hurt. Yet Michael Bray, who was convicted of ten abortion clinic bombings, was given a ten year sentence and was released after serving less than four years. An administration that wants to make it a crime for a woman to exercise control over her own body can

manipulate the legal system to minimize the punishment for those who share its values.

Justice cannot be served by an indictment designed to further the political program of the administration by criminalizing and intimidating those who oppose it.

Justice cannot be served by a political show trial that dangerously extends conspiracy laws and makes a mockery of the right to a fair trial.

It cannot be served by further inflating the unjust sentences that these six progressive and committed people already have. They need to be returned to our communities, not "disappeared" for life into the prisons.

In the interest of true justice — justice based on respect for human rights and international law — we urge you to join us in a campaign to force the government to drop the charges now.

Join the Campaign

BOTH THE TRIAL JUDGE and the court of appeals had to recognize the politically vindictive and legally shaky nature of the case. They barred the government from proceeding with the "common purpose" prosecution in regard to Susan, Tim and Alan. The government is trying to circumvent these rulings, vowing to bring all six defendants to trial together.

What You Can Do

A DELEGATION OF CONCERNED INDIVIDUALS will meet with the government officials and international human rights groups to demand that the charges be dropped. They will present letters from all of us who support that demand.

- Fill out the accompanying model letters or write your own to:

Attorney General Dick Thornburgh
U.S. Department of Justice
and

Amnesty International
International Secretariat

Please send the letters to the Emergency Committee (address listed below).

- If interested in joining the delegation, please contact the Emergency Committee.
- We will be calling for a Day of Solidarity with the Resistance Conspiracy case to coincide with the delegation's meetings. Help organize a demonstration, picket, or other form of public support in your area on that date.

- Set up a public meeting or house party to support the Resistance Conspiracy Case. The Emergency Committee can supply speakers and a video about the case.
- If a trial is held, we want to bring national and international human rights activists to the opening of the trial. This political show trial must be exposed.
- Make a financial contribution today. Your donation is urgently needed to support the campaign to drop the charges and stop the political show trial. Make checks payable to the Emergency Cmte. for Political Prisoners. For tax-deductible contributions, make payable to John Brown Education Fund, earmarked RCC Education.
- Become involved in the campaign to win amnesty and human rights for all U.S.-held political prisoners and Prisoners of War. Contact:
Freedom Now!
5249 N. Kenmore
Chicago, IL 60640
- Sign up on the mailing list. Clip the coupon below and send it in. Help spread the word. We can send you brochures and flyers about this campaign.

Contact: Emergency Committee to Defend the Human and Legal Rights of Political Prisoners, P.O. Box 28191, Washington, D.C. 20038; (202) 328-7818.