

IN MASSACHUSETTS

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THE SEDITION COMMITTEE

OHIO / ON TRIAL FOR SEDITIOUS CONSPIRACY

IN NEW YORK

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NEW YORK, NY 10025



HARTFORD FDC, MAY 1988:

RAY LEVASSEUR, CAROL MANNING, THOMAS MANNING, JAAN LAAMAN, BARBARA CURZI-LAAMAN & RICHARD WILLIAMS.

FBI SEARCH OF CURZI-LAAMAN HOME RULED ILLEGAL

On June 20, Judge Young issued opinions on two outstanding pre-trial motions. Young ruled that the arrests, seizure and search of Barbara and Jaan Laaman at their home in Cleveland on November 4, 1984, by three different SWAT teams, an armored vehicle and about 60 or 70 various other cops was illegal; therefore all the items seized in their house were suppressed as far as they are concerned. This ruling only applies to Jaan and Barbara, and the items seized can still be used against the others. In conspiracy charges, anything said or written by one co-defendant can be used against another.

The government completely ransacked the Curzi-Laaman home (as they did to all of the 7's houses which they found), seizing thousands of books, personal writings, political papers and magazines, children's report cards and homework papers, cards and notes, bills and receipts as well as guns, clothes, photos, record albums and tapes.

FBI SEARCH OF CURZI-LAAMAN HOME RULED ILLEGAL

The government has little if any so called on the spot or eye witness evidence against the OHIO 7, fingerprints at the scene of bombings or people who said they actually saw any of the 7 at the scene of any actual action. Therefore, the government has built its primary case around the fact that the 7 were long time members of the underground and from writings and documents seized in their homes. In particular, the government intends to use what it regards as notebooks/political writings seized mainly in the Curzi-Laaman home to try to make the case that the 7 were primarily responsible for the political actions of the United Freedom Front. To be unable to use these materials will make it very difficult for the government to try this case.

Judge Young did not issue this ruling because he has come to favor the defense. It was the thorough research and papers filed by Linda Thompson, Barbara Curzi-Laaman's lawyer, that clearly cited Supreme Court rulings which directed Young's decision. The government's violations of laws requiring search and seizure warrants were exposed. In fact, the judge invited the government to appeal his ruling and went out of his way to explain that he felt he had to rule for the defense but would welcome an appeal. The government has not yet appealed, but the OHIO 7 team expects that they will within the month allowed.

Young's other ruling concerned the seizure, interrogation and detention of the 9 children of the OHIO 7, who were with them underground. All 3 couples had 3 young children each ranging in age from 2 to 11 when they were captured in 1984 and 1985. The government in each case immediately took the children into custody and began questioning them. The 3 Gros-Levasseur girls were released after about two weeks, the Curzi-Laaman children (1 son and 2 daughters) were held over six weeks and the Manning's 2 sons and 1 daughter were held incommunicado for eight weeks. All of the children underwent interrogation, with the eldest Manning son (11 at the time) enduring sessions lasting as long as 7 hours with no lawyer or family member present.

Reviewing the motions for censure of the officials and agencies involved, and for suppression of information produced by these interrogations, Judge Young would not allow a hearing. He, however, found that his conscience was shocked, in particular by the FBI's attempt to bribe one of the Levasseur daughters. Young said, "no system worthy of individual liberty" can tolerate activities like these. Yet having said this, he turned around and denied the OHIO 7 motions completely. Citing a loophole about late filing of papers, Young, it seemed, forgot about his conscience completely.

On June 23, a prospective juror, a young man who earlier had made it clear in his questionnaire that he on principle could and would not serve on a jury that was part of the oppressive US system which uses violence and prison to enforce its unjust policies, was ordered into the courthouse in Springfield. He complied by coming to the courthouse, but he refused to enter the courtroom. As the judge was in the process of having some of the dozens of Federal Marshals drag this person in, the OHIO 7 defense team intervened to insist that he be dismissed for cause. Young did excuse him, but left a threat of a contempt action hanging over him.

Jaen Karl Laaman

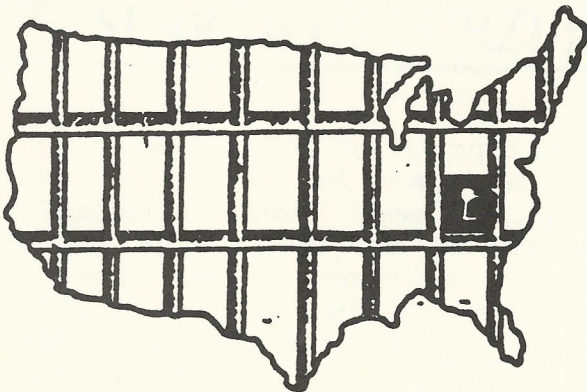
US CAPITOL BOMBING TRIAL

On May 25, 1988, four women and two men were arraigned in Washington, D.C. for conspiracy to "oppose, obstruct or change the foreign and domestic policies of the US government through violent and illegal means." Among the acts charged to these seven North-Americans, (one woman is still free), are bombings carried out in the names of the RED GUERRILLA RESISTANCE and ARMED RESISTANCE UNIT. These actions were an important expression of solidarity with the nations and peoples under attack by the US, such as the people of South Africa, Central America, Puerto Rico, Grenada, Palestine and Black/New Afrikan people within the US itself. The actions of the UNITED FREEDOM FRONT, for which the OHIO 7 are presently on trial, shared in the resistance to US imperialism during the same period, 1982 to 1985.

The six people are being held in conditions designed to make it difficult to prepare for trial and to isolate them from the community through fear and intimidation. They are allowed no co-defendant meetings, and are handcuffed, chained and shackled during severely limited attorney-client meetings. These six Northamericans are in strict isolation in solitary confinement, repeatedly strip-searched, and denied contact visits with family and fiends. In court they are separated from the public behind a plexiglass wall, and still handcuffed, chained and shackled.

The government's goal is the same in Washington, D.C. as it is in Springfield, to criminalize the lives of political prisoners, activists all since the early 1970s, and to bury them in prison for the rest of their lives. By this example of repression, they mean to terrorize into inactivity anyone who would support these brothers and sisters, or anyone who would consider joining in similar forms of resistance in the struggle for social change and justice.

Thomas Manning



For more information write:

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THE TRIAL SCHEDULE

july 1988						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 ³¹	25	26	27	28	29	30

august 1988						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

TRIAL DAYS ARE BLOCKED