

Worldwide Direct Action November 20 in Solidarity with the People of Oaxaca

author: repost

Wednesday, November 08

On November 20, blockades will be set up to show the Mexican government we mean business. We are calling upon YOU to join in these blockades. That could mean blockading the consulates' websites, jamming their phone lines with calls about the conflict in Oaxaca, occupying the offices of the consuls, or shutting down the roads around the consulates in whatever way you see fit.



Worldwide Direct Action to Take Place in Support of Those Struggling in Oaxaca on November 20

On October 27, paramilitaries in Oaxaca, Mexico murdered Indymedia journalist Brad Will. He is one of dozens who have lost their lives at the hands of pro-government forces while participating in the largely nonviolent resistance to government oppression in that region. Mexican president Vicente Fox used Brad's death as a pretext to send 4,000 federal police into the city of Oaxaca; these forces are systematically brutalizing the population.

The people of Oaxaca have not backed down - through days of courageous fighting, they have managed to protect their radio station at the university, repelling machine gun wielding armored police with only sticks, stones, and hope. On November 5, tens of thousands marched through the streets of Oaxaca, calling for the federal police to leave.

The only reason that hundreds more have not yet been killed in Oaxaca is that the Mexican government fears the response that would engender in Mexico and across the world. Those who have organized solidarity demonstrations at Mexican consulates can congratulate themselves on helping, however slightly, to deter the Mexican government from ordering a bloodbath.

That bloodbath will still take place, however, unless we continue to escalate the pressure upon President Fox's government to withdraw federal forces from Oaxaca. The EZLN has announced that it will help coordinate a nationwide shut-down on November 20. This must be matched with international actions to show that the world has not taken its eyes off Oaxaca, that on the contrary, the mobilization in support of those who struggle there is only gathering momentum.

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If we do not show Vicente Fox that paramilitaries and federal forces cannot brutalize Oaxaca with impunity, the blood of an entire murdered resistance movement will be on our hands. Now is the time to act in solidarity with those who struggle in Oaxaca, in solidarity with the Zapatistas who have called on us to support them, and in solidarity with all who struggle against government and capitalism across the world.

Actions are already being planned in cities around the US. Please plan actions in yours.

Old Growth Forests Protected in Southern Oregon!

author: Cascadia Wildlands Project

* CWP and Allies Stop Three Old-growth Timber Sales in Southern Oregon



This week the Cascadia Wildlands

Project won two significant legal victories that have stopped old-growth logging dead in its tracks. The Cow Catcher (Roseburg BLM), Cotton Snake and Willy Slide (Medford BLM) timber sales were sold to the highest bidder without the BLM performing required surveys for the elusive red tree vole, a critter that lives its life in the upper canopy of older forests and a major food source for the endangered northern spotted owl. Instead, the BLM relied on an internal memo it generated that removed the vole from the "survey and manage" list. On Tuesday, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals found the BLM violated the National Environmental Policy Act and the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act and immediately halted logging at the Cow Catcher and Cotton Snake timber sales. This decision triggered the district court decision that halted the Willy Slide timber sale the following day.

Recall, the all volunteer Northwest Ecosystem Survey Team (NEST) spent considerable time climbing old-growth trees at both Cow Catcher and Cotton snake during summer 2003 locating red tree vole nests. These surveys were critical in compelling the decisions that were handed down this week. Kudos to the tireless efforts of NEST. The Cascadia Wildlands Project was joined by our allies at Umpqua Watersheds and Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center on the lawsuits and was represented by the powerful legal team of Stephanie Parent of the Pacific Environmental Advocacy Center, Erin Madden and Marianne Dugan.

www.cascawild.org

Oregon eco-saboteurs plead guilty but are not implicating others

Nov. 9, 2006

author: NWCRC e-mail: catherine@resist.ca

Eugene, OR - The four remaining non-cooperating defendants in the Oregon "Green Scare" case today changed their pleas and agreed to drop their request for production of NSA surveillance materials and data. Recent negotiations between federal prosecutors and the defendants resulted in a global resolution non-cooperation plea agreement whereby the four defendants will agree to accept responsibility for their own roles in environmentally motivated crimes, but do not agree to provide information or testify against anyone now or in the future.

Joyanna Zacher, Nathan Block, Daniel McGowan and Jonathan Paul appeared in federal court this morning before U.S. District Judge Ann Aiken to enter pleas related to acts of property destruction and arson. Zacher and Block each plead to one count of conspiracy, attempted arson, and two separate incidents of arson. McGowan plead to conspiracy and to two separate incidents of arson. The government is recommending they be sentenced to 96 months in federal prison. Paul plead to one count of arson and one count of conspiracy. The government is recommending Paul be sentenced to 60 months in prison. All four defendants are free to argue for a lesser sentence. The next status hearing will be on December 14 to determine when sentencing will occur.

Despite the agreement however, federal prosecutors have asked the court to apply a "terrorism enhancement" at sentencing. Should Judge Aiken grant the government's request, the non-cooperating defendants could face up to 20 years in prison in addition to the terms of the plea agreement. The government is seeking the "terrorism enhancement" despite the fact that the crimes to which they have admitted responsibility only involve the destruction of private property; no government property was damaged in any of the incidents.

After the hearing, Jonathan Paul, through a statement made by his sister Alexandra Paul, indicated that after the Cavel West slaughterhouse fire, "he realized that fire was an unacceptable means to an end, no matter how compelling." He also stated however, that he "will continue to be a person deeply committed to the betterment of our society and the elimination of animal and human suffering."

During the hearing, Daniel McGowan made a heartfelt statement to a packed courtroom that "this plea agreement is very important to me because it allows me to accept full responsibility for my actions and at the same time remain true to my strongly held beliefs." McGowan's attorney, Amanda Lee, added that Daniel "did not identify or implicate any other individuals."

Despite the pleas entered today which resolve the Oregon cases in their entirety Jeff Hogg remains imprisoned without having been charged with any crimes for his refusal to testify against others after being subpoenaed to a federal grand jury. After the hearing, Hogg's partner Cecilia Storey made an emotional plea for his immediate release from custody.

Copies of a press packet with a synopsis of the prosecution, related articles background information, historical examples of sabotage in the U.S., and a history of FBI repression of political activism are available upon request.

Daniel's Statement to Judge Aiken at the plea hearing

Nov. 9, 2006

author: Family and Friends of Daniel McGowan



Your Honor,

This plea agreement is

very important to me, because it allows me to accept full responsibility for my actions and at the same time remain true to my strongly held beliefs.

I hope that you will see that my actions were not those of a terrorist but of a concerned young person who was deeply troubled by the destruction of Oregon's beautiful old-growth forests and the dangers of genetically modified trees. After taking part in these two actions, I realized that burning things down did not fit with my visions or belief about how to create a better world. So I stopped committing these crimes.

This last year has been a very trying time for my family and I would like to extend my deepest love, admiration and appreciation to them for standing by me through a very difficult time. I would also like to apologize to the workers of the companies I targeted. I never intended to hurt people, so when I read about things like family photos being destroyed, I felt great remorse. I am truly sorry for the harm that I caused.

Your Honor, after May of 2001, I put myself back on the path of open and positive activism. Since then I have focused on helping victims of domestic violence, campaigning for the environment, and advocating for prisoners. While my commitment to pursuing a better world has not and will not change, I have changed the way I am pursuing those goals. My agreement with Mr. Paul, Mr. Block and Ms. Zacher to come together and resolve this case by taking responsibility for what we did is an important step in moving forward to have what I hope will be a positive impact on my community. Thank you for allowing me a few moments to speak to you this morning.