



Environmentalist and refugee hopeful, Tre Arrow has been incarcerated in Canada since March 2004. He continues to emphatically maintain his innocence. Tre is being imprisoned while appealing a possible extradition to the United States. Like the 125 000 American draft dodgers who came to Canada between 1964 and 1977, Tre came to Canada hoping to escape persecution in the United States. This became Tre's only option when his life in Portland, Oregon was unjustly turned upside down in the Summer of 2002. The US government is laying charges that would see him locked up for the rest of his life if convicted. After working tirelessly for years to protect some of the only ancient forests left in the North Western U.S., Tre had become an extremely well-known and important organizer. Like other peaceful organizers, Tre found himself at the forefront of an environmental movement which successfully interfered with industrial powers; he therefore became a target. In Tre's own words,

"Over the course of the past fourteen years I have lived a life dedicated to peaceful activism in social, environmental and political realms. I have followed a path dedicated to the Buddhist and Essene religions for several years. These faiths are committed to a life of peaceful existence, expressing honour, respect and care for every living thing, both human and non-human. Every thought, action, word, purchase and food choice is considered with regard to the impact on the earth and any suffering that may be caused as a consequence. The U.S. government and media have attempted to brand me a "terrorist". I cannot think of a label that is more contrary to the truth. I am a pacifist."

BEYOND THESE WALLS AND FENCES

By Tre Arrow

"Beyond these walls and razor-wire fences there is a greater world. Beyond the concrete and steel, the polluting cars and chemical plants, the factory farms and pulp and paper mills; beyond the humyn-made buildings, machinery and pollution there is a world not made by humyns. A place where time and age melt together and become meaningless. A place where truth, solace and beauty weave their magic through all life. A place where the ancient wisdom of the universe flows through the water's current, seeps from the trees' exhale, pounces with the dancing animals and pulsates from the rock and dirt.

Take a walk outside the world of lights, cars, roads and buildings. Away from the bombardment of advertising and chaotic consumerism. Away from the incessant stressful cycle of work and debt. Find yourself sitting quietly among the flora and fauna. Here there is a peace and fulfillment which is beyond humyn creation, which is the source of all life on this planet, which flows through every living thing and binds us together as family. Here lies a certainty and knowingness that there is more at work than the busy-ness of humyn activity. This is worth saving. This is worth protecting. This is the womb of our mother from which we are all cast. She is being attacked and assaulted, pillaged and plundered. We have an obligation and responsibility to protect her surfaces as we would instinctively protect our biological mother from being violated.

This is the remembering...will you join? Will you listen to the calls for help? Will you stand and oppose the crimes against life, against all life? The crimes that penetrate to the very core of who we are and where we came from. Crimes which shatter and destroy the notion that nature is more than a commodity to buy, sell and exploit. Crimes which echo the sad reality that we as a people have become lost along our quest for wealth and power.

We have become profoundly disconnected from our earth mother, forgetting that she gives tirelessly, unconditionally. We have become blind to the resounding irony that what we are doing to her, we are doing to ourselves and what we are doing right now we do to the unborn generations to come.

As we are all inextricably interconnected, we are all part of the web of life. And injustice to one, humyn or non-humyn, is an injustice to all of us...this is the remembering, this is the awakening. Do you hear the calls? Will you join? Will you take a stand?"



For more info, visit Tre's website: www.trearrow.org
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In love, peace and solidarity, Namaste.

THE NECESSITY FOR CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

(excerpt from Tre's Affidavit to the Minister of Justice)

I write to you, the Minister of Justice, from a cell at Vancouver Island Regional Correctional Centre (VIRCC) in Victoria, British Columbia. I write this as an innocent man, incarcerated since March of 2004, defending against this extradition request by my country of citizenship.

This case involves much more than a simple verdict of "guilty or innocent of arson." Many underlying currents and forces are at work behind the prosecution of this case. The charges brought against me, my imprisonment, the sentencing I face if found guilty, and the likelihood of abuse, harassment, and mistreatment by my government, both in prison and in the community, strike at the heart of constitutional rights and democratic process.

I am an innocent man being targeted, framed and persecuted not because I am guilty of arson, but because I am an activist. Despite the fact that I have involved myself only in overt, peaceful civil disobedience, the U.S. government has labelled me an "eco-terrorist." I have chosen to take a stand against some of the injustices perpetrated at the hands of government bodies. I have committed my life to political and social justice issues towards which I feel passion and responsibility. I have also chosen to take a stand opposing the destruction of the environment. In doing so, I have become a nemesis to government policy and an unwanted obstacle to corporate profit.

I am being targeted by the government because I have been involved in peaceful, effective demonstrations and actions which were simultaneously successful in halting logging on public land while creating a higher public awareness about environmental devastation and the government's complicity in this. I am being targeted as a result of the FBI's systematic effort to stop those who challenge a government corrupted by corporate agendas.

Under the guise of national security, economic gain, and the "war on terror," non-violent activists like myself who take a stand in opposition to the powers that be are considered a serious threat to the status quo and are being treated like communists during the "cold war." Mine is not an isolated case of this kind of targeted persecution.

Civil disobedience is a democratic and constitutional right. The Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights came about through the actions and dedication of people desiring a government and society where freedom, liberty, and justice were afforded to all citizens. The spark which ignited the Revolutionary War with England was an act of direct action and civil disobedience: the Boston Tea Party. Our very own president, Abraham Lincoln, said to the people of the United States: "This country, with its institutions, belongs to the people who inhabit it. Whenever they shall grow weary of its existing government, they can exercise their constitutional right of amending it, or their revolutionary right to dismember or overthrow it."

After September 11, 2001, and the passage of the Patriot Act into law, activists who utter these same words, spoken by our former president, are targeted, railroaded and labelled by the U.S. government as "terrorists". The atmosphere of governmental

intimidation and persecution towards activists who dare to challenge the status quo and take a stand with social, political and environmental issues has increased dramatically over the last 5 years. I find myself at the forefront of an environmental movement, running headlong into the forefront of a much darker and more sinister movement within the U.S. government to squelch the voice of opposition to the establishment.

Except for those who stand to lose billions of dollars as a result of stronger environmental laws being enforced, there are not many who would disagree that the issue of environmental degradation and the dire need for stewardship and protection is of paramount social and cultural concern. There is a great need for public action in the form of peaceful civil disobedience to correctly redress government policy and hold both government and corporations responsible for their actions.

Civil disobedience is a necessary and integral part of a properly functioning democracy. Since September 11, 2001, this constitutional right has been eroded from the social conscience and publicly demonized in the pursuit of the corporate agenda. The result is that peaceful activists like myself are being targeted, persecuted and imprisoned for the expression of their conscience and political opinion. This is not freedom. This is not justice. This is not a democracy.

I implore you to refuse my extradition. Please do not make the same mistake the Canadian government made in the 1970's by extraditing Leonard Peltier to the U.S. Peltier was unjustly tried and convicted and has been imprisoned now for more than a quarter of a century for a crime of which he is innocent.

I ask Canada to protect me from the corruption and dysfunction that has befallen the institutions and infrastructure upon which my country was built. This decision is not only about my life and well-being, but reflects the values which lie at the very core of democracy and justice.



MY MISSION LIVES ON...

(excerpt from Tre's Street News Article, March '06)

"...So here I sit in a prison, incarcerated for more than 2 years because I have used my voice and body to challenge this power structure. A power structure that places property, power and profit above the sacredness of the planet and its people. Simply discussing and pointing out these problems and injustices isn't enough. We need solutions!!!

Awareness without action is futile. We have to help educate, inspire and bring about an increased awareness toward the real injustices around us, and we have to take action. The institutions in our culture deem humyn life and humyn activity more important than any other. This is a grave misconception. We are a part of nature, not outside or above it. We are but one thread in this amazing and intricate web of life. Our intelligence does not give us the right to dominate, exploit, and oppress just because we have the power to do so.

We have been lied to. We have been led astray. We have been disconnected from our Earth Mother, from our roots and from our ancestors. We have been programmed and conditioned to believe there is only one way to live. We are embedded in a system of consumerism and material acquisition which places value and importance in unhallowed objects and ambitions. We have lost touch with the sacred things in our lives.

But there is a way back. We can unravel this conditioning and programming. We can open ourselves to the beauty and truth and allow it to flow into us. If we are not governed by fear, if we take a stand we feel passion towards, then we can effect positive change in our lives and in this world. If we do things which bring us joy, if we follow our hearts, then we can create a world free of oppression and greed where everyone and everything is honoured and respected. If we do not turn a blind eye, if we do not take an apathetic view to the injustices abounding among us, then it will be harder for those in power to continue the "acceptable" violence.

If we spend more time in nature, if we reconnect with this precious planet, then we will realize the magic and sanctity which flow through every living creature. The more we witness the beauty of natural places, the stronger the importance of preservation becomes.

As long as I am breathing, as long as I can use my words and whatever actions I can generate, whether I am incarcerated or not, I will live by these truths: That life is sacred. That we have a responsibility to respect and protect this planet and all its inhabitants. That the quest for power and wealth is not the way to achieve happiness. I will do what I can to take a stand and oppose the injustices toward this planet and its creatures. I will continue to be a voice for those voices which are commonly ignored. The powers that be can trap my body, but they will never stop my spirit, passion, and words from reaching the hearts and minds of the world. My mission lives on! Won't you join me? If not now, then when? If not you, then who?"

www.trearrow.org