



# FREE KAKWIRAKERON

"YOU CANNOT ARREST, INCARCERATE, INJURE OR EXTERMINATE THE SPIRIT OF NATIVE PEOPLE..."  
(July 10, 1990)

For over twenty years, Kakwirakeron (a.k.a. Arthur Montour) has been a spokesperson and mediator for the ROTISKEHRAHKETEH - The Mohawk Warrior Society and an activist in movements advocating the rights of all Native people in the struggle for justice, equality, truth, freedom, and for independence, self-determination and recognition as sovereign nations. Kakwirakeron is a traditionalist/Nationalist of the Bear clan of the Mohawk nation and of the Six Nations Iroquois Confederacy. He is the father of 13 children and 23 grandchildren. He is also a well known and respected Union ironworker/superintendent of over thirty years, and has worked throughout the United States and Canada.

Kakwirakeron was brutally arrested on July 24, 1989. After a lengthy bail hearing in the U.S. Federal Court in Syracuse, New York, he was released on \$50,000.00 bail on July 31, 1989. Once released from the federal authorities, Kakwirakeron was immediately arrested by the New York State Police and charged with resisting arrest, was arraigned and later released on \$500.00 bail. He appeared before the St. Lawrence County Grand Jury and the charge was eventually dismissed.

The political trial of Kakwirakeron was held March 29 - April 10, 1990 in the U.S. Federal Court in Syracuse, New York; and resulted in the all-white jury finding him guilty without any substantial evidence of Count I: "Conspiring with other persons unknown to forcibly resist, impede and interfere with persons authorized to execute search warrants; and committing nine overt acts in order to effect the object of conspiracy"; and Count III: "Aiding and abetting others unknown in forcibly resisting, impeding and interfering with persons authorized to execute search warrants". He was found not guilty of Count II: "Using a deadly or dangerous weapon to forcibly resist, impede, and interfere with persons authorized to execute search warrants". All charges stemmed from the period on or about May 27, 1989 to on or about August 1, 1989.

Attorney Seth Shapiro argued that the application of international law, and specifically the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe: Final Act, also known as the "Helsinki Accords" precluded prosecution. U.S. Judge Neil McCurn ruled that the motion was "irrelevant" and continually ruled out sovereignty or the Iroquois Constitution as a defense. Although plea bargains were offered to Kakwirakeron, he adamantly refused to plead guilty to alleged U.S. crimes which allegedly occurred within sovereign Mohawk territory.

On July 10, 1990; Kakwirakeron was sentenced to two concurrent ten month terms and his request for release on bail, pending his appeal was denied. He was released to the custody of the U.S. Federal Marshalls and immediately taken to the Madison County Jail in Wampsville, New York. During the period of July 10-16, 1990; Kakwirakeron was transferred to several prisons, moved approximately every four hours, was segregated and placed in filthy and dehumanizing conditions. During this time, the U.S. Marshalls would not release the location(s) of Kakwirakeron to his family or lawyers, for what they claimed were "national security reasons". U.S. Judge McCurn recommended that Kakwirakeron be placed in a minimum security camp (Level 1) in the Northeast. However, the Bureau of Prisons assigned him to a medium-maximum security prison (Level 4) in Petersburg, Virginia. This action was "justified" by the Bureau of Prisons because of "information provided by the F.B.I. that an escape was planned" and due to the "Mohawk problems in Canada".

"I AM A CITIZEN OF A DIFFERENT NATION, OF A DIFFERENT COUNTRY, AND THEREFORE I FEEL THAT I AM A PRISONER OF WAR, AN UNDECLARED WAR, AN UNJUST WAR, AND AN IMMORAL WAR BY THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA AGAINST ALL NATIVE PEOPLE; AND IN THIS TIME PERIOD, PARTICULARLY AGAINST THE MOHAWK NATION..."  
(August 13, 1990)

On September 11, 1990; Kakwirakeron's motion for bail pending his appeal was denied without explanation; with the order being released and endorsed by a three judge panel of U.S. Second Circuit Court Judges consisting of Judge Platt, Judge Mahoney and Judge Walker.

It has now been over four months since Kakwirakeron has been incarcerated in a prison over 900 miles from his family and friends. We urge everyone to send signed letters of support for Kakwirakeron to:

The U.S. Justice Department  
Main Justice Building  
10th and Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20530  
Attention: U.S. Attorney General Richard Thornburgh

Please send copies of your letters to: The Mohawk Warriors Society Legal Defense Fund  
- The Case of Kakwirakeron  
Mohawk Territory via P.O. Box 515  
Hogansburg, New York 13655  
Attention: Rowena General

You can write to Kakwirakeron at: Kakwirakeron (a.k.a. Arthur Montour)  
#03047-052  
Federal Correctional Institution  
Lee Hall - Unit 2 - 2nd Floor  
Petersburg, Virginia 23804-1000

"PRESENTLY, I AM A PRISONER OF WAR IN PETERSBURG, VIRGINIA. THEY HAVE NOT SUCCEEDED IN BREAKING MY SPIRIT...IT IS ACTUALLY STRONGER THAN EVER. I AM NOT ASHAMED TO BE HERE. I AM PROUD THAT I HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO SACRIFICE A PART OF MY LIFE SO THAT MOHAWK SOVEREIGNTY WILL NEVER DIE..."  
(November 12, 1990)



AUGUST 13, 1990: KAKWIRAKERON IMPRISONED AT THE FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION IN PETERSBURG, VIRGINIA. (PHOTO CREDIT: SYRACUSE POST-STANDARD)

