

SUPPORT LAURA WHITEHORN!

Fight Political Repression

Come to court – Nov. 15 9:30 a.m.

U.S. Courthouse, 101 W. Lombard, Baltimore.
Judge Ramsey

"The FBI and the government are using preventive detention against me and my comrades because they want to make people think we are criminals and terrorists. They want people to think we are dangerous to the community. We are not a threat to the community. We are not the killer cops who murder Black people. We are not Botha of the racist white settler regime in Azania/South Africa. We are not the CIA and the State Department who invade Nicaragua with "contras" and sanctions. These people are threats to the entire world community. What we are a threat to is the greed, depravity, and white supremacy that characterize the system of u.s. imperialism and all the people who rule this country. We are a threat to this because we live and act by revolutionary and human principles."

-- Laura Whitehorn, May 14, 1985

The trial of Laura Whitehorn will begin this fall in federal court in Baltimore. She was arrested on May 11th, and is facing charges of possession of false identification, possession of weapons and assaulting a federal officer. As Laura faces the u.s. government in the arena of the court, she is committed to upholding her principles and fighting the government's attempt to criminalize, isolate and silence resistance. Laura has lessons to share, the will to win, and great determination to continue the struggle. We urge people to come to court to support her.

Laura Whitehorn's arrest was accompanied by statements from the FBI and other government agencies which described her as a "criminal" and a "terrorist". Nothing could be further from the truth. Laura has been a political activist for nearly 20 years. In the early 60's she supported the civil rights movement, and fought against the war in Vietnam. As a member of SDS (Students for a Democratic Society) in the late 60's, she, like hundreds of thousands of other people, participated in militant demonstrations to support the Vietnamese people in their struggle for self-determination, and organized support for the Black Panther Party. In 1969, Laura came face to face with the viciousness of the u.s. imperialist system when Fred Hampton and Mark Clark, leaders of the Black Panther Party in Chicago and Illinois were assassinated by the FBI and the Chicago police. Since the late 60's, Laura has struggled as a revolutionary anti-imperialist and has come under FBI scrutiny, investigation and harassment, as is documented in FBI files she received under the Freedom of Information Act, totalling 300 pages for the years 1969-1977.

In the early 70's, Laura helped to organize a women's school in Boston, as part of the women's liberation movement. She took part in the take-over by hundreds of women of an abandoned Harvard-owned building, in solidarity with the struggle of the Vietnamese people for self-determination and independence. As an anti-imperialist, she learned lessons from women struggling worldwide against imperialism -- women like Leila Khaled, Ashraf Deghani, Madame Dinh, Assata Shakur, Puerto Rican women POW's. These women understood that the path to the liberation of women lay in women's participation in their nations' struggle for self-determination and national liberation and the building of new socialist societies. Laura organized among women here to take up these lessons and tasks, and to build women's capacity to resist -- to take action against the U.S. war machine, against organized white supremacist forces, to build solidarity with national liberation struggles. She organized against racism and organized white supremacy, and supported the Black community in Boston during the racist attacks of the "anti-busing" movement there. She has worked to organize support for the Puerto Rican Independence Movement, the Black Liberation Struggle, liberation struggles in Africa, the Palestinian struggle, and the struggles of the people of Central America. Laura worked to raise political and material aid for ZANU during the struggle for a free Zimbabwe, months

before the revolutionary forces in that nation whom the u.s. government labelled as "terrorists", became the freely elected government of a liberated Zimbabwe. In 1975, Laura visited Vietnam as one of four members of a delegation of anti-imperialist women from this country. She has also worked to expose the FBI's counterintelligence program (COINTELPRO), and to support political prisoners and Prisoners of War.

Laura believes in the need for many levels of resistance to imperialism. If that makes her a "dangerous criminal", or a "terrorist", then we have to recognize who is defining those categories -- the invaders of Grenada, the "advisors" to El Salvadorean death squads, the bombers of Black communities, like in Philadelphia. Laura's activities -- which the u.s. government is charging under criminal statutes -- were not crimes, but the activities of a woman revolutionary who for several years has been part of building anti-imperialist resistance outside of the eyes and ears of the u.s. government's police and intelligence agencies -- a multi-leveled clandestine resistance. She sees this development as critical to building our movement's ability to fight and survive. She believes that as North-Americans, we have the right and the responsibility to uphold the right of self-determination for oppressed nations and to stop the u.s. government's crimes against peace and humanity.

The u.s. government has a deliberate strategy they are implementing against revolutionaries -- an anti-guerrilla strategy that has been developed by u.s. think-tanks and agencies and is being implemented on an international level. Using scare words like "terrorism", the government dictates every step of the counterinsurgency process -- from the search for clandestine forces, to press coverage, to trial strategies, sentencing and prison conditions. Since her arrest, Laura has been held in preventive detention. The government is trying to hold revolutionary activists without bail after arrest, on the grounds that they are a danger to the community. Days after Laura's arrest, Barbara Sales, a u.s. attorney in Baltimore, "leaked" a story to the press -- a lurid story about what was allegedly found in the apartment in which Laura was arrested. The government has never charged Laura with possession of any of these items, and so they have never given her the opportunity to answer these charges -- but the government's inflammatory allegations have determined the decisions of every judge she has gone before, and of the Baltimore City Jail, which holds her in special "high-security" conditions. Even Laura's legal team are surveilled by the FBI when they come to visit her.

Laura Whitehorn is not the only revolutionary who faces repression and criminalization. It is no accident that the u.s. government is heightening its counterinsurgency strategies at a time when international opposition to u.s. aggression is mounting. The East Coast is the site of major political trials in the upcoming months. The Ohio 7, charged with conspiracy and accused of carrying out armed actions in solidarity with Azania/South Africa and Central America, are on trial in New York. Other Northamerican who are part of building a clandestine resistance are facing immediate trials -- Alan Berkman in Philadelphia, Marilyn Buck in New York, Linda Evans in Connecticut and New Orleans. And recently, 13 Puerto Rican patriots were expatriated from Puerto Rico by the u.s. military to Hartford, Connecticut, where they are being tried for a revolutionary 7 million dollar expropriation claimed by the Macheteros, a clandestine organization fighting for Puerto Rican Independence from u.s. colonialism.

The u.s. presently has over 100 revolutionaries politically interned in its prisons. They include POW's, political prisoners and grand jury resisters from the New Afrikan/Black, Puerto Rican, Mexican and Native American struggles. And they include Northamerican anti-imperialists who have waged armed struggle in solidarity with the liberation movements, Northamerican grand jury resisters, and political prisoners from militant anti-war actions, like the Ploughshares prisoners, and from the Sanctuary movement. Our resistance movement must build a commitment to all of these prisoners, and a commitment to fight the government's strategy to wear down their resistance and to crush their political identities. Coming to court is an immediate expression that we will stand with them to continue the struggle.

BUILD A REVOLUTIONARY RESISTANCE MOVEMENT!
LIBERATION FOR OPPRESSED NATIONS!
FREE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS AND POW's!
DEFEAT U.S. IMPERIALISM!

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