

# support the “green scare” defendants.

The world is in a bad way—even *Time* and *Newsweek* admit that we’re facing a rolling environmental catastrophe of a grand scale. The government is working on its response: locking away our friends.

In December 2005, the FBI’s “Operation Backfire” led to the arrests of a half dozen environmental activists nationwide, with other arrests following soon afterwards. The arrestees were accused of arson and sabotage against government and commercial facilities involved in ecological destruction and animal torture. Several other suspects wanted by the Feds have yet to be apprehended. The government’s initial case was built with the assistance of Jacob Ferguson, a notorious Eugene, Oregon junkie. Bill Rodgers, one of those arrested on December 7, died Winter Solstice while caged in Arizona, an apparent suicide. Over half a year later, several surviving arrestees have been pressured to provide dubious testimony against each other in exchange for lesser sentences. Four non-cooperating defendants now face trial in the District of Oregon, with another person facing trial in a different jurisdiction. Many of the defendants face sentences in excess of “life,” for property destruction that physically hurt no living being. These defendants deserve our support.

The Earth and Animal Liberation Fronts are the supposed targets of the government’s “green scare” tactics, but the real target is the population at large, anyone who could stand against our society’s deadly trajectory. We’re supposed to be more afraid of a thuggish government than of planetary ecological collapse. The ELF and ALF are not terrorist organizations. They are only ideas. If you’ve ever seen wild nature or animal life—including humans—as intrinsically wonderful, beautiful and meaningful, then consider yourself an ELF and an ALF member. The government realizes that it’s only a small step from thought to action, so they target people indiscriminately.

It’s important to support the latest internees, not because they are “innocent”—although the government cases remain shaky—but because we stick by our own. The “green scare” defendants are people similar to us, who have concerns dear to all sane people. Our rulers, however, are absurd, money-sick and terroristic. It is these rulers who would jeopardize our planet for industry bucks and military might. Showing support for the defendants is ultimately an act of self-defense. It’s part of a broader effort to make much needed changes in our society, while we still have some room for maneuver. Before the “green scare” trials begin, kick up the biggest fuss you can, every single day. Our government—rather than thoughtful and compassionate people—should be put on trial.

resist state repression.  
fight hard for a better world.

