

Political Prisoner

Jake Conroy

Charges

Jake Conroy was convicted and sentenced to four years imprisonment on March 2, 2006 for violating the "Animal Enterprises Protection Act", a law in the United States that makes illegal activism against animal abusers punishable by especially harsh sentences. To convict Jake, the state undertook one of the largest electronic surveillance campaigns of the 21st century consisting of over 550 90 minute cassette tapes of phone and room taps and 59 CDs of intercepted electronic communication -- nearly 150,000 eavesdropping incidents in all. The "crimes" that warranted this massive investigation, however, did not involve violence or even property destruction. Jake was, ultimately, convicted for nothing more than running a website.



Jake was a member of the group Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC), an above-ground animal rights group dedicated to shutting down the vivisection company Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS). The SHAC website, which reported on acts of vandalism against HLS in its news section, was deemed by the Federal government to be a tool of 'incitement'. Jake and five other SHAC members were charged with a host of "conspiracy" crimes and convicted, despite the fact that neither he nor any of his co-defendants ever engaged in any acts of vandalism or violence against HLS. Jake is currently appealing his conviction.

Bio

Jake has been an activist on behalf of animals and the environment most of his adult life, having worked with such groups as the SeaDefense Alliance and Ocean Defence International. In 1999, Jake was arrested for sabotaging a whale hunt off the coast of the continental US. In addition to his animal and environmental activism, Jake is also involved in Native American struggles, HIV/AIDS issues and has worked in a literacy program for inner city kids. Jake calls Seattle his home. He is vegan and straightedge. He likes watching bad movies, listening to hardcore, hiking, camping and eating high-sugar foods.

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