

## Political Prisoner

# Josh Harper

### Charges

On November 16, 2006 Josh Harper started his three year sentence in federal prison. His "crime", for which both prosecutors and Federal agents have labelled him a "terrorist" numerous times, was nothing more than giving a speech. In 2001, Josh gave a presentation at the University of Washington to an audience of eight -- seven students and one undercover FBI agent. During his speech, Josh expressed his support for a form of electronic civil disobedience; the sending of "black faxes" to targeted companies, a tactic designed to cause economic damage by wasting fax machine toner cartridges. For this speech, Josh was charged with the crime of "Conspiracy to Harass using a Telecommunications Device" and was further charged under the Animal Enterprise Protection Act, a piece of "anti-terrorism" legislation designed to chill animal rights activism.



Josh was never charged with sending black faxes himself, only for encouraging the tactic. At his trial, the prosecution called only one witness who had actually sent black faxes, an activist from Ohio. Despite the fact that this witness stated that he had not been inspired to the act by Josh or Josh's group, Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty, and that black faxing was "common knowledge", Josh was convicted on all charges.

### Bio

Josh has been an activist for over ten years, working on animal, environmental and human rights projects. He is the co-founder of the Breaking Free video magazine and has done much work in building alternative media. In 2001, Josh defied a Grand Jury investigating the Animal Liberation Front. Most of Josh's recent activism has centred around the Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty group and he is one of the SHAC 7 prisoners.

Josh comes from the Pacific Northwest and is into skateboarding, dogs and reading.

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