

## Political Prisoner

# Lauren Gazzola

### Charges

On May 26, 2004, Lauren Gazzola was arrested in a full SWAT raid along with five other members of the animal rights group Stop Huntingdon Life Sciences (SHAC). In March of 2006, Lauren was sentenced to 52 months in federal prison. Her crime? Running a website.



The prosecution successfully argued that by running the SHAC website which reported on acts of politically-motivated vandalism, Lauren was guilty of 'incitement'. Under the Animal Enterprises Protection Act, a piece of U.S. 'anti-terrorism' legislation designed to give special protection to companies that use animals in their business, Lauren was sentenced to over four years.

Lauren has never engaged in politically-motivated vandalism and has never been charged with such. Her only 'crime' is the exercise of free speech.

### Bio

Lauren is a graduate of New York University, where she started her activism career by successfully lobbying for vegan options in the school's cafeteria. In addition to her animal rights work, Lauren has worked as a tutor to inner-city youth in New York and has volunteered as an adult literacy teacher. At the time of her arrest, Lauren was working with StirFry Seminars, a consulting company working to combat racism, sexism and homophobia.

While at trial, Lauren successfully passed the LSAT and plans to attend law school in the future

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