

Political Prisoner

Rod Coronado

Charges

Rod Coronado is long-time environmental and wildlife-protection activist. On December 2, 2004, Rod was arrested for disrupting a government-sponsored hunt of mountain lions in Sabino Canyon, Arizona. For dismantling a leg hold trap and spreading feline urine in the area to dissuade mountain lions from coming near traps, Rod was convicted of "misdemeanor interference with or injury to a forest officer" and sentenced on December 13, 2005 to eight months in prison.



In February 2006, Rod was re-arrested on a felony charge of "demonstrating the use of a destructive device". The charges stemmed from a public speech he had given in August of 2003 at the University of San Diego where, in response to a question from the audience about a recent Earth Liberation Front arson at the university, Rod had engaged in a short discussion about the nature of such actions. Rod's first ammendment defense was overturned on December 14th, 2007. He is expected to be sentenced to one year.

Bio

Rod is of Pasqua Yaqui heritage and lives in Tucson, Arizona. He has a long history of activism. In 1985, at the age of 19, he joined the crew of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, an organization created by ex-Greenpeace founder Paul Watson to protect sea mammals, [3] and on November 9, 1986, he and another activist, David Howitt, travelled to Iceland and scuttled whaling two ships, accounting for half of Iceland's whaling fleet. Iceland wash was whaling in contravention of the International Whaling Commission moratorium at the time. No one was hurt in the action and Rod was never charged.

In 1995, Rod was convicted and sentenced to 57 months in prison in connection with the February 28, 1992 arson attack on fur research facilities at Michigan State University, which caused \$125,000 worth of damage. He was also involved in the release of mink from a nearby MSU mink research farm. As a condition of his sentence, Rod was ordered to pay MSU \$2 million in restitution.

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