On March 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Bush administration dealt yet another blow to the First Amendment, as the SHAC 7 were found guilty on multiple federal felonies for advocating the closure of the notorious animal testing lab, Huntingdon Life Sciences.

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Not only is this conviction an appalling miscarriage of justice for the defendants, but it also demonstrates the erosion of free speech protections and is part of a politically motivated attack on the animal rights movement in particular. This is the first time anyone has ever been tried under the Animal Enterprise Protection Act (formerly known as the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act) and sets a nightmarish precedent for animal campaigners throughout the country. Many industry hacks hope that a conviction under the AEPA will clear the way for the government to go after any activist that campaigns against big business and is successful, despite the legality of their tactics.

## WHO ARE THE SHAC 7?

The SHAC 7 are six individuals and the organization Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (USA) who were indicted and convicted on charges of violating the Animal Enterprise Protection Act, conspiracy, and interstate stalking using the internet. terrorist or threatening acts. Instead, the government case centers around the idea that aboveground organizers of a campaign are responsible for any and all acts that anyone engages in while furthering the goals of the organizers. In this case the claim is that the SHAC7 should be imprisoned because underground activists engaged in illegal actions against companies with ties to H.L.S.

While the charges themselves sound alarming, the defendants are not actually accused of having personally engaged in

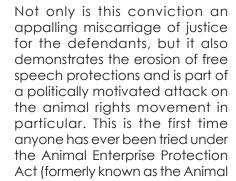
WHAT CAN I DO?

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The SHAC 7 plan to fight this case in the appeals courts, but will have to be done from prison. Donations and fundraising events are a great way to help win this case and keep prisoners' moral high! Donations can be made payable to:

**SHAC 7 Support Fund** 740A 14th St #237 San Francisco, CA 94114

For more information on ways to help and updates on the case, please visit:



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