

SUPPORT MARIEMASON



Marie Mason is serving the longest prison sentence of any environmental activist in the US. In February 2009, she was given almost 22 years in prison for two acts of property destruction in which no one was injured or killed. She damaged an office connected to GMO research and destroyed a piece of logging equipment.

Mason's case is one of the most egregious in the Green Scare. This is the name given for the prosecution of environmental and animal liberation activists who have been charged with vastly inflated sentences, and have been publicly and legally labeled "terrorists" – though no one has been hurt in their acts of economic sabotage. Some prisoners are kept in special Communication Management Units (CMUs) to isolate them from their families and supporters. In August, 2010 Mason was transferred to a special wing of prison in Texas that has restrictive policies regarding communication that are similar to the CMUs, although not quite as severe.

Mason is a loving mother of two and has been an activist for over 20 years. Like Judi Bari, she is of a generation of radicals who worked to link the environmental and labor movements by stitching together groups like Earth First! with unions like the Industrial Workers of the World. When not raising her children or working with local environmental groups or with her union, she was a journalist for magazines such as *Fifth Estate*, recorded a neo-folk album with fellow Earth First!er Darryl Cherney in 1999, and worked with numerous charitable groups.

Mason was snitched on by her then-husband, Frank Ambrose. After spying on activist groups for two years for the FBI, he filed divorce papers the day she was arrested. Based on his testimony, Mason's son was later arrested for a misdemeanor charge

dating back to when he was a teenager. The FBI also raided Mason's mother's house, seized private papers from her daughter, and intimidated an ex-partner at his workplace.

In return for Mason accepting a plea bargain, the prosecution asked for 15–20 years. However, the judge sentenced her to 22 years, declaring she had violated the "marketplace of ideas" with her actions. He stated that her "case is not about a prosecution for holding political viewpoints." But exactly the opposite is true. Mason received a 22 year sentence only because she was an environmental activist whose actions disrupted "the marketplace". The average sentence for murder in federal court is 22 years; the average sentence for arson is seven.

Mason's extraordinary sentence is a result of post-9/11 legal changes. Acts of sabotage have been redefined as "terrorism". Judges now treat eco-saboteurs, who honor the sanctity of life, the same as Al-Qaeda operatives who seek to massacre thousands of people. These laws are now being used disproportionately to punish anarchists, radical environmentalists and animal liberation activists. These domestic terrorism prosecutions are almost never used against the assassins of abortion doctors, or against those who commit homophobic, racist or antisemitic hate crimes.

Supporting Marie Mason does not mean agreeing with her acts. The fear-mongering tactics and outrageous sentences of the Green Scare are threats to environmental and animal liberation politics in general. Defending Marie Mason and the other Green Scare prisoners is part of countering the government's attempts to repress these movements as a whole.

Being incarcerated is extremely expensive for the families of prisoners, and donations are needed to pay for Mason's legal expenses, to buy vegan food from the commissary, to make phone calls from jail, and to help pay for visits from her family.

for more information:

www.supportmariemason.org
supportmariemason@gmail.com

to write Mason:

Marie Mason #04672-061
FMC Carswell
Federal Medical Center
PO Box 27137
Fort Worth, TX 76127

to donate:

Checks or MO's can be made to "Karin Mason" at:
Karin Mason
PO Box 352
Stanwood, MI 49346