

# SUPPORT MARIUS MASON



Marius Mason is serving the longest prison term of any environmental activist in the US. In February 2009, he was sentenced to almost 22 years in federal prison for two acts of property destruction in Michigan in which no one was injured or killed—damaging an office connected to GMO research as well as destroying a piece of logging equipment. Marius' case is one of the most egregious in the “Green Scare”, the name given to the prosecution of environmental and animal liberation activists who received vastly inflated sentences, and who have been publicly and legally labeled “terrorists” – though no one was hurt in their acts of economic sabotage.

**IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE, THAT ON JUNE 11TH 2014, MARIUS FORMALLY ANNOUNCED—AS PART OF A GENDER TRANSITIONING PROCESS—THAT HE WILL NO LONGER USE THE NAME, MARIE MASON, AND WILL INSTEAD GO BY MARIUS JACOB MASON AND WILL UTILIZE MALE PRONOUNS.**

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

Marius was snatched on by his then-husband, Frank Ambrose. After spying for the FBI on activist groups for two years, Ambrose filed divorce papers the day Marius was arrested.

# SUPPORT MARIUS MASON



Marius Mason is serving the longest prison term of any environmental activist in the US. In February 2009, he was sentenced to almost 22 years in federal prison for two acts of property destruction in Michigan in which no one was injured or killed—damaging an office connected to GMO research as well as destroying a piece of logging equipment. Marius' case is one of the most egregious in the “Green Scare”, the name given to the prosecution of environmental and animal liberation activists who received vastly inflated sentences, and who have been publicly and legally labeled “terrorists” – though no one was hurt in their acts of economic sabotage.

**IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE, THAT ON JUNE 11TH 2014, MARIUS FORMALLY ANNOUNCED—AS PART OF A GENDER TRANSITIONING PROCESS—THAT HE WILL NO LONGER USE THE NAME, MARIE MASON, AND WILL INSTEAD GO BY MARIUS JACOB MASON AND WILL UTILIZE MALE PRONOUNS.**

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

Marius was snatched on by his then-husband, Frank Ambrose. After spying for the FBI on activist groups for two years, Ambrose filed divorce papers the day Marius was ar-

Based on Ambrose's testimony, Marius's son was later arrested for a misdemeanor charge dating back to when he was a teenager. The FBI also raided Marius's mother's house and intimidated his ex-partner at their workplace.

In return for Marius accepting a plea bargain, the prosecution asked for 15–20 years. However, the judge sentenced him to 22 years, declaring that Marius had violated the “marketplace of ideas” with his actions. The judge stated that Marius’s “case is not about a prosecution for holding political viewpoints.” But exactly the opposite is true. Marius received a 22 year sentence only because he 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.

In August 2010, Marius was moved suddenly and without explanation or apparent cause to the Administrative Unit of the Federal Medical Center at Carswell Prison in Ft. Worth, Texas, from the Waseca Federal Prison in Minnesota, where he was sent to serve his sentence after trial. For months after the move, Marius was denied visitors except for immediate family and much of his mail was not getting through (Marius continues to have problems with sending and receiving mail). Carswell is primarily a medical facility, but houses a small number of female inmates with histories of escapes, chronic behavior or violence problems, or who are classified as “special management concerns,” including two women facing death sentences. There has been at least one other political prisoner at Carswell, anti-nuclear and anti-capitalist activist Helen Woodson, who has been released.

Not only is Carswell much further from Marius' close friends and family than Waseca, it is also much more isolated in other ways. Marius is not in “general population,” given the administrative unit's capacity of 20 inmates, and is segregated from the inmates in the medical facility entirely.

Marius, along with Eric McDavid (who was sentenced to 20 years), has been singled out for harsher treatment than other defendants in the Green Scare. Whether the move to Carswell is part of that is unclear, but reasons behind the move have never been adequately explained. Inquiries from his attorney at the time of the move went unanswered. Marius had no rule violations recorded at Waseca.

In 2013 there was a campaign launched by supporters of Marius to move him from Carswell, which generated a large volume of letters and phone calls, but did not result in action from the Board of Prisons. Friends and supporters of Marius continue to explore ways to approach advocacy to effect a move to a less restrictive and less isolated facility.

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

Your support is needed to support Marius and to help beat back the Green Scare.

Based on Ambrose's testimony, Marius's son was later arrested for a misdemeanor charge dating back to when he was a teenager. The FBI also raided Marius's mother's house and intimidated his ex-partner at their workplace.

In return for Marius accepting a plea bargain, the prosecution asked for 15–20 years. However, the judge sentenced him to 22 years, declaring that Marius had violated the “marketplace of ideas” with his actions. The judge stated that Marius’s “case is not about a prosecution for holding political viewpoints.” But exactly the opposite is true. Marius received a 22 year sentence only because he 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.

In August 2010, Marius was moved suddenly and without explanation or apparent cause to the Administrative Unit of the Federal Medical Center at Carswell Prison in Ft. Worth, Texas, from the Waseca Federal Prison in Minnesota, where he was sent to serve his sentence after trial. For months after the move, Marius was denied visitors except for immediate family and much of his mail was not getting through (Marius continues to have problems with sending and receiving mail). Carswell is primarily a medical facility, but houses a small number of female inmates with histories of escapes, chronic behavior or violence problems, or who are classified as “special management concerns,” including two women facing death sentences. There has been at least one other political prisoner at Carswell, anti-nuclear and anti-capitalist activist Helen Woodson, who has been released.

Not only is Carswell much further from Marius' close friends and family than Waseca, it is also much more isolated in other ways. Marius is not in “general population,” given the administrative unit's capacity of 20 inmates, and is segregated from the inmates in the medical facility entirely.

Marius, along with Eric McDavid (who was sentenced to 20 years), has been singled out for harsher treatment than other defendants in the Green Scare. Whether the move to Carswell is part of that is unclear, but reasons behind the move have never been adequately explained. Inquiries from his attorney at the time of the move went unanswered. Marius had no rule violations recorded at Waseca.

In 2013 there was a campaign launched by supporters of Marius to move him from Carswell, which generated a large volume of letters and phone calls, but did not result in action from the Board of Prisons. Friends and supporters of Marius continue to explore ways to approach advocacy to effect a move to a less restrictive and less isolated facility.

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

Your support is needed to support Marius and to help beat back the Green Scare.