

WHO ARE THE CLEVELAND FOUR?

Who would imagine that a momentous event in our movement – a turning point – would center around a small Mid-western city on the edge of Lake Erie, Cleveland, Ohio? The FBI did; in October of 2011, they crafted a scheme to once again attack the anarchist movement, and this time to go after the emerging Occupy movement as well. Through an agent provocateur, the FBI infiltrated Occupy Cleveland and singled out five individuals they deemed to be “fringe.” Over the course of the following seven months, this informant slowly alienated the five from their friends and from other activists, made them economically dependent on him as their sole source of paid work, and supplied them with seemingly endless amounts of alcohol, marijuana, and pharmaceuticals. What was his plan? To ensnare them in a made-up plot to destroy a bridge, using C4 he supplied.

Four of them have been successfully charged with conspiracy to use a weapon of mass destruction, knowingly attempting to use a weapon of mass destruction and attempting to maliciously damage and destroy by use



SKELLY

of explosives. They’ve received sentences of between eight and twelve years in prison. Another, Tony Hayne, decided to turn snitch and betray his friends and principles.

Connor, Doug, and Brandon took non-cooperating plea deals and pled guilty to all charges. The judge applied a "terrorist enhancement" charge to each of them, lengthening their sentences as well as subjecting them to harsher prison conditions. Doug is serving 11.5 years, Brandon 9 years 9 months, and Connor 8 years 1 month.

Skelly took his case to trial and acted as his own lawyer. The FBI offered him a non cooperating plea deal with a 3 year sentence, if he would have plead guilty. Josh refused to plead guilty to something he wasn't guilty of doing, but he was found guilty on all counts by his jury and sentenced to 10 years. Even though Skelly had the most minimal role, he got the second longest sentence because he took his case to trial.



CONNOR STEVENS

Doug, Brandon, and Connor pled without an agreement while facing the threat of life in prison. On appeal of their sentencing, they were primarily fighting against the lifelong probation that was handed down at sentencing. Doug also fought against being branded the leader. After months of waiting for a verdict on the appeals, their appeals were denied, as was Josh's appeal.



DOUG WRIGHT

They all continue to fight against the government's attempt to brand them as terrorists and to expose the techniques of entrapment employed by the FBI and their informants.

In July, 2019 Connor Stevens was released from prison and plans to appeal the lifetime supervised release that accompanied his sentence.

A NOTE ABOUT BRANDON BAXTER

As a collective, NYC Anarchist Black Cross has decided to withdraw support for Brandon Baxter. It has come to our attention that Brandon has been problematic, abusive, and manipulative to women who have offered him support, material or emotional. Brandon has not been receptive to concerns about this behavior. We are in solidarity with those who have been impacted by Brandon's toxic behavior and feel it is imperative to discontinue support so as to not facilitate any further harm to women. For these reasons, we no longer feel comfortable supporting or encouraging others to do so.

Write them:

Joshua Stafford* #57976-060

USP McCreary

Post Office Box 3000

Pine Knot, Kentucky 42635

**Address card/letter to Skelly.*

Douglas Wright #57973-060

USP Victorville

Post Office Box 3900

Adelanto, California 92301

More information:

cleveland4solidarity.org

facebook.com/freethe4

[@FreeCleveland4](https://twitter.com/FreeCleveland4)

Local group supporting the Cleveland Four:

NYC Anarchist Black Cross

NYC Anarchist Black Cross is a collective focused on supporting US-held political prisoners and prisoners of war and opposing state repression against revolutionary social justice movements.

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