



The **RNC 8** are Minneapolis-St. Paul residents who have come under government attack for organizing against the 2008 Republican National Convention. Originally charged with “conspiracy to commit riot in furtherance of terrorism,” they saw their felony charges--and possible prison time--quadrupled in late 2008. In April 2009, their supporters won the dismissal of the terrorism charges through a broad grassroots solidarity campaign.

But the RNC 8 still face multiple counts of felony conspiracy, and have weathered intense demonization by authorities in a clear attempt to criminalize all dissent and organizing against the status quo.

Conspiracy charges, dubbed the “prosecutor’s best friend,” are such that the accused need not have actually committed the illegal acts to which they allegedly conspired. Thoughts, relationships and casual conversations alone could send these individuals to prison for years.

Far from being criminals of any sort, the individuals facing these charges are a diverse group of people who lead everyday lives like you and me. They are preschool teachers, community activists, college students, musicians, and friends.

The fact that the RNC 8 are being charged at all is outrageous, and their conviction would set a dangerous precedent for anyone who dreams of a better world. Fighting and beating these charges won’t solely be a matter of legal maneuvering, but depends on the strong voices of protest from all who could be next.

A little background

The RNC 8 all organized in association with the RNC Welcoming Committee, which formed in late 2006 in response to the news that the 2008 Republican National Convention would descend on Minneapolis-St. Paul, where they live, work and build community. The Welcoming Committee’s purpose was to serve as an anarchist/anti-authoritarian organizing body, creating an informational and logistical framework for radical resistance to the RNC. The Welcoming Committee spent more than a year and a half doing outreach and education--locally and nationwide-- and networking folks of all political persuasions who shared a common interest in voicing dissent in the streets of St. Paul while the GOP’s machine chugged away inside the convention.

In Context

The RNC Welcoming Committee engaged in First Amendment-protected activity. And although the RNC 8 were in jail when it happened outside the convention, civil disobedience, too, is a time-honored tradition in this country. Remember the Boston Tea Party? Civil disobedience dates back to the fight for independence, and should not be deemed criminal. Dissent is not terrorism, nor is it criminal conspiracy.

We view this case as an opportunity to demonstrate community solidarity in the face of repression, and to establish a precedent of successful resistance to the government’s attempts to destroy our movements. The RNC 8 aren’t the first nor the last organizers to be targeted by the State. By actively defending them, we help defend us all.



What Can I Do?

The RNC 8 are facing a long legal battle with an estimated cost of \$250,000. They need your support in whatever ways you can provide.

- Host a fundraising event in your community or school
- Sign our on-line petition
- Pressure Ramsey County Attorney Susan Gaertner to drop the charges
- Hand this brochure to ten of your friends and neighbors

To send a donation, fill out the form below and mail to:

RNC 8 Legal Defense Fund
c/o CUAPB
3100 16th Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55407

Checks should be made payable to:
“Communities United Against Police Brutality
(CUAPB)” w/ “RNC 8 Legal Defense”
written in the memo line.

If you wish to make a tax-deductible donation of
over \$100, make checks payable to:
“National Lawyers Guild Foundation”
w/ “RNC 8” in the memo line.
Mail to the address above.

to donate online, visit www.RNC8.org

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**“The best
solidarity
is to keep the
struggle going,
and we hope that
supporting us
can be a small
part of broader
movements for
social change.”**

Read the letter from the RNC 8 at

www.RNC8.org

Friends of the RNC 8

PO Box 7475

Minneapolis, MN 55407

info@rnc8.org



**FRIENDS OF THE RNC 8
• RNC8.ORG •**