



WESTERN SHOSHONE DEFENSE PROJECT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DANN'S APPEAL DENIED IN NINTH CIRCUIT COURT

The U.S. Judicial system is continuing a legacy of injustice for native peoples. Clifford Dann is being illegally held by the U.S. government as a victim and by-product of an ongoing issue: that of land and jurisdictional rights for sovereign nations. Last month, Dann petitioned the court for a writ of habeas corpus, which would have established the content of his March 3th trial as a "dead issue." The court denied his petition, transferring it to the U.S. District Court for the District of Nevada.

By declining to entertain Dann's petition for a writ of habeas corpus, the courts are blatantly attempting to obstruct efforts by this indigenous nation to assert and exercise their natural and treaty-given sovereign land and jurisdictional rights.

The Western Shoshone nation existed long before the United States and has never ceded any land to the U.S. The Treaty of Ruby Valley in 1863 recognized the Western Shoshone nation's borders and sovereignty and established "peace and friendship" between the two nations.

The Bureau of Land Management came to wrongfully consider Western Shoshone land as being U.S. property, and continues in this false assumption. For the last twenty years, the BLM has been invading Western Shoshone land and trying to impose U.S. regulations and grazing fees on the Dann sisters. They conducted an illegal round-up of 269 wild and Shoshone nationalized horses, which were later sold for slaughter.

Clifford Dann, in protest of the illegal BLM invasion, doused himself with gasoline, declaring, "By taking away our livelihood and our lands, you are taking away our lives." Observed on video tape, federal officers beat him to the ground, shouting, "Break his f***ing arm if you have to!" Dann, 59, has been held in jail without bail since March 4th, on trumped-up charges of 'assault on a federal officer with a deadly weapon.'

Dann maintains that he, as a Western Shoshone citizen, is not subject to U.S. law or incarceration, and this issue should be dealt with in a non-biased, international court of law. Existing law precludes the U.S. Courts jurisdiction in Western Shoshone territory, says Dr. Bruce Clark, a Canadian lawyer specializing in native jurisdiction issues. By exercising jurisdiction in spite of the law, "the presiding judge necessarily will commit the crimes of fraud, treason, and complicity in genocide." Therefore, U.S. courts are subjecting Clifford Dann to illegal trial proceedings.

To demonstrate his objection to the illegal trial, Clifford Dann refused to testify or to allow his counsel to cross-examine witnesses. The courts have a legal, moral and ethical obligation to recognize the writ of habeas corpus and Western Shoshone sovereign jurisdictional and land rights.

To assist Clifford, send checks to "Clifford Dann Legal Liberation" @ Western Shoshone Defense Project, General Delivery, Crescent Valley, Nevada 89821.