

## **Holiday Fundraiser for Activists Facing Grand Jury Repression Background Information**

On September 24, 2010 the FBI raided the homes of seven anti-war and international solidarity activists, seizing literature, laptops, and even their children's artwork.

Subpoenas to testify before a federal grand jury were handed to fourteen activists in Illinois, Minnesota, and Michigan. These activists are involved in many groups, including the Twin Cities Anti-War Committee, the Palestine Solidarity Group, the Colombia Action Network, Students for a Democratic Society, and the Freedom Road Socialist Organization. These activists and many others came together to organize the 2008 anti-war marches during the Republican National Convention in St. Paul.

In the wake of the raids, over sixty demonstrations were held across the country in defense of the activists, alongside a spirited call in campaign to President Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder.

The Department of Justice later dropped the subpoenas when all fourteen activists invoked their 5th amendment rights and refused to appear in court.

Now the Department of Justice has re-subpoenaed at least three activists to appear before a Chicago grand jury, where if they refuse to take part in the government's fishing expedition they will likely be cited for contempt and serve lengthy prison terms. Similar cases have led to 20-year sentences.

The anti-war and international solidarity movement is on trial. Our freedom of speech, our right to assemble, and our ability to legally challenge current and future wars and occupations by the U.S. military are under attack. The need to defend these activists and our movement has never been greater.

Civil liberties lawyers involved in the defense of these activists have cautioned that it could take a million dollars to defend them in what will most likely be a lengthy legal fight. The movement itself must rise to meet this challenge, and we in Connecticut must join the national effort of fundraising activities to defend our own.

Join us around the holidays in the spirit of solidarity for a night of fundraising, live music, food, and entertainment!

For more information, please go visit => <http://www.stopfbi.net/>