

SUPPORT KEVIN & TYLER

FIGHT THE AETA

Kevin Olliff (aka Kevin Johnson) and Tyler Lang were indicted under the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act for releasing 2,000 mink from a Midwest fur farm—an action that closed down the fur farm. They were arrested during the summer of 2013 and took non-cooperating plea deals on state charges of “possession of burglary tools.” Then almost a year later, they were indicted on federal AETA charges. During the summer of 2015, Kevin and Tyler entered into a non-cooperating plea agreements through which they plead guilty to violating the AETA. In early 2016, Kevin was sentenced to 3 years (most of it time served) and a year in a halfway house, and Tyler was sentenced to 3 months of time served, 6 months home detention, and 6 months in a halfway house.

Although it may seem ridiculous to charge people with “terrorism” for allegedly saving animals from living in barren wire cages and being killed by methods that may include anal electrocution or having their necks snapped, the ridiculousness speaks to what is beneath the surface of this legislation. The AETA was crafted by the American Legislative Exchange Council, a group of corporate power players who write pieces of model legislation that suit their interests, and then ALEC passes off the legislation to members of Congress. Many members of ALEC are part of the pharmaceutical, big ag, and other industries that exploit and kill animals for profit—industries that have a huge interest in stopping the actions of animal liberation activists.

To add to the mix, the State uses the label of “terrorism” with a lot of flexibility in order to be able to manipulate public fear based on the State interests of the day, and this context left the label open for ALEC to apply it to animal liberation activists. And so ALEC devised the AETA, legislation not meant so much for prosecuting activists (Kevin and Tyler are among only a handful of people who’ve been charged under the AETA), but to conjure public fear of the animal liberation movement and deter people from getting involved in activism, let alone from

freeing animals from the hell of fur farms.

Right now is unfortunately one of those moments in which activists are caught in the crosshairs of the AETA, and we must use this time to demonstrate to the government and corporations that we will not quietly watch our friends be taken from us or give in to the intended chilling effect of State repression.

We must fight against the intended effect of the AETA and against all other forces that try to stop us from fighting for animal liberation. Kevin and Tyler’s case should be a reminder to us all that—in addition to showing solidarity with the animals—we have to show each other love and support in the face of State repression. One of the best ways to fight back against government and corporate efforts to stop activism is to show them that we will unite in struggle and never back down from the fight for animal liberation. We must keep organizing, keep protesting, keep resisting, and keep fighting.

Please watch for updates about Kevin and Tyler’s case, donate to their support fund, and never stop fighting for the animals.

SupportKevinandTyler.com
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