

END THE WAITANGI FARCE - DROP THE CHARGES!

In 1840, the Treaty of Waitangi was signed - a binding contract between 2 sovereign peoples 100 years later, the Privy Council in London declares the Treaty of Waitangi to have "no legal standing".

SO WHY, EVERY YEAR ON FEB 6, DO WE CELEBRATE THE BLOODY THING !

This year a group of young Maoris marched from Whangarei to Waitangi to highlight the fraud that the celebrations clearly were. As part of their protest they also called on 2 Maori elders to refuse the awards being offered by the State. The argument was that to accept knighthoods while the majority of Maoridom was having problems just getting by, was condoning a system that had betrayed Maori people since Day One.

Naturally enough the State Forces were on hand to give credibility and muscle to the whole sham - and just as naturally, they justified the massive expense of their 'Operation Overkill' (contingents from Whangarei, Auckland plus the Armed Offenders Squad) by promptly arresting a number of those involved in the protest action. The immediate reaction of those arrested was a defiant :

THE TREATY OF WAITANGI IS NOT A LEGAL DOCUMENT. WE THEREFORE CLAIM OUR RIGHT AS A SOVEREIGN PEOPLE TO BE HEARD ON A MARAE BY OUR OWN PEOPLE OF AOTEAROA. WE DO NOT ACCEPT POLICE BEING ON ANY MARAE IN AOTEAROA, AND AS A CONTINUATION OF THAT STAND WE REJECT ANY CONDITIONS ON OUR FREEDOM !

The defendants refused to voluntarily appear in court and refused to accept any bail, and held firm to that line through a Mickey Mouse series of court changes, hearing date changes, charge changes and a host of other games designed by the State to break the resolve and support for the 7 defendants. Six months later, with the use of bench warrants, the Police hauled in the first of the 7 defendants and intend holding him and any others they pick up till July 30 to have the cases heard in Kaikohe.

The strength of any political action is UNITY and the Waitangi Action Committee appreciates the support they have received from every sector of the NZ community - but the battle is not yet over.

We need your support to fight this.

1. DROP THE CHARGES - THE TREATY OF WAITANGI IS A FRAUD AND SO IS EVERY LAW PASSED IN THIS COUNTRY SINCE THEN.

2. PICKET - OUTSIDE MT EDEN JAIL - THURSDAY 16 JULY 81 - 4.00-8.00pm. *
OUTSIDE KAIKOHE COURTHOUSE - THURSDAY 30 JULY 81 - 9.30am.

Remember, the forces of domestic racism are as powerful as those of the Apartheid regime in South Africa - and the guts of it all is that no-one is free until everyone is free !

KA WHAWHAI TONU MATOU, AKE, AKE, AKE!

WAITANGI ACTION/DEFENCE COMMITTEE.

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