

1995 August 28

## CRISIS ALERT ATTENTION

### RCMP POISED TO INVAD DEFENDERS OF SECWEPENC NATION

Police have stated that their priority is to end this confrontation without the use of violence but are nevertheless poised to invade the small group of Native defenders. The Defenders have stated that they are willing to resolve the matter in a constitutional court and would lay down arms if they simply received a hearing with the Governor General and Queen's representatives. The police, government, and parts of the media have engaged in a ruthless demonization and isolation campaign which has mobilized force in order to overpower the Natives and pre-empt legal redress. While paying lip-service to process and peace, their actual responses have been hasty and bent on driving the confrontation to crisis.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE DEFENDERS CAMP HAVE BEEN BLOCKED BY POLICE

The police have stated that this is part of their "operational plan." What is the operational plan?

THE OPERATIONAL PLAN DISPENSES WITH ALL PEACEFUL MEANS AND IS USING INTIMIDATION AND ESCALATION TO ENGAGE IN VIOLENCE AS A MEANS OF RESOLVING THIS CONFRONTATION. POLICE ARE THROWING FUEL ON THE FIRE.

Police have distanced all media and reporters – NO ONE WILL BE ABLE TO WITNESS WHAT IS REALLY HAPPENING AT THE CAMP. The campaign to demonize these people has been so extreme, misinforming and contradictory that it appears the provincial legal, governmental, and media establishment must exterminate the Defenders and silence their counsel and supporters in order to defend their horrible statements, prevent the law from being heard, and make sure the people of the world do not hear and get to know these Defenders – they might realize that they are strong, beautiful and courageous people defending their rights under Canadian constitutional, international, and Secwepenc law.

WHY CAN'T THE DEFENDERS SIMPLY BE HEARD RATHER THAN SLAUGHTERED?

ALL THEY ASK IS FOR A HEARING. THEY HAVE MADE A PEACE OFFERING. THE NON-NATIVE ESTABLISHMENT ON THE OTHER HAND IS ANXIOUS TO INVAD AND APPARENTLY VERY BLOODTHIRSTY. THE SECRECY AND ISOLATION IS A SIGN OF A MASSIVE SILENCING CAMPAIGN. THE DEFENDERS POSE NO IMMEDIATE THREAT TO ANYONE.

### RCMP MUST BACK OFF!

Ovide Mercredi, after initially stating that the Defenders were "misguided," changed his tone and realized that they are "People with strong convictions about their rights" and are "not terrorists" and "not criminals" after having met with them. He urged police not to raid and to restrain themselves. The provincial government and Attorney General Dosanjh, however, have intentionally escalated this confrontation and are attempting to use force to internalize this

national, constitutional, and international matter. The government cannot end this with blood on their hands. The Defenders have a legitimate legal point which is being distorted and suppressed. Due process is not to slaughter these people but to put the question to an appropriate constitutional court. To pre-empt such law with force would constitute another act of genocide against these traditional people of the Secwepemc nation.

**STOP THE INVASION! DEFEND THE DEFENDERS!**

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