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The Trial of Land Defender, John Graham

by freejohngraham_info

On December 10 a South Dakota jury found John Graham guilty of felony murder in the death of American Indian Movement (AIM) member Anna Mae Aquash. John Graham, a Tutchone

native originally from the Yukon, continues to maintain his innocence.

At trial, the state alleged that John Graham took Aquash from Denver against her will and ultimately killed her in the hills of South Dakota.

The government claimed the motive for the murder was that AIM believed Aquash to be an informant who had knowledge of sensitive information.

Aquash was a Mi'kmaq from Nova Scotia and was well-known as a skilled organizer and warrior with AIM.

The trial was riddled with inconsistencies. The murder having taken place 35 years ago, many contradictions in testimony were explained away as degraded memory. The entire case rested on verbal testimony without a shred of material evidence. Testimony was heard from FBI and BIA agents, but the defense rested its case on December 7 without calling a single witness.

John Graham himself had said that agents visited him four times in the Yukon, trying to get him to sign false statements implicating AIM leadership in the death of Anna Mae. When Graham refused the FBI said that he would face the charges instead.

This trial has brought no real resolution. Although the imprisonment of John Graham is a tragedy, his refusal to frame others is also an inspiration to those who continue to resist the destruction of the land and native ways of life.

Graham's defense team is still working on his behalf.

Read the full story at vancouver.mediacoop.ca



2011 and Reflecting on Social Movement Successes

by Harsha Walia

1) G20 and Olympics Convergences

Both the No Olympics on stolen land convergence in Vancouver and anti-G20 mobilizing in Toronto seem to have left organizers, especially young people, with greater conviction, courage, commitment, and creativity despite the intense criminalization.

2) Environmental Justice

Green-washing attempts such as the Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement and the Ontario Far North Act were challenged by anti-capitalist environmentalists, as well as by Indigenous communities who saw such efforts as continuing to marginalize front-line voices.

3) Shutting Down Industrial Projects: "Leave coal in the hole, Leave oil in the soil, Leave tar sands in the land"

A number of localized movements have confronted corporate development and environmental degradation. A large number of industrial projects have actually been delayed or completely halted as a result of community resistance engaging in diverse tactics.

4) Boycott Divestment Sanctions: "Fight the power, Turn the tide, End Israeli apartheid"

The Boycott Divestment Sanctions movement continues to gather steam across sectors by providing a platform where activists can effectively engage in international solidarity activism by operating through their own local communities and institutions.

5) Prefigurative Politics: "Building a New World in the Shell of the Old"

The past year has witnessed the strengthening of a range of spaces where dynamic revolutionary change is manifesting: independent media, anarchist bookfairs, childcare collectives, and more.

Read the full 11-point list at vancouver.mediacoop.ca

Pancakes for All! Homes for All!

Photos by Murray Bush



Mining and the New Colonization of Tibet

by Stephanie Law

In the next five to 10 years, there might be a change in what comes to mind when thinking about Tibet.

There are six Canadian-based mining companies currently or soon to be operating in Tibet: China Gold International Resources Corp Ltd, Inter-Citic Minerals Inc, Silk Road Resources Ltd., Eldorado Gold Corp, Maxy Gold Corp, Silvercorp Metals Inc., and Sterling Group Ventures Inc.

Vancouver-based China Gold International announced on Dec. 1 it completed the acquisition of Skyland Mining Ltd., formerly owned by Rapid Result Investments Ltd. and China National Gold Group Honk Kong Ltd., a subsidiary of China National Gold Group Corp. It is now the sole owner of the Jiama Mine, one of the largest copper poly-metallic mines in China, according to its website.

Frank Lagiglia, investor relations spokesperson for China Gold International, said the company's technical report shows the mine has full support of the local people, and that it is on track to becoming the most environmentally friendly mine in the world.

But Raymond Yee, a Vancouver activist and member of the Canada Tibet Committee, said their worries go beyond environmental damages endured by local villagers.

"Our main concern is that the Chinese don't seem at all concerned with the needs and the wants of the Tibetans," Yee said. "And the Canadian firms will refuse, even though we know they know better, to get their heads wrapped around the whole concept of free, prior, informed consent of the local Tibet people about what's happening."

Although China Gold International is based in Vancouver, the Chinese-owned China National Gold Group owns a 39 percent stake, according

to a Bloomberg news report.

"We're against this kind of activity that exploits people that are occupied," Yee said. "It's occupied land in an environment where there's a real climate of fear because most people are pretty privy to how the Chinese government cracks down on dissent."

Tibet enjoyed de facto independence between 1912 and 1951, before China annexed the region. Annexation became official when the Chinese government and delegates from the Tibetan administration signed the 17-point agreement.

But the agreement has been widely disputed and the annexation is widely viewed as an occupation. A report published by The International Commission of Jurists in 1959 supported claims that the agreement was signed under military pressure and significant duress.

Read this story in full at vancouver.mediacoop.ca

Vancouver New Year's Noise Agitates Guards and Cops

by Zig Zag

On New Year's Eve 2010, protesters brought the noise—along with a banner and fireworks—to a local prison as an act of solidarity with prisoners and against prisons. The 'New Year's Noise' rally began in an East Vancouver parking lot early in the evening, when approximately 25 protesters gathered before embarking on a 45-minute bus ride to the Fraser Regional Correctional Centre, located in an isolated rural area in Maple Ridge.

Once the protesters reached the FRCC property they promptly marched down into the parking lot, and prison guards were simply ignored as fireworks and flares were let off. Prisoners, clad in orange jumpsuits, could be seen waving to the protesters as speeches of solidarity were made. One organizer stressed that not only was this a solidarity rally, it was also a manifestation against the prison system itself. Slogans included "Our passion for freedom is stronger than your prisons!"

The New Year's Eve night action was, according to one anonymous organizer, part of an international effort traditionally organized by anarchist and prisoner solidarity groups to let the prisoners know they are not alone, and offer a radical analysis about the role of prisons for social control and in maintaining the overall system of exploitation.



Climate Justice Vancouver: The Time for Compromise Is Over

Text by Sandra Cuffe, Photos by Erin Empey

In solidarity with activists in Cancun and people around the world, close to 100 people participated in a climate justice rally in downtown Vancouver. As a symbolic direct action to highlight the inaction of the government of British Columbia on climate issues, the demonstrators sandbagged the Vancouver offices of the BC premier and cabinet.



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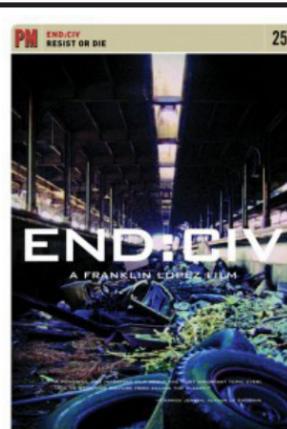
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END:CIV

After four years in production, END:CIV a film inspired by the Endgame books by Derrick Jensen kicks off a 60 city North American tour in BC. Admission at the screenings below is by donation. You can view a trailer at www.ENDCIV.com



Jan 8 8pm • Denman Island Venue: Back Hall

Jan 14 8pm • Nelson Venue: TNT Playhouse • 723 Ward Street

Jan 15 7pm • Castlegar Venue: Castle Theatre • 185 Columbia Ave

Jan 16 5pm • Winlaw Venue: Sleep is for sissies • 5622 Highway 6



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