

NSPM-7 DEFENDANTS UNION

NSPM-7 is an expansive directive targeting any and all left wing opponents of the Trump administration. So far it has been used to justify the daylight killing of Minneapolis rapid responders Renee Good and Alex Pretti; raiding the homes of University of Michigan students protesting the Palestinian genocide; and re-indicting two forest defenders in Georgia. It aggregates all of the political left under a single directive. Therefore, the NSPM-7 Defendants Union is equally expansive. We want to turn this aggregation into a collective strength. From the Prairieland defendants to Ohio voting rights organizers, from the pitched street battles against ICE to the Cuba solidarity convoys, we are uniting everyone caught in the dragnet of NSPM-7.

The NSPM-7 Defendants Union has four primary goals:

1. Make NSPM-7 a Household Term.

If it weren't for activists in 1971 burglarizing a Pennsylvania FBI office, we may never have learned about the 15 year COINTELPRO operation to destroy groups like the Black Panther Party, Students for a Democratic Society, and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. Exposing COINTELPRO revealed a covert campaign of fabricated criminal charges, targeted surveillance, infiltration and public discrediting against the US left. Today, the federal government is proudly proclaiming its strategy by publicly publishing NSPM-7. In order to interpret events as they unfold, and ensure our resilience against targeted government disorganization, we have to make everyone familiar with Trump's strategy. NSPM-7 should be a household term.

2. Popularize a Unified Framework for Fighting Legal Repression.

The basic premise of a union is that problems are shared and can be overcome together. NSPM-7 targets many different social movements, but in similar ways. A court case in the Palestine movement can produce lessons for a future No Kings defendant. Collective defense strategies used by anti-Trump protesters at the 2017 inauguration can be adopted by rapid responders facing conspiracy charges. No matter what movement we are coming from, we strengthen our collective position by mounting a common framework. The Defendants Pledge is one way we can align our efforts. We want to make a few key principles— such as non-cooperation with the state, support for different tactics, collective defense strategies, and public media campaigns— hegemonic across political cases.

3. Re-center the political discussion of the left on to ourselves, in our own words.

Trump has long used the spectre of “antifa” to play a nameless, faceless, and voiceless threat. A fake, non-existent organization is a convenient enemy: because it can't speak for itself, Trump can unilaterally decide its beliefs. But this new era of NSPM-7 trials, charges, door-knocks, and raids has put real names, faces, and voices from actual social movements at the forefront. The NSPM-7 Defendants Union recenters the political discussion of the left onto ourselves, on our own terms. We will speak proudly about our convictions: as students demanding divestment, neighbors in rapid response networks, and activists defending a forest. We believe the ideas that inspired us have the power to inspire other people, too. It's our job to make them as widely known as possible.

4. Treat Repression as an Organizing Terrain.

Whether you are a longtime anarchist labor organizer, or a nurse making the split-decision to help a man escape ICE, we don't want you stop organizing because of a court case, investigation, or federal harassment. We want to help you double down and build. We refuse to let repression neutralize brave people from meaningful political work; in fact, we think going public with our cases helps us meet and inspire others just like us. We are treating NSPM-7 like anything else we oppose: a social movement terrain in which to organize.

Visit www.nspm7union.com to learn more

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DEFENDANTS PLEDGE

This is a condensed version of the pledge. Visit www.nspm7union.com to see it in its entirety

We want you to sign this pledge if:

- You are a current political defendant
- You were visited by local, state, or federal law enforcement in connection to protest
- You want to refuse a grand jury subpoena or court summons you received
- You participated in the Tesla Takedown, Palestine solidarity, anti-ICE, anti-data center, land defense, abolitionist, or other resistance movement, or your organization was named in the State Department's Cuba Report and expect you may be under surveillance
- You publicly oppose the Trump agenda and want to support those facing repression for doing the same
- You believe— like us— that a better world is within our reach

Read the commitments. Discuss them with your friends. Print them out and bring them to an organizing meeting. Make a plan to practice each one.

I Hereby Pledge:

To Go Public With My Case: I will not be quiet. I want as large an audience as possible to know about my case.

To Benefit the Movement: When I talk about my case, I will link it to the movement I am in. I will use the platform of my case to spread the ideas and values of my movement, so many more people can know what I believe in and be inspired by those ideas as well.

To Share Lessons Learned: I will talk openly within the movement and to the public about the repressive strategies I learn about during the course of my case so that everyone can learn how the state is targeting activists.

To Take the Offense: I will take an aggressive legal and media strategy to beat my case, call the state's bluff, and politicize others.

To Collective Defense: I will prioritize legal strategies leveraging collective defense so that we all beat the charges, together. I will encourage my lawyer to communicate with my co-defendants' lawyers and other elements of the movement. When possible, I will utilize joint-defense agreements with my co-defendants.

To Not Denounce Others in the Movement: I will not publicly denounce the tactical choices of anyone accused of actions I don't personally agree with.

To Not Cooperate with Law Enforcement: I will not cooperate with any investigatory or prosecutorial arm of the state. If I am pressured to do so, I will refuse. I will go public and tell the movement if I am visited by law enforcement.

When you are ready to join us, visit www.nspm7union.com

About Us

The NSPM-7 Defendants Union is a volunteer collective of former, current, and future defendants. We spent the last decade in social movements: doing media work, organizing legal support, and fighting on the front lines.

We are indicted and un-indicted co-conspirators known and unknown to the grand jury.

We are people of conscience, committed steadfastly to the belief that another world is in reach.



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