



NO JAIL TIME FOR KAHENTINETHA HORN

Jan. 26, 2011.

On January 21, 2011, Kahentinetha Horn pleaded guilty to charges of assaulting police officers and obstructing justice. The charges arose when the publisher and editor of Mohawk Nation News was attacked at the Akwesasne Canada-US border on June 14, 2008 by the Canada Border Services Agents CBSA.

Her lawyer, Phil Schneider, and the crown attorney at Cornwall Court agreed that if she pleaded guilty to the obstruction, the assault charge would be withdrawn. The judge gave her a sentence of an absolute discharge, with no criminal record.

Background: Kahentinetha had a problem that occurred at the border two and a half years ago on June 14, 2008. She drove to the Canada-US checkpoint on Cornwall Island with two Mohawks, a man and a woman. They were pulled over allegedly because the woman passenger had an outstanding arrest warrant.

An hour went by. Around 2:15 pm, "We were surrounded by about a dozen flak jacketed, steel toe booted, leather gloved and well armed special squad", said Kahentinetha.

The male passenger got out and sat on the nearby bench. The customs officers spoke to her female passenger, who was reluctant to get out. The CBSA pulled her out, pushed her to the ground, handcuffed, subdued and took her away. Kahentinetha said, "I became afraid for my safety. They had no reason to stop me. When they asked me to get out of the car, I became scared after I saw what they did to her'.

The mob of guards swarmed to her side, ordering her to get out without giving a reason. She hesitated.

She told them, "I've done nothing wrong, have no outstanding charges, contraband, or reason to be questioned."

After the treatment of the others who were under her protection, she wondered what they would do the owner of the car? "I told one customs officer after another, "I refuse to be mistreated like my passengers". They gave her no guarantees this was not going to happen to her or worse. She had no independent witnesses.

12 large male and 2 female customs officers swarmed around. "I saw big trouble for me if I got out', said Kahentinetha.

At a signal from a guy taking orders by cell phone, they pounced on her, pulled her out and started twisting her left arm. The pain was so severe she thought they were

breaking it. She screamed and tried to pull her arm away. [This is all on the Canada Customs video.]

She began to think they were after her, not her passenger. They obviously knew who she was. They kept calling their superiors and must have been told to take her out and arrest her, no matter what.

The question is why did they need so many large male guards to deal with a 68-year old woman? They had taken a long time to verify her age, address, background and car.

"I've been through this before with police officers who have tried to put me in hospital or a morgue. There seems to be a lot of anger towards me".

They finally dragged her handcuffed behind her back into the customs house where she was out of sight. She was put alone in a cell and roughed up. One of the guards kept tightening the cuffs. He tried to bend her over and push her arm up to stop the blood from circulating into her arms and across her chest. It seemed like they knew what they were doing. "An officer stood in front of me and tried to pull my head down towards her crotch area. I found that very disgusting'. They both kept yelling at her to bend forward. This would have caused the blood to rush into her heart and kill her.

What really scared me was I could feel them trying to pull my pants down as I was being bent over. "At that moment I saw stars, became dizzy, starting panting and having pains in my shoulder and across my chest and back. I almost passed out", said Kahentinetha. The guards had tasers, which is electric shock that can kill a person. "They thought they could get rid of me without using it", Kahentinetha believed.

It was at that moment her brother, Taiotekane, a lawyer, and his son Kanatase appeared. Everybody backed off. They went to a room to talk privately. He realized she was having serious physical problems. Her eyes were becoming glazed, her face was flushed and she had a hard time breathing. He demanded she be taken immediately to the hospital.

Mohawk Constable Pyke contacted the emergency team from Hogansburg NY who rushed an ambulance. His sister, a paramedic, began to deal with Kahentinetha. Her quick work saved her life.

When she got to Cornwall Community Hospital, doctors told her she had suffered a heart attack. Before this she never had problems with her heart or health. Her heart was damaged permanently. Since then she had to stop a lot of activities.

Kahentinetha realizes that every indigenous person who crosses the border could be subjected to this treatment. It looks like the CBSA have hired those who have no concern for the lives of travelers who cross the border.

The border guards deliberately misstated the facts. They knew kahentinetha's true age. Yet they described her as being a "large strong 55 year old woman', which is untrue. Such disinformation is sent out to keep the public uninformed. Don't believe anything the CBSA says. Beware!

By Brenda Norrell, Censored News, <http://bsnorrell.blogspot.com/2011/01/mohawk-kahentinetha-horn-resistance.html>

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Mohawk Kahentinetha Horn: Resistance

By Brenda Norrell
Censored News



Photo: Kahentinetha Horn holds the Haudenosaunee passport, while a Mohawk warrior holds the sacred Two Row belt, at the Indigenous Border Summit 2007 on T0hono O'odham land. Photo Brenda Norrell.

Kahentinetha Horn, 71, publisher of Mohawk Nation News, was beaten by Canadian Border Guards on June 14, 2008, at the Akwesasne border crossing. Kahentinetha is now charged with assaulting those officers and obstruction of justice. This week, she faces a court decision on penalties for those charges.

During a radio interview with Kevin Annett on Hidden from History on Saturday, Jan. 8, Kahentinetha described the media boycott of the attack by Canada Border Services Agents and her history of resistance.

Kahentinetha described how Julian Assange of Wikileaks exposed the truth through documents. She exposed the truth of the Canadian government and colonial powers through her writings and her life.

The imperialists try to eliminate people who do this, she said.

The media boycotted the attack of Kahentinetha and another Mohawk grandmother who were peacefully crossing the border. "They beat up the other woman first." Kahentinetha described the stress hold performed on her inside the customs house to induce a heart attack.

The handcuffs behind her back were tightened until there was no circulation. Then she experienced pain up her arms and across her chest and upper back which was the start of the heart attack. Then her head was pushed forward to cause death. She was close to death when her brother arrived on the scene. He called an ambulance and saved her life. She has since been in Kahnawake under medical care.

She said at least 300 Mohawks have been assaulted by border guards. Many others have not reported the beatings. One young man was rammed on the St. Lawrence River and was left paralyzed.

She was never notified of two charges and two Canada wide warrants for her arrest until recently. She remained homebound for the past two and a half years. On July 7, 2010 she was driving to the motor vehicle department to pay her registration. She was pulled over immediately. "It looked like a setup," she recalls. She was arrested and the Chateaugay Quebec officers made arrangements to transport her to "parts unknown." She was not allowed to call her family.

The patrol car was hot. She began having heart palpitations, sweating and shortness of breath. She waved her nitrate stick. The officers called an ambulance and she was taken to the hospital.

Kahentinetha said she does not have enough money to defend herself against Canada's charges. She lives on a pension and has to make a difficult choice. "If I go ahead, I need a lot of money. If I plead guilty, we could ask for leniency, or something."

At the time of the 2008 attack Kahentinetha had a large audience for her articles at Mohawk Nation News. With a background in research, she documented the facts. After the attack, her website was hacked. Her large list of subscribers was lost. She did not have the energy to rebuild the site.

"I've written and posted almost 929 articles," based on facts and her right to freedom of speech[<http://www.mohawknationnews.com/>]. "I think Indigenous Peoples are the canary in the mine. We have withstood brutal treatment through the centuries ... other people will now be getting the brunt of cruelty we have endured for 500 years".

As a traditionalist Kahentinetha said she was raised with knowledge of Indigenous inherent rights. Describing her life of resistance, she recalled the 1968 public protest at the Akwesasne border, the same checkpoint where the assault incident occurred

40 years later, in 2008. After this protest, Kahentinetha, small in physical frame, was charged with beating up 23 Cornwall policemen. "They were a lot bigger than me." As the names of the supposed victims were read in court, everyone started laughing. The charges were dropped except for two, which were also eventually dropped.

A film about this incident was made and is available on the Internet: "You are on Indian land," by the National Film Board.

Three years earlier, the Civil Rights Movement brought her together with American Indian leaders. She knew the people in the American Indian Movement, Dennis Banks and Russell Means. She was the only indigenous from Canada to attend the Indian Conference on Poverty in 1965. "We discussed our role in the Movement."

They decided to support Black people, "Their objectives were different from us". Blacks wanted to become equals in mainstream society, with the same access. "We wanted to stay separate, protect our land, language, elders and children and maintain our culture."

"We supported the Blacks but told them to honor our right to speak for ourselves".

After Martin Luther King, Jr., was killed, Rev. Ralph Abernathy was speaking in Washington, on issues including native issues. The Native Americans wrote a letter to Rev. Abernathy. Kahentinetha and a Mexican American, delivered it. Rev. Abernathy was reminded of the position of Native people and respected it. In 1968 Kahentinetha was selected to be at the gravesite of President Robert Kennedy.

Kahentinetha points out that "half of North America is the territory of the Haudenosaunee and our allies." The Iroquois Confederacy signed agreements on behalf of about 300 other Indigenous nations.

Kahentinetha spent 20 years raising her five children. In 1990, she rose once again to defend sacred land. "The Oka golf club wanted to increase their golf course to 18 holes on top of our burial grounds and ceremonial site." She was studying for her master's degree at the time. "We resisted." On July 11 1990, the Quebec para-military police came in and started shooting. "One of their policemen was killed." It led to a 78-day siege.

"In the end, the Canadian army was sent in," and surrounded Kahnawake, Kanasatake and Akwesasne. The Mohawks of Kahnawake shut down the Mercer Bridge, which connects Montreal with the south shore communities.

After Canada's Prime Minister Mulroney met with President Bush, Sr., he announced in Parliament that the army would be brought in. Kahentinetha and two of her children were stuck behind the army's razor wire. "We thought they were going to shoot us."

"We got badly beaten up by Quebec police and Canadian soldiers," Kahentinetha said. There were about 4,000 soldiers with tanks, weaponry and snipers. "Apparently I was one of those who was supposed to be taken out by a sniper," she said.

Mohawk women prevented shooting from both sides. If one shot had been fired, it would have meant "the slaughter of our people." There were choppers flying over

their heads and they stopped them from getting food. The army put three levels of razor wire around them. "I'll never forget that, standing there and being put inside razor wire on my own land".

On Sept 26, they came out. "We were very badly beaten up." A soldier stabbed her daughter in the chest.

The first group went to trial for one year. Then the second group, with Kahentinetha, went to trial for another year. Mohawks were fired from their jobs in Ottawa. It was almost impossible for them to find work, even cleaning floors.

"We have a reputation of resistance. It is our right to resist and defend ourselves," Kahentinetha said. Later, the Canadian Army put in their training manual that Mohawks are insurgents, terrorists.

Kahentinetha said that women are the foundation of the communities, but the government and media portrays them as sexual objects or street workers. They are not protected. Currently, there are about 600 indigenous girls who have disappeared. Police refuse to investigate. She believes they are killed because they have too much information on the ruling class.

"Maybe when they abuse these girls, they have to kill them."

Kahentinetha said the abuse at the border is part of the larger picture. The government wants to abuse, criminalize and arrest her people, especially the young men who want to protect the people.

"When is the outcry for us?" she asked. "They tried to kill me," she said of the heart attack induced by the Border Guards. "I had the first pangs of death. Then I came back."

She described a natural justice and unnatural justice. With unnatural justice, people are trying to rule the world with killing and cruelty.

She looked into the faces of the border guards when they were assaulting her. "There was no empathy."

Natural justice is the connection between our intuition, which is the natural world, and our intellect.

She pointed out that the police, courts and military have been used against her and her people. The Border Guards routinely pull the people out of their cars by twisting the arm and trying to dislocate it. Many of these injuries remain with people for the rest of their lives.

"The enemy of the enemy is not our friend," she said.

In closing, Kahentinetha told a traditional legend of the two headed serpent. One head was gold and the other was silver. The skin was hide of many colors. One head was peaceful and the other was violent. The people found the sickly serpent and cured its diseases. Everyday the serpent got stronger and wanted more. He multiplied, began killing and taking everything the people had. The serpent needed

the constant flow of murder and the land was stained with blood. The serpent only wanted those that could be enslaved.

Then, a young boy made a bow with a hair of the clan mothers. The serpent was slain. The boy climbed on top, cut the serpent open and released what had been devoured.

Kahentinetha said, "We have to stay out of this fight."

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Listen to this interview on Hidden from History:

<http://www.blogtalkradio.com/hiddenfromhistory/2011/01/08/resurrection-kevin-annett-is-back-on-the-air>

Donations can be sent to her PayPal on Mohawk Nation News

<http://www.mohawknationnews.com/>

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Film You Are on Indian Land by Mort Ransen, - NFB

<http://vodpod.com/watch/1304520-you-are-on-indian-land-by-mort-ransen-nfb>