

Winter 2003

Dear Friends,

The Lynne Stewart Defense Committee writes to ask you to join with us for the New Year in vindicating and winning the case against Lynne.

As you'll see in the enclosed newsletter, the news of the superseding indictment (after the top two counts had been dismissed by United States District Court Judge John Koeltl last summer) received on November 22 was terribly dis-spiriting for Lynne. But she is now determined to rise to the challenge, with your help!

Most of you recognize the indictment of Lynne Stewart for what it is - in the words of Lynne Stewart's lawyer, Michael Tigar:

This case is about Lynne Stewart, her struggle and her freedom. For me this case represents an opportunity to confront the Bush/Cheney/Ashcroft effort to destroy human rights and scare the country into lurching to the right.

This case is an attack on a gallant, charismatic and effective fighter for justice... this case has at least three fundamental faults: First, it is an attack on the first amendment rights of free speech, free press and petition....Second, the case is an attack on the right to effective assistance of counsel. The indictment, announced in a blaze of publicity, by Attorney General Ashcroft himself, seeks to chill the defense bar...Third, the "evidence" in this case was gathered by wholesale invasion of private conversations, private attorney-client meetings, faxes, letters and e-mails. I have never seen such an abusive use of governmental power.

We need your support to continue our educational efforts – the web site, e-mail, newsletters, speaking engagements, media appearances -- to maintain momentum. We'll help organize to fill the courtroom each and every day for Lynne's trial, and we'll contact you again about that closer to the date.

For now, we hope that you will make a contribution to get us through this difficult period. Send checks made payable to the Lynne Stewart Defense Committee to 351 Broadway, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10013. If you want to make a tax deductible gift make you check payable to the National Lawyers Guild Foundation and write "Lynne Stewart Defense Committee" on the memo line and mail to the same address in the enclosed envelope.

Thank you!

The Lynne Stewart Defense Committee