

DECEMBER 19, 2016

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

Hulm, Petra

From: McDermott, Joanne <jmcdermott@cogentco.com>
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2016 12:29 AM
To: (SUP) Clerk of Court Office
Subject: In defense of the Water Protectors

Dear Clerk-

With the rest of the world, I watched in horror as the Moton Country Police and a private security company perpetrated violence most foul against unarmed citizens who, under the protection of the 1st amendment, gathered lawfully and protested on public land protected by the established Treaty. I watched in disbelief as it continued and people were unlawfully arrested, not Morandized, denied due process, and held without being fed, allowed a phone call, or the right to meet with an attorney as provided to them under the Constitution of the US.

All of the video footage must be allowed in this case. The charges must be dropped.

These people were intimidated, harassed, and unlawfully detained. Women were forcibly stripped searched by male officers, sexually intimidated, and detainees were confined in spaces unfit for humans. Many went unfed for over 24 hours, denied much needed medicine such as insulin, and no phone calls were allowed. The protestors were attacked and injured by attack dogs, officers shooting rubber bullets, bean bags, and percussion grenades not intended to be used in short range. One woman lost an eye, another almost lost an arm. They were intimidated by unidentified officers in full riot gear. The police carried out these violations of their constitutional rights while acting on behalf of the DAPL company /Energy Transfer Partners, without concern or consideration for the health, safety, and protection of the people assembled to protest. Furthermore, the most accessible route was blocked preventing emergency vehicles entrance if needed. Even after the Morton County Sherrifs' agreed to open the bridge, they did not do so, inciting yet another confrontation where over 200 people were sent to the hospital. None of them officers.

These unarmed people were assaulted in prayer, ripped from their lodges during ceremony and much needed supplies were prevented from being delivered.

The constitution of our great country must be brought to bear for these peaceful, lawful, and unarmed people.

The world is watching. Outrage came from many countries around the world at the egregious and illegal treatment of these unarmed citizens. The UNITED NATIONS filed a report finding Morton County law enforcement illegally overstepped their boundaries, illegally endangered the lives of over a thousand people, and violated their 1st amendment rights in the name of protecting a private company. The exact opposite of their job.

It is outrageous. These charges must be dropped. The Treaty rights as well as the video footage must be allowed by the judge.

Thank you for your consideration. And for taking action to right the terrible wrong done.

Respectfully-

Joanne M. McDermott
16 Station Ave.
Glendoea, NJ 08029
609 405 9411

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone