

DEFEND JOEY JOHNSON & THE RNC 16!

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- **Demand that the prosecutors drop the charges NOW.** Kimberly Barnett-Mills Phone: 216-664-4850; Fax: 216-664-4399. Timothy McGinty. Phone: 216-443-7800; Twitter: @Pros_TimMcGinty
- **Pledge to pack the courtroom for the upcoming hearing on Thursday, January 26** if the charges are not dropped. 10 am in the INJustice Center, 1200 Ontario St, Cleveland OH
- **Donate** money and raise funds for legal fees and travel costs. Donate at www.crowdrise.com/revolution-club-at-the-conventions
- **Invite Gregory “Joey” Johnson and others from the Revolution Club to speak at your school**, your classes, your community group, or other gathering, about why he burned the flag, what that flag really represents, and the danger of forced patriotism. Contact the Revolution Club at revclubmedia@gmail.com, or 510-253-5551.
- Make a statement on social media demanding “Drop the Charges on Joey Johnson and the RNC16!” Go to www.revcom.us/static/meme/memes-to-post-and-tweet-en.html#rag. (Please copy to revclubmedia@gmail.com or Twitter: @joey4revolution) **#RNC16Flagburning #DropTheCharges!**

Contact us at FreeRNC16@gmail.com

510-253-5551

Go to revcom.us for updates

Fascist Trump Threatens Flagburners **We Say: Drop The Charges on Joey Johnson & the RNC 16!** Burning the American Flag in Protest is **NOT** a Crime!



Joey Johnson and the Revolution Club burning the American flag at the RNC July 20, 2016

On November 29, Donald Trump sent a tweet threat: “**Nobody should be allowed to burn the American flag—if they do, there must be consequences—perhaps loss of citizenship or a year in jail.**” Since then, at every stop on his “Victory Tour,” Trump has repeated this threat, whipping up fascist mobs across the country to terrorize, threaten, and intimidate anyone from carrying out constitutionally protected free speech, and to cheer his calls for enforced patriotism and criminalizing dissent. It is reminiscent of Nazi Germany, where it was a crime to profane the Swastika.

Contrast this with what happened outside the Republican National Convention 4 months earlier in Cleveland.

Gregory “Joey” Johnson and others from the Revolution Club burned the American flag the night that Trump was nominated. Trump had been projecting his fascist message of law and order, white supremacy, ‘build the wall’ scapegoating of immigrants and Muslims, disgusting misogyny and naked “USA #1 chauvinism...and in the face of that, **Joey Johnson & the Revolution Club went right up to the gates of the fascist RNC rally, linked arms in a circle, chanting, “1, 2, 3, 4—Slavery, Genocide, and War! 5, 6, 7, 8—America Was NEVER Great!”** In the middle stood **Gregory “Joey” Johnson**, the same Johnson in the U.S. Supreme Court case *Texas v. Johnson* (1989) that established flag burning as protected speech.

Joey announced: **“We’re standing with the people of the world today! We’re taking a stand against this imperialist Republican National Convention. Donald Trump is an open fascist. Hillary Clinton is a proven war criminal. We’re not following either one of their leaders...America #1? America first? It always has been first: at genocide, at slavery, at exploitation, at destruction of the environment, at torture... We’re standing here with the people of the world today...”** Then Joey lit the flag on fire.

Even before the flag was lit a mob of police and fascist Infowars Trump operatives assaulted the protective perimeter of Revolution Club members. The police violently arrested at least 16 people. The system, with its Secret Service, FBI, and Cleveland police and the "alt-right" Alex Jones/Infowars Trump operatives were all collaborating together to spy on and attack the Revolution Club even though the system’s own court said flagburning is protected political speech.

Johnson and 15 others—the **RNC 16**—currently face serious criminal charges in Cleveland.

The prosecution of the RNC 16 case looms even larger now in light of Trump’s flagburning decree. **This is one of the first legal challenges to the dangerous and deadly regime Trump intends to impose.**

And the urgency to defend the RNC 16 looms larger now as well.

A key part of stopping the Trump regime—and resisting every crime he carries out and every new assault he and his followers unleash—is defending the right of people to stand up and protest, to speak freely what is on their minds, and to not be forced to risk physical assault, jail, denial of citizenship or death to do so.

We Need Defiance, Determination, and Resistance Beyond

Acceptable Bounds. Look at the brave water protectors in Standing Rock; the protests against police murder and Trump’s racist appointees; campuses and religious communities are stepping forward to have the backs of immigrants; Women and LGBTQ activists in the streets; people have been burning the flag, including students at University of Pittsburgh, Hampshire College, and outside the White House!



These actions and more can and must be part of setting different terms in society for the storms to come and for all those who refuse to accept a fascist America. People must demand that the prosecutors drop the charges NOW and pledge to pack the courtroom for the upcoming hearing on January 26 in Cleveland. .

**Defend the right to burn the flag in protest.
Take up the #FlagBurningChallenge.
Support the RNC 16.**