

National Voices:

Open Letter Calling on the University of Colorado to Reverse its Recommendation to Dismiss Professor Ward Churchill:

"The militarist reflex to rely on the war option for post-9/11 security is daily proving itself disastrously dysfunctional. . . . American leaders responsible reaffirm their extremism, relying on a brew of fear, demonization, and global ambition to pacify a nervous, poorly informed, and confused citizenry at home. And where there are expressions of significant, principled opposition, the impulse of the rulers is often repressive.

... The relentless pursuit of and punitive approach of the University of Colorado at Boulder to Professor Ward Churchill is a revealing instance of the ethos that is currently threatening academic freedom. The voice of the university and intellectual community needs to be heard strongly and unequivocally in defense of dissent and critical thinking. . . ."

-- *Derrick Bell, Noam Chomsky, Juan Cole, Drucilla Cornell, Richard Delgado, Richard Falk, Irene Gendzier, Rashid Khalidi, Mahmood Mamdani, Immanuel Wallerstein, Howard Zinn*
(April 2007 *New York Review of Books*)

"... In my opinion, as a traditional indigenous person, Mr. Churchill writes with the highest caliber of honesty and truth when speaking of indigenous oral histories and culture. I have often said that if I could hold a pen and write books I would write exactly what Mr. Churchill has written. . . . My family, the Western Shoshone people and all indigenous peoples across this country have lived for too many years with governmental lies and cover-ups. It is individuals like Mr. Churchill who are heroes to our struggle to have the truth told, finally."
--*Carrie Dann, Western Shoshone Elder and Activist*

Resist the Silencing:

Ward Churchill has been targeted because he is a prominent scholar who is not afraid to speak the truth about Indigenous history or U.S. foreign policy.

His firing is intended to have a chilling effect on all who dare to dissent. Scholars and activists around the country are now being targeted. *Will we be silenced?*

What you can do:

- **Help sue CU.** Lawsuits cost a lot of money. Experts must be hired, witnesses flown in, depositions taken and transcribed. Prof. Churchill's attorney David Lane has contributed his time, but expenses must be paid. Organize a fundraiser, or

Send donations to:

David Lane, Esq.
c/o WCSN
PO Box 20035
Boulder, CO 80308

- **Let dissent be heard.** CU's objective is to silence Prof. Churchill. Fight back by having your organization or institution invite Prof. Churchill to speak.
E-mail: wardspeaks@wardchurchill.net.

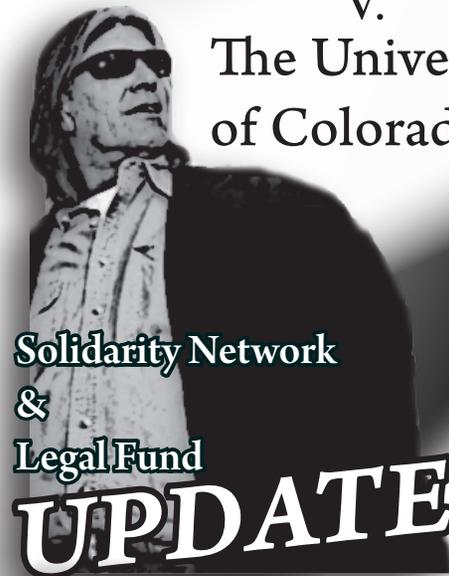
- **Defend Indigenous, Ethnic, Gender, and Peace Studies Programs.** The right-wing is attempting to roll back hard-won gains of the Civil Rights Movement era and eliminating alternative histories and perspectives in the process.
- **Support all teachers and activists under fire.** Across the country, university professors, high school teachers, and political activists are being targeted. Defend their rights, and send information about their cases to wcsn@wardchurchill.net

Pushing Back:

Ward Churchill

V.

The University of Colorado



Solidarity Network
&
Legal Fund

UPDATE

On July 24, 2007 the University of Colorado fired Ward Churchill, a tenured full professor of American Indian Studies. *Why?* CU claims it found "research misconduct."

However, eminent scholars defend Churchill. They say his firing was political retaliation for his statements on 9/11 and documentation of the genocide of American Indians.

Ward Churchill has sued CU for violating his First Amendment rights. Trial is scheduled for *March 2009*.

*Take a stand today,
for Ward Churchill &
for Critical Thinking!*

— www.wardchurchill.net —

Who is Ward Churchill?

American Indian activist, prolific scholar, popular teacher, dynamic and fearless speaker, former chair of CU's ethnic studies department; as of 2000, the most cited scholar in his field ...

A dangerous combination for those who wish to stifle critical thinking and sanitize history.

Author/co-author/editor of more than 20 books and hundreds of book chapters and journal articles, including:

- **A Little Matter of Genocide:** *Holocaust and Denial in the Americas, 1492 through the Present* (1997)
- **Struggle for the Land:** *Indigenous Resistance to Genocide, Ecocide and Expropriation...* (1993)
- **The COINTELPRO Papers:** *Documents from the FBI's Secret Wars Against Domestic Dissent* (1990, 2002)
- **Agents of Repression:** *The FBI's Secret Wars Against the Black Panther Party and the American Indian Movement* (1988, 2002)
- **On the Justice of Roosting Chickens:** *Reflections on the Consequences of U.S. Imperial Arrogance and Criminality* (2003)

Recipient of many awards, including:

- *Gustavus Myers Human Rights Awards - 5 books
- *Martin Luther King Colloquium of Scholars
- *Thomas Jefferson Award for Outstanding Contributions to the University (CU-Boulder)
- *Stearns Alumni Award for Excellence (CU-Boulder)
- *President's University Service Award
- *Boulder Faculty Assembly Teaching Award

What Did Churchill Really Say About 9/11?

The media, local and national, grossly distorted what Ward Churchill said about 9/11. He never said that the victims "deserved" to die.

He said that if one considers civilians as mere "collateral damage" as the U.S. does, we must understand that victims of U.S. policies will see us in the same light.

Read his actual analysis in *On the Justice of Roosting Chickens*, which won a major human rights book award.

Why Was Churchill Fired?

Jan. 2005: Pressured by right-wing threats over his 3-year-old op-ed about 9/11, Hamilton College cancelled Prof. Churchill's scheduled appearance.

A media firestorm ensued, and CU Regents came under intense political and financial pressure to fire Churchill.

Then-Colorado Governor Owens, CU President Brown, Regent Lucero, and others involved are closely tied to ACTA (Lynne Cheney's American Council of Trustees and Alumni) which is spearheading a well-funded national campaign to eliminate progressive voices from the academy.

Ward Churchill has become their symbol of the "**dangerous professor.**" By firing him, they are sending a message to all critical thinkers: Support the status quo or you'll become the next target. **Will you be next?**

Roadmap for Pretextual Firing

"[I]f the charges were serious, they would have been brought up before."

CU's Strategy

-- Noam Chomsky

1) Undermine Tenure: Tenure is supposed to protect the exercise of academic freedom. CU knew it would be unconstitutional to fire Prof. Churchill for speech protected by the First Amendment, so they stalled by claiming to investigate "every word" of his scholarship.

2) Enlist the Media: Knowing the investigation was pretextual, CU administration disinformed the public and tried the case in the media, violating their own confidentiality rules.

3) Solicit Allegations: With the help of the *Rocky Mountain News*, CU spent months soliciting allegations of misconduct nationally. Even so, CU only came up with a handful of minor accusations. Since no actual complaints were filed, CU's interim chancellor acted as sole "complainant."

4) Call Historical Interpretation "Fraud":

From over 4,000 pages and 12,000 footnotes in print, CU dredged up 7 minor charges. What CU called "fraud" and "plagiarism" were actually questions of historical interpretation or "standards" CU refused to identify.

5) Conduct a Biased Investigation:

An Investigative Committee comprised mostly of CU insiders was formed. It included no American Indians or Indigenous Studies scholars. Its chairperson had previously circulated e-mails comparing Ward Churchill to "male celebrity wrongdoers" like OJ Simpson. The Committee never told Churchill what standards he would be judged by, and arbitrarily limited his time to respond.

6) Disguise Shoddy Findings in a Long Report:

Many uncritical people have been fooled by the length of the Investigative Committee's 124-page report. Most of the allegations "investigated" were dropped. **The Committee was left with only 7 counts of academic misconduct:**

- 4 of the charges hinge on interpretation of sources concerning smallpox epidemics or "blood quantum" laws.
- The remaining 3 charges depend on the Committee's interpretation of "standards" they could not identify concerning ghostwriting and attribution of authorship.

Even IF true, the punishment does not fit the crime. These are not acts for which tenured professors are traditionally fired!

7) Ignore All the Rules: (and allegations of research misconduct filed against CU's own Investigative Committee):

In CU's haste to fire Prof. Churchill, it ignored its own internal review panel's findings. CU also refused to investigate formal charges by 9 CU professors, 7 outside professors, and 2 attorneys that the Investigative Committee itself distorted, falsified, and fabricated evidence in its report.

For More Info Visit: www.wardchurchill.net