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Being The Change
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Legal in Canada, Death Penalty in America, the Case of the BC 3

Why is it that the Canadian government is enforcing American border and legal policies? Is our government treasonously and without public or legislative discussion forfeiting our sovereignty to American ideologies of war and censorship?

Recent examples highlight the unconstitutional harmonization of policies that are just the tip of the iceberg of a union between the USA, Mexico and Canada known as the security and prosperity partnership (SPP).

Three times in the past four months, while trying to enter Canada to attend anti-SPP and anti-war rallies Ann Wright, a former US state department official and now an anti-war activist has been held by border officials or denied entrance into Canada. The most recent incident occurred even though she had been invited to speak by members of parliament. Wright was denied entrance into Canada after her name came up on a FBI database (national criminal information center) though she has only ever been arrested for non-violent protest.

Preceding these incidences by two years, 3 Canadian activists were arrested, one in Halifax and two in Vancouver by the RCMP at the request of the American Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). These 3 now face extradition to America and life imprisonment in the overstuffed prison system. One of the three could also face the death penalty. In Canada no legal action was taken on two of the activists and for the other one, fines totaling \$5000 were given; no criminal record.

The Americans considered one of these individuals, Marc Scott Emery, to be one of the most wanted drug kingpins in the world, a man responsible for 1.1 million pounds of marijuana worth over 3 billion dollars. The Americans consider 1 seed to equal 1 plant equal to 1 kilogram.

Canada considered him harmless and accepted over half a million in income taxes from 1995-2005 with 'marijuana seed vendor' listed as an occupation. Emery's profits were used to fund the anti-prohibition movement in Canada and America.

Each time Emery was featured in a positive light in American popular media, such as in stories by *CNN*, *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, the *Wall Street Journal* and 2 features on *60 minutes*, the DEA had Canadian authorities raid his shops and arrest him. Charges were dropped, fines were paid (if a fine was even given) and Emery went back to selling seeds.

After his July 29th 2005 arrest, the head of the DEA, Karen Tandy, released a memo indicating that the arrest "is a significant blow not only to the marijuana trafficking trade in the US and Canada, but also the marijuana legalization movement." The DEA wanted Emery for his political activity and his "propagandist" magazine, *Cannabis Culture*.

Emery's extradition hearing is scheduled to begin on January 21st 2008 and if he is extradited proof will be had that our government is promoting US policy that we don't officially ascribe to (yet). We will be handing over Canadians to die in America for

actions that we did not even consider crimes here. Waterloo's noise by-law imposes higher fines than what the BC3 received.

Michelle Rainey one of Emery's co-accused is a medical marijuana advocate and uses the plant to manage her late-stage Crohn's; in American jails she will be forced to use dangerous and ineffective pharmaceuticals. The other accused, Greg Williams could quite possibly die of old age in prison giving the term 'life sentence' extra gravity. These people may lose their lives in America while in Canada they operated in a legal grey zone and were allowed to continue their activities with the tacit approval of authorities and the government.

In Canada we can sell books about marijuana and paraphernalia to consume it without fear of prosecution. We can legally grow hemp crops for nutrition, building supplies and textiles. We can pay taxes on the profits made from selling seeds. If we can legally do all these things, how can we face possible extradition to America and life imprisonment there for mailing, through Canada Post, any of these items to America? Our government is trying to bring the war on drugs to Canada along with the American prohibitionist policies.

For the sake of Canadian sovereignty I plead to our courts and our government to resist lowest common denominator harmonization with American policies that have not worked since their introduction and has lead to, according to the FBI, 17 million+ marijuana related arrests since 1965; they may hit 1 million arrests just this year.

The American war on drugs is a war on the environment, a war on social rights, a war on freedom and a war on common sense but carries on blindly with disastrous results.

By importing the U.S. style war on drugs to Canada, Stephan Harper is continuing his Lewinsky style action with Bush and the only stain will be on Canadian sovereignty regarding policy and policing.