



Upstate Citizens for Equality
Niagara Frontier Chapter
836 Indian Church Road
West Seneca, NY 14224-1235
<http://www.upstate-citizens.org>

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UCE's Statement on Rhode Island Indian Arrest:

The recent events in Rhode Island though shocking to some was an eventuality. Under the guise of sovereignty Indian tribes and nations as well as individuals both Indian and non-Indian have been violating federal and state laws with virtual impunity. In the State of New York in 1997 when it started to collect its taxes, which was upheld by a unanimous 1994 decision by the United States Supreme Court, met with severe violence from Indians defending this "sovereignty" in which many of our law enforcement officers were severely injured. Under this guise of sovereignty a racketeering enterprise has formed and is currently operating. This racketeering enterprise is an association in fact of Indian businesses and the wholesalers who supply them. The pattern of racketeering activity includes, but is not limited to, the shipping, transporting, receiving, possessing, selling, distributing, or purchasing contraband cigarettes in violation of 18 USC § 2342; operating an illegal gambling operation(s) in violation of 18 USC § 1957; and the laundry of monetary instruments in violation of 18 USC § 1956. As a result of the above mentioned activities honest taxpaying businesses near Indian reservations in this and other states have suffered in lost profits and the respective states have lost revenue from lawful taxes and have therefore been forced to cut funding to health, educational and social programs. People engaged in such activities on Indian land have been linked to funding aid to Hezbollah; smuggling illegal immigrants and other contraband into and out of our country. This poses a severe and imminent threat to the national security of our country and should not be tolerated.

Unfortunately, under the threat of violence Governor Pataki chose to violate his oath of office and its constitutional command to enforce all laws. The New York State Legislature has acted to compel the executive branch of our state government to enforce our tax laws. By September of this year the Tax Commissioner must promulgate regulations and enforce these tax laws.

Upstate Citizens for Equality applauds the actions taken by the State of Rhode Island and urges all in our law enforcement community to perform their lawful mandates and enforce these laws on the municipal, county, tribal, state and federal level.

Sincerely,

Daniel T. Warren
Chair
Niagara Frontier Chapter of Upstate Citizens for Equality