



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Targeted Arrest is a Direct Attack on Afro-Indigenous Kinney Family and Campaign to Save Family Home

On November 5th, the youngest son of the Kinney family, Michael Kinney, was arrested while on his way home from getting a burrito. The family has been embroiled in a three-month process to fight an illegal eviction in violation of Governor Brown's eviction moratorium due to the Covid crisis. Three months into their eviction blockade campaign and two years since first filing their federal lawsuit, the Kinney family is facing escalating attacks from law enforcement.

"Leaving my neighborhood Mexican restaurant Burrito Azteca I was wrongfully arrested and tied to BLM protests that firsthand witnesses could attest that I had never attended," Michael Kinney said. "An unmarked, undercover minivan stopped at the scene. I asked him to film the arrest, and that's when he identified me as a Kinney family member. I then recognized him as Deputy Sheriff Jones, who was carrying an assault rifle at the time of my family's eviction. While kidnapped I was placed in solitary confinement with no access to a phone."

This was a targeted arrest of a Kinney family member with the direct intent to criminalize an Afro-Indigenous organizer. Michael has a clean record and was initially charged with interfering with a peace officer but then given two more charges while in jail despite being put in a solitary cell. He received no traffic-related charges.

This arrest comes after a storm of attacks on the Kinney family. On September 9th, the Afro-Indigenous Kinney family was evicted at gunpoint from their fourth-generation family home at 4406 N Mississippi Ave, in direct violation of the state-mandated moratorium at a time when the city was filled with toxic wildfire smoke. (See original release [here](#).) Since then, the Kinneys and organizers have built a robust community and network of support, including a 24/7 occupation of the land, a community kitchen serving two hot meals a day, and a series of free events with local partners ranging from an Eviction Blockade 101 training to free meditation, acupuncture, and weekly Indigenous-led Sunrise Ceremonies.

On October 22nd, Multnomah County judge Stephen K. Bushong, despite being recused from the case, signed a 120-day extension for a second writ of execution for eviction. Just as winter arrives and temperatures dip below freezing, the Kinney family faces a second eviction that could happen anytime in the next four months. They only owe \$97,000 on their home but have been denied their right of redemption as protected by Oregon law. According to Zillow, the empty lot directly adjacent to the Kinney family home is worth \$10.2M.

For further information and to arrange an interview, contact Michael Kinney: 971-313-1643.

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redhouseonmississippi.com • redhouseonmississippi@gmail.com

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