

July 5, 2005 Statement:

## SILENCING COVERAGE OF AKRON AREA PEACE EVENTS

Trial begins Thursday against Time Warner Cable corporation for silencing free speech rights of cable access producers.

Anyone who has been to an Akron area peace event over the last few years has seen Rose Wilcher with camcorder in hand filming the event, interviewing participants and bystanders, and/or hearing when the coverage will appear on local public access TV. While corporate media comes and goes, Rose is always there. Coverage may be "raw" but it's coverage of events where participants and bystanders speak directly to the public without the normal editorial filters. It's what media should be about.

Rose has filed suit against Time Warner for its new policy of charging a \$25 per program "administrative fee" and other limitations. Public access and free speech, so it seems, comes with a price tag. Never mind that the Time Warner cable corporation is using the public airwaves to make billions of dollars in profits. What was a free service to the public for 2 decades has become a fee service.

Why should we care? Because without independent producers like Rose Wilcher, our unfiltered voices for peace and justice will reach fewer people. We will be subject more to the whims of the corporate-owned press.

Please support Rose (see her appeal below). Show up to the trial. Donate to the defense fund.

Thank you for your consideration.

Greg Coleridge

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PLEASE PASS THIS ON TO EVERYONE THAT YOU KNOW

Magistrate Gallas denied the request for an injunction against the \$25 fee to play tapes on Time Warner cable public access channel 15 until the case goes to trial. We were not able to file for an appeal on this decision because of the short time frame and the huge filing fee required. This is going to be a long battle against Time Warner and the City of Akron. Time Warner is a multi billion dollar corporation controlling the communication industry. They have the resources to prolong this legal battle in their efforts to silence the voice of the public. We need

the support of the community to continue this battle in Federal court. Donations can be made at [www. HowToFight City Hall.com](http://www.HowToFightCityHall.com).

We are in Judge Dowd's court , 2 S. Main Akron Ohio, July 7 @ noon. We need your support in the courtroom. This is case is drawing national attention(see API story cmaben). Also we need your support financially with contributions to the legal defense fund and by sponsoring the pay to play fee of \$25. Freedom Journal.Tv would like to thank the following community members for their continued financial support during this legal battle:

American Friends Service Committee

Greg Coleridge

AAUW

Dr Priscilla Smith

Bridals by Philvens

Ovide Pearson

Warner Mendenhall

Dan Leffler

Rose Wilcher

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