

Marius Mason is an environmental and animal rights activist currently incarcerated in Texas. Prior to his incarceration, Marius worked for three decades doing above-ground activism to stop the systematic exploitation and destruction of the natural world. In 1999, in the name of the Earth Liberation Front (ELF) he set fire to a lab at the University of Michigan that was conducting research on genetically modified organisms (GMO). The arson highlighted the insidious nature of GMO's and the University system's complicity with the agrochemical and agricultural biotechnology corporation Monsanto and their policies abroad, which was outlined in an ELF communique released in conjunction with the arson: The University of Michigan was engaged in a project "...not only pursue research concerning genetically engineered sweet potatoes, corn and other crop vegetables, but to lobby developing countries to abandon their current agricultural practices and to rely on genetically engineered plants and thus corporations like Monsanto." In 2008, after Marius' husband turned state's-evidence, Marius was threatened with a life sentence for the arson and other acts of sabotage. With little financial stability and fear of dragging his family into a costly legal battle, Marius pled guilty and was given an extreme sentence of nearly 22 years. No one was ever harmed in any of his actions.

Marius came out as transgender in 2013. After a 3 year battle to win the right to medically necessary care, he is, we believe the first trans man to begin medical transition while in Federal custody, setting a precedent for other trans prisoners.

Since coming out, Marius has initiated an annual Trans Prisoner Day of Action: an international day of action in solidarity with trans prisoners. 2018 will be the third year, with letter writing nights, educational events, and political actions expected in Austria, Australia, Canada, England, Finland, France, New Zealand, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Wales and across the U.S.

FREE MARIUS MASON

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Please let Marius and other prisoners know you care. Writing letters is one of the most important things you can do: letters are a lifeline for those inside prison walls. As a federal prisoner, he has not been able to effect his name change through legal channels, so it is

important for mail to be addressed to “Marie (Marius) Mason” on the envelope, along with his prisoner number. Inside the letter you can refer to him as Marius. Letters, printed out articles and photographs are all allowed. Do not affix anything to a letter or envelope with glue. He loves hearing about daily life and people’s connection with nature. Don’t write about any illegal activities. Anything written in a language other than English may not get through. Marius is only allowed to write back to a limited number of people, but hearing from others on the outside really helps him know he is not forgotten and makes a huge difference in his quality of life.



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