

# We Will Never Forget

Rise Against

It was less than a year after September 11th  
And I was at the Chicago Tribune writing about shootings and murders  
And it was leaving me feeling pretty dark and depressed  
I've done activism in college  
So I decided to help a local group hang door knockers against animal testing  
I thought it would be a safe way to do something positive  
But of course I have the absolute worst luck ever and we were all arrested  
My charges were dismissed  
But a few weeks later two FBI agents knocked on my door  
And they told me that unless I help them by spying on protest groups  
They put me on a domestic terrorist list  
I'd love to tell you that I didn't flinch but I was terrified  
And when my fear subsided I became obsessed  
With finding out how this happened  
How animal rights and environmental activists  
Who have never injured anyone  
Could become the FBI's number one domestic terrorism threat?  
A few years later I was invited to testify before Congress about my reporting  
And I told lawmakers that  
While everybody is talking about going green  
Some people are risking their lives to defend forests  
And to stop oil pipelines  
They're physically putting their bodies on the line  
Between the whalers' harpoons and the whales  
These are everyday people  
Like the protesters in Italy who spontaneously climbed over barbed wire fences  
To rescue beagles from animal testing  
These movements have been incredibly effective and popular  
So in 1985 their opponents made up a new word  
"Eco-terrorist"  
To shift how we view them  
They just made it up  
Now companies like Fyser and the Cattlemen's Beef Association  
The Third Commission, Ringling brothers  
They've all backed new laws to silence their opponents  
The Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act turns activism into terrorism  
If it causes a loss of profits  
Now most people never even heard about this law  
Including members of Congress  
Less than one percent were in the room when it passed the House  
The rest were outside at a new memorial  
They were praising Dr King  
As his style of activism is branded as terrorism  
If done in the name of animals or the environment  
Supporters say laws like this are needed for the extremists  
The vandals, the arsonists, the radicals  
But right now companies like TransCanada  
Are briefing police about how to prosecute non-violent protesters as terrorists  
The FBI's own training documents on eco-terrorism are not about violence  
They're about public relations  
Today in multiple countries  
Corporations are pushing new laws that make it illegal  
To even photograph animal cruelty on their farms  
The first of these "Ag-Gag" prosecutions, as they're called

Was a young woman named Amy Meyer  
And Amy saw a sick cow being moved by a bulldozer outside of a slaughterhouse  
As she was standing on the public street  
And Amy did what any of us would  
She filmed it  
When I found out about her story I wrote about it  
And within 24 hours it created such an uproar  
That the prosecutors just dropped all of the charges  
But apparently even exposing stuff like that is a threat  
Through the Freedom of Information Act  
I learned that the Counter Terrorism Unit has been monitoring my articles and speeches  
Just like this one  
The point of all of this is to make us afraid  
But as a journalist I have an unwavering faith in the power of education  
Our best weapon is sunlight  
Dostoevsky wrote that the whole work of man  
Is to prove that he's a man and not a piano key  
Over and over throughout history people in power have used fear  
To silence the truth and to silence dissent  
It's time to strike a new note  
The way that we do that  
The way that we fight fear in the way we move forward  
Isn't by placing our faith in politicians and CEO's  
It's by coming together in our own communities of resistance  
It's no accident that again and again and again  
The people on the front lines defending the earth and the animals have come from this  
From punk, from hardcore  
From basement shows and liner notes and records like this one  
From hearing that these laws have no meaning  
Past the setting of the sun  
I know how bleak and overwhelming this all can feel  
I struggle with that darkness every single day  
But despite it all I draw power from this  
I draw power from seeing handfuls of people  
No different than you or I  
With no money and no special training  
Fight back so fiercely  
That it has rattled the most powerful industry on the planet to their core  
I heard this interview with Rodney Mullen a while back  
People calling him the godfather of street skating  
But he said that thing about the Bones Brigade and that era of skateboarding was that  
It was so much more than any individual  
It's like a match he said  
A match only has power because of the atmosphere around it  
The air that allows it to ignite and allows the flame to breathe  
I'm not sure what the appropriate response is right now  
The appropriate response to capitalism's relentless destruction on the natural world  
In the repression of those who dare to resist it  
But I know that each time we choose compassion over greed  
Each time we turn our fear into rage  
Each time we refuse to live an ordinary life  
That atmosphere only grows  
And the brighter every new fire will burn