

Faith FAMILY FREEDOM

FREEDOM CONVOY 2022

THE AIR HORN HEARD 'ROUND THE WORLD

by Rebecca Terrell

“Freedom anywhere is a step for freedom everywhere,” read the Convoy to Ottawa 2022 Facebook page before the social-media giant deleted it. Major media fall in lockstep with censors, either ignoring what many call the most important pushback against tyranny since the fall of the Berlin Wall, or spreading lies about the throngs of hard-working Canadians peacefully filling the streets of their nation’s capital to demand medical freedom and an end to COVID restrictions. The day after they arrived, Canada’s *National Observer* reported it as a one-day rally — a “disorganized rabble of riled-up miscreants,” numbering less than 10,000, who defaced national monuments and waved swastikas on Parliament Hill.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau had earlier dismissed the movement as a “small fringe minority” with “unacceptable views,” but as tens of thousands of trucks slow-rolled across the country, a conveniently timed COVID exposure forced him into hiding, where he remained for “security reasons,” according to his office. Meanwhile, thousands of Canadians braved bitter cold temperatures to line highways and overpasses along the convoy path, cheering the truckers and supplying them with food and fuel.

More than 100,000 people donated \$10-plus million to the convoy’s GoFundMe appeal before the crowd-funding site stripped the movement of most funds, claiming it had devolved from a peaceful protest into a violent and unlawful occupation. The attorneys general of Florida, Louisiana, and West Virginia launched fraud investigations against GoFundMe, while Donald Trump, Jr. tweeted an appeal for all Republican attorneys general to do likewise. Also on Twitter, Elon Musk shared a screen shot of GoFundMe’s June 2020 post supporting Seattle’s riotous protests and remarked, “Double-standard?” Within a week Freedom Convoy 2022 recouped the purloined money through a new campaign on the Christian crowd-funder GiveSendGo,

only to have an Ontario judge freeze private bank accounts, preventing truckers from accessing any funds.

In the Trenches

Meanwhile, a malicious propaganda campaign rages against the truckers. The ninth day of protest saw Ottawa’s mayor declare a state of emergency, appealing by letter to federal and provincial authorities for 1,800 additional policemen to buttress his force, who supposedly could not “quell the insurrection” alone. The smokescreen appeal echoed a lie circulating among government officials and major media implying that the truckers are riotous criminals. CTV News quoted Ottawa Police Service (OPS) chief



Keeping the peace: Truckers blockading the U.S.-Canada border at Coutts, Alberta, ended their standoff on February 15 after police made 11 arrests. The Coutts mayor confirmed those arrested were not connected with the truckers.

AP Images

Peter Sloly — who has since resigned amidst harsh criticism over his convoy response — characterizing the protest as an unlawful siege, though he only mentioned arrests of people supplying the truckers with fuel, a move that inspired hundreds of smiling convoy supporters to tote water-filled jerrycans through the streets.

Media reinforce this narrative to demonize the protesters. Convoy spokesman and former officer of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Daniel Bulford exposed one example involving a CBC News report of demonstration-related vandalism and criminal arrests. Bulford revealed during a press conference that the crimes had been committed by individuals unaffiliated with the convoy and were reported to police by himself and other truckers. The vandalism was actually against the truckers, forcing them to establish a community watch patrol, which local Ottawans praise for making their streets safer.

Freedom pancakes: Former Trump COVID advisor Dr. Paul Alexander served breakfast to hungry truckers in Ottawa in February. He tweeted: “Don’t let them fool you #Canada is more United and loving, better than before! #Truckers will stand their ground.”



twitter/PAlexanderPhD

Social media is awash with videos showing protesters shoveling snow, setting up bouncy houses for children, holding pickup hockey games and impromptu dance parties, and feeding the homeless. CBC News reported Ottawa police are hampered by a “large number of children among protesters,” and that city-contracted towing companies are refusing to move convoy vehicles. When an Ottawa judge issued a temporary injunction that banned horn honking, the convoy immediately complied and a new hashtag went viral: #HonkHonk.

Organizers insist their protest is peaceful and disclaim any connection with criminal activity. However, their repeated requests for discussions with Trudeau are answered with the prime minister’s invocation of the Emergencies Act, a measure intended only to protect national security; he may now violate the protesters’ rights at his whim. The convoy’s police liaison, Tom Marazzo, said via press conference that in his outreach to OPS, “they have chosen to take the posture

of a hostage negotiation.” This, despite the fact that renowned medical experts have joined the convoy’s ranks, including Canada’s top clinical epidemiologist, Dr. Paul Alexander, also COVID advisor to the World Health Organization. Meanwhile, social-media videos show Ottawa police behaving disgracefully, even brutalizing a 78-year-old grandfather for honking his car horn in support of the convoy.

Are They Succeeding?

Convoy organizers admit they would rather go home, but say freedom is worth the sacrifice. Some media reports indicate they are making headway, as several Canadian provinces already announced plans to loosen COVID shackles. Quebec’s premier called off a tax on the unvaccinated, while the leader of Saskatchewan is lifting all restrictions.

Alberta’s premier, Jason Kenney, announced a three-step COVID restriction phase-out, disclaiming that the trucker



AP Images

Inhumane targeting: Members of Canada’s parliament, together with convoy supporters, issued a statement condemning police seizure of protesters’ fuel supplies for putting truckers and their families in danger due to Ottawa’s extreme cold temperatures.

blockade at Coutts influenced his decision. A spokesman for the protesters told Rebel News, “He’s leaving an open door for future variants to put in mandates again, so we’ve got to stick this out until all mandates are lifted.” However, days later they did voluntarily withdraw after police made 11 arrests and seized a cache of weapons and ammunition nearby. Though the mayor of Coutts confirmed to DailyMail.com that those arrested had nothing to do with the demonstrators, blockade spokesmen told Rebel News that they decided to pull out to maintain their peaceful protest “narrative,” and that they hope to have helped Canada on the road to medical freedom.

Regardless, their perseverance marks the true success of the convoy and has lit a fire of patriotic zeal across the globe. MSNBC recently whimpered, “Canada’s

‘nationwide insurrection’ is bringing together an unlikely and alarming alliance.... Around the world, far right activists are watching ... with fantasies of similar resistance in their own countries.”

Apparently, MSNBC does not use the Telegram app, an uncensored instant-messaging platform where truckers worldwide have openly planned their own national demonstrations. “The Canadians showed us the way,” announced the European convoy. “Now it is time for us to act.” Demonstrators from across the European Union arrived in the EU bureaucratic capital of Brussels in early February to protest COVID tyranny. Likewise, Australian truckers rolled into their nation’s capital of Canberra on February 1. “We are no longer asking for our freedoms,” wrote one supporter, “we are demanding them.”

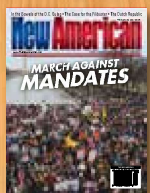
In early February, a smear campaign against U.S. truckers was already underway. After Facebook deleted their page, Convoy to DC 2022 organizer Mike Landis told Fox News that his group is “obviously starting to get someone’s attention.” A Department of Homeland Security spokesman told Fox that his agency is “tracking reports” and working to “continuously assess the threat environment” linked with the convoy, while a DHS National Terrorism Advisory warned of heightened threats related to “an online environment filled with false or misleading narratives and conspiracy theories.”

These brave truckers are obviously in for an uphill battle, but one thing is certain: When the last of the semis rolls home, the world will have the truckers of Canada to thank for launching a new freedom movement. ■



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