

SUPPORT THE PRAIRIELAND DEFENDANTS



Visit the link or QR code to read the full list of ways you can help. Here is an excerpt:

“The Trial is over. We know that the fight doesn’t end here, as we have to garner more support as we look toward appeals and supporting 13 defendants during their state trials, including 9 of those who were just tried in federal court.

SPREAD THE WORD

We must publicize the numerous holes in the state’s narrative. If you and others you know have time, you should review the federal trial court notes in-depth and compare the state’s narrative to what facts actually came out during trial.

DONATE

Donate to the legal defense fund to help the defendants fight these serious charges. Consider hosting a fundraiser event: a bake sale at your university, a benefit show, a raffle, or movie screening. Use it as an opportunity to meet others and raise awareness about the case.”



STATEMENT

Benjamin “Champagne” Song

*Benjamin Song was sentenced to 100 years in prison for their role in a noise demonstration at the Prairieland ICE Detention Center. Judge Reed O’Connor stated from the bench that he is giving maximum sentences to the Prairieland defendants because **“the state wants to send a message to anyone who shares a similar ideology.”***

I don't hate.

I don't hate
anyone. I don't
hate cops.

I don't hate
Trump. I don't
hate Nazis.

My beliefs are composed
thus:

First, that we should help
each other.

And second, that we should
protect one another.

I never want to see anyone
get hurt. I never want to
see good people, standing
up for what they believe in,
gunned down in the street.
What we all saw happen to
Renee Good and Alex Pretti
is my worst nightmare.

It was the kind of thing I had
feared for a long time, after
dealing with officers who
could be reckless, who could
be bullies, who could be
violent. But fear is not hate.
Sadness is not hate. **Wanting
people to live is not hate.**

So, when I was standing in
the street on July 4th, 2025,
in plain view with reflective
safety strips and high visibil-
ity clothing, what I saw right
in front of my eyes was my
worst nightmare.

When I saw Lieutenant
Thomas Gross stop pursu-
ing and point his gun at the
back of a running, unarmed
protester, like he testified, I
was terrified. As a firearms
instructor and a United
States Marine Corps veter-
an, I understood what I was
seeing. I knew what it meant
for someone to lean forward
into a gun, like he testified,
to prepare for recoil.

**HOW WILL
YOU HELP
EACH OTHER?**

**HOW WILL
YOU HELP
YOURSELVES?**

What kind of people would not agree to “no kings” and “no Fuhrers?”

The hate has migrated into the government.

Now that hate is taking power over me. It is taking power over you, over your words and your ideas.

When will you be called a domestic terrorist, too?

When they killed Renee Good and Alex Pretti, they went on TV and they called them domestic terrorists, the same day, within the hour.

When will that happen to you?

When I was staying in my home city of Dallas for 11 days, I did fear then I might die at any moment

from a government that I think is hateful and vindictive. I did not run because I wanted to escape responsibility. I stayed because I wanted to survive long enough to do the right thing.

I don't fear for myself. I fear for all of you.

What will you do in this time of great failures and great injustices? What will you do?

How will you help each other?

How will you help yourselves?

Learn more about Champagne, the other defendants, their trials, and more at:

**PrairieLand
Defendants.com**

As the evidence shows, I did not want to hurt anyone. I never had the intent to hurt anyone. I tried my best to avoid hurting anyone. It is impossible to say that I was trying to ambush anyone or planning any violence. I was shocked, and surprised, and saddened. I am so grateful for what didn't happen. I am so grateful that we are not here mourning another death and tragedy.

Another Alex Pretti.

Another Renee Good.

Another Botham Jean.

Another Manuel Teran.

Another Atatiana Jefferson.

Another Philando Castile.

Now, 22 people have been arrested, have been persecuted, have been tortured, for what?

For nothing.

None of these people really did anything.

And none of these people have anything to do with what happened with me.

This is wrong. This is mass punishment. This is collective punishment. This is guilt by association. **This is injustice.**

Back in 1895, the white supremacist and U.S. Senator, Pitchfork Ben Tillman, gave a speech to the Constitutional Convention of South Carolina on how to use injustice to take power. He said, “how did we recover our liberty? By fraud and violence.” We tried to overcome the 30,000 majority by honest means which was a mathematical impossibility. After burying these indignities for eight years, life became worthless.”

This is how men take power over others. By injustice, by fraud and violence.

That history matters because injustice has always been dangerous. It does not only harm the person standing in court. It spreads. It teaches people to be afraid. It teaches people that the government can decide who is guilty first and look for reasons afterward.

First, they covered up and hid evidence.

Second, they banned every Black juror so that no one would question the police.

Third, they told me I had no right to protect myself

or anyone else and they told me I wasn't even allowed to say the word: self-defense.

As you heard at the trial, they tortured their own witnesses. **American citizens were tortured and terrorized and medically neglected.** Three men died in jail last week, by the way. And now, a 24-year old has had a heart attack. A 58-year-old woman said she would die in this case. Mothers, fathers, teachers, students, package workers, programmers and engineers persecuted and tortured in this case.

People are being treated as if their lives do not matter. All of this is bigger than me. I know I am the person standing here. I know I am the person being judged.

But I also know that a case like this can become a warning to everyone else: *that if you speak, if you protest, if*

you try to protect someone, if you are associated with the wrong idea, you can be turned into a symbol instead of treated like a human being.

Nothing saddens me more than when I think about all of these different people and their different families and communities, and how they have suffered, and how unfairly they have been treated, just like me.

Whatever is taken from me is taken from you.

It may be these 22 strangers now, but it will be you tomorrow.

On June 9th of this year, the President of the Southern Poverty Law Center testified

that hate has migrated into the government. Into the government. The hate is right here.

The government, in it's secret motion to give me a life sentence, calls me the embodiment of Antifa. What does that even mean? I am not a member of a group called Antifa. I am not part of anyterrorist organization. There is no group called Antifa. Everyone knows that, but this government is so blinded by hate, they've arrested 22 good people for nothing. They want to bury me with an idea. This idea that they hate is the very idea of being against fascism.

What kind of people are not against fascism?

What kind of people are not against the hate and war and genocide and concentration camps that the Nazi's brought upon the world?