



## The Committee to Defend Catherine Wilkerson

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### Wilkerson Will Fight Political Repression & Police Brutality

**The Committee to Defend Catherine Wilkerson was formed in April, 2007, to help Catherine Wilkerson, MD, fight back against political repression, police brutality, and apparent retaliatory misconduct by the University of Michigan (UM), Ann Arbor Police Department (AAPD), and Washtenaw County Prosecutor Brian Mackie. On January 23, 2007, Dr. Wilkerson was charged by Mackie's office with two counts of *attempting to assault/resist/obstruct* "a person ... performing his or her duties" in connection with a police disturbance last November on the University of Michigan campus. In fact, Dr. Wilkerson's only 'crimes' were to take responsibility for the well-being of a man apparently rendered unconscious by UM police and to file a written complaint about the police brutality she suffered at the hands of AAPD Officer Kevin Warner.**

Last year, the American Movement for Israel invited Ray Tanter, PhD, to speak at the UM. In his 1998 book, *Rogue Regimes*, Tanter admitted to being an unindicted co-conspirator in the illegal Iran-Contra arms deal. In October, 2002, Tanter told the *Michigan Daily* that the coming US invasion of Iraq would be " 'an antidote' and that there would be no backlash. 'Arab people won't go crazy, Muslim people won't go crazy. They'll roll over because they hate Saddam Hussein.' " *Vanity Fair* reported that in a speech in late 2005: "Tanter went as far as to suggest that the U.S. consider using tactical nuclear weapons against Iran." During his UM presentation, Tanter advocated reversing the State Department's designation of the *Mujahedeen-e Khalq* as a "foreign terrorist organization" so that they could receive funding to expand their terror campaign in Iran and bring about a "civil war."

It was against this backdrop that an informal group of local peace and justice activists, including Dr. Wilkerson, decided to stage a nonviolent protest. The protest began uneventfully outside the UM's Michigan League, where Tanter was to speak on November 30, 2006. It was inside that things went awry when UM police physically attacked to suppress the free speech rights of an Iranian-born woman who was heckling Tanter, as is explicitly permitted under the UM's policy on "Freedom of Speech and Artistic Expression."

In the ensuing overly aggressive police response, three people were arrested. As the senior medical professional on scene, Dr. Wilkerson took responsibility for the well-being of a middle-aged man who was forced by police to the floor. The man, at least twice, told the two police officers on top of him, "I can't breathe." After he lost consciousness, Dr. Wilkerson exhorted police to get off him and allow her to check his breathing and pulse. Wilkerson later protested when Emergency Medical Service (EMS) personnel adopted a punitive, potentially dangerous approach and breached ethical medical practices by forcing ammonia into the man's nostrils and face. It was at this time that she was physically assaulted and detained by Ann Arbor police officer Kevin Warner. To this day, Wilkerson still suffers from a shoulder injury needlessly inflicted by Warner. Wilkerson was never handcuffed or even required to produce identification because she had committed no crime in advocating for a patient in her care. However, nearly two months after the incident and just seven days after she filed a police brutality complaint, she was charged by the Washtenaw County Prosecutor Brian Mackie's office, at the request of the UM police, with two attempted felonies—one against Officer Warner and one against the EMS personnel.

**For more information on how you can get involved or make a contribution to Dr. Wilkerson's legal defense fund, contact Aimee Smith at (734) 761-9901, [DefendWilkerson-owner@yahoo.com](mailto:DefendWilkerson-owner@yahoo.com), or go to [defendwilkerson.org](http://defendwilkerson.org). The Committee's work is supported by the National Lawyers Guild, Detroit & Michigan Chapter; Council on American Islamic Relations, Michigan Chapter; Detroit Coalition Against Police Brutality; Huron Valley Greens; Green Party of Michigan; Michigan Emergency Committee Against War & Injustice; Gray Panthers of Huron Valley and, the Bolivarian Youth (Miami).**

*It is **no crime** to protest against warmongers. It is **no crime** to complain about police brutality. It is **no crime** to complain about dangerous medical malpractice. Dr. Catherine Wilkerson will fight back. Will you stand with her?*

## Tell Prosecutor Mackie to Drop the Charges

*Please consider sending your own version of the sample letter below. A written letter is considered one of the most effective forms of political advocacy; however, you can also call Mr. Mackie at (734) 222-6620 or send a fax to (734) 222-6610. His e-mail address is mackieb@washtenaw.org To copy and paste this text, go to <http://defendwilkerson.org/sampltr.html> Please feel free to let us know if you contact Mr. Mackie or get a response.*

Your Address  
City, State, Zip

Today's Date

Brian L. Mackie,  
Washtenaw County Prosecutor  
P.O. Box 8645  
Ann Arbor, MI 48107

Subj: Case DR5-07-137

Dear Mr. Mackie:

I am writing to urge you to drop your office's charges against Catherine Wilkerson, MD. The police record shows that Dr. Wilkerson did nothing except issue verbal medical directions and necessary criticisms to police and emergency medical personnel regarding the treatment of an arrestee who had become a patient in her care, as acknowledged by University of Michigan police officer West.

During Mr. Blaine Coleman's arrest, there were two instances when Dr. Wilkerson determined that the actions of police or emergency medical personnel placed Coleman in a life-threatening situation. As a physician and a conscientious human being, Dr. Wilkerson had an obligation to protest and advise. No good purpose can be served by prosecuting a medical doctor for doing her duty and nonviolently exercising her First Amendment rights. Please drop the charges.

Sincerely,

Your signature  
Your Name