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PETA protester plants pie in face of Canadian minister

Gail Shea targeted over seal hunt

BY MARK IYPE, CANWEST NEWS SERVICE JANUARY 25, 2010 COMMENTS (13)

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A PETA protester jams a tofu cream pie in the face of Fisheries and Oceans Minister Gail Shea during the minister's speech in Burlington, Ont., on Jan. 25, 2010. PETA says it was protesting the Canadian seal hunt.
Photograph by: YouTube screen capture, The Gazette

An animal-rights activist unhappy with Canada's seal hunt was being blamed Monday for striking Fisheries and Oceans Minister Gail Shea in the face with a pie during an event in Burlington, Ont.

Sgt. Brian Carr, a spokesman with the Halton Regional police, said one person is in custody following the incident.

Lindsay Rajt, a campaign manager with the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals said a woman reportedly threw a tofu cream pie into Shea's face while shouting: "Shame on Shea! Stop the slaughter of seals!"

Rajt said the incident was not organized by the animal-rights group.

In a statement following the incident, PETA executive vice-president Tracy Reiman said: "A little tofu pie on her face is hardly comparable to the blood on Ms. Shea's hands."

A spokeswoman for the minister's office said Shea was not injured in the incident.

"She got hit in the face, but she's fine," said Nancy Bishay, a spokeswoman for the minister.

Bishay said Shea cleaned up and finished her speech after the attack.

Shea was in the city just east of Hamilton to open the new Aquatic Life Research Facility. The state-of-the-art facility is a laboratory designed to study the how fish and other aquatic life deal with environmental changes. The lab is a joint project between Environment Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

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YOUR COMMENTS

Billy Eagle
January 29, 2010 - 2:10 PM [Flag this as Inappropriate](#)

Why is it that a woman can strike another woman in the face and we be asked by some to consider it a joke, and not an assault ?

P.E.T.A. was smart not to use a man for such a cowardly act, therefor not attracting the wrath of numerous woman's groups.

However noble their cause was to begin with P.I.T.A has become a group of people more interested in publicity, and donations, than reducing animal cruelty.

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dennis baker
January 27, 2010 - 6:22 AM [Flag this as Inappropriate](#)

Does anyone know what happened to the person whom pied Ralph Klein, and should the 3 stooges be band for teaching terrorism techniques ?

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Chiquitin
January 26, 2010 - 7:01 PM [Flag this as Inappropriate](#)

Norman, you carry a weak argument. Have you ever hunted? Do you understand ecological diversity and sustainability? Do you understand that an overpopulation of one species can overtake another important and needed species to extinction? Do you understand that the seal hunters are experts. What may appear to you as 'bloody' is in fact a most humane act when carried out by expert hunters. In the wildlife, predatory animals often pounce on their prey in very 'unethical' ways resulting in a bloody, painful death ... does PETA also go after these 'offenders and throw pies in their faces too'?

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dennis baker
January 26, 2010 - 5:41 PM [Flag this as Inappropriate](#)

I just wonder why the people whom comment demanding long term imprisonment, and utilize extreme language such as terrorist act to describe what some consider a gray area of non-violent civil disobedience!

Yet say nothing when a man is murdered at Vancouver Airport with 5 taser shots an act of state sponsored terrorism!

By the way I condone neither act!

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Norman
January 26, 2010 - 4:52 PM [Flag this as Inappropriate](#)

If people think this is terrorism, I hate to say Canada has not had enough bombs go off in public yet to clear the air what is and what isn't. What this lady did is much softer than what many of you would do if I clubbed your dog or cat over the head. Well guess what, just because you "OWN" your animal does not mean you care more for it than those of us who don't own the animals we care about. So if you think this is terrorism, let me at your doggie with a 2x4 wooden plank, or let me bash your kittie's head into the sidewalk until she's dead, and then tell me if you agree with the seal hunt. Terrorism. HAH! What American weakness has infected my people!?! You should all be ashamed of yourselves.

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brad
January 26, 2010 - 3:18 PM [Flag this as Inappropriate](#)

its a terrorist actput the peta lady in jailhave her spend 5 years in jail before the courts can here the charges of terror read....thats what she needs

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Chiquitin
January 26, 2010 - 6:34 AM [Flag this as Inappropriate](#)

The PETA group [People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals] are nothing more than a bunch of ecological terrorists.

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marg
January 25, 2010 - 11:48 PM [Flag this as Inappropriate](#)

Yes!

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Everybody loves pie...
January 25, 2010 - 11:16 PM [Flag this as Inappropriate](#)

kinda just dumbness don't you think? But, hey the conservatives are proroguing parliament...what is more destructive to our countries democratic ability....a pie in the face or denying democracy?

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Burt
January 25, 2010 - 10:59 PM [Flag this as Inappropriate](#)

To rlc :

The attacker was a she, not a "he." And yes, she should get jail time for several reasons, not the least of which being any victim's uncertainty over what's in the compound they've been hit with, and whether it's seriously toxic.

I'm all for animal rights, but these animal-rights extremist wingnuts only hurt the cause by damaging the credibility of the rest of us.

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Tom
January 25, 2010 - 10:26 PM [Flag this as Inappropriate](#)

Shame, shame, shame PETA! Violence is not a solution. A pie in the face is violence unless you are a comic and joker then it's funny. In you case I do not find you funny but you are jokers!

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Dennis Lawrence
January 25, 2010 - 9:59 PM [Flag this as Inappropriate](#)

How incredibly rude of anyone to believe that such behaviour is justified under any circumstances. Bad behaviour needs to be properly censured even in a free speech country. Rudeness is rudeness is rudeness. Good for Ms. Shea to be able to rise above the attack and continue her presentation!

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rlc
January 25, 2010 - 9:49 PM [Flag this as Inappropriate](#)

he should get 5 years in jail

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