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John Murtari of Lyons, New York, Practicing Civil Disobedience in Jail Valor, Virtue and Vital Signs



By [teri stoddard](#), published Nov 22, 2008
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Martin Luther King wrote: *"Nonviolent resistance ... is based on the conviction that the universe is on the side of justice. Consequently, the believer in nonviolence has deep faith in the future. This faith is another reason why the nonviolent resister can accept suffering without retaliation. For he knows that in his struggle for justice he has cosmic companionship."*

Inspired by Martin Luther King and Gandhi, John Murtari of Lyons, [New York](#) is practicing civil disobedience by personal sacrifice while incarcerated in the Wayne County jail. He has not eaten or had any water since he was arrested Monday night for driving without a license. On Friday Murtari was moved to the medical ward where they could monitor his health more closely.

Murtari claims he doesn't owe thousands of dollars in [child support](#) the State says he owes, so his license should not have been suspended. He says the support was calculated with a salary he no longer had, and travel expenses to see his son Dominic exceed the amount ordered after the courts allowed his ex-wife to move their son across the country.

Murtari, a quiet, thoughtful man and ex Air Force Training Pilot, was at one time planning on being a priest. He was in pre-seminary [training](#) when he realized he couldn't give up the experience of having a family. After his [divorce](#) Murtari saw how many families were adversely affected by bad family laws. He founded [akidsright.org](#), a group that believes the right to parent our children urgently needs to be protected.

"One foundation of morality is the supremacy of individual conscience - what many know as "let your conscience be your guide." What more natural obligation does any parent have than to care for their own kids? To be present in their lives in the many roles that only a parent can fill," wrote Murtari in an [essay](#) about civil rights on his website

"I wasn't expecting this," he said in a weak voice by [phone](#) Friday, "They were waiting for me outside my home." Murtari cooperated with police, but went passive once at the jail. Officers had to undress Murtari and put him in a jumpsuit.



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Murtari is his own worst enemy. He chose to quit his job without regard for anyone else. He chooses to earn poverty level wages so that he can portray himself as a martyr. He seems to think that other people should be taking care of him. He makes shameless pleas for people to pay for a lawyer for him. He makes more pleas for people to help him buy a new car. He then asks people to send him money while he is in jail. No doubt he will soon be trying to figure out if he can sue the county for the pepper spray incident, and begging people for donations for that as well. He is using his son as a tool to try to convince people that he is a victim of the family law system. Unfortunately, some people buy into it. His web site is a sham. He claims that it is all about a civil rights issue or matter. Yet, it is nothing more than his life story since he got divorced. He seems to be the only one that is doing anything -- yet, in delusions of grandeur he calls himself a leader. H

Posted on 11/25/2008 at 6:11:55 AM

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[teri stoddard](#)

thank you all for your comments

Posted on 11/24/2008 at 9:11:44 PM

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[Darrick Scott-Farnsworth](#)

God bless your actions, I pray that the politicians and people of New York will look at what you are trying to accomplish and act soon.

Posted on 11/24/2008 at 2:11:02 PM

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Malcolm Hatfield, MD

They take away your child because they know better, then send you a bill for their efforts...all based on speculation and opinion. I had to stand and watch my daughter move away out of State against my will. I can practice medicine, pay child support, but can't live with or near my child? How is that in the child's best interest...It's all about the federal and state matching funds for child support assessed. They can't assess you child support unless they first remove your child from your life....

Posted on 11/23/2008 at 2:11:29 PM

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Robert and Angela Pedersen

You are in our thoughts and prayers John! Please hang in there.

Posted on 11/23/2008 at 2:11:43 PM

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Joel Johnston

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John should be commended for his efforts. Whether they work will be seen. However, every non-custodial parent in this land should copy this article and send it to their elected officials and ask the question - is this what the people of our State really want? Do we want 85% of dads not getting customer of their children? Do we want 90% of non-custodial parents to see their kids 4 days or less a month? Do we want a parent moving the child away just to keep the other parent out of the lives of the child? Do we want these severe jail punishments for a father/mother that needs to drive to pay his/her support? Is this really what the people want? It's doubtful any common sense american wants to see this in our country. Yet, we all sit and watch it happen. Grasp hold of this reality and share it with all of our elected officials. Raise the NOISE from a whisper and beyond a dull roar to the rally call that is necessa

Posted on 11/22/2008 at 3:11:24 PM

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Too bad Murtari still doesn't get it. He wants to do it the peaceful way. He's dealing with a tyranny far more diabolical than Gandhi did with the British, and King did with an inept government in the 60s. And, King was executed for his "peaceful" demonstrations. Murtari is, one day, going to learn that there is a thing called an "eye for eye, and a tooth for a tooth", and that's what it's going to take against this corrupt and tyrannical government that has perfected its methods of torture and terrorism against its own people since MLK. We are going to have to shoot it out with the government pukes within the next 10-25 years, unless the US corporate government collapses under its own fraud, deception and greed, and we are battling it out with the Chinese.

Posted on 11/22/2008 at 2:11:17 PM

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