

Guilty verdict in Seattle eco-arson trial

by UPI

TACOMA, Wash. - A federal court jury convicted Briana Waters Wednesday on two counts of arson in a 2001 fire at a University of Washington horticulture lab. Waters was among of group of environmentalists from the Earth Liberation Front who torched the Center for Urban Horticulture on the Seattle campus in the mistaken belief that it was being used for experiments on genetically modifying trees, a report said. The Seattle Times said the jury in Tacoma failed to reach a verdict on one count of conspiracy and two charges involving the possession of bombs, which could have resulted in a 30-year prison term for the former Olympia resident. Waters testified during the trial that she had nothing to do with the \$1.5 million fire; however, two defendants who had turned state's evidence testified that she had been a lookout when the fire was set. The jury began its deliberations last Friday. On Monday a row of homes under construction outside Seattle was burned down in an arson fire that the Earth Liberation Front allegedly took credit for.

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