

Canadian Indians sued over train blockades

by UPI

TORONTO -- Three Indian leaders in Ontario are being sued by Canadian National Railways for their roles in protests that blocked an arterial rail line in 2007.

The suit dates to April 21, 2007, when Mohawks blocked the main east-west CN tracks in Deseronto, 135 miles east of Toronto, The Globe and Mail reported Friday.

"The blockades have caused damages through increased yard congestion at CN's facilities, including increased costs of yard crew activities," the suit alleges. "The blockades have caused damages through loss of revenue to CN and increased costs for CN's customers."

The damages sought weren't published.

One of the three leaders named in the suit, Shawn Brant, told the newspaper the suit wasn't a deterrent and his people would continue to use "any and all means in order to force this government and future governments to do the right thing for first nations people who are living in squalor."

In response, the Indians filed a \$10 million countersuit claiming "CN should be punished for trespassing; causing noise, water and air pollution; and scaring away game," the newspaper said.

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