

Rally at Zen Studies Society in protest of Eido Shimano's 50 years of clergy sexual exploitation and financial misconduct.

On Wednesday morning, the 8th of December, the sun will rise in Manhattan at 7:07 A.M. Those who are on the sidewalk at the Zen Studies Society at 223 East 67th Street hope to draw attention to the sexual and financial deprivations of Eido Tai Shimano, Abbot of Shobo-ji and Dai Bosatsu Zendo.

Dec.8, by some reckonings, marks the day on which Gautama Buddha attained enlightenment. It will also mark the day on which Mr. Shimano will allegedly retire after 50 years of teaching in the U.S.A. During that time, Mr. Shimano received much membership help in constructing and maintaining Sho Bo Ji, a New York City Zen temple, and Dai Bosatsu Zendo in upstate New York. During those same 50 years, he was also responsible for sowing confusion and sadness and pain within the same sanghas that created the zendos Mr. Shimano led as abbot.

His sexual manipulations of students were brazen enough so that even The New York Times published a feature article titled "Sex Scandal has American Buddhist's Looking Within". They also led, largely through the efforts of Robert Aitken Roshi and the Rev. Kobutsu Malone, to the creation of the Shimano Archive, (www.shimanoarchive.com) an extensive collection of documents detailing painful circumstances to which Mr. Shimano has never seen fit to respond directly and honestly.

Wednesday's rally aims to underscore the desire to redress the unethical wrongs of 50 years and to remove (as suggested by the Faith Trust Institute) any connection between Mr. Shimano and the two Zen centers he has led. The suffering Mr. Shimano sowed may never be repaired, but those rallying hope to emphasize the fact that there is no need to prolong or repeat them.

An online petition can be signed at this site:

www.sanghaconvergence.com

Full Coverage of the Situation is at:

<http://www.shimanoarchive.com/>

At least three active blogs following this situation are:

Robert Aitken - <http://robertaitken.blogspot.com/2010/05/eido-tai-shimano-roshi.html>

Genkaku Again - <http://genkaku-again.blogspot.com/2010/02/eido-tai-shimano.html>

Tricycle - <http://www.tricycle.com/p/2271?page=3>