

# Special report

## Patriots

Press Page One  
ments also were accused of crimes ranging from conspiracy to over-tempting to murder a federal judge and FBI agent in Arkansas.

But while that movement has faded, been disrupted by arrests or gone underground elsewhere, one reactionary group remains strong in remote Cortez, located in the Four Corners region.

### The Cortez constitutionalists say they have forsaken violence and made the system their own.

I've been a lawyer for a long time and I just didn't want to get up with these things. Aiken said they declined further comment.

## Nation's laws, group says

When he tried to leave, he was arrested and jailed on a second charge of interfering with the due process of law.

Teaching non-lawyers how to fight cases on subpoenas and rights issues is the goal of courses offered through Barristers' Inn of Boise, Idaho.

### 'If individuals' constitutional rights were being violated by our laws and our procedures, our courts would very quickly issue decisions saying, 'Don't do this.'"

said 22nd Judicial District Attorney Dean Johnson.

of a rural Cortez family to six months in jail they refused to get a \$45 sewer permit, and Wilson declined to bear an appeal in the same case.

### 'They have the power to absolutely crush the judicial system as we know it today,' said former District Judge Robert Wilson.

But he agreed that the constitutionalists' ones that are filed are fought to the bitter end. Some examples.

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Dean Johnson, 22nd Judicial District attorney, said the stack of motions and abstract legal arguments that came during the sewer permit case are typical of the constitutionalists' cases.

He also alleged that the charge itself is void, because it was filed by the district attorney instead of a grand jury.

## Authorities see threat of violence

CORTEZ — Area law enforcement agencies believe that Cortez constitutionalists are well-armed and potentially dangerous, with charges of military weapons and explosives hidden somewhere in Montezuma County.

Justice now often belongs to the rich and the educated, who can afford the best lawyers, said Basil.



Constitutionalists Jerry Russell, Hank Brown and Ed Novotny have decided that bucking the system is the best way to preserve their rights as defined by the U.S. Constitution.

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