

Who is Oso Blanco aka "Robin the Hood?"

Oso Blanco is an indigenous activist originally serving 80 years in prison for a series of bank expropriations throughout the southwest from 1998 to 1999. In 2016, 25 years were taken off his sentence when he won his *Johnson v. U.S.* appeal.

Oso Blanco is an enrolled citizen by blood of the Cherokee Nation. His grandfather was from the Choctaw Nation. The State refers to him by his birth name, Byron Shane Chubbuck. His indigenous name is Oso Blanco or Yona Unega in Cherokee. He was known to the FBI as 'Robin the Hood' because he informed the bank tellers he was expropriating funds to assist the poor and indigenous people fighting for independence in the southern Mexican state of Chiapas.

Write To Oso Blanco

Oso Blanco (Byron Chubbuck)*
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*Address envelope to Byron Chubbuck, letter to Oso Blanco



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Oso Blanco Political Prisoner



Indigenous rights activist serving 55 years for bank robbery, aggravated assault on the FBI, escape, and firearms charges. A confidential informant reported that Oso Blanco was robbing banks in order to acquire funds to support the Zapatista rebellion in Chiapas, Mexico throughout 1998 to 1999.

Legal Case

In August 13, 1999, two FBI agents investigating the series of bank expropriations came to Oso Blanco's apartment. The agents were interviewing Oso Blanco's wife when he entered. A shootout between the agents and Oso Blanco erupted and he was able to flee. During the shootout no one was injured.

Oso Blanco was found a little while later in an adjacent apartment with family members.



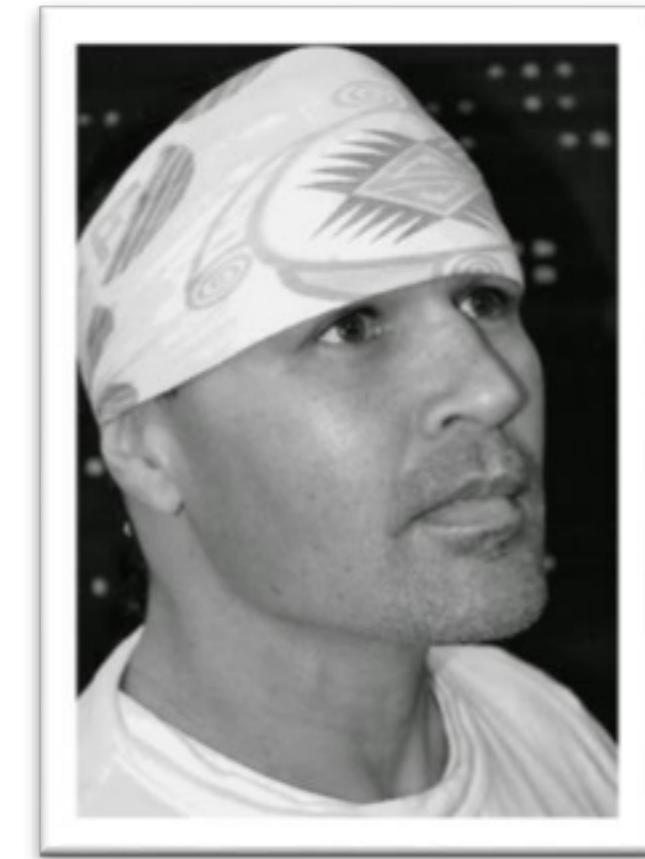
The FBI surrounded the apartment within a half hour, and Oso Blanco allowed the family members to leave unharmed. Oso Blanco bashed through the walls in the building to slip into adjacent apartments in an effort to escape. He went through two or three apartments before emerging more than two hours later. Oso Blanco tried to run but was captured after being shot with several bean bags and attacked by a police dog.

He was charged with the robbery of 13 banks and the attempted robbery of a 14th. In addition to the robberies, he was also charged with two counts of assaulting a peace officer, two counts of possessing and discharging a firearm, and one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm, all in connection to the standoff.

On December 21, 2000, while being transported by the US Marshall's service from Albuquerque Federal Court to Santa Fe County Jail, Oso Blanco was able to remove his handcuffs, belly chains, and shackles. He then kicked out the back window of the prison transport van and escaped custody.



"Coiled Serpent" by Oso Blanco



During his escape, Oso Blanco continued to expropriate funds to send to Chiapas, Mexico. Authorities believe he expropriated funds from about eight banks after his self-liberation. He was placed on the "15 most wanted" fugitive list. On February 2001, Oso Blanco was recaptured after sustaining a gunshot wound to his chest, shot by Albuquerque police. In the end, Oso Blanco was accused of expropriating funds from about 20 to 22 banks. He was convicted on 14 of those charges. It is estimated that he expropriated at least \$165,000.

More information:
freeosoblanco.org