

Category	Other Document Type
Title	South Africa recognizes Scientology as a Religion by granting Ministers the Right to marry
Source	“Church of Scientology International”
Author	“Church of Scientology International”
Date	April 3rd, 2000

Contents:

For further information contact: (323) 960-3500

In a decision that honors the South African government’s declared commitment to treat all religions equally, the Department of Home Affairs today granted twelve ministers of the Church of Scientology the right to marry. The decision will legalize all marriages performed by Scientology Ministers and means that Scientology is now fully recognized as a bona fide religion in South Africa.

Rev. Heber C. Jentsch, President of the Church of Scientology International, said the recognition shows that South Africa has emerged as a leader in establishing the rights of all religions.

“South Africans are a deeply spiritual people, and we are delighted that the government has recognized the contribution Scientology can make in the new South Africa,” said Rev. Jentsch, who gave a Scientology service to clergy of diverse faiths at the Parliament of the World’s Religions in Cape Town in December.

Said Jentsch, “Official recognition as a bona fide religion will assist the Church in fulfilling its mandate to improve society and minister to the spiritual needs of all South Africans - a wish expressed by former President Mandela who called on religions to help the government solve social problems.”

As South Africa emerged from the Apartheid era, it began a series of broad reforms in the field of human rights - adopting a new Constitution and signing international human rights treaties.

Religious freedom has been part of these overall reforms. Last year, the South African Law Commission recommended that “the matrimonial law should be harmonized with the social changes in South African society and...effect be given to the principles of religious freedom and equal treatment which are contained in the South African Constitution.”

Paul Sondergaard, spokesman for the Church in South Africa, welcomed the recognition as an expression of the government’s determination to protect the rights of minority religions. “In approving the application of our ministers, the government applied the

Marriage Act within the framework of a living Constitution that prohibits both religious and racial discrimination,” he said.

Mr. Sondergaard also viewed the recognition as an acknowledgment of the work done by the Church’s ministers and their congregation in the fields of literacy, drug education and criminal rehabilitation.

During apartheid, Scientologists worked unceasingly to improve the lives of black South Africans, delivering seminars based on the educational principles developed by L. Ron Hubbard to more than a million students. In the mid-1970’s, the Church’s human rights journal Freedom uncovered remote “caps” where black psychiatric patients were being held in primitive conditions and exploited as slave labor.

Although the apartheid government promptly banned Freedom, the Church took its evidence to the United Nations and the Red Cross. After apartheid collapsed, the new government ordered an inquiry. The enquiry established a charter of rights for psychiatric patients which recently culminated in the broadly promoted charter of human rights for South Africa.

The Church of Scientology in South Africa was founded in 1957 in Johannesburg. Churches of Scientology now exist in Pretoria, Durban, Port Elizabeth, Capetown and Randburg, where a total of more than 240 ministers and religious staff minister to the spiritual needs of approximately 65,000 parishioners.

The recognition comes just three weeks after all Churches of Scientology in Sweden were recognized and registered as “religious communities” by the Swedish government.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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May 2, 2000

U.S. TRADE REPRESENTATIVE PUTS GERMANY ON WATCH LIST FOR PROCUREMENT PRACTICES DISCRIMINATING AGAINST SCIENTOLOGISTS

For the first time ever, the U.S. Trade Representative has placed Germany on a list of countries engaged in “discriminatory foreign procurement practices” over its mistreatment of Scientologists.

The Trade Representative’s Annual Report, issued from the Executive Office of the President, represents a substantial toughening of U.S. government criticism of Germany for discrimination against Scientologists. The Report strongly criticizes German governmental agencies and private firms for requiring companies to execute clauses disavowing any association with the religion of Scientology and its principles before a contract may be signed.

Although the U.S. State Department has criticized governmental religious discrimination against Scientologists in every annual human rights report on Germany since 1993, the intervention of the U.S. Trade Representative demonstrates escalating American concern. The denunciation of German procurement practices targeting Scientologists is

the most unequivocal and comprehensive to date. It indicates that in the view of the U.S. government, such practices threaten American trade.

Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky states in the Report that upon learning of German government clauses excluding Scientologists from contractual relations, “the Administration raised its concerns with the German government and continues to press the Germans to repeal this discriminatory policy.”

Rev. Heber C. Jentsch, President of the Church of Scientology International, welcomed the addition of Germany to the watch list, calling the measure “an unequivocal condemnation of the harm certain German government officials have tried to cause American and German Scientologists in pursuit of this deplorable policy of ostracism and discrimination.

“The clauses in these contracts are deliberately designed to require an individual to either declare his religious beliefs and be punished for them by being blacklisted or boycotted, or publicly renounce his beliefs under the threat of economic sanctions,” said Rev. Jentsch. “Germany has an obligation and duty to set a trend for human rights in this new century. She can begin by rescinding the discriminatory practices that blacken her reputation as a democracy.”

The criticism of Germany is included under the Title VII Report, which lists only five other countries around the world engaged in discriminatory trade practices. According to Executive Order 13116, signed by President Clinton on March 31, 1999, identification under Title VII indicates that a foreign country “maintains, in government procurement, a significant pattern or practice of discrimination against U.S. products or services which results in identifiable harm to U.S. businesses.....”

The Report states, in part:

“Policy guidance issued by the German Federal Government has raised concerns about a potential for discrimination against U.S. firms in procurement decisions by German entities... at least one major U.S. supplier has had to undergo a qualification process that was significantly more extensive than that required by its competitors.”


Such a policy designed to discriminate on the basis of religious belief and association is reprehensible. It is also manifestly illegal and in flagrant violation of international human rights treaties which protect the right to freedom of conscience and belief. Last year, the State Social Court of Rhineland-Palatinate in Germany ruled against the government

and for a Scientologist who had been denied an employment license solely because she is a member of the Church of Scientology. The Court held that the denial of her license, based on an order by former Federal Labor Minister Norbert Bluem, was unconstitutional.

Scientology was founded by philosopher and humanitarian L. Ron Hubbard in 1954. As part of its social mission the Church supports many charitable and social programs in the areas of drug rehabilitation, criminal reform and literacy programs.

[For more information on Scientology, click here.](#)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JUNE 14, 2000

TESTIMONY AT HOUSE HEARINGS EXPOSES ABUSES IN GERMANY, FRANCE

Joining U.S. State Department experts, Jehovah's Witnesses and other Christians from America and Austria, members of the Church of Scientology testified before Congress Wednesday on how the German and French governments are violating international human rights covenants by making religious affiliation a basis for denying democratic freedoms.

Actress Catherine Bell of the popular CBS TV series "JAG", a Scientologist herself, spoke before the House International Relations Committee on behalf of German members of her church whose businesses have been boycotted, their houses picketed and scrawled with graffiti, and their children expelled from schools, for no reason other than their religion. She described in human terms what it means to be a member of a minority religion living in Germany and France, and accused the French and German governments of deliberately fomenting a climate of religious intolerance.

Bell strongly criticized the German Ambassador to the United States, Juergen Chrobog, for his refusal to testify at the hearing.

"The Ambassador has not hesitated to discuss his government's position on Scientology with members of the press and with certain members of this Committee *in private*... [his] repeated refusal [to testify]

betrays the fact that there is neither defense nor justification for his government's position.”

Craig Jensen, an American Scientologist and CEO of Executive Software, [accused the German government of attempting to boycott American companies because of the minority religious affiliation of their CEOs](#). When German officials discovered Microsoft had included his company's innovative software in Windows 2000, they threatened a boycott of the program, solely because of Jensen's religion. Microsoft refused to bow to German pressure.

In April, citing the German government's use of so-called “filters” which make employment and contractual religions conditional on non-membership in Scientology, the U.S. Trade Representative included Germany on a list of six countries engaged in discriminatory trade practices which threaten American trade.

American Scientologist and legendary jazz musician Chick Corea provided the Committee with [written testimony](#) describing a 7-year campaign by the German government to deny him the right to perform his art in Germany. Most recently, German officials threatened to fire the artistic director of a music festival in Bremen if he permitted Mr. Corea to perform with the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie at a concert in October.


The U.S. State Department has criticized the German government for religious discrimination in every one of its annual human rights reports since 1993. More recently, the U.S. Congress has presented an avenue of reform with House Resolution 388 and Senate Resolution 230 — Resolutions which now have more than 50 co-sponsors. The Resolutions express concern over governmental religious discrimination against a range of minority faiths in Germany and put pressure on the German government to comply with international human rights laws.

More than 20 German Scientologists attended the hearing, many of whom have been compelled to leave their native land and live in the United States to practice their religion freely. Among them was a woman granted asylum by a U.S. Immigration Court on the grounds that she faced religious persecution if she had to return to Germany.

The Church's determination to end governmental religious discrimination in Germany and France is consistent with its fifty-year history of crusading for human rights around the world. The founder of Scientology, philosopher and humanitarian L. Ron Hubbard, set the tone for such work when he wrote, “Human rights must be made a fact, not an idealistic dream.”

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Category	Other Document Type
Title	Church of Scientology exonerated
Source	“PR Newswire”
Author	Michael Rinder
Date	June 14th, 2000

Contents:

Pinellas County, Fla. - The Pinellas County Florida State Attorney dismissed charges against the Church of Scientology today in a highly publicized case. In November, 1998 the State brought charges against the Clearwater based Church, claiming the Church was negligent in caring for one of its parishioners who passed away in December 1995.

The decision came after the local Medical Examiner amended the death certificate of Lisa McPherson finding that the death was accidental and not attributable to any actions of the Church or its staff.

Church spokesman Mike Rinder stated: “We are very pleased that the State Attorney’s office took the appropriate action in dismissing the case once they had the opportunity to review all the evidence. This is a watershed that marks the end of an era of distrust and misunderstanding.

“We thoroughly investigated the matter, looked at the evidence, called in the leading experts and presented the information to the Medical Examiner. She reviewed the information and changed the death certificate and the State Attorney’s Office did the responsible thing. They could have just waited for the court to rule on the pending motions to dismiss the charges - one based on the destruction of exculpatory evidence by the Medical Examiner’s Office and the other based on constitutional grounds.

“A lot of false allegations were made over the past few years. But that’s history now. That is why we have been working so hard not just on finding out what really happened with Lisa but to also improve relations here so there will never be any misunderstandings like this in the future.

“Lisa McPherson’s death was a tragedy that saddened Scientologists more than anyone. The objective science has proven Lisa McPherson’s death was an accident and unavoidable. She died of a pulmonary embolism (blood clot in the lungs). Over 100,000 Americans die each year from a pulmonary embolism and in those cases, as here, it is always a shocking experience to those who loved the deceased since pulmonary embolisms are silent killers, virtually unpredictable and not preventable.

“Unfortunately, a few people saw fit to capitalize on the death of a member of our religion in the most unseemly way possible. They invented all manner of stories about Ms. McPherson, covered extensively in the media, which were proven to be untrue.”

One of the most widely reported claims was that Ms. McPherson suffered a 50 pound weight loss while in the Church's care. In fact, the evidence now shows she lost no weight. Allegations had also been made that Ms. McPherson was dehydrated, and that this had contributed to her death. Evidence provided by numerous experts showed that Ms. McPherson was not dehydrated, and scientific literature shows dehydration has never in medical history caused a pulmonary embolism.

"We thus endeavored to do two things for both the resolution of these charges and the good of the community," Rinder said. "First, we presented all objective evidence we had to the State Attorney, allowing him to review it in as neutral an atmosphere as possible. Second, we embarked on a program to bring greater understanding and harmony to our relationships with the community to end the era of distrust - by both sides - so any incident in the future could be handled in a way that would prevent a similar injustice and huge waste of time and money. And we have made great strides in this regard."

The dismissal of the charges will directly impact the pending civil suit filed by Ms McPherson's aunt.

"We expect the distant aunt of Lisa McPherson to drop her civil case," Rinder said. "She has testified she only wanted to find out what happened to Lisa, and now she knows. Her case has become a forum used by hate mongers to pursue their own agenda in a morbid celebration over the death of a person they never knew, but despised anyway because of her chosen religion. It is time to let Lisa's friends - those who loved and cared for her - have closure on this matter rather than having to fight the efforts of those trying to use her death as a means for gold digging."

Source: Church of Scientology

Contact: Mike Rinder, 727-467-6860, for the Church of Scientology/

Web site: <http://www.scientology.org/>

Category	Other Document Type
Title	Thousands including Scientologists, Christians, Moslems, Hindus hold Religious Freedom Protest Rally in France
Source	“PR Newswire”
Author	
Date	October 24th, 2000

Contents:

In Paris, Archer, Hayes, Alley, Fresh Denounce Governmental Religious Discrimination

Paris - Scientologists, Christians, Hindus and Moslems, including world-renowned artists and prominent human rights advocates, demonstrated in their thousands yesterday at a rally for religious freedom in Paris. The event was coordinated by the Church of Scientology to protest governmental persecution of minority religions in France.

On Friday, the Paris Prefect, Mr. Philippe Massoni arbitrarily denied permission for the religious freedom march from La Place de la Bastille to la Place de la Republique. The Church of Scientology has denounced his refusal, which he issued a single working day before the event despite weeks of advance notice, as “premeditated repression intended to cause maximum harassment and to deny French citizens their constitutional rights of freedom of assembly and speech, solely because of their religious affiliation.”

“Among Western European countries, only in France is governmental repression of religious minorities so severe that they are not allowed to march for freedom of conscience and belief,” said Rev. Heber Jentzsch, President of the Church of Scientology International.

In Paris, musicians Isaac Hayes and Doug E. Fresh, and actresses Kirstie Alley and Anne Archer signed a “Declaration for Personal and Spiritual Freedom. The Declaration condemns the “anti-religious, anti-democratic, anti-constitutional and, thus, anti-French campaigns which have caused members of persecuted religions to lose employment; have their careers ruined; have their artistic freedom destroyed; have the custody of their own children refused and/or the choice for their children’s education denied; and other, similar acts of oppression.”

The Declaration targets Alain Vivian of the French government’s “interministerial Mission to Fight Against Sects” as the principal fomenter of hatred and intolerance of scores of religious movements, in collaboration with the Renseignements Genereaux - French domestic intelligence police - and certain named politicians.

Those targeted as the source of religious intolerance have been invited to defend their actions at a Religious Hate Crime Tribunal today, at which members of minority religions will testify about the abuses before a panel of expert scholars.

Instead of marching on Monday, delegations laid wreaths outside government offices, in symbolic of the French Constitution, over whose corpse fanatic government officials have erected “a tombstone of intolerance injustice.”

The French government is now regarded by international human rights organizations as the most repressive in Western Europe towards religious freedom. Fifteen members of the Council of Europe’s Parliamentary Assembly have issued a call for France to respect human rights and investigate reports of religious discrimination.

A petition from 40 minority religions has also been filed with the President of the Council of Europe Assembly calling for the Council’s assistance in defeating a repressive bill currently before the French Senate.

On October 3, the International Relations Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously passed a Resolution which criticized France for intolerance towards a wide range of minority faiths.

Source: Church of Scientology International

Contact: Karin Pouw of Church of Scientology International, 323-960-3500.

url: <http://www.scientology.org>



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 27, 2001

SCIENTOLOGISTS TO SEEK CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION CRITICIZING FRANCE AND GERMANY FOR RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION

LOS ANGELES: Following the release of the State Department's Annual Human Rights Report, the Church of Scientology will seek a congressional resolution condemning the German and French governments for religious discrimination.

The State Department accuses the German government of threatening a Berlin hotel owner with "several hundred thousand dollars" of lost business if he rented rooms to the Church of Scientology. The French government is blasted for creating a climate "of intolerance and bias against minority religions."

"The report shows that blacklisting, destruction of one's career, and intimidation of one's family are facts of life for religious believers in France and Germany today," said Rev. Heber Jentsch, President of the Church of Scientology International.

German officials fabricated concerns about Microsoft's Windows 2000, solely because one of its components is produced by a company owned by a Scientologist. Private firms in Germany cite government action "as a justification for discrimination" and German officials target

minority Christian groups, the report finds.


In France, the president of a parliamentary report on “sects” made high-profile accusations in the media about one group, but a court found that “existing evidence did not warrant even a serious inquiry into their activities,” the report states. The official, a French MP, was convicted for defamation and the methods of the commission condemned.

Rev. Jentsch said that Scientologists and members of other minority religions will seek congressional censure of French and German violations of international human rights law. Last October, the House International Relations Committee unanimously passed a Resolution targeting France, Germany, Belgium and Austria for religious intolerance. Congress ended before the full House could vote on the legislation.

Scientology was founded by writer, philosopher and humanitarian L. Ron Hubbard. The Church of Scientology now ministers to a congregation of millions in more than 145 countries.

[For more information on Scientology, click here.](#)

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Category	Other Document Type
Title	Annual world-wide Celebration honors Author and Humanitarian L. Ron Hubbard
Source	“PR Newswire”
Author	Jason Medeiros
Date	March 12th, 2001

Contents:

Author, humanitarian, philosopher, founder of the subjects of Dianetics and Scientology wrote 35 national best sellers with over 151 million works sold internationally. Over 100 mayors in the United States annually proclaim March 13th as L. Ron Hubbard Day recognizing his humanitarian contributions to drug rehabilitation, education and criminal reform

Los Angeles - American author and humanitarian L. Ron Hubbard will be recognized on his birth date in cities around the world for his contributions to education, drug reform and discoveries about the human mind and spirit.

The yearly global commemorative event will center around a satellite-broadcasted event which is expected to reach people in more than 60 countries. 8,000 people are expected to attend the event in Los Angeles at the Universal Amphitheater on March 17th.

The satellite broadcast will be seen at events in 35 US cities including New York, San Francisco, Chicago, Boston, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Miami, Portland and Dallas. Several thousand expected to attend in Clearwater, FL.

L. Ron Hubbard (1911-1986) wrote over 40 million words of non-fiction but is most widely known today for his best-selling self-improvement book, “Dianetics” which still continues to break publishing records as it celebrates its 51st anniversary this year.

Although he is also known as a magnum-force in the science fiction field, just over 10% of his 20 million words of fiction works were written in this genre. With a professional writing career spanning more than 50 years, Mr. Hubbard’s works continue to sell making total of 37 national best selling books.

In the last decade there has been a growing awareness of his humanitarian work in the fields of drug rehabilitation, literacy and criminal reform. L. Ron Hubbard’s revolutionary drug rehabilitation methods are presently employed in 70 nations and are credited with 250,000 lives salvaged from drugs. One California judge said, “These programs present the only real hope for a safe environment and neighborhood.”

During the past year, recognitions have come in again from around the world. Business leaders, teachers, parents, diplomats and government officials acknowledged Mr. Hubbard’s influence in many ways, with proclamations, keys to cities, resolutions and

awards. Over 100 U.S. mayors honor Hubbard's life of accomplishments by proclaiming March 13th, 2001 as L. Ron Hubbard Day.

Source: Bridge Publications

Contact: Jason Medeiros of Bridge Publications, 323-953-3294

url: <http://www.bridgepub.com>



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 30, 2001

U.S. TRADE REPRESENTATIVE KEEPS GERMANY ON WATCH LIST FOR PROCUREMENT PRACTICES AGAINST SCIENTOLOGISTS; BUT ACKNOWLEDGES GERMAN EFFORTS TO RESOLVE ISSUE

For the second successive year, the U.S. Trade Representative has cited Germany in its "Title VII" Report identifying discriminatory foreign government procurement practices. Germany was cited for the governmental use of "sect filters", at federal and state level, and in the private sector, that require applicants for contractual relations or employment to disavow any association with the religion of Scientology and its principles before a contract may be signed.

The Report states, however, that the German government has revised the filter to make it less restrictive. According to the Title VII report, the revision "no longer prohibits firms from competing for government contracts on the basis of the affiliation of its management or employees with the Church of Scientology." The U.S. Trade Rep states that the Administration will continue to monitor the issue.

The Church of Scientology International's Human Rights Director, Leisa Goodman, stated that the revision is "a step in the right direction but not good enough." She emphasized that "any filter that discriminates against individuals or organizations is unacceptable. We will continue to

work with the U.S. State Department and the U.S. Trade Rep's office to bring about a permanent end to any and all economic, commercial and of course religious discrimination against our parishioners." She noted that two recent rulings by German courts have held that use of a "sect filter" is unlawful.

The German Foreign Ministry's Political Director, Klaus Schairoth, informed the U.S. Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs, Marc Grossman, of the change in an official exchange of letters this month. The U.S. reply, dated April 20, acknowledged the German government's "efforts to address our concerns" but reiterated that "it is important to us that no U.S. firm be barred from competing for contracts at the state or federal level based on the religious affiliation of its employees." The US reply stated that, "we also understand that, in the context of government procurement, no U.S. firm will be asked to submit to verification or other qualification procedures not required of other foreign firms in any other government procurement, in a manner inconsistent with Germany's WTO [World Trade Organization] obligations."

This concern is, in part, a reference to the refusal of German state and federal offices to procure Windows 2000 last year on the grounds that a component for the program was produced by Executive Software, whose founder and CEO is a Scientologist.


Last year's Trade Representative's Annual Report, issued from the Executive Office of the President, represented a substantial toughening of U.S. government criticism of Germany for discrimination against Scientologists. In November 2000, in a public statement, the federal German government conceded that the use of "sect filters" posed a problem in its international trade relations.

The "Title VII" process, initially established under Title VII of the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988 ("Title VII"), as amended, provides a vehicle for identifying priorities for international negotiations that may address discriminatory foreign government procurement practices and for monitoring and enforcing existing international agreements. After the Title VII legislation expired in 1996, the process was reinstated by Executive Order 13116 on March 31, 1999.

[Scientology](#) was founded by philosopher and humanitarian [L. Ron Hubbard](#) in 1954. As part of its social mission the Church supports [many charitable and social programs](#) in the areas of [drug rehabilitation](#), [criminal reform](#) and [literacy programs](#).

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Category	Other Document Type
Title	Church of Scientology files Human Rights Application against France before European Court of Human Rights over Controversial Law Other Churches expected to follow
Source	“Church of Scientology International”
Author	Leisa Goodman
Date	August 9th, 2001

Contents:

For immediate release
For further information

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Leisa Goodman 323 960 3500 (in US/Canada only) 323 960 3508/9 (fax)

Before the ink has dried on a new French “anti-religious” law, the Church of Scientology has taken the lead in filing a legal action to the European Court of Human Rights to have it declared in violation of the European Convention on Human Rights.

The Church’s application, filed by barristers from Blackstone Chambers, one of the most respected British law firms with a significant human rights practice, has been brought in exceptional circumstances. Said Daniele Gounord, the Church’s Public Relations Director, “An extremist clique, comprising only 3.5 % of the French legislature, has managed to pass a law that amounts to a death sentence for freedom of conscience and belief in France.

“This law will inevitably create prisoners of conscience. Thousands of innocent believers face the prospect of massive fines and prison sentences, solely for exercising their rights to believe and peacefully associate as they choose. “The Church’s application to the European Court is therefore intended to protect not only our rights, but those of everyone,” she added.

The application is likely to be the starting point for a wave of litigation. Lawyers representing other religious organizations are also preparing complaints against France to the Court. One human rights organization has stated that now the law is has been enacted, it will be far easier to challenge French government discrimination in court. A Christian and a Buddhist group have already filed suit against France in Strasbourg, asking the Human Rights Court to declare illegal a 1995 parliamentary report that, as the groups contend, violates the European Convention on Human Rights. French law offers no mechanism to rectify the violations of citizens’ rights by the Parliamentary Report and the Strasbourg Court was therefore approached for help.

International human rights and many religious organizations have condemned the new French law as repressive and in violation of international human rights treaties.

The hotly contested legislation was passed on May 30, over intense opposition by the French Catholic and Protestant Churches, the Jewish and Islamic communities, fifty representatives of the Council of Europe, international human rights organizations, and leading French jurists. The applicant, the Church of Scientology, alleges that the law is a blatantly illegal attempt to dissolve minority churches in France and make it impossible for parishioners to worship according to their conscience. The law also goes against a public statement by the Ministry of the Interior that due to a 1905 French law on the separation of church and state, the government recognizes no such concept as “sect” and cannot pass judgment on religious beliefs.

As a result of a petition by 40 religious and human rights organizations, the Council of Europe has appointed a rapporteur who is investigating the law and cases of religious discrimination in France. In its 2001 report on religious freedom worldwide, “Aid to the Church in Need”, an international Catholic charity operating under papal jurisdiction, added France to the list of countries with discriminatory legislation.

European countries like Sweden, Holland, Britain, Norway, and Switzerland have refused to adopt the French approach. A 1998 Swedish government commission criticized France for “declaring war” on religious movements. “Nothing should be done to augment disagreement between these movements and the rest of the community,” the Commission concluded. “On the contrary, society should help to bring about a dialogue between all parties concerned.”

These criticisms of the French government have become even sharper because, in contrast to the reactions of democratic administrations, regimes notorious for human rights abuses have embraced the law. The Chinese government regularly cites French government actions against minority faiths to justify its brutal persecution of the Falun Gong and Christian movements. The Hong Kong government is studying the French model with a view to introducing it to suppress the Falun Gong.

French Senator Nicolas About and National Assembly member Catherine Picard worked with Alain Vivien, president of the French government’s “Interministerial Commission to Fight Against Sects”, to draft the legislation. It provides for the dissolution of religious organizations found guilty of two or more relatively minor offences, either directly or by perceived leaders. For example, an entire church could face dissolution if a leader was found guilty of causing a traffic accident leading to bodily injury. Draconian penalties including heavy fines and prison sentences would be enforced on any parishioner who then attempted to reestablish the Church, even as a different corporation.

The Church of Scientology alleges that About, Picard and Vivien have made clear during parliamentary debates and in media statements that they intend to use the law to deny its tens of thousands of parishioners their right to practice their religion.

Scientology is a religion founded by writer and humanitarian L. Ron Hubbard, best known as the author of Dianetics, the Modern Science of Mental Health, published in more than 50 languages. The Church has earned many commendations for effective

programs that utilize the works of L. Ron Hubbard to resolve drug abuse, illiteracy and crime. It has 30,000 members in France.

Category	Other Document Type
Title	Grief Counselors, Pain Counselors, and Trauma Relief Training available free nationwide
Source	“PR Newswire”
Author	Scientologists Parishioners League
Date	September 15th, 2001

Contents:

Nearly Anyone Can Learn Basic Techniques

New York - Families of victims, those injured, even emotionally distraught rescue workers can call 1-800-FOR-TRUTH (1-800-367-8788) to receive effective trauma counseling after the recent tragedies.

Those wishing to help others can learn where to receive training in these counseling techniques through the same phone number. Both counseling and the training in counseling methods are delivered free by Volunteer Ministers of the Churches of Scientology around the country. Callers will be directed to their nearest resource.

Scientology Volunteer Ministers were immediately on the front lines in New York City and Washington DC after the tragedies. Hundreds are on site and more are coming to New York from across the nation.

“By teaching these techniques to hundreds of concerned citizens at ground zero in New York and Washington DC, we effectively spread real relief to thousands,” said Rev. Susan Taylor, president of the Founding Church of Scientology of Washington DC.

The fundamental techniques can be learned in less than an hour and have been used successfully for 50 years and on six continents. They do not substitute for medical care.

Volunteer Ministers have worked hand-in-hand with Federal Emergency Management Administration personnel, International and American Red Cross, paramedics, and foreign disaster relief agencies. Ministers assisted thousands in natural and man-made disasters including after devastating earthquakes including those in Los Angeles, Columbia, Sakhalin Island, Japan, India and Taiwan.

Scientologists helped victims and volunteers after Oklahoma City’s Federal Building bombing and 1999 tornadoes. Volunteer Ministers assisted after Hurricane Andrew in Florida, George in Puerto Rico, and Mitch in Nicaragua. They were on site in war-torn Kosovo and refugee camps in Armenia. They counseled and collected food following Papua, New Guinea’s tidal wave.

The easily learned counseling procedures include the “Touch Assist” which restores a person’s communication with injured parts of the body. Touch Assists are used with first

aid and proper medical care. The “Locational Assist” helps a disoriented, confused, or stunned person regain awareness of other people and the environment. During emergencies, this helps a person “re-focus” and start helping others.

Volunteer Ministers have also trained thousands to deliver these assists, including civil defense organizations, law enforcement, youth groups and people from every walk of life. Those trained have helped countless others.

Assists utilize methods developed by L. Ron Hubbard. Visit www.volunteerministers.org or call 1-800-367-8788. Email vm@volunteerministers.org.

Source: Scientology Parishioners League



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Church of Scientology International
HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 13, 2001

BERLIN COURT ENJOINS STATE OF BERLIN FROM SPYING ON SCIENTOLOGISTS

In a decision that destroys the rationale the German government uses to justify discriminatory measures against Scientologists, the Berlin Administrative Court today ruled that the government has no basis to employ covert agents against the Church of Scientology and its members, and enjoined the state of Berlin from doing so.

The Court held that the Office for the Protection of the Constitution (OPC), Germany's domestic security service, provided no credible evidence in support of its use of undercover operatives. After four years of surveillance, there are no indicators of any activities by the Church or Scientologists to justify the spying measure.

"The court has struck a decisive blow for democracy and human rights. Today's victory gives us the tool to dismantle the entire machinery of discrimination against Scientologists in Germany," said Leisa Goodman, Human Rights Director for the Church of Scientology International.

She added that, "OPC agents have been harassing Scientologists for four years, and have engaged in every dirty trick in the book. We congratulate the court for having the courage to defend the Constitution against the so-called Office for the Protection of the Constitution."

The Court also held that OPC had twisted the meaning of certain statements in Scientology literature, presented them out of context, and mistranslated them from the original English text. The statements the OPC cited clearly referred to a striving for heightened awareness on a spiritual level, the court noted.

The U.S. State Department, several members of Congress, and many religious and human rights leaders have condemned the surveillance as a gratuitous intrusion into Scientologists' private lives and a gross abuse of human rights. The State Department noted in its International Religious Freedom Report on Germany, released in October, that the OPC "has been 'investigating' the Church of Scientology and Scientologists for approximately four years. During that time, there have been no prosecutions or convictions of Scientology officials in the country...."

Today's ruling applies to the state of Berlin, but is expected to strongly influence other states in ending surveillance.

Since the measure was implemented in June 1997, Scientologists have documented hundreds of human rights abuses against their members and a host of "dirty tricks" by the OPC. These include agents attempting to infiltrate churches, spreading false reports about Scientologists to their employers to get them fired, sowing dissension between church members in an effort to create turmoil within the Church, and even trying to bribe Scientologists to bear false witness against their fellow-parishioners.


One notorious incident concerned Otto Dreksler, Chief of Operations of the Berlin police force and one of its most senior officers. The OPC incorrectly concluded that Mr. Dreksler belonged to the Church of Scientology, based on a report from an agent who turned out to be a former member of the notorious East German Secret Police, the Stasi. Although the agent's Stasi membership was known to the OPC, based on his evidence Mr. Dreksler was suspended from his job, his house, office, car and personal computer raided and he was subjected to social ostracism for a period lasting several months. Only after the Church sued the Berlin Interior Ministry in connection with the Dreksler incident, did the OPC capitulate and admit their error. Mr. Dreksler was later reinstated, and sued and won damages from the Berlin Interior Ministry.

In April 1998, Swiss authorities arrested an OPC agent who was caught illegally spying on members of the Church of Scientology in Switzerland. A Swiss court tried the agent on espionage charges and sentenced him to 30 days in prison for spying and falsification of documents, with two years probation. The court noted that his crime had harmed relations between Germany and Switzerland.

The ruling today is the latest in a series of significant victories for the Church of Scientology in Europe. Ten days ago, a Spanish court dismissed all charges against Scientologists in a case that dated back to 1984. In the last four years, Scientology has gained official recognition as a religion in Sweden, South Africa and Venezuela, and by the highest court in Italy.

[For more information on Scientology, click here.](#)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 4, 2002

STATEMENT BY CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY INTERNATIONAL REGARDING STATE DEPARTMENT'S HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ON GERMANY

The Church of Scientology, responding to the State Department's Annual Human Rights Report on Germany, has released further details of the religious discrimination the Report describes against an American racing bike school and its founder.

A Church spokeswoman said today that Keith Code, who founded the California Superbike School, has trained 15 of the last 20 U.S. Superbike Champions as well as a three-time world champion. She described as "spot-on" the Report's statement that surveillance of Scientologists by the Office for the Protection of the Constitution (OPC) is used in Germany as a "justification for discrimination."

"It is outrageous that a company training 60,000 race track drivers worldwide and led by one of the top Americans in his field is not permitted to operate in Germany, solely because of the founder's religion," said Leisa Goodman, Human Rights Director of the Church of Scientology International.

As stated in the Report, last October Motopark Oschlersleben in Saxony-Anhalt refused to rent a track to the school's British offices, citing the fact that Mr. Code is a Scientologist as a reason to deny the School its facilities. The School estimates that Motopark's denial cost the American company \$500,000 in lost revenue.


Ms. Goodman said today that the "surveillance" of Scientologists by the OPC amounts to a campaign of harassment and intimidation. She added that the Church has extensive evidence that the OPC has even offered bribes to Scientology parishioners to act as "covert agents" for the OPC inside their own churches. The State Department's Report notes that in December, a Berlin court enjoined the OPC from this practice on the grounds that no evidence existed to justify it.

"A governmental policy of boycotting and blacklisting continues to deny Scientologists basic human rights in Germany," said Ms. Goodman.

Late last year, U.S. Representatives Ben Gilman and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen introduced two separate bills to the House of Representatives to impose economic penalties on countries practicing religious discrimination.

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April 2, 2002

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U.S. TRADE REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT ON FOREIGN TRADE BARRIERS AGAIN EXPRESSES CONCERN ABOUT GERMAN GOVERNMENT DISCRIMINATION AGAINST COMPANIES OWNED OR OPERATED BY SCIENTOLOGISTS

The U.S. Trade Representative has again cited Germany in its 2002 National Trade Estimate on Foreign Trade Barriers over discrimination against companies owned or operated by Scientologists, while acknowledging that the German government has made efforts to respond to American concerns. In the section devoted to Trade with the European Union, the U.S. Trade Rep states that the Administration will continue to monitor the situation, "to ensure that U.S. firms and workers are not discriminated against in German government procurement."


The U.S. Trade Representative also criticizes France on the grounds that "French government agencies have refused to renew contracts with [the U.S. software company, Panda] because of the management's relationship to Scientology."

Trade Representative Robert Zoellick states in the Report, an inventory of the most important foreign barriers affecting U.S. exports and investments, that such national practices regarding government procurement are of "particular concern to the United States."

The Scientology religion was founded by philosopher and humanitarian L. Ron Hubbard in 1954. As part of its social mission the Church supports many charitable and social programs in the areas of drug rehabilitation, criminal reform and literacy. Further information can be obtained at www.scientology.org.

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May 11, 2002

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DIANETICS HAS ANSWERS FOR POST-9/11 STRESS EPIDEMIC

On the 52nd anniversary of the publication of *Dianetics - The Modern Science of Mental Health*, the landmark work by L. Ron Hubbard, sales have reached nearly 20 million in 50 languages in 154 countries.

This publishing achievement was announced at the Los Angeles Shrine Auditorium on May 11 where some 8,000 in attendance heard about this remarkable book that has appeared on the New York Times bestseller list a record 95 times. The auditorium is the site of legendary standing room only Dianetics lectures given by L. Ron Hubbard in the 1950s. Dianetics anniversary events are held in all 154 countries where the book is distributed.

"*Dianetics - The Modern Science of Mental Health* is, simply put, one of the most popular books of all times," said Janet Weiland, vice president of Church of Scientology International.

Due to the remarkable results experienced by people using it, Dianetics resonates with readers today much as it did in 1950. Eighty percent of respondents to a recent international survey say that since September 11 they suffer "fear," "anxiety" or "stress." Many are haunted by images

of the destruction of that day. Stress-related “depression” is now claimed as the No. 1 “disease” for women in the Western world. A large percentage say that in the face of very real threats of terrorism, what they want most are answers.

Dianetics provides the answers to this post-9/11 epidemic.

The book has been embraced by millions for its straightforward approach to resolving human misery. Written and introduced into the chilling age of the Cold War, Dianetics achieved instant popularity by revealing the source of human misery and conflict—the reactive mind – and a solution anyone could apply.

The reactive mind is that part of the mind that stores painful past incidents and operates on a stimulus-response basis just below a person’s awareness. In Dianetics, Mr. Hubbard describes how a person can access this part of the mind and, through the application of easily learned procedures, resolve problems in the present that stem from incidents in the past.

Today Dianetics is frequently used to provide relief to survivors of 9/11. When a New York City man who lost his wife in the attacks received one Dianetics session, exactly as described in the book, a family member said in amazement: “He literally rose from a depression so deep he seemed close to death. To see someone raised to being cheerful about life and living again was a miracle.... The pain is gone. Thank God for your work.”

A New York police officer who had gone into World Trade Center tower No. 2 just minutes before it collapsed. Although he got his men out of the building, he could not get the pictures out of his head.

That all changed after one Dianetics session. “I came out of this depression. I stood up from the session knowing I could lead my men and knowing they needed my leadership more than ever. Thank you for giving me my life back.”

Mr. Hubbard says in the opening pages of Dianetics: “The discoveries and developments which made the formulation of Dianetics possible occupied many years of exact research and careful testing. This was exploration, it was also consolidation. The trail is blazed, the routes are sufficiently mapped for you to voyage in safety into your own mind and recover there your full inherent potential, which is not, we now know, low but very, very high.”

This timeless message is an important beacon of hope to mankind.

Dianetics spiritual healing technology and Scientology applied religious philosophy were developed by writer and humanitarian L. Ron Hubbard. The Scientology religion has grown to 9 million members in 154 countries. The Scientology religion holds that man is a spiritual being, that he is basically good, and is capable of spiritual betterment.

For more information, visit www.scientology.org or www.dianetics.org

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May 17, 2002

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CASE WAS HERESY TRIAL AND RULING WILL LEAD TO COURTS CLOGGED WITH FRIVOLOUS CASES

– French government pays front groups to bring trumped-up cases –

Responding to a decision today in a Paris court, the Church of Scientology International stated that the ruling is a politically motivated miscarriage of justice. Its main effect will be to ensure that despite rising crime, perpetrators will get away because the courts are clogged with such frivolous cases.

The case involved charges brought against the Church of Scientology and its president, Marc Walter, under the Data Protection Law.

“The decision is an attempt to apply commercial law to prohibit religious expression,” said Leisa Goodman, Human Rights Director for the Church of Scientology International. “It is an intolerable interference by the state with the religious freedom won from 2,000 years of history in Europe. The Church in France will have a field day on appeal because the ruling violates the European Convention on Human Rights.”

She described the case as a heresy trial and a shameful travesty of justice. "But we shouldn't be surprised at a time when Jewish synagogues in France get attacked and neo-Nazis make it to the presidential run-off. In a more civilized society, the case would never have come to court."

Ms Goodman said that the case is about two letters inadvertently mailed in good faith over the course of five years. "Now the courts are likely to be bogged down in similarly frivolous cases, when they should be delivering justice to the perpetrators of actual crimes," she said.

The Church in France will appeal the decision.

Ms. Goodman said the case was trumped-up as part of a French government-sponsored campaign to destroy religious liberty.

"Recent disclosures under the Freedom of Information Act have revealed that the French government funds the anti-religious hate groups that stirred up this case, to the amount of 1.8 million dollars per year. And out of a total of 3,000 complaints filed to the Data Protection Commission in the year 2,000, involving extensive violations, only a minor complaint against the Church of Scientology was prosecuted," she said.

She added, "The French government was so desperate to bring this bogus case against the Church that they used a completely discreditable witness, who was convicted for incitement to murder only four days after testifying for them."

She said the campaign against religious liberty in France is directed by an extremist official, Alain Vivien, who heads a so-called "Interministerial Mission to Combat Sects." International human rights organizations, the U.S. government religious organizations and many elected officials have condemned the human rights violations resulting from Vivien's actions.

"Three weeks ago the French people rejected extremism and intolerance at the polling booth. We call upon the French government to take that message to heart. Dismiss Vivien and disband his office," Ms Goodman said.

She said that the decision will have no impact upon the Church of Scientology in France. "We will continue our anti-drug and human rights activities while exposing the fanatics who perpetrate intolerance and hatred."

Churches of Scientology have achieved full tax-exempt status in the

United States as religious and charitable organizations; religious recognition in Canada, Sweden and South Africa; religious recognition by the Supreme Court of Italy; vindication in the courts in Spain, and scores of other positive rulings by judicial and administrative bodies throughout the world, including in France.

The Scientology religion was founded by writer and humanitarian L. Ron Hubbard. From one church established by Scientologists in 1954, the Church has grown to 9 million members in 150 countries. The Scientology religion holds that man is a spiritual being, that he is basically good, and is capable of spiritual betterment. For more information, visit www.scientology.org and www.humanrightswatchfrance.org

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July 1, 2002

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GERMAN SCIENTOLOGIST SUES MULTIMILLION-DOLLAR COMPANY, LIFE PLUS INTERNATIONAL, FOR RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION

A German member of the Church of Scientology today filed suit against the U.S.-based company, Life Plus International, over his dismissal without notice as a marketing agent for the company's German branch, solely because of his religious beliefs. Mr. Thomas Ernst Akyar has sued the natural supplements company, which is active in 65 nations and has estimated annual sales of \$20 million to \$39 million, in the U.S. District Court for the eastern District of Arkansas, after an appeal to J. Robert Lemon, President of Life Plus International, had failed to remedy the discrimination. The complaint seeks an injunction and damages.

On July 2, 2001, after an article in the German trade journal, Network Press, featured a photograph of Mr. Akyar captioned "Successful Scientologist", Life Plus Europe, based in Cambridgeshire, England, terminated Mr. Akyar's contractual relationship. Life Plus's Munich-based German counsel Dr. Gerd Weidemann wrote to Mr. Akyar, who had been with the company since 1995, stating "You admitted [sic] to our client that you are an active member of the Scientologists... our client has been informed that you openly admit [sic] your Scientology membership and take a stand to the teachings of L. Ron Hubbard.... in the name and on

order of our client we terminate the existing contractual relationship with Life Plus Europe Ltd *without notice...*" [emphasis in original].

Two days later, in contravention of European and national data protection directives, Life Plus Europe gratuitously disseminated a two-page document concerning Mr. Akyar that attempted to justify the termination of his contract by reference to his religion. The document stated that Life Plus had done an investigation to determine if any of Mr. Akyar's associates in the company had a "connection" to Scientology.

Human rights counsel for the Church of Scientology International subsequently wrote to Mr. Lemon requesting remedial action, but to no avail.

Said Leisa Goodman, Human Rights Director of the Church of Scientology International, "Life Plus's illegal and discriminatory dismissal of Mr. Akyar solely on the basis of his religion is exactly the type of religious intolerance criticized by the U.S. State Department, the United Nations, members of Congress and the U.S. Helsinki Commission. As Life Plus refuses voluntarily to honor its human rights commitments, Mr. Akyar had no choice but to take court action to protect his civil rights."

Mr. Akyar, who lives and works in Germany, had an excellent record with the company. In recognition of his success, in February 2000 he was offered membership in the company's "Diamond Bonus" program, a position reserved for high achievers who have demonstrated leadership qualities and ethical conduct.

Mr. Akyar alleges that by terminating his contract, Life Plus International, headquartered in Batesville, Arkansas, has violated the Arkansas Civil Rights Act 1993, which states "The right of an otherwise qualified person to be free from discrimination because of... religion... is recognized as and declared to be a civil right. The right shall include, but not be limited to... The right to engage in credit and other contractual transactions without discrimination."

In addition to damages, Mr. Akyar seeks an injunction holding that the termination of his contract was discriminatory and unlawful. He is asking the court to order Life Plus International to reinstate his contractual relationship with Life Plus and to enjoin the company from terminating a contract on the grounds of religious belief.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in conjunction with numerous human rights groups, recently initiated a campaign to ensure international business compliance with fundamental human rights, including the right to be free from discrimination based on religion or

belief. As the High Commissioner stated, “The Universal Declaration can provide business with a universally agreed statement of core rights which do not depend on a particular country or culture, a point of reference for good practice and benchmarks.”

The U.S. State Department has repeatedly and publicly condemned blacklisting and boycotting of Scientologists in Germany as a human rights violation. The U.S. Trade Representative’s Annual Reports criticize German governmental agencies and private firms for demanding that applicants for contractual relations or employment sign a “sect filter” disavowing membership in Scientology. The International Relations Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives has held hearings that included substantial testimony regarding economic blacklisting against Scientologists in Germany and harsh criticism from Committee members of the very type of discrimination Life Plus International has engaged in. More information may be obtained at <http://www.scientology.org> and <http://germany.freedommag.org>.

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