

World: **Global**

Russia: As Russian Lutherans come under suspicion for “terrorism”, police shows ignorance about religion

Armed with machine guns and dogs, 11 police agents in Kaluga storm the St George Evangelical Lutheran Church during an ordination service looking for possible terrorists. Russia’s law enforcement agencies are fighting the religious extremism of Evangelical Lutherans and Jehovah’s Witnesses, and ...

By Asia News

Monday, March 15, 2010

Moscow – By targeting Evangelical Christians and Jehovah’s Witnesses, Russian police continues to undermine religious freedom in the name of security and the fight against extremist activities.

In Kaluga on 28 February, armed police with dogs burst into the recently consecrated Church of St George Evangelical Lutheran during worship service, a Russian Lutheran website (www.luther.ru) reported, citing eyewitness’s accounts. Eleven law enforcement agents entered during the ordination of Pastor Dmitry Martyshenko by Archbishop Joseph Baron. Once inside, they locked the doors to prevent worshippers still outside from coming in. According to the commander of the police unit, “there were indications that terrorists were gathering here, and distributing terrorist literature.”

The clergymen present at the ceremony tried to explain that the Bible and books of the Augsburg Confession had nothing to do with “terrorist literature” but failed to persuade their uninvited visitors.

Rev Martyshenko has already filed a complaint to the plenipotentiary for human rights with a copy sent the Kaluga administration.

For experts, police violence shows the dangers of police unpreparedness in religious matters. Prof Anatoly Pchelintsey from the Slavic Legal Centre noted that the Russian Interior Ministry has set up a special unit to fight extremism, but its staff has no idea what religious organisations do; they know even less about the position of the European Court for Human Rights. In his view, police, not Evangelical Lutherans are the threat to public security.

Evangelical Christians are known for their aggressive proselytising, even in war zones. But in Russia, the Orthodox Church has fought all proselytising in what it views as its own backyard.

Last November, the Justice Ministry proposed to amend the federal law on “freedom of conscience and religious organisations”. If adopted, it would ban Evangelicals from praying together without authorisation or admit members who had a run-in with the law.

Jehovah’s Witnesses are also facing the wrath of the authorities. In their case, the fight against

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extremist is turning into outright persecution. The latest episode involved the arrest in Moscow last Friday of Yuri Gusev, guilty of having literature deemed extremist in his car.

Described as a sect “unfriendly to other Churches”, Jehovah’s Witnesses are being systematically hounded in several Russian republics.

The authorities are probably put off by the religious group’s rejection of compulsory military service, their refusal to bear arms or accept blood transfusions, as well as the members’ total devotion to their community.



Source:



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Featured



UNICEF emergency supplies ready for cyclone-hit Fiji, Solomon Islands

The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) is on standby with emergency relief supplies for thousands of people in Fiji and the Solomon Islands, which were pummeled by heavy winds and rains from two extreme cyclones. [more](#)

At Paralympics, top UN official highlights rights of people with disabilities

The Paralympic Games currently under way in Vancouver, Canada, highlight the contribution sport can make in promoting the inclusion and well-being of people with disabilities, a senior United Nations official said today. [more](#)

Sustainable public transit takes centre stage at UN forum in Seoul

Transport experts and municipal authorities from major cities across Asia have gathered today at a United Nations meeting in Seoul to examine how a well integrated system of buses, subways and trains can contribute to sustainable development. [more](#)

Comments

It is sad to see Russia giving up and giving in to the ways of the old regime.

Jehovah’s Witnesses are straight, good people.

As an organization Jehovah’s Witnesses are unified worldwide. No sects, synods, splinter groups. They believe and teach the same thing. How is that possible? Is it as Jason seems to suggest due to the icy grip of their dictatorial leadership...? Or is it because they teach and live by the actual truth of God’s Word?

By their fruits you will know them!

by buster2u | Tuesday, March 16, 2010 9:10:27 AM

And jason,
What planet were you born on?

How do you come up with this stuff?
Oh yeah!
the internet ,
only truth published there!
lol

by Ted | Tuesday, March 16, 2010 8:21:55 AM

Funny how a cultist like to call others cults and make up their own definitions of what it is .
In fact if they were alive in Jesus Day they would have called him one also.
And Jehovah's Organization (an it truley is!) looks after his people no matter what lies other
like to tell.

And to those that spread their lies well, they will have to answer to Jehovah.
hebrews 10:31

by Ted | Tuesday, March 16, 2010 8:16:44 AM

Misinformation about Jehovah's Witnesses like in the comment above only serve to fuel the
fire of peresecution suffered by religious minorities.

Jehovah's Witnesses are peace loving law-abiding family minded people that respect the law
and superior authorities and like other religions only ask to worship in peace.

May the Russian people not return to the days to oppression of freedoms.

by Anna | Tuesday, March 16, 2010 7:20:04 AM

**Two wrongs don't make a right,oppression by the Russian govt egged on by the
orthodox church and oppression by Orwellian cults like Jehovahs Witnesses are
both bad.**

**The leadership of Jehovahs witnesses has a history of manipulating their own
people to pursue the ends of their corporations above the well-being of individuals.**

**They preach political neutrality, but make exceptions where it suits them, rather like
the old sale of indulgences.**

**A look at the history of their dealings with their members in Malawi in comparison
with their members in Mexico is well documented on the Internet. They are not truly
politically neutral and put themselves in the place of highest authority over their
members.**

**Interesting that the JW usually find that they are *persecuted* in societies that are
more authoritarian than their own.**

by Jason | Monday, March 15, 2010 2:21:45 PM

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