

World: **Global**

Russia: Jehovah's Witnesses treated as "terrorists"

Investigations and searches from house to house, seizing religious material "extremist" allegations. A Kingdom hall in Budennovsk set on fire. Just like under Stalin?

By Asia News

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Moscow (AsiaNews / Agencies) - "You are extremist terrorists" is how a woman rebuked some Jehovah's Witnesses (JW), her work colleagues, after a campaign launched by police in Kasimov and other cities of the province of Ryazan (southwest of Moscow). In recent days, groups of police officers have visited house to house, and stopped people in the streets and markets asking them if they have never bothered by JW, if they have given them publications if they could identify them. Police have also visited schools and talked to principals asking them if they had complaints against parents and students who belong to the group.

In conversations the police report that TDG "in search of single people and pensioners, win their trust and take their property."

The JW are worried about this campaign that increases hatred toward them. Between March and April at least three Kingdom Halls (JW places of assembly) in Ryazan suffered police raids that during assemblies, interrogations of those present seizures of books and leaflets.

Police have also searched the homes of 21 JWs, confiscating books, movies, personal letters, diaries, journals, computers, almost as if it were "extremist" material.

JW representative Anton Omelchenko, states that "committing this crime against the JW shows the degree of religious intolerance which in Russia today."

On the night of March 20, at Budennovsk (Stavropol in southern Russia), a fire destroyed the local Kingdom Hall. Experts and technicians have determined that the fire was arson

According to JW, Russia is returning to the methods of Stalin in 1951, when they were suppressed and many of them deported. All the victims were later rehabilitated.

Currently the organization is accused of being an "extremist sect" of having an "unfriendly attitude towards other churches" and of "refusing military service", although the constitution allows the alternative civilian service.

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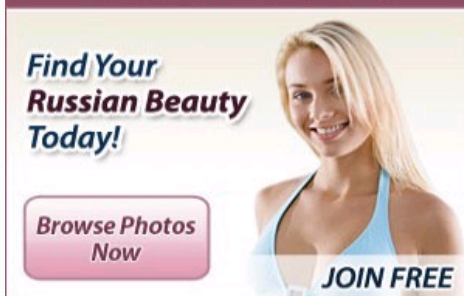
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The United Nations, which sent four separate missions to Angola during its devastating decades-long civil war in efforts to help end the conflict, is seeking to strengthen the capacities of the now peaceful southern African country in the field of investment. [more](#)

UN envoy to Lebanon voices support for effort to develop defence strategy

The top United Nations envoy to Lebanon today met with the minister in charge of administrative reform and voiced support for the country's national dialogue, a reconciliation process, which will meet tomorrow to discuss developing a national defence strategy. [more](#)

On heels of nuclear security summit, UN atomic watchdog seeks more funding

The United Nations agency that plays a leading role in trying to stop terrorists getting their hands on nuclear materials is seeking greater funding to carry out its task following this week's Washington summit on nuclear security. [more](#)

Comments

Heads up on the Jehovah Witness.

Jehovahs Witnesses restrict freedom for their own dissident members.

They have won 37 of their 46 US Supreme court cases assuring us all of freedom of speech and assembly and equal protection under the law.

The sad irony is that the Watchtower Society *daily* abuses the human rights of thousands of its members. It denies current members the right of free speech by forbidding them to speak to former members, even close family members.

And it denies former members their right of freedom of worship by refusing to allow them to leave the religion with dignity, should they come to disagree with Watchtowers practices or doctrines.

—
Danny Haszard JW dissident www.dannyhaszard.com

by Danny Haszard | Thursday, April 15, 2010 3:23:11 AM

Reports on the persecution of Jehovah's witnesses in Russia demonstrate the reversion to a totalitarian regime. As always, Jehovah's witnesses are the canary in the coal mine when it comes to freedom. And, they may very well be the salvation of individual freedoms, much as they were in the US when a similar period of persecution brought about landmark decisions of the US Supreme Court, all thanks to Jehovah's witnesses fighting for their constitutionally guaranteed rights. Let's hope for a similar outcome in Russian now. Otherwise, we very well may be looking at USSR Part II.

by Rick | Thursday, April 15, 2010 2:20:15 AM

Jehovahs Witnesses

- 1) What about 1914 and the revised generations doctrine?
- 2) How can Michael the archangel be the same person as Jesus?
- 3) How can only 144,000 go to heaven when that passage in Revelation is clearly symbolic, moreover John 10:16 says that the other sheep are the converted gentiles and NOT two classes of Christians?
- 4) If the Bible says abstain from blood how can the Watchtower permit a Jehovahs Witness to use so many 'fractions of blood' products?
- 5) What about Watchtower 1975 Armageddon prediction?

Two wrongs dont make a right,oppression by the Russian government and oppression by Orwellian cults like Jehovah's 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 Logan Smith | Wednesday, April 14, 2010 10:21:19 PM

..."slanderous, half-truth, deceiving, misleading hatefilled articles and lies"...that's exactly what you're doing. Hypocrite!

by altertee | Wednesday, April 14, 2010 3:16:57 PM

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