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Jehovah's Witness acquitted in Russia

Published: April 19, 2011 at 11:57 PM

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GORNO-ALTAISK, Russia, April 19 (UPI) -- A Jehovah's Witnesses leader has been acquitted in the Russian Republic of Altai of distributing extremist literature published by the religious group.

A court in Gorno-Altai found Friday there was not enough evidence to convict Alexander Kalistratov, 34, RIA Novosti reported. But prosecutors said Tuesday they plan to appeal the verdict.

"We categorically disagree with Kalistratov's acquittal and will lodge an appeal with the Supreme Court of the Republic of Altai to order new hearings of this case," a spokesman said.

The Jehovah's Witnesses, which has about 200,000 members in Russia, has been banned in a number of regions and republics. The European Court of Human Rights has ruled that a court decision in 2004 outlawing the group in Moscow is illegal.

Kalistratov faced 160 hours of community service if convicted of distributing literature promoting religious hatred.

Altai is on Russia's southern border with Kazakhstan, Mongolia and China as neighbors.

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Terry Webb (19 hours ago)



Orwellan Wolves in sheep's clothing cult

The Watchtower Jehovah's Witnesses is not a religion, it is a mind-control cult. They micromanage every possible aspect of member's lives - from what they say, think, dress, and even what they can and cannot do in the privacy of their bedrooms.

Such cults should be taxed in every nation as a regular business. The Watchtower is a real estate holding company and a publishing empire hiding behind the ruse of a valid religion.

The New York city Watchtower cult has distributed anti government pamphlets throughout areas that have limited their recruitment efforts. They try to elicit sympathy and force governments to allow them to solicit people to membership.

The Watchtower does not allow blood transfusions. Thousands of children have died and tens of thousands of adults as a result. Thousands of Jehovah Witness children more have life long difficulties if they survived blood loss or treatment that was radical and costly prompted by the Watchtower.

Reply

Daniel (19 hours ago)



To Adina Hope. To say something is well documented on the Internet or just "Google it" is a joke and a half. I could Google my Grandmother and probably find she's from another planet. If you want to find out the facts, there are credible source out there. Check out places like cia.gov or un.org or here is a novel idea try watchtower.org or if you want to believe what you want to, tickle your own ears

Reply

david (19 hours ago)



Surely it is much healthier to look for the good in others, instead of only looking at the bad. Jesus was hounded by authorities, religious leaders and the Romans; should he be denounced as well? It has nothing to do with cults; either you choose to live by the bible or you don't.

Reply

Dyno Darlene (1 day ago)



The Jehovah's Witnesses will often find themselves harassed by governments that are more authoritarian than themselves.

More and more governments are recognizing the dangers of high-control religious cults like Jehovah's Witnesses. They abuse their members and create divisions and even destruction of the social fabric of societies, demanding that their cult leaders dictates be obeyed above everybody else.

While such cults complain that it is their "healthful teachings" that they espouse that are upsetting the authorities, the truth of the matter is that the governments do not really care so much what these cults BELIEVE, but it is rather their persistent destruction of the personality and identity of the victim who joins the cult.

Reply

Adina Hope (1 day ago)



Jehovah's Witnesses are no better and no worse than anybody else same percentage of fraud ,crime, child abuse and bad guy/ good guy ratio,....as any other group nothing pure or special about em.

JW's have had over 100 years of hiding their scandals behind the Watchtower magazine. The reality is they are as riddled with scandal as any religion that seeks to put happy face on perversion.

Research and Investigate Google: Jehovah's Witness family murders

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Reply

david (1 day ago)



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That is preposterous. You're the one creating scandals. If wrongdoing takes place it is because they have stopped being Jehovah's Witnesses. Even Jesus had to dismiss one of his once trusted associates, that being Judas of course. No one can lie, steal or cheat and still stay in good standing amongst God's people.

In harmony with what the bible really teaches, unrepentant wrong doers are put out of the congregations, 1CORINTHIANS 5:9: In my letter I wrote YOU to quit mixing in company with fornicators,

10 not [meaning] entirely with the fornicators of this world or the greedy persons and extortioners or idolaters. Otherwise, YOU would actually have to get out of the world.

11 But now I am writing YOU to quit mixing in company with anyone called a brother that is a fornicator or a greedy person or an idolater or a reviler or a drunkard or an extortioner, not even eating with such a man.

12 For what do I have to do with judging those outside? Do YOU not judge those inside,

13 while God judges those outside? "Remove the wicked [man] from among yourselves

david (1 day ago)



Adina Hope is sadly missinformed. The love Jehovah's demonstrate world wide is also well documented. Love in real life, not just feel good patriotic mumbo jumbo were you must love your country first and prove this by going out to die in wars or kill others just so your flag can fly the highest and your countries politicians get the final say. Come on Adina we are all citizens of the one earth and we must find nonviolent ways to live together, just as Jesus taught and Jehovah's Witnesses live.

Reply

Adina Hope (1 day ago)



Persecution cuts both ways

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.

JWs insist on their freedom of speech rights but don't allow rights for others,their intolerance

Reply

Daniel (1 day ago)



Russia is going to do what Russia has always done. In effect Russia is gang rule; it has been for most of its modern history. Right now the Russian Orthodox Church has been calling the shots. Any religious group that differs from them is consided extremist. The European Court of Human Rights, the United Nations console on Human Rights and the CIA all testify to this



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