



139 C Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003; 202-547-8570

Hate Crime Law Being Used To Persecute Christians In Philadelphia!

Homosexual activists are slowly achieving their objective of silencing all opposition to their agenda. One of the weapons they use is the "hate crime/hate speech" law.

Homosexuals achieved a major victory in Philadelphia on October 10, 2004 when police arrested peaceful Christians who were handing out Gospel literature and preaching at the homosexual Outfest event.

These Christians were part of Repent America. They were non-violent and were standing on public sidewalks preaching. As they preached, they were surrounded by the Pink Angels who held up pink Styrofoam shields to keep anyone from hearing or seeing the street preaching. The Pink Angels repeatedly interfered with the movement of the preachers. **This entire incident was captured on videotape by a film production crew and is available for viewing on the American Family Association web site (www.afa.net)**

Homosexual Attorneys From U.S. Civil Rights Division On Scene
WorldNetDaily reports that homosexual attorneys from the U.S. Justice Department were on the scene to advise police on how to deal with the non-violent Christian protesters! In addition, Outfest organizers announced BEFORE the event that they were going to block Christians from freely exercising their First Amendment rights at the Outfest event (WorldNetDaily, 1/10/2005). Repent America protesters were standing on public sidewalks preaching the Gospel!

When the police came on the scene, they arrested the Christians instead of the Pink Angels who were clearly violating the rights of Repent America preachers to speak freely on a public sidewalk.

Charges were dropped against several Repent America members but five Christians still face up to 47 years in prison and a \$90,000 fine. They are: Michael Marcavage, Mark Diener, James Cruse, Dennis Green, and 17-year-old teenager Lauren Murch who is being charged

in juvenile court.

What Is Their Crime?

Philadelphia police are charging the Philadelphia Five with eight alleged crimes. Three of these are felony offenses: Possession of instruments of crime (a bullhorn); ethnic intimidation (saying that homosexuality is a sin); and inciting a riot (reading from the Bible passages that relate to the sin of homosexuality). No riot occurred.

The state of Pennsylvania recently added "ethnic intimidation" to its hate crime law—and these Christians are being persecuted under this ethnic intimidation section.

Is The Bible Hate Speech?

Under this ethnic intimidation section, apparently preaching from the Bible is now considered hate speech and is illegal in a public forum.

In fact, Philadelphia prosecutor Charles Ehrlich attacked Repent America protesters as "hateful" and claimed that preaching from the Bible about homosexuality is considered "fighting words" that can be banned from the public square as an incitement to riot.

Traditional Values Coalition has written about the dangers of hate crime laws for years now and what we are witnessing in Philadelphia is only the beginning of nationwide persecutions of Christians if we fail to take a stand against this oppression. Hate crime laws must be abolished! Homosexuals must not be allowed to use hate crime or hate speech laws to silence the preaching of the Gospel!

TVC Chairman, Rev. Louis P. Sheldon has contacted the Department of Justice and has been assured that an investigation is being conducted to discover who the homosexual civil rights attorneys were who advised Philadelphia police.

TAKE ACTION: Contact Assistant Attorney General R. Alexander Acosta at the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Justice Department. Ask him to aggressively pursue this investigation into abuse of power and violation of First Amendment Rights!

Assistant Attorney General R. Alexander Acosta
U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20530;
Phone: 202-514-2151; Fax: 202-514-6903
Email: AskDOJ@usdoj.gov