Army of God Sends Anthrax Threats

250 letters to clinics classified by FBI as Domestic Threats

Between October 15 and 23, over 250 abortion and family planning clinics in 17 states (AL, DE, FL, GA, IL, IN, KY, MD, MI, MO, NJ, NY, NC, OH, PA, SC, TN, VA) and the District of Columbia received threatening letters claiming to contain anthrax. The envelopes were designed to resemble official government mailings, with return addresses from the ‘U.S. Secret Service’ and ‘U.S. Marshall Service,’ and bore a notice on the bottom left-hand corner that read “TIME SENSITIVE: Urgent Security Notice Enclosed.” The letters were postmarked from either Atlanta, Georgia; Knoxville, Tennessee; Chattanooga, Tennessee; or Columbus, Ohio.

When opened by clinic staff, all letters contained a white powdery substance with a letter stating, “You have been exposed to anthrax. We are going to kill all of you. Army of God, Virginia DARE Chapter.” Thus far, the substance found in all the letters received at clinics has tested negative for anthrax although some tests are still pending.

The Feminist Majority Foundation, along with Planned Parenthood Federation of America and the National Abortion Federation, met with officials of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to discuss the investigation of the anthrax threats. The FBI has classified the anthrax threats as “acts of domestic terrorism” to be handled as terrorism by empowering courts to issue search warrants for any part of the United States. The law also increases law enforcement’s funding for programs for victims of domestic terrorism, and the availability of rewards for information leading to the conviction of domestic terrorists.

New Anti-Terrorism Law Covers Clinic Violence

Violence against clinics and abortion providers is included in the definition of domestic terrorism used in the new anti-terrorism legislation signed by President Bush on October 26. The law defines “domestic terrorism” as acts that are dangerous to human life, are in violation of federal or state criminal laws, and appear to be intended to “intimidate or coerce a civilian population; [or] to influence the policy of the government by intimidation....” The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) used this definition prior to President Bush’s signing of the law to declare anti-abortion extremist and fugitive Clayton Waagner a domestic terrorist.

The new anti-terrorism law makes the assets of any group involved in domestic terrorism subject to civil forfeiture laws and enhances law enforcement’s ability to investigate crimes of domestic terrorism by empowering courts to issue search warrants for any part of the United States. The law also increases law enforcement’s funding for programs for victims of domestic terrorism, and the availability of rewards for information leading to the conviction of domestic terrorists.

The law also labels certain crimes, including the bombing and arson of buildings used in interstate commerce, such as abortion clinics, as “Federal Terrorism Offenses” (FTOs). If the FTO caused death or created the risk of death or serious bodily injury, there is no statute of limitations for the prosecution of the crime and the perpetrator may be supervised for life after being released from prison. These provisions apply to crimes that occurred before the signing of the new terrorism legislation, as well as those that occur in the future.
Anti-abortion extremists lost two important court decisions in October. The Seventh Circuit Courts of Appeals affirmed the nationwide injunction and damage award to clinics in *National Organization for Women (NOW) v. Scheidler*, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals agreed to rehear *Planned Parenthood of Columbia/Willamette, et al. v. American Coalition of Life Activists (ACLA), et al.*, also known as the “Nuremberg Files” case.

In *NOW v. Scheidler*, a civil case begun in 1986, a federal court ruled anti-abortion extremists conspired to illegally close women’s reproductive health clinics using threats and extortionate acts against doctors, clinic employees and patients in violation of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO). In July 2000, a three-judge panel in the Ninth Circuit reversed a $17.5 million judgment. In March 2001, a three-judge panel in the Ninth Circuit reversed that determination saying that the First Amendment protected ACLA’s actions. In this most recent decision, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals agreed to review en banc the March decision, thus nullifying the March reversal. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals will hear oral argument in the case on December 11, 2001.

### Kopp Loses Extradition Appeal

**Alleged Accomplice Loses Appeal for Bail**

James Charles Kopp, charged with the 1998 sniper-style assassination of Dr. Barnett Slepian, an Amherst, New York obstetrician-gynecologist who performed abortions, has lost his latest and final appeal in the French courts to avoid extradition to the United States. In a related development, the Second Court of Appeals denied the release on bail of Lorretta C. Marra, the anti-abortion activist accused of helping suspected Kopp avoid capture by authorities.

In April 2001, several pro-choice groups around the country received explicit threats signed by the “Black Scorpion Militia” with references made to the Army of God, an anti-abortion terrorist group to which Kopp is believed to belong, specifying their intent to murder four abortion providers and firebomb clinics if Kopp was extradited from France and brought to the U.S. to stand trial. Federal law enforcement authorities are investigating the threats.

### Anthrax Threats

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by the Domestic Terrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction Operations Unit. The national investigation will be centralized with the US Attorney’s office in Philadelphia, PA.

Abortion and family planning clinics represent the single largest group affected by the recent spate of anthrax threats and attacks. Violations of the weapons of mass destruction laws are treated extremely seriously and, upon conviction, violators face a 10-year federal prison sentence for each count under which they are convicted.

Clinic personnel are urged not to open any suspicious mail. Suspicious mail can be defined as any mail with strange substances (liquid, powder, etc.), no return address or a return address from an unfamiliar sender, a postmark that differs from city of return address, inappropriate postage (too many stamps), wires, springs, or anything protruding from envelope. In all cases, do not open the suspicious letter. If already opened, immediately close the envelope, put on a pair of plastic gloves (if not already wearing gloves), and place the envelope in a zip lock bag. Wash your hands with soap and water and call 911. If the letter is determined to be an anthrax threat letter, local police should coordinate with the local FBI office.

### Suspect Remains at Large

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The suspect wanted in the connection with the July attempted murder of Dr. Garson Romalis remains at large. Romalis, an abortion provider in Vancouver, Canada was stabbed outside of his medical office. The assailant was waiting for Dr. Romalis as he entered his office. The white male suspect is described as clean-shaven, with a dark complexion, dark hair, and thin build. The stabbing is still under investigation, along with the sniper shooting that severely injured Romalis six years ago.
Waagner Named to FBI’s 10 Most Wanted List

Anti-abortion extremist, convicted felon and prison escapee Clayton Lee Waagner, has been added to the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s (FBI) Ten Most Wanted List and a $60,000 reward posted for information leading to his capture.

The FBI’s announcement followed an incident in Memphis, Tennessee on September 7 in which Waagner was identified as the driver of a car involved in an accident. Waagner fled the scene of the accident. A pipe bomb was found in the backseat of the car Waagner was driving. The bomb was later detonated by police, and no one was injured. Police also found four stolen handguns under the driver’s seat of Waagner’s car, at least four license plates from different states, and anti-abortion literature.

Waagner is also the suspect in a carjacking later that day outside of a casino in Robinsonville, Mississippi. Waagner allegedly drove around with the carjacking victim in the vehicle for several hours before releasing him.

Waagner has been indicted on charges of possessing a destructive device, being a felon in possession of firearms, and being a fugitive in possession of firearms. Police have also issued a warrant for his arrest for aggravated assault and auto theft.

In making the Ten Most Wanted list announcement, Phillip Thomas, Special Agent in Charge of the Memphis FBI Office, described Waagner as a terrorist, saying “He is trying to change social principles in the United States according to his philosophy and he would meet the definition of domestic terrorism.”

Donald Spitz, head of Pro-Life Virginia and an advocate of “justifiable homicide” or the killing of abortion providers, denounced the FBI’s addition of Waagner to the Ten Most Wanted List. Spitz said, “Clayton Lee Waagner has never physically harmed anyone and has stated that his purpose is to save unborn children from being murdered at abortion mills...” Spitz maintains the Army of God website where it is believed that Waagner posted a message which directly threatened to kill persons involved in the provision of abortion services, including receptionists, nurses, bookkeepers and janitors.

Waagner, who escaped from an Illinois jail on February 22, 2001 while awaiting sentencing on felony weapons and stolen vehicle charges, has already been indicted in a May 17, 2001 armed robbery of a First Union Bank outside of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and is the suspect in additional bank robberies.

Prior to his escape from jail, Waagner admitted to conducting extensive surveillance of abortion clinics and clinic workers in the Mid-Atlantic region and since his escape he has criss-crossed the country, with sightings in Tennessee, Pennsylvania, the West Coast and the Midwest.

The most recent sighting of Waagner was on Monday, September 17th and Tuesday the 18th when Waagner was seen in southeast Pennsylvania at a Kinko’s in Exton, Chester County, Pennsylvania using the Internet.

Waagner is considered heavily armed and dangerous, possibly armed with a .40-caliber handgun. Law enforcement and clinics are urged to continue to be on high alert.

In particular, we urge that clinics reassess security precautions like locked entrances to minimize the potential of Waagner entering a facility. Staff should be on the lookout for anyone resembling Waagner in or around their facilities or following staff to or from their homes. Local law enforcement should be contacted immediately in the event of a suspected sighting.

In addition to the FBI’s Ten Most Wanted List, Waagner remains on the Fifteen Most Wanted list for the US Marshals Service and on the Ten Most Wanted list for the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. For color photos of Waagner, check the US Marshals website at http://www.usdoj.gov/marshals/wanted/waagner.html. In the event that Waagner is seen, dial 911 immediately and the US Marshals, toll-free at 1-877-WANTED2.


6th Annual White Rose Banquet Announced

The 6th annual White Rose Banquet, a gathering of anti-abortion extremists and their supporters to celebrate the cause of anti-abortion violence, has been scheduled to take place on January 21, 2002. The meeting is hosted by convicted clinic bomber Michael Brat of Bowie, Maryland and is typically held near Washington, DC around the anniversary of Roe v. Wade.

At the 2001 White Rose Banquet, Brat was named to a lifelong position as “Chaplain in the Army of God.” Several dozen persons from across the country attended the 2001 banquet, including convicted arsonists, bombers, co-defendants from the Planned Parenthood v. American Coalition of Life Activists federal lawsuit, and individuals who signed their names to “Defensive Action” petitions that justify the use of lethal force against abortion providers. Also in attendance in January 2001, was convicted clinic bomber Dennis Malvasi who, just a few months later in March 2001, was arrested and charged with interfering with the James Kopp investigation and obstructing the initial grand jury investigation.

Nuremberg Files Website Expands Internationally

Anti-abortion extremist Neal Horsely, the creator of the infamous Nuremberg Files, has added an international element to his latest website, Abortion Cams (most recently found at http://www.abortioncams.com or http://209.41.187.182/). Horsely, aided by anti-choice extremists from across the U.S. and now also in the United Kingdom, Canada, Ireland and Australia, collects and posts photographs not only of abortion providers and clinic staff but also of women and men entering clinics for reproductive health care services.

Horsely lists Steven Rogers, the security guard who was murdered at the Melbourne, Australia abortion clinic in July 2001, with a line through his name, indicating a “fatality” in the war on abortion.

The Anti-Abortion Violence Watch is compiled by the staff of the Feminist Majority Foundation and is published monthly. To report incidents of anti-abortion violence or for more information on the National Clinic Access Project, call 1-877-BE-SAFE-8.
**Recent Clinic Violence**

**Murders/Attempted Murders**

**Melbourne, Australia** • July 16, 2001
A security guard was fatally shot at abortion clinic when suspect Peter Knight entered the clinic waiting room, pulled a rifle out of a bag and shot and killed 44-year-old Hugget.

**Vancouver, BC** • July 11, 2000
Canadian Doctor Garson Romalis was stabbed in the back while entering his clinic. This is the second attempt on his life, in 1994 Dr. Romalis nearly bled to death after being shot by a high-powered rifle in his home. Suspect has not been apprehended.

**Amherst, NY** • October 23, 1998
Dr. Barnett Slepian was killed by a sniper’s bullet through his kitchen window. Slepian worked at Buffalo GYN Women’s Services and was the fifth doctor shot by sniper fire in the weeks preceding the Nov 11 Canadian holiday Remembrance Day and the first fatality. Also shot and injured in their homes were: Dr. Garson Romalis of Vancouver on 11/08/94; Dr. Hugh Short of Hamilton on 11/10/98; unnamed doctor in Rochester, NY on 10/28/97; and Dr. Jack Fairman of Winnipeg 11/11/97.

**Arsons/Attempted Arsons**

**Kalamazoo, MI** • January 28, 2001
The front door of the Planned Parenthood of South Central Michigan was smashed and fuel was sprinkled throughout the building. The alarm sounded and the perpetrator(s) fled. The facility was closed and the damage was minimal. This is the third violent attack on this clinic, in 1986 the clinic was destroyed by fire and in 1989 a firebomb destroyed an exterior wall.

**Concord, NH** • May 30, 1999
The Concord Family Health Center was the target of arson. The clinic was closed but building damage was extensive.

**Oakland Park, FL** • April 14, 2000
A container filled with an accelerant was thrown through the front door of Ft. Lauderdale Women’s Clinic. The clinic was closed and the fire was contained to the building exterior.

**Greenland, NH** • August 2, 1999
Feminist Women’s Health Center of Portsmouth was the target of arson. An accelerant was used causing $12,000 in damage.

**Sacramento, CA** • September 1999
Choice Medical Group was the target of arson. Firefighters were able to contain the 3:20 am blaze minimizing damage. Benjamin and Tyler Williams indicted.

**Albuquerque, NM** • April 30, 1999
Planned Parenthood of New Mexico was set on fire by an accelerant which was placed under the clinic’s door and then ignited. Repairs had just been completed from the 3/15 explosion. Ricki McDonald was arrested and charged. McDonald had just been released from prison after serving time for arson of a clinic in 1996.

**Milwaukee, WI** • April 3 & March 28, 1999
Summit Women’s Health Organization’s rear door was set on fire on 2 separate occasions. Peter Quinn, 17, charged with 3/28 attack.

**Waukesha, WI** • April 1, 1999
A log soaked with lighter fluid and set on the windowsill of the Planned Parenthood of WI was ignited. Peter Quinn, 17, charged.

**Sioux Falls, SD** • March 29, 1999
Planned Parenthood of MN/SD was the target of an arson attack, damage was minimal. Martin Uphoff convicted.

**Fayetteville, NC** • September 8, 1998
A Molotov cocktail was tossed onto the roof of the Hallmark Clinic at 1:30am. Firefighters were able to contain the fire to the roof and ceiling of the building. About an hour later, firefighters were called to the Carolina Women’s Clinic where a small fire was set.

**Fargo, ND** • April 6, 1998
Attempted arson of the Fargo Women’s Health Organization between 3-6:00 am. Randall Hanson convicted.

**Riverside/San Diego, CA** • April 1, 1998
Planned Parenthood of San Diego and Riverside Counties was firebombed. A white RV was spotted fleeing the scene. The arson damage was estimated to be $5,000.

**San Antonio, TX** • January 27, 1998
Attempted arson at the Planned Parenthood of San Antonio Southeast.

**Portland, OR** • October 19, 1997
An arson occurred at All Women’s Health Services, an abortion clinic. Loss estimated to be $5,000.

**Tuscaloosa, AL** • July 28, 1998
West Alabama Women’s Center sustained $250,000 in damages; after a firebombing gutted the interior of the building.

**Portland, OR** • May 27, 1997
Lovejoy Surgicenter, a target of protests and violence; was set on fire by an accelerant. Damage was estimated to be $250,000 in damage, after receiving several bomb threats.

**Yakima, WA** • May 7, 1997
Attempted arson at Planned Parenthood Central WA’s Yakima Family Planning Clinic.

**Bozeman, MT** • April 2, 1997
Office of Dr Susan Wicklund set on fire. John Yankowski sentenced.

**Rapid City, SD** • October 8, 1999
A Planned Parenthood clinic was damaged by an explosive device in the early morning hours. The explosive device contained an unknown accelerant.

**Albuquerque, NM** • March 15, 1999
The back door of a Planned Parenthood clinic was destroyed by an explosion.

**Asheville, NC** • March 11, 1999
A Molotov cocktail was tossed outside the Femcare Clinic. The bomb was placed next to the waiting room wall and exploded 30 minutes before the clinic opened.

**Fayetteville, NC** • October 3, 1998
Two bombs constructed of dynamite and timing devices were discovered before they exploded at the Hallmark Clinic and the Carolina Women’s Clinic. These same clinics were the targets of attempted arson a month earlier.

**Birmingham, AL** • January 29, 1998
An anti-personnel device packed with nails exploded at the New Woman, All Women Health Care Clinic, killing a security guard and seriously injuring a clinic nurse. The bomb was disguised as a potted plant and detonated by a remote device. The Army of God claimed responsibility in letters sent to media in Atlanta.

**Atlanta, GA** • January 16, 1997
Two bombs exploded at Northside Family Planning Services. The first bomb destroyed most of the interior of the clinic. The second bomb, an anti-personnel device, was placed near the parking lot and was designed to kill rescue, law enforcement, and clinic staff forced outside the building during the explosion.

**Tulsa, Oklahoma** • January 16-19, 1997
Two separate bomb incidents at the Reproductive Services Organization Affiliates clinic. A teenager was convicted in the bombing and his parents were charged.

**Anthrax Threats**

**Nationwide** • October 2001
Over 280 abortion and family planning clinics in 17 states (AL, DE, FL, GA, IL, IN, KY, MD, MI, MO, NJ, NY, NC, OH, PA, SC, TN, VA) and the District of Columbia received threatening letters claiming to contain anthrax. The envelopes were designed to resemble official government mailings, with return addresses from the “U.S. Secret Service” and “U.S. Marshall Service,” and bore a notice on the bottom left-hand corner that read “TIME SENSITIVE: Urgent Security Notice Enclosed.” The letters were postmarked from either Atlanta, Georgia; Knoxville, Tennessee, or Columbus, Ohio; were signed by the Army of God.

**Nationwide** • January 2000
Multiple clinics in at least twenty-one states (AL, CT, DC, DE, FL, GA, IL, IN, KY, ME, MI, NC, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, SC, TN, VA, VT and WI) received anthrax hoax letters. The letters were addressed to the clinic’s “Security Director” and were postmarked in Cincinnati, Ohio. All of the white envelopes bore the return address of ADT Security Consulting, 2951 E. 38th St. in Indianapolis, IN.

**Midwest** • June 2-3, 1999
Clinics in Cincinnati, Dayton and Columbus, OH received anthrax hoax letters addressed to the clinic’s “Security Director” and the return address was for the Do<JPA.ation.

**Nationwide** • February 18-22, 1999
30 clinics received envelopes containing a mail coating a message that the recipient had been exposed to anthrax. The letters bore a Lexington, KY postmark and some had return addresses of medical supply companies.

**Midwest** • October 30-November 2, 1998
Ten clinics received letters claiming “you have just been exposed to anthrax.” Clinics in Indianapolis, Dayton, Cincinnati, Dayton and Columbus, OH and others (OH, PA, SC, TN, VA, VT and WI) received anthrax hoax letters. The letters were postmarked from either Atlanta, Georgia; Knoxville, Tennessee, or Columbus, Ohio; were signed by the Army of God.

**Arrests/Convictions**

**Indiana** • October 2001
Matthew Trewhella was arrested and charged with assault and obstructing police after demonstrating at Indiana high schools showing photos claiming to be aborted fetuses when parents complained to local authorities. Trewhella leads the Milwaukee Wisconsin Missionaries to the Preborn, an extremist group that has undertaken violent tactics outside abortion clinics, and has called for the formation of militias in the past. Trewhella was released from after posting $100 bond.

**Sacramento, CA** • September 2001
Two White supremacist brothers, Benjamin and Jordan White, were arrested for plotting to blow up abortion clinics in California. The brothers had pleaded guilty to charges of setting fire to 3 synagogues and an abortion clinic in 1999. Sentencing is set for Septemem 30.

**Buffalo, NY** • July 2001
Norman Weslin, leader of anti-abortion group Lambs of Christ, was found guilty of four counts of criminal contempt when he knowingly violated a court-ordered buffer zone that barred him from the sidewalk in front of Buffalo, NY abortion clinic. Weslin was sentenced to five months in jail.