Letters Threaten Continued Use of Force

Army of God Letters Express Support for Eric Robert Rudolph

The Southeast Bomb Task Force, which includes agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), is investigating two letters claiming to be from the Army of God that expressed support for clinic bomber Eric Robert Rudolph and threatened to continue using “lethal force” against abortion clinics and providers. The letters surfaced in Andrews, North Carolina at the Andrews Journal newspaper and at a local store. Written at the top of the letters was Eric Robert Rudolph’s name and then “May God be with you.” The letter then went on to declare “war on the entire child-killing industry.”

Eric Robert Rudolph has been charged with the 1996 Olympic Park bombing in Atlanta, Georgia killing one and injuring hundreds. He is also accused of the 1997 bombings in Atlanta outside an abortion clinic and at a lesbian nightclub as well as the 1998 fatal bombing of an abortion clinic in Birmingham, Alabama in which an off-duty police officer was killed and a nurse was critically injured. Rudolph is on the FBI’s Ten Most Wanted list.

The Army of God, a clandestine anti-abortion extremist group, has claimed responsibility for several incidents of anti-abortion violence, including bombings and arson. Several anti-abortion extremists in addition to Eric Rudolph have strong ties to the Army of God including James Kopp, the individual charged with the 1998 murder of Dr. Barnett Slepian and wanted in connection with other assassination attempts; Shelley Shannon, convicted of 8 arsons, 2 chemical attacks and an attempted murder of Dr. George Tiller; and Michael Bray, convicted for 10 clinic bombings in the 1980’s. Most recently in October and November 2001, over 500 anthrax threat letters claiming to be from the Army of God were sent to abortion providers and reproductive rights advocacy organizations nationwide.

Sources: CNN.com, 3/18/02; Associated Press, 3/18/02; Feminist Majority Foundation

James Kopp to be Extradited to US

Accomplices Marra and Malvasi Will Stand Trial in July

An extradition order has been signed for James Charles Kopp to return to the United States to stand trial. Kopp is charged with the 1998 sniper-style assassination of Dr. Barnett Slepian, an Amherst, New York obstetrician-gynecologist who performed abortions. Kopp, who has also been indicted in the 1995 shooting of Ontario abortion provider Dr. Hugh Short and is the primary suspect in three additional shootings of abortion providers in Canada and New York, spent almost three years as a fugitive and was on the FBI’s Ten Most Wanted List before being captured in March 2001 in Dinan, France. In the Army of God manual, Kopp is referred to by his code name “Atomic Dog” and is the first person listed in the acknowledgments. Because of an additional appeal process, it could be another year before Kopp returns to the United States.

Loretta Marra and Dennis Malvasi, the individuals charged with aiding andabetting Kopp while he was a fugitive, are scheduled to stand trial July 30 for obstruction of justice. Malvasi was previously convicted in a series of clinic bombings in New York City and was sentenced to seven years in prison. Marra has a long history of participating in anti-abortion demonstrations and is known to have been arrested with Kopp at least three separate times in the early 1990’s. If convicted, they face up to 10 years in prison and $250,000 in fines on each charge.

Sources: Associated Press, 3/22/02 and 4/3/02; Buffalo News, 3/23/02
**Man Shoots into Arkansas Clinic**

On Sunday, March 31 at approximately 4:00 AM, a white male wearing a hooded sweatshirt fired a weapon into the Little Rock Family Planning Services clinic in Little Rock, Arkansas. No one was in the clinic at the time and no one was injured. The activities were captured on security cameras and local police and the FBI are investigating.

**Supreme Court to Review Pro-Choice Legal Victory**

On April 22, the US Supreme Court decided to review part of the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals decision in *National Organization for Women (NOW) v. Scheidler*, the civil case in which anti-abortion Organization for Women (NOW) v. Feminist Majority Foundation of Appeals decision in National to review part of the Seventh Circuit Court. On April 22, the US Supreme Court decided to review part of the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals decision in *National Organization for Women (NOW) v. Scheidler*, the civil case in which anti-abortion extremists were found to have conspired illegally to close women’s reproductive health clinics by committing multiple acts of violence and extortion against doctors, clinic employees and patients in violation of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO).

The Supreme Court has agreed to review two issues: whether the repeated assaults of anti-abortion extremists, including restraining clinic workers and patients, entering clinics and destroying medical equipment and blocking doorways and entrances to clinics, as well as damaging clinic property or using force or threats of force against clinics, employees, staff, and patients qualify as extortion under the Hobbs Act and whether a court can award private plaintiffs, such as NOW, injunctions under RICO as the government can.

In its review of the case, the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals found that “the record is replete with evidence of instances in which their [the anti-abortion extremists’] conduct crossed the line from protected speech to illegal acts, including acts of violence.” Further, the Court stated that letters sent by Joseph Scheidler, a key anti-abortion extremist, to clinics promising assaults if the clinic remained open “constituted true threats outside the protection of the First Amendment.”

The case will be heard in the 2002-2003 term.

Source: Associated Press, 4/22/02; Feminist Majority Foundation

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**Waagner Convicted on Additional Charges**

Former fugitive and anti-abortion extremist Clayton Lee Waagner was sentenced to 30 years in prison for escaping from an Illinois jail last year where he was awaiting sentencing on weapons and stolen vehicle charges. For the most recent convictions, Waagner may now face 15 years to life without parole as well as fines of up to $250,000 for each count against him. He still faces multiple additional federal and state charges for crimes he allegedly committed while a fugitive, including two armed bank robberies, possessing a destructive device (Waagner was identified as the driver of a car in which police found a pipe bomb and anti-abortion literature), being a felon in possession of firearms, and aggravated assault and auto theft.

Before this latest conviction, Waagner was

Source: AP, 04/18/02

**Conviction in Clinic Security Guard Murder**

Peter Knight Convicted in East Melbourne, Australia Shooting

Peter James Knight has been convicted in the July 2001 killing of a clinic security guard at Fertility Control Clinic in East Melbourne, Australia. Last summer, Knight entered the clinic waiting room, pulled a rifle out of a bag and shot 44 year-old security guard Steven Rogers in the chest at close range before two men tackled him and seized the weapon. Forty-one people were inside the clinic when Knight murdered Rogers and prosecutors believe that he may have intended to use more deadly force. When arrested by law enforcement, Knight was found to have 16 liters of kerosene, 3 lighters, torches, 30 gags, metal tubes which could have been used to nail the doors of the clinic closed, and a handwritten note that read, “We regret to advise that as a result of a fatal accident involving some members of staff, we have been forced to cancel all appointments today.”

When initially taken into custody, Knight refused to give his name to police and his identity remained a mystery for more than three months before being identified. After his arrest, Knight wrote, “There will not be an abortionist in Melbourne left deathless.”

During his trial, the Right to Life Australia president Margaret Tighe testified that Knight had previously visited her offices and had written her a letter while he was in prison. In the letter, Knight allegedly wrote, “Once I am released, then there will not be an abortionist about the place prepared to remain in operation – guaranteed.”

The morning of the murder, protesters associated with the anti-abortion group Helpers of God’s Precious Infants were demonstrating outside of the clinic, though they claim not to have any relationship with Knight. Helper’s of God’s Precious Infants is an international anti-abortion group with chapters in the United States in 56 states, Europe, and Australia.

Knight’s sentence, expected to be decided at the end of April, could be life imprisonment.

Sources: Associated Press, 4/23/02; The Australian, 4/23/02; Herald Sun, 4/16/02 & 4/19/02; The Age, 4/19/02
The US Federal Bureau of Investigation has announced plans to scale back its search for anti-abortion terrorist Eric Robert Rudolph, suspected in the fatal 1998 bombing of the Birmingham New Woman All Woman abortion clinic, the 1997 bombing of an Atlanta-area abortion clinic and lesbian night club, and the 1996 fatal Olympic Park bombing. Rudolph has been on the FBI’s Most Wanted list since May 1998, and has been the target of a four-year, $30 million search throughout the mountains of North Carolina. The Southeast Bomb Task Force, which has been handling the case, currently has 12 agents operating out of an annex to the FBI’s Atlanta field office and a full-time agent on duty in Andrews, NC. This activity will be cut back and the case treated as a “fugitive case,” although a senior FBI official said that they will continue to look for Rudolph until they find him or evidence that he is dead. Another retired agent who was a task force supervisor said, “I still believe Eric is in western North Carolina, I believe he’s still alive and I believe one day he’ll be caught.” Source: CNN, 3/21/02

**OSA Announces Summer Event**
Operation Save America (formerly Operation Rescue) has announced plans for their annual summer event, this time scheduled to take place in Dallas, Texas beginning July 13. In the past, these events have attracted hundreds of demonstrators and anti-abortion extremists from around the country who come to protest outside of abortion and family planning clinics. Planned speakers for this year’s event include Flip Benham, Rusty Thomas, Father Frank Pavone, Chet Gallagher, and Judy Brown.

Source: www.operationsaveamerica.org

**ALL Annual Conference**
American Life League (ALL) will be holding their second annual Celebration of Life World Family Conference in New Orleans, LA from July 10-14. Speakers include Alan Keyes, Mark Crutcher, Father Thomas Euteneuer, Joseph Scheidler, and Johnny Hunter.

Source: www.all.org

**Suspect Remains at Large**
The suspect wanted in connection with the July, 2000 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 a thin build. The stabbing is still under investigation.

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 an abortion clinic when suspect Peter Knight entered the clinic, killed 44-year-old Rogers.

- **Vancouver, BC** • July 11, 2000
  Canadian Doctor Garson Romalis was stabbed in the back while entering his clinic. This was 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 11/8/98; Dr. Short of Hamilton on 11/10/98; unnamed doctor in Rochester, NY on 10/28/97; and Dr. Jack Faiman 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 set on fire through the front door of Ft. Lauderdale Women’s Health Services. 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 20, 1999
  The Family Planning 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 P. 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 an arson. An accelerant was used causing $12,000 in damage.

- **Sacramento, CA** • April 24, 1999
  Choice Medical Group was the target of arson. Firefighters were able to contain the 3:30 am blaze minimizing damage. Benjamin and Tyler Williams indicted.

**Arrests/Convictions**

- **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 leaving the scene. The second insult, including five law enforcement officials. A letter from the “Army of God” sent to Atlanta news agencies, claimed credit. Eric Rudolph charged.

- **Tulsa, OK** • January 1&19, 1997
  Two separate bomb incidents at the Reproductive Services Center in Tulsa. A teenager was convicted and his parents were charged.

**Anthrax Threats**

**Nationwide** • January 2002
  Anthrax threat letters were sent to more than twenty abortion and family planning clinics and several reproductive rights organizations. These letters were received in white business-sized envelopes containing a white powder and a letter signed “Dr. Barnett Slepian.” The return address was falsely labeled as “Office of Dr. Carhart, Abortion Contraception Clinic of Nebraska.”

**Nationwide** • November 2001
  More than 200 Federal Express packages, falsely claiming to be from Planned Parenthood or the National Abortion Federation, arrived at abortion and family-planning clinics in 22 states. Envelopes contained a white powder and a threatening letter signed by the Army of God. Clayton Waagner is the primary suspect.

**Nationwide** • October 2001
  Over 250 abortion and family planning clinics in 17 states (AL, CT, DC, 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 “National Abortion Federation,” and bore a note on the bottom left-hand corner that read “TIME SENSITIVE. Urgent Security Notice Enclosed.” The letters were postmarked from either Atlanta, GA; Knoxville, TN; Chattanooga, TN; or Columbus, OH and were signed by the Army of God.

**Nationwide** • June 2-3, 1999
  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 WY) received anthrax hoax letters. The letters were addressed to each clinic’s “Security Director” and were postmarked in Cincinnati, OH. All of the white envelopes contained a return address of ADP Security Consulting, 2951 E. 38th St. in Indianapolis, IN.

**Nationwide** • June 2-3, 1999
  30 clinics received envelopes containing 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.

**Arrests/Convictions**

- **Cincinnati, Ohio** • April 2002
  Clayton Waagner was convicted on six counts of firearms and car theft charges, adding to previous firearms, car theft, and arson convictions. Clayton Waagner awaits charges from federal authorities related to more than 500 anthrax threat letters he allegedly sent to reproductive health care facilities in October and November 2001.

- **Victoria, Australia** • April 2002
  Peter James Knight was convicted in the July 2001 killing of clinic security guard Steven Rogers at Fertility Control Clinic in East Melbourne, Australia. Knight’s sentence, to be decided at the end of April, could be life imprisonment.