



CWA of California
Action Alert
January 12, 2005

CWA's Culture and Family Institute issued this alert yesterday. We encourage you to pray and act to keep religious speech free.

Thank you for taking the time to let your voice be heard!

CWA of California, San Diego/Imperial Counties
<http://casd.cwfa.org>

'Philadelphia Four' Face Prison for Preaching to Homosexuals;
Here Are Easy Ways to Help Them

Dear Friend,

Four Christians face up to 47 years in prison for the "hate crime" of preaching the Gospel at a homosexual street fair in Philadelphia. Mainstream media have ignored the arrests, which occurred on October 10, 2004. The men are charged with five misdemeanors and three felonies, one of which stems from the recent addition of "sexual orientation" to Pennsylvania's "hate crime" law.

The case originated when 11 Christians with Repent America began preaching and singing at Outfest, a homosexual street event. The Christians, led by Repent America founder Michael Marcavage, were surrounded by the Pink Angels, a group of homosexuals who held up Styrofoam signs, blocking the Christians. Police arrested only the Christians. After viewing a videotape of the incident at the December 14 hearing, Municipal Court Judge William Austin Meehan dropped charges against seven other defendants, including a 17-year-old girl and a 72-year-old grandmother.

The remaining charges against four men seemed to stem from whether the judge saw them singing, holding a sign or preaching from the Bible.

"Police only forwarded an obstructing charge. It was the prosecutor's office that elevated this into three felonies and five misdemeanors," said American Family Association attorney Brian Fahling, who is representing the defendants, to Concerned Women for America (CWA).

"Preaching the Gospel of Christ in a public park should not be charged as a hate crime. Religious expression in public places is protected by the First Amendment. The defendants' civil rights are being violated," said Jan LaRue, CWA's chief counsel.

Please call radio talk shows and bring this case to the public's attention. And please contact at least one of the following offices to register your concern over this grossly harsh criminal prosecution of Christians committing a "hate crime" by sharing the Gospel. Tell them that preaching the Gospel of Christ in a public park should not be charged as a hate crime. Religious expression in public places is protected by the First Amendment. The defendants' civil rights are being violated.

District Attorney's Office
1421 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102-1507
Phone: 215-686-8000
Fax: 215-563-0047
E-mail: DA_WEBMAIL@phila.gov

Mayor John Street's Executive Office
Room 215 City Hall
Philadelphia, PA 19107
Fax: (215) 686-2180
Betty Kibler, Executive Secretary
(215) 686-2181
Connie Little, Executive Assistant
(215) 686-2187

Sen. Rick Santorum (R)
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: 202-224-6324
<http://santorum.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=ContactInformation.ContactForm&CFID=7060640&CFTOKEN=67597268>

Sen. Santorum's Philadelphia Office:
1 South Penn Square
Widener Building, Suite 960
Philadelphia, PA 19107
Phone: 215-864-6900
Fax: 215-864-6910

For further information on the persecution these Christians are facing, please see these related links:

CWA Urges DOJ Intervention In Philadelphia Hate Crimes Prosecutions
(Jan. 5, 2005) <http://www.cwfa.org/articles/7167/CWA/freedom/index.htm>

Justice Department May Have to Intervene in Philadelphia, Attorney Says
(Jan. 3, 2005) <http://www.cwfa.org/articles/7138/CFI/freedom/index.htm>

Philadelphia Will Prosecute Christian Protesters
(Dec. 21, 2004) <http://www.cwfa.org/articles/7089/CWA/freedom/index.htm>

Sincerely,

Concerned Women for America's
Culture and Family Institute