

## **Scientology Critic, Keith Henson, in Jail**

Keith Henson, a 64 year old American electrical engineer, faces imminent extradition to California because of a 2001 misdemeanor conviction. Henson and those who know him have reason to believe that this extradition could mean his death, and there doesn't seem to be much time left.

Henson has been a vocal critic of Scientology for over twelve years. The story of how his peaceful protest changed his life is a well-documented and chilling example of the Scientology organization's desire and ability to orchestrate the removal of individual freedoms for those who would point out its abuses of people and the law.

Keith Henson was jailed Tuesday, May 8th, in Prescott, Arizona. He is facing extradition to Riverside County, California on this Friday, May 18th, after a hearing. Henson is being held for a misdemeanor conviction in Riverside County ("Interfering with a Religion"), six years ago.

No arrest warrant was in evidence when he was arrested. Henson's lawyer has had difficulty contacting him since he was jailed.

Henson's wife has reported that he has also been denied his heart medication in jail at times.

Many irregularities exist in this case, including:

- It is unusual for any state to seek extradition of misdemeanants.
- Investigators for the Riverside County DA were unable to find any records on Henson, even though Riverside County initiated the extradition request.
- Papers sent from the Riverside County DA do not match court records.
- Clearly deficient warrants that don't match the court record have been submitted by the Riverside County DA to support the extradition request.
- The extradition warrants from both governors were sent 'accidentally' to the wrong lawyer. When Henson and his lawyer requested copies of these documents from Prescott Court staff prior to the May 8<sup>th</sup> hearing, their requests were denied.
- Keith Henson has been the target of death threats since 2001, with a recent surge. These threats imply will die in jail in California. Such threats led to his flight to Canada six years ago, rather than go to jail in Riverside County on the misdemeanor charge.

Henson's supporters have organized a campaign to seek a pardon from California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

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