



*Office of Special Affairs*

July 29, 1998

Mr. Scott Currier  
Chief of Police  
Sandown Police Department  
Sandown, New Hampshire

Re: Witness Statement

Dear Chief Currier:

I am a member of the Board of Directors of Church of Scientology International.

I am writing to supply you with information and evidence to aid your investigation of the shooting incident which occurred on July 26, 1998 at the residence of Robert Minton on Fremont Street in Sandown.

Based on media reports and Internet posting, I believe Mr. Minton made a false statement to the police when he claimed he merely discharged his shotgun "in the air." Shortly after the incident on Saturday, July 25, 1998 I received a call from Mr. Minton in which he clearly stated he shot "at" the people at his house, not "over their heads", as he asserted later in a message on the Internet, or, later yet according to press quotes, "in the air." In fact, to be sure I had heard correctly, I queried what he was saying, and Mr. Minton reiterated that he had shot "at them."

Because Mr. Minton has made several threats against me and against Scientology churches over the past several months, many of which have been extortionate in nature, Church counsel has advised that I record any conversations I have with Mr. Minton for evidentiary purposes. Enclosed is a complete transcript of the phone call. Of course, I can also supply the actual tape; it is still in my possession.

Mr. Minton called me shortly after the shooting incident on Sunday. I had just heard about it because a staff member of our Church in Boston had called to report that a shooting had occurred at Mr. Minton's home in New Hampshire. However, I had no details. When Mr. Minton got

FROM

(TUE) 8 25 '98 1:51:37 1:35:NC 426022959: E 8

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on the phone, he was very threatening and boasted that he had shot at the people protesting in front of his house. As you can see, Mr. Minton twice clearly stated that he shot at the people, and indicated that he would do so again.

If, as is reported in the press, Mr. Minton told the police that he shot "in the air," such a statement is inconsistent with his contemporaneous statements to me on the phone that he shot "at" the Scientologists.

In addition to the transcript of my call with Mr. Minton, I also attach a copy of the Internet posting from Mr. Minton and of the news articles which followed the incident.

To explain why I would have occasion to speak with Mr. Minton on the phone, given his attitude, I have had a number of conversations with Mr. Minton attempting to learn why he has embarked on such an irrational vendetta against my Church and its parishioners. Briefly, with no previous contacts with the Scientology religion, he offered on the Internet to give \$360,000 to anyone who could cause the Church to lose its tax exempt status. Since then, he has given approximately \$1.7 million to people who have been adjudicated to have infringed on our intellectual property rights, and who have engaged in other unlawful conduct. He has organized and participated in demonstrations against Scientologists around the country over the past 2 years.

I have been attempting to learn from him what he wants and to resolve the matter. Mr. Minton has been unable to articulate a sensible reason for this conduct aside from a general bitterness he has felt against society since he was institutionalized in a psychiatric hospital in his teens for violent behavior. The fact that he required more psychiatric treatment when he was in his 30s, indicates a continuation of the earlier problem of mental instability or a newly developed, similar problem.

Finally, as you can see from the enclosed transcript, Mr. Minton also strongly threatened to take other actions which, in his words, would place the entire Scientology religion in jeopardy, and that would make my life miserable. With Mr. Minton's previous history of incarceration in a psychiatric institution, and his demonstrated instability, I believe him. My belief was further supported yesterday when another one of Mr. Minton's messages appeared on the Internet at 3:46pm. In it, he makes ominous reference to a "sketch shooting" event and disingenuously tries to reinforce the false impression that a trespassing occurred. In view of

FROM

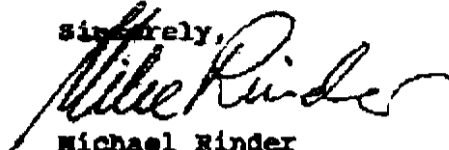
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recent events, I cannot but interpret this latest message as another veiled threat. I sincerely hope, therefore, that you will treat this matter seriously.

If I can be of further assistance, please contact me at the address and/or phone number on this letterhead.

Sincerely,



Michael Rinder

MR:ls  
enc.

FROM

(TUE) 8 25 '98 1 52 ET 1:39 NO. 426022959) P 11

July 25, 1998

MINTON: Hello?

RINDER: Bob?

MINTON: Yeah.

RINDER: Mike Rinder.

MINTON: Mike, hold on a second. (coughing) Sorry my voice is not working. How are you?

RINDER: I'm all right. How are you?

MINTON: Hey listen what are these guys doing protesting in front of my house today?

RINDER: Gosh I guess they're expressing their displeasure about what you're engaged in.

MINTON: Yeah. Well I tell you Mike I told you and Marty last time, that every time you guys go after me there's going to be a price. And tonight I'm going to put a message on the Internet that's going to put your whole fucking religion in jeopardy.

RINDER: Is that right?

MINTON: You can look at it the way you want to. I'm telling you, when these guys do this, there is going to be a price. I told you and Marty this and it's going to happen within one hour. You're going to wish these guys didn't show up at my house, trespassed on my property, got the police down here, got themselves shot up with shotguns. You know, it's going to happen ....

RINDER: Who shot at them?

MINTON: I did. I shot at them.

RINDER: You shot at people with a shotgun?

MINTON: Yeah. When they're fucking trespassing on my property they're going to get shot at.

RINDER: Jesus.

MINTON: Mike, Mike. Read the message. You and Marty can enjoy it because it's going to make your fucking life miserable. OK? Good night.