

Attorney General Eric Holder  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

September 20, 2009

Dear Attorney General Holder,

I am a former leader in the religious right movement, and am writing to request a meeting with you or other top officials of the Department of Justice to discuss what I believe is an escalating threat of hate crimes and domestic terrorism. I am deeply concerned that we are facing a period like that before 9/11 where warnings were ignored or brushed aside for various unacceptable reasons. Because of my unique knowledge of the extreme right, combined with recent events and other chatter, I am in a position to provide your office with an insider perspective on how to deal with the growing threat of domestic terrorism.

I was a leader in of this movement during the 70's and 80's, until I quit in disgust and shame over their--and my--extremism. My evangelical-leader father, Francis Schaeffer, wrote a best-selling book called *A Christian Manifesto*, in which he equated legal abortion to the Holocaust. He wrote as "fact" that the time would come where American Christians would turn to force against those who support abortion. He compared America to Hitler's Germany.

It is clear the radicals believe that time has come. There are some far right evangelicals talking about President Obama being the "next Hitler" because he supports legal abortion. Given what my father wrote justifying force when "other options" run out, given his massive continuing following--to this day--in the far right evangelical subculture, and given the fact that the religious right now believes their options have indeed run out--I see trouble.

Since the election of our first black president, we've seen an abortion doctor gunned down, three police officers in Pittsburgh shot by a man who feared "they" would take his guns and the slaying of a African-American security guard at the National Holocaust Museum. The FBI recently arrested a well-known white supremacist, host of an Internet talk show and web site, for saying that three judges should be killed. On June 26, another domestic terrorism story occurred: The gunning down of a father, mother and child by a self-appointed "border patrol" claiming to keep America "safe" from Mexican immigrants. Over the past month, angry demonstrators fueled by racism and hate speech have been directed to physically disrupt town hall meetings wearing "body armor" and "packing heat."

America has a right-wing domestic terrorism powder keg waiting to ignite. Dr. Tiller is dead because he dared to protect women's health against the wishes of religious extremists. Stephen Tyrone Johns is dead because he was a black man guarding a Jewish memorial. What do these and other recent public acts of violence have in common? The

actors had been fed a perverted plate of religion based on hatred of others and of America as we know it. Unless action is taken quickly, terrorism is going to keep following extreme words.

I would like to meet with your staff to discuss ways to address this dangerous situation. In order to prepare an effective strategy for combating this, it is imperative that the Department of Justice understand the nature and scope of the threat, and the fact that this is far more than simply a few lone actors taking matters in their own hands: We are facing an organized group of people who have taken up the "cause" of imposing their religious beliefs on others through the use of hate speech advocating violence. This group wants a religious revolution based on sexual purity, racism, the abolition of taxes, and Old Testament vengeance. Above all, it is the "absolutes" of white evangelical America that spawn the hate.

I would like to discuss ways in which that your office can open a dialog with pro-life and religious leaders to convince them to cooperate with law enforcement officials and expose those who commit or intend to commit criminal acts. I would also like to share my ideas of how to reach out to the right wing media that foments this hate speech so they understand that such speech pushes some people to commit violence.

The Department of Justice cannot simply prosecute domestic terrorism after the fact, but must take action to head it off before it happens. I realize that it is not easy confronting religion and the press when the First Amendment protects them both. However, just as the US campaign against foreign terror is not a war on Islam or Al Jazeera, a campaign against domestic terror would not be a war on Christianity or Fox News. Instead, that campaign would be directed against those who commit, fund and support criminal and violent acts in America.

I hope you will consider my unique perspective, my advice, and my request to meet.  
Thank you.

Yours,

Frank Schaeffer