

1 **DCMN HOFSTAD**

2  
3 **IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF WASHINGTON**  
4 **IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF KING**  
5

**MIKAIL NICKERSON**  
**Petitioner,**

**vs.**

**CORY HOFSTAD**  
**Respondent.**

**NO. 20-2-01055-3 SEA**  
**MOTION TO DISMISS WITH PREJUDICE**

✓ **SUBMITTED BY THE DEFENDANT**

6  
7 The defense is motioning for the court to dismiss with prejudice Superior Court of Washington  
8 for King County Family Case 20-2-01055-3 SEA on grounds that the current order violates  
9 statutes of Washington State legislature, does not benefit the community, and may violate the  
10 First Amendment of the United States Constitution. Evidence EFiled to case 20-2-01055-3 via  
11 the King County Superior Court Clerk's office supports the facts (1) that the plaintiff Mikail  
12 Nickerson poses a threat to the community, (2) The defendant Cory Hofstad acted within  
13 justified means to inform the plaintiff of possible risks associated with her refusal to stop  
14 committing a felony and turn herself in to authorities for multiple felonies and/or organized  
15 terrorist crimes. (3) An order issued on February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020 protects criminal operations of the  
16 plaintiff and harms the community, including Olivia Melody Hofstad and Cory Hofstad.

1   **1   I SWEAR BY ALMIGHTY GOD THAT THE EVIDENCE I SHALL GIVE WILL BE THE TRUTH, THE**  
2       **WHOLE TRUTH, AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH.**

3  
4   I the Defendant Cory Andrew Hofstad, swear under oath that information and testimony  
5   provided to the court in case 20-1-00485-1 SEA is true and accurate to my best available  
6   knowledge. All images, public records, news reports, and forensic comparisons which have been  
7   EFiled to the Superior Court Clerk's Office of King County are undoctored. Screenshots from  
8   two public news reports (FOX26 and ABC13) were edited to remove ads at the bottom which  
9   made the image height too large for the Efiling file uploader. Comparison mages were placed  
10   side-by-side in a photo editor and saved for court forensics. No filters or color manipulation was  
11   performed by the defense on the images or documents. The defense has worked to ensure that an  
12   adequate preponderance of substantial, clear, and convincing evidence has been EFiled in return  
13   for adequate time to start and conduct a thorough verification of available forensic data.

**2 THE DEFENDANT CORY ANDREW HOFSTAD IS PROTECTED BY GOOD FAITH AS A FEDERAL  
PEACE OFFICER.**

The defendant as a Federal Peace Officer does not meet requirements for Domestic Violence. The defendant did not cause physical harm, bodily injury, assault, including sexual assault, stalking, OR the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury, or assault to the plaintiff in this case. Fear of imminent physical harm is felt by many fugitives, terrorists, pedophiles, and/or human traffickers who are on the run from federal peace officers. Boko Haram members who feel fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury, or assault by misfortune or accident during the execution of the legal process are not something that Washington State Courts can protect according to sections of RCW 9A.16.

1   **2.1   THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE SECURITY FORCES CIVILIAN POLICE ARE FEDERAL**  
2       **PEACE OFFICERS AS DEFINED BY RCW 10.93.020 (6).**

3  
4   RCW 10.93.020 (6) defines that "Federal peace officer" means any employee or agent of the  
5   United States government who has the authority to carry firearms and make warrantless arrests  
6   and whose duties involve the enforcement of criminal laws of the United States. The First  
7   Amendment to the United States Constitutional protects the defendant's right to free speech in  
8   the communication of justifiable legal force which a fugitive or terrorist may encounter in  
9   Washington State.

10  
11   Any interpreted use, attempt, or offer to use force in case 20-2-01055-3 SEA is legally protected  
12   by statute RCW 9A.16.020. The extent of justifiable force is clearly defined by Washington State  
13   Legislature in RCW 9A.16.030 and RCW 9A.16.040. Offer of force is legal, without malice, and  
14   with a good faith belief that such action was justifiable according to the legislature of this state  
15   and legal duties. The "Offer" to use force is written into law in RCW 9A.16.20 by the  
16   Washington State legislature because offers are used, when necessary, in self-defense, and/or law  
17   enforcement for safety of avoiding actual "use" of force.

18  
19   If the use of deadly force is justifiable when committed by accident or misfortune in doing any  
20   lawful act by lawful means, without criminal negligence, or without any unlawful intent, then it  
21   follows that the offer to use deadly under these conditions force is also legal and not considered a  
22   threat. Likewise, if a person is justified in using deadly force in a situation, they may legally  
23   offer the use of deadly force in the same situation. The defendant's communication included  
24   legal means and is protected by the Constitutional right to Freedom of Speech awarded to all  
25   American Citizens. Putting an otherwise legal action or activity into speech cannot be illegal  
26   under constitutional protections provided to American citizens. The defendant is a citizen of the  
27   United States of America whose communication contained lawful means which were not used to  
28   incite actions that would harm others.  
29

1   **2.2   THE DEFENDANT CORY ANDREW HOFSTAD IS AN OFFICER OF THE U.S. AIR FORCE**  
2       **SECURITY FORCES, U.S. AIR FORCE SECURITY FORCES POLICE, AND U.S. NAVY SEALs**

3  
4   Cory Andrew Hofstad is an officer of the United States Air Forces Security Forces military  
5   police.

6  
7   Cory Andrew Hofstad is an officer of the United States Air Force Security Forces Civilian  
8   Police.

- 9       • #8105 Officer  
10       • #8106 SWAT  
11       • #8107 Air Marshal  
12       • #8108 Disclosure Commissioner

13   **2.3   MEMBERS OF U.S. AIR FORCE SECURITY FORCES ARE PART OF A VERY DIVERSE STAFF**  
14       **OF CAREER SPECIALISTS AND EDUCATED SECURITY PROFESSIONALS WITH A DUTY TO**  
15       **ENSURE AMERICAN SECURITY.**

16  
17   The defendant Cory Andrew Hofstad is under federal order by contract and sworn oath to protect  
18   the United States American public and government from enemies foreign and domestic. The  
19   defendant Cory Hofstad is owned by contract and sworn oath by the United States government.  
20   The defendant Cory Andrew Hofstad is ordered by JCS to be aggressive in gathering  
21   intelligence, corresponding with JCS, and protecting American citizens. The defendant Cory  
22   Hofstad has great respect for the civilian legislature, courts, law enforcement, and residents of  
23   Washington State. The defendant Cory Hofstad does face the possibility of court-martial and/or  
24   federal indictment for violations of military law, civilian law, and direct orders.

25  
26   The Defendant's military records are available on DEERS to active-duty senior officers within  
27   the U.S. military. The defendant Cory Andrew Hofstad has EFiled documents in the form of  
28   Congressional .PDF documents, forensic images, photographs, and testimony to the Superior  
29   Court of Washington for King County in support of his duties. Public Records which are sealed  
30   by an officer of the United States Government shall be admitted into the courts of Washington  
31   State as evidence and shall be considered valid according to Washington State Legislature  
32   Statutes RCW 5.44.040, and RCW 5.44.130.

1    **3    THE DEFENDANT HAS REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE PLAINTIFF MIKAIL NICKERSON IS AN**  
2    **ACTIVE DOMESTIC TERRORIST AND MEMBER OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATION BOKO**  
3    **HARAM UNDER THE ALIAS “ABU ABDULLAH ALI AL-BARNAWI”.**

4    Evidence EFiled to case 20-2-01055-3 via the King County Superior Court Clerk’s office shows  
5    that the defendant does have reason to believe that the plaintiff in order 20-2-01055-3 is an active  
6    member of the terrorist organization Boko Haram under the alias “Abu Abdullah Ali al-Barnawi.  
7    The defendant as a Federal Peace Officer had reason to believe that the plaintiff is engaged in  
8    illegal organized criminal activities. Nickerson has been seen in public photos with Boko Haram  
9    leader and member “Abubakar Shekau” via his American alias “Ben King”. “Ben King”  
10   currently resides within in the Puget Sound Area of Washington State. Forensic comparisons for  
11   “Abubakar Shekau” and “Ben King” have been EFiled to the King County Superior Court  
12   Clerk’s Office.

1   **4   THE DEFENDANT DOES HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE PLAINTIFF MIKAIL**  
2   **NICKERSON IS A FUGITIVE FROM TEXAS AND ON A CONVICTION FOR VIOLENT FELONY SEX**  
3   **CRIMES AGAINST A MINOR, THAT THE PLAINTIFF WAS ARRESTED, CONVICTED, AND**  
4   **SENTENCED UNDER A STOLEN IDENTITY OF “MARILYN JOY WILKES”. U.S. AIR FORCE**  
5   **SECURITY FORCES OFFICERS HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE IDENTITY THEFT**  
6   **VICTIM MARILYN JOY WILKES IS SERVING A 50-YEAR SENTENCE AFTER A VISITING SWAP**  
7   **BY BOKO HARAM MEMBERS.**

8   Evidence EFiled to case 20-2-01055-3 via the King County Superior Court Clerk’s office shows  
9   that the defendant does have reason to believe that plaintiff Mikail Nickerson is a fugitive of  
10   Christina Melton Crain Minimum Security Prison in Texas. Public news articles featuring the  
11   plaintiff in terrorist profiles and jail photos were forwarded to the defendant. Photos of “Abu  
12   Abdullah Ali al-Barnawi” and “Marilyn Joy Wilkes” both match the plaintiff Mikail Nickerson’s  
13   public images. “Marilyn Joy Wilkes” signatures from Superior Court of Texas for Harris County  
14   documents do match the plaintiff Mikail Nickerson’s signatures from Washington State Superior  
15   Court for King County documents.

16  
17   The defendant has reason to believe that plaintiff Nickerson has used a stolen ID during an arrest  
18   in Houston, TX on or about January 11<sup>th</sup>, of 2019 for trafficking a 16-year-old female for sex  
19   work. The defendant has reason to believe that Nickerson used the stolen identity of “Marilyn  
20   Joy Wilkes” during the resulting court cases, convictions, and sentencing processes by the  
21   Superior Court of Texas for Harris County on case number 162535101010-3, and by the Harris  
22   County District Court on cause numbers 1625351 and 1625352. The defendant has reason to  
23   believe that Boko Haram or other human trafficking cartel members (Pimps) have forced the  
24   owner of the stolen ID to turn herself into Christina Melton Crain Minimum Security Prison in  
25   Texas in replacement of the plaintiff Mikail Nickerson, likely during a minimum-security visit.

26  
27   The defendant has reason to believe the plaintiff in order 20-2-01055-3 SEA is a fugitive, has  
28   committed a felony, was committing a felony, is committing a felony, would commit a felony,  
29   and/or will commit a felony. The defendant has reason to believe that the plaintiff has a history  
30   of sexual abuse against children that has been brought to the attention of King County courts in  
31   Family case 16-3-07692-4. The defendant has reason to believe that the plaintiff Mikail  
32   Nickerson has a suicide attempt history, is highly unstable, and is likely under some form of  
33   control by Boko Haram members. The defendant has reason to believe that the plaintiff’s ability  
34   to manipulate law enforcement, correctional staff, and court officials as a member of a known  
35   terrorist organization is a direct threat to national security.

**4.1 THE BOOKING PHOTO TAKEN FROM CONVICTED FELON “MARILYN JOY WILKES” IN HARRIS COUNTY DISTRICT COURT CASE 162535301010 PROVIDES MULTIPLE FORENSIC MATCHES TO PUBLIC IMAGES OF THE PLAINTIFF MIKAIL NICKERSON.**

A booking photo of the woman convicted of multiple violent felonies under the alias “Marilyn Joy Wilkes” was compared with the plaintiff Mikail Nickerson’s public Facebook photos and EFiled to the King County Superior Court Clerk’s Office.

- (1) Pictures of plaintiff Nickerson and “Marilyn Joy Wilkes” contain the same person.
- (2) Acne scarring is visible in the arrest photo of “Marilyn Joy Wilkes” and is identical to acne scarring in a Facebook photo of plaintiff Mikail Nickerson posted April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012.
- (3) In images without eyebrow trimming, natural eyebrow shaping is identical.
- (4) Plaintiff Mikail wears wigs or braid extensions and short hair is often twisted in identical fashion seen in the Houston booking photo.



**4.2 CERTIFIED PUBLIC DOCUMENTS FROM SUPERIOR COURT OF TEXAS FOR HARRIS COUNTY CASE 162535301010 CONTAIN SIGNATURES FROM CONVICTED FELON “MARILYN JOY WILKES” WHICH PROVIDE IDENTICAL MATCHES TO SIGNATURES FROM THE PLAINTIFF MIKAIL NICKERSON IN DOCUMENTS FROM SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR KING COUNTY CASE NUMBER 20-2-01055-3 SEA.**

Certified Public Records from Superior Court of Texas for Harris County and Harris County District Court were EFiled to the King County Superior Court Clerk’s office.

- (1) The initials “MW” signed by convict “Marilyn Joy Wilkes” in Superior Court of Texas for Harris County documents for case number 162535301010 are nearly identical to initials “MN” signed by the plaintiff Mikail Nickerson in Superior Court of Washington for King County documents for case number 20-2-01055-3 SEA.
- (2) The letter “M” used in the signatures of documents signed by the plaintiff Mikail Nickerson and the convict “Marilyn Joy Wilkes” are identical.

1   **4.3   THE THUMBPRINT TAKEN FROM CONVICTED FELON “MARILYN JOY WILKES” IN HARRIS**  
2   **COUNTY DISTRICT COURT CASE 162535301010 WILL MATCH A THUMBPRINT OF THE**  
3   **PLAINTIFF MIKAIL NICKERSON.**

4  
5   The thumb Print of "Marilyn Joy Wilkes" from Harris County certified document 89550892 has  
6   been EFiled to the Superior Court Clerk's Office.  
7

1    **5    THE ORDER GIVEN ON 02/21/2020 IN CASE 20-2-01055-3 DOES NOT ADHERE TO SECTIONS**  
2    **OF WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATURE STATUTES IN RCW 9A.16 AND MAY VIOLATE**  
3    **FREEDOM OF SPEECH USED IN THE COMMUNICATION OF LEGAL MEANS.**

4    **5.1   THE DEFENDANT AS A FEDERAL PEACE OFFICER HAS REASON TO BELIEVE THAT**  
5    **PLAINTIFF MIKAIL NICKERSON IS AN IMMEDIATE DANGER TO OTHERS.**

6  
7    The evidence shows that plaintiff Mikail Nickerson is a member of a violent terrorist  
8    organization, a fugitive of prosecution for violent sex crimes in Texas, and the custodial parent  
9    of Olivia Hofstad, the eight-year-old daughter of the defendant. The evidence shows that Olivia  
10   Hofstad is in imminent danger or the victim of assault, robbery, kidnapping, burglary, rape,  
11   murder, or any other violent crime as defined in RCW 9.94A.030.

12  
13   The defendant has probable cause to believe that the plaintiff, if not apprehended poses a threat  
14   of serious harm to the officer or others. The plaintiff used a stolen Identity of “Marilyn Joy  
15   Wilkes” when arrested by Houston and during a trial which led to a conviction and sentence of  
16   50 years for human trafficking, sexual abuse of a minor under the age of 17, and compelling  
17   prostitution. The teenage victim was kidnapped, held hostage in a hotel room, violently tortured,  
18   and forced to perform sex work for a mandatory \$600 a day. Photos and Signatures from Texas  
19   news and public court records identify “Marilyn Joy Wilkes” as the plaintiff Mikail Nickerson.

20  
21   The defendant has reason to believe that the plaintiff Mikail Nickerson is residing in Seattle, WA  
22   after escaping a conviction to a State prison in Texas for a conviction of a violent felony under a  
23   stolen identity. The plaintiff Mikail Nickerson appeared in King County Superior Family Court  
24   on February 21st, 2020, as a fugitive from Christina Melton Crain Unit Minimum Security  
25   Prison. Likely an innocent victim of identity theft, a woman named Marilyn Joy Wilkes is  
26   serving a 50-year sentence for an organized criminal who now resides in Seattle, WA.  
27

1   **6   MESSAGES USED AS EVIDENCE IN CASE 20-2-01055-3 SEA ARE LEGAL MEANS WHICH ARE**  
2   **PROTECTED BY SECTIONS OF RCW 9A.16 AND THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE U.S.**  
3   **CONSTITUTION.**

4   At the time the communication occurred in case 20-2-01055-3 SEA, the defendant had reason to  
5   believe that plaintiff Mikail Nickerson had committed a felony in violation of Texas Penal Codes  
6   - PENAL §20A Human Trafficking, PENAL § 43.05 Compelling Prostitution, PENAL § 21  
7   Sexual Assault of a minor under the age of 17, and PENAL § 38.06 Escape.

8  
9   The defendant has reason to believe that the plaintiff Mikail Nickerson is a member of the  
10   terrorist organization Boko Haram under the alias “Abu Abdullah Ali al-Barnawi”. The  
11   defendant has reason to believe that the plaintiff Mikail Nickerson had escaped Texas  
12   Department of Criminal Justice Christina Melton Crain Minimum Security Prison for a  
13   conviction under a stolen identity of “Marilyn Joy Wilkes”, crossed multiple state lines, and is  
14   living as a fugitive in Washington State, while in custody of the defendant’s daughter Olivia  
15   Hofstad.

16  
17   The defendant meets the definitions of a Federal Peace Officer according to legislature provided  
18   in RCW 10.93.020. The defendant has reason to believe Olivia Hofstad has been a victim and is  
19   in imminent danger. The defendant is lawful while facing misfortune in doing a lawful act by  
20   lawful means, without criminal negligence, or without any unlawful intent. The offer to use  
21   deadly force is justifiable by Washington State legislatures RCW 9A.16.020, RCW 9A.16.030,  
22   RCW 9A.16.040, and RCW 9A.16.110. Speech by the defendant was not made to incite actions  
23   that would harm others. The first amendment to the United States Constitution protects Freedom  
24   of Speech regarding lawful means.

25  
26   **RCW 9A.16.020 states:** The use, attempt, or offer to use force upon or toward the person of  
27   another is not unlawful in the following cases:

- 28  
29       (1) Whenever necessarily used by a public officer in the performance of a legal duty, or a  
30       person assisting the officer and acting under the officer's direction;  
31       (2) Whenever necessarily used by a person arresting one who has committed a felony and  
32       delivering him or her to a public officer competent to receive him or her into custody.

33  
34   **RCW 9A.16.030 states:** Homicide is excusable when committed by accident or misfortune in  
35   doing any lawful act by lawful means, without criminal negligence, or without any unlawful  
36   intent.

1 **RCW 9A.16.040 states:**

2  
3 (1) Homicide or the use of deadly force is justifiable in the following cases:

- 4  
5 (a) When a public officer applies deadly force in obedience to the judgment of a competent  
6 court; or  
7 (b) When necessarily used by a peace officer meeting the good faith standard of this section  
8 to overcome actual resistance to the execution of the legal process, mandate, or order of a  
9 court or officer, or in the discharge of a legal duty.  
10 (c) When necessarily used by a peace officer meeting the good faith standard of this section  
11 or person acting under the officer's command and in the officer's aid:  
12  
13 (i) To arrest or apprehend a person who the officer reasonably believes has committed,  
14 has attempted to commit, is committing, or is attempting to commit a felony;  
15 (ii) To prevent the escape of a person from a federal or state correctional facility or in  
16 retaking a person who escapes from such a facility;  
17 (iii) To prevent the escape of a person from a county or city jail or holding facility if the  
18 person has been arrested for, charged with, or convicted of a felony.  
19

20 **RCW 9A.16.110 states:**

- 21  
22 (1) No person in the state shall be placed in legal jeopardy of any kind whatsoever for  
23 protecting by any reasonable means necessary, himself or herself, his or her family, or his  
24 or her real or personal property, or for coming to the aid of another who is in imminent  
25 danger of or the victim of assault, robbery, kidnapping, arson, burglary, rape, murder, or  
26 any other violent crime as defined in RCW 9.94A.030.  
27

28 **The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution states:** Congress shall make no law respecting  
29 an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of  
30 speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the  
31 Government for a redress of grievances.  
32

33 In 1919, Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes wrote the passage “Fighting Faiths”  
34 which clearly stated his position on Free Speech:  
35

36 *“I think that we should be eternally vigilant against attempts to check the expression of opinions*  
37 *that we loathe and believe to be fraught with death, unless they so imminently threaten*  
38 *immediate interference with the lawful and pressing purposes of the law that an immediate check*  
39 *is required to save the country.” – Oliver Wendell Holmes*

**7 MOTIONS OF THE DEFENSE**

**7.1 THE DEFENSE IS MOTIONING THE COURT TO DISMISS CASE 20-2-01055-3 SEA WITH PREJUDICE AND STRIKE ALL RECORDS OF THIS CASE FROM THE COURT RECORD**

The defense is motioning for the court to strike the DVPO, firearm restrictions, and other sanctions issued on February 21, 2020. The current order in 20-2-01055-3 SEA protects the terrorism and criminal activities of the plaintiff. The order places the defendant in legal jeopardy for activities protected by Washington State legislature and provides a form of retaliation against a person who identified and reported a yet unknown fugitive and domestic terrorist. It is in the interest of the community for the court to strike mistakes made by past orders and create positive strategies to protect future generations in Washington State.

**7.2 THE DEFENSE IS MOTIONING FOR THE COURT TO RE-OPEN KING COUNTY FAMILY CASE 16-3-07692-4**

The defense is motioning for the court to reopen the King County Family Case No. 16-3-07692-4 Cory Hofstad VS. Mikail Nickerson. The case involves custody of 8-year-old Olivia Hofstad whom the defendant believes is in imminent danger or a victim of assault, robbery, kidnapping, arson, burglary, rape, murder, or any other violent crime as defined in RCW 9.94A.030. The defendant is seeking full custody of Olivia Hofstad and a protection order for Cory Andrew Hofstad and Olivia Hofstad.

**7.3 THE DEFENSE IS SEEKING REIMBURSEMENT FOR DAMAGES, PAIN, AND SUFFERING**

The defendant is motioning for the court to order the plaintiff to pay \$2,000,000 in damages to Cory Andrew Hofstad and Olivia Hofstad. The hardships which have resulted from the plaintiff's actions have caused irreversible damage to the development of Olivia Hofstad. Cory Andrew Hofstad has suffered financially, and physically resulting from criminal activities, acts of terrorism, and perjury exhibited throughout the legal system by the plaintiff. The Family case 20-2-01055-3 SEA has interrupted the defendant's ability to work and take care of family responsibilities. The defendant has suffered loss of support, loss of income, and emotional distress. The financial amount requested by the defense is a start towards recovering emotional distress and other losses by Olivia Hofstad in housing, education, tutoring, emotional distress, and general health which have resulted from this matter.

**7.4 THE DEFENSE IS MOTIONING FOR THE COURT TO TAKE CRIMINAL ACTION AGAINST THE PLAINTIFF MIKAIL NICKERSON**

The defense is motioning for the Superior Court of Washington for King County to take action by ordering for plaintiff Mikail Nickerson to be detained, fingerprinted, and booked into King County Jail for transfer to Texas. The defense is motioning for the court to place proper sanctions on the plaintiff Mikail Nickerson such as mandates for the plaintiff to register as a sex offender and surrender all firearms. The defense is motioning for the court to take action by exchanging biometrics and other forensic data with the Superior Court of Texas for Harris County to help answer questions regarding the escape of the plaintiff. The defense is motioning for the court to take direct action by verifying the status and wellbeing of the individual named

- 1 Marilyn Joy Wilkes, a possible identity theft victim who may be currently serving a 50-year
- 2 sentence at Christina Melton Crain Unit Minimum Security Prison in Texas.

1    **DATE:**        **07/17/2021**

2  
3  
4  
5  
6

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED**  
**DEFENDANT,**

**PRINT:**

**CORY ANDREW HOFSTAD**

**SIGNATURE:**



7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12

**STREET ADDRESS:**

**2755 SOUTH WASHINGTON ST.**  
**SEATTLE, WA**  
**USA**  
**1 (206) 939-8127**  
**cory.hofstad@seattlecolleges.edu**