Satanic Temple Wants to Provide Religious Exemption For Abortion

Newstex Blogs

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Length: 703 words

Byline: Michael Ippolito

Body

Jun 27, 2022(Newsbusters.org: http://newsbusters.org/ Delivered by Newstex)

Here's something that makes perfect sense: The <u>Satanic</u> Temple hearts abortion, and it's advertising that fact. 'The <u>Satanic</u> Temple is the leading beacon of light in the battle for abortion access,' the group tweeted. Apparently, they don't teach about mixed metaphors at Satan's Seminary.

The **Satanic** Temple tweeted that it would provide religious exemptions for abortion:

The <u>Satanic</u> Temple is the leading beacon of light in the battle for abortion access. With Roe v Wade overturned, a religious exemption will be the only available challenge to many restrictions to access. Learn More https://t.co/2ZiuuGq3tg[1] pic.twitter.com/SljyRWdoZN[2]

— The **Satanic** Temple (@ satanic_temple_) June 24, 2022[3]

'With Roe v Wade overturned, a religious exemption will be the only available challenge to many restrictions to access,' the tweet said. The <u>Satanic</u> Temple had previously declared abortion a <u>Satanic</u> religious rite[4] (really) and laying the groundwork for women to claim 'free exercise' to get around restrictions.

'The <u>Satanic</u> abortion ritual provides spiritual comfort and affirms bodily autonomy, self-worth, and freedom from coercive forces with the affirmation of TST's Seven Tenets,' its website reads. 'The ritual is not intended to convince a person to have an abortion. Instead, it sanctifies the abortion process by instilling confidence and protecting bodily rights when undergoing the safe and scientific procedure.'

The truth is, the <u>Satanic</u> Temple is just a group of militant left-wing secularists that mock Christianity and its pieties, bring nuisance lawsuits against jurisdictions that display Christian symbolism and try to undermine religious legitimacy wherever they can. The group acts out the adolescent urge to mimic and belittle traditional morality.

Besides the Satanist claptrap, the group's website is reminiscent of something you would hear at a left-wing rally. 'The mission of The <u>Satanic</u> Temple is to encourage benevolence and empathy, reject tyrannical authority, advocate practical common sense, oppose injustice, and undertake noble pursuit,' the group proudly promotes. 'The <u>Satanic</u> Temple is also committed to supporting its LGBTQIA+ members. Bodily autonomy has been a central pillar of The <u>Satanic</u> Temple's mission since its founding.' Was this written by the <u>Satanic</u> Temple or Demi Lovato?

Satanic Temple Wants to Provide Religious Exemption For Abortion

Catholic	profess	or Dr.	Peter	Kreeft	once:	stated:	'Aborti	ion is	the	Antichrist's	dem	onic paro	dy of the E	Eucharist.	That is
why it u	ses the	same	holy	words,	'This	is my	body,'	with	the	blasphemo	ously	opposite	meaning.'	That's w	hat the
<u>Satanic</u>	Temple	is doi:	ng, un	der the	guise	of sm	arter-th	nan-y	ou-le	efty secular	rism.				

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Load-Date: July 20, 2022

Utah Ritualized Sexual Abuse Investigation: Is There a History of Ritual Abuse in Utah?

Newstex Blogs

Activist Post

June 25, 2022 Saturday 12:30 AM EST

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Length: 2846 words **Byline:** Activist Post

Body

Jun 25, 2022(Activist Post: http://www.activistpost.com Delivered by Newstex);

https://www.activistpost.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/utah-3.jpgBy Derrick Broze[1]

As the Utah primary draws near, the investigation into 'ritualized child sexual abuse' has garnered more than 120 tips related to claims of ritualistic sex rings. Let's examine the history of these allegations in Utah.

In the nearly 4 weeks since the Utah County Sheriff's Office announced an investigation into allegations of 'ritualized child sexual abuse' in three Utah counties, they have received more than 120 tips in the form of phone calls, texts, and emails. UCSO Public Information Officer Sgt. Spencer Cannon told the Salt Lake Tribune[2] that the office has 'pulled in' sergeants with experience in sex assault cases to help review the information.

The Last American Vagabond (TLAV) has been following the unusual situation[3] since May 31st when the Utah County Sheriff's Office announced they were working with multiple county and federal agencies investigating reports of ritualistic child sexual abuse from as far back as 1990. The Sheriff's Office said the investigation began in April 2021. The investigation subsequently discovered previous reports alleging 'similar forms of ritualistic sexual abuse and trafficking' that occurred in Utah County, Juab County, and Sanpete County during the time between 1990 and 2010.

Following the announcement of this investigation by Utah County Sheriff Mike Smith, Utah County Attorney David Leavitt held a press conference[4] where he shared a 151-page document titled 'victim statement' related to a 2012 case involving allegations of sexual abuse of children. Leavitt and several other people are named in the statement as being involved with a group practicing ritual child sex abuse. He claimed the Sheriff's investigation was a political attack on him related to the June 28th primary elections in Utah.

As TLAV reported last week[5], courtroom records revealed that Utah County Attorney David Leavitt lied when he said the 2012 case was dismissed by his predecessor because it was 'unbelievable,' lacking evidence, and the story of a 'tragically mentally ill' woman.

The Salt Lake Tribune has also reported that USCO Sgt. Cannon said the report that Leavitt was referencing was not what started the sheriff's investigation last year. 'We had a victim come forward and disclose abuse of this nature,' Cannon told the SLT. 'And so that's what started our investigation. The case that David Leavitt spoke about is not the case we initially started investigating. It's not the case that we became aware of in April of last year.'

Cannon did acknowledge that the detectives became aware of the 2012 case and the allegations against therapist David Lee Hamblin, but did not say if the case was part of the current investigation.

As Utahans prepare to vote in the primary on June 28th — a race in which both Sheriff Mike Smith and Utah County Attorney David Leavitt are both up for re-election — we wait to see if there will be any additional announcements, indictments, subpoenas or any official action taken.

To better understand this current investigation, we have examined hundreds of pages of Utah government documents, articles, and allegations of ritualized sexual abuse to paint a picture of this history.

The 1990s and Ritualized Sexual Abuse

In March 1990, the Utah Governor's Commission for Women and Families created the Utah Task Force on Ritual Abuse to investigate a rise in claims of ritualized sexual abuse of children and educate the public and professionals about the issue. The Task Force was co-chaired by psychologist Noemi Mattis, Ph.D., who was a believer in the idea that alleged victims can 'recover' their memories of abuse over time.

In 1992, the task force issued their report, Report of Utah State Task Force on Ritual Abuse[6], concluding that ritual abuse was occurring in Utah. The report described what it called 'generational' cults operating in secret, sometimes using the cover of traditional religious organizations and practices.

'Some scholars are convinced that such groups have existed for centuries. Their abusive cult activities may co-exist side by side with traditional worship; that is, members may publicly practice an established, respected religion. The members are often well-known and respected within their larger communities.'

When questioned about the lack of corroborative evidence to support the claims of the report and the alleged victims, Mattis said it is 'very difficult to prove any cases in a court of law which involve ritual abuse simply because the people who are involved with it have real expertise at hiding their tracks'.

The Task Force's report also made recommendations for the legislature to appropriate \$250,000 to the Attorney General's office to hire four investigators for a year. The Attorney General's office eventually would hire two investigators to pursue the claims.

The Zion Society Cult

One of the investigators hired by the Utah Attorney General's Office was Mike King. However, prior to his role in the AG investigation, King cut his teeth tracking down the Zion Society cult.

In 1991, Arvin Shreeve of Ogden, Utah and 10 members of the Zion Society were arrested as part of a sex ring involved in ritualistic sexual abuse. At the time Mike King was working as an investigator for the Weber County Attorney's Office. King was approached by a woman who claimed she had been involved in a cult that was sexually abusing children.

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content/uploads/2022/06/341cda4144f7615c558f4ca10cba71d33084a6d8.jpeg?ssl=1 Police raid the Zion Society homes on August 2, 1991

The woman told King she was running away from a bad marriage when she became involved with the group's leader, a man named Arvin Shreeve who had developed a group of followers. Shreeve told his followers he knew how to help them achieve happiness in the afterlife. His instructions often involved lesbian relationships and sexual abuse.

'He was then dictating that they should have relations with each other, a same-sex relationship, all in what he believed was his God's approval,' Mike King said in an interview with the Cold Podcast[7]. 'It continued to pervert, as always it seems these sexual predations do, and it soon became 'now the children need to be involved."

King called the Zion Society's abuse of children 'ritual abuse' despite it not being 'satanic' or 'occult.' He said the rituals Shreeve employed were a perversion of Christian theology. 'Ritual abuse is happening. I don't believe ritual abuse means satanic abuse,' King said.

When the Ogden police raided the neighborhood where the Zion Society was based, Mike King supervised the operation and the criminal prosecution of Shreeve and other members of the Zion Society.

The Utah Attorney General's Ritual Abuse Crime Unit

In 1992, following the recommendation of the Utah Task Force on Ritual Abuse report, the Utah Attorney General's office hired Mike King and Mark Jacobson to further investigate the claims of ritualistic sexual abuse that had grown so loudly that one poll from 1992 shows that 90% of the people[8] polled believed **satanic** abuse was real.

In late February 1995, the Utah Attorney General's office closed the two-and-a-half-year investigation[9]. King and Jacobson had investigated over 125 cases of alleged ritual crime. The investigators met with hundreds of citizens who claim to be victims of **satanic**, religious, physical or sexually motivated ritual crimes.

King and his partner summarized their findings in a 1995 report Ritual Crime in the State of Utah: Investigation, Analysis & A Look Forward[10]. 'Allegations of organized satanists, even groups of satanists who have permeated every level of government and religion were unsubstantiated,' the report read.

King did conclude that it is possible there were isolated instances of child sex abusers using <u>satanic</u> or occult imagery to scare victims into silence. The investigators concluded:

'Utah's police officers and their departments have dedicated thousands of hours as they followed up on allegations, searched hillsides for ritual sites, 'staked out' potential ceremonies, etc. Their combined efforts were unable to uncover any physical evidence to support the claims of the existence of organized cults.

Evidence has been uncovered to support the thought that individuals have in the past, and are now committing crime in the name of Satan or other deity. The allegations of organized satanists, even groups of satanists who have permeated every level of government and religion were unsubstantiated.

Clearly, crimes involving sexual and physical abuse are occurring. Evidence in the state supports the notion that ritual crime can exist, even on a large scale as in the Zion Society case in Ogden. Police agencies from across the state have the burden of evaluating and investigating all allegations that come to their attention. There is absolutely no evidence to support that any police agency is refusing to investigate allegations of ritual crime when those allegations involve criminal activity.'

Satanic Panic or Something More?

Unfortunately, the research around these and other historical investigations into 'ritualized' or '<u>satanic'</u> child sexual abuse is often rife with biases. Those who wholeheartedly believe these accounts are factual tend to dismiss any evidence to the contrary. Those who think it all sounds too outlandish or insane often focus on claims of false memories and the moral panic of the 1980s.

However, the Jeffrey Epstein saga[11], as well as my work on The Finders cult[12], show that these types of organized sexual rings do exist. Whether or not there is an occult or ritualistic element is often harder to prove, and, perhaps, even a distraction from the very real abuse of children that is happening. This is, of course, not to say that ritualistic abuse does not happen and that accounts of such abuse should be ignored.

Although the Utah sexual abuse investigations of the 1990s are often dismissed as another 'Satanic Panic,' a September 1991 Deseret News article titled Tales Are Bizarre But True, Deputy Says[13] raises important and disturbing questions. The article states:

'Deputy Dennis Howard of the Utah County Sheriff's Department is one of them. He took 42 reports alleging ritualistic animal or child abuse in 1989. 'Victims will tell you stories that are so bizarre it's difficult to believe them,' says Howard. 'But I have no trouble believing it. It's happening in Utah County and in every other county of the state.'

He says he is uncomfortable with child abuse laws, because people can be put in prison even if there is no physical evidence of the crime. He also says he can name people who are guilty of ritualistic crimes, but 'I can't touch them. They are too good at what they do and learn from court testimony in other cases about how to get away with their crimes."

https://secure.empirefinancialresearch.com/?cid=MKT450682&eid=MKT520278

If Deputy Howard elaborated on his claim that he can name the guilty parties, the Deseret News did not report it. TLAV has reached out to Howard for clarification and will update if he responds.

Howard goes on to say that he believes 'transgenerational satanist groups' are operating in Utah and are well-organized.

'These people are very mobile and have the ability to pack up and set up anywhere,' he told the Deseret News. 'I don't care which deity they claim to worship. They are into this (ritualistic crime) to satisfy their own psychological needs.'

This history of allegations of ritualized sexual abuse does not end in the 1990s. Recall that the accusations against David Lee Hamblin were in 1999, and again in 2012. Hamblin is accused by at least 8 victims of being involved in a

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cult performing ritual sexual abuse of children, as well as murder. Utah County Attorney David Leavitt was also accused of participating in these actions by one of the alleged victims of Hamblin. And, of course, we have the ongoing investigation by the Utah County Sheriff's Office that was started in April 2021 based on new reports.

Clearly, the claims of cults being involved in various forms of ritual sexual abuse of children has not ended.

For our 4th (and potentially final) investigation in this series, we will focus on the elephant in the room: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, aka the Mormon Church, and accusations of ritual sexual abuse.

Derrick Broze, a staff writer for The Last American Vagabond, is a journalist, author, public speaker, and activist. He is the co-host of Free Thinker Radio on 90.1 Houston, as well as the founder of The Conscious Resistance Network & The Houston Free Thinkers.

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Load-Date: July 19, 2022

Akwambo Festival Committee to sanction churches who fail to participate

Ghana News Agency (GNA)

June 24, 2022 Friday

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Length: 382 words **Byline:** James Esuon

Body

Agona Nyakrom, May 24, GNA - The Agona Nyakrom Akwambo Festival Committee said it will not hesitate to lock any church, which fails to participate in the non-denominational thanksgiving service on Sunday, August 7, to climax the 2022 Annual Akwambo Festival.

The Committee said it had observed that some of the churches conducted services and ignored the invitations extended to them and that the Nyakrom Traditional Council would bring all "recalcitrant" churches to book.

It said the Sunday service was to offer prayers to God to bless the town in her efforts to carry out developmental projects, but some pastors perceived it as "demonic".

Nana Osei Bonsu III, Tufuhene of Agona Nyakrom and Chairman of the Akwambo Committee, gave the warning at the unveiling of the 2022 Annual Akwambo Festival at Nyakrom.

He said the festival should not be classified as worship of deities or of <u>satanic</u> act, as perceived by some Christians, saying it was to help raise funds for developmental purposes.

The week-long celebration is on the theme: "Our Youth, Our Future, Our Development."

Activities include clean-up exercise, free medical screening, health week, local food cooking competition, and a grand durbar to climax it on Saturday, August 6, 2022, where government officials and other very important personalities would be in attendance.

The Overlord of Agonaman, Okofo Katakyi Nyakoh Eku X, Omanhene of Agona Nyakrom Traditional Area, would take part in the clean-up exercise among other divisional chiefs.

Akwambo Festival Committee to sanction churches who fail to participate

Nana Osei Bonsu cautioned the committee members and the Asafo Company to close down all shops and stores, which would refuse to take part in the exercise and should make them pay a penalty to serve as a deterrent.

He cautioned the youth to desist from wearing indecent dresses during the festival to mar its beauty, which aims at showcasing the rich culture and customary practices of the Traditional Area.

OKofo Eku urged the youth to participate fully in all the activities and called on the citizens, both home and abroad, to contribute their quota towards the development of the town.

He appealed to the Government to expedite action on the petition for the creation of the new district to speed up infrastructure development and the well-being of the people.

GNA

2022 Ghana News Agency (GNA)

Load-Date: June 24, 2022

How the Christian right took over the judiciary and changed America

The Guardian (London)

June 25, 2022 Saturday 8:00 AM GMT

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Section: WORLD NEWS: Version:1

Length: 1411 words

Byline: Katherine Stewart

Highlight: Leaders of the movement understood very well that if you can capture the courts, you can change

society

Body

The supreme court decision in Dobbs v Jackson Women's Health Organization, which reverses the constitutional abortion rights that American women have enjoyed over the past 50 years, has come as a surprise to many voters. A majority, after all, support reproductive rights and regard their abolition as regressive and barbaric.

Understood in the context of the movement that created the supreme court in its current incarnation, however, there is nothing surprising about it. In fact, it marks the beginning rather than the endpoint of the agenda this movement has in mind.

At the core of the Dobbs decision lies the conviction that the power of government can and should be used to impose a certain moral and religious vision – a supposedly biblical and regressive understanding of the Christian religion – on the population at large.

How did this conviction come to have such influence in the courts, given America's longstanding principle of churchstate separation? To understand why this is happening now, it's important to know something about the Christian nationalist movement's history, how its leaders chose the issue of abortion as a means of creating single-issue voters, and how they united conservatives across denominational barriers by, in effect, inventing a new form of intensely political religion.

Christian nationalists often claim their movement got its start as a grassroots reaction to <u>Roe</u> v Wade in 1973. But the movement actually gelled several years later with a crucial assist from a group calling itself the "New Right".

Paul Weyrich, Howard Phillips, Phyllis Schlafly and other leaders of this movement were dissatisfied with the direction of the Republican party and the culture at large. "We are radicals who want to change the existing power structure. We are not conservatives in the sense that conservative means accepting the status quo," Paul Weyrich said. "We want change – we are the forces of change."

They were angry at liberals, whom they believed threatened to undermine national security with their softness on communism. They were angry at establishment conservatives – the "Rockefeller Republicans" – for siding with the

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liberals; they were angry about the rising tide of feminism, which they saw as a menace to the social order, and about the civil rights movement and the danger it posed to segregation. One thing that they were not particularly angry about, at least initially, was the matter of abortion rights.

New Right leaders formed common cause with a handful of conservative Catholics, including George Weigel and Richard John Neuhaus, who shared their concerns, and drew in powerful conservative preachers such as Jerry Falwell and Bob Jones Sr. They were determined to ignite a hyper-conservative counter-revolution. All they needed now was an issue that could be used to unify its disparate elements and draw in the rank and file.

Among their core concerns was the fear that the supreme court might end tax exemptions for segregated Christian schools. Jerry Falwell and many of his fellow southern, white, conservative pastors were closely involved with segregated schools and universities — Jones went so far as to call segregation "God's established order" and referred to desegregationists as "*Satanic* propagandists" who were "leading colored Christians astray". As far as these pastors were concerned, they had the right not just to separate people on the basis of race but to also receive federal money for the purpose.

They knew, however, that "Stop the tax on segregation!" wasn't going to be an effective rallying cry for their new movement. As the historian and author Randall Balmer wrote, "It wasn't until 1979 – a full six years after <u>Roe</u> – that evangelical leaders, at the behest of conservative activist Paul Weyrich, seized on abortion not for moral reasons, but as a rallying-cry to deny President Jimmy Carter a second term. Why? Because the anti-abortion crusade was more palatable than the religious right's real motive: protecting segregated schools."

In many respects abortion was an unlikely choice, because when the <u>Roe</u> v Wade decision was issued, most Protestant Republicans supported it. The Southern Baptist Convention passed resolutions in 1971 and 1974 expressing support for the liberalization of abortion law, and an editorial in their wire service hailed the passage of <u>Roe</u> v Wade, declaring that "religious liberty, human equality and justice are advanced by the Supreme Court abortion decision." As governor of California, Ronald Reagan passed the most liberal abortion law in the country in 1967. Conservative icon Barry Goldwater supported abortion law liberalization too, at least early in his career, and his wife Peggy was a cofounder of Planned Parenthood in Arizona.

Yet abortion turned out to be the critical unifying issue for two fundamentally political reasons. First, it brought together conservative Catholics who supplied much of the intellectual leadership of the movement with conservative Protestants and evangelicals. Second, by tying abortion to the perceived social ills of the age – the sexual revolution, the civil rights movement, and women's liberation – the issue became a focal point for the anxieties about social change welling up from the base.

Over time, pro-choice voices were purged from the Republican party. In her 2016 book, How the Republican Party Became Pro-Life, Phyllis Schlafly details the considerable effort it took, over several decades, to force the Republican party to change its views on the issue. What her book and the history shows is that the "pro-life religion" that we see today, which cuts across denominational boundaries on the political right, is a modern creation.

In recent decades, the religious right has invested many hundreds of millions of dollars developing a complex and coordinated infrastructure, whose features include rightwing policy groups, networking organizations, data initiatives and media. A critical component of this infrastructure is its sophisticated legal sphere.

Movement leaders understood very well that if you can capture the courts, you can change society. Leading organizations include the Alliance Defending Freedom, which is involved in many of the recent cases intended to degrade the principle of church-state separation; First Liberty; Becket, formerly known as the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty; and the Federalist Society, a networking and support organization for rightwing jurists and their allies whose leader, Leonard Leo, has directed hundreds of millions of dollars to a network of affiliated organizations. This infrastructure has created a pipeline to funnel ideologues to important judicial positions at the national and federal level. Nearly 90% of Trump's appellate court nominees were or are Federalist Society members, according to Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, and all six conservative justices on the supreme court are current or former members.

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The rightwing legal movement has spent several decades establishing a new regime in which "religious liberty" is reframed as an exemption from the law, one enjoyed by a certain preferred category of religion. LGBT advocacy groups are concerned that the supreme court's willingness, in the next session, to hear the case of a Colorado website designer who wishes to refuse services to same-sex couples is a critical step to overturning a broad range of anti-discrimination laws that protect LGBT Americans along with women, members of religious minority groups and others.

The legal powerhouses of the Christian right have also recognized that their efforts can be turned into a gravy train of public money. That is one of the reasons a recent supreme court decision, which ruled Maine must fund religious schools as part of a state tuition program, was predicted by observers of this movement. This decision forces the state to fund religious schools no matter how discriminatory their practices and sectarian their teachings. "This court continues to dismantle the wall of separation between church and state," Justice Sonia Sotomayor wrote in her dissent.

This supreme court has already made clear how swiftly our Christian nationalist judiciary will change the law to suit this vision of a society ruled by a reactionary elite, a society with a preferred religion and a prescribed code of sexual behavior, all backed by the coercive power of the state. The idea that they will stop with overturning **Roe** v Wade is a delusion.

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