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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.

Henson has been a vocal critic of Scientology for about 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 from those who would point out its abuses of people and the law.

Keith Henson was jailed Tuesday, May 8th, in Prescott, Arizona. Yesterday in Prescott, Henson's single available recourse, a petition for a Writ of Habeas Corpus, was denied. 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 was unable to contact his lawyer for a week due to problems with the inmate telephone system.

Henson's wife has reported that he has difficulty getting prescribed medications while in jail.

Many irregularities exist in this case. The following list is just a small sample. For more examples, please see www.operatingthetan.com.

- An investigator for the Riverside County DA was unable to find any records on Henson, even though Riverside County initiated the extradition request.
- Clearly deficient warrants that do not match the court record have been submitted by the Riverside County DA to support the extradition request.
- The extradition warrants from both governors, as well as accompanying legal papers, were sent 'accidentally' by Prescott Court staff to the wrong lawyer. When Henson and his lawyer requested copies of these documents from Prescott Court staff prior to the May 8th hearing, their requests were denied.
- Keith Henson has been the target of death threats since 2001, with a recent surge. These threats imply he will die in jail. Such threats led to his flight to Canada six years ago, rather than go to jail in Riverside County on the misdemeanor charge.
- Henson has been beaten, struck with a motor vehicle, and crowded onto busy highways at various times, allegedly by Scientology operatives. At his trial, he was prohibited from mentioning that he was picketing Scientology, or its infamous tactics against its critics.

Henson's supporters want to know the reasons for the sudden pressure to return a peaceful, never-violent man to an overloaded and overcrowded penal system. Where did the pressure come from? Why did the State of California devote resources to this matter at all?