

Gerald Armstrong: 33 years of bla-bla



«I'd like to warn beforehand that there is an arrest warrant for me in USA. (...) I was sentenced to almost 400,000 dollars fines. And there is an order to put me in prison...»
– Gerald Armstrong¹

Gerald Armstrong speaks against Church of Scientology for the last 33 years. The conflict started in 1981 when Armstrong, being Scientology clergyman, blew from the Church with several thousands of documents illegally taken. For this reason series of courts was initiated by the Church of Scientology in attempt to return the stolen documents. Since that time Armstrong started slander campaign against the Church which lasted for more than 33 years, twenty of those Armstrong has being hiding from American justice.

How everything got started

Indeed, the issue in 1981 was related not just to the theft. As turned up, Armstrong was working out on a plan to seize Church's assets in collaboration with IRS of Los Angeles. If a day.

When the Church had discovered this, its attorneys obtained permission from the city police department to conduct their own investigation. Particularly, the speech of Armstrong was videotaped during this investigation, where he states that he intends to forge and then plant incriminating documents on the Church premises. These documents were supposed to be discovered during the subsequent raid and become a ground for the criminal charge against the Church.

Below is the quote of Armstrong instructions given to his interlocutor in case the planning of these machinations would be taken up in court:

¹ Taken from Armstrong's speech at the conference "Totalitarian sects – the threat in XXI century", Nizhny Novgorod, April 2011.

«I'm telling you what I would tell them in deposition, but they don't get anything else (...) And you guys also have to have your agreements worked out between yourselves, too. Like – I don't know who knows I'm involved, I'll deny it!»



Important to note, that "Freedom" newspaper, owned by the Church of Scientology, as result of its own investigation, came to conclusion² that Gerald Armstrong worked as government agent even before he blew from the Church.

Hiding from USA justice

A Settlement Agreement was signed between Armstrong and the Church of Scientology in December 1986 stating that he takes obligations to give back all the documents belonging to the Church, do not make any future public statements against the Church of Scientology or scientologists and do not take part in any courts against the Church of Scientology or scientologists.

However Armstrong not only did not give all the documents back, but since 1990 he continued public attacks against the Church repeatedly violating Agreement signed by him. In 1995 the Church filed lawsuit and court decision ruled to forbid Armstrong to violate terms of the Agreement. The court also obligated him to give back the documents within 20 days which he was supposed to return nearly 10 years ago.³

As Armstrong did not obey the court decision a new lawsuit was filed against him by the Church and resulted to a court order to arrest Armstrong for 48 hours and force him to pay a certain penalty. Since arrest did not happen and Armstrong refused to obey the order the next court order increased terms of arrest up to 26 days and penalty amount was increased as well. Armstrong did not abide this order as well and therefore there were four more courts and each of them reinstated the order of arrest. Court ruling of 9 October 2007 states:

«It is hereby ORDERED that the sentences previously imposed on Armstrong for the contempt citations of June 5, 1997 and February 20, 1998, sentencing Armstrong to 2 days and 26 days incarceration respectively, and the fine of \$1,000, are reinstated, and a bench warrant is to be issued forthwith for Armstrong's arrest».⁴

In total, since 1992, Armstrong has been found guilty by judges of two different courts in breaching the Agreement 188 times and violating the court orders enforcing the terms of the Agreement 145 times.

But it seems that court rulings can't be a barrier on the way of a free man. Up to date Armstrong is not obeying these court rulings and continues to travel around the world creating grounds for future lawsuits intentionally.

2 «Freedom» newspaper, issue of April-May 1985 (see scan in the article about Gerald Armstrong at the [web-site](#)).

3 The court decision of 17 October 1995 (see scan in the article about Gerald Armstrong at the [web-site](#)).

4 Court decision of 9 October 2007 (see scan in the article about Gerald Armstrong at the [web-site](#)).

Public statements, similar to the following, made by Armstrong from time to time are evidencing about the level of his respect to American justice:

«I am thankful to all of you for listening me, and for taking part, even if unwittingly, in violation of American court order.» (from speech at the conference in Novosibirsk city, 2004).

«I am not allowed to talk about the Scientology organization or any of its affiliated organizations here in Russia. And this is on penalty of 50 thousand dollars per utterance. So this talk to you, Scientology says, is value 50 thousand dollars.» (from speech made in Podolsk city, 2011)

Thereby Armstrong is skulking from American justice for almost 20 years.

Connections to criminal organizations

Before the CAN (Cult Awareness Network) — American anti-cult organization that practiced deprogramming⁵ inclusively was disbanded in 1996, Armstrong was collaborating with them in attacks against the Church of Scientology. Particularly he gave press-interview and participated in court hearing against the Church on the side of CAN.⁶

Armstrong has close contacts with FECRIS (European anti-cult association) which is known by its members being convicted for slander and deprogramming attempts against members of religious movements.⁷ As Armstrong stated in his blog — FECRIS bears costs for his trip to their conference arranged in St. Petersburg (Russia) in May 2009.⁸

In addition, Armstrong has tight connections to the members and attorney of extremist movement Anonymous. Three executives of this movement were imprisoned by court in 2008 due to organizing of criminal acts against the Church of Scientology.⁹ Some of the members of this movement were making death threats and were committing acts of terrorism.

Armstrong was representing interests of Vancouver Anonymous at the anti-Scientology conference in Hamburg in 2009 and took part in protest march organized by this movement.

5 Deprogramming is a method of driving a person out of a religious organization through physical violence. Usually the person is kidnapped and then pressed and forced.

6 See court ruling of 17 October 1995 mentioned above.

7 See book «Freedom of Religion or Belief, Anti-Sect Movements and State Neutrality. A Case Study: FECRIS» (<http://hrwf.org/images/reports/2012/2012fecrisbook.pdf>)

8 Armstrong did not participated the conference due to problems with visa.

9 In particular, see indictment of 17 October 2008 on one of Anonymous member (see scan in the article about Gerald Armstrong at the [web-site](#)).



Armstrong (in the center) and members of Vancouver Anonymous, 2009



Anonymous members are marching in London, 2009



Hamburg, 2009



Armstrong is dancing for Anonymous members, 2010

Visits to Russia

First time Armstrong came to Russia (Nizhny Novgorod) in April 2010 to take part in anti-cult conference organized by Alexander Dvorkin and local eparchy of the Russian Orthodox Church (ROC). Anti-cultists Alexander Novopashin and Germany pastor Thomas Gandow and clergymen of ROC Moscow Patriarchate also participated in this conference.¹⁰

Anti-sect conference of December 2002 in Yekaterinburg city, sponsored by ROC, became the second one attended by Gerry Armstrong in Russia.

Then, there was a conference in Novosibirsk in 2004, which was also attended by foreign guests, including Catherine Picard (president of French anti-cult organization UNADFI), Friedrich Griess (FECRIS president at that moment), Thomas Gandow and others. Armstrong thanked the archpriest Alexander Novopashin for inviting him for the conference.¹¹

¹⁰ Journal «Prozrenie» №1(7)2002.

¹¹ Digest "Totalitarian sects and democratic state: materials of the international science conference. Novosibirsk. 9-11 November 2004" — printed in Novosibirsk, 2005, 264 pages.

Next Armstrong's visit was a trip to Moscow in May 2011. He got official invitation from ROC Moscow Patriarchate¹² and was accompanied by Alexander Dvorkin for the entire trip. During this visit he took part in TV show dedicated to Scientology on the national channel "Rossiya 1".

The visit of Armstrong to Moscow in September 2013 is his fifth visit to Russia and it does not pretend to be original. During each visit he features himself as a kind of demonstrative example of, allegedly, a victim of the Church of Scientology and deliberately acts in violation of the court rulings.

Considering the above description of Armstrong's attitude toward the law, it looks strange that he keeps getting invitations to Russia.

In addition to the above, after reading of the below chapters of this article one may doubt about the Armstrong's mental well-being.

Letter to Saddam Hussein

On 1 November 1990 during the Gulf War Armstrong sent a letter to Saddam Hussein (ex-president of Iraq). In this letter, seems written in behalf of all American people, he had set out terms and conditions to stop the war in Iraq.

In case the war will be stopped Armstrong promises:

- «1. We will immediately reduce our nuclear arsenal by 50%.
2. We will immediately begin the elimination of our chemical weapons.
3. We will immediately cease our troop and armament buildup in the Middle East.
- (...)
6. You must withdraw your army from Kuwait.
- (...)
9. We will immediately initiate a program to send engineers, technicians, teachers and philosophers to Iraq, Iran, Jordan and Kuwait to assist in the peaceful and ecologically wise development of those countries. We will not send money because it has no value, and because we don't have any.»

For the better persuasiveness Armstrong offered himself as hostage and in conclusion of the letter he stated:

«I would be available for torture if you desired. (...) If either side failed to perform any part of the agreement the other side could execute me.»¹³



Starting from left: Alexander Dvorkin, Gerald Armstrong, Thomas Gandow... Attendees of the "anti-sect" conference have dinner. Yekaterinburg, 2002



One of real public photo of Armstrong

12 Based on the official answer from Ministry of Foreign Affairs of 26 May 2011, visa for Armstrong was issued based on invitation of Russian Orthodox Church Moscow Patriarchate (see scan of the answer in the article about Gerald Armstrong at the [web-site](#)).

13 See a copy of the letter in the article about Gerald Armstrong at the [web-site](#).

Armstrong clearly stated that the letter to Saddam Hussein was not a joke, but deadly serious. He even sent copies to UN General Secretary, USA President George Bush and to the embassy of Iraq.

Armstrong publishes other similar letters from time to time.

Abolishing money and letter to Bill Clinton

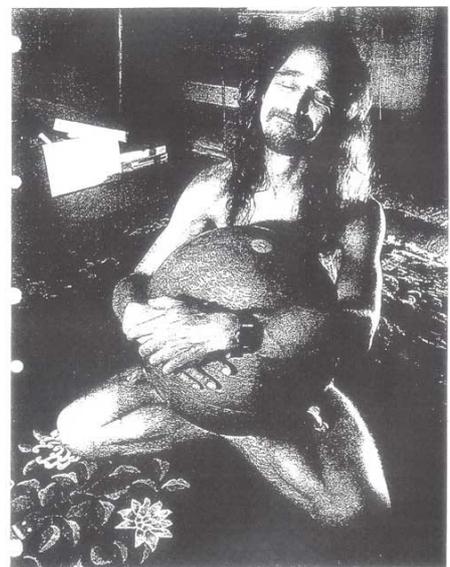
On 11 November 1992 the Marin Independent Journal published an article about novel written by Armstrong which proposes to abolish all money on Earth. In light of this, Armstrong gives an idea of how to deal with national debt of USA: «Write it off. Forget it. It does not exist.»

As further stated in the article, detailed proposals about abolishing all the money were sent out to Bill Clinton and several politicians (and later, in 2011, to President Barack Obama). As we know, Armstrong has not been assigned to a position of economical adviser so far.

To reach the goal, Armstrong has declared himself as a leader of the Organization of United Renunciants and set the date for people who have taken his "pledge of renunciation" to stop using money in any way.

The article was accompanied by Armstrong photo where he visibly dressed with the globe and wristwatch only.

By the way, Armstrong's plan of abolishing all the money coincidentally successfully allows him to avoid huge amount of penalties he owns to the Church of Scientology for multiple violations of the courts rulings.



Resume

During the research work while preparing this article a little number of facts were discovered which are demonstrating Armstrong's kind of life constructiveness. And considering the facts given above, a question might appear on whether he can be trusted at all.

P.S. Our thanks to representatives of Church of Scientology and web-site of Gerry Armstrong for provided materials.