Stone-Throwing Muslims Bloody Christians in Michigan

October 30, 2014 | Bob Unruh

A note from Pastor Kevin Lea follows this article

The full U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit has decided to review a First Amendment complaint brought by Christians who were assaulted by a rock-throwing Muslim mob at an Arab festival in Dearborn, Michigan.

The case arose from the annual Arab International Festival in June 2012 when Wayne County sheriff's deputies stood by while a Muslim mob threw rocks at Christians, bloodying them. The officers then threatened the Christians with arrest if they didn't leave the event. The Christians brought a lawsuit against Wayne County over its officers' actions, and a three-judge panel dismissed it. But a majority of 6th Circuit judges has agreed to re-hear the case.

The case, shepherded by the American Freedom Law Center, isn't the first time that Muslim mob violence has erupted at the Arab festival. Earlier, a group of Christians was awarded more than \$100,000 in damages because of attacks there. In the latest case, Robert J. Muise, senior counsel for the AFLC, called the decision to re-hear "great news for religious freedom and the freedom of speech." "The panel's [overturned] decision rewards violence over protected speech and thus incorporates into the First Amendment what is known as a 'heckler's veto.' We are confident that the full court will reverse this 'dangerously wrong' decision," he said.

The 6th Circuit's rules note that granting such a re-hearing is rare. "A petition for rehearing en banc is an extraordinary procedure intended to bring to the attention of the entire court a precedent-setting error of exceptional public importance." The dissent from the panel's decision that earlier had dismissed the case said: "The majority's first error is its conclusion that the First Amendment did not protect [the Christians'] speech. This is not only wrong, it is dangerously wrong."

AFLC co-founder David Yerushalmi said the First Amendment "is under assault by both Muslim supremacists and Islamists on the one hand and progressives advocating 'hate-speech' crimes on the other."

"The result is a shrinking arena of free speech with government bureaucrats and cultural and civilizational jihadists dictating what is and is not acceptable speech," he said. "Maybe, just maybe, the Sixth Circuit has decided to draw the line in the sand to protect against any further encroachment upon the sphere of this First Amendment freedom."

AFLC said the rock-throwing incident left members of the evangelism team bloodied while deputies from the Wayne County sheriff's office stood by. Then, when Ruben Israel, the leader of the evangelists, asked officers to enforce the law so that Christians could speak, he was told ...

To read this article in its entirety, go to: <u>http://www.prophecynewswatch.com/2014/October30/302.html</u>

Note from Pastor Kevin Lea: It will be interesting to see how the full court ultimately rules on this. That the three-judge panel ruled against the Christian's right of free speech shows how close we are to all out persecution of Christians in America.

From my observations over the years, most professing Christians will live their entire life without ever sharing the true biblical gospel to anyone, especially if they suspect the person would not be friendly to them doing so. I also suspect that many who do witness today will stop if the ruling indicates that, in the future, doing so could mean loss of their job, their freedom (imprisonment), or their health (or life) because they offended someone with the truth.

I pray that the true believer reading this will continue to preach the biblical gospel of Jesus, no matter what the cost until the Lord Jesus takes us home. Not because the First Amendment gives us that right, but because Jesus commanded us to, and He is our Lord and Savior (Matthew 28:16-20).