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**WHITE-SUPREMACIST CHURCH LEADER ARRESTED ON CHARGES OF
SOLICITING MURDER OF U.S. JUDGE PRESIDING OVER TRADEMARK CASE**

CHICAGO – **Matthew Hale**, the leader of The World Church of the Creator, a white-supremacist organization based in East Peoria, Ill., was arrested today on charges of soliciting the murder of a federal judge in Chicago and obstruction of justice. Hale, 31, of East Peoria, was taken into custody by FBI agents and members of the FBI's Joint Terrorist Task Force, early this afternoon at the Dirksen Federal Courthouse in Chicago, just before he was scheduled to appear at a contempt hearing in a civil trademark infringement case involving the organization. Hale was charged in a two-count federal grand jury indictment that was returned yesterday and unsealed upon his arrest, announced Patrick J. Fitzgerald, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois.

The indictment alleges that between Nov. 29 and Dec. 17, 2002, Hale solicited an individual to forcibly assault and murder U.S. District Judge Joan Humphrey Lefkow and that he obstructed justice by corruptly and by force endeavoring to influence Judge Lefkow who was presiding over the trademark infringement case, *TE-TA-MA Truth Foundation - Family of URI, Inc., v. The World Church of the Creator*, 00 C 2638 (N.D. Ill.) Hale had been ordered to appear before Judge Lefkow at 1:30 p.m. today for a hearing to show cause why he should not be held in contempt of Court.

Instead, he was expected to appear in court later today for an initial appearance on the criminal charges.

Mr. Fitzgerald announced the charges with Thomas J. Kneir, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Terry Hillard, Superintendent of the Chicago Police Department. The FBI's Joint Terrorist Task Force (JTTF) is comprised of the Chicago Police Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the U.S. Secret Service, the U.S. Customs Service, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the U.S. Marshal. The United States Attorney's Office for the Central District of Illinois also assisted in the investigation. The investigation is continuing, they said.

"Freedom of speech does not include the freedom to solicit murder. Under no circumstances will anyone in law enforcement tolerate the activities of any individuals or groups that engage in conduct intended to result in the injury or death of others. The conduct alleged in this indictment is disturbing on many levels, but particularly so because it targeted a judge, whose sworn duty is to apply the law equally and fairly to all who appear before her," Mr. Fitzgerald said.

Mr. Kneir said: "As Americans, we live and abide by the rule of law. These laws are designed to protect all of our citizens, and when individuals take actions to thwart justice by intending to harm any person, those of us in law enforcement will use all available resources to prevent any harm from occurring."

According to the indictment, The World Church of the Creator (WCOTC) is an unincorporated association that holds itself out as a religious organization "[d]edicated to the Survival, Expansion, and Advancement of the White Race." Based in East Peoria, the WCOTC has branches and members in multiple states and in foreign countries. It disseminates information about its principles and teachings through various means, including written documents bearing the

WCOTC's name and the through an Internet site bearing the WCOTC's name. Hale allegedly controls the operations of the WCOTC and influences and attempts to influence and control many of the activities of its members, and is known within the WCOTC as its "supreme leader" and "Pontifex Maximus."

In May 2000, the TE-TA-MA Truth Foundation – Family of URI, Inc. (TE-TA-MA), a religious organization located in Oregon that had registered the term "Church of the Creator" as a trademark with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, filed its lawsuit against the WCOTC in Federal Court in Chicago alleging that the WCOTC had violated federal trademark law by its use of the term "Church of the Creator."

The indictment alleges that Hale participated in, and at times directed, the WCOTC's response to the lawsuit brought by TE-TA-MA. On Nov. 19, 2002, Judge Lefkow issued an order that, among other things:

- permanently enjoined the WCOTC and anyone associated with it from using the name and mark "Church of the Creator or any colorable facsimile thereof, including specifically World Church of the Creator, WCOTC, COTC, or the words 'Church' and 'Creator(s)' together in the same name or mark;"
- required the WCOTC and anyone associated with it to cease using Internet domain names using the infringing marks, and to "immediately transfer custody and control of the domain names" used to operate the WCOTC's Internet site, "churchofthecreator.com," "wcotc.com" to TE-TA-MA;
- required the WCOTC and anyone associated with it to "deliver up for destruction (or, where feasible, removal or obliteration of any infringing mark from) all" printed and other materials bearing the infringing marks;
- required the WCOTC within seven days to notify in writing, and by electronic mail, all of its members of the Court's Order, and to deliver a copy of the Order to them;" and
- required the WCOTC to file a written report, under oath, with the Court, within 30 days "setting forth in detail the manner and form in which the World Church has complied with the terms of this court."

Also on Nov. 19, 2002, Judge Lefkow denied the WCOTC's request to stay enforcement of the court's order pending appeal. On Dec. 13, 2002, Judge Lefkow issued an order granting TE-TA-MA's motion for a rule to show cause why the WCOTC should not be held in contempt of the court's order on Nov. 19, and ordered that Hale appear before the Court today at 1:30 p.m. to show cause why he should not be held in contempt of court.

The indictment alleges that between Nov. 29 and Dec. 17, 2003, Hale, acting with intent that another person engage in felony conduct -- specifically, forcible assault and murder of Judge Lefkow -- and under circumstances strongly corroborative of that intent, did solicit that other person to engage in such conduct. It also alleges that during the same period, Hale corruptly and by force endeavored to influence Judge Lefkow in the discharge of her duty while she was presiding over the trademark lawsuit.

If convicted of soliciting murder, Hale faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and a maximum fine of \$250,000, and the obstruction of justice count carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. The Court, however, would determine the appropriate sentence to be imposed under the United States Sentencing Guidelines.

The government is being represented by Assistant United States Attorney David Weisman.

The public is reminded that an indictment contains only charges and is not evidence of guilt. The defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial at which the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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