

## U.S. files new charge against Hale

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Adding a new charge to the indictment against white supremacist Matthew Hale , prosecutors have alleged that while in prison on a murder solicitation charge, Hale instructed his father to lie to a federal grand jury.

For the first time, authorities disclosed in the charges that the grand jury has been investigating allegations that Hale "ordered or encouraged" the shooting rampage by a member of Hale's World Church of the Creator in July 1999.

According to the new charge, the investigation of Hale's role, if any, in the shooting rampage is still continuing--a claim Hale's lawyer, Thomas Anthony Durkin, shot down.

"They've gone over that 52 ways to Sunday," Durkin said. "That's just an attempt to smear Hale."

The follower, Benjamin Smith, targeted minorities over the 4th of July weekend in Illinois and Indiana, killing two people and injuring nine before taking his own life.

The new count of obstruction of justice, made public Thursday, alleged that Hale told his father, Russell, in a phone call from prison in April to testify falsely about Hale's reaction to Smith's death. The father had been subpoenaed a week earlier to testify.

According to the charge, Hale told his father to falsely say that Hale had to cut off a TV interview at the time of the 1999 incident when he started to cry over Smith's death.

The indictment alleged that it wasn't true that Hale had to discontinue the interview.

The allegedly false testimony apparently was intended to show that Hale had been surprised and saddened on learning on Smith's death, perhaps evidence he didn't know of the shooting spree in advance.

"It's another example of how desperate they are to bolster a horribly weak case," Durkin said of the obstruction charge.

Hale has been jailed since January on charges he solicited the murder of U.S. District Judge Joan Humphrey Lefkowitz after she enforced a court order that Hale's group change its name after losing a copyright infringement lawsuit. The group is now known as the Creativity Movement.

Hale is alleged to have turned to his security chief to carry out the murder, but the security chief was an FBI informant.

At an arraignment Thursday on the new charge in federal court in Hammond, Hale refused to enter a plea, so U.S. District Judge James T. Moody entered a not-guilty plea on his behalf.

Durkin also disclosed in court that Hale wouldn't wear street clothes for his trial but instead would be attired in his prison jumpsuit since he's in a "gulag," an apparent claim that Hale is a political prisoner.

His trial is scheduled for Sept. 22 in Chicago.

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