

Judge imposes sanctions on Hale - He, movement's leaders to pay \$200,000 fine

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A federal judge in Chicago on Friday ordered white supremacist Matthew Hale and other current or former leaders of his movement to pay sanctions of \$200,000 for violating court orders in a trademark infringement lawsuit.

U.S. District Judge Joan Humphrey Lefkow imposed the sanctions against Hale and the others for violating a court injunction since November that ordered them to stop using the name of the World Church of the Creator on their Web site and elsewhere.

An Oregon church with a similar name sued Hale's group for trademark infringement, contending that the confusion over the names led some mistakenly to think it endorsed Hale's racist messages. Hale's followers eventually renamed their cause the Creativity Movement.

Lefkow rejected a request by Hale that he be allowed to attend Friday's hearing. Hale is being held without bond in a Chicago federal jail on criminal charges that he solicited the murder of Lefkow in anger over her enforcing the injunction.

Hale's lawyer, Todd Reardon of Downstate Charleston, contended that because Hale is being sanctioned financially for essentially disobeying a court order, he should have been able to defend himself in court.

Hale was arrested in January shortly after he entered Chicago's federal courthouse for a hearing on why he shouldn't be held in contempt for changing the church's name as ordered.

Hale's arrest was based largely on undercover recordings made by his security chief, an FBI informant who joined Hale's group in 1999.

Federal prosecutors have said that next week they intend to bring new charges alleging a second former insider was also solicited by Hale to kill Lefkow.

That government witness, Jon Fox, was among the World Church of the Creator leaders hit by the sanctions on Friday.

Hale is scheduled to go on trial on Nov. 3, but at a telephone conference held Thursday with the judge presiding over the criminal case, Hale's lawyers indicated they would be seeking to continue the trial in light of the new charges.

The lawyers also want U.S. District Judge James T. Moody to reconsider freeing Hale from custody if the trial is continued into next year.

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