



## THEOCRATIC WARFARE



On July 3, 1997, the European Commission of Human Rights (Council of Europe) held a hearing on the admissibility and merits of an application brought forth by the “Christian Association of Jehovah’s Witnesses” against Bulgaria. The case concerned the suspension of Jehovah Witness registration in 1994.

Here are some interesting excerpts from the legal transcripts (bold and items in [red] are added by me for emphasis or clarification/comment.):

“As regards the alleged involvement of children, the application association [JEHOVAH’S WITNESSES] submits that **children cannot become members of the association but only participate**, together with their parents, in the religious activities of the community.



Unbelievable! Who are they kidding? Children as young as *five* have been baptized into this organization, been referred to in the press as “ministers” and then later been shunned for saying they no longer wanted to be “known as one of Jehovah’s Witnesses.” I can testify to this FACT—I was ten years old (A CHILD)—and I have the letter from the Elders to prove it as well as the letter from my mother saying she could never associate with me again based on information she received from the Watchtower, after I turned away from “Jehovah’s organization.”

“In respect of the refusal of blood transfusions, the applicant association submits that there are no religious sanctions for a Jehovah’s Witness who chooses to accept blood transfusion and that, therefore, the fact that the religious doctrine of Jehovah’s Witnesses is against blood transfusion cannot amount to a threat to ‘public health.’”

No religious sanctions? How can they state this? Haven’t people been disfellowshipped and/or shunned for taking blood transfusions and/or signing the medical release permitting a loved one to do so? Lawrence Hughes’ legal case over the death of his daughter is a real-world, modern-day example.

...”the Jehovah’s Witnesses religious doctrine contains ideas and canons which are contrary to the Constitution and endanger public health, national security, and the rights and freedoms of others...children participate in the association’s religious activities without the consent of their parents, that teachers adhering to the association preach in school among minors, that Jehovah’s Witnesses teach disrespect for the democratic institutions and the national symbols and require their adept to disobey the law when it is contrary to the “divine law”, that Jehovah’s Witnesses...are seeking the establishment of a theocratic society. The Government also consider that Jehovah’s Witnesses’ doctrine does not have respect for the human life as it requires to refuse blood transfusion even when this would bring death.”

I believe the European Commission of Human Rights had it right in the paragraph above—that the organization *does* endanger the rights and freedoms of others. But once again, it seems the Watchtower used “theocratic warfare” to *not* divulge the truth about THE TRUTH. What a misnomer “The Truth” is!

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