

*Law Office of*  
**DONALD G. REHKOPF, JR.**

31 East Main Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Rochester, New York 14614-1914

[www.donaldgrehkopf.com](http://www.donaldgrehkopf.com)

(585) 434-0232

Telefax (585) 454-3010

[usmilitarylaw@gmail.com](mailto:usmilitarylaw@gmail.com)

Not For Motion Practice or Pleadings

28 August 2018

The Honorable Orin G. Hatch  
President *Pro Tempore*  
United States Senate  
104 Hart Office Building  
Washington DC 20510

RE: Ethics Complaint Against the Chaplain of the Senate

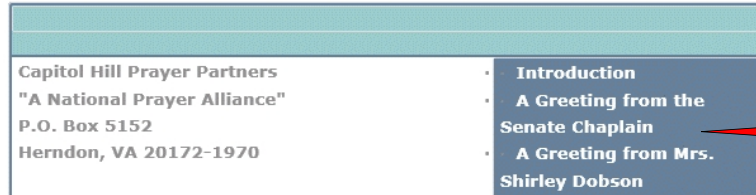
Dear Senator Hatch:

I write on behalf of my clients, the *Military Religious Freedom Foundation* [MRFF], an IRS 501(c)(3), not-for-profit corporation, and its President, Michael L. “Mikey” Weinstein, Esq. Mr. Weinstein is an Air Force Academy graduate, former Air Force Judge Advocate, and worked in the White House Office of Management and Budget (1984-86), and was Assistant General Counsel in the White House Office of Administration (1986-87), under President Reagan.

MRFF’s complaint here is that the Senate Chaplain, Dr. Barry Black, has, in MRFF’s opinion, engaged in prohibited partisan political activities – activities that are inconsistent with his non-partisan, non-denominational employment as the Senate Chaplain. Specifically, MRFF states that there is clear and convincing evidence that Dr. Black, in his official capacity as Senate Chaplain, has openly endorsed a dominionistic and overtly partisan religious cult, the *Capitol Hill Prayer Partners* [CHPP]. The CHPP qualifies as an organization that promotes “domestic terrorism” in MRFF’s view, as that term is defined in 18 U.S. Code § 2331(5), which is also a “crime of violence” under 18 U.S. Code § 16(a).

Specifically, Dr. Black, in his official capacity as Senate Chaplain, endorsed CHPP on February 21, 2014, in their blog, CHPP Update, as shown below:

Senator Hatch, Letter, 2.



Screen Shot - Taken 27 August 2018

Here is Dr. Black's message to the President of the CHPP:



Screen Shot - Taken 27 August 2018

To illustrate the type of organization that CHPP is, on August 21, 2018, they via its President, Ms. Sara Ballenger, issued a clear and specific imprecatory "prayer" stating: "Father, we ask that You *take down* Mikey Weinstein and his FRFF (*sic*) group." [Emphasis added]. Notably, their posting began as follows: "The Military Religious Freedom Foundation (MRFF) . . .," so they cannot claim that they were referring to some other organization. Here is a screen shot of their threat:

- Father, we ask that You take down Mikey Weinstein and his FRFF group. We pray for a return to righteousness within our military through all the branches. We pray for Brig Gen Teichert, and ask that You grant him strength and favor.

- "For those who are blessed by Him shall inherit the earth, but those who are cursed by Him shall be cut off." (Psalm 37:22)

They supply a quotation from the Old Testament Book of Psalms, which MRFF believes adds to the threat. Specifically, the King James Version [KJV] of Psalm 37:22 reads: "For such as be blessed of him shall inherit the earth; and they that be cursed of him shall be cut off." That translation is literally from the Middle Ages. A more modern translation, the New International Version [NIV], states: "those the Lord blesses will inherit the land, but those he curses will be destroyed." Additionally, the New Living Translation, says: "Those the Lord blesses will possess the land, but those he curses will die." The combination is clearly a threat of serious injury or death.

To MRFF and Mr. Weinstein, this is no more than trolling for his assassination. Aside from

Senator Hatch, Letter, 3.

its overt illegality, it is beneath the conduct and dignity of a U.S. Senate employee (especially the Senate Chaplain) to have endorsed such a hate-filled, partisan (if not criminal) organization such as CHPP. The threat to “take down” Mr. Weinstein is not idle banter – he, his family, and the staff of MRFF were duly alarmed to the extent of having me bring this matter to your attention, as well as notifying appropriate law enforcement agencies.

Lastly, in addition to Chaplain Black’s overt endorsement of CHPP on February 21, 2014, as shown above, it should be noted that it is posted on the website of an openly anti-Islamic discriminatory group called “Koome Ministries,” headed by one Kamal Saleem, a/k/a Khodor Shami. That organization (and Mr. Saleem/Shami) has been repeatedly debunked and exposed as fraudulent.<sup>1</sup> Yet the very organization Chaplain Black endorses, CHPP, used Mr. Saleem/Shami as their keynote speaker in 2014, as their shared blog demonstrates:

**5. Gift and Prayer Over Kamal Saleem** A moving moment when a brother from Egypt presented a gift to our keynote speaker. In the end, there was not a dry eye in the place.  
Go here.

**6, 7, 8 – Keynote Speech by Kamal Saleem, Founder, KOOME Ministries** This outstanding address is captured in a series of three audios. Kamal's testimony of his conversion from Islam is included in this series.

Screen shot – taken 28 August 2018

Surely the Senate Chaplain should not stoop to such a level and should immediately disassociate himself from *both* groups.

Respectfully, MRFF and Mr. Weinstein demand that this matter, involving a high-ranking Senate employee, merits the attention of the Senate’s Select Committee on Ethics. Specifically, Senate Rule 37(2), states in relevant part: “No . . . [Senate] employee shall engage in any . . . professional activity . . . which is inconsistent with the conscientious performance of official duties.”

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

**DONALD G. REHKOPF, JR.**  
Attorney-at-Law

cc: Senator McConnell, Senate Majority Leader  
Senator Isakson, Chair, Senate Select Committee on Ethics  
Senate Chaplain, Dr. Black

DGR/1

---

<sup>1</sup> See, e.g., <https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2012/03/kamal-saleem-former-terrorist-islamophobia/> and <http://www.islamophobia.org/islamophobic-individuals/kamal-saleem/118-kamal-saleem.html> [Last accessed: 28 August 2018].