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In defence of Samhain (Halloween)

October 2007

A recent e-mail alert [1] originating from Pastor Conrad Kruger of 'Acts Christian Centre' of Constantia Kloof in Gauteng levels serious allegations of human sacrifice by "Satanic covens" in South Africa on Halloween. Acts Christian Centre is a 'spiritual warfare' ministry. The ministry's primary cause for existing is to counter what they regard and name as the dangers of the occult. The "spiritual warfare attack team" of Acts Christian Centre is led by Pastor Conrad Kruger and Nadia Oosthuizen.

South African Pagans, who, by their own admission neither identify themselves as Satanists nor practice human or animal sacrifice, have expressed offense at Kruger's deliberate demonization of the Pagan holy day of Halloween and at the Pastor's stereotypical criminalization of all Satanists as kidnapers, pedophiles and murderers.

In responding to several complaints from justifiably angry Pagans, Kruger, whilst admitting that Pagans are not Satanists, has repeatedly questioned why Pagans should be taking offense to his diatribe against Satanists and (his alleged) their predicted alleged activities between October 22 to October 31.

South African Pagans celebrate Halloween, a festival traditionally celebrated at the beginning of Winter on the eve of May 1 in the southern hemisphere. Also called Samhain, Halloween is regarded by Pagans throughout the world as a sacred feast day in honour of the Ancestors and the Dead.

On the eve of November 1 South African Pagans will be celebrating Beltain (Beltane), a festival traditionally celebrated at the beginning of Summer in the southern hemisphere.

The e-mail in question lists very specific alleged activities to be undertaken by alleged Satanists, including (a) the ceremonial planning and kidnapping of a (?) sacrificial victim between October 22 and 29, (b) the sacrifice of the kidnapped victim on October 28, (c) another human sacrifice (presumably with a different victim?) and "sexual orgies with demons, animals and children in order to attempt to enter the gates of hell" on October 31, and (d) yet another human sacrifice to mark the end of Halloween between November 1 and 3. The Pastor adds that another human and animal sacrifice will take place on December 22, and that a male and female sacrifice will occur on December 25. Unfortunately Kruger mistakenly assigns December 22 as a "summer equinox" instead of the Summer Solstice, another sacred holy day for Pagans and one in which reverence is given by Pagans to the Sun as the source of Life and Light on Earth. [2]

The Pastor's apparent inside knowledge of these alleged occult activities is derived, by his own admission in correspondence with me, from the work of Kobus Jonker and F.A. Havenga. [3] The so-called 'Satanic Calendar' [4] originated by Havenga and adopted without question by Kruger in motivating his call to action against Halloween and its alleged Satanic practices, has been thoroughly discredited by a number of authoritative sources, including self-defined South African and international Satanists themselves.

According to encyclopedia.thefreedictionary.com

"Dr. Ed Murphy is the author of a modern 600 page tome on the subject from the point of view of deliverance ministry entitled The Handbook of Spiritual Warfare.... [] ...The excesses of unsubstantiated allegations made in the Satanic Ritual Abuse phenomena of the 1980s and 1990s has also prompted critical reviews. Some apologists in the Christian countercult movement have expressed concerns that spiritual warfare techniques seem at times to have been based on spurious stories and anecdotes without careful discernment and reflection. Some of these general concerns have been expressed by apologists like Elliot Miller (Christian Research Institute), and Bob and Gretchen Passantino in various articles published in the Christian Research Journal. Others, such as Mike Hertenstein and Jon Trott, have called into question the claims of alleged ex-Satanists like Mike Warnke and Lauren Stratford whose stories have subsequently influenced many popular books about spiritual warfare and the occult. Bill Ellis' work Raising the Devil has detected the presence of folkloric stories about the occult and demons circulating in evangelical and charismatic circles, which later become accepted as unquestioned facts." [5]

Despite existing evidence to the contrary on alleged Satanic ritual abuse and criminality internationally, the irrational and uncorroborated allegations leveled at Satanists and the Occult in general by Pastor Kruger finds an echo in an article published online by 'Africa Christian Action' based in Claremont Cape Town. [6]

"We are in a spiritual world war. Cruelty to animals, vandalism and even murders occur with far greater frequency during Halloween. Every Halloween many thousands of animals, and even people, are sacrificed in satanic rituals worldwide, while millions of other people, including well meaning Christians, participate in Halloween celebrations. Halloween is a prime recruiting time for witches and Satanists." [7]

By their own admission however, Witches neither actively recruit nor proselytize, and neither Witches nor Satanists practice human sacrifice.

The published work of Kobus Jonker, F.A. Havenga and many others on the subject of Satanism and the Occult in South Africa have become the definitive sources for almost all debate on the subject of Satanism in South Africa. They are studied by new police recruits, social workers and theology students. Their work is quoted as authoritative source in courts of law.

The fact that little or no equally authoritative material exists to counter the bias of their work on the Occult and Satanism in South Africa in general is a reason for the mushrooming of "spiritual warfare" Christian groups and individuals. These groups and individuals accept the "authority" of the sources they consult, usually without question or further research.

Evidently ritual crimes in which human body parts are harvested for sale for use in magic which do occur in our country are most often incorrectly used by Havenga et al as de facto proof that Satanism is alive and well in South Africa despite the fact that actual evidence shows that human mutilations in South Africa are performed by criminals who do not identify as Satanists or as Witches. There are few if any exceptions to this rule.

This Alliance is of the opinion that the propagation of hate speech against any religious minority based on unverified and exaggerated allegations amounts to gross violation of the constitutionally protected right to freedom of religion, equality and dignity.

References:

[1] E-mail alert originating from Pastor Conrad Kruger of 'Acts Christian Centre'

Halloween

*Acts Christian centre
S.W.A.T Spiritual warfare attack team
Past. Conrad Kruger*

*On 31 October 2007 will be Blood and sexual rituals performed by Satanic covens around South Africa. There will be sexual orgies with demons, animals and humans AND THERE WILL BE A HUMAN SACRIFICE - KEEP YOUR CHILDREN SAFE ESPECIALLY YOUNG BOYS
October 22-29 - Ceremonial planning and kidnapping of sacrifice.
October 28 - Human sacrifice to enter into Halloween.
October 31 - Human sacrifice & sexual orgies with demons and animals and children to attempt to enter the gates of Hades.
November 1-3 - Human Sacrifice end of Halloween.
December 22 - Summer Equinox - Human and animal sacrifice - The birth of the sun god - through the goddess of the moon.
December 25 - Male and female sacrifice.
This Sunday 28 October - a Christians response to Halloween. Do you realize the spiritual implications of Halloween? And do you realise curses will be pronounced by Satan and his cohorts from 22 - 31 October? KEEP YOUR CHILDREN AND ANIMALS SAFE.*

[2] Ibid.

[3] Personal correspondence to me from "Acts Christian Centre" dated Mon, 22 Oct 2007 17:12:55 +0200.

"Satanism is more real than you can imagine. Source referencing - well there are many - S. A Police - Kobus Jonker occultist unit wrote a book on Satanism. F.A. Havenga 18 years experience in the S.A . Police - Book and course on S.R.A - Satanic Ritual Abuse with reference..."

[4] The Dictionary of Cults, Sects, Religions and the Occult by Mather & Nichols, (Zondervan, 1993), P. 244, quotes 'The Satanic Bible' as listing the main Satanic holidays as: Walpurgisnacht, Halloween, and the member's birthday. http://www.religioustolerance.org/ra_date.htm

[5] Africa Christian Action, Claremont Cape Town, South Africa
<http://www.christianaction.org.za>

[6] Africa Christian Action - 'Frontline Fellowship', Claremont Cape Town, South Africa
http://www.frontline.org.za/articles/Halloween_and_the_Bible.htm

[7] Spiritual Warfare
<http://encyclopedia.thefreedictionary.com/Spiritual+Warfare>