

Titus House Newsletter

Titus House Ministries, PO Box 2376, Tijeras, NM 87059

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‘Sex tourism’ comeback feared as 5 offenders denied PH entry

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By: Angeline Marcelino

MANILA, Philippines — The Bureau of Immigration (BI) on Tuesday raised concern over the possible “resurgence of sex tourism” in the Philippines as five foreign offenders were stopped from entering the country in just one week.

Four Americans identified as Neil David Laursen, Benancio Vasquez, Troy Delbert Houk, and Kevin Crispe, and a British national named Antonio Stephen Albert Costa were denied entry as they were found to be registered sex offenders (RSO), according to the BI.

“With the return of tourism also comes the return of aliens who will try to abuse our hospitality,” Commissioner Norman Tansingo said in a statement.

“We warn these predators not to attempt to enter the country, as we have close coordination with different governments, who provide us information about sex offenders that might attempt to enter the Philippines,” he added.

On August 30, Laursen arrived at the Davao International Airport from Singapore and was intercepted by authorities. The next day, Costa arrived at Mactan Cebu International Airport (MCIA) from Dubai and was also stopped by immigration officers.

On September 1, Vasquez was likewise intercepted at the MCIA while Houk was prevented by authorities after arriving from South Korea on September 4.

Crispe, on the other hand, was not allowed to leave the airport after arriving from Taipei on September 5.

“All five aliens were found to be registered sex offenders in their respective countries,” the BI stressed.

Citing section 29(a) 3 of the Philippine Immigration Act of 1940, the BI said that aliens, or non-residents of the country who are convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude – which include RSOs – shall be prohibited and denied from entering the country.

The bureau explained that RSOs are individuals who were convicted due to sex offenses. Prevailing laws in their respective states or countries require the registration of a felon’s name and his offense in a system. The Philippines can obtain such a list.



HENRYETTA FAMILIES ADVOCATE FOR 'KNIGHT'S LAW' IN WAKE OF TRAGIC MURDERS, TIGHTER LAWS ON SEX OFFENDERS

By: Kaitlyn Deggs

HENRYETTA, Okla. -

The families of two of the girls murdered in Henryetta want stricter laws for convicted sex offenders.

The families are calling it "Knight's Law"- after Henryetta's school mascot.

There are 13 laws they would like to see passed as part of their "Knight's Law" push. The main one is anyone convicted of a sex crime against a child would be sentenced to life in prison without parole.

Ivy Webster and Brittany Brewer were two of the five teenagers murdered by convicted rapist Jesse McFadden in May.

"Jesse took his own life, and I have to find a way to get justice for my daughter," said Justin Webster, Ivy's father. "I don't want any other parent, or any other little girl, to go through what my daughter did or what our family is going through."

Webster says justice would be seeing "Knight's Law" becoming reality.

If passed, these laws would mean more jail time for anyone convicted of sex crimes against children, notify people about sex offenders living near them, and reject marriage licenses for anyone who has minor children but wants to marry a sex offender.

"I wouldn't risk it. I wouldn't want to risk that for my kids, for somebody else's kids. They do re-offend. That is a stat. They are four times more likely to re-offend once they've already re-offended and they're released from prison," said Tiffany Troy, Ivy Webster's cousin.

Nathan Brewer is Brittany's dad and supports the laws. He hopes it will stop sex offenders from being near kids, especially at school events.

"Let's all come together and push to get this Knight's Law passed. This here will actually help us keep our children safe," said Brewer.

Ivy's family says these laws are important, but what's just as important is showing kids there are people out there who want to make your world safe.

"By standing up here and pushing this petition and pushing these laws and wanting to get this enacted, it's to protect those kids, and it's a statement to them that you matter. And that we care about you, and we want to protect you," said Tiffany.

"It's very personal to me, and I will devote the rest of my life to making sure, hopefully, not too long, this Knight's Law becomes the national law. Because we need it. We need to start protecting our kids," said Justin Webster.

Webster says the law has already gotten the support of a couple of legislators, who are reviewing it and plan to propose bills during the next session.

How the Supreme Court has promoted myths about sex offend-

This Sunday, March 5, marks the 20th anniversary of *Smith v. Doe*, a U.S. Supreme Court decision that approved retroactive application of Alaska's sex offender registry, deeming it preventive rather than punitive. That ruling helped propagate several pernicious myths underlying a policy that every state has adopted without regard to its justice or effectiveness.

Writing for the majority in *Smith*, Justice Anthony Kennedy took it for granted that collecting and disseminating information about people convicted of sex offenses made sense as a public safety measure. But that premise was always doubtful.

The vast majority of sexual

assaults, especially against children, are committed by relatives, friends or acquaintances, and the perpetrators typically do not have prior sex-offense convictions. That means they would not show up on a registry even if someone bothered to check.

It is therefore not surprising that research finds little evidence to support Kennedy's



How the Supreme Court has promoted myths about sex offender registries by Jacob Sullum

assumption that publicly accessible registries protect potential victims. Summarizing the evidence in a 2016 National Affairs article, Eli Lehrer noted that “virtually no well-controlled study shows any quantifiable benefit from the practice of notifying communities of sex offenders living in their midst.”

To reinforce the logic of registries, Kennedy averred that “the risk of recidivism posed by sex offenders is ‘frightening and high.’” He was quoting his own opinion in an earlier case, which in turn relied on an unsubstantiated estimate from a source who has publicly and repeatedly disavowed it.

According to Kennedy’s paraphrase, “the rate of recidivism of untreated offenders has been estimated to be as high as 80%.” By contrast, a 2003 Bureau of Justice Statistics study found that the three-year recidivism rate for sex offenders was 3.5%.

Studies covering longer periods find higher recidivism rates, but still nothing remotely like 80%, even for high-risk offenders. Despite its empirical emptiness, Kennedy’s “frightening and high” claim has been quoted again and again in legal briefs and judicial opinions across the

country.

Although registries are ostensibly based on the risk of recidivism, they apply indiscriminately to broad classes of people, even when there is little reason to think they pose an ongoing danger. Dissenting in *Smith*, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg noted that Alaska’s law “applies to all convicted sex offenders, without regard to their future dangerousness.”

One of the men who challenged Alaska’s law, Ginsburg pointed out, “successfully completed a treatment program” and “gained early release on supervised probation in part because of his compliance with the program’s requirements and his apparent low risk of reoffense.” A court determined that “he had been successfully rehabilitated,” based partly on “psychiatric evaluations” indicating that he had “a very low risk of reoffending” and was “not a pedophile.”

That man nevertheless was required to renew his registration four times a year for the rest of his life. The online registry included his name, photograph, criminal record, address, physical description, date of birth and place of employment, along with the li-

cense plate numbers of vehicles he used.

Kennedy minimized the consequences of publicly branding people as presumptively dangerous sex offenders, calling it “less harsh” than revocation of a professional license. But as Justice John Paul Stevens noted in his dissent, there was “significant evidence of onerous practical effects of being listed on a sex offender registry,” ranging from “public shunning, picketing, press vigils, ostracism, loss of employment and eviction” to “threats of violence, physical attacks, and arson.”

Those predictable costs, combined with legal restrictions on where registrants may live and which locations they may visit, undermine rehabilitation and continue to punish registrants long after they have completed their sentences. That is why several state and federal courts have concluded, contrary to what the Supreme Court said in *Smith*, that registration schemes are punitive in effect.

Activists who oppose registration will call attention to that reality during a vigil at the Supreme Court on Tuesday morning. They are clearly right in arguing that the illusory benefits of public registries cannot justify the burdens they impose.



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Hebrew 13:3 - Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.

Remember if you change your address you need to let us know if you want to continue to receive this newsletter



WHO GUARDS YOUR HOME?

Personal opinion by Alice

In our home a 100 pound guard dog named Goldie guards our home. We acquired her from street vendors where we bought her 5 years ago. She was probably descended from a Great Pyrenees. Our land expands east and upward into a grove of trees and a high wall overlooking the freeway. Goldie is aware of visiting deer and skunks which often appear in the early morning hours and then disappear into a grove of trees. Goldie is very loyal to us, sleeping at night in a corner of our living room. She responds to sounds from passing planes or emergency vehicles on a distant highway with a whining howl.

I love dogs, have raised them all

my life. I got permission to take a Collie to the Philippines on a small freighter before World War II. When landing at Manila, a police officer guarding the entrance asked me for \$100 to allow my dog into the country. A few tears convinced the officer that was a foolish request for visiting American children!

If you have a dog, love it, take care of it. If it wins a prize at the State Fair, share your findings. Dogs are made to be loved as a member of your family. Thank God He made them!

Man's best friend is true spelled forward or backwards.



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Circle of Concern has gone **ZOOM**

Circle of Concern is aimed at breaking down isolation and fear by providing a safe place for registrants and their loved ones to get together, build community, and learn ways to step out and take charge of their lives and overcome the stigma they face. The Circle of Concern is a group of concerned registered citizens, family and friends that meet together on the 3rd Sunday of each month. We are meeting this month on **October 15 2023** at 3 pm—4 p.m. MST (Mountain Standard Time). We will meet on Zoom. We encourage and try to help each other. It is a safe place to share our strengths and struggles. We hope you will join us. If you are planning to attend call Don at **(505) 315-7940**. He will send you the link to join by computer or phone. You can contact him at the number above or email him at donmagicjohnston@gmail.com