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January 7, 2015

VIA EMAIL : mark.stricherz@aleteia.org

Mr. Mark Stricherz
429 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20003-4034

Re: Military Religious Freedom Foundation
www.militaryreligiousfreedom.org
Mikey Weinstein
Your January 6, 2015 article/post

Dear Mr. Stricherz:

Our office represents the Military Religious Freedom Foundation and its Founder and President, Mikey Weinstein. Mr. Weinstein has contacted us with extremely serious issues surrounding your January 6, 2015 article/post which publicly appeared at Aleteia.org and which publicly appeared again the following day at NewsMax.com.

Mr. Weinstein is gravely concerned about a number of things relative to your article which are both blatantly misleading and maliciously false.

The three points of particular concern are your statements and insinuations concerning Mr. Weinstein's work in the Reagan White House, his salary with the Foundation and the email samples he provided to you.

Even a moderate level of investigative research would have confirmed Mr. Weinstein's several positions in the Reagan White House and that his salary with respect to the Foundation in no way departs from what is referred to in your article as so called "federal guidelines." The reason for anti-Semitic threatening emails directed to Mr. Weinstein being from untraceable domain names should be completely self evident given their nature. People don't typically make threatening statements over the Internet in their own name. I should think that would have been fairly obvious.

Mr. Weinstein, and the Foundation, work very hard in their effort to ensure freedom of religion for everyone. Most of the Foundation's tens of thousands of military clients are, in fact, Christian, but the Foundation works for the continued free expression and practice for those of all

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beliefs or no beliefs. With that in mind, Mr. Weinstein's interests are for a free, open, lively, and on occasion even heated debate. Open debate is one thing, defamation and slander by innuendo is quite another.

You have stated, or quite deliberately inferred that Mr. Weinstein did not work in the Reagan White House, that the examples of anti-Semitic emails forwarded to you were somehow fabricated and that his salary with the Foundation has somehow been set in contravention of appropriate legal guidelines. Each and every one of those assertions is blatantly misleading and maliciously false.

If you want to write about Mr. Weinstein and the Foundation in a critical way, that is certainly your right, but if you are going to do it, at least research the basic and salient facts, verify the things you are going to say, and make a reasonable effort to be ethical and fair about it.

The wording of your article seems to be carefully crafted in an effort to make malicious and intentionally false statements seem somehow truthful and verified. It didn't work. Your malevolent intent is quite transparent.

We insist that you immediately take down the false posts and retract the erroneous statements. We further insist that you also request that any other site that has republished your article immediately do the same.

Also, please notify your liability insurance carrier of the very serious circumstances herein. I also ask that you have your lawyer contact me right away to discuss the situation.

By copy of this letter to Andrea Romano at aleteia.org, I am requesting that they (Aleteia) take immediate steps to take down the article, notify their liability insurance carrier, and request that their lawyer contact me as well. We would like to know, inter alia, if Aleteia made any effort whatsoever to verify your alleged "facts" before publication.

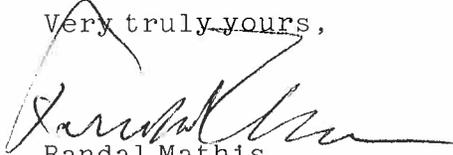
Internet publications can be particularly challenging in that I think, sometimes, people republish statements or information, as facts, when they are not, without verifying the original source. Said another way, many people do not seem to follow what would historically have been basic principles of journalistic ethics and professionalism.

There is a saying, Mr. Stricherz; something put over the Internet has a longer half-life than plutonium. Defamation and the dangerous repercussions of it can spread awfully fast on the Internet and cause great and often savage injury.

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I look forward to hearing from your attorney.

Very truly yours,



Randal Mathis

RGM:lf

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Aleteia – *Via Email – editorial_en@aleteia.org*
NewsMax – *Via Email – ruddy@newsmax.com*