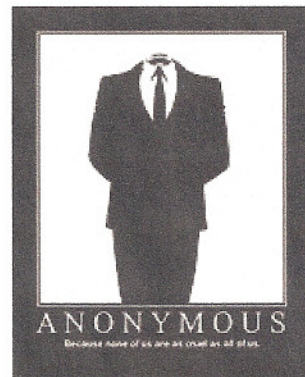


The Facts and Myths About Scientology Fair Game

John Bowen Brown II

The Fair Game policy was ratified by the Scientology religious complex in the late '60s to deal with Scientologists who were declared to be “suppressive persons.” A declared suppressive person is no longer protected by Scientology codes and policies. While certain Scientology critics maintain that Fair Game applies to anyone, Scientologists or not, a policy letter distributed in December 1965 clearly stated that a person declared Fair Game was not protected the codes and **rights as a Scientologist**. The exception per Scientology policy was anyone who had close contact with a Scientologist, not simply any critical non-Scientologist. This policy is many times misapplied by critics who fear Fair Game for simply speaking against Scientology.



The December 1965 policy explains its origins with U.S. government legal action that was prompted by family member who “were actively suppressing a Scientologist or Scientology.” Such people were publicly declared Suppressive Persons or Fair Game. While critics voice their fears of Fair Game because they spoke against Scientology, they never mention other acts that result in declaring a person Fair Game. Some of these other acts are first degree murder, arson, disintegration of persons or belongings, falsifying records, false testimony and blackmail. A 1967 policy letter issued stronger language that included the right to deprive of property, lie and destroy a suppressive person within the scope of other policy memos. Declaring people Fair Game ceased in 1968

Despite Fair Game’s cancellation some critics claim that the original fair game policy still exists, but there is no consensus regarding this claim. A 1991 Scientology policy memo affirmed that “Nothing in this policy letter shall ever or under any circumstances justify any violation of the laws of the land or intentional legal wrongs. Any such offense shall subject the offender to penalties prescribed by law as well as to ethics and justice actions.”

Also not all critics agree that the original Fair Game policy still exists. One critic’s web site said: “the CoS now harasses its critics as far as they can legally get away

sometimes engage in wild exaggerations about it and some of them even manufacture harassments when they can't find enough to blame the CoS on."