

June 19, 2018

Former UK/London Chapterhead Zeke Apollyon to fellow CHs

Dear National Council,

As you are aware, my leadership of the UK chapter was revoked recently after I actioned an unsanctioned campaign. I was told by you in my dismissal letter that while I was encouraged to remain a member, the chapter was on lockdown (no social media activity, no public activity) pending the appointment of a new chapter head and co-head and that any activity would result in the shuttering of our chapter. As you also know, Cain Abaddon, a dedicated and committed leadership member of our chapter for some time - both in the UK and in the greater EU as an organiser – was finally interviewed after 6 months of interview postponements and inactivity on the part of the council, only to be rejected. This has caused concern among our national membership base here in the UK.

As I explained previously, here is some redundant background on the initiative I actioned: The Bavarian Prime Minister, Markus Soder, leads a far right-wing nationalistic party called the Christian Social Union. He mandated the hanging of crucifixes in government buildings despite a constitutional separation of church and state, insisting it was a cultural symbol and not a religious symbol. The subtext being that Muslims are meant to see that Islam is unwelcome in Bavaria. Our chapter was invited to participate in this at short notice. Because I felt it was an important and noble campaign, I invested several hundred pounds of my own money and sought approval from the National Council to attach the TSTSUK name to it. Unfortunately, time restrictions and mandate deadlines made it necessary to “shit or get off the pot”, as it were, and in the spirit of the first and seventh tenets I moved forward with the action. It was not out of rebellion and I acted in the best interest of the chapter. I understood there might be consequences.

Once it went public, I was contacted by Will Morrison and told with thinly veiled anger that we had “jumped the gun” and that the NC was “already in deliberations about it”; the implication being that the campaign would have been approved and we had screwed up by not waiting. Then I was stonewalled. I had previously sent an apology to the council and tried to explain that the project was moving forward without us, but you chose not to respond. It was a surprise verdict for a first time offense, and I have financially, emotionally, and physically supported the growth and development of the UK and EU for years, always being deferential to the NC. I requested an appeal but emails to both Doug and the council went unreturned. I learned later that it wasn’t the action that bothered you, but rather you took umbrage with the tone of my written participation request.

In truth our Kreuzpflicht initiative was well-reasoned. It was a valuable campaign with a meaningful message that was favourably received, boosted our membership significantly, and has

been shared thousands of times via mainstream German media - all while costing the organisation nothing. There was also no disciplinary interview with me to ascertain motive and context to facilitate better decision-making; no follow up to learn my meaning - why hadn't I been able to send a proposal sooner, what factors would have contributed to this bureaucratic stumbling block, etc. Did it matter that there has been a death in the family I was dealing with or that my laptop with my TST documents had died? My original request was sent hurriedly. It was enthusiastic and rushed and written at the end of three 12-hour days on my feet in clinics. I tried to say everything about what we anticipated in terms of a campaign response and also provide as much background information as I could. And it was a project moving forward with or without us. What my request was **not** was arrogant or disrespectful. If I seemed casual it was because I consider each NC member to be family after the time we've put into building personal relationships over the last 2-3 years. You have each told me as much. If you felt I needed to somehow be more respectful of your positions then those expectations or submission guidelines should be clarified. Tone is perceptual and your perception felt personal. Taking absolute punitive issue with an unclarified perception, especially when the opportunity to clarify my intention was an option, suggests a decision made based on ego and emotion rather than reason or the framework of our tenets. In the spirit of compassion, I understand you're likely trying to put out fires in the wake of some recent bad decisions and organisational instability, but maybe you shouldn't use a fire hose to put out someone's spliff.

I want to make it clear that I made peace with your decision. I wasn't happy, but I made peace with it. The process around this decision has raised some issues, however. To add to this, Cain and I were both invited by NC to apply for membership positions with the National Council back in November. Between then and February we had to make a decision about who would move forward with the NC application and who would lead the chapter as neither of us wanted the chapter to suffer. We decided I would move forward with the National Council application and Cain would lead the chapter. Cain was strung along for interview for 6 months only to have postponements, cancellations, or simply silence. I was still waiting for you to get back to me. Cain has demonstrated his leadership and commitment. And he was good enough at one point to entertain your consideration of him as a candidate for an NC role. Now there has been this rejection and our chapter faces virtual shuttering. We also have an active approved campaign in motion called **Operation: Inviolable** whereby tattoo artists have pledged to do free cover work on survivors of domestic abuse who have scars or tattoos resulting from the abuse. We basically can't do anything right now.

It is not reasonable, compassionate, noble, or in the interest of anyone -least of all the organisation- to halt our progress, limit our growth, and hobble development. This combined with regular delays, one way communication, lack of accountability, lack of chapter-specific support, little-to-no understanding of regional chapter needs or political/cultural climate, nominal transparency, and the absence of any real organisational framework (including recourse to

challenging/questioning decisions) has initiated a widespread vote of no-confidence in the US leadership. To add to this, Will has just quit so council stability is also in question.

In our current position we have a lot of options. Some of them not great for the organisation but we hope to be able to establish a solution-oriented dialogue with the NC.

The UK feels:

- the National Council should **either** be called International Council **or** there should be two national councils; one from the US, and one from Europe, including Australia
- National or International Councils should be made up of Chapter representatives with oversight of different territories
- grievance procedures should be in place that allow for independent review and an appeal process
- active chapters need to be able to continue their work with NC oversight in the absence of an appointed official (particularly if the former appointed official **and** the entire governing body of the chapter are still present)

I also want to be clear with NC that this is a divisive issue which could split the organisation right down the middle. We know our own power and value; we know the law and we have organisational support as well as a pro bono legal team and resources. This isn't a threat, it's a statement of fact so please try to take it at face value. I just want you to understand that we have options and we've chosen - of all these options- to try and find an amicable solution. Please recognise the olive branch being extended.

We have been doing exactly what we signed up for. We fell in love with the temple. We want to believe that you are the temple we fell in love with. We want to give you the opportunity to be that temple, to recognise action taken in the spirit of the tenets. But if you are not or will not then we are wholly capable of creating the organisation that we do believe in. I hope you see this for the simple appeal it is.

Zeke Apollyon

Chapter Head - ex officio

The Satanic Temple, London & UK

