
Interview: Ted Gunderson

FBI's Lanning sides with Satan, says former top bureau official

Former FBI official Ted Gunderson, in an interview to *EIR* editors Jeffrey Steinberg and Carol White, warned about the spreading plague of satanism and satanic-related crime and sharply criticized the bureau for covering up the crisis. A full text of the interview will be published in the July 1990 issue of *EIR's* counterintelligence newsletter *Investigative Leads*.

Prior to his retirement from the FBI on March 30, 1979, Gunderson had spent 28 years with the bureau, ending his career as the senior special agent-in-charge of the Los Angeles Field Division, directing 700 employees and an annual budget of \$22.5 million. Immediately following his retirement, he was appointed by then-Attorney General Griffin Bell to direct the security arrangements for the Pan-American Games in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Returning to Los Angeles, he set up a private firm, International Security Consultants.

Among the first investigations Gunderson undertook with ISC involved a former Green Beret officer, Dr. Jeffrey McDonald, who was accused of murdering his wife and children in Fayetteville, North Carolina in 1970. McDonald contends that his family was murdered by a satanic cult similar to the Manson Family, which had carried out their grisly murders on the West Coast just months before the McDonald murders.

As the result of his work for attorneys representing Dr. McDonald, Gunderson became increasingly aware of the existence of a nationwide satanic underworld engaged in drug trafficking, pornography, ritualistic murders, and other crimes. For the last decade, Gunderson has developed an expertise in the field. More recently he has been involved in investigating alleged ritualistic sexual abuse of students at the McMartin Day School in Manhattan Beach, California, and similar allegations of satanic cult-related crimes in Washington State. (In the McMartin case, a jury acquitted the two defendants on 52 counts of the indictment in January 1990, but failed to reach a verdict on 13 of the counts; a second trial is expected to take place on those charges.) In 1983, Gunderson, along with investigative journalist Maury Terry, author of *The Ultimate Evil*, helped develop critical evidence in the ritualistic murder of Broadway impresario Roy Radin.

Gunderson has appeared on nationwide television shows,

including the Geraldo Rivera show, probing the satanic crime threat. He has recently written a book-length guide for locating missing persons, titled *How To Locate Anyone Anywhere Without Leaving Home*, which is available from Ted L. Gunderson Associates, P.O. Box 5080, Long Beach, California 90805 for \$10, shipping and handling included.

The FBI suppressed evidence

In his interview with *EIR*, Gunderson was particularly critical of the role that his former agency has played in recent years in suppressing evidence of a burgeoning nationwide satanic criminal structure. He focused much of his harshest criticism on FBI Special Agent Kenneth Lanning, the current head of the bureau's Behavioral Science unit at the FBI Training Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

Since the discovery of a satanic burial site on a drug plantation near Matamoros, Mexico last spring, Lanning has written a number of articles denying the existence of a satanic problem in the United States, blaming the widespread concern over ritualistic crimes on religious fundamentalists, overzealous investigators, and quacks. Two of Lanning's harshest attacks on the idea of satanic ritualistic crimes appeared in the October 1989 issue of *Police Chief* magazine and in a special report published in December 1989 by the National Center For Missing and Exploited Children. Lanning has written that more people have been killed in the names of Jesus and Mohammed than in the name of Satan.

To which Gunderson responds:

"In my opinion, other than Aleister Crowley, Anton LaVey, and Michael Aquino [all well-known satanists active in the United States this century], Ken Lanning is probably the most effective and foremost speaker for the satanic movement in this country, today or any time in the past."

Based on his own experiences probing the McDonald, McMartin, and other cases, Gunderson is certain that a nationwide satanic underground exists in the United States:

"My investigations over a 10-year period have led me to the exact opposite conclusions than those of Ken Lanning. There is every indication that there is a loose-knit satanic cult network operating in the U.S. It is probably a combination

of: a high-level group of people linked to kiddie porn, prostitution, drug trafficking and other criminal activity internationally. This more organized structure filters down to independent groups of satanists probably not tied directly to the first network. These local groups also engage in drug trafficking, ritualistic activities like animal and human sacrifices. And below them, we encounter high school-age kids who go to the occult shops and buy the satanic literature and set up their own local independent groups. From hundreds of interviews that I have personally conducted in every part of the country, I encounter a persistent pattern everywhere. All the stories fit the same mold: animal and baby sacrifices, the use of candles and other ritualistic props, robes, chanting, etc. All of these victim-survivors, from children to adults, are all telling the same basic story.

“In the McMartin case, for example, before any criminal charges were filed against anyone, 460 complaints were filed with the Manhattan Beach police. Are we to believe that 460 families fed their children the same story of ritualistic sexual abuse, animal sacrifices, etc.? This is a suburban, affluent area, middle class and up—not the kind of people inclined toward the belief in satanic conspiracies.”

How many children are really missing?

Gunderson attacked Lanning’s recent claims that the number of documented cases of missing children in the United States last year was under 100, with the majority of those cases being teenagers fleeing rotten home environments:

“The FBI has an accurate count of the number of automobiles stolen every year. It knows the number of homicides, rapes, and robberies. But the FBI has no idea of the number of children who disappear every year. They simply do not ask for the statistics. Every month every major police department in the United States files its uniform crime statistics with the FBI. It would be simple for the bureau to add one more column to the statistics and get a breakdown of every reported case of missing children. But they don’t do it. They have no scientific basis for making any estimates about the number of missing children—not to even mention children who are kidnaped for ritualistic purposes and, in some cases, murdered. I am convinced that the FBI does not ask for these statistics because they do not want to see them. They would be confronted with an instant public outcry for action, because the figures would show a major social problem. That problem would demand action.

“Up until several years ago, there was a built-in prejudice among even local police and prosecutors against investigating ritualistic crimes. I have interviewed parents who went to the police with detailed accounts from their children having been sexually abused. As soon as the investigations began to get into areas of ritualistic activities the probes would be shut down. I don’t think that this was due to satanist penetration of law enforcement in every instance. I think that there was a built-in prejudice.

“Fortunately, in the past few years, a number of local police investigators in different parts of the country have seriously taken up the issue of satanic crime. In some cases, these officers have developed their expertise on their own time. Now, however, local police are more conscious of the growing menace represented by satanic related crime, ritualistic violence, etc. But the problem is national. Many of the crimes we are talking about—interstate transporting of pornographic material, kidnaping, interstate drug trafficking, etc.—are federal crimes. A federal clearing house for intelligence on satanic-related crime is urgently needed.

“I have evidence chiseled in stone showing that the U.S. Army and the Department of Justice covered up that satanic angle and framed up Dr. McDonald. The McDonald case could have exposed a major heroin-smuggling operation out of Vietnam involving highly placed Army officials running drugs into the U.S. in the body cavities of dead GIs.”

Rather than creating such a capability to assist the work being done by local police and many private groups, the FBI is consciously attempting to bury the entire issue and drive local police into dropping their own efforts.

“I am convinced that we are confronted with a serious satanic penetration of every level of society, government at every level.

“I was first exposed to this problem of penetration when I investigated the McDonald case. Within 10 months of being hired, I had obtained a signed affidavit from Helene Stokeley, a member of the satanic cult that carried out the murders of the McDonald family. Yet an overzealous prosecutor ignored that evidence and proceeded to prosecute Dr. McDonald. I have evidence chiseled in stone showing that the U.S. Army and the Department of Justice covered up that satanic angle and framed up Dr. McDonald. Why? Among other things the McDonald case could have exposed a major heroin-smuggling operation out of Vietnam involving highly placed Army officials running drugs into the U.S. in the body cavities of dead American GIs—green body bags loaded with heroin. Elements of this story even came out publicly in the Jan. 1, 1973 issue of *Time* magazine. But that was just the tip of the iceberg. When the McDonald case goes into a retrial—as I am confident it will—there will be definite information about the cover-up—the drug angle and the corruption of the prosecution.”