## IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO JUL 30 2018 Matthew Hale, Plaintiff Plaintiff VS. C.A. No. 14:-cv-00245

## AMICUS COMMENTARY TO MOTION FOR LEAVE (DOCUMENT 236) TO RESTRICT

COMES NOW Valerie Protopapas, a seventy-seven [77] year old woman and a concerned citizen; I have no personal relationship with the Plaintiff Matthew Hale though I know his mother, Evelyn Hutcheson via e-mail contact. I have read Document 236.

Knowing as I do that Mr. Hale's conviction was based upon the testimony of a paid agent of the government, and given the other circumstances surrounding his case, I am very much concerned that a grave injustice has been done. I am familiar with the Randy Weaver case [Ruby Ridge] that took place in 1992. Mr. Weaver had some contact with a white separatist group though he was not a member. The Federal Bureau of Investigation approached Weaver and asked him to "wear a wire" with the obvious intention of obtaining evidence of wrongdoing against members of the group. Weaver refused and all of his problems stemmed from his refusal to be an "informant" for the FBI. As a result, I have no faith whatsoever in the allegations made by such informants or in the charges brought by the government as a consequence of those allegations. Transcriptions of Hale's trial only support my belief that he is not only innocent, but should have won an appeal based simply upon the appalling performance of his so-called defense attorney. When all of this injustice is taken together, the government's claim that a book he is writing incites or promotes violence is nonsense—especially given the fact that *actual* violence in the society is daily allowed to be incited and promoted without any consequences whatsoever.

Furthermore the unconscionable severity of his sentence—given the questionable charges—together with the appalling treatment he has received at the hands of prison authorities are direct violations of Article VIII of the United States Constitution forbidding "cruel and unusual punishment."

As a citizen of the United States concerned about the obviously deteriorating standards of justice in this country, I plead with this Court to provide to the Plaintiff, Matthew Hale, all such relief as he seeks in this matter and also to move forward to free him from *durance vile* and return him to that liberty to which he is entitled as a citizen of the United States.

Pursuant to 28 U.S. Code §1746 —

"I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct."

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Protopapas 49 North Howell Avenue Centereach, NY 11720

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have placed a copy of this Amicus commentary in the United States mail, postage prepaid on July 26, 2018 to:

Susan Prose, Esq. Assistant United States Attorney 1801 California Street, Suite 1600 Denver, CO 80202

