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Seth Farber, Ph.D.

New York City

www.sethfarber.com

212-560-7288

To the Court,

I am a psychologist, an eclectic psychotherapist and author.

I was consulted by Todd Giffen March 2014. We had a quite a few conversations on the phone and exchanges on the Internet. It is my professional opinion that he is not psychotic. He shows no signs of either a "thought disorder" or affective psychosis. Nor does he have a paranoid personality disorder. I realize he has been given some of these diagnoses. But that is because his belief system is unusual. It is because he alleges he is being persecuted. But he is far more coherent than a "schizophrenic." And his deep-state (pejoratively termed "conspiracy theory") interpretation of the American political system is not implausible and is shared by increasing number of citizens. For example Eric Lichtblau, a Pulitzer Prize winner, recently wrote a book that was highly critically acclaimed titled, *The Nazis Next Door: How America Became a Safe Haven for Hitler's Men*. Had the book not been so extensively documented its author might have been dismissed (and probably still is) as a "conspiracy theorist." A psychiatrist talking to him might consider him paranoid. But paranoia is characterized by a pervasive distrust of people, to quote the DSM-4 (the last edition of the psychiatric manual of "mental disorders."). Todd does not have a pervasive distrust of people. In fact I have found him to be quite open and unguarded. He has a number of friends, and belongs to several groups.. These diagnoses are used to stigmatize him for his unpopular political views.

I was not trying to come up with an accurate diagnosis of Mr Giffen, merely to see whether the more invidious ones with which he has been saddled were accurate. As stated they were not.

I have been influenced by a number of therapists and theorists who adopted a model of psychology informed by the modern and postmodern critiques of Freudianism and biopsychiatry, and by the systemic critique of the linear causal "medical model" of psychology which is based upon the root metaphor of mental illness. For example I trained with family therapists like Dr Salvador Minuchin and Jay Haley. They did not believe that problems of living could be understood outside of the social-familial context, they did not believe that a troubled individual was afflicted by a disease process of which his unhappiness and eccentricities were symptoms. Unless there is actual organic damage the medical model is epistemologically misleading and counter-therapeutic.. In actuality the individual is, among other things, a unit in a larger gestalt, such as a nuclear family. Thomas Szasz and R D Laing both critiqued the traditional treatment of psychosis. Laing for example believed schizophrenics were engaging in an unusual way of communicating. However, contrary to modern psychiatry, Laing showed this anomalous communication was intelligible when viewed within its social context. To label it defective or symptomatic of a disease and to obscure its nature as communication is a purely arbitrary judgment, no more objective or subject to epistemological falsification (see Karl Popper) than a movie review. Psychiatrist Thomas Szasz showed the construct of mental illness was based on a model of

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human behavior antithetical to our modern liberal Enlightenment respect for individual autonomy and freedom. I was honored that Thomas Szasz wrote the Foreword to my first book published in 1993.

One year ago (right after Snowden's revelations) I was contacted by "TIs"--targeted individuals. I was unaware before this of the extent of government invasion of our privacy, the abrogation of our privacy, integrity and, freedom by agencies of the government. The late French philosopher Michel Foucault described the geometric structure of the Panopticon as a metaphor for pervasive processes of surveillance and domination in modern society. For example, in a prison, guards in the Panopticon could see everything and everyone, but they remained invisible.

Today the Panopticon is so developed that the citizen has no barriers against intrusion into his brain, his mind, no protection against rape of the body and brain, no preservation of the conditions necessary for freedom, for our "inalienable rights." The citizen is completely transparent and the elite in the figurative Panopticon is completely invisible and determined to remain that way. That gives them the illusion of ultimate control. I say "illusion" because the ego can never achieve ultimate control. It is the old problematic of the master-slave dialectic, as Hegel described it. (See Kojève's description.) The "master" is controlled by the process itself--by the pursuit of an illusion. But nonetheless I believe this situation of pervasive surveillance can and must be understood by all citizens, the guilty parties must be punished for violating our rights as citizens. (There are guilty parties.) Thomas Szasz repeatedly affirmed the moral culpability of those who violate our constitutional rights. Otherwise I believe it will continue until the elite have destroyed society. I believe Mr Giffen shares my views on this situation, although he has not necessarily been influenced by the same philosophers. It is the philosophical basis upon which our country was based, as historian Gordon Wood points out. For this reason he can and is helping to educate other Americans unaware of covert surveillance.

As a psychologist I feel it would provide only a little consolation to help clients who are TIs to 'cope with "this problem"'--the physical pain and emotional anguish of being targeted. (See John Hall, *Satellite Terrorism in America*, 2009, and Gloria Naylor, 1996). It's true most TIs feel relieved to find a therapist who believes them. But they are still stuck with the problem. They are subjected to heightened level of surveillance and covert harassment. It is not only their living space that is invaded for purposes of surveillance. Their brains themselves are invaded and subjected to manipulations. Never before in "democratic" societies has there been this degree of interference with individual autonomy. This kind of Panopticonism is a profound social pathology, an atavistic regression that eats away at all the accomplishments of the Enlightenment, and is destroying the substance of democracy.. "Coping with" the individual symptoms of what is at bottom a profound social pathology leaves the fundamental problem untouched. That is not enough.

Thus, although it is not my area of expertise, I support TIs effort to expose the new Panopticon. I am working on this now with a number of persons. Besides Todd Giffen (www.obamasweapons.com) who has a lawsuit there is the work of www.freedomfchs.org. Kenneth Posner is a member of the latter who has tried assiduously to get publicity. We have worked together to find lawyers and journalists.

Sometimes I write letters for clients who are TIs stating they do not have a thought disorder. I would not say they were targeted if I thought they were delusional. I do not believe in the medical model but I do have clients who are "schizophrenics"--that is they have the traditional symptoms or behaviors associated with the schizophrenic construct. When I write a letter stating that Todd Giffen does not have a thought disorder my hope is that the recipient will find it more difficult to dismiss Todd's claims which

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I believe are true. One of my problems with the mental health system is that it pathologizes and stigmatizes persons who have beliefs about reality that deviate from the cultural consensus. During the Inquisition dissidents were labeled and persecuted as heretics or witches. I am not asking professionals to believe their clients, I am asking them not to label persons psychotic merely because they have unusual views. It is not my business as a therapist to police my clients' thoughts. People can be wrong and can still live creative productive lives.

When therapist pathologize unusual views they are attacking and undermining our democratic rights--they do it under the guise of providing medical/psychiatric help. I disagree--I think our founding fathers had a far wiser understanding of psychology than modern psychiatry or psychology.

The Therapeutic State is totalitarian, not democratic. (See *The Careless Society* by John McKnight.)

Hemingway's friends all thought he was "paranoid" because he thought he was being watched and followed. This drove Hemingway crazy. Years later his biographer discovered the FBI *had been* following him and tracking his every movement. It is common for professionals to deem people "paranoid schizophrenics" if they say the CIA is watching them. But we know now the CIA or NSA IS watching all of us--and were watching many more of us than we knew in Hemingway's day. Probably if Hemingway's friends believed him he would not have felt so alone--driven to seek psychiatric help. Psychiatrists tried to cure him by giving him electroshock but Hemingway said the ECT took away from him the writer's most precious gift--his memory. Shortly after the great man shot himself, a victim of the CIA and of psychiatrists. And of his friends who failed to understand that there are totalitarian forces within our midst--and they were not "Communists."

Laing observed that we call someone paranoid when she says someone is out to get her, and they are not. But there is no word to describe her if she thinks people are out to get her and they are. In other words there are certain beliefs mental health professionals refuse to consider might be correct--they proscribe us from thinking these thoughts. Anyone who thinks someone is out to get them is ipso facto pathological in Psychiatry's eyes. Laing called therapists "thought-police." In the age of the all-pervasive Panopticon there are only a few therapists who defend the right to think freely, to be liberated from mind-control--even if one is wrong. By taking away our right to be wrong therapists set themselves up as the ultimate authority on Truth--as if science itself was not a centuries long process of experimentation and error in quest of truth. As if the scientific and intellectual pioneers whom today we worship had not been viewed as crackpots or heretics in their own day, or even lunatics! We need the right to be wrong in order to experiment, in order to find our way to the truth. By labeling people "psychotic" because they have unusual ideas, the therapist betrays his vocation--to help the individual develop the inner strength to live up to the demands of a democratic society. *The therapist cannot in good faith carry on as if the American Revolution never took place.* If she does that than she is undermining the individual's right to pursue and find happiness. When Jefferson substituted the pursuit of happiness for "property" in The Declaration of Independence, he tacitly acknowledged that "the personal is political" (as the sixties' dissidents said) and that democracy is required for individual happiness. The role of the therapist today in a country that is increasingly totalitarian must be to expose and protest conditions that no longer guarantee life and liberty for all citizens and that make the pursuit of happiness and the preservation of individuality almost impossible. Szasz argued that most counselors today have become "social control" agents thus betraying their democratic heritage. In these circumstances "psycho-

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diagnosis" is a covertly political act, not a medical procedure. Like Szasz and Laing I call upon therapists to abjure the role of social control agents, of "thought-police."

Considering the revelations of Edward Snowden, and what TIs are saying, mental health professionals have a moral and professional obligation to give up their dogmatism (the enemy of intellectual experimentation) and stop policing thought.. Many people are subjected to covert surveillance (all Americans are to varying degrees) and harassment. The model of therapy that requires the therapist to tell people what to think is a modern version of the Inquisition. The patient has a right to her beliefs even if they are wrong, especially if they are wrong. Ultimately we cannot know. Hemingway's friends were certain he was paranoid.. I had a 75 year old client who claimed she was going to give birth to the Messiah. I thought she was wrong. But I saw the protective function these beliefs served for her. I refused to treat her as paranoid or schizophrenic, even though I believed she was mistaken. I refused to pathologize her merely because her beliefs were mistaken.

When TIs come to me, I usually believe them. Not always. Even in the best cases I can't be sure--we never can about most claims--but their beliefs are cogent. We must realize the degree to which we ARE being watched. This is a feature of our world today. Furthermore I have now read about MK-ULTRA and previous programs run by the CIA on non-consensual subjects. I used to think that America was controlled by a few corporations as Noam Chomsky has argued. But I underestimated the power of intelligence agencies and police, which supplement the power of corporations. I now am convinced that the CIA maintains social thought-control through intimidation and assassination. They have assassinated everyone from JFK to John Lennon. Yet to make such a statement makes me susceptible to being labeled "paranoid," a "conspiracy theorist." Therapists should refuse to participate in this process.

In my opinion our only hope for recovering the democratic immune system of our society, and defeating the totalitarian system with its invasive modes of control, is through public exposure of covert surveillance. Actually this kind of mind control does not work effectively on TIs. They are tormented but they are resistant to mind control--they are among the most socially critical citizens in America. The CIA can't make them believe totalitarianism is right. They reject the thoughts planted in their brains.

They are an example of robust "mental health." Despite the pain of being tortured they do not succumb to "Big Brother."

The CIA, NSA etc works to intimidate and scare the masses and to eliminate charismatic individuals who could act as instruments of change. Max Weber presciently argued that only the charismatic individual had the power to mobilize the masses to restore a vigorous civil society resistant to modern bureaucratic totalitarianism.. He was right and the CIA knows it. That is why charismatic or heroic individuals are removed, that is why exposure is prevented through persecution of Manning, Snowden, James Risen.

I want to see Robert Duncan, John Hall and others who are experts on this technology meet with defenders of civil liberties, including investigative journalists, like Glenn Greenwald, Chris Hedges, Sy Hersh, Amy Goodman, Center for Constitutional Rights, Henry Giroux, and psychologists and psychiatrists who refuse to be mind-police.. We must recreate a sane and democratic society in which individual autonomy is restored..

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I have already talked to people like Duncan, I have talked to Chris Hedges and a few therapists who oppose the use of therapy as a tool of repression. I want to help bring these disparate groups together in order to make more people aware of the covert invasion of the human brain, non-consensual experiments performed on unknowing subjects, the hallmark of a totalitarian society.

Thank you sincerely,

Seth Farber Ph.D.