

# Ethiopian Zion Coptic Church

November 20, 2006

Sheriff Dennis Anderson  
Polk County Sheriff's Office  
206 - 6th Ave, Suite #112  
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Dear Sheriff Anderson:

Cannabis is my Sacrament and my right to use Cannabis is protected by the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA), 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000bb et seq. and the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA), 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000cc et seq. as interpreted by the U.S. Supreme Court on February 21, 2006, in *Gonzales v. O Centro Espirita Beneficente Uniao do Vegetal (UDV)*, No. 04-1084, and *Cutter v. Wilkinson*, No. 03-9877:

<http://www.supremecourtus.gov/opinions/05pdf/04-1084.pdf>  
<http://www.supremecourtus.gov/opinions/04pdf/03-9877.pdf>

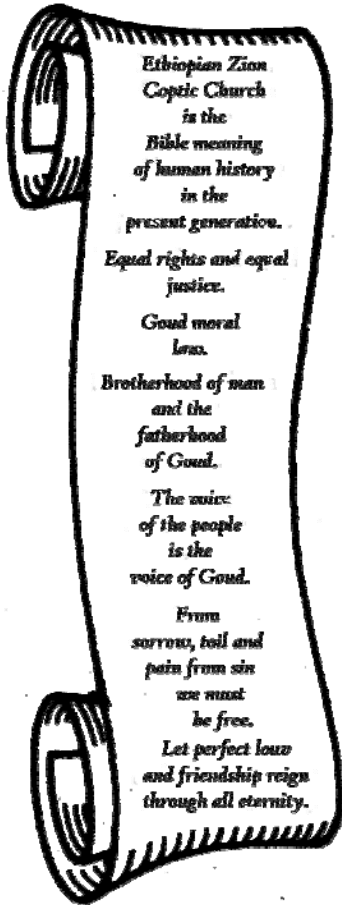
Copies of these two decisions are attached (55 pages double sided).

The Supreme Court of the United States held that the drug laws are not determinative in situations involving the religious use of drugs:

“Under the more focused inquiry required by RFRA and the compelling interest test, the Government’s mere invocation of the general characteristics of Schedule I substances, as set forth in the Controlled Substances Act, cannot carry the day.” Slip Opinion No. 04-1084 at page 11.

“The fact that the Act itself contemplates that exempting certain people from its requirements would be ‘consistent with the public health and safety’ indicates that congressional findings with respect to Schedule I substances should not carry the determinative weight, for RFRA purposes, that the Government would ascribe to them.”

Slip Opinion No. 04-1084 at pages 11-12.



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I have been arrested numerous times for practicing my religion, in Muscatine County, Iowa in 1977, in Jasper County, Iowa in 1978, in Bangor County, Maine in 1980, and in Dade County, Florida in 1984. In light of the fact that I've been previously arrested for practicing my religion, I want to know if you are going to arrest me if I exercise my Sacramental right to use, grow, possess, and distribute marijuana?

I have incorporated and I am preparing to go forward in terms of establishing and exercising my religion, including the use, growing, possession, and distribution of marijuana. Before I go forward I want to know if you will arrest me.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Rev. Carl Olsen  
Ethiopian Zion Coptic Church  
130 E Aurora Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50313-3654  
515-288-5798

Sent by Certified Mail:  
Return Receipt No. 7005 3110 0003 2963 1313