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STATEMENT REGARDING THE BAIL OF YISRAYL HAWKINS

Different actors within the judicial system have different responsibilities. Included within the duties of the County Attorney's office is the responsibility of protecting the community in which we live, including the innocent people at the House of Yahweh. With that responsibility being a significant consideration, this office recommended a very high bond. That recommendation was followed by an elected judge of Callahan County. The two elected officials of Callahan County who recommended the bond and set the bond are the two officials with the most experience and knowledge of events at the House of Yahweh. Anyone who would label Yisrayl Hawkins' bonds as "ridiculous" is obviously unaware of the facts surrounding this case and this man. Such a statement would be highly irresponsible. Evidence will be produced at the defendant's bond hearing which the State of Texas believes justifies the bond amounts, including recent sermons in which the defendant asked his followers to die rather than leave the House of Yahweh.

Other actors within the judicial system have different roles. The defense attorneys will zealously represent their client, as they should. The district judge from Taylor County will hear the evidence and argument of both sides and make a determination as to the appropriate amount of bond which he believes will assure the presence of the defendant at trial and protect the community. That is his decision to make at this point.

Regardless of the decision which is made, additional charges may be filed against the defendant. This is the beginning of his criminal cases, not the end.

The County Attorney will not be giving recorded interviews in this case or any interview about the facts of the cases. We will provide all of the information we can that is public and will do our best to explain the applicable law for those who ask. We understand the defense "team" will likely follow a different approach, and that is fine, that is their job. It is a well known fact in the legal community that the most dangerous place to be at the courthouse is in between some defense attorneys and the camera crews. Nonetheless, the County Attorney will not make such appearances, as his obligations as an elected official go beyond just one client and will extend well beyond any single case. Once the case is over, we will be happy to visit with anyone who so desires about all aspects of the case.