

TO: News Department: "The New York Daily News"

FROM: The Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations (Civil and Human Rights Organization in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho)

RE: July 18, 2013 story in the "New York Daily News" titled: **"Idaho Militia Revealed: Photo essay shows intense training and bonding of heavy armed group"**

Please allow us to introduce our organization and our response to yesterday's story in your newspaper regarding the militia.

The Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations was established in 1981 and registered with the Idaho Secretary of State as a civil and human rights organization. We have worked for 32 years in promoting human rights with many successes in the passage of anti-hate crime laws in Idaho, local government human rights' ordinances, educational programs and we are the organization that recruited the Southern Poverty Law Center and Morris Dees to represent the plaintiffs (Victoria and Jason Keenan, victims of a hate crime) when they sued the Aryan Nations in civil court known as the "Keenan's vs. Aryan Nations" in 2000. The Idaho jury awarded 6.3 million to the plaintiffs thus bankrupting the Aryan Nations.

We were deeply concerned with the story yesterday in your newspaper that could give the impression that Idahoans are either supportive or that we at least ignore such groups as those in your story. We have a record of great opposition to such messages or activities.

May we request that you go to our website and review our history of human rights stories and victories. We would deeply appreciate your review and we would be very willing to talk with one of your reporters. Our work has been covered by media from all over the United States and even some other countries. We have been interviewed several times over the years by "The New York Times" and most recently we were part of a human rights story in "The Wall Street Journal" regarding the passage of anti-discrimination ordinance in the City of Coeur d'Alene. Our website is: www.idahohumanrights.org

According to your story, there were 73 in attendance at the militia event. The five counties of northern Idaho have a total population of 212,393 and if you add our joining neighbor Spokane County, Washington, the total population of the five counties and Spokane comes to 683,614. It is our opinion that a majority of those 73 people were not even from our region.

We would be very appreciative and eager to share our ideas with one of your reporters. Thank you so much for considering our request.

Please feel free to contact:

Tony Stewart

Co-Founder of the Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations