

Richmond Times-Dispatch, September 20, 2013
by Louis Llovio

Geronimo Aguilar, the disgraced senior pastor of the Richmond Outreach Center, has been indicted in Texas on two counts of aggravated sexual assault on a child younger than 14 and on two counts of indecency with a child. Aguilar was arrested in May after Texas authorities charged him in the sexual assaults of an 11-year-old girl and her 13-year-old sister in the late 1990s.

The indictment issued today is for the case related to the younger child. Texas authorities have not presented their case on the older girl.

Amid Controversy, 'Pastor G' Withdraws from Good Friday Preaching Event:

Posted: Apr 03, 2014 WRIC-TV

Former Richmond Outreach Center Pastor Geronimo "Pastor G" Aguilar, who was indicted on child sex charges in Texas, says he will no longer participate in a Good Friday speaking engagement in Richmond.

Aguilar was one of seven religious leaders scheduled to preach at "Rush Hour to Calvary" at Cedar Street Baptist Church of God on April 18. But given the fact that Aguilar has been indicted on multiple charges of child sex abuse, Aguilar's inclusion in the panel didn't sit well with many members of the Richmond community.

On Wednesday, Pastor Dr. Roscoe Cooper III of Rising Mount Zion Baptist Church and Pastor Tyrone Nelson of Sixth Mount Zion Baptist Church, who were both scheduled to speak at the Good Friday Event, announced they had decided not to participate.

"I didn't know all the details," Nelson said. "But now that I do, I will not be participating this year."

Other members on the panel, who wish to remain anonymous, were shocked to hear Aguilar was scheduled to speak and said they did not wish to be associated with him.

Aguilar's scheduled participation in "Rush Hour to Calvary" also angered members of SNAP, the Survivor's Network of those Abused by Priests. SNAP Leader Becky Ianni said Pastor G's involvement was a slap in the face to victims.

In May 2013, Aguilar, 43, was arrested and charged with sexually assaulting an 11-year-old girl and her 13-year-old sister while he was their youth pastor in Fort Worth, Texas in 1996 and 1997. In September 2013, a grand jury indicted him on two counts of aggravated sexual assault in the case involving the younger sister.

In January 2014, Aguilar was indicted by a grand jury in Tarrant County, Texas on eight counts pertaining to the case involving the older sister: two counts of aggravated sexual assault of a child under 14, three counts of sexual assault of a child under 17 and three counts of indecency with a child. The first two counts are first-degree felonies that carry a maximum punishment of life in prison. The latter six are second-degree felonies punishable by a maximum of 20 years in prison.

Aguilar maintains he is innocent of all charges.

Ianni says that although SNAP is grateful that Aguilar will no longer participate in "Rush Hour to Calvary," Chandler owes victims an apology.

"We are grateful that Pastor G will not speak at the Good Friday Cedar Street Church service. Rev. Chandler, however, still owes child sex abuse victims, especially those hurt by Pastor G, a public apology. Inviting an indicted serial child molester to have a place of honor in a church is at best insensitive and at worst intimidating ... Pastor G should never [have] been invited."

Cedar Street Baptist Church of God is located at 2301 Cedar St., Richmond, VA 23223. "Rush Hour to Calvary" begins at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 18.