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Baptist pastor in Berkeley sentenced to thirty days in jail...

... for violating Oakland's so-called "bubble law," more formally known as "Access to Reproductive Health Care Facilities Ordinance." [The story](#) about Rev. Walter Hoye from California Catholic Daily:

In a courtroom jammed to capacity with spectators, a judge yesterday sentenced a Baptist pastor from Berkeley to 30 days in jail, fined him \$1,130 and placed him on probation for three years for violating Oakland's restrictive 'bubble law,' crafted to keep pro-life sidewalk counselors away from women entering abortion centers.

Observers said as many as 150 people were outside the courtroom, which seats only about 60, before the 1:30 p.m. hearing began. Some of the standing-room-only crowd were there to support the embattled pro-lifer, while others showed up to back the abortion clinic.

Alameda Superior Court Judge Stuart Hing sentenced the Rev. Walter Hoye amidst what one attorney close to the case called "total chaos, procedurally speaking" after Hoye refused to accept as a condition of probation an order that he stay away from the Oakland abortion clinic where he was arrested. Hing said Rev. Hoye could serve his jail time "by alternative means," which defense attorney Dana Cody said would "likely mean some kind of community service."

From the [Catholics for the Common Good website](#):

One of Walter's attorneys, Mike Millen, made the point that there was a "conspicuous absence" of clients at the trial that Rev Hoye was alleged to have harassed.

Despite the lack of any evidence or a victim, Hoye was inexplicably convicted of something he did not do on January 15. This was a grave injustice.

In protest of the sentence, supporters of Walter Hoye, led by black pastors, left the courtroom singing "We shall overcome". I spoke with several black pastors who told me that this was a wake up call. Thanks to Walter Hoye's efforts and this incident, they are now starting to understand how black women and their babies have been targeted, and the impact abortion is having on their community.

Well over 100 people came to support Walter. About 80 people remained in the corridor just outside the courtroom praying on their knees. It was beautiful.

A number of abortion clinic workers and their allies tried to disrupt prayers and hymns before the doors of the courtroom opened. Crassly, they started chanting, "Separate church and state, women will decide their fate." They don't get it. They also used their power to somehow convince the judge to change normal procedures for public access to the courtroom, giving them preferential treatment over many of Hoye's friends and supporters that had been waiting in line for hours.

Video showing how Hoye was hounded by abortion clinic workers who tried to cover up his sign [can be viewed on this page](#).

Fr. Frank Pavone, National Director of Priests for Life, [has commented on the case](#).

Returning for a moment to the "Access to Reproductive Health Care Facilities Ordinance," it's worth noting upon what basis the ordinance is constructed:

The City Council finds that every person in the City of Oakland has a basic and fundamental right to privacy protected by the United States Constitution and explicitly guaranteed in California's Constitution, Article 1, Section 1, including the right to seek and obtain all health care services permitted under the laws of this State.

Once again, the apparently timeless and all-encompassing "right to privacy" is used to support, defend, protect, and promote the culture of death. Once again, I highly recommend Dr. Janet Smith's excellent little book, [The Right to Privacy](#), which clearly demonstrates how this recent legal creation has been, in many ways, at the heart of the pro-abortion, pro-euthanasia, and pro-homosexual movements of the past several decades.

Posted by Carl Olson on Friday, February 20, 2009 at 11:11 AM | [Permalink](#)

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