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# Religious News

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## Scientologists Sue Agencies

By David E. Anderson

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The Church of Scientology filed a \$750 million suit Monday against the nation's criminal, intelligence and diplomatic agencies, charging the agencies have violated the civil and constitutional rights of worshipers in the church.

The suit, filed in U.S. District Court, named as defendants the FBI, the CIA, the National Security Agency, the Departments of Justice, Treasury, Army, the U.S. Postal Service and Interpol, the international police organization.

**SCIENTOLOGY** is a nondenominational religion founded by former Washington science fiction writer L. Ron Hubbard and is primarily noted for its counseling methods, involving the E-meter, resembling a lie detector, to aid members in achieving self-fulfillment.

The suit, filed by the Founding Church of Scientology in the District, said the agencies have used informers, infiltrators, illegal wiretapping and mail surveillance "to collect information and compile dossiers on church organizations and members who were involved in legal and constitutionally protected activities."

It accused the government agencies with disseminating "unverified, irrelevant and false information" on the church and said it used the dossiers "as a basis for extensive surveillance; and harassment of church members," denying them government benefits, employment and advancement "and for other blacklisting purposes."

**CHURCH OFFICIALS** said the suit was filed only after "every reasonable action was taken to correct" the abuses charged in its suit.

"With this suit and others like it," officials said, "we plan to gain restitution, put an end to government harassment, and find those few criminals still in government, who in the past have remained undetected, hidden behind their calculated criticism of others as a smokescreen for