

RE: Confirming our next steps & handback to Mangrove Mountain

From: Atma <yogarock@satyananda.net>
To: Bert Franzen <bertfranzen@electassociates.com.au>, Ahimsadhara Saraswati <ahimsadhara@REDACTED>, Poomamurti <pm@REDACTED>
Cc: Swami Haribodhananda <haribodhananda@REDACTED>, Sarah Tetlow <sarahjtetlow@REDACTED>, Suryamitra <suryamitra@satyananda.net>, Yogasandhan <yogasandhan@satyananda.net>, Gurubhakta <gurubhakta@satyananda.net>, Rishi <hridayananda@satyananda.net>, omvivek <REDACTED>, kriyatma <kriyatma@satyananda.net>
Date: Wed, 30 Apr 2014 03:21:38 +0000

Hari Om

Best wishes with the new TF 2. TF 2 sounds strong.

Most welcome to call or email me if I can be of any assistance.

Om

Blessings of peace, joy and inspiration.

Hari Om

Swami Atmamuktananda

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May: Saturday Yoga Day, Dr. Craig Hassed – Mindfulness, Kirtan & Bhakti Yoga, Meditation; Mind & its Health, Yoga & Meditation Retreat, Yoga Relax Retreat, Sunday afternoon Yoga workshop, Meditation & Pranayama Retreat,

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From: Bert Franzen [mailto:bertfranzen@electassociates.com.au]

Sent: Wednesday, 30 April 2014 12:51 PM

To: 'Ahimsadhara Saraswati'; 'Poomamurti'

Cc: 'Swami Haribodhananda'; Atma; 'Sarah Tetlow'; 'Suryamitra'; 'Yogasandhan'; 'Gurubhakta'; 'Rishi'; omvivek@REDACTED; 'kriyatma'

Subject: Confirming our next steps & handback to Mangrove Mountain

Hello One and All

Firstly thank you Ahimsadhara for your wonderful work in guiding the Taskforce and helping to make the Easter program the success it was. Our thanks also go to Atmamuktananda for her support and guidance and as per my last email to Haribodhananda for his active participation.

I had a discussion with Ahimsadhara this morning. We have decided to immediately abandon the Taskforce as its primary objectives have now been met.

MM will now assume complete control for all further activities and has formed a new committee made up of Suryamitra, Yogasandhan, Poomamurti, Gurubhakta and myself as external HR. For the sake of consistency from the victims perspective we will continue to use the terminology "Taskforce" in reference to the committee so the victims don't feel like we've lost momentum.

The charter of the initial taskforce was to focus on all matters relating to the Easter program, acknowledging the past and formulating the best approach. This has now been completed.

In my view that Charter for Taskforce V2 should be focused on 'Reconciliation & Restoration' with the victims in whatever form that might take. I believe the meeting with Terry O'Connell next week will be formative in determining the best options available for us in moving forward.

Yogasandhan has also agreed to manage the working together email account and continue liaison with the victims and, until Suryamitra is back onboard, I'll continue liaising with Terry.

I have also had a discussion with Atmamuktananda who feels that for whatever solution we determine, we a) keep it simple and don't over complicate it, and b) set some definitive timelines within which the Victims should to take up any offers.

Kind regards

Bert

Bert Franzen

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From: Ahimsadhara Saraswati [mailto:ahimsadhara@redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 29 April 2014 1:58 PM
To: Poornamurti
Cc: Bert Franzen; Swami Haribodhananda; Atma; Sarah Tetlow; Suryamitra; Yogasandhan; Gurubhatka
Subject: Re: Way forward with Victims - opinions sought

Hari Om,

thanks for clarifying. Tim did request a meeting - he was hoping it could be in Sydney straight after Easter while we were all there. I feel that his openness to this should be responded to in some way, perhaps after the e-news has had a chance to do its work. His request creates a framework for inviting others to a session. Some will decline, some may accept, either way we have been true to our process and I think we could leave it at that for such sessions. I do think it's important to be proactive for a little bit longer, while there is momentum. In early July Atma and I go to India. I will be staying until late Sept. So that gives a deadline for my role and for their relationships with me. There is pus and bile oozing out anyway, that's the problem.

Re communication from Hb to those complaining about him: provision of information is a principle of conflict resolution - it is fundamental to understanding. Another principle is 'seek first to understand, then to be understood.' We have now spent some time seeking to understand, and certain accusations keep repeating - time has probably come to seek to be understood. I suggest Hb soften some of the stuff about the gang of kids (won't help, will provoke reaction and prob isn't really important). Then I can draft up a message to Alecia, Tim and APV asking if I can provide Hb with their email addresses, offer to send the letter on his behalf and offer the option of a phone call with him (if Hb wants me to offer that). If they are genuine they will want to communicate, if not, we have given the option of mutual understanding. In my cover note I can mention the above principles of conflict resolution. I think it's good to use stuff like that as it puts it right there on the table that this is about resolution, not a blame game.

I don't know any details of the enquiries coming directly to Terry. Will prob talk with him later in the week.

Om, Ahimsa

On Tue, Apr 29, 2014 at 12:53 PM, Phil Connor <pmc@redacted> wrote:
 Hari Om Ahimsa, Bert & Yogasandhan

I think you may be misinterpreting what I have said: I was suggesting to back off, not to stop. Backing off means to listen to the people concerned (the victims of that time) and see what they want and assess what they might need. Give it a little time.

If THEY contact us and are interested in a healing session with Terry, that is great and we should do it for them (or provide what assistance we can).

But I do not think we should be openly pushing such an event until we have heard from them.

It seems I am out of step with your views: you want to promote a healing event to all 'victims' in an attempt to draw them in? Is this Terry's suggestion?

That is certainly being proactive. If we take this approach it is likely to consume a lot of energy very fast - so once the boil is brought up and lanced, you have to be ready to deal with the mess. No holidays, until all the pus and bile is out.

Of course I could be wrong and all will go smoothly. Or maybe there is no alternative: but I would like everyone to think carefully before jumping so that the jump is considered and synchronised.

I am interested to know further about requests to Terry from the group of Easter Sunday. As none of these were actually victims what is the requirement- what are they seeking?

Om
Pm

From: Ahimsadhara Saraswati [mailto:ahimsadhara@redacted]

Sent: Tuesday, 29 April 2014 11:06 AM
To: Bert Franzen
Cc: Swami Haribodhananda; pmc; Atma; Sarah Tetlow; Suryamitra; Yogasandhan; Gurubhatka
Subject: Re: Way forward with Victims - opinions sought

hari Om,

There is no option of stopping now. Terry is getting direct requests for assistance from people who were at the group session. I have a response to yesterdays letter sent to me confidentially from a very troubled person who doesn't know where to turn, wants to forget it all, but how? This person is not aggressive or vindictive. I suggest we need to consult with Terry about how to proceed with a session for victims and relatives who are interested now that a little time has gone by and we are feeling out the post-easter scenario. We can only offer, and then it's up to them. The e-news is yet to go out. That will develop the process with teachers etc. It's like Terry said, it will be messy, you can't tie it up with a ribbon and pass it on.

I agree that we don't go into details of justifying the TF membership. However, if Haribodh and Atma are open to it perhaps I can suggest to Alecia, APV and Tim that they call the person directly to discuss, so that there is no second hand conversation from our end and we have responded to their challenge, otherwise they will keep working up that issue amongst themselves and occasionally firing a volley at us. I do think it's worthwhile clearing those misconceptions and demonstrating that people change, they make mistakes, are sorry for them, manage to accept their own vulnerability and have the strength to keep growing in life and find ways of restoring their own balance. Also, that some of their info is wrong. I feel that this decision belongs to those concerned, not to the task force or mangrove.

If/when a session for victims is organised Mangrove needs to consider if it will offer to fund or part fund travel. If its to be at MM it should be when there aren't many people there. It would be worthwhile to start looking at possible dates, then we can put them to Terry, which will further narrow the options.

Om, Ahimsa

On Tue, Apr 29, 2014 at 9:38 AM, Bert Franzen <bertfranzen@electassociates.com.au> wrote:
 Hello Haribodhananda

Thank you for your willingness to share your history with the victims. My view however is that it is not necessary for you to send anything to Aleacia. We're not in the business of justifying ourselves or more specifically - yourself. Otherwise you'll just be putting coal on the fire.

We do need some clarity from the Taskforce as to where from here however. Poornamurti in a couple of emails has proposed backing off. To quote him *"We do need to have referrals in place for anyone who approaches us but I do not think we should deliberately organise a group session for all concerned. I just do not think it is our business to keep re-cooking this pot. Why not just leave it? We cannot take responsibility for everybodys pain"*.

I on the other hand am for taking a proactive approach and providing a) support and b) open sessions for victims to meet with Terry and c) liaising with the victims , etc.

Would the rest of the taskforce please make their position clear. We need a consensus approach in how we move forward and we all need to be on the same page with the proposed plan from here. Please advise.

Can we also make sure that we cc Yogasandhan and Gurubhakta so they are across the issues when we hand-back to MM.

Kind regards

Bert

Bert Franzen

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From: Swami Haribodhananda [mailto:haribodhananda@electassociates.com.au] **REDACT**
Sent: Tuesday, 29 April 2014 8:33 AM
To: 'pmc'; 'Ahimsadhara Saraswati'; 'Atma'; 'Bert Franzen'; 'Sarah Tetlow'; 'Suryamitra'
Subject: RE: Fwd: Replv from APV

Hari Om All

When Aleacia raised my involvement with the TF I drafted a letter to her but have held off sending it. Now that it has been raised again, I will forward an amended version to you all later today. This is my first free day since starting my new job. APV's take on things is very inaccurate as to what actually happened. The conversation she said took place at Easter didn't happen. I spoke to APH (who to my knowledge wasn't a victim) after Terry's session (there were a couple of other people there as well) and we spoke about what we were both doing and her family, nothing about what was going on. I can't imagine APH would have said anything different to that.

Om
Hb

From: pmc [mailto:pmc@REDACTE]
Sent: Monday, 28 April 2014 11:21 PM
To: Ahimsadhara Saraswati; Atma; Bert Franzen; haribodhananda@REDACTE Sarah Tetlow; Suryamitra
Subject: Re: Fwd: Reply from APV

There is a great deal of anger here. Often very misdirected.
 Most of what you say is ok, but it worries me that we are committing to more and more response to the anger.
 Can we hold this for a day and consider.

Om
Pm

----- Original message -----

From: Ahimsadhara Saraswati
 Date: 28/04/2014 10:18 AM (GMT+10:00)
 To: Atma, Bert Franzen, haribodhananda@REDACTE Poomamurti, Sarah Tetlow, Suryamitra
 Subject: Fwd: Reply from APV

Hari Om,

here is the letter from APV who is Tim's sister. I have replied to her in brief. My reply is copied into this email. In that reply I decided to address, in a small way, the issues she raised about Haribodha and Atma's presence on the task force. I think it's time for this as it keeps being raised. Alecia and APV have used virtually the same lines re Atma, and APV and Tim have described Haribodh in the same way (as a snake etc). I suspect there is a lot of venting and escalating of these grievances. These are people that they can 'get at' through their presence on the TF, and in the process question the credibility of the TF. This is understandable given the sensitivities. You will see from APV's letter how reactive they are to any slight comment which touches their hurt, and that these same remarks are passed around the group, feeding the fire.

Now that we have made some progress I think a few specifics like this need defusing. Let's think about how to do this. I had meant to talk with Haribodh on Easter Monday about Tim's feelings about him being on the task force but he had gone. After Easter I needed a little down time from the intensity, so I did not follow up with Hb then. I think it very important that we move quite decisively towards a meeting of victims with Terry. Atma and I go to India on July 7th. It should happen before that. Once the victim's letter and the e-news go out, we should look at when and how.

Here is my reply to APV which will make more sense if you read her letter first:

Dear APV
 many thanks for your letter, which I have just read. This is not a complete reply, as that will take a little longer. However, I wanted to let you know that the ashram is preparing a complete report of the Easter weekend to be sent out as its e-news and made available through the website. It will be ready towards the end of the week. I've been asked to contribute, which I'll do today. I hope you trust me when I say there is no attempt or desire being made to hide the discussions or process that happened over Easter, it's just that some things take a little time and we also wanted to see what responses and feedback came in the following week.

A follow up email is also about to be sent to the abuse survivors that we have contact details for. I am hoping to send it tonight.

Re your concerns about Haribodh, this has been expressed by others and I am raising it with the group. I agree that this needs to be addressed openly. Having said that, whatever his past actions were, I do not believe that he has any other agenda now except to make a contribution to healing the wounds that go on. Otherwise he would certainly not have been asked to join the task force. It was considered in the beginning and his presence on it was questioned at the outset by the group itself. We were not unaware that it was controversial. We are not avoiding controversy: if we were, there would have been no facebook discussion and no Easter Sunday session. Perhaps his mistaken judgement in the past are a motivation to now help in the process of journeying towards a better place. I do not say that to in any way defend him, simply as a statement of my own observation. He was invited to participate as his first hand knowledge of the history is helpful to us, and he has described his own moment of realising the lie that Akhandananda was living and in which he had been involved. He never tries to justify what he did. I feel that what we are doing now cannot be complete without involvement of people like him, not necessarily on the task force, but in general, as there are so many strong feelings around those issues. Each of those people also has their own demons to face and our process is for them as

well.

Re Swami Atmamuktananda, I will also ask her about what you say, as I feel she would want to speak for herself. I do know that she was in an extremely difficult position and still feels personal pain that she could not be more effective in the role Swami Satyananda had given her at Mangrove when she came back from India. She was not able to shift the bigger picture, as those in charge did not accept her in that role, but she did take some actions behind the scenes which prevented further mishandling of finances. You would not know about this, but I think it will be helpful at this stage for efforts such as hers that were made to halt the corruption to be made known.

Well, I have written more than I meant to, but only on matters I have little knowledge of already. I thank you for your encouragement to me, and I offer the same to you. It's only through communication and collaborative effort that we can make progress.

Kind regards,
Ahimsa

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