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To: WEKAF Members, the editor of FMA Digest and all others that this may concern:

After much deliberation, I feel that it is necessary to set the record straight. And also a time to clarify the many statements, discussions, letters, and articles, that have been written, about myself, WEKAF USA, Gabriel Rafael, and the reasons behind the incorporating of WEKAF USA Inc.. It's really sad that things have gotten so out of hand and to this point. It just goes to show you what a lack of education, and hear say, can do.

The Beginning of the World Eskrima, Kali, Arnis, Federation, (WEKAF)

In the beginning before there was ever a "WEKAF", there was "NARAPHIL" (National Arnis, Republic Association of the Philippines), which was organized in 1975. This Organization was founded by the following; Grandmaster Cacoy Canete, Grandmaster Diony Canete, Grandmaster Dong Cuesta, Grandmaster Carlos Patalingho, Grandmaster Richard Bastillio, Ed Abinsay, Leo Fernandez, and, myself, Alfred Bandalan (who was the first leader of the USA for "NARAPHIL"). Our sole purpose for forming this Organization was to promote and propagate the Filipino art.

Having been given the sole responsibility of reviving the interest, and the enthusiasm of the people for the art, "NARAPHIL" implemented many major programs. In a very short time these programs escalated Eskrima, Arnis, and Kali, to a level of acceptability and popularity that was normally associated with other martial arts. Among some of the projects that took place were the "First Asian Martial Arts Festival" in 1976, the "First National Arnis Festival" also in 1976, the "First National Arnis Open Championships" that was held in Cebu City, in March 1979, the "First National Invitational Tournament" that was held in Manila, in August 1979, and the first "World Eskrima Kali Arnis Championships" in Cebu City, on August 11-13, 1989. It was during the first world championships that "NARAPHIL" organized a congress that led to the formation of the organization named, "World Eskrima Kali Arnis Federation" also known as "WEKAF". At this time representatives from 10 different countries, including the Philippines, became Charter Members, of this federation. To which, I played a great role in.

"NARAPHIL" also played a key role in the organizing the of the "First USA National Eskrima Kali Arnis Championships" in San Jose, California in October, 1988 (Director Alfredo Bandalan), and the "First Eastern USA Eskrima Kali Arnis Championships" in Jersey City, New Jersey in May 1989 (Director Dong Cuesta).

It was during the first "World Eskrima Kali Arnis Championships", in Cebu on August 11-13, 1989 (when "WEKAF" International was formed), that the attending "Charter Members" of "WEKAF" International had a meeting and held a vote. That was when the first "Board of Directors", "Board Chairman" in Cebu, along with the "President", and "Directors", for each individual country were chosen and appointed. Also, it was agreed, that each person elected in office, would serve a term of two years. And that every two years, "WEKAF" International,

would hold a “WEKAF” “World Congressional Meeting”, and a “WEKAF” World Championships Tournament, and have a re-election for their officers.

The first person to be appointed and recognized as the first, “WEKAF” USA Director/President, was Grandmaster Richard Bastillio Sr. It was also at this time when the By-Laws for “WEKAF” International in Cebu, were being written up and implemented as a Non-Profit Organization. As with all Organizations, things, and projects, take time to finalize. And the By-laws, unfortunately at this time, were one of the projects that were left incomplete. And unless the By-Laws were completed “WEKAF” could not legally reach the status and represent itself as a Legal, and Binding, Non-Profit Organization. So the Board of Directors had designated this job of finalizing, and implementing the “WEKAF” By-Laws, for both Cebu, and the USA, to Grandmaster Richard Bastillio. But then, while serving his second term, Grandmaster Richard Bastillio, resigned as the “WEKAF” USA, Director/President. He commented that his resignation was due to politics, and internal problems, that he was having, with one of the other, “WEKAF” USA members. So he opted out.

Therefore due to the time constraints, the problems, and the money that it takes to write up By-Laws, Legally Implement them, and Incorporate a Federation, and or an Organization, nothing was ever finalized and completed. And “WEKAF” USA, never legally reached a Non-Profit status at that time. And the only By-Laws that “WEKAF” USA, were following, and trying to operate under, were the By-Laws, that were written up for “WEKAF” International, in Cebu.

“WEKAF” was legally incorporated as a Non-Profit Organization, in the Philippines, in 1989. And it was assumed that “WEKAF” USA was under some sort of Tax Shelter, under the Non-Profit status, in Cebu. But this was not the case. I say this because the Cebu By-Laws were the only By-laws in existents, for the “WEKAF” USA, entity at that time, until May 28, 2008. And the only way that “WEKAF” USA, could operate at this time (prior to May 2008) as an organization, under the Non-Profit status, was to operate under a supporting organization, what is commonly known as a, “Group Exemption”. FACT; A “Group Exemption”, in the USA, cannot be granted to a Company, a Federation, and or an Organization, if it grosses more than \$5000.00, annually. This can be confirmed by anyone, just by contacting the “United States”, “Internal Revenue Service”, otherwise known as the “IRS”.

Anyone that should questions this information, and chooses to, may confirm this with Grandmaster Diony Canete, in Cebu (who also happens to be a Lawyer), that has been involved with “WEKAF” International, from “WEKAF’s” very existents.

“WEKAF” USA: Operating as a Non-Profit Organization:

As of April 1998, “WEKAF” USA, could not fall and operate as a legitimate “Non-Profit Organization”, and or fall under “Group Exemption” status, according to the USA’s nonprofit law. As “WEKAF” USA, was no longer able to maintain the status under Public Charities. This was simply due to the fact that “WEKAF” USA has grossed in more than \$5000.00 annually. And because of this “WEKAF” USA, must therefore apply for their, very own, 501 (c)(3), status. And even if “WEKAF” USA, brought in less than \$5000.00, they would still have to file Form 990 (990EZ or 990N) and the corresponding Schedule A’s, annually. And my question is, was this being done?

Fact; I had this checked out on September 15, 20007.

You can check this out on the web under (The USA's "Federal Register Internal Revenue"), Bulletin # 1998-14, April 6, 1998, page # 29, under Announcements 98-26. And it is documented as;

*The Following organizations that have been unable to maintain their status as Public Charities.

* *WEKAF U.S.A., World, Eskrima, Kali, Arnis, Federation - Torrance California**

Interesting Facts prior to May 2008 ("WEKAF" USA)

- The By-Laws that "WEKAF" USA, had, and that they "Board of Directors" were trying to operate under came from Cebu. And they do not list any rules for operating a member country.
- The current "WEKAF" USA's, President (Term 2006-2008), at that time claimed that "WEKAF" USA, had held a Non-Profit status under a supporting organization, "from someone at the bank". Stating that "WEKAF" USA fell under "Group Exemption". (When I asked the "WEKAF" USA President, "who this person was", the President at this time, was very evasive... And in return questioned me, as to why I wanted to know? And he also asked me, "Why I was asking so many questions"?)
- Per "Mr. Rash", at the IRS (877-829-5500), stated that "WEKAF" USA would not qualify under another companies "Group Exemption" due to the fact that it exceeded by far the "Gross Receipts Cap" of \$5000.00 annually. And must fill out forms and apply for a 501 (c)(3) status.
- If "WEKAF" USA brought in less than \$5000.00, they would still legally have to file for forms 990, (or 990EZ, or 990N), and a corresponding Schedule A's, annually.
- All, Non-Profit Organizations, are required by law to submit the forms: 1023, and the last three years worth of forms: 990, and Schedule A's, upon request, to any member of the public (Meaning; that You DO NOT Need to Be a Member of the Organization, to Request These Forms. Any John Doe, off the street, can ask for them. And they must be provided and available for them to see). If These Forms Do Not Exist, Then the Organization Is NOT Considered a Legitimate Organization...
- I had repeatedly, asked (from WEKAF USA's "Board of Directors") for, an Itemized Financial Accounts, and Reports, for "WEKAF" USA, when I was a Consultant (Term 2006-2008), and I was NEVER given one. Also, I was continually asked... "Why I do I want to know this information?" And "Why do I ask so many questions regarding "WEKAF" USA's finances?"
- The website for "WEKAF" USA (www.wekafusa.org) claims to be a registered name. But in fact, it is NOT shown as a Registered Trademark, and or Wordmark, by the USA Patent.
- "WEKAF" USA's, "Board of Directors" (under website: www.wekafusa.org), claims that they are a Legitimate Non-Profit Organization... Can they provide proof to the public?
- "WEKAF" USA (www.wekafusa.org), has not been Incorporated by anyone, under any USA State, as a Non-Profit, Organization.
- Since "WEKAF" USA, started in California and the current President (at that time & presently) resided in California. It would have been naturally assumed, that California would have been the most logical place, for "WEKAF" USA, to have obtained their Non-Profit Status in.

- In order for “WEKAF” USA, to have obtained a Non-Profit Status, in California you must first:
 1. Show Federal 501 (c) (3) Status.
 2. Provide Articles of Incorporation.
 3. Provide By-Laws.
 4. Pay Fees (\$100.00).
 5. Fill out application for the State Tax Franchise Board.
 6. Await Approval.
 7. Obtain a license from the City, or County, that the Headquarters is listed in.
 8. In order for “WEKAF” USA, to have gotten this Status (License & Register. Headquarters). They would first:
 - 1) Have had to file Form 1023 with the Federal Government.
 - 2) Pay a License and or Registration Fee.
 - 3) Obtain an Employer Identification Number.

The new Incorporation, “WEKAF USA Inc.” May 28, 2008

Since the Incorporation of “WEKAF USA Inc.”, many people have questioned my motivation for moving forward, and doing so on my own... Some people felt strongly, that I had incorporated “WEKAF USA” in order to have full power, and control, over the Organization. Others believed that I had done this for my own personal gain. And, the fact of this matter is... These people could not have been more farther from the truth. My reasons for incorporating “WEKAF” USA as “WEKAF USA Inc.” were strictly to save the Integrity, and Good name, that “WEKAF” USA, once had. You may ask yourself this question. What is it? That exactly do mean by this remark? This is something that I will clarify.

From day one, when the “World, Eskrima, Kali, Arnis, Federation” was formed, the sole purpose of this Organization was to, Encourage and Support, the Continued Promotion, and Propagation, of the Filipino Martial Arts. And that is something that the “WEKAF” International Organization, has successfully fulfilled. But unfortunately, over the years, as time has preceded us. Numerous people, among the vast variety of Martial Arts Organizations, including a group of individual members, involved in “WEKAF” USA, began to question, some of the many actions that were taking place among the “Board of Directors” within the “WEKAF” USA Organization (primarily throughout the years of 2005 - 2008).

People throughout the United States, were becoming disenchanted with the way “WEKAF” USA was being operated. And due to the fact, that I was one of the original Founding members of “WEKAF” International, and that I had been granted the title of, “Grandmaster” under the “Great Grandmasters” including “Datu - Supreme Grandmaster Diony Canete”, from the “Doce Pares” Organization, in the Philippines, people were continually contacting me regarding their questions. And they wanted answers!! Here are some of the many questions that I was being asked on a regular basis...

When “WEKAF” USA, collects money from the tournaments it holds, what is happening with it? Where is all the money going? And how is the money being spent...? Why weren't, any of the members (not on the USA “Board of Directors”), allowed to have a say, or to cast a vote, regarding the decisions that were made by the Directors themselves, to increase the amount of money, that the members were expected to pay for their personal, and school annual membership fees/dues? How was it? And why were the Rules, and Regulations, in the Tournaments for “WEKAF” being changed, in the United States, without first consulting, and receiving the

sanctioning, from “WEKAF” International, in the Philippines? Why wasn’t the all money that was being received, from the USA “WEKAF” membership dues, tournament fees, being distributed the way it was supposed to be? It states in the “WEKAF” By-Laws, from Cebu, Philippines.

That the monies made must be divided as such:

25% - To the World Organization in the Philippines

50% - To the National Organization

25% - To the Region in which it resides

In 2007, during one conversation that I had with “Supreme Grandmaster Diony Canete” (while he was down from the Philippines, visiting in, Sacramento, California), he stated to both my wife, and I, “that he had not received any money from the United States “WEKAF” as was mandated in writing, inside the By-Laws from Cebu, that the USA “WEKAF” was supposedly governing themselves under... But this was not happening. Another question that was asked of me, quite frequently was; Why did it always seem, at the end of each Term, when it was time for a new election, that the only members whom were ever elected or chosen to run, for a seat on the “Board of Directors” came from a select group (that was continuously referred to as; “The Boys Club”? And it was believed by many individuals. That if you were just a “WEKAF” USA member. But, were not a part of this particular, “Boys Club”, that so many people had talked about. Then it would be, almost next to impossible, for someone to be a candidate, let alone run for a position on the “Board of Directors”!

With so many people questioning the ethics of “WEKAF” I felt that it was my responsibility to take in consideration as to what these people were saying to me. And to, look into the facts. The people wanted to have their questions answered. And they had a right to be answered! And soon, I too found that most of what these people were saying actually deemed to be true. So I started inquiring, and asking the members that were seated on the “Board of Directors” questions, regarding what was taking place with, “WEKAF” USA, financially.

I wanted to know facts! Itemized financial statements, regarding cost, fees, as to what was happening to the money. Where was it going? Who was it going to? And what was the money being used for? The more questions I asked. The more answers people on the “Board of Directors” would not give me. Things weren’t right and I started voicing my opinion about it. As Consulting Officer for the “Board of Directors” (Term 2006-2008) I continually objected to what was going on because I felt what they were doing was wrong. And I said so, both verbally, and in writing, through letters, and emails. But the “Board of Directors” at that time did not want to hear what I had to say. I was continually being over ruled. I had told the “Board” from the very beginning that they had no right to increase the fees the way they were planning on doing. But the “Board of Directors” went ahead and voted on it anyways. Then when the time came for me I to hold a tournament in Hawaii, I had asked the Secretary (Term 2006-2008) for the “WEKAF” USA for the Tax ID Number. I told him that I needed to have it, in order to legally operate the tournament. I was told by him that he didn’t have it. But in the past, he had used an alternative ID Number, for “WEKAF”USA. I was shocked to hear this. And I told him so. I explained to the Secretary, that this was a violation of the Federal Tax Law. And the amount of trouble one could get into by utilizing this number. After finding out what was going on, I felt that it was in my best interest to just take a step back and I opted out. I believed that I should not continue to act as a consultant for the Board of Directors” along with voicing my opinion about the disheartening actions that were taking place. They were not going to listen to my advice, anyways.

So, I began to research the Non-Profit status of WEKAF USA. And that's when I found out that as of April 6, 1998, WEKAF USA was no longer allowed to operate under a Non-Profit Organization. WEKAF USA was NOT Registered by the United States as a legitimate Non-Profit Organization. As "WEKAF" USA claimed to be. I spoke with Grandmaster Diony Canete, regarding my concerns during one of the meeting that my wife and I had with him while he was visiting in Sacramento California. And he agreed with me, that indeed something needed to be done. As an attorney he advised me regarding "WEKAF" USA. And he stated that, "WEKAF" USA could not operate under the Cebu By-laws legally. Because the Cebu, By-Laws, were not completed, that they were still unfinished. Grandmaster Diony Canete explained to me, how WEKAF USA must obtain, By-Laws, from their own state, in order to be legal and authorized as a Legitimate, Non-Profit Organization. And that the State Law would have to be followed. He authorized and instructed me to start the process, and to take charge over "WEKAF" USA. Shortly thereafter, I put together a team of highly qualified individuals that could help me Incorporate "WEKAF" USA.

And once again, I emphasize that my motive had not been for personal gain. Nor was it to have control over "WEKAF" USA. My motive was to save the Integrity and Good name that "WEKAF" USA once had. That unfortunately "WEKAF" USA was losing.

In December 2007, Grandmaster Max Pallen telephoned me. He was very concerned. He had stated to me, that he had received a letter from the United States Internal Revenue Services, in regards to their investigation on "WEKAF" USA. He then stated that he had returned the letter back to the IRS. We continued to talk, as we spoke on how we both felt, that this was, a RED FLAG! And how worried were about the outcome for those that served on the "Board of Directors" at that time.

Personally I have gained nothing from this process. **Fact:** It has taken me a substantial, amount of time. Not to mention the amount of money it takes, to have legally Incorporated "WEKAF" USA.

And now, I am so very proud to say! As of May 28, 2008, "WEKAF" USA has been legally registered by the "Secretary of State" (Debra Bowen) from the "State of California" and is now authorized to be known as "WEKAF" USA Inc.

What do I hope, and dream, will happen with the new WEKAF USA Inc? I hope now as it is authorized as a Legitimate, Non-Profit Organization. That WEKAF USA Inc. will (once again) be able to have the drawing power to draw back the past "WEKAF" members that once became disenchanted and left. I like our goals to be fulfilled, as we draw in new members, so that we may be able to grow once again. That we can continue to have the attitude that is needed in order to Encourage, and Support, the Promotion, and Propagation, of the Filipino martial art.

Regarding the election, the officers, and the "WEKAF" USA

According to the letter that has been circulating this past few weeks, from Sharon Burns, she is quoted as stating, "that Gabriel Rafael is the official (and sole) authorized "Director" for "WEKAF" USA Non-Profit (under website: www.wekafusa.org)" Sharon is making claims that "WEKAF" USA Non-Profit Organization (under website: www.wekafusa.org), is the one and only (sole) Organization that is authorized to represent and sanction all WEKAF events in the United States, by the "WEKAF" International Organization.

Sharon Burns is also claiming, and I quote what she writes; "Alfredo Bandalan is not the U.S country Director for WEKAF. He does not hold any position, appointed nor elected - under WEKAF International. He does not have any authority to act on behalf of WEKAF International

in any manner. This includes any representation, any collection of fees, any advertising or other claims. His organization, "WEKAF USA Inc" that is under website: www.wekaf-usa.org, is not recognized or authorized by WEKAF International. WEKAF International will accept no acts to perform under this Organization. No competitors from this organization will be accepted at WEKAF International events.

Sharon my remark to you is that you need to educate yourself regarding the laws, both here in the United States and or elsewhere. I suggest that you obtain an attorney and have him go over the legalities as to what you are quoting in your letter. And I advise you, to scrutinize what it is that you say in future letters, fliers, emails, and or information that you may send out. Because Sharon Burns, you can and will be held accountable.

The only statement made by you that happens to be correct, in your letter. Is what you quoted regarding who the Director is for the United States "WEKAF"? It is true, that I am not the Director, for "WEKAF" USA. Nor have I made any claims to be... But what I can tell you is.

I am the legitimate, Authorized and Legally Documented, Incorporator, and Founder of "WEKAF" USA otherwise known as "WEKAF USA Inc". I am legally recognized, and legitimately authorized, by the "United States of America" in the "State of California" and by the "Secretary of State" "Debra Bowen" from the "State of California".

In closing I'd like to add. How is it? That Gabe Rafael can be the "Director" for "WEKAF" USA when the Organization the he supposedly oversees is considered Non-existent in the "United States of America."

In my Closing statement

First and foremost I'd like to thank everyone that has worked so very hard to make it possible to incorporate "WEKAF USA Inc". And with your continued help and with the help of others, we can succeed in making and reaching the goals that were set forth in the very beginning, of "WEKAF Organization" back in August 1988. And a very Special Thank You to my wife Loretta (Lori) for without her, none of this would have ever been complete. I love you, honey!

Our goals are for WEKAF USA Inc are: To keep the Attitude in Encouraging and Supporting for the continued Promotion and Propagation of the Indigenous Filipino Martial Arts known as Eskrima, Arnis and Kali.

Contacts of Interest for "WEKAF USA Inc" (www.wekaf-usa.org)

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- The Interim Officers For "WEKAF USA Inc" are as follows:
 - President: Master Steve Wolk
 - Board Chairman: Master Nello Baron
 - Adviser: Master Erwin Masqueda
 - C.E.O: Grandmaster Dong Cuesta
 - Our WEKAF USA Inc Attorney
 - Attorney at Law: Ms. Tanya Holland Fuentez

Legal Adviser: Mr. JoJo Fuentez
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All Others That Have Helped and Support WEKAF USA Inc.

Datu - Supreme Grandmaster Diony Canete	Master Pat Armijo
Grandmaster Vincent Cabales	Master Brent Cash
Grandmaster Remy Presas Jr.	Master Jun Unas
Grandmaster Max Pallen	Master John Sipkar
Grandmaster Robert Castro	Master Antonio Lucero
Grandmaster Mike Giron	Master Delfina Lucero
Grandmaster Dr. Pat Patalingo	Master Mike McKenzie
Professor Ralph Chavez	Master Robert Garcia
Master Felix Roles	Senior Instructor Loretta Fydrych

And any others that I have failed to name... But you know who you are. I Thank You.

With Much Respect
Grandmaster Alfredo Bandalan