

Affirmed and Opinion filed January 31, 2002.



In The

Fourteenth Court of Appeals

**NO. 14-00-01420-CR
NO. 14-00-01421-CR**

CLAUDE HUGH LLOYD, THE SECOND, Appellant

V.

THE STATE OF TEXAS, Appellee

**On Appeal from County Criminal Court at Law No. 1
Harris County, Texas
Trial Court Cause Nos. 0979372 and 9937724**

OPINION

Appellant, Claude Hugh Lloyd, the Second, appeals from his pleas of guilty to misdemeanor charges of criminal mischief and terroristic threats. It is his contention that the State of Texas is without jurisdiction over him as he is a citizen of the foreign state religious assembly known as Yahweh Kingdom People, and that he is not a “person” but rather a “slave of Yahweh,” obligating the State of Texas to obtain permission from Yawheh to prosecute the charges. We find that despite these claims, appellant is a “person” as defined under the Texas Penal Code, and that Texas is not deprived of jurisdiction over him

to prosecute its claims.

We decline to review whether appellant presented proper evidence of his voluntary expatriation, as regardless of his status as a citizen of Texas or of the alleged “Yahweh Kingdom People,” Texas has jurisdiction over him regarding his alleged criminal acts. Under TEX. PEN. CODE ANN. § 1.04(a), Texas has jurisdiction over an offense that a person commits by his own conduct if the conduct occurs inside the state. Under TEX. PEN. CODE ANN. § 1.07(a)(38), a “person” is defined as “an individual, corporation or association.” Appellant presents no legal support for his contention that he is not a “person” under Texas law. Appellant’s professed expatriation from the United States, his membership in the Yahweh Kingdom People, and his allegation of being a slave of Yahweh do not divest this State of jurisdiction over his criminal offenses¹.

Appellant’s issues on appeal are overruled, and the judgments are affirmed.

/s/ Scott Brister
 Chief Justice

Judgment rendered and Opinion filed January 31, 2002.

Panel consists of Chief Justice Brister and Justices Fowler and Seymore.

Do Not Publish — TEX. R. APP. P. 47.3(b).

¹ Romans 13:1 (providing “Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.”)