

Graham Organizations Targeted by IRS?

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Did the net of the IRS, apparently targeting conservative groups, also include religious and service agencies? Franklin Graham says 'yes,' in a report making rounds on the Drudge Report. Franklin Graham, as president of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and the family's international humanitarian organization Samaritan's Purse, said that the IRS notified the organizations in September that it was conducting a "review" of their activities for tax year 2010. Drudge, quoting the Politico website, says that with the IRS admitting it gave extra scrutiny to conservative political organizations, that Graham says he now believes that the review was part of an Obama administration effort of "targeting and attempting to intimidate us." The Politico story says the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association urging of voters to back "candidates who base their decisions on biblical principles and support the nation of Israel" during last year's presidential race was the reason why IRS agents visited the North Carolina offices of both Graham groups, the letter accuses.

"While these audits not only wasted taxpayer money, they wasted money contributed by donors for ministry purposes as we had to spend precious resources servicing the IRS agents in our offices," according to Franklin Graham. Graham said that "in light" of the IRS admission that it targeted tea party groups for added scrutiny, "I do not believe that the IRS audit of our two organizations last year is a coincidence – or justifiable."