

Drug case ruinous: Minister

Trafficking charge now withdrawn

Return to pulpit still in question

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A [redacted] Church minister says her life has been "destroyed" by a drug-trafficking charge that was withdrawn yesterday, nearly three months after police smashed down her door, strip-searched her and threw her into a cell with three other inmates.

[redacted] says she has been undergoing professional counselling and doesn't know when she will return to her pulpit at the [redacted]

[redacted] Church in the countryside near [redacted], Ont.

While some members of her congregation were "supportive" through her ordeal, others have avoided or refused to speak with her, she said yesterday. And even though she has been on sick leave since her arrest, a "splinter group" broke off and decided to hold church services on its own rather than be associated with her church, she added.

"It's almost like I was contaminated," [redacted], said after a federal crown attorney yesterday withdrew two charges of possessing nearly two kilos of hashish and prescription drugs and one charge of possession for the purpose of trafficking.

The Ontario Court of Justice [redacted] was told there was no reasonable prospect of conviction.

[redacted] a minister for [redacted] years, was arrested in January with 37 others in connection with what the [redacted] Police described as a year-long undercover investigation. Also charged was [redacted] her boyfriend, with whom she shares a house.

Lawyer Adam Boni said the crown conceded [redacted] "was never a target"



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