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HEADLINE: MARC **LEVIN** DISCUSSES HIS FILM BASED ON THE ANTI-ABORTION GROUP **ARMY OF GOD**

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BODY:

DAVID BLOOM, co-host:

The arrest this week of one of the FBI's 10-most-wanted men has again raised the profile of extreme anti-abortion groups. Two years ago, Barnett Slepian, an obstetrician who performed abortions, was at home with his family when a bullet crashed through his kitchen window killing him. James Kopp was accused in the shooting and arrested this week in France. He's believed to be a follower of the group known as the **Army of God**. Marc **Levin** is an award-winning filmmaker whose special on the **Army of God** airs tonight on HBO.

Marc, good morning.

Mr. MARC **LEVIN** ("Soldiers In The **Army of God**"): Good morning.

BLOOM: It seems to me that the timing of this arrest of Mr. Kopp, along with two of his alleged supporters, raises questions that your film tries to answer about whether there's a network out there of violent anti-abortion followers. What did you find out in filming this documentary?

Mr. LEVIN: Well, the Army of God, James Kopp is in the Army of God manual. On the first page he's referred to as "Atomic Dog." As you said, the arrest of two of his alleged supporters shows that he was not a lone gunman, as some have said, in the shooting of Dr. Slepian. There is a network, now whether that network is connected in the classic military terms of there's a general, there's a commander, you do this and that, no, I don't think it is that kind of conspiracy. It is a much more loosely connected and organic structure connected by technology, ideology and run in cells.

BLOOM: I think we should say that this is a--a violent fringe of the

anti-abortion movement which is condemned by most members of the anti-abortion movement. Having said that, you spoke most directly with three members of the so-called Army of God. So, two questions, number one, how did you convince them to do this? And number two, what was their motive in agreeing to be filmed?

Mr. LEVIN: Well, it took a lot of time. I worked with Daniel Vogue, a writer who had recent--who had done the original Esquire magazine piece. He let us in, and Daphne Pinkerson, who produced it with me, spent hours and hours trying to convince them that our film, although we didn't agree with them, we would give them a fair shake and they would have their say. So, I think, why did they do it? They saw a tradeoff. On one hand they are certainly mistrustful of the media. On the other hand, they felt that maybe they could get some of their points across.

BLOOM: Before we go any further let's play a brief clip of some of these men talking about their plans.

(Clip shown from "Soldiers In the Army of God")

BLOOM: Now, who is that that we we're hearing from now?

Mr. LEVIN: That was Neal Horsley, who is one of the creators of the Nuremburg File, which has been described as a hit list of doctors and which was just involved in this recent court decision in San Francisco.

BLOOM: Where--where the appeals court said that there's nothing unconstitutional about having such a list?

Mr. LEVIN: That's true. And it was a victory for Neal Horsley, and obviously many people who are trying to protect the right to choose abortion are very upset at that and are going to fight that decision. I think the point two--the two important things about my experience inside this movement and anyone who's going to watch this film tonight, is that many people feel the abortion issue is behind us. I have to admit I did in a way. In other words, that we had culturally moved behind it. There would always be pro-life and pro-choice people fighting, but as a mainstream culture we were beyond it. That is not true. And the second point is, as you hear these gentlemen discussing, they are thinking in terms of escalating their strategy and tactic of violence. First it was non-violence resistance, then it was beginning to shoot doctors and other people that worked in clinics and bombing those clinics. And surrender, as Paul Hill did, and be a martyr. Then it

was get away, as James Kopp is accused of doing, because he was accused of three other shootings in Canada, and now it's escalating to threatening civil war and terrorist acts.

BLOOM: Marc Levin, thanks very much. Fascinating look at this group. "Soldiers In the Army of God" airs tonight on HBO.

And Soledad and I will be right back.

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