

August 26, 2009

## **INTERNATIONAL**

**ANYBODY BUT HILLARY?** – The Religious Freedom Coalition is an advocacy organization. While we are involved in a few specific missions in the Middle East, the main thrust of our international operation is centered on advocating for oppressed Christians. The process of advocacy for Christians persecuted in Iraq, Pakistan, Iran or even India does not differ much from our advocacy work on behalf of social conservatives in America. We focus on the problem and deliver a message to appropriate members of the government. Sometimes the message is delivered to Congress, and sometimes to other entities.

On the international front our advocacy mission in Washington, DC has taken a difficult turn; it has become nearly impossible to figure out who is in charge. Hillary Clinton is supposed to be the Secretary of State. But it was her husband, former president Bill Clinton, who was sent to North Korea to work for the release of American citizens. Meanwhile, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was dancing with children in the Congo. Then, Senator Jim Webb of Virginia who is chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, was sent by Obama to open relations with the dictatorship in Myanmar (Burma). During his visit, he obtained the release of an American and talked to an opposition leader who had been held in captivity for years.

During the same two-week period, two North Korean diplomats arrived in the United States and held talks with Hillary Clinton's arch political enemy, Governor Bill Richardson of New Mexico. In the past, Richardson has led missions to North Korea. Barack Obama is dealing directly with the three hottest spots overseas; Afghanistan, Iraq and Pakistan.

**THE PROBLEM:** We are delivering petitions to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, demanding that the State Department assist with the problem of persecuted Christians in Iraq. In particular we are asking that embassies actually deal with Iraqi Christian refugees rather than to send them off to the United Nations where they get no aid at all. We are getting virtually no response from the State Department. They are not even responding to congressmen.

Former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice under President George W. Bush did virtually nothing to assist persecuted Christians in Muslim and Hindu nations. She said that the suffering of Christians in Iraq was because of "criminal gangs" and not religious persecution. Meanwhile, she received expensive gifts from Muslim heads of state including the King of Jordan. To be honest I did not think anyone could have been worse than Secretary Rice. I was wrong. Hillary Clinton cares less about the persecution of Christians than did Condoleezza Rice. At least Rice would say something occasionally. Clinton says nothing at all.

When desperately poor Christian farmers in Egypt had all their pigs slaughtered this year, Clinton and Obama said nothing. When dozens of Christians were burned to death in their homes in Pakistan, not a word was said by Clinton or Obama. The shameful treatment of Christians imprisoned in Iran has brought forth no comment from Clinton and none from Obama. We must not give up. I am currently working with a Senate office for means of applying pressure. Meanwhile we must keep the Christians of the Middle East in our prayers.

**SAME PROBLEM IN INDIA AS WELL** - Last August I wrote extensively in weekly updates and in the Chairman's Report about the violence against Christians in Orissa, India. Hindu nationalists wrongfully blamed them for the assassination of a Hindu extremist in August, 2008. Although many Christians were killed at the end of August and early September, 2008, the violence did not stop then. Since that time, at least 120 people have been murdered, 250 churches destroyed and over 50,000 individuals have become refugees in their own country.

There are now eight states in India that have passed anti-conversion laws, the same kind of laws that are used to persecute Christians in Muslim nations. However, these are laws being passed by Hindu extremists because millions of Indians each year are turning to Christ. There are now over twenty-five million Christians in India. Although the Prime Minister of India is a Sikh, there are now more Christians in India than Sikhs. Still, Christians are under represented in government offices.

In this case also, Republican Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice made no official statement about the mass murders of Christians in Orissa. The persecution in Orissa continues and the Democrat Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, says nothing either. As long as America looks the other way and says nothing, the persecution will continue, and probably get worse.



**AND IN IRAN** - Maryam Rustampoor and Marzieh Amirizadeh have been imprisoned and tortured in one of Iran's most brutal prisons because they converted to Christianity. Virtually all Islamic nations including our "good friends" in Saudi Arabia have anti conversion laws. In Iran the punishment for converting from Islam is death. It seems that Maryam and Marzieh are ready to face the ultimate sacrifice for accepting Jesus as their Lord and Savior. In a hearing on August 10th, they were offered the opportunity to recant their faith in Jesus. Their response: "We will not deny our faith."

There has been virtually no reporting by the American mainstream media on the arrest of these two young women or their condition in jail. The electronic edition of the Times of London has done some reporting, but only Christian media outlets have fully covered the story. This is a problem because I can assure you that neither Hillary Clinton nor Barack Obama read Christian media reports.

**CHRISTIAN ORPHANAGE WORKERS BEHEADED** - Four Christian aid workers kidnapped by Muslims in Somalia have been beheaded. The "apostates" were told they could save their lives by returning to Islam. After they refused the offer, they were beheaded for "apostasy." A spokesman for the murderous Islamic group called Al-Shabaab, said the bodies would be returned because "Somalia does not have cemeteries for infidels." Just since the last Chairman's Report was released, more than 500 innocent civilians and aid workers have been murdered by Muslims in nations such as Russia, India, Jordan, Thailand, Iraq and Afghanistan.

**OUR ARIEL MISSION THREATENED** - Just before he had a fatal stroke, I talked with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon during a visit he made to the United States in late 2005. At the time he made a promise to me about the town of Ariel in Samaria (some call Samaria the West Bank.) He promised that Ariel, where we support missions work, would continue to be a part of Israel. Sharon had an understanding with President George W. Bush that construction could continue in Ariel. The largest public university in Israel is located in Ariel.

President Bush, I believe, had a concept of the importance of Samaria to the nation of Israel. President Barack Obama has no concept of its spiritual or strategic importance to Israel. Obama has demanded that all construction be halted inside of the city of Ariel and in East Jerusalem.

Barack Obama believes that most of Jerusalem, including the Old City where the Temple wall is located, belongs to the Muslims and must be given to them. As a result Obama is pushing hard for Israel to not only give up Ariel and half of Jerusalem, but to shrink itself to an area smaller than the city of Houston, Texas. Under Obama's plan for Israeli borders, civilian aircraft could be shot down with small arms fire as they attempted to land at Ben Gurion airport.

## **THE CONGRESS**

**OUT FOR THE AUGUST RECESS** - Both the House and Senate have gone into August recess and will not return until after Labor Day which is September 7th this year. Many congressmen and Senators are holding town-hall meetings in their districts and they are getting an earful about health care, as I am sure you have read about or seen in TV newscasts. What went wrong? The people learned the truth.

Barack Obama said he wanted to provide health insurance for those who did not have it. Most people agreed with that until they learned that they would probably have to give up their own policies and pay higher taxes. His plan also reduces the care for the elderly by dismantling Medicare Advantage and then reducing allowable expenditures for the nation's senior citizens on Medicare by half a billion dollars.

As Christians it is our responsibility to care for those who cannot care for themselves. But more than ten million of the "uninsured" are young people who make more than \$75,000 a year and who just don't want to buy insurance. Is it our responsibility to care for those who refuse to take care of themselves? Another ten million of the uninsured are illegals who violate our laws on a daily basis just by being in the United States. Is it our responsibility to pay for their medical care as well? Millions more are college students who use free school clinics rather than to buy expensive insurance. Those groups make up more than half of those who Barack Obama claims don't get medical care. What about the other half? Hospitals are required to furnish free medical care to the destitute. Even the poorest counties have free medical clinics. There are programs for the homeless in the larger cities where they gather. Christian and Jewish charities assist most of those who cannot get state aid. How then will the trillions of dollars be spent?

I think I know the answer to that final question ... the far left, led by Barack Obama, wants government to replace family, replace charity, and even replace God. In the end they want the people to turn to the government for their every need. This has been tried before in what was once the Soviet Union before it collapsed. It didn't work in Russia and it will not work here.

**NEW JETS FOR GLOBE-TROTTING** - Before leaving town on their August recess the Congress ordered up six more aircraft for their personal joy rides around the world. Apparently congressmen and Senators have the need for speed to travel overseas, and don't have time for commercial flights. It seems that just a few months ago congressmen and Senators were berating CEO's of the auto companies for using corporate jets! Congress also recently upped its expense allowances. After the *Wall Street Journal* exposed the hundreds of millions Congress planned to spend on its jets, all the bad publicity changed some minds in Congress. The new plan is to buy just two large new luxury jets to fly around in.

## PRESIDENCY

**DEFENDING DOMA?** – It is the duty of the President and the Justice Department to defend the laws passed by the Congress and signed by a president. It is the duty of the Justice Department to defend lawsuits against DOMA, the Defense of Marriage Act, which was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Bill Clinton. President Obama and his Justice Department have a funny way of defending the law.

A legal brief filed in “support” of DOMA declared that the Obama administration “does not support DOMA as a matter of policy” and “believes that the Act is discriminatory and should be repealed by Congress.” President Obama in a written statement then said that he has “long held that DOMA prevents LGBT [lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered] couples from being granted equal rights and benefits.” This is just one of many instances in which the Obama Administration refuses to abide by the law. The Justice Department also dismissed cases against Black Panthers who had threatened voters at the polls. Apparently the Obama Justice Department believes that threatening voters with baseball bats is part of the Democratic process.

**SURFING THE WEB FOR RIGHT-WING THREATS?** - One of the first acts of the Department of Homeland Security under Obama was to issue a report on the “dangers of rightwing extremist groups”. The report targeted “single issue” groups such as those opposing abortion and claimed they could become violent. The report also stated that returning veterans from Iraq could be a threat. The Religious Freedom Coalition and others fought hard to expose the “rightwing extremist” report as political and even ran full page advertisements in the *Washington Times* demanding the report be retracted. Unable to defend the report, Secretary Napolitano eventually withdrew it.

Americans for Limited Government filed a Freedom of Information Act request with Homeland Security, asking for the supporting evidence that had been used to compile the report. What they got back was a list of website URL's (addresses). Most of the websites were commentaries by liberal bloggers, and some were news sites. In other words there had been no research; no police reports; and no FBI input into the “rightwing extremist” report issued nationwide to law enforcement agencies. The report was based for the most part on the comments of liberal bloggers and was issued by homeland security to pressure conservative groups. There was absolutely no substantiating evidence to back up the report.

**REWARDING GEORGE SOROS** - Left-wing nutcase billionaire George Soros plunked down many millions of dollars to help Barack Obama win the Democratic primary. The same George Soros owned a huge stake in the Brazilian oil giant Petrobras. Since Barack Obama was sworn into office, Soros has paid hundreds of millions of dollars more for stock in Petrobras. President Obama, who says he is against drilling for oil offshore in the United States, then ordered the US Export - Import Bank to guarantee \$2 billion in loans to Petrobras to drill offshore in Brazil. The loan guarantees by the Obama Administration caused the stock to jump 10% in a day making George Soros more millions of dollars to spend on far left-wing causes. I highly recommend Petrobras stock (PBR). The company is under the wing of the Obama Administration and has huge offshore oil reserves that Obama will help develop.

William J. Murray, Chairman