

April 2, 2009

INTERNATIONAL

SENATORS PRESSURE CLINTON ON IRAQI CHRISTIANS – Former Senator Hillary Clinton, who is now Secretary of State, is receiving numerous inquiries from congressmen and Senators about her human rights policy. I previously reported on a letter to her by Congressman Wolf, and now Senator Sam Brownback has also written her a letter concerning Iraqi Christians. Apparently the Obama Administration has no interest in human rights, having already dispatched Hillary Clinton to China and the Middle East to borrow money for the President's agenda. You read that right: Hillary Clinton has asked the Chinese and the Saudis to please continue to buy U.S. Treasury bonds so Obama can spend and spend and spend. Meanwhile, Christians in China and the "Muslim world" suffer repression, while Obama and Clinton look the other way. In addition to Senator Sam Brownback, the letter was signed by Senators Casey, Wicker, Cardin and Levin.

Senator Brownback told Secretary Clinton in his letter that Iraq was the land of - "*Abraham and Jonah, of Rebekah and Daniel.*" And," he added, "*Since the first century AD, Iraq has been home to millions of Christians.*" He educated Clinton about the history of the area and the situation saying, "*Tragically, Iraq's ancient Christian community is facing extinction. According to the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), Iraq's Christian population has fallen from as many as 1.4 million in 2003 to between 500,000 and 700,000 at present. USCIRF also reports that "while Christians and other religious minorities represented only approximately 3 percent of the pre-2003 Iraqi population, they constitute approximately 15 and 20 percent of registered Iraqi refugees in Jordan and Syria, respectively, and Christians account for 35 and 64 percent, respectively, of all registered Iraqi refugees in Lebanon and Turkey."*

Senator Brownback concluded by telling Clinton, "*This Administration needs a comprehensive policy to address the situation of these defenseless minorities. We respectfully recommend assigning a high-ranking official at the embassy in Baghdad to handle such matters.*"

CONGRESSMAN DEMANDS ANSWER ON IRAQI CHRISTIANS - We have some true Christian men and women on our side in the battle to save Iraqi Christians. Congressman Frank Wolf of Virginia has now written three letters to Secretary Clinton since she took over the State Department. Angered by the responses he received from two of her underlings, he wrote a third and more pointed letter in March to her. In it he said, "*I found that the department's response to my letters did not address the core of my concerns – namely the department's lack of a comprehensive policy to address the unique plight of these minority communities. While I am encouraged by the overall improvements in the security situation in Iraq, these are not yet a reality for all of the people of Iraq. A March 18 Christian Post article lead with the following sentence: 'Nearly six years since the beginning of the war in Iraq, Iraqi's are increasingly saying that their county is becoming a safe place to live, according to a recent survey. For Christians, however, the daily threat of violent attacks means these are still uncertain times.'*"

Other congressmen, including Trent Franks of Arizona, are pushing for the Obama Administration to form a clear policy on the deteriorating situation of Iraqi Christians, both for those still inside Iraq and those who have fled to neighboring nations.

However, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and the entire Obama Administration seems to want to continue and expand the Bush Administration policy of surrendering to Islam.

SENATOR BLOCKS IRAQI AMBASSADOR – Fed up with the lies coming out of the State Department about Iraq and the situation with Iraqi Christians, Senator Sam Brownback announced in late March that he would block Obama's nominee for Ambassador to Iraq, Christopher Hill. Senator Brownback does not believe that Hill will address human rights issues in Iraq, particularly those of Christians. The Senator gave as an example that Christopher Hill had promised him in a Senate hearing several years ago that he would bring up human rights issues when he was an envoy to North Korea. Brownback said that Hill did not do as he promised. In essence, Brownback said that Hill had lied to him.

On the other hand, Hill claims that it was former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice who ordered him not to push North Korea on human rights. Regardless, it appears that Hillary Clinton may have even less interest in human rights than did Condoleezza Rice. Fresh people are needed at the State Department who will address those issues, and Hill is not a fresh face nor does he have a genuine interest in human rights.

HILLARY CLINTON IS BLIND TO ABUSE OF WOMEN – There is even more evidence that Hillary Clinton does not care the least about human rights despite all of her rhetoric about “women’s rights” in the United States. In Saudi Arabia, a 75-year-old widow was sentenced to 40 lashes with a whip and four months in prison for “mingling” with two young men, one of whom was her nephew, when they brought bread to the poverty stricken elderly woman. Don't hold your breath waiting for Secretary of State Clinton or President Obama to say a word about this injustice. Instead Clinton flew to the Middle East to beg the Saudis to continue buying U.S. Treasury bonds so President Obama can continue his spending spree.

CLINTON PETITION DRIVE - The Religious Freedom Coalition has begun a petition drive asking Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to formulate a policy to stop the persecution of Christians in Iraq and to aid those Iraqi Christians who have been forced to flee. More than 100,000 paper copies of the petition have already been distributed, and an online version is now available. The petition can be found online at www.IraqiChristianRefugees.org. NOTE: This is part of a large petition drive and you may receive a copy in the mail.

INTERNATIONAL CRIME TO CRITICIZE ISLAM? – Where is the outrage from the Obama Administration and our State Department? The 47-member United Nations Human Rights Council adopted a dangerous “defamation of religions” resolution. The United States is not currently a member of the Council, but Ambassador Susan Rice could have made a comment and didn't.

This official United Nations body has collectively spit in the face of religious freedom by passing a resolution that literally calls for banning individual religious freedom. This gives cover to Muslim nations to continue to persecute Christians and other non-Muslims. Congressman Trent Franks, the co-chair of the Congressional International Religious Freedom Caucus, wrote a letter asking member nations not to support this egregious resolution. In his letter Congressman Franks said:

“Though justified by its proponents as protecting religious practice and promoting tolerance, the flawed “defamation of religions” concept in fact promotes intolerance and human rights violations, including violations of religious freedom and freedom of expression.”

Congressman Franks continued: *"The concept improperly subordinates internationally-guaranteed individual rights to the purported rights of religions. It also empowers repressive governments and religious extremists to suppress and punish whatever they deem to be offensive or unacceptable speech about a particular, favored religion or sect. The concept has been used in some states to justify actions that selectively curtail civil dissent, halt criticism of political or religious structures, and restrict the religious speech of minority faith communities, dissenting members of the majority faith, and persons of no religious faith."*

"Many of the countries promoting this concept have laws that are similar to the defamation prohibition in their own countries. These laws allow criminal charges to be levied against individuals for defaming, denigrating, insulting, offending, disparaging, and blaspheming Islam, often resulting in gross human rights violations."

We can only pray that more congressmen and Senators such as Congressmen Franks and Wolf and Senator Brownback will step forward to push for religious freedom in the world.

MY APPEARANCE ON RUSSIA TODAY - On Tuesday, March 24th I appeared on the television show Russia Today, live during the prime evening news hour in Moscow. The occasion of the segment was to mark the tenth anniversary of the bombing campaign by NATO on Serbia. At the time, President Bill Clinton believed that the establishment of a Muslim nation in the heart of Europe would win allies for America. The goal was to remove the province of Kosovo from Serbia and establish it as a separate Muslim nation. Since that time, Christians in Kosovo have suffered persecution that has included murders and the destruction of churches built in the 13th and 14th centuries.

THE PRESIDENCY

OBAMA'S STEM CELL LIE- There is a huge difference between adult stem cells and embryonic stem cells; however, the news media treat the two as being alike. It is only adult stem cell research that has provided real cures for real illnesses. I have met and shaken hands with a man who had all his Parkinson's disease symptoms relieved by adult stem cell treatment. On the other hand, embryonic stem cells have provided no cures and have actually caused injuries. The embryonic stem cell "science" is obsolete and there is just nothing there that will ever help anyone.

Why then did President Obama begin taxpayer funding of this obsolete science? He claimed he did it to cure five illnesses which he named, but it was adult stem cells that have yielded the treatments in all five areas. Is Obama just flat out ignorant on the subject, OR is he satisfying the pro-death lobby in the Democrat party that wants to play with embryos to prove they are just cells and not real people? Do these people want to grow brainless embryos in order to grow extra body parts?

ARCHBISHOP HITS SEBELIUS NOMINATION - There is an angry reaction from the Catholic Church to President Obama's selection of Governor Kathleen Sebelius to head Health and Human Resources (HHS). She claims to be a practicing Catholic but is so pro-abortion she has invited abortionists to the Kansas governor's mansion to party with her. Archbishop Raymond L. Burke said, "As a Roman Catholic, her appointment [as Secretary of HHS] is the source of the greatest embarrassment because she has publicly and repeatedly betrayed her Catholic Faith..." said

Meanwhile, yet another woman has been rushed to the hospital in March from the abortion clinic in Kansas run by George Tiller, a supporter whom Governor Sebelius honored at the governor's mansion with a party. He also faces criminal charges for late term abortions.

REAGAN TRIED TO CONVERT SOVIET LEADER - An American whose job it was to take notes at a summit meeting between President Ronald Reagan and Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev, has shed new light on President Reagan's faith. Rudolf Perina recalled an attempt by our President to convert the Soviet leader from atheism. Perina observed, "Reagan thought he could convert Gorbachev, or make him see the light." The President used a story about how his own son was an atheist and how he would like to convert him to a view of faith. This stunning view of President Reagan's solid belief in God and an afterlife was revealed in the recently published book by James Mann, [The Rebellion of Ronald Reagan: A History of the End of the Cold War](#).

THE CONGRESS

WOLF HOUNDS THE FBI - During most of the Bush Administration, the FBI turned for advice on "Islamic issues" to a group with terrorist ties, the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR). Then, an investigation of American fund raisers accused of funneling money to Hamas resulted in criminal charges. CAIR was listed as an unindicted co-conspirator which forced the FBI to publicly sever its ties to the Council on American-Islamic Relations. But does the FBI still take advice from CAIR? It seems the FBI cannot mend its ways and still relies on CAIR, with its terrorist ties, for advice on "Islamic relations." Congressman Frank Wolf is demanding answers from the FBI, and all he is getting is the runaround. What exactly is the FBI's relationship to CAIR?

CALIFORNIA CONGRESSMAN CLAIMS TO LIVE IN MARYLAND - The salary for a congressman is \$162,500 per year plus perks. Despite this kind of pay, Congressman Pete Stark (D-CA) claimed his primary residence as being in Maryland to save just \$3,853 in taxes. He is registered to vote in California and has a California driver's license. He is not alone. Congressman Eliot Engel (D-NY) has done the same thing, claiming to live in Maryland to avoid a few thousand bucks in property taxes. These are some of the same Congressmen who are calling the Wall Street bankers crooks. We tossed old fashioned morals out of Congress about the time we tossed prayer out of our schools. Many of the Congressmen and Senators pointing fingers at the greed and dishonesty on Wall Street are no better themselves.

COURTS AND CULTURE

A FEDERAL JUDGE WHO ISN'T LOONEY LEFT - A federal judge dismissed an atheist parent's complaint against the words "one state under God" from the Texas pledge of allegiance. David Wallace Croft claimed the words "under God" were an unconstitutional violation of the "separation of church and state." In Texas public schools, children recite the state pledge each morning after the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag.

U.S. District Judge Ed Kinkeade upheld the pledge which states: "Honor the Texas flag; I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible." In his opinion, the judge wrote that. "A voluntary recitation of the Texas Pledge of Allegiance simply does not coerce students in the same way a school-sponsored prayer might." He noted that the U.S. pledge and those of four other states have similar references to God or divine grace. We are still waiting for the 9th Circuit Court in California to rule on the constitutionality of the Pledge of Allegiance to the US flag.

William J. Murray, Chairman