

May 14, 2009

INTERNATIONAL

ARCHBISHOP OF BAGHDAD SPEAKS OUT - This month I attended a small group roundtable discussion at the Hudson Institute with the Archbishop of Baghdad, Father Jean Benjamin Sleiman. The archbishop discussed the grim situation that exists for Christians in Iraq, making it clear that there is no true security to encourage Christian families who have fled, to now return to Iraq. He reaffirmed what we all already knew -- that "...the laws of Sharia are not the same as the laws of democracy."



I asked the archbishop several questions about the security situation in Baghdad. He said that the government, not the church, must provide security for Christians and at the current time that is just not the case. He explained that, "You can't eliminate the fear after your neighbors have been killed". Americans, particularly American Christians, have not had a neighbor killed because of their beliefs since the Civil War, and have no comprehension of the problems facing Christians in Iraq. The United States provides no identified funds for religious minorities (that means Christians) in Iraq. Photo top right is of Archbishop Sleiman and me.

The real problem is the failure of the United States to have a policy toward the religious minorities in Iraq. The Bush Administration failed to address the issue for fear it would anger the Muslims in the region. President Bush failed to realize that the very existence of Christians makes Muslims angry and there would have been no harm done if we assisted the religious minorities in Iraq. Now Hillary Clinton has been put in charge of foreign affairs by the Obama Administration.

It has been made abundantly clear by both Obama and Clinton that she is not a real Secretary of State, but rather "Chief Bond Salesperson." Her number one job in the Obama Administration is to convince totalitarian nations such as Saudi Arabia and China to buy the bonds issued by President Obama to finance his huge deficit spending. REMEMBER: The United States is a debtor nation just like Mexico and in order to keep our government in business we must borrow from nations that have not spent themselves into oblivion as we have. Just in 2009 the United States must borrow \$1.8 trillion.

CLINTON PETITION DRIVE – We must continue to work to force Chief Bond Salesperson Hillary Clinton to at least pretend she is Secretary of State and come up with some policy to deal with the persecuted Christians in Iraq. To do this, the Religious Freedom Coalition is conducting 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 been distributed, and an online version is now available. You can sign the online version of the petition at www.iraqichristianrefugees.org.

KILL THE CHRISTIAN PIGS - Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is so busy selling treasury bonds that she doesn't seem to care if Islamic dictators persecute Christians anywhere in the world. When the Egyptian government killed more than 300,000 pigs belonging to Christian farmers, she said nothing. This is a genuine humanitarian crisis, because these are desperately poor people who are denied most avenues of earning a living in Egypt.

If the Russians had killed 300,000 goats belonging to Muslim farmers, I am very sure Clinton would be outraged. The Egyptians claim they killed every pig belonging to Christian farmers because of swine flu; however, there is not a case of the flu in all of Egypt. More important, although it is called the swine flu, it is not passed from pigs to humans. Humans can only get the swine flu from other human beings. Most of the mass media in the United States either ignored or distorted this story. Even Foxnews reported that the pigs were killed for "health reasons." This is a lie. The swine flu was used as an excuse to take away the income of thousands of poor Christians in Egypt.

SAME OLD PERSECUTION IN CHINA – In April I met with Sun Yanjun who was a professor of the psychology of religion at the Capital Normal University in Beijing, until his defection to the United States last year. He told me that in 1999 the Communist Party ordered him to write articles critical of Falun Gong. The Falun Gong, which practices ancient Chinese religious rituals, has become a major threat to the Communist party. When he refused, funding for his other projects was refused. He was also asked to write against certain Christian organizations, but resisted.



Dr. Sun Yanjun and William Murray at a Capitol Hill office.

Professor Sun Yanjun is not himself a member of the Falun Gong, nor is he a Christian. He is a follower of the teachings of Confucius. He said, "The academic study of religion should not be used for tyranny. I cannot live my life under the shadow of deception."

THE PRESIDENCY

OBAMA DISTANCES HIMSELF FROM PRAYER - There was no National Day of Prayer event at the White House this year, and no one representing the White House participated in the events of the National Day of Prayer. President Obama did sign a proclamation for the National Day of Prayer. Oddly, the proclamation managed to mention God only once, a far cry from the first proclamation issued by President Abraham Lincoln. Two African American ministers protesting Obama's lack of participation in the National Day of Prayer were arrested in front of the White House.

WHO WILL STOP NAPOLITANO? - The Religious Freedom Coalition with the help of other organizations ran a color ad for two days in the Washington Times, exposing Homeland Security head Janet Napolitano's bias against social conservatives. Napolitano is squandering resources that could be used to investigate threats from violent Islamic Jihadists, in order to investigate pro-life, pro-family groups and veterans returning from Afghanistan and Iraq. She considers those who believe in traditional marriage to be a greater threat to America than members of Jihadist organizations.

Finally something is being done!

After weeks of intense efforts by social conservative groups such as the Religious Freedom Coalition, veterans, and gun rights groups, the Republican leadership in Congress finally made a formal demand for an investigation into how and why Homeland Security sent the "rightwing extremist" report to law enforcement agencies in the country.

The report targeted virtually every one of the constituency groups of the Republican Party, except for Wall Street. House Minority Leader John A. Boehner said, "She has not explained how this report came about, why she signed off on it, or why she defended it."

The Reppublican leadership acted just days after color ads were placed by the Religious Freedom Coalition and other social conservative groups in the Washington Times. In the ads the groups demanded that Napolitano be forced to apologize or resign.

This is an enormously important issue. Janet Napolitano runs the Department of Homeland Security for President Obama. She is turning a blind eye to the radical Islamists in the United States who teach that democracy is an apostate religion that must be destroyed. She does not seem concerned about more than thirty Muslim-only communities in the United States, such as Islamberg in New York state, which has its own firing range. Instead she fears that terror will visit the United States in the form of someone like Miss California, who believes that marriage is reserved for one man and one woman. With this logic running the Department of Homeland Security, our nation is at great risk.

THE CONGRESS

AMERICA'S RELIGIOUS HERITAGE - Congressman Randy Forbes formed the Congressional Prayer Caucus from a small group of congressmen who met each day to pray in room 219 of the Capitol. The group grew until it turned into a major national "Room 219" movement that gave birth to the Congressional Prayer Caucus Foundation. As part of the National Day of Prayer, Congressman Forbes has introduced HR 397, a resolution reaffirming America's Religious heritage. I urge you to read and distribute the resolution which clearly outlines the Judeo-Christian heritage of our nation. The Religious Freedom Coalition is an integral part of the movement to pass HR 307.

You must watch Congressman Forbes' impassioned plea for the Judeo-Christian heritage of our nation. The video of Congressman Forbes is just four minutes long. but it is power packed and can be found on Youtube.

THOUGHT CRIMES BILL - On April 30th the homosexual enforcement act (otherwise known as "Hate Crimes") passed the House by a wide margin and headed to the Senate. What can happen if this becomes law? Congressman Randy Forbes (R-VA) gave a striking example: If you recall, a homosexual judge of the Miss USA beauty pageant made vulgar comments and threats of physical violence against Miss California because she said she supported traditional marriage.

Congressman Forbes said: "Had [Hilton] done what he said he would do and stormed that stage and pulled that tiara off [Prejean's] head and [inflicted] bodily harm when he did it, there would not have been one ounce of protection under this piece of legislation for that young girl. But after he did it, if she had in response made a statement back about the very sexual orientation that had led him to his hatred and dislike for her, and if she had responded by slapping him or any physical injury, she would have had the potential of a ten-year federal piece of legislation coming against her."

In other words this law creates a special class of people who receive extra protection under the law because of the way they commit perverted sexual acts. Briefly, if the homosexual judge at the beauty pageant had slapped Miss California, it would have been a misdemeanor. If she had slapped him back, it would be a federal crime punishable by up to ten years in jail. This is wrong.

COURTS AND CULTURE

A new Pew Research survey shows that the United States is becoming more socially conservative in some ways. At the same time that ultraliberal, pro-abortionist Barack Obama was elected president, the American people were actually becoming more conservative on the issue of abortion. The Pew survey revealed that between April, 2008 and April, 2009 more people became anti-abortion.

Fewer than 50% of women now think abortion should be legal, and for the first time the majority of men also believe it should be illegal. In addition, the survey showed that the number of Americans believing in the right of citizens to own guns increased.

In states where Barack Obama won, same sex marriage was voted down! Most African-American voters in California voted to ban homosexual marriage. Yet ... Republican leaders here in Washington think that they can attract Black voters by offering a "big tent" to homosexuals and pro-abortionists. Between 1931 and 1994, Republicans controlled Congress for only 2 years, and that was during President Eisenhower's Administration. During this "big tent" era of the GOP, they also managed to elect Richard Nixon to the presidency on a low tax and pro-defense ticket.

It was not until social conservatives entered the GOP in mass in the 1980's and early 1990's that Republicans gained more seats until they took control of the House in 1994. Now the GOP wants to go back to the days of Richard Nixon by opening the "big tent" to gays and pro-abortionists. This will not work. Radical feminists and homosexuals, who enjoy considerable power in the Democrat Party, are not going to flock to the GOP. On the other hand, conservative voters will leave.

OBAMA, THE CATHOLICS AND ABORTION - Mary Ann Glendon, the Learned Hand Professor of Law at Harvard University and a former U.S. Ambassador to the Vatican, has been a pro-life champion for decades. She is a faithful Catholic who has defended her Church without compromise and was about to receive the most prestigious award bestowed by the University of Notre Dame, the Laetere Medal. This month she announced that she is refusing the coveted award because the university will be granting an honorary degree in law to pro-abortionist Barack Obama.

Separately, the pro-life graduates at Notre Dame have announced that they will boycott their own graduation, and while President Obama reads from his teleprompter they will hold a prayer service for those lost to abortion. The invitation of a pro-abortionist to speak at a Catholic University has become a huge embarrassment to both the school and to Obama. Catholic Bishops across the nation have spoken out with displeasure and major donors have announced that they will no longer give grants to Notre Dame. By accepting the invitation Obama has highlighted his pro-abortion mentality. A big question remains: When at Georgetown University President Obama ordered the cross behind him hidden while he read from his teleprompter. Custom dictates that he wear a Notre Dame gown at the graduation ceremony. The gown has an embroidered cross and is pictured at right. Will he wear it?



HARVARD CHAPLAIN APPROVES DEATH SENTENCE FOR CONVERTING FROM ISLAM - Imagine the outrage if a Christian chaplain called for even mild discipline of those who violate the tenants of Christianity. It would be on the front page of every newspaper in America. But when the Muslim chaplain at Harvard University said the death penalty was "appropriate" for those converting from Islam, the media showed no interest at all. Muslim students at Harvard who disagreed with the chaplain refused to give their names out of fear of the "Islamic community."

William J. Murray, Chairman