

May 27, 2010

THE PRESIDENCY

OBAMA'S MOROCCO PROBLEM – The more President Barack Obama practices his policy of “reaching out” to Islam, the more intolerant Islamic nations seem to become. Now, even the so-called “moderate” Islamic nations are cracking down on religious minorities, particularly Christians. In May, Morocco ordered the expulsion of 23 foreign Christian workers, including one American. This is in addition to the 40 Christian workers that have already been expelled in 2010. Morocco claims that Muslims are being converted to Christianity as a result of the presence of the aid workers, some of whom have been there for decades. Many of those expelled work in orphanages.

Congressman Frank Wolf (R-VA), a champion of religious liberties, has announced hearings on June 17th to investigate the violation of human rights in Morocco. He is concerned that foreign nationals are being charged with proselytism, and he believes this raises concerns about the status of religious freedom in Morocco. Wolf pointed out in a letter to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton that those who have been deported were running a wide array of humanitarian organizations including orphanages. One organization, the Village of Hope, an orphanage that takes in children that have been abandoned by their parents, was one of the targets of the Moroccan government crackdown. *Time* magazine reported that "the Village of Hope deportations are part of what appears to be a widespread crackdown on Christian aid workers in Morocco."

Congressman Wolf has demanded that Obama's State Department issue a travel advisory for Morocco. He also wants the U. S. government to suspend various funding programs that provide Morocco with many millions of dollars in aid. What does President Obama or Secretary of State Hillary Clinton have to say about the treatment of Christians in Morocco? Nothing!

NOTE: I have been to Morocco on a fact finding mission and did find it to be one of the more “moderate” Islamic nations. But how do we define “moderate?” Example: Morocco makes it difficult for men to have more than one wife ... but note that I said “difficult,” not illegal. Women are allowed to own property, which is unusual for an Islamic nation, and they are not forced to wear the veil. However, Morocco is a monarchy, not a democracy, and King Mohammed VI is alleged to be “the 43rd generation direct descendant of the Prophet Muhammad.” Jordan is also called a “moderate” Islamic nation, yet that nation has issued an international arrest warrant for a member of the Dutch parliament whom they want to imprison, or perhaps execute, because he “insulted the Prophet.”

FORMER MUSLIM SAYS OBAMA HURTING PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS - Obama says he seeks a dialogue with the Muslim world, but he has done nothing to protect the oppressed Christians, Sabatina James told the *Christian Post*. She has moved several times in the past few years seeking refuge from being murdered for converting from Islam. "You (President Obama) are saying these things about the prophet [Muhammad] but why don't you protect [Christians]? You're a Christian and have such influence," she said about Obama's speech in Cairo. James' book, *My Fight for Faith and Freedom* is a bestseller in Germany. She has moved sixteen times since 2001 because of death threats.

STATE DEPARTMENT CAN'T STAND UP FOR CHRISTIANS, BUT IT CAN ATTACK ARIZONA – The above failure by the State Department to be critical of a crackdown on religious liberties in Morocco might not seem so egregious if not for the fact that a State Department official *apologized* to Chinese officials for Arizona's attempt to enforce immigration laws. The official, Michael Posner, said that the Arizona law was part of a "troubling trend in our society and an indication that we have to deal with issues of discrimination or potential discrimination." And how does China deal with its own "immigration issues?" Chinese soldiers have "shoot to kill" orders in dealing with those escaping from North Korea into China. China has concentration camps for those caught in their nation illegally.

China has virtually no political freedom and the Internet is censored. Christian pastors who do not "register" are imprisoned and tortured. Women from the outlawed religious groups such as the Falun Gong are raped repeatedly when in custody and often forced to have abortions. Instead of criticizing or condemning China's draconian policies, however, our State Department and the White House excuse the Chinese government and their actions, while attacking the state of Arizona for enforcing the laws the U.S. government refuses to enforce!

Arizona Republican Senators Jon Kyl and John McCain sent a letter to Posner demanding he retract his statement and issue an apology to the people of Arizona. "As the assistant secretary of state in charge of the bureau of democracy and human rights, your remarks are particularly offensive," they wrote. "There is no place for moral equivalency in democracy and human rights policy. The United States is the world's leader in defending the rights of all people. Someone in your position should be proud to proclaim that."

CAN THEY READ AT ALL? – Immigration is not an issue I normally write much about, simply because I am busy writing about the Administration's failures on the human rights front. However, I was just shocked when Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano admitted during congressional hearings that she had not even read the Arizona immigration law she had been criticizing on national news shows! At the hearing, she asserted that it was "bad law enforcement law" even though she had not read it and only "knew of it."

The previous week, Attorney General Eric Holder also admitted at a congressional hearing that he had not read the Arizona law. This admission came after he said that the Obama Justice Department might sue to stop the law's enforcement. On TV news shows he said the law would violate rights, and that it was a "slippery slope" toward racial profiling. On top of that, State Department spokesman P. J. Crowley also admitted not having read a single word of the bill at the time he defended under secretary Michael Posner's criticism of it.

This leads us to a burning question: Does anyone in the Obama Administration read anything before they run to the media to talk about it? Obama never read a word of the Health Care bill while he was running around the country promoting it. A huge financial "reform" package was just passed by Congress, and President Obama immediately held a press conference to say how great it was; however, his comments made it clear that he had not read it either. This is a 'from the top down' problem in the Obama Administration. Members of the Obama Administration, including the President himself, often repeat the words of liberal Internet bloggers with no fact checking at all.

SIDING WITH A FOREIGN POWER – One reason the issue of immigration is of some concern to the Religious Freedom Coalition is the huge number of Islamic extremists who cross the border from Mexico to the United States.

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I have seen photos of Islamic prayer rugs and other gear abandoned by Muslims on ranches and farms next to the Mexican border. The desire of American business for cheap labor and the Democrat Party's drive to legalize millions of welfare recipients so they can vote Democrat, have allowed enemies of our nation to cross the border.

Enter the president of Mexico, Felipe Calderon. He came to the United States on a state visit in May, and at a joint session of Congress he attacked the state of Arizona for defending its border with Mexico. Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, as well as all other Democrats in the joint session of Congress began to applaud his criticism. Think about this: Nancy Pelosi is second in line to be President after Vice President Biden, and she was applauding a foreign president who was attacking the United States. The fact the Islamists are coming across the Mexican border is inconsequential to Pelosi and Reid.

NOT AS QUALIFIED AS HARRIET MIERS - When President George W. Bush nominated his long time political ally and White House attorney Harriet Miers to the Supreme Court, virtually everyone on Capitol Hill (including conservatives) gasped. While she was a very nice person who was conservative and pro-life, Harriet Miers just did not have the judicial experience to become a Supreme Court Justice. Some compare President Obama's pick of Elena Kagan to that of Harriet Miers, but there is just one big difference: Miers had more legal experience than Kagan.

Virtually all of Elena Kagan's experience is academic in nature. Her main qualification is that she was a close buddy of Barak Obama at the Harvard School of Law. This is not an appointment of a qualified contender for such a high post; it is simple political pay back to an old friend. Aside from the fact that Kagan is a radical pro-abortion feminist who hates the military, she is simply too inexperienced. It takes more than reading ACLU one-pagers to become a Supreme Court Justice.

THE CONGRESS

TEN COMMANDMENTS WEEKEND - For several years I have been working with Ron Wexler of the Ten Commandments Commission to officially declare the first weekend in May as Ten Commandments Weekend. For this purpose we have been in contact with various members of Congress. This year Congressman Paul Broun and 24 other congressmen co-sponsored H. Res. 1175 which "Celebrates the significant role the Ten Commandments have played in the development of public and private U.S. institutions," and "Encourages citizens of all faiths and religious persuasions to reflect on the impact that the Ten Commandments have had on the people and national character of the United States." Although it was not passed in time for this May, we can get it passed for next year. Please contact your congressman about the Ten Commandments resolution, H. Res 1175.

PARENTAL RIGHTS - Senator Jim DeMint (R-SC) has recently introduced S.R. 519, a resolution opposing ratification of the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). This is an effort by DeMint and several co-sponsors to derail the Obama administration's efforts to ratify the UNCRC, which would erase all parental rights, even the right for parents to take their children to church. A committee of 18 non-American "experts" in Geneva would have the authority to issue rules binding American courts and even state legislatures.

Because a treaty requires 67 votes in the Senate, only 34 Senators signing onto S.R. 519 sends a notice to the Obama Administration that this insane treaty can be stopped in the Senate. No American should want to give the power of determining the rearing of American children to foreign bureaucrats.

CULTURE AND RELIGION

SUPREME COURT DECISION CITES UNSIGNED TREATY – In the Congress section above, I related the problems inherent in the Convention of the Rights of the Child treaty (UNCRC) which the USA has not yet ratified. Setting a very bad precedent, by a 6 to 3 vote the Supreme Court used the UNCRC in a ruling stating that it is unconstitutional to sentence a juvenile to life in prison without parole in non-homicide cases. The Court cited the UNCRC and other international law in its decision. Michael Farris, who is head of the Home School Legal Defense Association and also a Constitutional scholar, said: "It is bad enough for the Supreme Court to engage in judicial activism. It is far worse when the justices employ international law in support of their far-reaching edicts. We have not ratified the UN child's rights treaty-its provisions should not be finding their way into Supreme Court decisions." This is yet another reason to contact your Senator about Senator DeMint's resolution, SR 519!

ATHEISTS CAN'T STOP INAUGURAL PRAYERS- Atheists, led by the notorious Michael Newdow, have lost another round in the courts in their efforts to stop prayer and other religious expressions during presidential inaugurations. This week a three-judge panel of the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia upheld the dismissal of the atheist lawsuit that would have stopped Chief Justice Roberts from using the words "so help me God" in the inaugural oath. The atheists also wanted to stop ministers from praying at inaugurations.

WAR MEMORIAL CROSS STOLEN – There is no doubt in my mind that hate speech by the ACLU caused vandals to cut the metal bolts that attached the Mojave Dessert war memorial cross to a rock and steal it. The hatred of the war memorial by the ACLU has cost that organization and defenders of the honor of veterans hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal fees. The ACLU refer to themselves as "CROSS BUSTERS" and when they finally lost at the Supreme Court level and were forbidden to remove the war memorial, it was stolen. There is no doubt that the hatred and anti-Christian rhetoric of the ACLU caused this crime.

Sadly, there is now an argument that the cross cannot be replaced, with opponents to the cross saying the Supreme Court decision only covered the original cross and would not protect a replacement. We can expect even more lawsuits from the ACLU and other "cross busters" who will try to prohibit a replacement to the memorial to the dead of the First World War.

INTERNATIONAL

MORE PERSECUTION IN IRAQ - At the beginning of May, buses carrying Christian students were bombed near Mosul, killing 4 persons and wounding more than 150. No action has been taken by authorities. The Assyrian News Agency is reporting that there is now a coordinated effort to drive Christians from the Mosul area by Muslim terrorist organizations. Of the more than one million Christians in Iraq at the beginning of 2003 when the current war began, only 400,000 remain and many of those have been driven from their homes. New reports detail the plight of Christians who have fled Iraq completely and now live in Syria, Jordan and Lebanon. During our June mission to the Middle East I will meet with Iraqi Christian refugees.

William J. Murray, Chairman