



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

MAY 16 2015

ISRAELIS' SECURITY 'COMPROMISED' BY VATICAN RECOGNIZING PALESTINE

May 14, 2015 World Net Daily reported: "The diplomatic recognition of the 'state of Palestine' by the Vatican will open the door to a new wave of anti-Semitism and endanger millions of Israeli Jews and Arabs, charge several leading evangelicals who have written about the end times. And the controversial decision by Pope Francis is even leading to allegations the Roman Catholic Church will be an adversary to Christians and the state of Israel during those times.

New York Times bestselling author and filmmaker Joel Richardson slammed the decision as 'an act of profound hatred toward the Jewish people globally.'

In an interview with WND, the author of 'When a Jew Rules the World: What the Bible Really Says About Israel in the Plan of God,' observed: 'To the uninformed, from the outside, recognizing 'Palestine' might seem to be reasonable. Certainly, the God of Heaven loves the Palestinian people as much as the Jew.

'But not to those who have a better grasp of the various political, religious and security related realities on the ground. None who are informed will deny that the establishment of a Palestinian state will compromise the security of the millions of Israeli Jews and Arabs in a profound way.'

Richardson explained the Israeli situation is akin to living next to a large family made up of many people who openly declare their intention to take your property and kill your children..."



Vatican

CONGRESS WARNED 'CATASTROPHIC DANGER' LOOMING

May 14, 2015 World Net Daily reported: "A lack of will among politicians in Washington is the reason why there is no plan to secure America's national grid system from an electromagnetic pulse that would threaten countless lives, according to testimony delivered to Congress Wednesday. An EMP catastrophe could come through nature, such as a massive solar flare directed at Earth, but also through a nuclear explosion at high altitude.

At a joint hearing Wednesday before the subcommittees on national security and the interior, under the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, expert Peter Pry pointed a finger at Washington.

'Political gridlock in Washington is preventing the federal government from implementing any of the several cost-effective plans to protect the national grid,' he said. Pry, executive director of the EMP Task Force on National and Homeland Security, a congressional advisory board, said there is so little effort to address the danger.

Most state governments aren't even aware they have options to strengthen their portion of the grid and protect their citizens from the 'catastrophic consequences of a national blackout.'..."

SURVEY: MORE THAN 40 PERCENT OF BEE HIVES DIED IN PAST YEAR

May 13, 2015 The Associated Press reported: "More than two out of five American honeybee colonies died in the past year, and surprisingly the worst die-off was in the summer, according to a federal survey.

Since April 2014, beekeepers lost 42.1 percent of their colonies, the second highest loss rate in nine years, according to an annual survey conducted by a bee partnership that includes the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"What we're seeing with this bee problem is just a loud signal that there's some bad things happening with our agro-ecosystems," said study co-author Keith Delaplane at the University of Georgia. "We just happen to notice it with the honeybee because they are so easy to count."

But it's not quite as dire as it sounds. That's because after a colony dies, beekeepers then split their surviving colonies, start new ones, and the numbers go back up again, said Delaplane and study co-author Dennis vanEngelsdorp of the University of Maryland.

What shocked the entomologists is that is the first time they've noticed bees dying more in the summer than the winter, said vanEngelsdorp said. The survey found beekeepers lost 27.4 percent of their colonies this summer. That's up from 19.8 percent the previous summer.

Seeing massive colony losses in summer is like seeing "a higher rate of flu deaths in the summer than winter," vanEngelsdorp said. "You just don't expect colonies to die at this rate in the summer."

Oklahoma, Illinois, Iowa, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Maine and Wisconsin all saw more than 60 percent of their hives die since April 2014, according to the survey."..."

STUDY FINDS FEWER CHRISTIANS MORE UNAFFILIATED IN US

May 12, 2015 AFP reported: "The United States is becoming a little less Christian, and a little more unaffiliated to any faith, a major study on the nation's changing religious landscape suggested Tuesday.

"The United States remains home to more Christians than any other country in the world," with 70.6 percent of its population, or 173

million adults, identifying as Christian last year, the Pew Research Center said.

But that figure is down from 2007 when 78.4 percent called themselves Christian, Pew said in its 200-page study, titled "America's Changing Religious Landscape."

The decline is seen across many segments of American society, including whites, Latinos, women, men and those with or without a college education.

But it is particularly marked among younger American, and concerns Roman Catholics as much as mainstream Protestants.

At the same time, Christians are also a more diverse group, a reflection of the growing Latino population, the study found. While Protestants in 2007 accounted for 51.3 percent of Americans with religious affiliation, that slipped to 46.5 percent in 2014, with 62 million Evangelicals and another 36 million belonging to mainstream Protestant denominations.

Roman Catholics, who in September will welcome Pope Francis on his first papal visit to the United States, number 51 million, down three million from 2007. At the same time, the proportion of Americans claiming no religious affiliation -- the so-called "nones" -- has grown from 16.1 percent to 22.80 percent.

That group -- with a median age of 36 -- is increasingly younger, while non-Evangelicals and Catholics -- median age 52 and 49 respectively -- is trending older, the study found.

Non-Christian faiths grew in proportion from 4.7 percent in 2007 to 5.9 percent last year, with growth particularly robust among Muslims and Hindus, albeit from a small base, it said.

Interfaith marriages are meanwhile growing in number, accounting for four marriages in 10 since 2010 compared to fewer than one in 10 prior to 1960.

Pew, which posted its findings on its www.pewresearch.org website, based its study on interviews with more than 35,000 people from June through September last year."

SYRIA CRISIS: TURKEY AND SAUDI ARABIA SHOCK WESTERN COUNTRIES BY SUPPORTING ANTI-ASSAD JIHADISTS

May 11, 2015 independent.uk.co reported: "Turkey and Saudi Arabia are actively supporting a hardline coalition of Islamist rebels against Bashar al-Assad's regime that includes al-Qaeda's affiliate in Syria, in a move that has alarmed Western governments.

The two countries are focusing their backing for the Syrian rebels on the combined Jaish al-Fatah, or the Army of Conquest, a command structure for jihadist groups in Syria that includes Jabhat al-Nusra, an extremist rival to Isis which shares many of its aspirations for a fundamentalist caliphate.

The decision by the two leading allies of the West to back a group in which al-Nusra plays a leading role has alarmed Western governments and is at odds with the US, which is firmly opposed to arming and funding jihadist extremists in Syria's long-running civil war. It threatens to trump Washington's own attempt to train pro-Western opposition fighters, announced by President Barack Obama a year ago but finally launched only last week. The number of fighters involved is small and, crucially, the State Department insists that they would take the field against Isis and not against the regime.

The new joint approach follows an agreement reached in early March when Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan visited the recently crowned Saudi King Salman in Riyadh, diplomats have told The Independent.

Relations had been fraught between the Turkish president and the late King Abdullah, primarily because of Turkey's support for the Muslim Brotherhood, which the Saudi monarchy considers a threat. But Mr Erdogan stressed to Saudi officials that the lack of Western action in Syria, especially the failure to impose a "no-fly zone", meant that regional powers now needed to come together and take the lead to help the opposition."..."

EGYPT ARRESTS FIVE CHRISTIAN CHILDREN FOR BLASPHEMY

May 11, 2015 Breitbart.com reported: "Egyptian authorities arrested five Coptic Christian children after a Muslim mob accused them of blasphemy. The mob was upset they appeared in a video that allegedly 'mocked' Islam, but really only made fun of the Islamic State (ISIS/ISIL), which is determined to wipe Christianity, Judaism, and non-compliant Muslims off the Earth.



The police had arrested the Coptic teacher and held him for four days, but the mob nonetheless demanded more punishment, descending upon the homes of the children and 'threw rocks at the homes of the youth in a bid to force their parents' to surrender the kids.



'The case of the five arrested in Minya and charged with blasphemy represents yet another case of how Egypt continues to bend to the weight of extremist ideology,' explained Todd Daniels, the Middle East regional manager for International Christian Concern.

A video -- not even shared publicly -- that mocked ISIS, a group that openly beheaded twenty Egyptian citizens, has already put these five in prison and may lead to lengthy prison sentences. Despite progress in terms of rhetoric from [Egyptian] President [Abdel Fattah el-Sisi], Egypt has pervasive persecution that continues to occur not only on the societal level but also in the judiciary.'..."

*Compiled by L. Jim Tuck, Pastor
UCGIA Oakland, San Jose, Stockton, Santa Rosa & Hawaii
ljt5053@sbcglobal.net*