

# Eye on the World

## March 6-7, 2010

*This collection of short news items is from the "Eye on the World" section of the Church of God Big Sandy's Web site, churchofgodbigandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of March 6-7, 2010.*

### Compiled by Dave Havir

An article on Aljazeera.net titled "Deadly Landslide Hits Uganda" was posted on March 2, 2010.

The article stated: "A landslide has struck eastern Uganda following heavy rains, killing at least 80 people and leaving hundreds missing, officials have said."



An article on IsraelNationalNews.com titled "Clinton Warns Lebanon: No Brakes On Israel Against Hizbullah" was posted on March 2, 2010. Tzvi Ben Gedalyahu wrote:

"U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton reportedly warned Lebanon's speaker of the parliament, pro-Syrian Nabih Berri, that the United States will not stand in Israel's way in the wake of Hizbullah's stockpiling of advanced weapons."



An article on Aljazeera.net title, "Concern Over Fresh Darfur Fighting" was posted on March 3, 2010.

The article stated: "The United States has expressed concern over reports that the Sudanese army launched offensives against rebels in Darfur after signing a peace deal with the main rebel group there last week."



An article on IsraelNationalNews.com titled "Barak: 'If Attacked, We Won't Chase Individual Terrorists' " was posted on March 2, 2010. Hana Levi Julian wrote:

"Defense Minister Ehud Barak told a Washington, D.C., think tank last Friday that, if attacked, Israel would return fire to the source of the problem, rather than waste time chasing 'individual terrorists.' "

Mr. Barak was referring to the "Hizbullah" in Lebanon. He stated that "Hizbullah" is funded and equipped by Syria and Iran.

Mr. Barak also mentioned the Iranian nuclear threat. He said: "Iran's continued defiance of the United Nations' ban on its nuclear development activities may constitute an existential threat to the Jewish State."

The defense minister mentioned his hope that sanctions would work, but he reserved the option of "a different response by Israel if sanctions were not carried out, or didn't work."



WorldNetDaily.com on March 2, 2010, posted, under its "Faith Under Fire" heading, an article about a man who is appealing a disorderly-conduct charge after praying in a park.

The headline: "Praying in Park Called 'Disorderly Conduct.:' Conviction 'Ridiculous,' Says Attorney; 'This Never Should Have Happened.' "

The article, by Bob Unruh, is follows here in full:

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A New York man is appealing a "disorderly conduct" conviction for praying in a public park.

Julian Raven, defended by the Alliance Defense Fund, was arrested while praying in an Elmira public park during a 2007 "gay pride" event.

"It's ridiculous to consider the act of peacefully exercising one's faith in a public park to be disorderly conduct," said ADF Senior Legal Counsel Joel Oster. "The county court was correct in dismissing three of the convictions. They never should have happened. We are hopeful that the New York Court of Appeals will dismiss the fourth."

WND reported when the original convictions of four people were appealed. Three of the convictions already have been overturned.

Originally, seven people were arrested for praying during the June 23, 2007, homosexual festival in Elmira's Wisner Park that was promoted by city officials. Three defendants were removed from the case almost immediately, leaving four to be convicted by Elmira city judge Thomas Ramich of "disorderly conduct."

The convictions for three—Gloria Raven, Maurice Kienenberger and Walter Quick—later were overturned in the Chemung County Court.

The legal team defending the Christians reported the event was advertised by the city as open to the public.

The Christians "made their way to an area in front of the stage and began to pray silently while lying prostrate in the grass. A police sergeant had earlier

informed Julian Raven that he could not enter the public park, walk through the park or talk to anyone in the park about his religion. After the group began to pray silently on their faces, all were arrested and charged with disorderly conduct," the organization reported.

Court records show that a Sgt. Sharon Moyer told Raven he could not disrupt the event.

So, the ADF reported, he and the others "entered the event to pray silently for event participants and to share the gospel with them."

"There was plenty of room in the park," the ADF said. "No one was being turned away. They walked in silence. Neither the defendant nor anyone from the group bumped into anyone as they entered and they did not force others out of the way."

They walked to a grassy area near the front, kneeled down or lay down, and prayed.

"They chose this posture in order to be as nonthreatening as possible," the ADF said.

Moyer reported she made the arrests because she was concerned that the "pridefest participants might react with hostility to the Christians."

The ADF argues that, under the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution, "peaceful speakers may not be arrested simply because others in the forum may react to their message in a hostile manner.

"The lower courts in this case ruled that the arrests were proper because the defendant must have known that other event participants would respond with hostility. This, however, is precisely what the . . . cases prohibit."

When the Christians were arrested, officials with Elmira justified their actions to WorldNetDaily.

Assistant Police Chief Mike Robertson told WND at the time that the members were accused of a "combination" of allegations, including the "intent" to cause a public inconvenience, a "disturbance" of a meeting of persons and obstructing vehicular or pedestrian traffic.

He also said at the time that the accusations would include taking part in "any act that serves no legitimate purpose."

The prosecutor, Robert Siglin, said the city was concerned for public safety, and that's why the Christians were arrested while exercising their First Amendment rights.