

Eye on the World

May 22-23, 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 May 22-23, 2010.

Compiled by Dave Havir

A Reuters article by Dan Williams titled "Israel Plays Wargame Assuming Iran has Nuclear Bomb" was posted at alertnet.org on May 17, 2010.

It said: "A nuclear-armed Iran would blunt Israel's military autonomy, a wargame involving former Israeli generals and diplomats has concluded, though some players predicted Tehran would also exercise restraint."



An article by Dudi Cohen titled "Iran Says Can Destroy Israel in Week" was posted at ynetnews.com on May 20, 2010.

It said: "Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's chief of staff, Esfandiar Rahim Mashaei, said Wednesday that if Israel attacked Iran it would be destroyed within a week.

"Speaking at a political conference of ultra-conservatives in Iran's north, Mashaei said, 'If the Zionist regime attacks Iran, the Zionists will have no longer than a week to live.' "



An editorial by Burt Prelutsky titled "Obama and the Jews" was posted at burtprelutsky.com on April 12, 2010.

It said: "During the presidential campaign, a lot of people insisted that Obama was really a Muslim pretending to be a Christian. I wasn't one of them. I did figure, though, that if my name was Barack Hussein Obama and I was going to run for president a mere seven years after 9/11, I wouldn't admit I was Muslim, either. On the other hand, I, personally, would have sooner trusted a Muslim who'd been attending a mosque in Dearborn for 20 years than a Christian who'd been attending a racist, anti-American church in Chicago for all that time."

It later mentioned: "His recent rhetoric concerning Jerusalem and his subsequent boorish behavior towards Prime Minister Netanyahu convinces me that in his heart, at least, Obama is an Islamic. The anger and contempt that he has voiced, and that Joe Biden and Hillary Clinton have voiced on his behalf, over Jerusalem's zoning policy is outrageous and contemptible.

"The Jews announce they plan to build 1,200 housing units in Jerusalem and our president goes positively [word deleted], but Hamas fires thousands of rockets into Israel and he doesn't say a word about it!"

The article concluded: "For surely there must be something terribly wrong with a man who seems to be far more concerned with a Jew building a house in Israel than with Muslims building a nuclear bomb in Iran."



An editorial by Burt Prelutsky titled "Carving Up Jerusalem" was posted at burtprelutsky.com on May 17, 2010.

In the article Mr. Prelutsky began by saying he sees the current views of Joe Biden, Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama as not matching what they have expressed in the past.

He gave four examples for Joe Biden.

He also wrote: "For her part, Hillary Clinton, in 2007, issued a statement claiming that she believed that 'Israel's right to exist safely as a Jewish state, with defensible borders and an undivided Jerusalem as its capital, secure from violence and terrorism, must never be questioned.' "

He later wrote: "For his part, Barack Obama, in 2008, gave a campaign speech in which he said, 'Jerusalem will remain the capital of Israel, and it must remain undivided.' Perhaps his teleprompter malfunctioned on that occasion, because the very next day, he explained that he actually was in favor of dividing Jerusalem, but he didn't want barbed wire to be used to divide it."

He concluded: "If one is to draw any insights from all this, it might be that liberal senators only tell the truth when they're no longer running for office, and that Barack Obama, who seems to be okay with nukes in the hands of Muslims, draws a line in the sand when it comes to barbed wire."



An article by Timothy R. Homan titled "Greece Considering Legal Action Against U.S. Banks for Crisis" was posted at bloomberg.com on May 17, 2010.

It said: "Greece is considering taking legal action against U.S. investment banks that might have contributed to the country's debt crisis, Prime Minister George Papandreou said."



An article titled " 'Mummy' Merkel Battered as Germans Lose Faith in EU" was posted at timesonline.co.uk on May 16, 2010.

It said: "The multi-billion-euro payout for Greece, followed by an even more expensive rescue package for the threatened single currency, has created the greatest political climate change in a generation.

"Suddenly Germans are asking questions about the European project that has been the bedrock of their politics for 60 years, leaving Angela Merkel, the chancellor, under fire from the electorate, the opposition and her own party."



An article titled "Europeans Scramble to Restore Unity" was posted at ft.com (Financial Times) on May 19, 2010.

It said: "Europe's leader scrambled to restore unity in the face of the sovereign debt crisis after Germany dismayed allies with a unilateral ban on naked short selling.

"The ban, introduced with no warning to other European nations, knocked global stock markets and sent the euro fumbling to fresh four-year lows against the dollar. An unrepentant Angela Merkel, German chancellor, told parliament in Berlin on Wednesday that the eurozone crisis was the greatest test for the European Union since its creation."



An article by Pan Pylas titled "World Stocks Tumble as Debt Woes Rumble On" was posted at yahoo.com on May 20, 2010.

It said: "World markets fell sharply once again Thursday as sentiment continued to be hit by concerns about the continent's debt crisis and figures showed an unexpected increase in U.S. jobless claims last week. The worries left most of the world's leading indexes now trading below where they started in 2010."



An article titled "Bangkok Burns After Thai Protest Leaders Arrested" was posted at yahoo.com on May 20, 2010.

It said: "Downtown Bangkok became a raging battleground Wednesday as the army stormed a barricaded protest camp and toppled the Red Shirt leadership, enraging demonstrators who fired grenades and set fires that cloaked the skyline in a black haze."



An article titled "Venezuela's Chavez Orders Takeover of Iron-makers" was posted at businessweek.com on May 15, 2010.

It said: "President Hugo Chavez announced Saturday the expropriation of a group of iron, aluminum and transportation companies in Venezuela's mining region."

The article later stated: "Since coming to power more than a decade ago, Chavez has nationalized major companies in the electricity, oil, steel and coffee sectors, as well as other private businesses."



An article by Toby Sterling titled "Dutch Authorities Fear World Cup Terrorism Threat" was posted at google.com on May 19, 2010.

It said: "Dutch security officials said Wednesday they are taking seriously the threat to soccer fans after a terrorism suspect arrested in Iraq claimed he considered attacking Dutch or Danish fans at the World Cup in South Africa."

The suspect said he considered "attacking the Dutch and Danish teams or fans to avenge perceived insults to Islam."

It later mentioned: "Dutch citizens are considered potential targets in part due to an anti-Islam film made by right-wing Dutch Geert Wilders. Similarly, Danes have been considered at risk due to the publication of cartoons featuring Islam's prophet Mohammed."



An article by Jake Tapper titled "Mexican President Rebukes U.S. Law at White House: Arizona Immigration Law 'Is Forcing Our People to Face Discrimination'" was posted at abcnews.com on May 19, 2010.

It said: "Mexican President Felipe Calderon took the unusual step Wednesday morning of criticizing an American law while visiting the White House."

Calderon mentioned that such laws as the Arizona law are "forcing our people to face discrimination."



On May 18, 2010, Louis Gohmert (U.S. congressman from Texas) posted the following on Facebook: "Since Mexico's President will be in D.C. later today and speaking to Congress Thursday, I am working on a bill to basically mirror the immigration laws of Mexico. They are apparently a bit tougher than ours—and imitation is the highest form of flattery."



An article titled "The Fight Over Arizona's Illegal Immigrant Law Escalates to the Power Grid" was posted at latimes.com on May 19, 2010.

The article mentioned the decision of the Los Angeles City Council to boycott Arizona.

The article continued: "Now comes some hardball from a statewide elected Arizonan named Gary Pierce. He's commissioner of the Arizona Corporation Commission, which regulates utilities there."

The article quoted a letter by Mr. Pierce saying: "If an economic boycott is truly what you desire, I will be happy to encourage Arizona utilities to renegotiate your power agreements so Los Angeles no longer receives any power from Arizona-based generation.

"I am confident that Arizona's utilities would be happy to take those electrons off your hands. If, however, you find that the City Council lacks the strength of its convictions to turn off the lights in Los Angeles and boycott Arizona power, please reconsider the wisdom of attempting to harm Arizona's economy.

"People of goodwill can disagree over the merits of SB 1070. A statewide economic boycott of Arizona is not a message sent in goodwill."



An editorial by Burt Prelutsky titled "Don't Cry For Me, Arizona" was posted at burtprelutsky.com on May 10, 2010.

He said: "Arizona has been overrun by at least half a million illegals who have placed unbearable burdens on its schools, hospitals and emergency rooms. They have made Phoenix the kidnap capital of North America and turned its countryside into an open sewer for drug smugglers. It took the cold-blooded murder of an elderly rancher before the good folks of Arizona said enough is enough."

He later wrote: "In my opinion, it should be a criminal act for anyone to compare the new law in Arizona in any way, shape or form to what took place in Nazi Germany. Hitler, in case it slipped your mind, was arresting, torturing and murdering, Germans for no other reason than that they were Jews, Catholics, gypsies, invalids and homosexuals. Members of the gestapo weren't simply asking to look at green cards and sending noncitizens back to Poland, France and Holland. They were sending them to Auschwitz.

"Ironically, Article 67 of Mexico's Immigration Law states: 'Authorities, whether federal, state or municipal, are required to demand that foreigners prove their legal presence in the country.' In spite of which, President Calderon had the gall to compare our border fence to the Berlin Wall. Nobody bothered pointing out to the jackass that there's a world of difference between building a barrier to keep illegal aliens out and erecting one to prevent one's own citizens from escaping."

He concluded by saying: "And how odd is it that leftists, who seem to prefer everything European to anything American, never mention that tourists on the Continent are required to show their passports on a regular basis. So, apparently, it's only the United States that's not supposed to protect its borders from uninvited freeloaders.

"Anyone who has the audacity to suggest that Americans are bigots because we tend to be slightly more suspicious of 25-year-old Saudis boarding airplanes and 25-year-old Mexicans loitering around Home Depots is either a hermit who has spent the past few decades living in a cave or a politician pandering for cheap votes.

"Believe me, when Swedes start blowing up our buildings and 12 million Aussies try sneaking across our border, we'll be equally suspicious of tall blonds and guys who call us 'mates' and keep asking us to toss another shrimp on the 'barbie.' "



An article by Kirk Semple titled "In Trenton, Issuing IDs for Illegal Immigrants" was posted at nytimes.com on May 16, 2010.

It said: "As a new law in Arizona makes the failure to carry immigration documents a crime and spurs similar proposals in other states, Trenton [New Jersey] is one of small . . . number of municipalities that have moved in the opposite direction—making sure that illegal immigrants have documents to make their lives easier."

Other cities mentioned in the article include San Francisco, Calif., New Haven, Conn., and Asbury Park and Princeton, N.J.



An article titled "U.S. Episcopal Church Consecrates Lesbian Bishop" was posted at reuters.com on May 15, 2010.

It said: "The Episcopal diocese of Los Angeles ordained an openly lesbian bishop on Saturday, a move likely to stoke further tensions between liberals and conservatives in the deeply divided global Anglican Communion."

It later mentioned: "The event is news for the 77 million Anglicans around the world and the seriously split Anglican Communion, the group of Anglican national churches in which the Episcopal Church is the U.S. member.

"The Communion was rocked by the Episcopal Church's consecration of its first openly gay bishop, Gene Robinson, in 2003."

The Anglican Communion is the third-largest Christian denomination in the world, after the Roman Catholic Church and the Orthodox churches.



An article by Paul Farhi titled "White House Video Blog Offers an Inside View" was posted at washingtonpost.com on May 15, 2010.

The article said the Obama administration is developing its own communication outlets, which appear to circumvent traditional journalists.

It said: "The White House media management practices have drawn quiet criticism from journalists in the past few weeks. Despite Obama's campaign pledge to be open with the media, members of the White House Correspondents' Association met with [press secretary Robert] Gibbs recently to complain about limitations on their access."



An article titled "Press Freedom Sure. But No Questions" was posted at cbsnews.com on May 17, 2010.

It said: "There was some rich irony at the White House today—President Obama signed the Press Freedom Act, and then promptly refused to take any questions."



An editorial by Raven Clabough titled "Pelosi Welcomes Church's Role—When Convenient" was posted at thenewamerican.com on May 13, 2010.

It said: "Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi on May 6 addressed the Catholic clergyman at the Catholic Community Conference on Capitol Hill, where she attempted to use the Christian leaders' belief system to push her liberal agenda."

One of Ms. Pelosi's remarks: "I want you to speak about it [immigration reform] from the pulpit. Some (who oppose) immigration reform are sitting in those pews, and you have to tell them that this is a manifestation of our living the gospels."

The article noted the irony of Ms. Pelosi wanting to push politics in churches when she had previously been "assigned a grade of 100 percent for her strict adherence" to the maxim of the separation of church and state.

The article said: "Of course, anyone who has read the Constitution knows that the axiom 'separation of church and state' is nowhere to be found. The Constitution's reference to religion is simply that Congress cannot establish a national religion, nor prohibit the free exercise of religion. But for years the constitutional language has been misconstrued to serve the progressive agenda and the First Amendment morphed into the liberal rallying cry 'separation of church and state.'

"But all of a sudden, believes Pelosi, the church and state are partners. Pelosi obviously wants to use the church to push the agenda of the state, but she would like to pick and choose when the church can play such a role."

For example, Ms. Pelosi insisted in her appearance in her 2008 appearance on *Meet the Press*, that “the church could not be the moral authority on abortion.”

The article later said: “Progressives like Nancy Pelosi defend the violation of free will under the guise of ‘social justice,’ which they interchange with ‘charity.’ But they would not be able to find anything in the Bible or Judeo-Christian tradition indicating that the government should *force* people into charity, aka ‘redistributing their wealth.’ In fact, forcing people to be charitable violates the very definition of charity, which necessitates a voluntary component.”



An article titled “Obama Mocks GOP As Reckless Drivers Who Drove America ‘Into the Ditch’ ” was posted at huffingtonpost.com on May 14, 2010.

It said: “President Obama deployed some of his sharpest metaphors at a Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee fundraiser in New York City on Thursday [May 13], comparing Republican leaders to reckless drivers and lazy custodial workers.”

It later mentioned: “Most of Obama’s speech followed in this vein—painting Republicans as obstructionists who have blocked meaningful legislative action in Washington for pure political gain.”

The article also mentioned that the president spoke before “a small, entertained crowd of 185 people at the St. Regis hotel in Manhattan, an appearance that was expected to draw a \$1.3 million haul.”



The following jokes were posted at newsmax.com on May 17, 2010.

Here are three jokes from the section called “The Tonight Show With Jay Leno.”

The first one was: “Nancy Pelosi told Catholic leaders they need to support the Democratic version of immigration reform, and to preach it from the pulpit. She would have said more but she had to leave to attend a rally for the separation of church and state.”

The second one was: “President Obama said he’s angry and frustrated with the oil spill in the Gulf and the oil companies behind it. He said he’s tired of all the finger-pointing—then he blamed the Bush administration for everything.”

The third one was: “Attorney General Eric Holder has said that he may sue Arizona for their new immigration law, though he admitted that he had not read the law yet. That didn’t stop them from passing healthcare.”