

# Eye on the World

## *May 29–30, 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](http://churchofgodbigandy.com). It was posted for the weekend of May 29–30, 2010.

**Compiled by Dave Havir**

An article titled “Lifting US Ban of Russia’s S-300s for Iran Blows Hole in Israel’s Security” was posted at DEBKAFfile ([debka.com](http://debka.com)) on May 22, 2010.

The following are excerpts from the article.

Israel’s security suffered a major setback on the eve of its homeland war-safety exercise (starting Sunday, May 23) from Obama administration concessions that were granted to buy Moscow’s backing for UN Security Council sanctions against Iran.

One was the deletion of an embargo on sophisticated weaponry, including the suspended sale of Russian S-300 systems sought by Tehran for shooting down any U.S. or Israel warplanes attacking its nuclear sites.

As Israel prepared to drill millions of the country’s civilians to prepare for synchronized assault by hundreds of rockets and missiles from Iran, Syria, Lebanon and the Gaza Strip, Washington awarded Moscow, i.e. Tehran, three additional gains.

DEBKAFfile’s Iranian sources point out that in five short days—since accepting the Brazilian-Turkish uranium swap deal—Tehran has substantially enhanced its international and strategic position in four critical areas.

1. Tough UN sanctions are off the table, leaving individual governments the freedom to proceed, or not, with unilateral penalties against Iran’s nuclear violations.
2. The heavily diluted UN draft omits any mention of energy bans, such [as] the refined oil products, a provision formerly advocated by Washington as the most effective means of forcing Iran to abandon its drive for a nuclear program.
3. Not only has the notion of a sea blockade gone by the board, but heavy restrictions are clamped down on searches of vessels suspected of carrying contraband military or nuclear cargoes, for which permission must now be requested by the nation flagged.

This allows Iran and Syria to safely import nuclear materials and missiles by sea without fear of interception. Even before the haggling begins, therefore,

the new "sanctions" draft before the UN Security Council scarcely answers to its description.

4. The Obama administration's inclination to treat the new uranium exchange deal brokered by Brazil and Turkey as the Six-Power Group's springboard for bringing Tehran back to the negotiating table offers Iran the gift of more time and space to achieve its ultimate objective of a nuclear weapon.

Military sources point out to DEBKAfile that Washington's uneven and inconsistent approach to Iran and Syria make naught of the protestations made by President Obama and other U.S. officials of their unshakable commitment to Israel's security. The unhindered delivery of S-300 missiles to Iran, like the latest Russian arms deal with Syria, substantially offsets Israel's capacity to deter its enemies. Not only are its air force pilots placed in harm's way, so too is the country's entire population.



An article titled "Syria: Obama Has Failed in Peace Efforts and Lost Influence in Mideast" was posted at haaretz.com on May 24, 2010.

The article said: "Syrian President Bashar Assad said Monday that the United States has lost its influence in the Middle East due to its failure to contribute to regional peace, in an interview with the Italian newspaper *La Repubblica*."

The article later said: "Assad's comments came just before Obama was to meet with Lebanon Prime Minister Sa'as al-Hariri to raise Washington's concerns about Syria arming Hezbollah guerrillas in Lebanon."

According to Syria's official news agency SANA, President Assad told French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner in Damascus on Sunday: "The region has changed, and the West's policy in the area is no longer acceptable, [and] keeping silent over Israeli violations is no longer acceptable."



An editorial by Charles Krauthammer titled "The Fruits of Weakness" was posted at washingtonpost.com on May 21, 2010.

It said: "This is not just an America in decline. This is an America in retreat—accepting, ratifying and declaring its decline, and inviting rising powers to fill the vacuum.

"Nor is this retreat by inadvertence. This is retreat by design and, indeed, on principle. It's the perfect fulfillment of Mr. Obama's adopted Third World narrative of American misdeeds, disrespect and domination from which he has come to redeem us and the world."

(Mr. Krauthammer's entire article can be seen at the "Edifying the Body" section of churchofgodbig sandy.com for the weekend of May 29-30, 2010.)



An editorial by Jeffrey T. Kuhner titled "Fruits of Obama Diplomacy: A Geopolitical Disaster" was posted at worldtribune.com on May 24, 2010.

It said: "Mr. Ahmadinejad has outmaneuvered Mr. Obama once again. The Persian Nazi dictator has outfoxed—and outmuscled—the transnational leftist dove. He has successfully divided world opinion on Iran's nuclear program. Rather than becoming more diplomatically isolated, Iran is beginning to peel away traditional American allies such as Turkey and Brazil. Mr. Obama's policy of diplomatic engagement has failed—miserably."

It later said: "He [Barack Obama] has left his extended hand open despite constant rebukes—and even public derision—by Mr. Ahmadinejad. Mr. Obama has sacrificed human rights and democracy promotion at the altar of appeasement."



An article by Amy Teibel titled "Israel Holds Defense Drill Amid Regional Tension" was posted at yahoo.com on May 23, 2020.

It said: "Israel held a dress rehearsal for disaster Sunday, beginning a defense drill to test the response of soldiers, emergency crews and civilians to simulated missile barrages, terrorist attacks and chemical strikes.

"Israel embarked on its fourth annual home front drill at a time when Iran-backed militants are rearming to Israel's north and south, and Iran itself is suspected of developing nuclear arms, despite its denials."



An article titled "Hizbullah Puts 20,000 Soldiers on Alert Near Israel" was posted at worldtribune.com on May 24, 2010.

It said: "The Iranian-sponsored Hizbullah has mobilized up to 20,000 soldiers and placed them on alert to confront Israel's military along the Lebanese border.

"Hizbullah, with an estimated 60,000 missiles and rockets, has been recruiting to double its force in Lebanon. Most of the Shi'ite troops, trained in Iran and Syria, were said to have been deployed in southern Lebanon and the Bekaa Valley."



An article titled "Fate of Gaza Flotilla Remains Vague" was posted at jpost.com (*The Jerusalem Post*) on May 26, 2010.

It said: "While the navy is preparing to stop nine international aid ships that will try to reach the Gaza Strip later this week, the military is still waiting to receive a final order of what to do from Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, defense officials told *The Jerusalem Post* on Tuesday."

It said later: "The vessels, carrying 10,000 tons of cargo and some 550 pro-Palestinian activists, will probably reach the coastal waters of Gaza by Friday

or Saturday, Dror Feiler, one of the organizers, said by satellite phone from aboard the Swedish-Greek ship *Sofia*.

"The ships set sail from Ireland, Sweden, Turkey and Greece, Feiler said. Some are carrying television crews that plan to broadcast live any confrontation between the IDF and the activists."



An Associated Press article by Maamoun Youssef titled "Yemeni Cleric Advocates Killing US Civilians" was posted at google.com on May 23, 2010.

It said: "An American-Yemeni cleric whose Internet sermons are believed to have helped inspire attacks on the U.S. has advocated the killing of American citizens in an al-Qaida video release Sunday.

"Anwar al-Awlaki has been singled out by U.S. officials as a key terrorist threat and has reportedly been added to the CIA's list of targets for assassination despite his American citizenship. He is of particular concern because he is one of the few English-speaking radical clerics able to explain to young Muslims in American and the other Western countries the philosophy of violent jihad."

The article described how Al-Awlaki used a 45-minute video to "justify civilian deaths" by accusing the United States of "intentionally killing a million Muslim civilians" around the world.

The article later said: "In the months before the Fort Hood shooting, which killed 13 people, al-Awlaki exchanged e-mails with the alleged attacker, U.S. Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan. Hasan initiated the contacts, drawn by al-Awlaki's Internet sermons, and approached him for religious advice."



An article by Song Jung-a titled "Alarm Rises as N Korea Threatens Attack" was posted at ft.com (Financial Times) on May 27, 2010.

It said: "North Korea threatened to scrap all military assurance agreements with South Korea on Thursday and warned of an immediate attack should Seoul intrude on the disputed maritime border, raising tensions on the peninsula.

"Pyongyang's threat to abandon the agreements—designed to prevent accidental armed clashes and protect the safety of South Korean workers in a Northern factory enclave—came as Seoul elevated its alert level and began anti-submarine exercises off the west coast of the peninsula.

"The threats mark the most serious deterioration in relations between the neighbours, who are still officially at war, in more than a decade and have rattled international markets."



An article by Tom Topousis titled "NYers Wage Jihad vs. WTC Mosque" was posted at nypost.com on May 26, 2010.

It said: "Angry relatives of 9/11 victims last night clashed with supporters of a planned mosque near Ground Zero at a raucous community-board hearing in Manhattan.

"After four hours of public debate, members of Community Board 1 finally voted 29-1 in support of the project. Nine members abstained, arguing that they wanted to table the issue and vote at a later date.

"The board has no official say over whether the estimated \$100 million mosque and community center gets built. But the panel's support, or lack of it, is considered important in influencing public opinion."



An article titled "At Least 60 Dead In Jamaican Slum Standoff As Police Storm Den of Druglord Wanted by U.S." was posted at [dailymail.co.uk](http://dailymail.co.uk) on May 26, 2010.

It said: "Thousands of police assaulted the Kingston council estate occupied by heavily armed gangsters as a three-day slum standoff over Christopher 'Dudus' Coke exploded into violence."

Hospital sources have reported that at least 60 people had died in the fighting.

The article continued: "The Jamaican government has already ordered a month-long state of emergency. Last night the Foreign Office was warning against all but essential travel to the Jamaican capital."



An article by Alessandro Speciale titled "My Father, My Lover: Priests Struggle With Celibacy" was posted at [globalpost.com](http://globalpost.com) on May 26, 2010.

It said: "ROME, Italy—They are used to secrecy, to hiding their feelings, to waiting in the shadows for their men. But now a group of women who have had intimate relationships with Catholic priests has decided to speak up against celibacy.

"As sex abuse scandals once again rock the Catholic Church, the 39 Italian women who are, or have been, in longtime sentimental and sexual relationships with Catholic priests have penned *an open letter* to Pope Benedict XVI, denouncing the compulsory celibacy as a "torn up shroud." In the letter, the women describe the closeted lives they lead as companions to priests and ask the pope to consider that, perhaps, their men can only fulfill their priestly duties with their lives fulfilled by marriage."



An editorial by Jeff Poor titled "Scarborough Rips Press for Coverage of Alleged Sestak-Obama Deal: 'It is a Federal Crime' " was posted at [newbusters.org](http://newbusters.org) on May 24, 2010.

The article said: "MSNBC's Joe Scarborough has had a few missteps and stumbles over the years, perhaps tarnishing his conservative credentials in some people's view, but he still raises some great points every now and then."

In a segment on his *Morning Joe*, Mr. Scarborough wanted to know why an alleged deal that occurred between then-prospective Pennsylvania Democratic senatorial nominee Rep. Joe Sestak and President Barack Obama had not been covered with the same degree of thoroughness as were allegations during previous administrations.

Mr. Scarborough said: "We've had several reporters on today that seem to be going, bending over backwards, giving the White House the benefit of the doubt, when if Dick Cheney had offered this deal indictments would already be down. This is so clear-cut."



An editorial by Michael Reagan titled "Obama Fumbles Handling of Gulf Oil Spill" was posted at [newsmax.com](http://newsmax.com) on May 27, 2010.

It said: "Since last month's oil-spill disaster in the Gulf of Mexico, two very different leadership styles have been on display.

"On the one hand we have president Obama, who took nine days before making a public statement on the spill. ON the other, we have Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, who has been intensely and vocally involved from the beginning."

The article later said: "Under the justification of maintaining a regular schedule and demonstrating calm, President Obama has cavalierly gone about with casual events, even fundraisers . . ."

The article later said: "Jindal has been a tireless advocate for his state, challenging mistaken federal approaches and pressuring BP to make every possible effort to quell this spill. And when the focus is fully switched to clean-up efforts, the people of Louisiana can have every confidence that Gov. Jindal will continue in the manner he has begun."

The article later said: "Again we see a pattern of lackluster efforts from our president. Words and a veneer of calm are not a demonstration of leadership. They do not serve as action and progress. And coming from an administration whose party trounced President Bush for his conduct in the Gulf, such 'leadership' is not only ineffective but actually hypocritical."



An article titled "Obama Addresses Critics of Gulf Oil Response While Fundraising for Boxer" was posted at [foxnews.com](http://foxnews.com) on May 26, 2010.

It said: "In the face of mounting criticism over his administration's response to the Gulf oil spill, President Obama defended his response to the catastrophe at a San Francisco fundraiser on Tuesday, saying 'the situation in the gulf is heartbreaking, and we're doing everything we can.' "

The article later said: "Obama chided Republicans for sitting on the sidelines and putting politics ahead of the needs of the American people."



An article titled "BP Oil Spill: Gov. Jindal Asks for Permission to Build Barrier Islands" was posted at abcnews.go.com on May 24, 2010.

It said: "As thick oil flows into the sensitive marshes of the Louisiana coast, Gov. Bobby Jindal called on the White House and BP today to either stop the oil spill or get out of his way.

"Jindal is still waiting for the federal government to provide millions of feet in boom and to approve an emergency permit for a state plan to dredge and build new barrier islands to keep the oil from reaching the marshes and wetlands.

"Jindal is so desperate for the islands, he's said he'll build them even if it sends him to jail."



An article by Dennis Cauchon titled "Private Pay Shrinks to Historic Lows" was posted at usatoday.com on May 24, 2010.

It said: "Paychecks from private business shrank to their smallest share of personal income in U.S. history during the first quarter of this year, a *USA Today* analysis of government data finds.

"At the same time, government-provided benefits—from Social Security, unemployment insurance, food stamps and other programs—rose to a record high during the first three months of 2010."



An editorial by Burt Prelutsky titled "The War on Christianity" was posted at burtprelutsky.com on May 24, 2010.

The article said: "When I read that Americans had responded to the earthquake in Haiti by donating over a billion dollars to relief efforts, I was amazed once again at the generosity of my fellow citizens. Even though they, themselves, are suffering through an economic meltdown, they once again opened their purses, their wallets and their hearts, in order to help out suffering strangers. Even though at least half of the donors were conservatives, those very folks that left-wingers deride as bigots, the recipients were black men, women and children."

In the article Mr. Prelutsky discussed the bigotry toward politician Mitt Romney because of his religion.

He said: "But unless someone is an Islamic fundamentalist or a Satanist . . . one's religion shouldn't preclude a decent person's being elected president."

From that point Mr. Prelutsky wondered how a man with so little leadership experience like Barack Obama could become the current resident in the White House.

He wrote: "Frankly, I think it was a classic case of Pygmalionism. Americans, thanks in great part to the most rancid media this side of China, were mesmerized by the mantra of Hope and Change. Voters were encouraged to think of politics in terms of a fairy tale, as if Obama was Prince Charming and that empty slogan was code for 'And they all lived happily ever after.'"

"The more Obama talked, the more, it seemed, poor, ugly men were lulled into thinking they'd become rich and handsome, while homely women came away believing they'd become beautiful and be pursued by rich, handsome men.

"Pygmalionism, as you probably guessed, is the state of being in love with an object of one's own making. These days, it's also known as Obamaism.

"The confounding aspect of all this is how so many people who regard religion as a sham, and who have nothing but contempt for Christianity and Judaism, continue to believe that Obama is the messiah.

"That brings us to Rev. Franklin Graham, who was first invited to address the Pentagon on the National Day of Prayer, and then was uninvited after a couple of Muslims complained.

"I am not a Christian and I have never met Rev. Graham, but I was outraged after hearing about this. Since when does the intolerance of a few nullify the wishes of the many? This is not to suggest that a minority should be deprived of their say, but nowhere is it written that they are entitled to the final say.

"From my vantage point, it appears that, even after the Pentagon's cowardly policy of political correctness led directly to the murders of 13 innocent Americans at Fort Hood, the military still hasn't learned its lesson."



An article by Jana Winter titled "Feds Issue Terror Watch for the Texas-Mexico border" was posted at foxnews.com on May 26, 2010.

It said: "The Department of Homeland Security is alerting Texas authorities to be on the lookout for a suspected member of the Somalia-based Al Shabaab terrorist group who might be attempting to travel to the U.S. through Mexico, a security expert who has seen the memo tells FOXNews.com.

"The warning follows an indictment unsealed this month in Texas federal court that accuses a Somali man in Texas of running a 'large-scale smuggling enterprise' responsible for bringing hundreds of Somalis from Brazil through South America and eventually across the Mexican border. Many of the illegal immigrants, who court records say were given fake IDs, are alleged to have ties to other now-defunct Somalian terror organizations that have merged with active organizations like Al Shabaab, al-Barakat and Al-Ittihad Al-Islami."

The article continued: "Security experts tell FOXNews.com that the influx of hundreds of Somalis over the U.S. border who allegedly have ties to suspected terror cells is evidence of a porous and unsecured border being exploited by groups intent on wreaking deadly havoc on American soil."



*(A listing of seven articles about the new Arizona law against illegal immigration can be found in the "Among Friends" section of the church Web site [churchofgodbig sandy.com] for this weekend.)*