

# Eye on the World

## Aug. 21-22, 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 Aug. 21-22, 2010.

**Compiled by Dave Havir**

**Luke 21:34-36**—"But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that day come on you unexpectedly. For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."



An article by Omar Waraich titled "Thousands Dead, Millions Homeless; Now Pakistan Faces Cholera and Riots" was posted at [independent.co.uk](http://independent.co.uk) on Aug. 15, 2010.

It said: "Two days ago, the president of the World Bank, Robert Zoellick, said that the floods may have destroyed crops worth around \$1bn. About a quarter of Pakistan's economy is derived from agriculture, and nearly half of its workforce are employed by the agricultural sector. The damage is on top of the cost of 1,600 lives, two million people driven from their homes, and the lives of 20 million—fully 12 per cent of the entire population—disrupted across the country. Six million still need food, shelter and water, and yesterday the first dread case of cholera—a water-borne disease that can be devastating in the wake of floods—was confirmed."



A Reuters article titled "Pakistanis Block Highways to Protest Slow Flood Aid" was posted at [yahoo.com](http://yahoo.com) on Aug. 16, 2010.

It said: "Pakistani flood victims, burning straw and waving sticks, blocked a highway on Monday to demand government help as aid agencies warned relief was too slow to arrive for millions without clean water, food and homes.

"Public anger has grown in the two weeks of floods, highlighting potential political troubles for an unpopular government overwhelmed by a disaster that has disrupted the lives of at least a tenth of its 170 million people.



An article by Shmyalla Jawad titled "Pakistan Floods: 'Cultural Shock' for Women in Camps" was posted at [bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk) on Aug. 18, 2010.

Ms. Jawad, who is the gender adviser for the Plan International organization in Pakistan, visited some of these camps in the Layyah district in Southern Punjab.

It said: "Visiting these camps was [a] heart wrenching experience. I was appalled to see the conditions in which these people are living.

"But what emerged for me to be the most worrying thing was how women and young girls are being affected by this . . .

"Health and sanitation is a big issue. One camp set up in a government building had no bathing facility. Whereas the men and young children can take baths outside on the school lawn, women don't have that option.

"Many people didn't have a chance to pick up their belongings when the floods hit their village so they have no change of clothes. Many are wearing what they left home in and without being able to wash, and women's hygiene in particular has deteriorated. The situation is even worse for menstruating and pregnant women.

"The camps are also culturally shocking for women and girls. Many have never been around a man who isn't a member of their family. Now they are amongst hundreds of men who are complete strangers.

"In some sectors of Pakistan society, apart from the religious notions of covering up and not mingling with males outside one's family, women are considered to be the custodians of male and family honour.

"This notion of honour is linked with women's sexual behaviour so their sexuality is considered to be a potential threat to the honour of family. Therefore, the systems of sex segregation known as purdah are used by society to protect the honour of the family.

"But in the camps there are no provisions for purdah. Young boys and girls have to sleep in the same room, at times next to each other. Most mothers and families do not feel safe for their daughters, especially in the current circumstances."



A Reuters article by Zeeshan Haider titled "Pakistan Flood Homeless Toll Put at Over 4 Million" was posted at [yahoo.com](http://yahoo.com) on Aug. 19, 2010.

It said: "More than four million Pakistanis have made homeless by nearly three weeks of floods, the United Nations said on Thursday, making the critical task of securing greater amounts of aid more urgent."



An article titled "Peru Battles Rabid Vampire Bats After 500 People Bitten" was posted at [bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk) on Aug. 13, 2010.

It said: "Peru's health ministry has sent emergency teams to a remote Amazon region to battle an outbreak of rabies spread by vampire bats.

"Four children in the Awajun indigenous tribe died after being bitten by the bloodsucking mammals. Health workers have given rabies vaccine to more than 500 people who have also been attacked.

"Some experts have linked mass vampire bat attacks on people in the Amazon to deforestation."



An article by Subir Bhaumik titled "Two More Indian Tribal Women 'Forced to Walk Naked' " was posted at [bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk) on Aug. 19, 2010.

It said: "Two more tribal women have been stripped and forced to parade naked in front of large crowds in the Indian state of West Bengal, police say. The incidents were in the same area—the Birbhum district—where a similar case took place four months ago. Locals say that the women were being punished for 'having close relations' with men from other communities."

It later said: "Officials [who are investigating the incidents] say all three women were forced to walk long distances without their clothes—in the first case, the woman was also filmed. They say that the 'hapless women' were molested and jeered by large crowds as they walked."



An article titled "N. Korea Warns of 'Severest Punishment' Over War Games" was posted at [yahoo.com](http://yahoo.com) on Aug. 15, 2010.

It said: "North Korea's military threatened Sunday to launch the 'severest punishment' against South Korea for staging massive joint war games with the United States this week."

It later said: "About 30,000 US soldiers will take part in the exercise, a US military spokesman said, adding an unspecified number of American soldiers based in the United States would join in via computer networks.

"Some 56,000 South Korean soldiers will be mobilised for the war games, a defence ministry spokesman said."



A Reuters article titled "Gates Says Kim Jong-il's Son Seeks Military 'Stripes' " was posted at [reuters.com](http://reuters.com) on Aug. 13, 2010.

It said: "Defense Secretary Robert Gates said on Thursday [Aug. 12, 2010] recent provocations by North Korea against the south were probably tied to ailing leader Kim Jong-il's youngest son seeking to earn his military 'stripes.' "

It later said: "Ailing ruler Kim Jong-il appears to be trying to engineer the succession of his youngest son as leader of one of the world's most isolated countries, which has been pressing ahead with efforts to develop a nuclear arsenal."



A Reuters article titled "More Than 1 Million Govt. Employees Strike for More Pay" was posted at france24.com on Aug. 18, 2010.

It said: "More than one million South African state workers went on strike for more pay on Wednesday, threatening a prolonged action they say will bring the government in Africa's largest economy to a halt."



A Reuters article titled "Santiago's Mayor Found Dead in Latest Violence by Suspected Drug Cartels" was posted at france24.com on Aug. 19, 2010.

It said: "Police on Wednesday found the body of Edelmiro Cavazos, the mayor of Santiago, days after he was abducted by suspected members of a drug cartel. Officials said Cavazos was probably targeted for his efforts to tackle police corruption."



A Reuters article titled "Court Order Banning Violent Images Prompts Cries of Censorship" was posted at france24.com on Aug. 19, 2010.

It said: "A Venezuelan court has ordered two opposition newspapers not to print violent images following the publication of controversial photographs alongside an article on security, prompting cries of censorship ahead of a September 26 legislative vote."



An article titled "Flights Begin Taking Expelled Roma to Romania" was posted at france24.com on Aug. 19, 2010.

It said: "Criticism mounted against France on Thursday as the country began expelling some 700 ethnic Roma rounded up during recent crackdowns on illegal migrant camps. The European Union has called on France to obey EU migration rules."



An article by Samuel Goldsmith and Helen Kennedy titled "Bedbug City: 1 in 10 New Yorkers Has Grappled With Bedbugs in Their Home" was posted at nydailynews.com on Aug. 16, 2010.

It said: "A new Daily News-Marist poll suggests that The City That Never Sleeps is probably too busy itching. One in 10 New Yorkers has now battled bedbugs in their homes.

"That's twice as many as the city estimated were plagued by the pests in 2009."



An article titled "Father Saves Three-Year-Old From Bear in German Zoo" was posted at bbc.co.uk on Aug. 19, 2010.

It said: "A father has saved his three-year-old daughter from an Asian black bear after the girl climbed into the animal's enclosure in a German zoo, police say . . . The bear hit the girl on the forehead before her father was able to snatch her away, police said. The 34-year-old Dutch man was also attacked and his leg injured.

"The girl climbed the 1m (3ft) high fence while her parents were not watching and fell into a moat in the enclosure."



An editorial by Jerry Golden titled "Just One Trigger Finger Can Do It" was posted at thegoldenreport.com on Aug. 14, 2010.

It said: "With Hezbollah, Hamas, Lebanon, Syria, and Iran all on the highest alert, and all five literally sitting a few hundred yards apart—staring at each other with loaded guns—it will only take one trigger happy soldier to plunge this whole planet into the Third World War."

It later said: "When we take a closer look at what is happening in and near Iran (mostly in the Straits of Hormuz and the Gulf of Oman), we see once again the gathering of many American warships. This includes the USS *Truman* aircraft carrier with over 6,000 Marines aboard. She is accompanied by a fleet which includes the USS *Normandy* (a missile cruiser) and the USS *Oscar Austin* (a missile destroyer).

"We have been told that the USS *Truman* doesn't go anywhere without being protected by at least two nuclear subs. There are other vessels in the area as well; the USS *Churchill* and the USS *Peiliu*. They are stationed in the Arabian Sea and have many Marines aboard. These are just the ones we know about.

"The Iranians possess many torpedo and missile boats and they have recently purchased the British 'Bladerunner' speedboat which has a top speed in excess of 60 mph. What worries the USS *Truman* is that these vessels are armed with the Russian Shkval torpedoes, believed to be the fastest in the world with speeds of 360 mph. They would be impossible to destroy once

fired. To add to this scenario, Iran has now sent out four Ghadir type mini-sub into the area.

"As we have reported over the past few weeks, Israel is now believed to have at least two submarines and two warships located somewhere near the Iranian coast.

"What is not known is how many, if any, Russian subs are in that area also. We do know that they have been seen docking along the Syrian coast with aircraft carriers also unloading military gear for Hezbollah and the Lebanese Army.

"I believe the 'Flotillas' now trying to break the Gaza blockade are nothing but an organized effort to draw attention away from the Persian Gulf and what is happening there at present."



An article titled "Israel Has '8 Days' to Hit Iran Nuclear Site: Bolton" was posted at yahoo.com on Aug. 17, 2010.

It said: "Israel has 'eight days' to launch a military strike against Iran's Bushehr nuclear facility and stop Tehran from acquiring a functioning atomic plant, a former US envoy to the UN has said.

"Iran is to bring online its first nuclear power reactor, built with Russia's help, on August 21, when a shipment of nuclear fuel will be loaded into the plant's core.

"At that point, John Bolton warned Monday, it will be too late for Israel to launch a military strike against the facility because any attack would spread radiation and affect Iranian civilians."

It later said: "But when asked whether he expected Israel to actually launch strikes against Iran within the next eight days, Bolton was skeptical."

The article quoted Mr. Bolton as saying: "I don't think so. I'm afraid that they've lost this opportunity."



An article by Dov Preminger titled "Bolton: Obama Won't Strike Iranian Nuclear Reactor" was posted at jpost.com (*The Jerusalem Post*) on Aug. 17, 2010.

It said: "Former US ambassador to the UN John Bolton said he didn't see 'any signs whatsoever that President Obama would make the necessary decision' to strike Iran's nuclear reactor, speaking in an interview with Israel Radio Tuesday.

"Bolton claimed Israel has only three days to strike before Russia 'begins the fueling process for the Bushehr reactor this Friday,' after which any attack would cause radioactive fallout that could reach as far as the waters of the Persian Gulf.

"In an interview with Fox Business Network earlier Tuesday Bolton had said the deadline was eight days, but he revised it to three in the Israel Radio interview, saying Iran and Russia had announced they would begin fueling on Friday."



An article by Mark Mazzetti and David E. Sanger titled "U.S. Assures Israel That Iran Threat Is Not Imminent" was posted at nytimes.com on Aug. 19, 2010.

It said: "The Obama administration, citing evidence of continued troubles inside Iran's nuclear program, has persuaded Israel that it would take roughly a year—and perhaps longer—for Iran to complete what one senior official called a 'dash' for a nuclear weapon, according to American officials.

"Administration officials said they believe the assessment has dimmed the prospect that Israel would pre-emptively strike against the country's nuclear facilities within the next year, as Israeli officials have suggested in thinly veiled threats."

It later said: "For years, Israeli and American officials have debated whether Iran is on an inexorable drive toward a nuclear bomb and, if so, how long it would take to produce one. A critical question has been the time it would take Tehran to convert existing stocks of low-enriched uranium into weapons-grade material, a process commonly known as 'breakout.'

"Israeli intelligence officials had argued that Iran could complete such a race for the bomb in months, while American intelligence agencies have come to believe in the past year that the timeline is longer."

It later said: "Israeli officials have indicated that if they saw a race for the bomb under way, they would probably take military action and encourage the United States to join the effort. A spokesman for Israel's embassy in Washington declined to comment for this article. In interviews, Israeli officials said their assessments were coming into line with the American view, but they remain suspicious that Iran has a secret enrichment site yet to be discovered."



An article titled "Iran Says to Unveil Array of Weapons Next Week" was posted at Breitbart.com on Aug. 17, 2010.

It said: "Defence Minister Ahmad Vahidi said on Tuesday that Iran will unveil next week an array of weapons, including missiles, speedboats and a long range drone, the ISNA news agency reported.

"Two missiles, Qiam (Rising) and the third generation Fateh 110 (Conqueror) would be tested next week when Iran marks the annual government week."

It later said: "On Sunday Iran launches its annual government week which runs until August 30 and is an occasion to showcase Tehran's achievements."



An article titled "Iran Test Fires Missile" was posted at telegraph.co.uk on Aug. 20, 2010.

It said: "Iran has test fired a surface-to-surface missile, according to the country's defence minister. Ahmad Vahidi's announcement comes a day before Iran is scheduled to launch its Russian-built first nuclear power plant in the southern port city of Bushehr."



An Associated Press article by Ali Akbar Dareini titled "Iran Prepares to Start Up First Nuclear Reactor" was posted at yahoo.com on Aug. 20, 2010.

It said: "BUSHEHR, Iran—Iranian and Russian nuclear technicians made final preparations to start up Iran's first reactor on Saturday after years of delays, an operation that will mark a milestone in what Tehran considers its right to produce nuclear energy.

"Nationwide celebrations are planned for the fuel loading at the Bushehr facility in southern Iran, while Russia pledges to safeguard the plant and prevent spent nuclear fuel from being shifted to a possible weapons program."

It later said: "Russia now must follow through with its agreements, signed by Iran, to remove all spent fuel at Bushehr and ship it back to Russia for reprocessing. That would make it impossible for Iran to use plutonium, contained in the spent fuel, for nuclear weapons. Iran has said U.N. nuclear agency experts will be able to verify none of the waste is diverted."



An editorial by Victor Davis Hanson titled "Everyone a Bigot?" was posted at jewishworldreview.com on Aug. 12, 2010.

Mr. Hanson described how people (even a majority of people) are called bigots and racists by the vocal minority.

His four examples of people who are supposedly bigots were: (1) the majority who support the immigration law in Arizona, (2) the majority who are appalled at the federal judge in California who overturned Proposition 8, (3) the majority who believe that a Muslim mosque should not be built at Ground Zero in New York City and (4) the majority who believe that Rep. Charles Rangel and Rep. Maxine Waters should face consequences for their unethical behavior.

He wrote: "These diverse cases offer some lessons.

"One, legitimate public concerns can be reduced to religious, ethnic or racial prejudice in hopes that the debate will hinge on supposedly bad motives rather than convincing arguments. Ad hominem attacks are always a sign of shaky logic.

“Two, in most of these cases, the majority is opposed by a variety of activist groups, government officials and judges. The charge of bigotry is usually expressed in terms of a sophisticated liberal-thinking elite reining in the emotional and illogical unwashed masses. We saw proof of that with the release of confidential e-mails from the controversial ‘Journalist’ group comprised largely of influential liberal journalists, some of whom openly advocated defaming their opponents by calling them racists.

“Three, these cry-wolf tactics are now stale. A real danger is that when legitimate charges of prejudice are leveled in the future, most will shrug and ignore them.

“We live in a complex, multiracial and religiously diverse society. A majority of black voters in California opposed gay marriage. Most Muslims probably concurred. Some 70 percent of Americans expressed support for the Arizona law, an overwhelming figure that would have to include some Asians, blacks and Hispanics. White and Hispanic congressional officials have faced ethics charges, often more serious than those leveled against Rangel and Waters.

“In other words, there is no simple ideological, racial or religious divide between a monolithic ‘us’ and ‘them.’ Instead, we have devolved to the point where promiscuously crying ‘Bigot!’ and ‘Racist!’ signals a failure to persuade 51 percent of the people of the merits of an argument.

“It is too often that simple—and that sad.”



An article by S.A. Miller in Washington and Tom Topousis in New York titled “ Hamas Nod for Ground Zero Mosque ” was posted at nypost.com on Aug. 16, 2010.

It said: “A leader of the Hamas terror group [Mahmoud al-Zahar] yesterday jumped into the emotional debate on the plan to construct a mosque near Ground Zero—insisting Muslims ‘have to build’ it there.”



An article by Alana Goodman titled “Arab TV Director: Ground Zero Mosque Would Be ‘Monument’ for Terrorists” was posted at newsbusters.com on Aug. 17, 2010.

It said: “The director of Al-Arabiya TV [Abd Al-Rahman al-Rashid], a popular Arab-language news station, wrote that ‘Muslims never asked for’ the proposed mosque at Ground Zero, and ‘do not care about its construction,’ in a column for London daily *Al-Sharq Al-Awsat* on Aug. 16.”

The article quoted the director as saying: “I can’t imagine that Muslims [actually] want a mosque at this particular location, because it will become an arena for the promoters of hatred, and a monument to those who committed the crime. Moreover, there are no practicing Muslims in the area who need a

place to worship, because it is a commercial district.” (The quotes in the article were translated by the Middle East Media Research Institute.)



An article by Samuel Goldsmith titled “They Won’t Build It! Hardhats Vow Not to Work on Controversial Mosque Near Ground Zero” was posted at nydailynews.com on Aug. 20, 2010.

It said: “A growing number of New York construction workers are vowing not to work on the mosque planned near Ground Zero.

The article quoted Dave Kaiser, 38, a blaster who is working to rebuild the World Trade Center site, as saying: “I wouldn’t work there, especially after I found out about what the imam said about U.S. policy being responsible for 9/11.”

The article continued: “The grass-roots movement is gaining momentum on the Internet. One construction worker created the ‘Hard Hat Pledge’ on his blog and asked others to vow not work on the project if it stays on Park Place.”



An editorial by Frank J. Gaffney Jr. titled “Coming to Grips With Shariah” was posted at jewishworldreview.com on Aug. 10, 2010.

It said: “Suddenly, it seems, everyone is talking about Shariah. In particular, growing controversies over proposed mosques at Ground Zero and other sites are becoming powerful ‘teaching moments’—raising awareness about the repressive theo-political-military-legal doctrine that animates the builders and that their fellow adherents seek to impose on the entire world.

“This is a most welcome development in light of the grave and growing threat by this agenda and the concerted effort being made—here and elsewhere, through violent jihad and the stealthy kind—to realize that goal.

“Unfortunately, too many Americans still remain unaware of the magnitude of the danger we face from Shariah. Worse yet, their ability to comprehend this threat, let alone respond appropriately to it, is being seriously dis-served by people who know better—or should. Specifically, the public is being seriously misled by 1) some journalists and politicians who are obscuring the true nature of Shariah and 2) Shariah practitioners who engage in deliberate deception to facilitate the penetration of their doctrine into Western societies.”

The article pointed out that *The New York Times’* front-page article on Sunday, Aug. 8, 2010, titled “Battles Around Nation Over Proposed Mosques” accurately reported the growing concern about mosques that “seek to replace the U.S. Constitution with Islamic Shariah law.” Yet *The Times* proceeded to dismiss the notion.

Mr. Gaffney's article continued: "He [New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg] categorically rejected the idea that it was reasonable, let alone necessary, to determine the source of funds for the \$100-plus million mega-mosque near Ground Zero.

"In other words, the Mayor seemingly is indifferent to whether the funding for the mosque sponsored by the Cordoba Initiative (named for the capital city of the Moorish conquerors of Spain and the site where they triumphally transformed a Catholic church into a massive mosque) might be the Saudis, with their version of Shariah known as Wahhabish.

"This cavalier attitude is absolutely stupefying insofar as, two years ago this month, the New York Police Department issued a report warning that Wahhabi mosques in America were incubators for 'homegrown' Islamic radicals.

"The Mayor has a duty to know a lot more than he evidently does about Shariah. He certainly has an obligation to figure out whether—as is true of, by some estimates, 80 percent of the mosques in America—the Ground Zero Mosque is going to fit the profile of a Wahhabi-associated facility."

Mr. Gaffney then described his perception that Shariah's adherents lie about their intent when they say that "there is no conflict with the U.S. Constitution in Shariah law."

His article said: "Now, even the most superficial review of Shariah shows that statement to be preposterous and misleading. In fact, among other Constitution-affronting features, Islamic law prohibits democratic law-making. It requires the replacement of constitutions and governments like ours with a global theocracy governed by Islamic law. It brutalizes women and otherwise treats them as second-class citizens and authorizes the murder of homosexuals and apostates.

"Shariah is, in short, wholly incompatible with our legal system, freedoms and way of life."

Mr. Gaffney quoted a report by the NYPD as saying: "This [Shariah] ideology is proliferating in Western democracies at a logarithmic rate. The Internet, certain Salafi-based non-governmental organizations, extremist sermons/study groups, Salafi literature, jihadi videotapes, extremist-sponsored trips to radical madressas and militant training camps abroad have served as 'extremist incubators' for young, susceptible Muslims—especially ones living in diaspora communities in the West . . .

"Americans across this country are struggling to understand the true nature of the threat we face from Shariah. They are entitled to straight talk about the extent to which it is being insinuated, promoted and legitimized not only in mosques but by financial institutions, banks, academic institutions and government agencies. Those who fail to provide such unvarnished truths are part of the problem, and should be treated accordingly."



An Associated Press article titled "NY Mosque Imam: Extremism Common Threat to West and Muslim World" was posted at foxnews.com on Aug. 20, 2010.

It said: "The imam leading plans for an Islamic center near the Manhattan site of the Sept. 11 attacks said Friday he hopes to draw attention during his trip in the Middle East to the common challenges to battle radical religious beliefs.

"Iman Feisal Abdul Rauf, who is on the first leg of a 15-day Mideast tour funded by the U.S. State Department, refused to discuss the political firestorm over the plans for an Islamic cultural center about two blocks from the World Trade Center towers."

The article quoted Mr. Rauf as saying: "This issue of extremism is something that has been a national security issue—not only for the United States but also for many countries and nations in the Muslim world."

The article later said: "The imam also said he has been working on a way to 'Americanize Islam.' While he did not elaborate on what an American version of Islam might look like, he did note that different interpretations of the faith have emerged over the religion's nearly '1,400-year existence.' "



An article titled "Mich. School Practices 11 p.m. to 4 a.m." was posted at espn.com on Aug. 16, 2010.

It said: "A Michigan high school football team is holding preseason practices in the middle of the night to help its Muslim players practice both faith and football.

"The predominantly Muslim squad from Dearborn says the nocturnal regimen is a way for players to eat and drink while observing the holy month of day-time fasting known as Ramadan that started last week."

It later said: "Cutting practice wasn't an option at football-crazy Fordson, which is coming off a one-loss season and has won four state titles and three runner-up seasons since it was established in 1928.

"But nobody wanted to lessen the significance of Ramadan in the Detroit suburb widely known as the capital of Arab-America."



An Associated Press article by Amir Shah titled "Taliban Stone Couple for Adultery in Afghanistan" was posted at yahoo.com on Aug. 16, 2010.

It said: "Taliban militants stoned a young couple to death for adultery after they ran away from their families in northern Afghanistan, officials said Monday.

"The Taliban-ordered killing comes at a time when international rights groups have raised worries that attempts to negotiate with the Taliban to bring peace to Afghanistan could mean a step backward for human rights in the country. When the Islamist extremists ruled Afghanistan, women were not allowed to leave their houses without a male guardian, and public killings for violations of their harsh interpretation of the Quran were common."



An Associated Press article titled "Saudi Judge Asks Hospital If It Can Damage Convict's Spine As Punishment for Paralyzing Man" was posted at foxnews.com on Aug. 19, 2010.

It said: "A Saudi judge has asked several hospitals in the country whether they could damage a man's spinal cord as punishment after he was convicted of attacking another man with a cleaver and paralyzing him, the brother of the victim said Thursday.

"Abdul-Aziz al-Mutain, 22, was left paralyzed and subsequently lost a foot after a fight more than two years ago. He asked a judge in northwestern Tabuk province to impose an equivalent punishment on his attacker under Islamic law, his brother Khaled al-Mutairi told The Associated Press by telephone from there."

It later said: "Saudi Arabia enforces strict Islamic law and occasionally doles out punishments based on the ancient legal code of an eye-for-an-eye. However, King Abdullah has been trying to clamp down on extremist ideology, including unauthorized clerics issuing odd religious decrees.

"The query by the court, among the most unusual and extreme to have been made public in the kingdom, highlights the delicate attempt in Saudi Arabia to balance a push to modernize the country with interpretations of religious traditions that critics say are out of sync with a modern society."



An article by Mark Levine titled "After Crawling Onto U.S. Radar, Somalia Extremists Pose Threat—But Will They Go Global?" was posted at foxnews.com on Aug. 20, 2010.

It said: "In the past few years, Islamic extremists in Somalia have become more powerful, more global and more deadly than U.S. officials ever imagined."

The article mentioned how two Ohio Homeland Security officials told Jack Tomarchio, the department assistant secretary for intelligence and analysis at

that time, that “the capitals of Ohio and Minnesota had become havens for refugees of war-torn Somalia.”

It later said: “The two briefers told Tomarchio they were becoming increasingly concerned about ‘radical mosques’ in Columbus, Ohio, where imams ‘considered to be a little fiery’ would come from Somalia and preach anti-Western messages to the growing Somali community, Tomarchio recalls about that day in 2006.

“It marked one of the first times a U.S. counterterrorism official was warned that Islamic extremists in Somalia could pose a threat to the U.S. homeland—not just a threat to the Horn of Africa or U.S. interests there.

“In the years since, such extremists have become more powerful, more global and more deadly than U.S. officials ever imagined. One group in particular, Al Shabab, has recruited dozens of Americans from Minneapolis and elsewhere. They’ve produced the first known American suicide bomber, pledged their allegiance to Usama bin Laden, and last month launched their first attack outside Somalia with coordinated bombings in nearby Uganda.”

It later said: “In retrospect, federal officials now say, the U.S. government may have been slow to recognize Al Shabab’s full potential.”



An article by J.J. Green titled “Iran’s Secret Pipeline Into the U.S.” was posted at wtop.com on Aug. 18, 2010.

The article described flights from Tehran to Caracas.

It said: “Iran Air 744 is a bimonthly flight that originates in Tehran and flies directly to Caracas with periodic stops in Beirut and Damascus. The maiden flight was Feb. 2, 2007.”

It later said: “Current and former U.S. intelligence officials fear the flight is a shadowy way to move people and weapons to locations in Latin America that can be used as staging point for retaliatory attacks against the U.S. or its interests in the event Iranian nuclear sites are struck by U.S. or Israeli military forces.”

It later said: “Beyond concerns about Iranian intelligence flooding the west, [Peter] Brookes [of the National Security Affairs at the Heritage Foundation] and others worry that Iranian special advisers are schooling the Venezuelan military and may be involved in plans to move Iranian agents inside the U.S.”

The article quoted Mr. Brooks as saying: “It’s certainly a possibility. Would the agents that come into Venezuela be able to find their way to the United States? That’s certainly possible. You see the drug smugglers today using submersibles to move drugs to the U.S. and other parts of the Caribbean which is a real challenge. So why wouldn’t they be able to do the same with persons?”



An Associated Press article by Julie Pace titled "Obamas Make Quick Trip to Promote Gulf Coast" was posted at yahoo.com on Aug. 15, 2010.

It said: "With a quick family trip to the Gulf Coast, President Barack Obama is offering his personal assurance that the region is a safe, clean vacation destination despite the massive oil spill."

It later said: "The president's dip happened away from the media. The White House released an official photo, but The Associated Press does not publish such handout images. According to the White House, the Obamas swam off Alligator Point, which is in Saint Andrew Bay, not the Gulf."



An editorial by David Corn titled "Elizabeth Warren or Bust!" was posted at politicsdaily.com on Aug. 17, 2010.

Mr. Corn described that progressives are disappointed in Barack Obama for not doing more for their agenda and that he looks at the importance of one particular issue at this time.

His article said: "A highly unscientific survey—based on comments made to me by highly educated, self-identified, vacationing liberals who feel let down by President Barack Obama—shows that a top priority for Obama's base these days is Elizabeth Warren."

It later said: "Several members of my sample group—completely unprompted—each said the same: If Obama doesn't appoint Warren [to lead the new Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection], I'm giving up on him."

It later said: "Progressives are talking about Warren as if this could be their last straw regarding Obama. I doubt it. As important as this appointment is, there are larger issues to fret about . . . Yet what Obama does with Warren will be telling . . . Should he spurn Warren, the president will have a problem that extends beyond the 'professional left.' "



An article titled "Obama's Fundraising Spree Costs Taxpayers \$2M, Analyst Estimates" was posted at foxnews.com on Aug. 19, 2010.

It said: "President Obama's fundraising spree across the country to help his party retain power isn't just reaping millions of dollars for Democratic candidates—it's also said to be costing taxpayers millions of dollars.

"And it's leaving a massive carbon footprint, too."

It later said: "It's an 8,000-mile, fossil fuel-burning odyssey that, by pairing official events each day with political ones, allows him to bill taxpayers

for most of the cost of the trip—a tradition that long predates the current president.”



An article titled “China Leapfrogs Japan As World’s Second-Largest Economy” was posted at france24.com on Aug. 16, 2010.

It said: “Japan lost its place as the world’s No. 2 economy to China in the second quarter as receding global growth sapped momentum and stunted a shaky recovery.”

It later said: “China’s economy will almost certainly be bigger than Japan’s at the end of 2010 because of the huge difference in each country’s growth rates. China is growing at about 10 percent a year, while Japan’s economy is forecast to grow between 2 to 3 percent this year. The gap between the size of the two economies at the end of last year was already narrow.”



An article by Candice Zachariahs and Ron Harui titled “China Favors Euro Over Dollar As Bernanke Alters Path” was posted at bloomberg.com on Aug. 16, 2010.

It said: “China, whose \$2.45 trillion in foreign-exchange reserves are the world’s largest, is turning bullish on Europe and Japan at the expense of the U.S.”



An article by Michelle Lodge titled “Booming Brazil Is Like the ‘US in the 1950s’: Sam Zell” was posted at cnbc.com on Aug. 18, 2010.

It said: “Brazil is booming and brimming with business opportunities—like the ‘US in the 1950s’—billionaire businessman Sam Zell told CNBC Wednesday. He said if Brazil continues on the same course, he predicts that the ‘fiscally conservative’ nation will soon be one of the top two countries in terms of growth.”



An editorial by Tony Blankley titled “ ‘We Socialists’ vs. ‘We the People’ ” was posted at jewishworldreview.com on Aug. 11, 2010.

It said: “If the upcoming election results [in November] fail for any reason (including GOP campaign incompetence) to empower the public’s overwhelming desire to stop and reverse the ‘fundamental transformation’ of the United States—I suspect the country will be rocked to its core within the following months and few years.

"A foul and dangerous brew is heating up that is composed of: (1) The economic collapse that started in 2008; (2) the radical, 'fundamentally transforming' left-wing agenda of the government; and, (3) the thwarting of the public will—with glee—by the entrenched, non-elected powers (in the courts, media, colleges and governmental bureaucracies) as they get into the face and under the skin of the cultural and political majority.

"It is insufferable (and will not long be suffered) to be lectured to and imposed upon by a ruling class that loathes our nation's history, values and accomplishments; by those who are not, in fact, our genuine betters. They are neither better educated nor more profoundly morally versed."

It later said: "Just one trivial example of the disconnection between the elites and the nation was the *Newsweek* headline 'We Are All Socialists Now,' published last year (before the magazine was sold for \$1 to the billionaire husband of a leading Democratic congresswoman). Two months ago, though, a poll by the Democracy Corps, a polling group run by Democratic operative James Carville and Democratic pollster Stan Greenberg, asked how well the term 'socialist' fit President Obama. Fifty-five percent of all Americans said 'well' or 'very well.' In that same month, the Gallup poll reported that Americans self-identify themselves as 42 percent conservative (a historic high), 35 percent moderates and 20 percent liberals. That would seem to leave 3 percent for socialists, communists, anarchists, fascists, monarchists, Nazis, ultramontanists, Falangists, klansmen, etc.

"I guess that *Newsweek* headline's meaning depends on what the definition of 'we' is. As military experts would say, the upcoming struggle for America's future between the socialist powers and the rest of us would seem to be 'asymmetrical.'

"Much more profoundly, the gap between the consciousness of 'we socialists' and 'we the people' can be seen in the assertion by some liberals recently that the president's collapse in the polls is part of this current reaction to events is but a passing thing. If they think that, they understand nothing of the forces they have unleashed by their tragically imprudent effort to fundamentally transform our country."

Mr. Blankley quoted Frenchman Alexis de Tocqueville analyzing in 1856 the causes of his country's revolution: "Evils which are patiently endured when they seem inevitable become intolerable when once the idea of escape from them is suggested."

Mr. Blankley continued in his article: "A year ago, it seemed possible that a majority of Americans—rattled by economic collapse and under the sway of a popular, charismatic president—might buy in to plans to fundamentally transform America away from liberty, prosperity and greatness and toward security and a massive, protective state. At first, many of us were hesitant to speak out when we thought we might be but a few." (Of course, some of us saw what was coming and spoke out before the 2008 election. See my columns from the spring, summer and fall of '08.)

"But as the first details of the transformation were revealed to the nation—in Obamacare, the stimulus, bailouts, nationalizations and running roughshod over the Constitution—it became clear that the price for security turned out to be our birthright of liberty. Americans were not that rattled.

"Now that we who cling to our liberty know we are a majority—and potentially a very large majority—we are aroused to the defense of our ancient rights—and we will not slacken in our efforts until that repulsive plan for transformation has been expurgated from the body politic—to quote Franklin D. Roosevelt—'so help us God.' "



An editorial by Paul Greenberg titled "Magical Thinking in Washington" was posted at [jewishworldreview.com](http://jewishworldreview.com) on Aug. 12, 2010.

It said: "The calendar says this is 2010—I just looked—but there are times when current events feel more like an historical re-enactment. It could be 1937 all over again.

"A president has been ushered into office on the wings of Hope and Change after a sweeping electoral triumph, and the clouds have started to lift.

"Vast new programs, however debatable or constitutional their merits, have been enacted.

"An economic recovery is under way, however slowly and tentatively.

"And just at this delicate moment, the president decides this would be the perfect time to launch a rhetorical attack on big business, 'the rich,' and capital in general. And not just a rhetorical attack. His administration has fashioned a whole new web of taxes and regulations to crack down on those evil plutocrats.

"The president was Franklin Roosevelt, and his ideas about how to rev up the economy were embodied in the Revenue Act of 1935, aka the Wealth Tax:

"Increase the tax on the largest incomes—up to a confiscatory level of 75 percent.

"Raise estate taxes so the dead could do their share to aid the recovery—and balance the federal budget, too. At least theoretically. And perhaps only theoretically. (As usual, the richest taxpayers also were proving the most skillful at tax avoidance, or at least their lawyers, accountants and trust officers were.)

"Hike the corporate income tax on the biggest corporations, those with the most employees to lay off. Another brilliant move.

"Raise the tax on 'excess' profits.

"Impose a new tax on any corporate profits that weren't being distributed to shareholders. To make sure the government would get its share before it was

used to create jobs. Even while the administration was cutting back on its own public works projects.

"And generally punish investment by those able to invest the most. That would show those whom FDR assailed as 'economic royalists.' We were going to tax our way to prosperity!

"It would have been hard to design a tax structure surer to retard economic growth by suppressing private investment. Federal tax policy would take a redistributionist turn in the middle of the 1930s, just as it looked as if the country might be returning to some semblance of normal growth. Once again ideology had taken precedence over practicality, the satisfactions of class warfare over any consideration of how all this might work out in practice . . .

"The results of FDR's newest New Deal were predictable: The following year, profits, excess or otherwise, did indeed decline. (The surest way to reduce something is to tax it more.) And so did employment. Unemployment leapt from 14.3 percent in 1937 to 19 percent in 1938. Within one two-month period, the ranks of the jobless jumped from 5 million to more than 9 million, reaching almost 12 million in the banner year 1938. Manufacturing output fell back to 1934 levels. Businesses and individuals hesitated, understandably enough, to invest when the only thing certain was uncertainty.

"The shorthand for all this bad news in the history textbooks is the Roosevelt Recession of 1937, a recession within the Depression. It's also know as the Double Dip, a specter that haunts economic policymakers to this day.

"Sound familiar? With the expiration of the Bush tax cuts at the end of the year, the economy is about to get hit with one of the largest, across-the-board tax increases since, well, 1937."

It concluded: "No, history doesn't repeat itself, not exactly. But, as Mark Twain is supposed to have added, it rhymes."



An editorial by Patrick J. Buchanan titled "Putting Government First" was posted at humanevents.com on Aug. 13, 2010.

It said: "Where a man's purse is, there his heart will be also.

"If you would know where the heart of the Obama party is today, consider. In the dog days of August, with temperatures in D.C. rising above 100, Nancy Pelosi called the House back to Washington to enact legislation that could not wait until September.

"Purpose: Vote \$26 billion to prevent layoffs of state, municipal and country employees whose own governments had decided they had to be let go if they were to meet [the] constitutional duty to balance their books.

"Workers their own governments thought expendable Congress decided were so essential it borrowed another 26 thousand million dollars from China to keep them on state and local payrolls.

"A nation whose national debt is approaching the size of its gross national product, that goes abroad to borrow money to keep non-essential workers on government payroll, is a nation on the way down and out.

"And anyone who thinks this Obama party is ever going to cull the armies of tens of millions of government workers or scores of millions of government beneficiaries to put America's house in order is deluding himself."

It later said: "Among the reasons the \$800 billion stimulus failed is that so little of it was directed to firing up the locomotive of the economy, the private sector, and so much of it was spent to ensure that government workers did not have to share in the national sacrifice."

It later said: "Hence, we have a situation where private sector workers in Middle America are being taxed, their children being driven ever deeper into debt to China, so government employees who have greater job security than they do, and earn more in pay and benefits than they will ever earn, can stay in Fat City.

"And folks wonder why so many Americans detest government."

It later said: "Nor is this all Obama's doing. For most of the fat years of the federal work force came while Washington was being run by a Congress of Big Government Conservatives and a White House of Bush-Cheney Republicans.

"No wonder the tea party is targeting both parties."

It concluded: "What Pelosi & Co. were saying with that \$26 billion bailout this week is 'We are going to protect our own.'

"Which is why either Obama, Pelosi, Reid & Co. go, or we are gone."



**Isaiah 55:6-11**—Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.