
ON WATCH IN WASHINGTON

Intercessors for America's PRAYER ALERT

March 9, 2011

Marriage / Family

HOMOSEXUAL RIGHTS TRUMP FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE IN THE UK

Give thanks for Eunice and Owen Johns and the moral integrity of their witness. Pray for the Lord's grace upon their lives as they seek to live without compromising their faith. Intercede that this case would take away the blindness in the minds of unbelievers who are observing – that the Johns' upright behavior and loving witness towards others would cause onlookers to reconsider any bias against traditional Christian views on sexuality. Pray that Christian parents in the United States will always be encouraged and allowed to adopt or foster a child.

“The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.... But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.” (2 Cor. 4:4-10)

On February 28, the UK High Court ruled that Eunice and Owen Johns are not suitable to foster a child because their traditional Christian views on homosexuality may be harmful to children, violating children's international human rights. While eager to love a child regardless of sexual orientation, the Johns were not willing to promote the practice of homosexuality within their home. The judges stated that although the case stirs controversy over equality provisions concerning both religious discrimination and sexual orientation, “the equality provisions concerning sexual orientation should take precedence.” The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) provides an overview of these rights, which would bind the United States if we decide to ratify the treaty. A resolution is expected to oppose ratification in the U.S. Senate within the next two weeks.

Christian Concern reports:

The tax payer funded Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) played an important role in this judgment. They intervened in the Johns case, and they suggested to the Court that a child should not, in their own words, **be ‘infected’ with Christian moral beliefs**. Suggesting that Christian moral beliefs on sexual ethics could ‘infect’ children is an extraordinary position for a statutory body to take. It is also deeply insulting both to the Johns, who have a proven track record of successfully raising children, and to Christians in general.

Andrea Minichiello Williams, CEO of Christian Concern and the Christian Legal Centre, commented:

“What has happened to the Johns is part of a wider trend seen in recent years. The law has been increasingly interpreted by Judges in a way which favours homosexual rights over freedom of conscience. Significant areas of public life are now becoming out of bounds to

Christians who do not want to compromise their beliefs. If Christian morals are harmful to children and unacceptable to the State, then how many years do we have before natural children start being taken away from Christians?

Middle East

LIBYA: TO INTERVENE OR NOT TO INTERVENE?

Pray for the President and other U.S. officials to have wisdom and to be decisive as they react to unrest in the Middle East and especially the turmoil in Libya. Intercede for humanitarian aid workers trying to reach refugees with resources and food items. Pray for the Lord to remove Gadhafi and protect the weak and defenseless, bringing peace to the people of Libya.

“Teach me your way, LORD; lead me in a straight path because of my oppressors. Do not turn me over to the desire of my foes, for false witnesses rise up against me, spouting malicious accusations.” (Psalm 27:11-12)

[Around 400,000 people are expected to flee Libya](#), including the 200,000 that have already left, and another 600,000 people inside Libya will most likely need humanitarian aid as rebellion continues against Muammar Gadhafi. The UN Office for Coordination of Human Affairs is hoping to raise \$160 million from international donors to help refugees and Libyan nationals. As President Obama debates whether or not to intervene in Libya, [CNN contributor David Frum warned](#) on Monday that the U.S. would send a devastating message by not acting:

If Gadhafi and Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad still rule territory in a month's time, and if Hezbollah and Hamas continue to rely on their armed presence to back up the militant policies they impose, the promises of Middle Eastern democracy will look very hollow. And the incentive structure of the Middle East will acquire a sinister new look. Gadhafi's departure from power in other words is not just a requirement of humanity and decency. It's not only justice to the people of Libya. It is also essential to American credibility and the stability of the Middle East region.

On Monday, President Obama stated that the U.S. and NATO allies are considering a variety of options, including a military response, to put an end to [“unacceptable violence”](#) from the Libyan government and its supporters. He approved setting aside \$15 million in humanitarian aid for Libyans caught in the conflict.

[Haaretz reports:](#)

Obama and [British Prime Minister David] Cameron agreed to press ahead on potential responses from the U.S. and its NATO allies, including the creation of a no-fly zone over Libyan airspace to keep Gadhafi from bombarding the rebels seeking to oust him from power, according to statements released from their offices. Other options including steeper surveillance, humanitarian assistance and enforcement of an arms embargo as Libya slips from Gadhafi's grip and into a civil war.

The Haaretz article goes on to quote Secretary of State Hillary Clinton who commented, “We think it's important that the United Nations make this decision, not the United States, and so far the United Nations has not done that. I think it's very important that this not be a U.S.-led effort, because this comes from the people of Libya themselves; this doesn't come from the outside.”

Meanwhile, Washington debates how to react to the unrest in the Middle East as it relates to the [global oil market](#). Many lawmakers object to President Obama's consideration of opening the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, which is viewed as the nation's insurance policy against severe disruptions in oil supply. Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski said, “If we empty our strategic reserves now, and then face an actual shortage, we will literally have nowhere to turn.”

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Pro-Life News

CONTROVERSIAL BILL AIMED AT PREGNANCY CENTERS

Pray for Mayor Bloomberg to be receptive to the letter requesting an open hearing on this measure that would unjustly stifle pregnancy centers in New York. Pray for the Lord to raise up advocates in defense of pregnancy centers, and for their words to be heard and received. Intercede that all hindrances to pro-life efforts in New York City would be removed so that the lives of the unborn will be protected.

“...we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to everyone’s conscience in the sight of God.” (2 Cor. 4:2-3)

A bill passed on March 3 by the New York City Council requires that crisis pregnancy centers notify clients that they do not provide abortions or birth control services, making referrals to places that do. The legislation would only apply to organizations offering alternatives to abortion. Meanwhile, places that offer abortions would not be required to inform clients of pro-life options. The American Center for Law and Justice wrote a [letter](#) to Mayor Michael Bloomberg requesting a public hearing on the bill.

[James Henderson, ACLJ Senior Counsel, said:](#)

“The public has never had an opportunity for input on this measure. City council members rushed ahead with their vote, and now it looks like the mayor is ready to do the same thing.... The rule of law states that no local law can be approved by the mayor without a public hearing.... We are challenging Mayor Bloomberg to obey the law by giving the public a chance to respond to a bill which unfairly targets clinics that offer alternatives to abortion.”

Also in the news:

On February 18th, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) rescinded conscience regulations established during the Bush administration to protect health workers from being forced to perform procedures or dispense drugs against conscience. Health workers and organizations that refuse to prescribe Plan B, ella, or other abortifacient drugs will face sanctions. During the comment period over 187,000 people expressed opposition to the new rule. Rep. John Fleming (R-La.) has introduced H.R. 361, the Abortion Non-Discrimination Act. If passed, it will codify conscience rights for doctors and other health professionals. (Source: [Family Research Council](#))

National Security

ASIA: MILITARY GAP SHRINKING

Continue to intercede for U.S. military, strategic intelligence officials, and defense leaders. Intercede for wisdom, understanding and foresight.

“Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then I will be confident.” (Psalm 27:3)

A leading think-tank warns that the global strategic map is taking new shape as emerging economies spend more on defense while the West makes drastic cuts. “In other regions – notably Asia and the Middle East – military spending and arms acquisitions are booming,” says John Chipman, the director general for the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS). INTERCESSORS FOR AMERICA | Post Office Box 915, Purcellville, VA 20134 | [GetAmericaPraying.com](#)
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“There is persuasive evidence that a [global redistribution of military power](#) is underway.” He reports that defense spending has ballooned in Asian Pacific nations, most notably China, and there are signs that the West is losing its “technological edge” in areas like stealth technology and cyber warfare. He predicts that China will reach military parity with the U.S. in half a generation (15-20 years).

According to Reuters, Chipman also went on to highlight internal security threats within nations:

Exchanges of fire along the borders of Thailand and Cambodia as well as between North and South Korea showed that the risk of local state-on-state war was back on the map after a decade of focus on more fringe threats such as militancy, he said. "It had become conventional wisdom bordering on cliché that interstate conflict was a thing of the past and now that's being called into question," he said.

[Homegrown Terrorism](#)

KING TO HOLD HEARING THURSDAY ON RADICAL ISLAM

Intercede for the battle that’s increasingly being waged as lawmakers are forced to look at the threat of radical Islam within the U.S. Pray that the issue would not lead to fear-mongering or injustice, but that politicians would make an accurate assessment – looking at the evidence objectively, with discernment and sensitivity. Pray that the Lord would shepherd our leaders, and that His hand would be upon them as they consider our nation’s safety and wellbeing.

“Save your people and bless your inheritance; be their shepherd and carry them forever.” (Psalm 28:9)

House Homeland Security Committee Chairman Rep. Peter King (R-NY) is stirring the waters in Washington as he addresses lawmakers on “Safeguarding our Future: Building a Nationwide Network for First Responders.”

[Fox News reports:](#)

Battle lines are being drawn as Republican Rep. Peter King prepares to hold a high-profile hearing Thursday that will examine the threat posed by radical Islam in the United States. "That's where the danger is coming from," he told Fox News. "It's a small percentage. The overwhelming majority of Muslims are outstanding Americans. But the reality is that the threat is coming from within that [community](#)."

King said that if he thought members of the Irish, Jewish or any other ethnic community were exhibiting threatening signs he would launch an investigation into them as well. But he said [Al Qaeda](#) is actively trying to radicalize American Muslims, with some success.