
ONWATCH IN WASHINGTON

Intercessors for America's PRAYER ALERT

June 22, 2011

GATES: TALKS WITH TALIBAN

U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates confirmed Sunday that the [U.S. has been in preliminary talks "for a few weeks" with the Taliban](#) to discuss a political solution to the decade-long Afghan war.

[Gates also said recent gains on the ground in Afghanistan meant Obama would have "a lot of room for maneuver"](#) when deciding how many troops to withdraw as he begins a limited US drawdown next month.

The Washington Times reported: "The talks — described by Mr. Gates on CNN's "State of the Union" program Sunday as "very preliminary" — were first made public by Afghan President Hamid Karzai on Saturday. They come at a time of rising calls among Republicans for a speedier U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, calls that prompted further political debate on Sunday's U.S. political talk shows.

"Other countries are involved as well," Mr. Gates said, adding that they have been going on for "a few weeks, maybe."

Mr. Gates said that, despite the discussions, continued "military pressure" must be placed on the Taliban to ensure they are willing to meet "the red lines" that the U.S.-led coalition has set out for peace, one of which is that the Taliban must cut all ties with al Qaeda.

"My own view is that real reconciliation talks are not likely to be able to make any substantive headway until at least this winter," said Mr. Gates, who will leave office June 30. "I think that the Taliban have to feel themselves under military pressure and begin to believe that they can't win before they're willing to have a serious conversation." (Contributors: [AFP](#), [Washington Times](#), [France24.com](#))

Ask the Lord to give our leaders wisdom in addressing these issues of settlement. Ask the Lord to expose any compromise that would endanger our troops or innocent civilians in bringing a peace to that region. Ask the Lord to protect our military troops now serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

*"For the Lord gives skillful and godly Wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding."
Proverbs 2:6*

USDA TO IMPOSE GAY-SENSITIVITY TRAINING

In April 2009, Secretary Vilsack sent a memo to all USDA employees calling for "a new era of civil rights" for the Department.

A homosexual behavior promotional campaign at the government level is underway at the USDA. This is your U.S. tax dollars at work.

[U.S. Department of Agriculture activists plan to impose a government-wide homosexual sensitivity training](#) that is designed to eliminate “heterosexism” – the belief that marriage should be confined to only between a man and a woman as the Federal mandated DOMA law says. The USDA claims “heterosexism” has become rampant in today’s society and must be contained, as it is a highly destructive form of “racism.”

The measure comes from Agriculture Secretary and former governor of Iowa Thomas Vilsack, who has launched a “cultural transformation” that includes a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) Special Emphasis Program.

The Washington Times further reported: “The USDA’s senior training coordinator, Bill Scaggs, has developed a sensitivity program far more extensive than the Pentagon’s training for the anticipated lifting of the ban on open homosexuals in the ranks. His training program, which OPM calls “groundbreaking [and a] model for other agencies,” delves more into gay issues and terminology. It also justifies pro-homosexual political positions.

“[Elaine Donnelly, head of the Center for Military Readiness](#) says the USDA “training programs” could be detrimental to the U.S. military, as it could “drive out thousands of experienced troops, starting with chaplains and people of faith who do not support LGBT ideology and activism. “There are disturbing implications for national defense in the USDA’s development of a ‘groundbreaking’ training program that is to become a model for other federal agencies,” Donnelly said.” (Contributors: [Washington Times](#), [BrianKoenig.com](#), [USDA](#), [Purpose News](#))

Pray that this "homosexual" agenda initiated by an extremely small minority of individuals be exposed to the whole of our U.S. citizenry, and that a proper response and correction be made to this attempted corruption of our governmental principles. Ask the Lord to raise up leaders to bring this corrupt movement to a halt.

"For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet." Romans 1:26-27

OBAMA GIVES NETANYAHU ULTIMATUM

Israeli radio reported that [The United States gave Netanyahu an ultimatum on renewing negotiations with the Palestinians](#). According to the ultimatum, Netanyahu has to decide within a month whether he agrees to accept Obama's proposal and resume talks based on 1967 lines. Washington is pressuring Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to accede to its proposal to resume Israeli-Palestinian peace talks on the basis of Obama's May 19 speech.

An Israeli source who spoke recently with senior officials in Washington said the Americans were very frustrated with Netanyahu's behavior, feeling that he was impeding America's efforts to keep the Palestinians from unilaterally seeking UN recognition of a state in September.

Netanyahu's personal envoy, Isaac Molho, spent last week in Washington, where the Americans presented their proposal for resuming talks on the basis of Obama's speech. Specifically, Obama's plan calls for negotiating over borders and security first, while deferring issues such as Jerusalem and the refugees until later. It also calls for the borders to be based on the 1967 lines, with mutually agreed land swaps.

The Americans told Molho that to block European initiatives such as France's proposal for an INTERCESSORS FOR AMERICA | Post Office Box 915, Purcellville, VA 20134 | [GetAmericaPraying.com](#)
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international peace conference in Paris, they must have something concrete to offer, like Netanyahu's agreement to negotiate on the basis of Obama's speech.

The U.S. proposal was also given to chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat, who said the Palestinians would resume talks on this basis.

"Prime Minister Netanyahu stand your ground, and let bullying Obama go around that wilderness mountain for forty days solo," Says DOMA News. (Contributor: [The Blaze News](#), [DOMA News](#))

We believe that the Honorable Prime Minister Netanyahu's response to the Americans, after visiting here and making his own position clear on negotiations, should be: "What part of '**NO**' do you not understand?" Most Americans do not hold to this current and hopefully temporary administration directive on this matter regarding Israel. Israel is a sovereign nation and can make its own decisions based on their best interests, just as we do as a sovereign nation.

The Israelis have made it clear that they cannot and will not base any negotiations on the 1967 lines, which would only serve to destroy their land.

Pray that the Obama administration "gets" this message quickly, for our Lord is watching over us, and He is watching over Jerusalem, "the apple of His eye." May God have mercy upon us!

"The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes. Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the hearts."
(Proverbs 21:1,2)

IRAN TO TRIPLE NUCLEAR FUEL OUTPUT

[Iran has announced plans this year to triple their research-level enrichment of nuclear fuel](#), a step that moves them closer to potentially building nuclear weapons while still making the claim that the work is for peaceful purposes. According to the Iranian Fars News Agency, the Islamic Republic announced on June 8 that it intends to triple their production of 19.75% enriched uranium. The Iranian state media on Wednesday quoted Fereydoon Abbasi-Davani saying Iran will transfer production of [20 percent-enriched uranium to its Fordo facility near the city of Qom this year](#).

That's a level needed for some medical research and higher than what's needed for electricity, but still shy of the more than 90% enrichment that is used for nuclear weapons. The plans nonetheless raise concerns about their implications for the potential that Iran could eventually seek to produce nuclear bombs. (Contributors: [Bridges for Peace](#), [Voice of America](#))

Pray that the international community will finally grasp the horrendous threat that this nuclear capability would pose to the rest of the world and will act accordingly to bring it to an end in such a way that this Iranian regime is neutralized, and that no one is brought to physical harm.

"Deliver me from my enemies, O my God; defend me from those who rise up against me. Deliver me from the workers of iniquity and save me from bloodthirsty men."
(Psalm 59:1,2)

AL-QAEDA: ATTACK HOUSES OF WORSHIP

An ABC News report contains a newly released video by Al-Qaeda with specific calls for attacks on sacred places. The video encourages western Moslems to conduct individual INTERCESSORS FOR AMERICA | Post Office Box 915, Purcellville, VA 20134 | [GetAmericaPraying.com](#)
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violent jihad against sacred places and features previously released statements by Osama bin Laden as well as Al-Qaeda media spokesman Adam Gadahn.

[Gadahn encourages western Moslems to conduct](#) attacks in their home countries as an obligation and falsely depicts the west as being at war with Islam. The video also provides guidance on how to conduct violent jihad, to operate in secrecy, to attack public figures, and to launch cyber attacks - without any specific names or targets.

Gadahn is quoted in the video as saying: "Moslems in the West have to remember that they are perfectly placed to play an important and decisive part in the jihad against the Zionists and crusaders, and to do major damage to the enemies of Islam, waging war on their religion, sacred places, and things, and brethren," says Gadahn. "This is a golden opportunity and a blessing."

[Adam Yahiyeh Gadahn was born Adam Pearlman](#), September 1, 1978 and is an American senior operative, cultural interpreter, spokesman and media advisor for the Sunni Islamist group Al-Qaeda. Since 2004, he appeared in a number of videos produced by Al-Qaeda as "Azzam the American."

The U.S.-based Christian Emergency Network (CEN) is recommending that churches and religious leaders take a look at Gadahn's message and decide whether they need to take any precautions. ([ABC News](#); [Christian Emergency Network](#), [Christianity Today](#). [Wikipedia](#))

Give thanks to the Lord for He promises to watch over His own, keeping us safe from harm. Pray that the leaders in both the churches and in the business community would take note of these satanically inspired threats, and take appropriate measures in response.

"If you say, "The LORD is my refuge," and you make the Most High your dwelling, no harm will overtake you, no disaster will come near your tent." (Psalm 91:9,10)

U.S. CONGRESSIONAL PRAYER CAUCUS:

The Congressional Prayer Caucus, an official caucus of the U.S. House of Representatives, is a bipartisan group of over 80 Members dedicated to preserving our religious heritage and protecting religious liberty in America.

Ninth Circuit Hears Idaho Bible Ban Case

Last week, attorneys [asked the Ninth Circuit](#) to overturn a ban prohibiting the use of religious texts in Idaho public schools. The Idaho Public Charter School Commission implemented the ban to keep a charter school from using the Bible in its curriculum. Opponents of the ban urged the court to consider the Bible's historical and cultural presence, as well as Supreme Court precedent approving the use of the Bible for educational purposes. In its past decision, the Supreme Court said, "the Bible may constitutionally be used in an appropriate study of history, civilization, ethics, comparative religion, or the like." The Idaho case was appealed to the Ninth Circuit after a lower court dismissed the lawsuit. If the Ninth Circuit upholds the Bible ban, opponents say the case likely will go to the Supreme Court. The ban would apply to all students in Idaho public schools and universities.

University Not Sufficiently Religious to Avoid Regulation by National Labor Relations Board

In May, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) [granted a petition](#) from a faculty organization at St. Xavier University that sought to unionize. The NLRB denied the university's religious exemption from federal organizing rules, saying the school was not religious enough to qualify for the exemption because it "functions as a secular educational institution or university." The university disagreed with the NLRB's ruling, voicing strong concern that the issue "could impact all religious institutions." The decision marked the second time this year that the NLRB ruled that a Catholic university was not religious enough to be exempt from the NLRB's regulation. Once a religious institution is deemed insufficiently religious to qualify for the NLRB's religious exemption, some are concerned that it could become more difficult for the institution to qualify for religious exemptions from other government regulation.

Tennessee college requires student to submit application and pay fee before sharing beliefs. A student is suing his college after being prohibited from sharing his faith on campus. Citing the school's "no soliciting" rule, campus police told the student that he could not share his faith or pass out literature unless he paid a fee and submitted an application weeks in advance.

<http://www.adfmedia.org/News/PRDetail/?CID=27338>

Louisiana House of Representatives votes for Ten Commandments monument at State Capitol.

The Louisiana House of Representatives unanimously passed a measure providing for a Ten Commandments monument on the State Capitol grounds, in recognition of the role that the Ten Commandments have played in shaping America's history and legal tradition.

<http://www.thenewsstar.com/article/20110610/NEWS01/106100321>

California school cancels memorial brick paver fundraiser, instead of allowing donors to buy pavers with Bible verse inscriptions. A California school cancelled a fundraiser that allowed individuals to buy brick pavers to be placed along the school's walkways, after two women requested that their pavers contain Bible verse inscriptions.

<http://www.onenewsnow.com/Education/Default.aspx?id=1366022>