



An initiative of the Prayer Association of the British Isles & Ireland
www.prayer-alert.net editor@prayer-alert.net

Issue 3106	Website	Contact Us	Donations	Friday 11 August 2006
■ British Isles & Ireland			■ Worldwide	
■ UK threat level remains critical following foiled terrorist plane blast plot			■ Indonesia to execute Christian rioters	
■ Robberies with knives rise by 72%			■ Israel 'takes' South Lebanon town	
■ Channel 4 'Masturbation Marathon' programme			■ Little peace seen in Darfur after accord	
■ IRA 'has ceased its criminality?'			■ Prayer initiative mobilizes for the International AIDS Conference	
■ Dissidents linked to shop fires			■ Breakthrough in Nepal arms talks	
■ One in 10 'victim of ID crimes'			■ Church worker killings continue in the Philippines	
■ Europe			■ Praise Reports	
■ Glimmer of light on Cyprus?			■ God is transforming Germans	
			■ Soul Survivor to gather 23,000 young people this summer	

BRITISH ISLES & IRELAND

■ UK threat level remains critical following foiled terrorist plane blast plot

A terrorist plot to blow up planes in mid-flight from the UK to the US has been disrupted, Scotland Yard has said. It is thought the plan was to detonate explosive devices smuggled onto as many as 10 aircraft in hand luggage. Police have arrested 21 people, from London, High Wycombe and Birmingham following an anti-terrorist operation lasting several months. Security at all airports in the UK has been tightened and delays are reported. MI5 has raised the UK threat level to critical - the highest possible. According to MI5's website, <http://www.mi5.gov.uk/output/Page4.html> critical threat level means 'an attack is expected imminently and indicates an extremely high level of threat to the UK'. Home Secretary John Reid confirmed that there had apparently been a plot 'to bring down a number of aircraft through mid-flight explosions causing a considerable loss of life'. According to BBC sources the 'principal characters' suspected of being involved in the plot were British-born.

Pray: for our security forces and police as they handle this situation. Pray for protection and safety for all those travelling that God will stay the hand of the enemy (Ps 140: 1-2). Praise God that the 'unimaginable scale' of fatalities was prevented.

More: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/4783141.stm>

■ Robberies with knives rise by 72%

Robberies involving knives have risen by 72% to 42,020 attacks across England and Wales in the last year, according to a report by an independent charity. A study carried out by the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies (CCJS) describes government strategy on tackling knife crime as 'incoherent'. The Home Office said British Crime Survey figures to March 2006 pre-dated the knife amnesty, which began in May. The CCJS claimed knife amnesties have a 'negligible' impact on knife crime. The report - carried out by the charity, which is based at Kings College, London - also found insufficient evidence to show amnesties or tougher sentences reduced the numbers carrying or using knives. The study comes weeks after more than 100,000 weapons were handed to police in England, Scotland and Wales during a national knife amnesty. During the five-week amnesty, which ended on 30 June, people could dispose of knives in secure bins without being prosecuted for possession.

Pray: against this culture of knife crime and that the initiatives by the police will help curb the problem.

More: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/5256612.stm>

■ Channel 4 'Masturbation Marathon' programme

Channel 4 has just filmed a documentary about a record-breaking attempt for the longest group masturbation session. The aim of the programme (brought over from the USA) is to raise funds for safe-sex charities. Channel 4 are saying that there

is a need for more of this kind of 'mischievous and fun' programming and are due to broadcast the documentary after 11pm sometime in the Autumn. CARE are disappointed that the only option to promote safe-sex appears to be through a total disregard for human dignity. Please write to OFCOM and register a complaint about the mixed messages that this programme sends out about the safe sex that the charities are seeking to promote. For more information on how to contact OFCOM visit the CARE website's News & Media section.

Pray: that Channel 4 will withdraw this evil programme and curb the excesses of those who wish to promote programmes like this. (Prov 10:23)

More: <http://www.care.org.uk/>

■ IRA 'has ceased its criminality?'

The IRA is no longer involved in any centrally organised criminality, the British and Irish governments believe. Speaking after meeting Irish ministers, NI Secretary Peter Hain said cross-border intelligence indicated the IRA was living up to its commitments. Mr Hain said individual IRA members may still be involved in criminal activities, but that should not prevent political progress from being made. However, the DUP's Nigel Dodds said Mr Hain was 'living in fantasy land'. 'This latest assessment from the secretary of state lacks credibility and will be treated by the vast majority of people in NI as yet another ham-fisted attempt to bluff the community and its political representatives into establishing an executive, including Sinn Fein.' He added: 'These comments that the IRA is not engaged in criminality fly in the face of the recent Northern Ireland Select Affairs Committee report on organised crime.' Mr Hain said that an 'absolute state of perfection' from the IRA was not realistic.

Pray: Praise God for the indication of a cessation of criminal acts and pray that the negative comments will be proved wrong, if mis-placed.

More: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/northern_ireland/5213598.stm

■ Dissidents linked to shop fires

Dissident republicans are being blamed for several suspected firebomb attacks in County Down. Two stores were destroyed and two others badly damaged in a series of overnight fires in Newry. Police said it was a 'devastating attack' and warned there could be unexploded devices at other premises. Sinn Fein blamed republican 'micro organisations'. Ulster Unionist Danny Kennedy said dissidents were 'marking the anniversary of internment'. About 125 fire-fighters and 26 appliances tackled the blazes which erupted at about 0225 BST on Wednesday. Chief Inspector Gary Hagan said a link to dissidents was one line of inquiry. 'It is difficult to comprehend or understand what would be in the mind of people that would want to carry out these kinds of attacks, that have left potentially large numbers unemployed and the commercial heart badly, badly damaged,' he said.

Pray: that this will not be the start of more such attacks and a breakdown of peace across the province.

More: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/northern_ireland/4775533.stm

■ One in 10 'victim of ID crimes'

Nearly one in 10 people believe they have fallen victim to identity fraud, according to a survey. People aged under 30 are most prone to falling victim because they are the poorest at protecting personal details, the survey suggests. Two-thirds in these groups admitted to giving a PIN or bank details to friends and family and 28% did not know a utility bill could be used in ID crime. The poll of 2,200 adults by YouGov was commissioned by energy firm Npower. The survey revealed widespread ignorance over how to combat identity fraud. About eight out of 10 people surveyed among the under-30s age group did not know what their credit rating was. Moving house was pinpointed as a particularly dangerous time, as far as falling victim to identity theft is concerned. The survey found that many people's energy bills and bank statements went astray when they moved. 'August is the most popular time of year for moving property, therefore the risk of ID theft is increased,' said Npower spokeswoman Zoe Coombs.

Pray: for an awareness of the risk of this growing trend. Pray that the authorities will find ways of combating the problem.

More: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/5256992.stm>

EUROPE

■ Glimmer of light on Cyprus?

It is early August and temperatures are rising above 40 degrees, but few politicians appear to be on holiday on either side of the green line in divided Cyprus. Behind a media blackout, Greek and Turkish Cypriot negotiators are meeting under UN auspices to thrash out a basis for new talks. On 31 July the two sides exchanged lists of issues they wanted to discuss. These points were agreed by the leaders of the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities, Tassos Papadopoulos and Mehmet Ali Talat, when they met in early July, under pressure from UN Deputy Secretary-General Ibrahim Gambari. Hopes are rising of a deal this week, involving twin-track talks: on improving co-operation on 'daily life' issues such as health or crime, and on substantive issues relating to any future comprehensive settlement. This would be the first breakthrough since April 2004, when the Greek Cypriots voted 'No' and Turkish Cypriots 'Yes' in a referendum on a plan drawn up by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan to reunite the island.

Pray: that as the talks progress, they will lead to a joining of the communities. (Ps 133:1)

More: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/5256414.stm>

WORLDWIDE

■ Indonesia to execute Christian rioters

Three Christian men, sentenced to death for inciting fighting with Muslims in eastern Indonesia six years ago, are to be executed, prosecutors have told the men's families. Fabianus Tibo, Dominggus da Silva and Marinus Riwu were found guilty in 2001 following months of violence on Sulawesi Island between Muslim and Christian mobs that left dead around 1,000 people from both faiths. Tibo's son, Robertus, said prosecutors had informed him by letter that his father and the two others would be killed in the early hours of Saturday morning by firing squad. All three have said they are not guilty, but their final appeal was turned down by Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, the Indonesian president, last year. Amnesty International, which opposes death sentences, said it was concerned by reports the trial of the three men did not meet international standards of fairness.

Pray: Please pray urgently to God that He will even now stay the hand of the authorities and that they will grant clemency to those under sentence. (Jas 4:12)

More: <http://english.aljazeera.net/NR/exeres/45DF52FB-F83A-4DDC-8D53-DAD58F0BEEF8.htm>

■ Israel 'takes' South Lebanon town

Israeli troops have seized the southern Lebanese town of Marjayoun, a day after the cabinet decided to expand ground operations, eyewitnesses say. A Lebanese general in the area denied reports the Israelis had taken the town, 9km (5.5 miles) into Lebanon. Forces also advanced on the town of Khiam, to quell Hezbollah rocket fire. The army says the action is not the start of a broader offensive, which officials say has been delayed to give more time for diplomacy on the crisis. Wednesday saw fierce fighting in southern Lebanon, with 15 Israeli soldiers killed in action - the highest number in a single day since the conflict began almost a month ago. More than 1,000 Lebanese, most of them civilians, have now been killed in the hostilities, their government has said. More than 100 Israelis, most of them soldiers, have also been killed.

Pray: Continue praying for the peace of Jerusalem, Lebanon and Gaza as this conflict increases and there appears to be no end. Pray that the world leaders will be able to broker a ceasefire deal. Remember all those who suffer needlessly.

More: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/4778591.stm

■ Little peace seen in Darfur after accord

A peace deal that was supposed to end the conflict in Sudan's war-ravaged Darfur region has brought anything but peace, with July marked as the deadliest month for aid workers since the conflict began. Four aid groups warned Tuesday that conditions for millions of civilians suffering in the area could get much worse quickly if security does not improve. Spiralling violence is already causing a rise in malnutrition and the spread of disease in some displaced persons camps, the groups said. Eight Sudanese humanitarian workers were killed last month along with countless civilians, part of increasing violence since a May 5 peace deal was signed in Nigeria between the government and the main rebel group. Fresh clashes have left countless dead in the last two months and displaced nearly 50,000 more people in addition to the more than 2 million who had already fled their homes. One million people also rely on food aid because their fields have been razed or they're too afraid to go out to farm.

Pray: Continue praying for Darfur and that peace would break out and there would be a cessation of violence. (Prov 12:20)

More: <http://www.christianpost.com/article/20060809/23602.htm>

■ Prayer initiative mobilizes for the International AIDS Conference

Prayer is an excellent way for churches throughout the world to participate in a meaningful way during the conference, and raise awareness in their congregations about what is happening in our world. The International AIDS Conference (IAC), 13-18 August 2006, will gather an estimated 20,000 'stakeholders' in Toronto, Canada for AIDS 2006. Many evangelical leaders now believe that the Church must be at the forefront of a response to the AIDS pandemic. The Global AIDS Prayer Partnership (GAPP), in cooperation with the World Evangelical Alliance, the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization and International Prayer Council, as well as other global partners, is calling on churches and Christians around the world to unite in strategic prayer during this August conference which influences the global response to the AIDS pandemic.

Pray: for this meeting, that the discussion and decisions will lead to progress in eradicating this disease. May the Church take up the baton of prayer and seek the Lord for a breakthrough.

More: http://www.breakingchristiannews.com/articles/display_art_pf.html?ID=2872

■ Breakthrough in Nepal arms talks

The Nepalese government and Maoist rebels have reached agreement on the supervision of their weapons, an issue that has impeded their peace talks. The United Nations will be asked to monitor both sides' arms, a joint statement issued in the capital, Kathmandu said. Earlier this week, the rebels' deputy leader warned the talks could collapse over the future of the monarchy. The rebels called a truce after King Gyanendra ended direct rule in April. The government has agreed that its troops will be confined to their barracks, while the rebels say their arms will be kept in one set of camps, the statement said. It was issued after talks between Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala and Maoist leader Prachanda. 'It is a significant event in the peace process. We have been able to respond to the aspirations of people for peace and prosperity,' the government's main negotiator, Home Minister Krishna Prasad Sitaula said.

Pray: Continue praying for the ongoing discussion that the leaders will come to a just compromise that will bring lasting peace.

More: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south_asia/4775855.stm

■ Church worker killings continue in the Philippines

A Methodist minister in the Philippines has been shot dead by gunmen outside his home in the latest example of a spate of murders and human rights abuses which is disturbing both civic and religious campaigners for democracy and social justice. The National Council of Churches in the Philippines issued a statement on 7 August, noting that the victim was the 21st church worker killed since May 2001. According to the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Isaias Sta. Rosa was found dead in Malabago, Davao, Albay, a week ago. He was near a creek, alongside another dead man with gunshot wounds who was identified as an army corporal, according to the newspaper. United Methodist Bishop Leo A. Soriano, who leads the church's Davao Area, condemned the killing and urged civil and military authorities to bring the guilty parties to justice. 'Sta. Rosa's killing came after three activists were killed in a span of 24 hours in the regions of Northern and Central Luzon and Sorsogon province,' the National Council of Churches said.

Pray: that the Lord will protect the saints who find themselves in difficult circumstances. Pray for the church that it will remain strong under persecution. (2 Thess 1:4)

More: http://www.ekklesia.co.uk/content/news_syndication/article_060810phil.shtml

PRAISE REPORTS

■ God is transforming Germans

WEA sends warmest thanks to the praying people from so many different nations for their prayer support during the Football (Soccer) World Cup in Germany. God did more than just answer our prayers. He has done 'more than we could ask or imagine': The evangelistic outreaches in not only the twelve World Cup host cities but also many other cities in Germany were blessed to see people coming to Christ – for example, 100 alone in Frankfurt. Over 4,000 churches (1200 kick-off-associated, 700 Catholic and 2200 Lutheran state churches) had live transmissions of games for public viewing. The Christians were excited about the new contact to un-churched people that these public viewings generated. A Christian sports programme produced solely for this occasion gave the viewers food for thought about faith before every match involving Germany, as well as the playoffs and final match. Even the secular media reported positively on the Christian outreaches, something that seldom happens in Germany. Just like in Acts 2, the Christians were: enjoying the favour of all the people.

Praise: God for He is good! He always does more than we could ask or imagine!

More: <http://www.worldevangelicalalliance.com/news/view.htm?id=645>

■ Soul Survivor to gather 23,000 young people this summer

Youth ministry Soul Survivor will host their main event this summer, where 23,000 young people are expected to gather for four conferences in Somerset, England. One of the conferences 'Passion for Your Name' will guide young people to dig into the Holy Scripture for five days. Attendees will be encouraged to wait on God, and to learn how to fulfil the command to love the Lord with all their hearts. The main meetings focus on the organisation's core values of worship, teaching and ministry. With a passion to help young people to capture a vision of Jesus, Soul Survivor aims to equip, train, empower and release them into His ministry in their everyday lives.

Praise: Pray that the Holy Spirit will anoint all the young people gathered and that through them His power will ripple out to the nations.

More: http://www.christiantoday.com/news/missions/soul_survivor.to.gather.23000.young.people.this.summer/735.htm

PRAYER ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH ISLES & IRELAND

Please feel free to distribute Prayer Alert to anyone you feel will benefit from its ministry. All we ask is that you do not edit or change it in any way or charge for its use without contacting us for written permission.

Prayer Alert is a partnership project of the Prayer Association of the British Isles and Ireland
C/O World Prayer Centre, Cornerstone House, 5 Ethel Street, Birmingham, B2 4BG, England