



# PRAYER ALERT...



An initiative of the Prayer Forum of the British Isles & Ireland  
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## BRITISH ISLES & IRELAND

### ■ March for Sharia law in London Saturday

A radical Muslim group sparked outrage as it launched a massive campaign to impose Sharia law on Britain. The fanatical group Islam4UK has announced plans to hold a potentially incendiary rally in London on Saturday October 31 for a procession to demand the full implementation of Sharia law. The procession will start at the House of Commons, proceed to 10 Downing Street and 'call for the removal of the tyrant Gordon Brown from power', and then converge on Trafalgar Square. The group declared: 'On this day we will call for a complete upheaval of the British ruling system, its members and legislature and demand the full implementation of Sharia in Britain.' Patrick Mercer, a Conservative MP and ex-army officer, told the Daily Express: 'It is stoking the fires of fear within the British public. If anyone thinks that those views are a step forward in society they are seriously deluded.' However, Mr Choudary, who has applauded the deaths of British soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan, remains determined to press ahead. He has founded two Islamist organizations which were later designated and banned as terrorist by the British government.

**Pray:** that God would speak the truth into the minds by His Spirit of those gathering and protect them from the lies. (Eph.3:10)

**More:** <http://www.christian.org.uk/news/muslim-group-march-in-uk-cities-for-sharia/>

### ■ Bishop calls on Christians to wear crosses in run-up to Christmas

The Bishop of Lichfield has entered the debate about the right of Christians to wear crosses or fish badges while at work with a call for Christians to demonstrate that they 'aren't going to disappear quietly from the market place.' In a pastoral letter published in magazines across the Diocese of Lichfield, the Rt Revd Jonathan Gledhill says: 'The Christian roots to our governance should not be nibbled away without discussion. Sometimes I think it wouldn't be a bad thing if in December we all wore a fish badge or cross necklace and sent out a loud message that Christians aren't going to disappear quietly from the market place or put away our crib figures in a hurry.' But he also challenged Christians to demonstrate a far more costly sign saying: 'The mark of a real Christian community is not so much the lapel badges and crosses we wear as the spontaneous, generous and practical love we show to the world.'

**Pray:** for Christians to be filled with the boldness of the Spirit to witness to their faith in Jesus Christ our Saviour. (2Tim.1:6-7)

**More:** <http://www.lichfield.anglican.org/news&newsID=655&newsYear=2009>

### ■ 'Hate crime' grandmother considers suing

The case of Pauline Howe, the Christian grandmother investigated by police for objecting to a gay pride parade, has provoked strong debate in the media. It featured on ITV's Anglia News on Monday night with an organiser of the gay pride

march supporting the police action because 'there are some points of view that are too hateful to be said'. The head of gay lobby group Stonewall, Ben Summerskill, called the police response 'disproportionate'. Andrew Pierce, a commentator for the Daily Telegraph and a homosexual, said: 'What kind of society have we become when the peaceful expression of a religious belief can bring police knocking at the door?' He added: 'We should all be worried by Norwich Council's ludicrous overreaction, and the weak-kneed response of the local constabulary. 'It suggests yet again that the most fundamental of all freedoms, the right of free speech, is being endangered.' Mrs Howe has now contacted the Christian Institute for advice and is considering suing the authorities.

**Pray:** for Christians everywhere, including Pauline Howe, that God will give them strength and wisdom as they speak of their beliefs. (Ps.37:30)

**More:** <http://www.christian.org.uk/news/media-outrage-over-police-probe-of-christian-granny/>

#### ■ Nick Griffin has 'hijacked' Christianity, says Lord Carey

Lord Carey, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, has said it was 'chilling' to hear Nick Griffin claim to represent 'Christian Britain' in his appearance on Question Time, as he accused the BNP leader of trying to 'hijack one of the world's great religions'. Lord Carey of Clifton called on Christians to 'stand shoulder to shoulder' in rejecting the British National Party and its leader Mr Griffin, whom he described as a 'squalid racist'. Calling the BBC's invitation to the far-right leader 'a mistake', Lord Carey said: 'The BBC's director-general errs in arguing that in a democracy all views should be heard. The views of the BNP are not simply false, they are dangerous, indeed irredeemably evil.' He added: 'All Christians should stand shoulder-to-shoulder in rejection of Nick Griffin's notion that 'Christianity' has anything to do with his despicable views.'

**Pray:** for all Christian people to stand against the subversion of the Gospel message of Christ. (Ro.1:17)

**More:** <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstopics/religion/6431674/Nick-Griffin-has-hijacked-Christianity-says-Lord-Carey.html>

#### ■ Church youth council to celebrate fifth birthday at Westminster Abbey

Westminster Abbey is preparing to host a fifth birthday celebration for the Church of England Youth Council (CEYC). Young people from across the country who have been involved in the development of this national representative body have been invited to mark the occasion. On the evening of Saturday, 28 November, around 400 young people will converge on the Abbey to celebrate the Council's work in providing a co-ordinated voice within the decision-making structures of the Church for young adults. CEYC Chair, Rebecca Swinson, comments: 'The journey taken by young people in the Church to reach the point of a fully-functioning Youth Council has been a long one. 'As well as being a reunion for those who have campaigned for giving young adults a louder voice within the Church, it is first and foremost an upbeat service to thank God for all He has done in lives and in our wider networks.'

**Pray:** for all who will be attending this event and for all the young people in our churches everywhere. (1Th.1:2-3)

**More:** <http://www.christiantoday.co.uk/article/church.youth.council.to.celebrate.fifth.birthday.at.westminster.abbey/24472.htm>

#### ■ Schools reporting 40,000 racism cases a year

Schools are reporting 40,000 incidents of racism a year involving children as young as five after everyday playground squabbles, a report warns. Primary schoolchildren and toddlers in nurseries are being punished for making racist insults, it claims, even if they do not understand the terms they use. The report also says teachers are being treated like counter staff in police stations, having to fill in forms detailing name-calling and jokes. At the same time, diversity 'missionaries' sent into schools to teach pupils about bigotry are said to be increasing the divide between white and black children by forcing them to see everything in terms of race. Schools were placed under a duty by the Government in 2002 to monitor and report all racist incidents to their local authority.

**Pray:** that teachers and authorities would be granted wisdom to handle situations which may be racist and to avoid those that are not. (Pr.10:13)

**More:** <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/6456599/Schools-reporting-40000-racism-cases-a-year.html>

#### ■ Will you stand in the gap?

Jonathan Oloyede, the convener of the Global Day of Prayer London, said 'The Global Day of Prayer in May was a historic event, not only in London but around the world, with Christians in all 220 nations praying for God's Kingdom to come and His will to be done. We want to thank the Lord for making joint prayer events happen in every one of the 33 London boroughs. Jonathan called Christians to prayer. He said 'At a time when ungodly legislation is being passed in Parliament and secularists and atheists are becoming even bolder in their demands, Christians need to be awake, alert and praying for God's intervention. If we are going to turn our nation around and see many souls coming to Christ, then prayer can no longer be an event but a lifestyle. The Lord is looking for intercessors, for those who will lay down their own agendas and pick up His. Whatever you do, don't do nothing!'

**Pray:** for many to answer the call to regular life changing ongoing prayer. (Ps.6:9)

**More:** <http://www.christiantoday.com/article/will.you.stand.in.the.gap/24471.htm>

## EUROPE

#### ■ Switzerland: Cabinet seeks changes on suicide bill

The Swiss government laid out plans to tighten rules on assisted suicide in a bid to prevent abuse by organisations like the Dignitas clinic offering euthanasia. One option suggested an outright ban on organisations offering assisted suicide. A second option was to impose more stringent rules. The Federal Council said they do not wish to take anything away from the current liberal legislation which permits someone to assist a suicide provided they are not motivated by their own

interests. Political parties and organisations have four months to give their opinion on the two proposals before cabinet prepares a final bill for discussion in parliament. In 2008 a Zurich University research team reported, 'More women and people suffering from non-fatal illnesses are opting for assisted suicide. Weariness of life rather than a fatal or hopeless medical condition is a common reason for older people to commit suicide in this way.'

**Pray:** for a law that provides more palliative care. (Ps.119:149)

**More:** <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/switzerland/6456747/Switzerland-aims-to-stop-suicide-tourism.html>

#### ■ **EU leaders told to 'stop clowning around' over climate change**

EU ministers must 'stop clowning around' and announce ambitious figures for climate adaptation and mitigation in developing countries this week, an aid agency has said. Failure to do this will only prolong the current deadlock in climate negotiations and seriously compromise any chance of agreeing a climate deal at Copenhagen in December, Tearfund said in a news release. The EU Heads of State summit taking place from 29 - 30 October is the last key EU leaders' meeting ahead of Copenhagen. Climate finance is the thorn in the flesh threatening to derail the whole negotiation process, according to Tearfund. Ahead of this meeting nearly 7,000 messages from Tearfund supporters were delivered to the Prime Minister calling on him to take a lead on climate finance. To hammer the point home, Tearfund clowns illustrated the EU's cavalier attitude to the planet by fooling around with a giant globe in Parliament Square.

**Pray:** that the EU Heads of State will take seriously the need to have plans ready for significant changes at Copenhagen. (Da.2:21)

**More:** <http://www.ekklesia.co.uk/node/10474>

## WORLDWIDE

#### ■ **INSIGHT ARTICLE: Iran: Ahmadinejad's theological foes**

Grand Ayatollah Hoseyn Ali Montazeri is one of Shia Islam's most respected theologians. At one stage he was designated to succeed Ayatollah Khomeini in the role of Iran's Supreme Leader. He is now one of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's fiercest critics. The Grand Ayatollah rarely grants interviews, but when BBC Radio 4's Analysis programme submitted a number of questions via his website, he responded in detail. His answers to those questions are translated and printed in this INSIGHT article, where he eloquently expresses opinions not usually voiced in public, giving us insights on how to pray into this delicate situation in Iran.

**Pray:** that God would use the Grand Ayatollah to achieve His purposes for the region. (2Ch.36:22)

**More:** <http://www.prayer-alert.net/info/4409Iran2.pdf>

#### ■ **Iran: British embassy employee jailed**

David Miliband urged Iran to overturn a four year jail sentence given to a British embassy employee arrested in June at the time of street protests over the country's disputed presidential election. The Iranian who worked as the embassy's chief political analyst was accused of spying and inciting unrest. Mr Miliband called the reported sentence 'wholly unjustified,' adding it represented 'further harassment of embassy staff for going about their normal and legitimate duties. The British ambassador in Tehran had spoken to Iran's deputy foreign minister and the Iranian ambassador in London had been called in to explain the decision. Mr Miliband said, 'We understand the sentence can be appealed. I urge the authorities to conduct this quickly and overturn this harsh sentence.' Nine British embassy employees were arrested but Rassam was the only one to be charged and put on trial along with an employee of the French embassy. An Iranian-American academic has been sentenced to more than 12 years in prison for his role in the election protests.

**Pray:** that God will give diplomats His words to avoid an international incident as He establishes His justice. (Is.42:4)

**More:** <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/8331122.stm>

#### ■ **India: Massive 'reconversion' event in India aimed at Christians**

Hundreds of tribal Christians and adherents of aboriginal religion were reportedly 'reconverted' to Hinduism on Monday in a Mumbai suburb at a ceremony led by a Hindu nationalist cleric. The goal to 'reconvert' 6,000 Christians in a purification ceremony resulted in around 800 'reconversions.' Hindu nationalists believe all Indians are born Hindu and regard acceptance of Hinduism by those practicing other religions as 'reconversion'. Maharaj, a Hindu cleric known for opposing proclamation of Christ, has allegedly led anti-Christian attacks in tribal regions. In 2007 a similar 'reconversion' ceremony was held. Hindu nationalists attack Christians in tribal areas because they provide social and development services regarded as competition by rightwing Hindus seeking to woo tribal voters. A spokesman claimed Maharaj had overseen the conversion of more than 94,000 Christians 'back to their original faith' and plans to complete the target of 100,000 in the next two years.

**Pray:** that believers will keep their eyes on Jesus and persevere in their faith; and those who seek to hinder the work of the Church will themselves receive Jesus in their lives. (Heb.10:39;12:12-13)

**More:** <http://www.compassdirect.org/english/country/india/11036/>

#### ■ **Pakistan: Bloodbath in Peshawar**

A remote-controlled car bomb killed at least 105 people and injured around 200 others at the provincial capital's Meena Bazaar on Wednesday hours after US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton arrived in Pakistan to bolster the two countries alliance against Taliban and Al Qaeda. A Capital City Police Officer said terrorists were 'confused' because of the security in the city, and were therefore targeting public places. The Prime Minister said the government would not rest until all terrorists

had been eliminated. Three bomb attacks have been launched in Peshawar this month, including one that killed more than 50 people. They are part of at least 10 major attacks in Pakistan.

**Pray:** that as this country is shaken, many will have revelations of Jesus, and be comforted, healed and delivered by the one true living God. (Hag.2:6-7)

**More:** [http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2009\10\29\story\\_29-10-2009\\_pg1\\_1](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2009\10\29\story_29-10-2009_pg1_1)

#### ■ Haiti: Ministry feels gnawing hunger keenly

The United Nations has extended its peacekeeping mission in Haiti for another year because of the fragile security situation. The impoverished Caribbean nation still faces a threat to international peace and security despite recent progress. The problems are exacerbated by poverty, high unemployment, rising food prices, starvation and hopelessness. According to a report from Haiti's Food Security Coordination Unit, one in four people are at risk of starvation. That translates to two million people who are undernourished. Eva DeHart of For Haiti With Love says lack of food was compounded by shipping problems for their ministry. At one point, there was concern that the ministry would run out of food before their new shipment arrived. However, DeHart says, 'Somebody donated 500 boxes of the food packs. That will tide us over until we can get the next container down.' Starving mothers aren't able to make enough milk to keep their babies alive; it really is a matter of life or death.

**Pray:** that the Lord will work through the authorities to remove all blockages to the delivery of aid. (Is.58:10)

**More:** <http://www.mnnonline.org/article/13439>

#### ■ Vietnam: Three children abducted

Christian workers visiting an orphanage in Vietnam are concerned for the wellbeing of three children who were kidnapped by authorities last week. One of the workers calling in from Hong Kong, said, 'Last night our missions organization received word from Vietnam that the Christian orphanage our team visited last weekend had had a visit from a woman and a police officer who took three children away from the orphanage under false pretences (i.e. with the knowledge of the adults at the orphanage at the time). 'We are very concerned for the children's safety and are concerned about why the police took the children. Details are still sketchy but we would value prayer' Little known facts from <http://www.christiansincrisis.net/> report more than 200 million Christians face persecution each day, 60% are children, and every day over 300 are killed for their faith in Jesus Christ. November 8th is the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church.

**Pray:** for God to breathe His love into the persecuted church and empower those called to be advocates for the defenceless. (Ps.119:86)

**More:** <http://www.assistnews.net/Stories/2009/s09100163.htm>

## PRAISE REPORTS

#### ■ Amendment to change law on assisted suicide fails.

Thank you for your prayers and action. Lord Alderdice's amendment to the Coroners and Justice Bill has been withdrawn. The amendment sought to remove the possibility of prosecution for those who help a person to die where that person has an incurable and disabling illness and a coroner has certified that the person has a free and settled wish to die. This would be wrong in principle and open to massive abuse. The amendment was opposed by a majority of those Lords who spoke in the debate. In giving concluding remarks, Lord Bach said that their 'firm view remains that the Coroners and Justice Bill has never been, and is not now, the appropriate vehicle for change in the criminal law as it applies to assisted suicide.' (See Prayer Alert 4809 & 2809)

**Praise:** God for this answer to our prayers. (Pr.8:12)

**More:** <http://www.ccfon.org/view.php?id=879>

#### ■ Archbishop and London Mayor to join inaugural Street Pastors conference

Street Pastors is gearing up for its first ever Practitioners Conference which is aimed at church leaders, heads of church departments and lay members interested in impacting their communities with social initiatives that meet local needs. Speakers at the three-day event in London next month include the Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, and the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson. Joining them are Rod Jarman, the Deputy Assistant Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, criminologist Professor John Pitts, Street Pastors co-founder the Rev David Shosanya and CARET chief executive Oliver Nyumbu. The Street Pastors Practitioners Conference is the brainchild of Rev Les Isaac, CEO of the Ascension Trust and co-founder of Street Pastors. He said, 'We've decided to hold a Practitioners Conference because during the six years of leading and developing Street Pastors we've learnt much about what it takes to set up and run social initiatives which impact local communities. We aim to use this conference to share what we've learnt so that we can inspire more church leaders and lay members to engage with their local communities and show them how they can do so.'

**Praise:** God for the work of Street Pastors as they impact the needs of those on the streets. (1Pe.5:2)

**More:** <http://www.christiantoday.com/article/archbishop.and.london.mayor.to.join.inaugural.street.pastors.conference/24484.htm>

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