



William J. Murray

# The Chairman's Action Report

Religious  
Freedom  
Coalition

March 16, 2005

## INTERNATIONAL

### THE UNITED NATIONS



**Peggy Birchfield (center)  
with two UN delegates**

Our Executive Director, Peggy Birchfield, spent much of the first week of March at the United Nations building in New York City. That week the UN Commission on the Status of Women was meeting to discuss a final report on the condition of women in the world. As part of that report European nations wanted to insert language stating that prostitution was a woman's right. On the other hand the US delegates worked hard to remove language stating that abortion was a woman's right.

In the midst of the battle over the language of the official report were the Non-Governmental Agencies or NGOs. The Religious Freedom Coalition is considered an NGO.

For two years our own Peggy Birchfield has been working for the Religious Freedom Coalition to achieve fully recognized status with the United Nations. Meanwhile, at the United Nations, we continue to work with organizations that have already received full status such as the International Federation for Family Development and the Heritage Foundation.

Do we make a difference at the United Nations? Yes, we do!

Most of the UN delegates are from the liberal elite of their nations and have never even heard of social conservatives much less our point of view. The Europeans in particular believe American Christians are just a bunch of wackos. The presence of Christian leaders such as Peggy Birchfield is changing opinions and changing the resolutions passed by the United Nations.

In a victory for the Bush Administration and for social conservative lobbying groups, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution banning all forms of human cloning, including cloning of human embryos for stem cell research. The vote was 84 to 34, with 37 abstentions. Britain, Belgium and China immediately announced that the resolution was not binding and that they would ignore it and continue to experiment with human life. Why aren't John Kerry, Hillary Clinton and Ted Kennedy complaining about these nations not adhering to UN policy? They want the United States to obey the UN, but I guess it is OK for others just to blow off the resolutions when they don't like them.

Peggy's full report from the United Nations is included.

### WEST BANK

Our April missions trip to the Holy Land is just a few weeks away. I make this trip at least once a year. While there I will also meet with several of the Christian men who are still under death warrant from the PA and who are in hiding in Israel and whose families face persecution in the West Bank. I will also visit the families in their West Bank villages to see how we can help them directly.

Besides sending funds to Christian evangelists to the Palestinians, and aiding Christian schools, the Religious Freedom Coalition has directly funded the families of persecuted Christians as best we can by selling "Peace Soap." For more than two years now we have been selling handmade olive oil soap at our Internet store at [www.rfcstore.com](http://www.rfcstore.com). The soap is made by the families in Samaria of the men in hiding in Israel.

As I mentioned in the last Chairman's Report the RFC sent more than \$10,000 in 2004 to these persecuted Christian families just from the sale of the handmade soap alone. Already this year we have sent another \$3,000! Over the past five years we have delivered tens of thousands of dollars to persecuted families, Christian schools and ministries in Palestinian Authority controlled areas of the Holy Land. The Religious Freedom Coalition is not a charity - it is registered as a religious organization - and as a result we are under no government restraints. While the Red Cross and CARE must give most of their aid to Muslims in a predominantly Muslim area, the RFC has no such restrictions. We can direct all of our funds only to Christians and Christian organizations.

Just recently Israel turned over the city of Jericho and other areas in the West Bank to the Palestinian Authority. As Israel continues to turn over territory to the Palestinian Authority this year we must stand ready to help Christians in those areas even more. I am particularly concerned about the Jewish settlement of Ariel and the Christians who live in and around there.

Because of the work of a Christian evangelist we support in Ariel, there is a large Jewish Christian community in that Samaritan city and an even larger Palestinian Christian community living in villages nearby. We support evangelism from Ariel both with prayer and with financial support. While in Ariel I will be staying in the evangelist's quarters that have been prepared by the Christian community there.

We continue to pray for \$100,000 for our projects in the West Bank (Samaria) this year. Please join me in prayer that these funds will be made available to help Christians in predominantly Islamic areas such as the West Bank.

## **THE HOUSE AND SENATE**

### **TERRI'S LAW**

Although the last two Chairman's Reports have primarily dealt with our International work at the United Nations and in the Holy Land, our work in Washington continues on a daily basis. Just last week I met with numerous congressmen and Senators on important social issues. On Tuesday, March 8th I met with Senator Mel Martinez of Florida. The first bill he has introduced as a new Senator is the Incapacitated Persons Legal Protection Act (S 539). The bill was introduced to save the life of Terri Schiavo, the Florida woman whom judges have ordered starved to death because her husband does not want to deal with her disability. Under this bill, the same rights given to convicted murderers on death row would be extended to Terri Schiavo and others in her condition. The bill would provide an independent counsel (attorney) to appeal the death sentence given to her by her husband and move the case to a federal court. The RFC has assisted in raising funds for Terri's family to help with her legal defense.

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## The Religious Freedom Coalition at the United Nations

*Report by Peggy Birchfield, Executive Director*

During the first week of March, I represented the Religious Freedom Coalition at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women as part of our continuing efforts to stop the social damage the UN has been doing with its anti-family, pro abortion social policies, and help turn it in a conservative direction.

Tuesday, March 1, my first day there, the battle began. Since the last Status of Women conference in Beijing, China, abortion proponents have attempted to use that first meeting's Platform for Action to promote abortion worldwide. The United States delegation, led by Ellen Sauerby, strongly disagreed saying the language was being misinterpreted and proposed an amendment to clarify it. The amendment needed endorsements and letters of support to help it pass, so I spent Tuesday night contacting coalitions and groups from all over the country to send their endorsements. The work paid off--more than 1600 conservative groups responded to my e-mail and endorsed the amendment.

Wednesday, March 2, negotiations continued on the anti abortion amendment, and it did pass! I really believe that without the active involvement of the RFC and other conservative groups, that the left would have continued with "business as usual" in their domination of UN policies, and there would have been just one more avenue to promote killing of unborn children.



Thursday, March 3, the Religious Freedom Coalition, along with five other conservative groups from the US and Europe (Heritage Foundation, Concerned Women for America, Red Familia, the International Federation for Family Development, and the Family Research Council) sponsored a lunch briefing for UN delegates. The purpose of the gathering was to present evidence of how the institution of marriage benefits women socially and economically, and should be encouraged.

**UN Luncheon sponsored by RFC and other conservative groups**

We were attempting to counter the propaganda put out by left wing opponents who were lobbying to get the UN commission to promote such "rights" of women as abortion and legalized prostitution. I believe the delegates, who came from such nations as Mexico, Guinea, Indonesia, St. Kitts and Nevis Islands, Gambia, Yemen, South Africa, Argentina and the European Union, were impressed by the evidence we presented and that they will be more inclined to support UN policies that support rather than tear down traditional marriage.

Friday, March 4, I participated in a very well attended briefing, "Preserving and Protecting Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms from Escalating Threats: Case Studies from Sweden and Canada." Last year the Religious Freedom Coalition brought to the U. S. two Swedish conservative leaders, one a Parliamentarian, to publicize what "hate crimes" legislation can do. They testified before our Congress about the case of Pastor Ake Green in Sweden, and how he had been arrested just for preaching in his own small church about the Bible's teaching on homosexuality because of "hate crimes" laws in that nation.

Another of Pastor Green's supporters, Per Karlsson, an attorney from Sweden told those present at the briefing how a Court of Appeals had dismissed the charges against the pastor;

however, prosecutors now want to bring the case before Sweden's Supreme Court. The leftist government wants to end freedom of speech in Sweden for anyone who does not hold their social point of view.



**Peggy Birchfield with Dr. Chris Kempling of Canada**

Also at the Friday meeting, I worked with other conservatives to plan a strategy to be sure teachers in our respective nations would never have to face the kind of attacks teachers now face in Canada. In British Columbia, Dr. Chris Kempling, a school counselor (teacher) told us how he was suspended from his job because he refused to promote homosexuality to his students, even though the BC Teachers Federation had passed a resolution in 1998 calling for “pro-gay” themes in every grade from kindergarten to grade 12, and in every subject area.

Dr. Kempling was present at our briefing and gave us a full report on the repression he and his family has faced because of his refusal to teach “queer studies” in the public schools of Canada.

If we are not vigilant to fight against so-called “hate crimes” legislation, our own teachers will someday face the same situation. The Religious Freedom Coalition will continue defending our freedom of speech, because these types of laws will be brought before our own Congress again by liberals such as Ted Kennedy and John Kerry.

In spite of the monumental battles we face, I did leave this UN conference with a sense of hope. Conservative Bible believing people from around the world are no longer willing to just sit by and complain about the United Nations agenda. We are demanding our right to be heard, and I believe we are starting to make a difference.

Over the past two years I have attended numerous UN events on behalf of the Religious Freedom Coalition and I continue to work on our two year old application to become a fully accredited NGO (non governmental organization) of the UN. It is important that not only the Religious Freedom Coalition but other social conservative organizations as well work inside the United Nations so that it cannot be used as a platform to destroy the traditional family and promote a far left social agenda that includes indoctrinating the world's children with the homosexual and feminist agendas.



**Peggy Birchfield with US Ambassador to the United Nations Economic and Social Counsel, Sichan Siv**

We are winning battles ... The week after our briefings in New York we won a major victory as the United Nations General Assembly voted to ban human cloning. We are making a difference at the United Nations.

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