



THE TORCH

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TEF will have a booth at the

Republican State Convention in San Antonio, June 14–16th

Hope you will stop by!

Save the Persecuted Christians

By Frank J. Gaffney

A powerful new movie, “Paul, Apostle of Christ,” depicts the horrific persecution to which the early Christians were subjected. It closes with a dedication to those who are currently suffering for their faith. It almost certainly would come as a shock to most in the audience that—according to Open Doors USA, one of the leading organizations working to reduce

such suffering—some 215 million followers of Christ are currently subjected to heavy persecution globally.

Tragically, despite the best and often very courageous efforts of many leading clerics and organizations like Open Doors, Christian communities all over the world are experiencing everything from rape to torture to slavery to destruction of churches and monasteries to mass murder on an *intensifying* scale.

This cannot be allowed to continue. And an informal coalition made up of remarkable people

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and groups has come together to try to ensure that it will not.

They have been inspired by a similar effort launched over five decades ago to help save another persecuted population: Jews in the USSR. Starting with a synagogue in Ohio, the Cleveland Campaign for Soviet Jewry worked to raise awareness about the plight of Jewish dissidents and others performing hard labor in the Gulag, incarcerated and abused in mental institutions, subjected to pogroms or otherwise penalized for being Jewish.

These activists launched their campaign with signs outside synagogues and some churches with simple messages, like, “Free Soviet Jews.” Thanks to help they received from prominent Holocaust survivors like Elie Wiesel, students, Israel, and relatives of persecuted Soviet Jews, ultimately millions of people came together to forge a powerful political movement.

In the early 1970s, Democratic U.S. Sen. Henry M. “Scoop” Jackson, from Washington State, helped translate the resulting popular sentiment into legislative action. In 1974, by overwhelming bipartisan majorities, he secured the enactment of legislation known as the Jackson-Vanik amendment. It denied the Soviet Union Most-Favored Nation (MFN) status unless and until it allowed Jews and others to emigrate freely.

Much as the Soviets wanted—and badly as they *needed*—the windfall MFN would have generated in terms of access to American and Western investment, credits, technology, and financing, the Kremlin refused to go along with Jackson-Vanik’s requirements. As a result, their economy continued its nosedive, to the point where, when President Reagan came along, determined to destroy the USSR, not prop it up, he was able to use economic warfare, along with other techniques, to take down the Soviet Union.

In short, those signs outside of houses of worship across America ultimately led, not only to the liberation of several million Jews, but they also precipitated the freeing of hundreds of millions of others enslaved by what Mr. Reagan rightly called “the Evil Empire.”

This miracle has inspired what we are calling the Save the Persecuted Christians Coalition with an *even more ambitious* goal: ending the worldwide persecution of those who believe in Jesus Christ. I am proud to be among this coalition’s founding members.

Achieving this goal will, of course, require changing the behavior of not just *one* nation, but scores of them. But we have a lot going for us that the Save Soviet Jewry campaign did not. For example, while Al Gore had not yet “invented the Internet” back then, the Web and the various social media platforms that utilize it today are powerful vehicles for raising awareness and driving activism. Ditto the proliferation and power of faith-based media, led by the formidable National Religious Broadcasters (NRB).

Finally, in the 1970s, Scoop Jackson and his allies faced the relentless opposition of the Nixon and Ford administrations, who wanted to provide MFN to the Kremlin as much as its Communist masters yearned to obtain it. Today, by contrast, the Trump-Pence administration is deeply committed to helping Christians suffering persecution.

What is needed now, however, is to do so in a way that doesn’t amount to using aspirin to treat a metastasizing cancer. As important as the work is of those providing food, water, medicine, and shelter to the persecuted, we must address this crisis *systemically*, not just symptomatically. Our new coalition seeks to do that by holding the persecutors accountable and creating powerful costs for such crimes against humanity in the future.

Like the campaign to free Soviet Jews, ours is starting to raise public awareness with the help of clerical leaders and religious institutions across the country. They are displaying a banner given them *for free* (one per church or synagogue) by the Coalition. It conveys a simple, but powerful, message to congregants and those passing by alike that Christians are being persecuted and need our help.



In the banner’s center is the Arabic letter “nun” (or “n”). Like the cross, it has become an international symbol of Christian suffering ever since the Islamic State started painting this sign on the doors of believers thus marked for persecution.

We have over 330 such banners displayed around America thus far and aspire to have hundreds, if not thousands more in place, in the months ahead. In the process, we are calling attention to the work of those currently in the field helping persecuted Christians. But we also are working to create a nonpartisan movement that can give rise to, among other things, a “Jackson-Vanik 2.0”—policies and/or legislation that will identify and begin to punish those doing the persecution.

To find out more about the Save the Persecuted Christians Coalition and how you can participate in its campaign, please visit SaveThePersecutedChristians.com. Your help, together with that of your friends, family members, business colleagues, and clerics, can make a real difference. It can also give you something to say when, on the Day of Judgment, you are asked what have you done for the faithful.

Frank J. Gaffney acted as an Assistant Secretary of Defense under President Ronald Reagan. He is the founder and president of the Center for Security Policy in Washington.

Do You Know the Four Boxes of Liberty?

Condensed from an article by **Gary DeMar**, Constitution.com, 3/2/18

The more I read about Frederick Douglass, the more I like him. His white master's wife taught him to read. A literate slave was a danger to the institution of slavery, especially when a literate slave read the Bible and understood its message, that the spirit and the body are free in Jesus Christ.

Douglass had begun to realize what his "master" understood:

"There was power, indeed subversive, revolutionary power, in reading and interpreting the Bible for oneself, and that the institution of slavery, in fact, depended on controlling biblical literacy—who can read the Bible when and how."

"I felt a delight in circumventing the tyrants, and in blessing the victims of their curses."
(*My Bondage and My Freedom*, 1855).

Yes, "circumventing the tyrants," not with words alone, but with the ability to defend oneself from being kidnapped, returned to slavery, or lynched:

"The true remedy for the Fugitive Slave Bill is a good revolver, a steady hand, and a determination to shoot down any man attempting to kidnap."
(*The True Remedy for the Fugitive Slave Bill in The Life and Writings of Frederick Douglass*, 1955)

Douglass also said, "A man's rights rest in three boxes. The ballot box, jury box, and the cartridge box."

The late Georgia Congressman Larry McDonald, who died in the shoot-down of Korean Flight 007 by the former Soviet Union in 1983, added a fourth: "There are four boxes to be used in the defense of liberty: soap, ballot, jury, and ammo. Please use in that order."

Here's how the four boxes in the defense of liberty have been described:

The soap box represents exercising one's right to freedom of speech to influence politics to defend liberty. The ballot box represents exercising one's right to vote to elect a government which defends liberty. The jury box represents using jury nullification to refuse to convict someone being prosecuted for breaking an unjust law that decreases liberty. The cartridge box represents exercising one's right to keep and bear arms, to oppose, in armed conflict, a government that decreases liberty. The four boxes (in that order) represent increasingly forceful (and increasingly controversial) methods of political action.

Would you like to guess who said the following?

"[V]iolence exercised in self-defense, which all societies, from the most primitive to the most cultured and civilized, accept as moral and legal. The principle of self-defense, even involving weapons and bloodshed, has never been condemned, even by Gandhi...."

If you guessed Martin Luther King, Jr., you would be correct. The key qualifier is "self-defense."

Then there's this from Condoleezza Rice describing what took place during the bombings in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1963:

"When we got home [after the first bomb went off] Daddy didn't say anything more about the bomb. He just went outside and sat on the porch with his gun on his lap. He sat there all night looking for white night riders.

"Eventually Daddy and the men of the neighborhood formed a watch. They would take shifts at the head of the entrances to our streets. There was a formal schedule, and Daddy would move among to pray with them to keep their spirits up. Occasionally they would fire a gun into the air to scare off intruders, but they never actually shot anyone....

"Because of this experience, I'm a fierce defender of the 2nd Amendment and the right to bear arms. Had my father and his neighbors registered their weapons, Bull Connor surely would have confiscated them or worse. The Constitution speaks of the right to a well-regulated militia. The inspiration for this was the Founding Fathers' fear of the government. They insisted that citizens have the right, if necessary, to resist the authorities themselves. What better example of responsible gun ownership is there than what the men of my neighborhood did in response to the KKK and Bull Connor?"
(*Extraordinary, Ordinary People: A Memoir of Family*, 2010)

And, as we know, many times the government does not do its job. **Better to be armed than disarmed when it fails, or there won't be any liberty.**

Gary DeMar serves as Senior Fellow at American Vision where he lectures, researches, and writes on various worldview issues.



Texas Eagle Goes Camping

In early April, TEF's Dr. Virginia Armstrong, also the National EF Court Watch Chairman, directed a first-ever "Constitution Camp" for high school homeschoolers at the Solid Rock Camps on Lake Leon, Texas. The week-long event focused on students' learning the first steps in successfully participating in the unique Blackstone moot court program. Designed by Virginia to empower American patriots to fight the Culture War more effectively on behalf of the Judeo-Christian worldview, the moot court program is a part of Blackstone's "Reviving the Constitution" online course and the Truth Triathlon Team. One mom attending wrote that "the RTC Camp ranks at the very top" of all the camps her children have attended. "That's a 'triple-WOW!,'" she declared, "and really says it all!!!!" Another Camp is planned for August 20-23. These programs are part of the plans for a NextGenEagle program in our state. Join Us! Contact: lexrex1189@gmail.com.

Rich States, Poor States

The 11th edition of "Rich States, Poor States" is characterized by great movement in state economic performance and outlook as a result of federal tax reform and the resulting actions of certain states. In the past five years alone, 30 states have significantly reduced their tax burdens. Those that fail to adapt to this competitive environment can fall behind by simply standing still. The facts remain clear that pro-growth policies are working and there is a clear trend in favor of market-oriented reforms. "Rich States, Poor States" examines the latest trends in state economic growth. The data ranks the 2018 economic outlook of states using 15 equally-weighted policy variables, including various tax rates, regulatory burdens, and labor policies. The 11th edition examines trends over the last few decades that have helped or hurt states' economies. The top five states showing economic growth are Utah, Idaho, Indiana, North Dakota, and Arizona. Texas came in 14th, while Illinois, Vermont, and New York are at the bottom.

SOURCE: Freedomworks, 4/22/18

Progress at State

The Trump-Pence team is eliminating left-wing extremism from the State Department. The Department recently issued its first report on human rights around the world, and there are two big changes. First, when referring to the Palestinian conflict with Israel, the words "occupied territories" have been dropped from references to Gaza and the West Bank. In addition, the section of the report on abortion as a "human right" is gone. It has been replaced with a section about "coercion in population control." This is not a small thing. When the Obama Administration pushed abortion as a human right in official documents, that influenced America's foreign policy. Under Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton, and John Kerry, the United States became a global advocate for the "right" of women to abort their babies. This was done with your tax dollars and in the name of your country. It seems to me that human rights must begin with the right to life.

SOURCE: Gary Bauer, End of Day Report, 4/23/18

Quote of the Month

"Using their students as pawns, public school teachers and administrators have nominated themselves the socialist political compass of our country and have allowed students to walk out of the classroom several times in order to protest the Democrat cause d' jour, instead of doing the jobs they were hired to do: teach our children."

~ Dr. Ileana Johnson Paugh, "Today's Classroom Puts Politics First, Education Last," Canada Free Press, 4/22/18

Great American Quote

"Without morals a republic cannot subsist any length of time; they therefore who are decrying the Christian religion, whose morality is so sublime and pure ... are undermining the solid foundation of morals, the best security for the duration of free governments."

~ Charles Carroll, a signer of the Declaration of Independence and a framer of the Bill of Rights

Texas Eagle Forum

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