



Forcing Change

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Carl Teichrib, Chief Editor



Speaking Truth to Power

By J.R. Nyquist and Financial Sense

Editor's Note: J.R. Nyquist is a geopolitical analyst who specializes in Russian/Communist and international affairs. His website (www.jrnyquist.com) has a wealth of articles and podcasts on world issues.

Mr. Nyquist also writes a regular column for Financial Sense (www.financialsense.com), a website dedicated to exploring and understanding the rapidly changing financial/political landscape.

This essay, "Speaking Truth to Power," strikes at the heart of every individual: Are you speaking the truth? Are you living the truth? Are you an independent person; or are you a slave to the cultural pressures of our times?

Diogenes the cynic was a Greek philosopher of the fourth century B.C. who walked the streets of Athens carrying a lamp in broad daylight. People asked what he was doing. He said, "I am just looking for a human being."

After Plato offered Socrates' definition of humanity as "featherless bipeds," Diogenes brought a plucked chicken to Plato's Academy, saying, "Behold! I have brought you a human being."

When captured by pirates and sold into slavery his new master asked what his trade was.



“Governing men,” he replied, adding that he wished to belong to someone who needed a master.

One morning, when Diogenes was basking in the sun, Alexander the Great came to see him. Wishing to do the philosopher a kindness, Alexander asked if there was any favor he could bestow.

“Yes,” replied Diogenes. “Stand out of my sunlight.”

The integrity of Diogenes has much to do with his independence. He was not interested in advancing his career, winning the favor of princes, or making money. He didn’t flatter his teachers or the public. When he spoke, there was no reason to distrust what he said. He had nothing to sell, so he had no motive to flatter or manipulate.

In today’s world we have become very comfortable buying and selling things. It is also our habit to say what is pleasing to our superiors. More and more, our culture emphasizes the necessity of having a career, of promoting oneself, of making money and impressing other people.

To be wise, to love wisdom, requires a different emphasis than that of today’s culture. It requires an emphasis on truth and clarity. To be successful today, to advance your career, truth and clarity aren’t always appreciated. Perhaps you have heard that the customer is always right. And everyone with common sense knows that the boss is right – because he is the boss. Despite our egalitarian pretenses, rank is an inescapable reality of human existence. And when rank and privilege are abused, when truth is disregarded, what is the underling to do? Should

he, like Socrates, drink the hemlock? Alexander the Great admired the nobility of Diogenes, because Diogenes revered his own clarity and the truth above all mortal masters.

The Macedonian said, “If I were not Alexander, then I should wish to be Diogenes.”

The crisis of our time is a crisis of intellectual integrity. We are suffering a deluge, in which common sense is drowned by the career logic of millions of nonentities. They are nonentities because they are careerists, because they have put something trivial above what is non-trivial. Their indifference to truth is seen in their daily compromises, their evasions, their manipulations of each other. They have become accustomed to subtle distortions, euphemisms and rationalizations.

“I have to make a living,” says the salesman. “I have to win votes,” says the politician. “I have to raise my ratings,” says the television personality. “I have to keep my job,” says the employee.

Quite naturally, ducking and weaving through reality is sometimes required for survival – or so we think. But survival is easier than we imagine, and the truth is more important than the supposed glory of a chosen career path. To become a collaborator against the truth, to participate in a regime of self-deception, should not have been normalized. We censor ourselves because we don’t want to be unpopular. We don’t want to offend our “superiors.” But the salvation of a country – of any country – usually boils down to the willingness of one respected figure taking an unpopular stand, or one subordinate risking the wrath of his superior.

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Consider the significance of Christ on the cross.

Read the words of Mathew 16:25: “For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.”

This is not a guide to success in the popularly accepted sense. It is something far more important.

Ask yourself, honestly: What is the value of a false position?

The policy of holding your tongue and deceiving others by omission is not workable. Why should we waste our time ducking and cringing? To hide what we think, and disguise our true thoughts, is to act the part of a slave or underling who serves his master by fooling him. This is not a position of self respect. It is a position of retreat and compromise.

Isn't it better to speak the truth? **FC**

The GEAR-Up Campaign:

The United Nations Radical New Entity for Women Only

By Ginger Malacko



Editor's Note: Over the years I have attended different United Nations and global governance events. Often these conferences have a number of simultaneous workshops, and without fail there's a session scheduled to discuss "gender" issues. I must confess – I have not participated in any of these gender sessions, electing instead to attend other workshops.

Ginger Malacko, a representative of REAL Women of Canada to the United Nations, has witnessed the gender agenda firsthand. Her report is of special significance, for she outlines what has to be one of the least understood yet potentially far-reaching programs within the UN – a movement to give radical feminist political reach into the heart of national decision making.

You can learn more about REAL Women of Canada, a conservative women's group that supports family values, by accessing their website: www.realwomenca.com.

I often wonder why the United Nations doesn't just change its name to the United Nations for Women. It seems they cannot even have a simple discussion without a 'gender expert' present. There are several UN bodies that are specifically dedicated to women's rights, but there is only one UN body dedicated to children, and no UN body to address the specific needs of men, or of families. This lop-sided focus on women has been felt in every branch of the UN organization. 'Gender perspective' pervades every issue. And in case you were under the impression that the word 'gender' includes men, at the UN, gender perspective is exclusive to women (and men who wish they were women).

Women as Victims

The UN and the radical feminists who operate within it see all women as victims of evil male dominance, which is an embarrassing over-simplification and distracts from the real women's rights issues. But the UN has a history of getting it all wrong when it comes to women's rights. They pump far more money into contraception than literacy. They promote



gender quotas that undermine democracy. They enable the exploitation of women by insisting upon better wages and benefits for prostitutes. And they make a mockery of the true woman's rights movement when they call an Irish woman oppressed because she is forced to endure the celebration of Mother's Day.

Let's be clear; the women who drive the UN do not place blame for the violation of women's rights where blame is due; upon tyrannical governments, ongoing conflicts, or ancient cultural and economic castes. They blame patriarchy, they blame religion, they blame marriage, motherhood, and even heterosexuality. They consider any woman who speaks in defense of any one of these social building blocks to be a traitor to the sisterhood. They are not working to liberate women; they are conspiring to change women. Fortunately, up until now, this radical movement has been met with a great deal of resistance by UN members (Editor's Note: see the Extra Details section at the back of this article for more on why this is the case).

Secretary General Kofi Annan and the New Women's Agency

In 2006, Secretary General Kofi Annan convened a high level panel charged with preparing a report called *Delivering as One*, which was presented to the UN General Assembly, and is meant to be the framework for UN reform. Among other things, this panel called for a 'consolidated, strong and fully resourced United Nations entity for women', led by an Under-Secretary General, and designed to 'enhance results at the country level.'

Thus began the GEAR Up Campaign (Gender Equality Architecture Reform), which is a massive lobby movement of groups, individuals, and even delegations, in support of the creation of such a UN entity. For anyone familiar with the UN, this is enough to send shivers up and down the spine, because what they are asking for is no less than a heavily funded social police squad run by radical career feminists.

The GEAR Up Campaign for a New Agency

Visit the website of any organization belonging to the GEAR Up Campaign and you will find demands for 'autonomy,' 'adequate and sufficient resources,' and 'authority and clout.'

One radical feminist organization complained that in 2002, the budget for UNIFEM – the United Nations Development

Fund for Women – was a mere \$36 million, while UNICEF had a budget of \$1.454 billion. To a radical feminist, it is unreasonable to focus so much on helpless children, when women are the true victims of society. The GEAR Up Campaigners want more money; a lot more. They are demanding an annual budget of \$500 million at the minimum. They want gender equality experts on every UN country team throughout the world, with their own budget, independent of the rest of the 'team' and they want to be answerable only to their own undersecretary general. In short, they want power, and lots of it.



But power to do what? The GEAR Up Campaign has a long list of demands, but they say nothing of what this new entity for women will do with this 'major up-scaling of power, authority and resources.' That is because they won't be doing anything new, they will just be in a position to push their old agenda harder and faster than ever before. And I can say with certainty that making abortion a human right is top of the list. New positions of authority will

be filled by radicals and any disapproving moderates will be carefully weeded out.

Enormous amounts of money will be channeled into questionable grassroots organizations that have no respect for the cultures, religions, or even laws of the countries they work in. Nations will be bullied and delegates harassed as this new entity attains its dream of 'universal country presence.' And by the way, I fully expect that life within the walls of UN headquarters will be far more difficult for organizations like REAL Women, taking us back to the days of the Clinton administration when we were hassled, followed, thrown out of meetings, and even spat upon.

This is a women's rights body that seems to have been authored by George Orwell, rather than a UN coherence panel.

There is certain to be a great deal of discussion and argument over the details of any UN reform, and that means there will be opportunities for REAL Women and others to counter the GEAR Up Campaign both at the UN and here in Canada. This is of vital importance, since the whole purpose of the new women's entity is to impose their radical vision of womanhood on the individual countries. They intend to exercise their new power and authority over Canadian women and we must ensure that no UN body, great or small, can dictate anything to any one of us, now or ever.

Extra Details

[Editor's Note: Ginger Malacko has some further information on this program that was published separately from the main article. Find below her extended comments on this issue.]

The new UN entity would be both normative and operational, giving it power to create policy and control its implementation at the grassroots level, with national compliance.

The purpose of this new entity is to circumvent the impasse faced by feminist NGOs [non-governmental organizations] and bureaucrats at the UN by those member states that refuse to accept the feminist agenda because much of feminist ideology is in direct conflict with the religious and cultural rights of sovereign nations, and their existing national laws.

The proposed composite entity will report to the General Assembly, but it will only be accountable to its own Under Secretary General. Women's rights experts would be assigned to each UN country team (UNCT) and create a global global presence in 150 countries. The entity would have an independent budget and the authority to direct the other team members with regard to "gender" issues and hold UN agencies and member states accountable to implement them.

The power of this feminist entity would flow, unbroken, from policy makers at the top, right down to policy implementers at the grassroots level. Given the

history of feminists at the UN, this means a clearer path to the adoption of their ideals, bypassing the difficult negotiation process of the General Assembly or the commissions. This composite feminist agency, as thus proposed, will be stronger and more autonomous than any other UN body. **FC**

Editor's Postscript: How do we respond to this move within the United Nations? Start by contacting your elected officials, informing them regarding the nature of this development, and asking that your country oppose the GEAR UP Campaign. You should also contact your federal Foreign Affairs office, which typically oversees UN postings, and express your concerns. Likewise, contact your UN Ambassador's office – the address of which can be found by doing a simple internet search – and drop them a line.

Sounds simple? Yes; but not necessarily ineffective. It's amazing what a tactful letter or phone call will do to help change policy directions. Even if the direction doesn't change, by expressing your concerns it demonstrates to the authorities that constituents – voters and tax payers – are monitoring their actions.

Loud Paradigm Shift Rumblings

By **Jim Willie CB**, Editor of the *Hat Trick Letter* (www.GoldenJackass.com).

Editor's Note: The following article by Jim Willie is remarkable in that it highlights some of the most explosive shifts taking place in the arena of world currencies and geopolitical power. While aspects of this article are speculative to a degree, these speculations are based on economic and political realities. Mr. Willie is right: there is a paradigm shift occurring – a transferring of wealth and power to the East, while the West is being gutted.

I hope Mr. Willie is wrong in his final analyses; I think Jim hopes that he's wrong as well. However, his grasp of the geopolitical world – including new strategic alliances – causes one to seriously consider the possibilities being presented.

While reading this article, please take note of the global currency changes being discussed, and the most recent development with the United Arab Emirates. The news from the UAE, that it seeks to leave the Gulf Corporation Council monetary bloc, is startling as this bloc was to be the latest regional currency zone scheduled for 2010. Some serious scrambling must be going on right now.

Our world is changing, and Mr. Willie's article gives us a glimpse into just how deep the changes may be.

Jim Willie CB is a statistical analyst in marketing research and retail forecasting. He holds a PhD in Statistics, and his career has stretched over 24 years. Mr. Willie is also the publisher of the *Hat Trick Letter*, a publication that focuses on investment strategies in the mineral/resource sector and currency shifts. He also has a free website with numerous articles (www.GoldenJackass.com). Subscription information for the *Hat Trick Letter* can be found at the GoldenJackass address.



Numerous events have taken place of global importance. Alone, each story seems of some significance. Together, they paint a mosaic of extreme change in a very dangerous sequence of events that fit together.

The greater aggregate story is that a tremendous paradigm shift is underway, with early steps and

major moves by global players in clear view. The Western analysts and pundits and mavens are missing it. **A paradigm shift has begun, with banking power shifting to the creditor nations as the us dollar is supplanted, made possible by several new institutional pillars as well as newly forged alliances.**

The consequences are significant and will change the face of global banking and commerce. My publication, the *Hat Trick Letter* has described the various steps and their importance all along the way. Much more detail is provided for each major point to follow in the HT Letter reports.

Some in the United States and England believe that a return to normalcy comes. They are wrong by 180 degrees.

The G20 Meeting of finance ministers and heads of state was the warning (April 2, 2009). The message from that meeting in London has been long forgotten, a call made in my public article immediately after its conclusion. This article provides an outline of events that have occurred only in the last few weeks, as the pace is accelerating for transformation that begins at the foundation. Piece it all together, use some mental power, sprinkle with only a little imagination, connect some dots easily, and take a look at the

global picture that is emerging. Yesterday (May 21) came the crowning blow, as the United Arab Emirates rejected the Saudis in the Gulf monetary union. My belief is that the rising power in the UAE wants Russia instead of the Saudis, who are tied at the US hip.

Events Steeped in Systemic Change

Numerous events mark major milestones. They should be viewed in aggregate. The major media networks have no vested interest in enabling more than trivial perceptions toward each story. Paradigm Shifts are magnificent processes, not easily made possible, which require great and steady powerful forces behind them. Cooperation must be present from most global players of importance. Here is a list of events.

To be honest, if after reading them in entirety, a deep sense of tectonic changes is not sensed, then at best a sleepy state prevails in the cerebrum and at worst a compromised state dominates.

1. The US-UK banking systems are shattered by deep bond asset losses, shrouded in fraud, deep with leverage, teeming with collusion, which renders them as insolvent and in need of transfusions. The reality is that Wall Street firms remain in control of the US Government financial operations despite their responsibility for both the collapse and clear legal violations. The US Dollar image is badly tarnished.

2. Incredible volumes of mon-

ey have been committed by the US Federal Reserve and the US Government, much already delivered, with staggering future rescues, bailouts, and stimulus packages assured. The sums total \$12.8 trillion at last count. The undermine, if not debauchery, to the US Dollar and its vehicle the US Treasury Bond is vividly clear, a palpable threat to foreign creditors.

3. Foreigners have begun to worry openly about the onset of profound price inflation. What normally had been less than 4% in excess bank reserves is now 92%. US banks will channel the bulk of their excess reserves into loans and investments, when considered safe. The baseless 'All Clear' signal can be witnessed, orchestrated and phony. For political and credit market reasons, do not expect any noticeable central bank drain. Price inflation awaits the landscape on a path of least resistance. The US T-Bond yield would rise, and lose colossal sums of money for foreign bondholders.

4. Foreign creditors have owned over half the US\$-based government and mortgage agency bonds for almost a decade. With the dependence upon foreign institutions (central banks and sovereign wealth funds), the United States has quietly lost control of its fate. It can no longer make decisions without consulting major creditors.

5. The US Military has tacitly been supporting the value of the US Dollar. By pressuring the Saudis on a regular basis, they have maintained the Petro-

Dollar standard without a peep of objection for a few decades. When South Korea expressed interest in diversifying out of US Treasury Bonds a few years ago, suddenly some US naval exercises occurred off their coast. The pattern is clear to foreigners.

6. Some recognition has come that the aggressive US Military of recent years depends heavily upon US Treasury Bond sales in order to continue their adventures. As long as the US Dollar is pre-eminent, the US Military will continue to play in neighbor's back yards doing whatever.

7. The Chinese have been taking numerous steps to establish the yuan currency more as a global currency for international commerce. The more important step has been to set up numerous yuan swap facilities across the globe, the latest being in Argentina and Brazil. Others are across Europe and Asia. Such facilities make easier trade in high volumes, without need for settlement in US\$ denomination, as has been the custom for a few decades.

8. The Chinese have begun to switch from a US\$ basis to a yuan basis in their banking system domestically. They also have given a giant assist to the new emergency fund for the extended ASEAN group of South-East nations. My belief is that the fund, based in yuan currency, will morph into a regional development fund. Conversation already has lead in that direction. [Editor's Note: The ASEAN regional grouping of

nations includes Thailand, Singapore, Philippines, Myanmar, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, and Brunei Darussalam.]

9. The Chinese gave authorization to two banks outside the Middle Kingdom proper to sell yuan-based government bonds. The HSBC (based in London) and Bank of East Asia (based in Hong Kong) have been given permission to do so, with details to follow. More broad-based formal trading of Chinese Government bonds is coming soon to a nation near you.

10. Watch their moves toward creation of the Chinese yuan as a global reserve currency. Watch their simultaneous moves away from the US Dollar and toward gold for reserves management. The merger of the two important strategic initiatives is a gold-backed yuan currency. In fact, that is precisely what was stated openly by Zheng Lianghao, managing director of the World Gold Council's Far East division. That news came out this week. The Chinese are clearly the spearhead to dethrone the US Dollar as global reserve currency.

11. Numerous nations have stated publicly that they regard the US Dollar as inadequate and unqualified to serve any longer as the sole global reserve currency. The isolated revolt has turned into a uniformly global revolt. They are blaming the US\$ for their internal crises.

12. Russia demanded an alternative to the US Dollar before

the G20 Meeting in London, at the G20, and after the G20. Russia and China endorsed the International Monetary Fund plan to create a basket currency as a global reserve alternative. My personal view is that the concept was and is a Straw Man device that will pave the way to a new global reserve currency, or set of currencies later. The motive was to direct attention away from the US Dollar, and heap some disgrace at it.

13. The Arabs have been planning for over two years an asset-backed new currency for the Gulf region. New crude oil purchases would ostensibly be conducted in the new dinar denomination, bringing an end to the Petro-Dollar standard. In early May, the decision was made to locate their new central bank in Riyadh. Now the exit from the monetary union by the United Arab Emirates signals something bigger. My belief is that the U.A.E. rejected the Saudis due to tight US Government bedfellow relations. The U.A.E. will next court a grandiose accord with Russia. The new alliance will incorporate a new currency, new pledges of security protection, and a coordination of creditor actions. The Creditor Nations will soon tighten the noose around the necks of Debtor Nations, and force a global banking shift of power. It will be astonishing in its effect.

14. The Germans have demanded all of their gold held in custodial accounts inside the United States to be returned to German soil. The story is not public, but details have come to

me from a private source close to the action. The Germans have also given counsel for Dubai to demand all of their gold held in custodial accounts inside London to be returned to Dubai, where a new gold trading center will spring up. In my view, this is the biggest news for gold this entire year. The hidden arch-enemy for the US-UK on all matters pertaining to gold bullion is Germany. This is not a well-known concept. Insults were hurled at the US delegation during the London G20 by their ministers. Germany is also advising the Chinese on currency and gold matters. Can one detect some coordination?

15. Venezuela has followed the Chinese and Russian pattern to lock up the majority of domestic gold mining output. They will keep most gold output in domestic hands, primarily with the government, which will have first crack at buying it.

16. A near default was averted at the Eleventh Hour when Deutsche Bank found almost a million ounces of gold to cover its (naked) short in gold futures at the COMEX at the end of March. Thanks to the Euro Central Bank, which happened to sell over a million ounces for some reason. My conjecture is that the Germans decided the time was not right to bust the COMEX. From sources, that date might be this September in a coordinated attack that requires preparations to remove the levers and kick out the pillars that support the COMEX. [Editor's Note: COMEX, the Commodity Exchange, is a merged part of the

New York Mercantile Exchange – it is New York's gold market, an international leader in gold contracts].

17. Germany has been the broker in creating a Russian-German barter deal involving a billion\$ in trade between the two nations. Credits will be gained from delivery of a raft of commodities, led by energy products from Russia. In turn, Russia will receive finished products, equipment, and consumer staples. Germany has been the broker in a similar barter accord between Russia and China under similar terms. These barter deals will create entire systems that bypass the US Dollar-denominated trade settlement.

18. The Chinese announced an increase in their gold reserves from 400 tonnes to 1050 tonnes in the last five years. At the same time, they have been harping on the extreme risk to their \$2000 billion in savings, held in US Treasury Bonds, US Agency Mortgage Bonds, and US Corporate Bonds. They openly complain about US Dollar mismanagement, unbridled US Government spending (for numerous crisis projects), and the resulting risk to the US Dollar exchange rate. They have engaged a war of words, precursor to trade war, with US Treasury officials, one that has lasted for at least two years. The Chinese have openly talked about a covert US Treasury Bond default, which is a very serious accusation to make.

19. The Chinese Business News (CBN) has made several

queries with the GATA group (Gold Anti-Trust Action Committee), the US-based outfit challenging the US Government on the legitimacy of the US Dollar on a Constitutional basis, and challenging the US Government on its illegal naked shorting of gold futures contracts in a long-running gold price suppression scheme. The Chinese might be building a weapon to challenge the US Dollar's legitimacy, in response to stupid currency manipulation charges lodged by the hack US Government bureaucrats in high offices.

20. Either lawsuits or Congressional Bills have begun against the US Federal Reserve [Editor's Note: The US Federal Reserve is America's central bank] to force a formal accounting of their balance sheet, and of the gold contents at Fort Knox. A surprise would await them, to learn no gold exists at Fort Knox. Another lawsuit has begun to force the US Fed to reveal the spending of the T.A.R.P. funds. Foreigners must watch the Wall Street syndicate with some degree of disgust. Watch the Supreme Court enter the picture.

21. Meanwhile, the big US banks are maneuvering themselves to return T.A.R.P. funds when their insolvency is obvious, their balance sheet accounting is phony, and numerous events have begun or are planned to raise equity capital. They are rectifying their capital inadequacy and vanished loan loss reserves. The real reason they plan to return US Government funds is to put an end to

the extreme risk of underlings at the US Department of the Treasury, Congressional Budget Office, Government Accountability Office, and various Congressional Banking Committees who have had access to records, the paper trails. Eight months have passed since TARP funds were injected into big banks, giving way too many eyes too much access. The situation is not manageable, an unexpected grand intrusion after fund confiscation. The financial (crime) syndicate must be protected. Quite a contrast event, in view of foreign actions listed above.

Paradigm Shift Stated Plainly

The Chinese strategy remains hidden, to execute a grand paradigm shift that will take tacit control of the United States, which is now in disarray. Its leadership is too busy being co-opted by the Wall Street banksters. The objective by Beijing leaders is to avoid violence and military actions altogether. Sun Tzu would be proud. Beijing is gradually subjugating the US Government as a vassal in debt, the risk to the US being a transition toward servitude to their credit master. We are in the midst of an historical global paradigm shift, to date a quiet process. Power is shifting from Washington DC and New York City and London directly to Beijing.

The United States has little choice but to acquiesce and comply with Beijing wishes. The insolvent indebted nation with lit-

the industry left and a destroyed banking system can endure the shameful process of bankruptcy receivership, forced by the creditors, or the nation can permit a 'New Alliance' with China that involves obedient hidden directives. The US possesses a powerful defense contractor industry, half the world's agricultural output, and many spectacular locations for residence. The practical consequence of the US 'listening' to Beijing wishes on a regular basis will be for the European Union to be pushed into a 'New Alliance' with Russia. Such a deal is practical, due to distances and supply lines. The United Kingdom is in all likelihood to be left out in the cold. **FC**

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The Blind Leading the Blind? The United Nations Human Rights Council

By Carl Teichrib



On May 12, the United States was elected to the United Nations Human Rights Council. Responding to the new position, Don Kraus, CEO of Citizens for Global Solutions – America’s largest pro-world government advocacy group – asserted that “Taking a seat on the Human Rights Council is the next step in reclaiming our rightful place as a beacon of fairness and justice in the world.”¹

But since it’s inception in 2006 the Human Rights Council has been a debacle, overwhelmingly condemning one country – Israel – while unashamedly ignoring the human rights abuses that active Council member countries have and are committing. For example, the HRC doesn’t condemn Nigeria for it’s extreme police brutality. Consider what a 2008 report on Nigeria’s police system had to say,

“To so many Nigerians, police-induced death is a regular phenomenon. In fact, it is becoming an acceptable norm that the Nigerian Police must routinely kill citizens. That the Nigeria Police Force is a harbinger of

sorrow, agony and untimely death to its citizens is a stale fact.”²

So why hasn’t this come up at HRC meetings? Could it be because Nigeria is the current head of the Human Rights Council? But surely that wouldn’t sway other HRC member nations, like Saudi Arabia, from pointing out the obvious human rights hypocrisy. Or consider Christian Chinese who are under continual persecution from the Beijing regime, or Tibetans who are suppressed by Chinese police actions: These too are ignored. It should come as no surprise to learn that China is an HRC member.

Abuses of women in Islamic countries are also absent from the group’s condemnations; maybe that’s because the majority of the Council members are pro-Muslim. And Russia, that bastion of freedom, was re-elected to the HRC. However, no one dared to mention the killing of outspoken critics of the Moscow government.³

A Human Rights Sham

The HRC has been called “a joke,” a “sham,” and worse.

Rightly so.

Since 2006, Western-based nations have been the minority on the Council. Each nation, when elected, serves out a three-year term. Western European and North American members who have been on the HRC so far in-

clude Finland, the Netherlands, France, the United Kingdom, Canada, Mexico, Germany, and Switzerland. However, these countries, like the United States, are outside the bloc voting that regularly takes place at the HRC – voting and agenda-setting by a majority coalition of non-Western member nations.

In fact, bloc voting at the HRC had become so problematic that in late 2008 the UN Secretary General openly chastised the Council for its “partisan posturing and regional divides.” *Reuters* reported that,

“Independent human rights groups say the council has fallen under the control of a bloc of Islamic and African states, usually back by China, Cuba and Russia, who protect each other from criticism.”⁴

Will the US be able to turn this situation around? Not likely.

Claudia Rosett, a journalist who monitors the UN Human Rights Council had this to say regarding the recent announcement.

“It’s official. In Tuesday’s vote by the UN General Assembly, the U.S. was elected to the UN Human Rights Council. Among the other winners of the 18 seats up for grabs this year, mostly uncontested, were Saudi Arabia, China, Cuba, Russia, Cameroon... you get the idea.

It’s obvious at a glance that something’s very wrong with this picture, in which the U.S. will now dignify (and help bank-roll) with its presence some of

the world’s worst human rights abusers. But for a more specific idea of how this perverse process plays out, check out the story from China’s Xinhua state news agency, announcing China’s ‘re-election victory,’ in which Beijing – one of the world capitals of human rights abuses – won a second three-year term on the 47 member Human Rights Council, pulling in from the 192 member General Assembly the whopping total of ‘167 favorable votes.’

That says plenty about the perverse nature of entire UN. The votes were cast by secret ballot, so there’s no information available from the UN on which countries were among the 167 member states that chose to support China as an authority on human rights. But whoever they were, Beijing has seized on their support to trumpet that ‘China contributed to the institution building of the Council,’ that China is ‘one of 26 countries that have responded to the United Nations’ call to establish a human rights plan since 1993,’ and that ‘Since China was elected as a founding member of the Council in 2006, it has made remarkable achievements in the field of human rights...’.”⁵

But there’s more. The Human Rights Council operates under the umbrella of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. It’s under this United Nations agency that the recent Durban Review Conference on racism was held (April 20-24). And while the working title for the event suggests a tight stance regarding human rights

abuses, the UN World Congress Against Racism was so grossly biased that Canada, the United States, Israel, New Zealand, Australia, and a number of European counties either boycotted the event or expressed grave reservations about the validity of the conference. Indeed, the only head of state that attended was Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, and European Union delegates walked out during his speech.

Again, just like the Human Rights Council, the Durban Review Conference was built on a national coalition who’s dedication to the overall condition of human rights is questionable at best. In fact, the Durban Preparatory Committee was designed to reflect the very structure of the Human Rights Council. In the end, the Preparatory Committee for the World Congress Against Racism was chaired by Libya, with vice-chairs from Cameroon, South Africa, Senegal, India, Indonesia, Iran, Pakistan, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Armenia, Croatia, Estonia, Russia, Greece, Norway, Turkey, and Cuba.

UN Watch, a group that monitors the United Nations and particularly its “human rights agenda,” participated in the Durban event to the vexation of its organizers. On April 23, during the conference week, UN Watch posted a short report titled “Abusers defend rights record at Durban II.”

“At the U.N. Durban Review Conference today, countries that lack basic freedoms took

the floor to defend their human rights records.

Belarus said ‘There are no ethnic, racial, religious or language clashes in our country.’

Saudi Arabia said, ‘Shari’a emphasizes equality regardless of gender or race.’

Another tactic employed by human rights abusers was to point the finger of blame at other countries to deflect attention from their own violations.

Saudi Arabia and the Arab League highlighted Israel’s abuses of the rights of Palestinian people. Saudi Arabia noted that this issue was explicit in the 2001 Durban declaration (reaffirmed by the present conference).

North Korea condemned ‘Japanese colonialism’ and accused Japan of systemic discrimination against Koreans.

Both Saudi Arabia and North Korea also deplored the ‘defamation of religions,’ particularly Islam.

Another noteworthy point: Turkey denied the 1915 Armenian genocide, arguing that no international tribunal officially declared the events a genocide.

EU countries, including Belgium, Portugal, Slovenia, and Denmark on the other hand, took the floor to condemn the hateful remarks of Iranian President Ahmadinejad.

Denmark said, ‘We could choose to stay silent. But the remarks relating in particular to

Israel were so abominable that we must react. The intervention must be understood as incitement to hatred’.”

With America now entering the arena of the Human Rights Council, the question begs to be asked: Will the US be able to stand up to the HRC-Muslim majority and forge a new path of real human rights support – exposing the abuses of despotic nations against their own citizens, such as women in Saudi Arabia or Christians in China and North Korea – or will the blind lead the blind down the road of Islamic political correctness and the UN’s version of global “tolerance”? **FC**

Footnotes:

¹ Citizens for Global Solutions press release, May 12, 2009, “Citizens for Global Solutions Celebrates US Election to UN Human Rights Council.”

² For a sobering news release on Nigeria’s police brutality problem see the following website; www.nigeriansinamerica.com/articles/2795/1/Nigeria-Police-Force-A-legacy-of-Brutality/Page1.html.

³ For more on this issue, see the book, *The Litvinenko File* by Martin Sixsmith (St. Martin’s Press, 2007).

⁴ “UN chief tells rights body drop rhetoric, blocs,” Reuters, December 12, 2008, www.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idUSTRE4BB67820081212.

⁵ <http://pajamasmedia.com/claudiarosett/winners-at-the-un-human-rights-council>.

⁶ Bureau of the Preparatory Committee, www.un.org/durbanreview2009/bureau.shtml.

⁷ “Abusers defend rights records at Durban II,” <http://blog.unwatch.org>. April 23, 2009.

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