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“Let us be alert to the season in which we are living. It is the season of the Blessed Hope, calling for us to cut our ties with the world and build ourselves on this One who will soon appear. He is our hope—a Blessed Hope enabling us to rise above our times and fix our gaze upon Him.” Tozer

The Push to Kill Cash: Australia

prophecynewswatch.com

The supposed coordination of governments and tech companies to create a one-world, cashless society is often viewed as little more than fodder for silly YouTube conspiracy videos. After all, cash is still king in daily life, even in extremely high-tech, innovative societies like Japan.

Upon closer examination, though, current realities like Australia's proposed cash transaction ban for 2020, the continuing removal of higher denomination bills from several world economies, and the creation of centralized, state cryptocurrencies by governments worldwide cannot be ignored.

These trends signal a global push to kill paper money in the name of safety, security, and financial inclusion.

You Can Pay, But It Better Be Our Way

Australia's "Black Economy Taskforce" wants to put people accepting over 10,000 AUD (~\$6,750) in cash in the slammer for up to two years, or fine them up to 25,000 (~\$16,890), in an ostensible bid to fight black market economies. The Currency (Restrictions on the Use of Cash) Bill 2019 states:

Transactions equal to, or in excess of this amount would need to be made using the electronic payment system or by cheque. The Black Economy Taskforce recommended this action to tackle tax evasion and other criminal activities.

Note the similarity here with talking points of other governments. India's Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, when announcing the devastating surprise removal of 86% of the country's circulating paper cash in 2016, proclaimed:

Black money and corruption are the biggest obstacles in eradicating poverty.

Not surprisingly, Modi's shock move put the dominantly cash-based society in a panic, forcing people to take their now worthless 1,000 and 500 rupee notes to banks within 50 days of the announcement, to exchange them for smaller denominations. Now The Royal Bank of India is moving to ban all cryptocurrencies but one, the state-approved, digital rupee.

The removal of large cash bills is a worldwide, ongoing reality, with the European Central Bank (ECB) stopping production of the 500 euro note earlier this year. The note, dubbed by the media as "the Bin

Laden," was said to be used disproportionately in financing terrorism.

The U.S. used to have banknotes worth \$500 and higher as well, some which were known as gold certificates, entitling the bearer to physical gold upon redemption. As fractional reserve banking took over, however, and national debt increased, these systems were progressively abandoned. The trend continues today in the form of Negative Interest Rate Policy (NIRP), and the resultant push for digitization of money.

Stop Holding Cash and Take Our Debt

"If everyone is holding cash, negative interest rates become useless." These are the words of former People's Bank of China (PBOC) governor Zhou Xiaochuan after the Chinese government had just completed a trial run of their new national cryptocurrency back in 2017. Now the country's sovereign digital currency is "almost ready." Zhou has also officially stated:

At the current stage, the central bank's major goal of issuing digital currency is to replace the physical cash.

Earlier in the same interview, he maintained that "The cost for cash transaction will gradually increase in the later stage.

For instance, banks do not charge any fee for counting a large amount of coins now, but in the future they may charge their clients for such services." Zhou's remarks about negative interest rates are arguably the biggest giveaway as to what is going on here. If people are holding cash outside of banks, reckless, Keynesian NIRP policies won't have the desired effect of coercing spending in the populace.

New Zealand Reserve Bank governor Adrian Orr agrees with Zhou:

Let's tax cash holdings, simple as that: we're back to monetary policy as usual; people are disincentivised to be holding large lumps of physical cash; they are having to think harder about putting money to work.

While draconian government monetary policy is alarming, the lack of support for actual financial sovereignty in the crypto and tech space is indicative of another problem.

Government's designs on eliminating paper money and fighting permissionless, decentralized crypto exchange -- both moves to control money supply and populations of individuals -- are obvious, and to be expected. But even big tech companies and exchanges like Facebook and Binance are jumping on the propaganda bandwagon, dragging many well-meaning enthusiasts into the fight against financial freedom (even if unintentionally) right along with them.

"We believe that we all have a responsibility to help advance financial inclusion, support ethical actors, and continuously uphold the integrity of the ecosystem." - Libra whitepaper

"This is why we believe in and are committed to a collaborative process with regulators, central banks, and lawmakers..." - Facebook's David Marcus

"Binance is looking to create new alliances and partnerships with governments, corporations, technology companies, and other cryptocurrency companies and projects involved in the larger blockchain ecosystem, to empower developed and developing countries to spur new currencies." - Binance's 'Venus' announcement

The common theme here is eager compliance with Keynesian value destroyers. And these examples

are illustrative of the true financial epidemic.

Forced 'Perfection'

Digital currencies really are extremely convenient. Everybody in the world really should have a chance at financial inclusion. Holding wads of paper cash and coins really can be a bother, as well as a safety hazard, where crime is concerned.

In Finland, passengers on state railways won't be able to purchase tickets with cash for long-distance trips, starting in September. Much easier than messing with the paper stuff. ATMs are becoming less common worldwide, even in countries like China, the U.S., and cash-obsessed Japan. Settlements and payments can be made effortlessly, though, with just a quick scan or entering a PIN, so it's no big deal.

But this is not a perfect world. Governments are corrupt. Artificial monopolies and seas of red tape exist, keeping the life-threateningly impoverished and entrepreneurial from accessing crypto and banking services via strict KYC and AML policy, and by mandating, like Modi in India, that their hard-earned and hard-saved money is worthless. People already have the opportunity for extreme financial inclusion.

A \$40 smartphone and an internet connection enables anyone, anywhere in the world, to make or receive money with Bitcoin. In the name of regulation, safety, and financial inclusion, however, the state makes the situation more chaotic, less safe, and extremely exclusive where real human need is concerned.

Some of us crazy people still like paper cash, and prefer to pay that way. Some annoying, behind-the-times Luddites still put money in their mattresses, where global financial policy turns more and more toward negative rates, continued inflation, and devaluation of money sitting in banks.

Some entrepreneurs and tech-savvy fans of crypto simply think it's nobody else's business, preferring paper wallets, coin shuffling, and VPNs, in a world where everyone but those in power are presumed guilty until proven innocent.

Netanyahu calls for int'l community to act as tensions near boiling point

By HERB KEINON, ANNA AHRONHEIM 08/27/2019
jpost.co.il

Aoun calls alleged Israeli drone strike an act of war, Israel warns Lebanon it will be held responsible for Hezbollah acts from its territory.

The international community needs to act immediately to halt Iranian attacks on Israel, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Monday, after convening a security cabinet meeting that dealt with mounting tension with Iran, Lebanon and Syria.

"Iran is working on a broad front to carry out murderous terrorist attacks against the State of Israel," Netanyahu said. "Israel will continue to defend its security however that may be necessary. I call on the international community to act immediately so that Iran halts these attacks."

Israel has been warning Lebanon for months that it will hold it responsible for Hezbollah attacks from Lebanese territory, and it will target its infrastructure if Hezbollah launches rockets from Lebanon. The prime minister alluded to this in comments he made on a tour to the north on Sunday.

Israel, he said, would not “tolerate aggression against Israel from any country in the region. Any country that allows its territory to be used for aggression against Israel will face the consequences, and I repeat: the country will face the consequences.”

According to a Channel 13 report, a similar message – that Israel will make no distinction between Lebanon and Hezbollah – was passed to the Lebanese government through US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

The security cabinet meeting followed Saturday night’s operation in which Israel struck an Iranian drone team in Syria allegedly planning an attack on Israel, killing two Hezbollah terrorists and one Iranian; after two alleged Israeli drones crashed in Lebanon’s capital of Beirut on Sunday, drawing threats by Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah that the organization would retaliate; and after drones – which Lebanon claimed to be Israeli – struck a base belonging to a Palestinian terrorist group in Lebanon’s Bekaa Valley near the border with Syria early on Monday.

Lebanon’s President Michel Aoun called the alleged Israeli drone attacks a “declaration of war.”

“The attacks on Dahiyeh and the Qusaya region violate [UN Security Council] Resolution 1701, and its stipulations that bind Lebanon should also be binding for Israel,” Aoun told UN Special Coordinator for Lebanon Jan Kubis.

“What happened resembles a declaration of war that entitles us to resort to our right to defend our sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity,” Aoun continued, adding that “We are people who seek peace, not war, but we do not accept to be threatened by anyone in any manner.”

Energy Minister Yuval Steinitz, a member of the security cabinet, dismissed Aoun’s statements, saying that he is a “puppet” of Hezbollah, which is in turn a puppet and proxy of Iran.

“Whoever allows Hezbollah to turn his country into a storehouse for rockets against Israel is responsible for the results,” Steinitz said. “A state that allows attacks on Israel is liable to face very difficult consequences.”

Steinitz said that Israel has taken the decision not only to strengthen itself against its enemies, but also to actively stop Iranian efforts to turn Syria into a launching pad for attacks against it.

“We will defend ourselves, and – wherever necessary – stop the Iranian army from attacking us,” he said.

Lebanon’s state-run National News Agency reported that “three hostile strikes” hit Lebanon’s eastern mountains near Qusaya after midnight on Monday “where the PFLP-GC has military posts,” adding that they responded with a barrage of anti-aircraft fire.

According to the report, the strikes caused material damage and no casualties.

Videos posted on social media showed explosions, as well as heavy anti-aircraft fire.

The alleged Israeli airstrike came amid tensions along the northern border considered to be among the worst since the 2006 Second Lebanon War.

“What happened in Syria and Lebanon last night is very, very dangerous,” Nasrallah said in a speech on Sunday night, adding that Netanyahu “would be mistaken if he thinks that this issue can go unnoticed. The time at which Israeli war jets used to strike targets in Lebanon while the usurping entity in Palestine is kept safe has ended. From tonight, I tell the Israeli army on the border, wait for our response, which

may take place at any time on the border and beyond the border. Be prepared and wait for us.”

Turkey: "Death to Jews" at Summer Camp

by Uzay Bulut August 27, 2019

<https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/14740/turkey-death-jews-summer-camp>

Turkey's Jewish community is reeling from viral video that shows what appears to be a summer camp at which young children are being led in an anti-Semitic cheer in Turkish by a young girl or woman counselor. Pictured: The Neve Shalom Synagogue in Istanbul, Turkey.

Turkey's Jewish community is still reeling from the content of a video that went viral at the end of July. The video shows what appears to be a summer camp at which young children, with a group of burqa-clad women behind them, are being led in an anti-Semitic cheer in Turkish by a young girl or woman counselor.

In the 39-second clip, when the girl says, "The Jews," the women and children reply, "Death!"

When she says, "Palestine," they reply, "It will be saved."

When she calls out, "Hagia Sophia" -- referring to the Byzantine cathedral-museum in Istanbul that Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has announced will be turned into a mosque -- they chant, "It will be opened."

A few days after the footage began to circulate, Garo Paylan, a Member of Parliament from the opposition Peoples' Democratic Party, tweeted his outrage. He announced his intention to file a criminal complaint against the camp counselor and the organization behind her. Two days after posting the tweet, Paylan submitted the following parliamentary questions to Family, Labor and Social Services Minister Zehra Zümrüt Selçuk, Interior Minister Süleyman Soylu and Justice Minister Abdülhamit Gül:

Where and under whose care were the children in the film?

Were their parents or other family members present during the event?

Did the children who were instructed to shout "Death to the Jews" come together at that event as part of an organization?

Did the event take place with the knowledge of your ministry?

Will you launch an investigation into the organizers and the families of those children who abuse and encourage them to commit hate crimes?

Will you launch administrative investigations into the authorities that neglected to expose the event?

Will you put these children under the protection of your ministry?

What kind of precautions will your ministry take so that our children are not exposed to such abuses again?

Paylan also asked the justice minister whether "those engaging in hate speech and hate crimes are punished effectively, or whether there is a climate of impunity concerning such crimes."

The ministers have yet to issue a response.

Meanwhile, Mois Gabay, a Jewish columnist based in Istanbul, told Gatestone that the anti-Semitism revealed in the video is the kind of incident that makes Turkey's already dwindling Jewish community extremely worried about the future. Gabay, in his July 31 column in Turkey's Jewish weekly, *Şalom*, wrote:

"It is possible to give many more examples [of anti-Semitism in Turkey]... It appears that as long as penalties are not imposed... and the Holocaust and anti-Semitism are not included in school curricula, some people will continue playing ostrich, no matter how much we write about these issues. I do hope that the hatred and exclusion [of Jews] that is growing by the day, with new emerging groups, will come to an end here one day."

Şalom's editor-in-chief, İvo Molinas, in an interview with the Bianet News Agency on August 5, also bemoaned the anti-Semitic incitement exposed in the video:

"There is a very intense anti-Semitism in the visual media and printed press, as well as on social media, in Turkey. But this video is the most major and most severe form of anti-Semitism. Very young children are indoctrinated in Jew-hatred and human-hatred without even knowing who Jews are. These children will grow up to be potential Jew-haters and this is the biggest danger. Penalties should be imposed for racism and hate crimes. Lawsuits should absolutely be filed against those who engage in racism and hate crimes and who direct children to these things. This is the short-term solution; but the long-term solution is education. We live in a country where an ethnic group is placed in the brains of very little children as enemies. And the saddest thing is that we are not able to do anything about it. As a society, we only complain, but cannot do anything else. It is so sad that neither political nor judicial attempts are being made to stop these things."

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