



The First Watch

October 21, 2020

No. 992

Since 2001

Newzbytes is a ministry of Calvary Chapel of Appleton

[www.ccapleton.org](http://www.ccapleton.org)

---

"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

---

## Turkey Threatens to Fuel Conflict Into Regional Islamic Jihad

10-15-2020 cbn.com

Three weeks after violence first erupted there, hundreds have been killed and tens of thousands of civilians displaced.

The decades-old conflict between the mostly-Christian Armenia and mostly-Islamic Azerbaijan over the contested region is now threatening to erupt into a wider conflict involving Russia, Turkey, and radical Islamic jihadists.

Turkey is reportedly recruiting hundreds of Syrian mercenaries to join Azerbaijan's army in the fight against Armenia.

"I can confirm {this}, and it's not only confirmation from my side. International organizations and even intelligence departments of different states have confirmed that," President Armen Sarkissian of Armenia told CBN News during an interview from Armenia's capital Yerevan late Thursday.

President Sarkissian accuses Turkey, and its leader Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, of being a bully and making the crisis worse.

Turkey has deployed drones and reportedly sold more than \$123 million worth of military hardware to support Azerbaijan.

When asked about the consequences of not stopping Turkey's involvement in this conflict, Mr. Sarkissian told CBN News:

"Well, not stopping Turkey in this conflict, you will get another Syria, but ten times bigger."

A few days after the war started, Turkey's president Recep Tayyip Erdoğan described his country's support for Azerbaijan's military offensive as a "righteous struggle" and urged other countries to join the fight.

"We see that Azerbaijan is extremely determined in liberating its territory," Erdoğan said during an October 8 press conference in Istanbul. "As Turkey, we support with all our heart Azerbaijan's righteous struggle to reclaim its territory. We invite all countries who defend justice and fairness to support Azerbaijan."

Russia's foreign intelligence service has issued a statement warning that the escalating confrontation in the region is "like a magnet" attracting Islamic jihadists of all stripes.

"Mercenaries from international terrorist organizations fighting in the Middle East — in particular Jabhat al-Nusra, Firqat Hamza, the Sultan Murad Division, as well as extremist Kurdish groups — are actively entering into the conflict zone," Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service warned in a statement recently. "Moreover, we are talking about hundreds and even thousands of radicals hoping to make money on the new Karabakh war."

President Erdoğan has denied sending jihadist mercenaries to fight in the region.

Still, Azerbaijan has welcomed Turkey's support.

During an interview with Turkish state broadcaster TRT, Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev said Ankara's backing in the conflict has been critical.

"Turkey has been the one to support us the most, in a very clear way," President Aliyev said during the interview. "The Turkish president's brave and clear statements were a warning to many countries: 'stay on the sidelines, don't meddle, Azerbaijan is not alone, Turkey is standing by it.' And Azerbaijan is always standing next to Turkey."

President Sarkissian says Turkey's ongoing military involvements in Syria, Cyprus, Iraq, Libya, Afghanistan, and now in Armenia, are more proof of Erdoğan's expansionist ambitions.

"Wherever they go, alone or bringing Islamic militants with them, basically they are there, and they are destroying, not only people's lives but also ancient languages, like in Syria destroying ancient Christian culture," Sarkissian said.

On October 7th, days after the conflict erupted, Azerbaijan, backed by Turkey, shelled the historic Holy Savior Cathedral in Shusha, Nagorno-Karabakh, where many Armenian families had sought refuge.

"I feel pain that we have such 'neighbors'," said Father Andreas, priest of Holy Savior Cathedral. "I feel the pain that the walls of our beautiful cathedral are destroyed. I feel the pain that today that world does not react to what's happening here and that our boys are dying defending our motherland."

The Holy Savior Cathedral, also known as the Ghazanchetsots Cathedral, suffered interior and exterior damage.

Three weeks into the conflict, scores of families continue to pray and find refuge in the partially destroyed church.

"God's house was transformed into ruins," said Narik, a resident of Shusha, Nagorno Karabakh. "They are capable of everything, but God will punish them."

More than 500 people have died, and tens of thousands of civilians displaced by the fighting.

Sandwiched between Armenia and Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh's ethnic Armenian population has long wanted to be independent to unite with Armenia.

After numerous flare-ups over the region, this latest is the worst in decades.

Russia, which backs Armenia but has ties with Azerbaijan, tried to broker a ceasefire last week. That failed. As fighting intensifies, experts worry Russia could be dragged further into the conflict.

Russia's foreign minister making a fresh appeal for peace.

"We stand on our position that peaceful solution of the conflict is possible," said Sergey Lavrov, Russia's foreign minister. "Moreover, it's the only way to ensure a sustainable solution of this problem."

Armenia is one of the world's oldest Christian nations. Most of those living in the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region, are also Christian.

That includes Rita Grigoryan, who, along with several others, has sheltered in the basement of her apartment building since the fighting started. Grigoryan lost her husband during the war with Azerbaijan in the 1990s. Her son-in-law and grandson are now on the frontlines.

"My grandson turned twenty and then the war started," Grigoyan said. "How can we be happy, where should we run if my relatives are here?"

President Sarkissian tells CBN News that Armenia's struggle against what his government has called a Turkish-Azerbaijani terrorist alliance is like that of a story in the Bible:

"These very brave people are like the story of David and Goliath," Sarkissian told CBN News. "They are facing an enormous enemy that wants to destroy a whole civilization, a culture, religion, and people."

## Turkey Is The Next Iran

Bernard Lewis, the preeminent Middle East researcher of the past few generations, said after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan rose to power that Iran could turn into Turkey and Turkey might morph into Iran.

Lewis meant that after the mullah regime was ousted, Iran might fulfill the hope for moderation and contribution that were once hung on Turkey, whereas Erdoğan could drive the modern and moderate Turkey he inherited into destructive radicalism in the style of the Islamic Revolution. For now, the threat from Ankara is materializing, but not the hopes for Tehran.

In addition to the disaster he has brought down on his own country, Erdoğan's megalomaniacal policies have outraged his neighbors in the Fertile Crescent, the Arabia Peninsula and the Mediterranean Basin. The damage he is causing is being discovered in Europe.

His policy is hurting American and Israeli interests. Hamas, Qatar, Azerbaijan and the government of Fayeze al-Sarraj in Tripoli are his only allies.

In Europe, he poses a multifaceted threat. The NATO alliance was established by democratic nations to address the Soviet danger. Turkey was a little unusual, but gradually developed democratic characteristics, and NATO could depend on its large military. Recently, we have been seeing a stark contrast between the democratic characteristics of most NATO members and Turkey's regime of oppression.

Erdoğan's close ties with Russia, and acquisition of an air defense system that poses a threat to NATO aircraft, testify to his intentions. Erdoğan's steps to eradicate government functionaries and weaken Turkey's armed forces erode its value as a military asset. His policy is ruining Turkey's credibility; it is now a Trojan horse in NATO.

Erdoğan isn't even trying to hide the threat to European society and politics in two sensitive areas: enclaves of Turks and refugees. He is blatantly encouraging a process of radicalization among the million Turks who have emigrated to Europe since the 1970s, mainly to Germany.

That radicalization demands that they remain loyal to Turkey and their Islamic culture, at the expense of their citizenship and process of integrating into their new home countries.

In the fall of 2015, Erdoğan encouraged a wave of about a million refugees to Europe, mostly from Syria, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Given the Europeans' helplessness in addressing the matter, he struck a "protection" deal with German Chancellor Angela Merkel--he would stop the influx of refugees for a billion euros. Since then, he has been using his ability to reopen the dam as a way of extorting benefits and money from the frightened Europeans.

The danger he poses to American interests is clear, and it's hard to understand why President Trump accepts his outrageous behavior. The damage he has done to NATO hurts the United States, too.

Weakening European society through radicalized Muslim citizens and a flood of refugees also hurts Europe's ability to stand up to Russia and bolsters their already-strong tendency for pacification. Erdoğan's battle against the Kurds hurts the United States' trusted allies in Syrian and Iraq and sends a message to local forces that the Americans cannot be depended upon.

We also need to add the threats the Muslim Brotherhood--with Erdoğan's encouragement--poses to pro-American governments in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the Persian Gulf and Jordan, and his hostile policy toward Israel. Nor does the United States want Turkish hegemony in the Mediterranean Sea.

The only American punishment meted out to Erdoğan so far--a refusal to sell him F-35 aircraft because he bought a missile system from the Russians--is no deterrent.

Israel has a long list of problems with the anti-Semitic megalomaniac from Ankara. He supports Hamas, he tried to break the maritime weapons blockade on the Gaza Strip and allows terrorists to operate in his country under Turkish passports.

He threatens Turkey's most important Arab allies, wages a pan-Islamic war against Israel in Jerusalem and sends his agents to fight it. In the Mediterranean, he threatens Israel's economic assets as well as its allies.

Erdoğan is hated and isolated. Turkey is vulnerable mostly in the economic sector. About a month ago, Moody's lowered Turkey's credit rating to B2, the lowest in the 30 years it has been measured and five steps below the rank it needs to attract investment.

Aside from his nationalist incitement and oppressive measures, Erdoğan is holding on because the economic situation remains tolerable. This is where he can be reined in, but for that to happen, we need the Americans to take the lead. Trump hasn't suggested it yet and Joe Biden will almost certainly not want anything to do with it.

## Middle East Expert: The Abraham Accords Contain “Secret Clauses” Pertaining to Temple Mount

BY STAFF WRITER | OCT 16, 2020 | JERUSALEM  
israel265news.com

Beware of making a covenant with the inhabitants of the land against which you are advancing, lest they be a snare in your midst. Exodus 34:12 (The Israel Bible™)

Pinhas Inbari, a journalist, author, and expert on the Middle East for the Jerusalem Center for Public

Affairs, posted a blog on Friday claiming that the Abraham Accords that just passed a vote in the Knesset contain secret clauses relating to the Temple Mount and the Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria that many would find disturbing.

In an interview with Al Hura, a US-based Arabic-language satellite TV news channel, Inbari stated that in the Abraham Accords establishing normalization between Israel and the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, there are clauses that would require freezing the growth of the Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria and maintaining a Muslim exclusivity on prayer on the Temple Mount.

“I was interviewed tonight by Al-Hura and asked if there really are secret clauses in the peace agreement with the Emirates, and I said that I think there are such clauses,” Inbari wrote on his Hebrew language blog. “But they do not relate to the [Lockheed Martin] F35 deal, but to freezing the settlements and stabilizing the status quo on the Temple Mount.”

When the Abraham Accords were announced, it was also announced that it included sales of Lockheed Martin F-35 stealth jets to the UAE. The super-advanced stealth jets are only sold to allies of the US. The announcement was accompanied by assurances from the US that they remain committed to Israeli military superiority in the region.

“I mentioned that the Emirates said that they are the ones who stopped the annexation process, and after President Trump said that there was already a map of the Palestinian state without Netanyahu disagreeing with it, the issue of expanding the settlements was also dropped,” Inbari wrote. “And it is even more important to note that without the stabilization of the status quo on the Temple Mount in cast steel, Saudi Arabia will not enter into official peace moves.”

Inbari detailed the main points of the status quo as the mosque plaza belonging to Islam while the Western Wall belongs to Judaism.”

“Jewish and Christian tourists are allowed to come up to the Temple Mount, but prayers are not allowed, and certainly there is no permission to build a Bet Mikdash (Temple),” Inbari explained. “When I was asked why these clauses were being hidden, I replied that the Prime Minister was still considering the renewal of the “right-wing bloc”, and he did not want Bennett and the settlers to know about it.

“The UAE took into account the prime minister’s considerations relating to his election and did not insist on revealing the entire peace agreement in all its clauses.

## American Jewry's Fateful Hour



Cancel culture in America grows more menacing by the day.

Caroline Glick

Almost all the polls say that US President Donald Trump is heading towards defeat at the hands of his Democrat challenger, former Vice President Joe Biden next month. But Robert Cahaly, who heads the Trafalgar Group polling firm, disagrees. Cahaly was the only major pollster that accurately called the 2016 presidential race. In an

interview with The Political Trade podcast last week, Cahaly said his data show Trump headed for another upset victory Nov. 3.

Cahaly said that today, as in 2016, the disparity between his numbers and the marquis polling firms'

numbers owes to the latter's systematic neglect of what he calls the "Shy Trump Voter Effect."

From the time Hillary Clinton referred to Trump's supporters as "deplorables," through today as Democrats demonize them as racists and fascists, Cahaly explains that a significant and growing segment of Trump voters will not admit their support for him. Fearing social and professional repercussions, the Shy Trump Voter lies to pollsters and anyone else who asks him what he thinks of Trump.

Cahaly said that he goes to great lengths to correct for the Shy Trump Voter Effect in his polls and the other polling firms ignore the phenomenon.

The Shy Trump Voter makes intuitive sense for anyone watching the cancel culture in America grow more menacing by the day. One of the communities where it likely plays a role is the American Jewish community.

The Jewish community has been one of the most intolerant communities towards Trump supporters. After the Tree of Life massacre two years ago, leading Jewish intellectuals called for synagogues to ban Trump voters from entering their prayer halls. The day that the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain signed peace agreements with Israel at the White House, the Jewish Democratic Council of America ran an ad comparing Trump to Hitler. For the past year, the goal of the Jewish arm of the Democrat Party has been to portray Trump as the gravest threat to the American Jewish community.

And it isn't just Jewish notables propagating hatred and fear of Trump and his supporters. The old quip that Reform Judaism is simply the Democratic Party with Jewish holidays, rings truer today than ever. In many Reform and Conservative synagogues, Judaism is portrayed as a synonym for progressive politics. Jewish Trump supporters who belong to these congregations are unlikely to share their views with their fellow congregants.

So it's safe to assume that the Shy Trump Voter Effect is alive and kicking in the American Jewish community today.

And this brings us to Florida.

According to the Real Clear Politics average of polls, Biden is leading Trump in the critical swing state by 2.7%. Cahaly's polls place Trump at a 2-point advantage. In 2016, Trump won Florida by a 1.5% margin over Clinton.

Jews make up around 3.5% of Florida's population and an even larger percentage of Florida voters. Consequently, the Jewish vote is critical for winning the state. Cahaly said his polls show "support for Trump in the Jewish community is skyrocketing."

If Trump wins an historic level of support among American Jews, it will be a testament to the wisdom of an unprecedented percentage of American Jews. For American Jewry this year's presidential election is without question the most critical one ever.

Over the past four years, anti-Semitism has become an undeniable, and central characteristic of the Democrat Party to which the vast majority of American Jews have pledged their loyalty for the better part of the past hundred years while anti-Semitism in the Republican Party has dropped to historic lows.

Democrat anti-Semitism has seemingly appeared out of the blue but in truth, the party has been on a largely one-lane road to radicalization for the past fifty years. It's just that the path turned into a highway over the past four years with the rise of open anti-Semites like Rashida Tlaib, Linda Sarsour, Andre Carson, Keith Ellison and Ilhan Omert to commanding positions in the party.

Anti-Semitism runs through Democrat politics, policies and behavior across a spectrum of issues. In foreign

policy, hating Israel has become the most passionate position of the progressive grassroots.

Biden announced early on that if elected, he will restore the US's commitment to the Iran nuclear deal he forged with Barack Obama. That means that a Biden administration will cancel the economic sanctions on Iran, ensuring the survival of the regime. It means a Biden administration will enable the cessation of the UN arms embargo enabling Iran to purchase whatever advanced weapons systems it wants. It also means a regime pledged to annihilate the largest Jewish community in the world – Israel – will have an open path to a nuclear arsenal.

Biden has agreed to restore the Palestinians to center stage. This isn't a pro-peace position. After all, the Abraham accords are the result of Trump marginalizing the Palestinians. The purpose of a Palestinian-centric policy is it is to delegitimize Israel, justify a US foreign policy that is hostile to Israel and domestic policy that is hostile to Israel's supporters in America.

Then there is anti-Semitism itself. The good news is that like Trump, Biden can be expected to take on white supremacists. The bad news is that in stark contrast to Trump, Biden can be expected to turn a blind eye to the growing anti-Semitism in his own political camp.

The JDCA announced its campaign demonizing Trump as the gravest threat to the American Jewish community the day Trump signed an executive order extending Title IX protection under the US Civil Rights Act to Jews on campuses. The executive order specified that when considering anti-Semitic discrimination, the definition of anti-Semitism reached by the International Holocaust Remembrance Association (IHRA) should be used as a guidepost. The IHRA definition stipulates that anti-Zionism is anti-Semitism and that rejecting Israel's right to exist, comparing it to Nazi Germany or apartheid South Africa are forms of anti-Semitic actions.

On October 1, New York University reached a settlement with the US Department of Education's Civil Rights Division over a complaint filed by a former student alleging anti-Semitic discrimination by university authorities. The complaint was filed following Trump's executive order. In the settlement, NYU agreed to apply the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism to its actions to protect Jewish students from discrimination.

The NYU case shows how critical Trump's executive order is to the protection of the civil rights of American Jews. On campuses the most common form of anti-Semitic harassment flows from anti-Zionism. Hostility to Jewish students and faculty has grown as campus authorities have refused to acknowledge that anti-Zionism is anti-Semitism. NYU's leadership allowed their campus to become a hostile environment for Jews where the slightest expression of support for Israel found Jewish students attacked and ostracized. So long as Trump's executive order remains in effect and enforced, Jews can turn to the Department of Education for protection.

The future of the executive order, not to mention its enforcement will be very much in doubt in a Biden administration. For eight years, the Obama-Biden administration abjectly refused to protect Jewish students from discrimination rooted in anti-Zionism. And as a result, the discrimination increased steeply from semester to semester.

Anti-Semitism of course isn't limited to anti-Zionism. There is also traditional anti-Semitism that involves scapegoating and assaulting Jews simply for being Jews. There's a lot of that going on in Democrat circles these days. On Oct. 5, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo held a press conference where he directly threatened the state's Orthodox Jewish community. In the middle of the Sukkot festival, Cuomo said, "I have to say to the Orthodox community... 'If you're not willing to live with these rules [of limiting participation in prayers due to the pandemic], then I'm going to close the synagogues.'"

It would be one thing to single out Orthodox Jews if they were the only ones rejecting the limitations on religious gatherings. But they aren't. Not even close.

As Daniel Greenfield reported at Frontpage online magazine, the day before Cuomo threatened the Orthodox community, thousands of Shiite Muslim men gathered without masks and with no social distancing in Queens to mark the Ashoura festival. Cuomo didn't mention them. He also didn't mention them in August when they had another Ashoura festival with no masks and no social distancing in Manhattan even though the next day, Cuomo threatened to ban Jewish weddings.

To justify his singling out of Orthodox Jews, Cuomo held up a photograph of a massive Hassidic funeral. Cuomo failed to note the photo was of a funeral that took place in 2006.

Early this week, Cuomo sent state workers to weld shut the entrance to a Jewish cemetery in Rockland County ahead of the memorial of a Hassidic leader that thousands of followers regularly attend. Across the street from the Jewish cemetery is a non-Jewish cemetery and as the Jews were barred from entering their grounds, hundreds of non-Jews gathered at their cemetery without social distancing and in at least some cases, without masks, and with no law enforcement officers around to disperse them. According to media reports, Cuomo is the frontrunner to serve as Attorney General in a Biden administration.

The outpouring of wrath against Orthodox Jews by the likes of Cuomo and New York Mayor Bill de Blasio since the outset of the coronavirus pandemic follows in the wake of a year and a half of ever-escalating assaults against Orthodox Jews in the New York metropolitan area. Those attacks culminated with the massacre of Jews in Jersey City, New Jersey and the attempted massacre of Jews in Monsey, New York last November and December.

Rather than take aggressive steps to protect the Jewish communities in neighborhoods like Crown Heights and Williamsburg from the perpetrators who overwhelmingly hail from the African American and Muslim communities, Cuomo and De Blasio ignored them. Infamously, while making light of the assaults and harassment, De Blasio blamed the attacks on white nationalists.

With a record like the one Cuomo has racked up in New York, and with the Democrat House majority incapable of condemning anti-Semitism when it emanates from its own members, it strains credulity to believe a Biden administration will protect the civil rights of Jews. This is especially true in the growing number of cases where the anti-Semites are either progressives or members of privileged communities within the progressive camp, and the victims are either Zionist Jews or Orthodox Jews.

A Jerusalem Post poll this week claimed that 70 percent of American Jews intend to vote for Biden. 25 percent intend to vote for Trump. If the numbers are true, Trump is already enjoying a larger percentage of the Jewish vote than any Republican candidate since Ronald Reagan. If Cahaly's models are as accurate in 2020 as they were in 2016, it is likely that Shy Trump Voters in the Jewish community will give Trump more Jewish votes than any Republican has received in history.