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SUSPECT SENT THREATENING LETTERS



men share their lessons from fatherhood Page 8



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BEFORE SHOOTING AT CAPITAL GAZETTE

Hate Thy Neighbor Colors Sessions' Immigration Practices Page 12



Tennessee Titans QB Marcus Mariota, receivers hold extra workout Page 18



The gunman who police say shot several journalists and staff at the Capital Gazette in Annapolis last week sent three threatening letters beforehand. Photo by Jay Fleming/EPA-EFE

#### By Sara Shayanian UPI

Maryland investigators say the gunman who opened fire at the Capital Gazette in Annapolis last week sent three threatening letters before the deadly attack.

Officials said letters were sent to the paper's former attorney, Maryland's Court of Special Appeals and a Baltimore City judge.

One was signed by accused shooter Jarrod Ramos said he was on his way to the newspaper to kill "every person present."

The letter was dated June 28, the day of the attack

The letter was written to look like a court filing and sought a "Motion for Reconsideration" by Maryland's top court, which in 2016 refused to hear a defamation case Ramos had filed against

the Gazette.

"You were too cowardly to confront those lies, and this is your receipt," the letter stated. "I told you so."

See LETTERS, page A5



New 'Ninja Turtles' reboot film in development at Paramount Page 22

### FBI arrests Philadelphia man in July 4 terror plot in Cleveland

#### By Ed Adamczyk and **Danielle Haynes** UPI

The FBI on Monday announced the arrest of a "radicalized" Philadelphia man who was plotting to bomb a July Fourth parade in Cleveland. The man was identified as Demetrius Pitts

-- aka Abdur Raheem Rafeeq and Salah ad-Deen Osama Waleed -- of Maple Heights, Ohio. He was charged with one count of attempting to provide material support to a foreign terrorist organization, specifically al-Qaida, FBI special agent Steve Anthony said at a news conference Monday.

Anthony identified Pitts as a Philadelphia-born U.S. citizen "radicalized in the United States" who expressed an interest, first in Facebook posts and later to an undercover agent, in disrupting a July Fourth parade in Cleveland with bombings that included an explosives-laden vehicle.

Pitts has a lengthy criminal record, Anthony added, and a "radical ideology and desire to commit violence against the United States."

In meeting with undercover agents, Pitts displayed a "hatred of the [U.S.] military," and an "allegiance to

See PLOT, page A5



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## **J**PINION

### How to handle rise of China: a 'treaty of Eastphalia'

By Harlan Ullman, Arnaud de Borchgrave **Distinguished Columnist** UPI

In 1648, the Treaty of Westphalia ended the Hundred Years War in Europe, creating the system of state-centric politics that has defined international relations since.

While a combination of the failed second Iraq War; the Arab Spring; the Trump administration "America First" policies; and the so-called re-emergence of great power competition has unleashed a cottage industry of pundits declaring that liberal democracy and a rules-based system of international norms are dead or dying, a better explanation has been offered by BBC award-winning correspondent Humphrey Hawksley.

In Asian Waters, Hawksley's latest and his best book to date -- in full disclosure, he and I are friends and colleagues -- more than just an in-depth and comprehensive analysis of the region awaits the reader.

The author calls for an "Eastphalian" understanding of the region and of the largest power there -- China. With a wealth of on-the-ground reporting from the region, including as BBC's Beijing bureau chief, Hawksley shows why an Eastphalian structure is emerging in Asia. For both students and practitioners of foreign policy, his book is a must read. Indeed, the subtitle of the book published in America but not elsewhere, "The Struggle Over the South China Sea and the Strategy of Chinese Expansion," expresses the profound conundrum of how to deal with China's annexation and militarization of a number of islets and reefs in the region in violation of international law.

But his idea for what I will call a "Treaty of Eastphalia" is a most innovative geostrategic suggestion. For the great majority of the 20th century (and obviously since the Westphalian Treaty), geopolitics has been Euro-Atlantic focused. And since World War I, ideological political competition has set liberal democracy against autocratic regimes. With the demise of the Axis powers in 1945 and then the Soviet Union 4 1/2 decades later, the balance clearly favored the West and its so-called values.

Sadly, in the 21st century, as I have argued in my last two books, the greatest threat to society at large is failed and failing government. The United States is not alone. The U.K.'s Theresa May and Germany's Angela Merkel are leading failing governments. And throughout much of the rest of the world, the wholesale failures of government from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe have created violence and mayhem that are growing.

Against this background, the economic power of Asia led by China, along with its expanding military capacity and "belt and road" initiative that provides unprecedented global reach, access and leverage, is neutralizing and eroding the Westphalian system accelerated by globalization and the diffusion of power. While the United States and Europe in absolute terms are the dominant economic and military powers, relatively, the advantages are rapidly lessening. While NATO and the EU once were foundations in modernizing and advancing the Westphalian system, with Brexit, problems in governance noted above and the rise of nationalistic and autocratic political movements, as NATO's Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg wryly noted in London last week, nothing is forever. The point is that a catalyst may be necessary to generate a new Eastphalian regime that will lead to greater security and prosperity in Asia and the Pacific. Negotiations for averting a trade war could be just such a catalyst.

### Fighting Bullies at the UN

Recent outbreaks of vio- the protests. lence at the border between Israel and Gaza garnered there. more than their fair share of biased media attention.

Many liberal news outlets conveniently left out that the "protests" -- which were actually people storming Israel's border with the intent to breach it and murder innocents -- were organized by Hamas with the cynical goal of prompting Palestinian casualties and global condemnation of Israel.

As expected, the United Nations followed the terrorist group's lead and fell into line, heaping criticism on Israel.

The terrorists were, by their own admission, determined to infiltrate the Jewish state and sow as much death and destruction as possible.

After Israel successfully defended its borders and citizens from these malicious would-be intruders, the world, the media and the UN decried its justified actions as human rights violations, despite the fact that Hamas claimed the majority of victims as their own.

Shortly thereafter, the UN Security Council held a vote aimed at condemning Israel for the violence.

The lone voice of reason was, as usual, the United States.

Thankfully, U.S. Ambassador to the UN, Nikki Haley vetoed this outrageous measure, which didn't even mention Hamas or its in-

Haley forth a separate resolution condemning Gaza's terrorist ruling group. There,

she stood alone.

WILLIAMS

But in the era of the horrendous. Trump administration, the United States would rather be the lone voice of reason than kowtow to discriminatory world pressure, secure in the knowledge that we are doing the right thing by supporting our ally Israel.

There's a proud precedent here.

In 1975, U.S. States Ambassador to the UN, Daniel Patrick Moynihan, delivered a prolific speech railing against Resolution 3379, which declared Zionism a form of racism.

The United States voted against this decree and was again in the minority.

because of American efrevoked.

In recent days, Ambassador Haley did as she has done before, following in Moynihan's footsteps by giving a spirited defense of Israel's actions and blasting those who are quick to jump on the Israel-hating bandwagon.

In her impassioned remarks, Haley condemned

demned the UN for its earned a time set aside for And she didn't stop unabashed bias against its condemnation. Israel.

> also put Security Council to fail to condemn Hamas rocket attacks against Israeli civilians, while the Human Rights Council approves rection, Ambassador Hasending a team to investigate Israeli actions taken in self-defense," she said.

once again, well, the UN's track record ous neighbors. when it comes to Israel is

> In its first 10 years of existence, the UN Human Rights Council passed more than 130 resolutions against individual countries, many of which were directed at Obama shamefully refused Israel.

And what upstanding citizens of the world haughtily hurl these condemnations?

Countries including intransigence. Cuba, Iraq, Qatar and Venezuela, all of which are members of UN Human Rights Council, but have no moral high ground upon which to stand.

When despotic regimes get a pass and the only de-Sixteen years later, mocracy in the Middle East leading the way, the United is repeatedly singled out for forts, the resolution was censure, that is a clear sign ing up to the UN hypocrites that prejudice is running and defending our friends. rampant.

Meanwhile, let's not forget "Agenda Item 7."

Israel is the only country in the world with a standing item on the UNHRC agenda. While Assad butchers his people in Syria and genocide against the Rohingya people worsens daily, somehow the Jewish state *a.m.*, with repeats at 6:30 volvement in organizing Hamas, and further con- is the only country that has *p.m. EST*.

The United States, under "It is outrageous for the the leadership of President Donald Trump, will not stand idly by in the face of such bigotry.

At the president's diley has made it clear that America stands with Israel and will support its right to But, as Haley knows full defend itself from murder-

Unfortunately, it is clear that if the United States isn't willing to act, nobody else would.

The bullies of the UN would win.

They won in 2016, when to exercise America's veto, allowing the passage of Security Council Resolution 2334 condemning Israel and fomenting Palestinian

During that dark day at the UN, Israel was let down by its number one ally.

Obama liked to talk about how he "had Israel's back," but his words were empty.

With President Trump States is once again stand-

Armstrong Williams is manager and sole owner of Howard Stirk Holdings I & II Broadcast Television Stations and Executive Editor of American CurrentSee online magazine. Watch our Right Side Forum every Saturday on NewsChannel 8 TV 28, 10:30 a.m. to 11

For many immigrant families, the tight for reunification is just beginning

#### By Marcia Zug, University of South Carolina UPI

ministration attempted to detain hundreds of families indefinitely - until the practice was legally challenged and stopped. This is essentially the same policy the zens. Trump administration has adopted under the executive order. Even before the 2014 surge, the Obama administration increased efforts to detain and deport undocumented immigrants within the U.S., resulting in numerous family separations. It is reasonable to expect that the eventual outcomes of today's separations will mirror these earlier ones.

and this has allowed courts to treat deportation as abandonment.

Harlan Ullman has served on the Senior Advisory Group for Supreme Allied Commander Europe (2004-16) and is senior adviser at Washington, D.C.'s Atlantic Council, chairman of two private companies and principal author of the doctrine of shock and awe. A former naval person, he commanded a destroyer in the Persian Gulf and led over 150 missions and operations in Vietnam as a Swift Boat skipper. His latest book is "Anatomy of Failure: Why America Has Lost Every War It Starts." Follow him @harlankullman.



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President Donald Trump signed an executive order June 20 purporting to end immigrant family separations at U.S. border with Mexico. Four days later, the departments of Homeland Security and Health and Human Services announced a plan to reunite approximately 2,000 children who were taken from their parents at the border between April and the time the executive order was signed.

Immigration advocates have noted many shortcomings with the executive order.

They also emphasize the logistical difficulties parents are experiencing as they try to locate and contact their children.

Sadly, I believe these hurdles are only the tip of the iceberg.

One thing few people currently realize -- despite reassuring words from the administration -- is many of these families will most likely never be reunited.

I've been writing about the impact of the U.S. government's immigration policies on undocumented families for years.

The policies the Trump administration is enforcing, especially after the new executive order, are for the most part similar to those first enacted under President Obama. In 2014, during a surge in illegal border crossings, the Obama ad-

The role of state family law

The biggest issue is how family law views detained undocumented parents.

When immigrant children are separated from their parents, they enter two different legal tracks.

The parents will likely remain in detention centers until their cases are heard by immigration judges. Most will face immediate deportation.

The HHS plan states parents will be reunited with their children before deportations, but this seems highly unlikely.

Hundreds of these children have already been sent to state foster care facilities across the country where they have become wards of the state.

Their care and custody decisions will be handled first by state welfare agencies and then by a state court.

Reunification becomes less likely as the length of

Immigrant parents have the same legal right to the care and custody of their children as American citi-

Without a finding of unfitness, immigrant parents should be granted reunification with their children. However, history shows courts frequently use a parent's immigration status as a proxy for fitness. State court reunification decisions are also highly influenced by the parents' residency in a violent country and the child's opportunity for adoption in the United States.

State courts and welfare agencies have frequently concluded that a parent's undocumented status and their willingness to cross the border illegally was proof enough of parental unfitness that could justify the termination of parental rights.

For deported parents seeking reunification with their children, the prohibition on re-entry can be a major hurdle.

It means parents cannot enter the U.S. to contest the termination of their parental rights.

If parents do attempt reentry after deportation they risk arrest, which further hampers their efforts to be reunited with their kids.

Moreover, courts have repeatedly confirmed that an undocumented immigrant's motivations for illegal reentry are irrelevant.

Deported parents are rarely able to return to the U.S. to seek reunification,

A final issue that may affect undocumented immigrant parents' ability to reunite concerns the efforts of third parties to gain custody of the removed children.

The longer the children remain in foster care, the more likely it is that attachments will grow. Many of these families will seek to adopt these children.

In the past, courts, faced with the prospect of returning children to foreign countries filled with dangers versus allowing them to stay in America with an adoptive family, have often chosen the latter.

They decide that to go home under such conditions is not in the children's best interest and this in turn justifies terminating their biological parents parental rights.

The ConversationIt's not clear whether today's separated families will have the same difficulties regaining custody previous immigrant families faced, but it appears likely.

In fact, given the current anti-immigrant sentiment, I believe the hurdles these immigrants parents may encounter will be significantly greater.

Marcia Zug, Professor of Family Law, University of South Carolina

This article was originally published on The Conversation. Read the original article.

### "KEEPING THE DREAM ALIVE" GI/C.M. EPPES HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION 39TH YEAR CELEBRATION

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#### Letters

continued from page 1 "Welcome, Mr. Moylan, to your unexpected legacy: YOU should have died," an attachment to the letter said, addressing retired Judge Charles Moylan Jr. It was signed, "Friends forever, Jarrod W. Ramos." Moylan wrote a scathing

opinion against Ramos in

the defamation case.

The entire contents of all the letters were not detailed by police. Investigators are still examining them, a spokesperson said.

"I further certify I then

did proceed to the office of respondent Capital-Gazette Communications ... with the objective of killing every person present," one passage read, The Baltimore Sun reported. Five people died in the attack and several were injured.

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Ramos' defamation suit stemmed from a 2011 article in the Gazette that detailed a harassment charge a woman had filed against him. The two were former classmates, officials said.

Ramos was arrested after the attack and is being held in an Anne Arundel County jail.

### Plot

continued from page 1 al-Qaida," Anthony said.

Pitts also visited several downtown Cleveland locations in recent days to scout bombing locations. "I'm trying to figure out

something that would shake them up on the Fourth of July," Pitts allegedly told an undercover agent. "What would hit them at their core? Blow up in the, have a bomb blow up in the Fourth of July parade."

An affidavit said Pitts also expressed a desire to

recruit people to kill Americans and meet with an al-Qaida member.

U.S. Attorney Justin Herdman said that if convicted, Pitts could face {link:20 years in prison. He added that Pitts told undercover agents, "I don't care. I have no regrets."

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#### Eppes

continued from page 5 dressed like, talked like, and walked like an educator; in fact, was born to teach. He was a descendent of a family, who from emancipation forward, was actively involved in education. He spent his adult life as a part of the effort to reverse the legal prohibition against the education of black people. This proud, quiet, dignified man was seen by some almost as imposing. An impeccable dresser, he was a model that helped shape generations of African American students.

On one occasion, he responded to a fire at Eppes High School in the middle of the night and as usual, he was dressed in his coat and tie. On July 6, 1910, in a small village in Jones county, NC called Pollocksville; Alan, the first of seven siblings was born to Daniel Webster Murrell, Jr. and Georgia Louise Willie Murrell who were both farmers and teachers.

He attended Jones County schools for his elementary education; but because there was no high school for African Americans in Jones County at that time, he attended and graduation from Albion Academy, a private boarding school in Franklinton, NC. Knoxville College, Knoxville, Tennessee was the scene of his undergraduate education, where he majored in mathematics and chemistry and earned a B.S degree in 1933.

Realizing that education was an ongoing pro cess, he did graduate work at Hampton Institute (nowHampton University) and North Carolina College (now North Carolina Central University).

He received grants from the National Science Foundation to attend Marshall University (West Virginia), University of South Florida, North Carolina State University, and Union College, Schenectady, New York. He received a Masters Degree in Supervision and Administration from East Carolina University.

His first teaching job was at E.B. Frink High School, La Grange, NC, where he and the principal divided the subjects. So, not only did he teach math and science, but also English and social studies.

After six years in La Grange, he and his wife

moved to Beaufort, NC, where he taught math and science at Queen Street School and coached the basketball team.

In 1944, his family moved to Greenville. Mr. Murrell joined the staff at C.M. Eppes High School and again taught mathematics and chemistry inspiring his students to excel. He once said that he loved Eppes High School so much that he could just stretch his arms around it and hug it. He also served as assistant principal and principal. His ability to motivate teachers as well as students led to his appointment as the first black supervisor for Greenville City Schools. When Eppes was destroyed by fire, he became associate principal of E.B. Aycock, where he retired after 41 years of service. He was a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and Phi Delta Kappa Professional Fraternity in education. As a longtime member of York Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church, he served as treasurer of the Trustee Board. This great man, father, husband, educator, mentor and pillar of the community dies after a lengthy illness on April 18, 1982, but his legacy lives on.

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### Black men share their lessons from fatherhood

#### By Kenae Damon www.triceedneywire.com

Educator, author and speaker, Dr. Jawanza Kanjufu, says, "We encourage every man to be a responsible father. There has never been a time when we did not need our fathers."

As Father's Day rolls around we reflect on the brothers, uncles, cousins,

and friends who have become dads over the years and vowed to take care of their children. In interviews this week, we talked to Black men on their perspectives on fatherhood, what they want their children to learn from them and the most essential lessons they learned from their own Dads.

Howard John Wesley,

42, is a born and raised native of Chicago. He moved to Washington D.C. to become the pastor of Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia. Despite his service to his nearly 10-member congregation and to the community, it is fathering his sons that's among his most greatest callings.

Rev. Wesley is a father

of two young boys, 13 and 6. "Being a father is one of the best roles I have, it is an honor to raise my two sons and no matter how trying being a Dad may be sometimes, I always do my best to remember that," Wesley said.

Charles Reyes, 43, is an assistant principal of a high school in Philadelphia. He has been a father for 19

years and is the proud father of five kids. He grew up in a two-parent home and had a close and personal relationship with his father. Reyes appreciates his father for setting the tone and being a strong man of the house hold. When asked how his relationship with his father affected his personal relationship with his kids he said, "I am the kind of

father I am today because of the sacrifices my father made for me years ago."

Also, from Philadelphia, Wade Gordon, 55, has been a father for 31 years and is a father of two adults children. His father passed away when he was very young, but he has amazing memories of him. On this

See FATHERHOOD page 9



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#### Fatherhood

continued from page 8 upcoming Father's Day, his advice to all the fathers is to "always cherish the time you have with your kids because you never know when that time will be no longer. I always do my best to be extremely proactive in my kids' lives."

Three fathers in particular stood out the most in interviews. They are Cortez Holland, 23, Tracy Garrett, 56, and Kirk Riley, 51. All three of these dads experienced unique and traumatizing situations with their children.

Cortez Holland had his 5-year-old daughter when he was just a teenager. He says nothing was planned.



But his daughter has become his world.

"Having a daughter at a young age forced me to grow up and I would be lying if I said it wasn't a wakeup call for me and her mother." He and the mother didn't always get along at first and with both being very young, raising a child alone was a struggle.



NCDOT TO HOLD A PUBLIC MEETING REGARDING THE PROPOSED WIDENING OF U.S. 258 FROM N.C. 148 (C.F. HARVEY PARKWAY) TO APPROXIMATELY 0.5 MILE SOUTH OF BROWNTOWN ROAD (S.R. 1101) GREENE AND LENOIR COUNTIES *STIP Project No. R-5814* 

The N.C. Department of Transportation will hold a public meeting regarding the proposed widening of U.S. 258 from N.C. 148 (C.F. Harvey Parkway) to approximately 0.5 mile south of Browntown Road (S.R. 1101).

The meeting will take place on Tuesday, July 10 in the North Lenoir High School Cafeteria, located at 2400 Institute Road near La Grange from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

The public may attend at any time during the hours mentioned above. NCDOT representatives will be available to answer questions and listen to comments regarding the project. The opportunity to submit written comments will also be provided at the meeting or via phone, email, or mail by July 31, 2018. Comments received will be taken into consideration as the project develops. Please note that no formal presentation will be made.

He said his relationship with his father was not the best because his father was not around. But that only encouraged him to be the opposite.

Tracy Garrett on the other hand had a pretty good relationship with his father and says he has an outstanding relationship with his son. He always pushed his son to follow his dreams and when asked

what important lesson he wants his son to always remember him by, it is to never let anyone stop you from your success. Garrett's father has always been an advocate for higher education so when his own son received an acceptance letter from Howard University he was thrilled.

A year into his son's college career he became aware that his son's GPA

had dropped severely and that he could no longer attend school.

His son being a college dropout definitely put a strain on their relationship. But Garrett now looks at it as an unexpected blessing.

He said the situation forced him to be less hard on his son and through it all, he discovered his son's hidden love for music. His son, Trey, enrolled

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Project information and materials can be viewed as they become available online at https://publicinput.com/us258\_widening.

For additional information, contact one of the following individuals: Rachelle Beauregard, NCDOT Division 2, Project Manager at P.O. Box 1587, Greenville, NC 27835, (919) 239-7168, or rlbeauregard@ncdot.gov; or Colista Freeman, Project Consultant - CALYX Engineers and Consultants at 6750 Tryon Road, Cary, NC 27518, (919) 858-1848, or cfreeman@calyxengineers.com.

NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for disabled persons who wish to participate in this meeting. Anyone requiring special services should contact Caitlyn Ridge, ceridge1@ncdot.gov or by phone (919) 707-6091 as early as possible so that arrangements can be made.

Persons who speak Spanish and do not speak English, or have a limited ability to read, speak or understand English, may receive interpretive services upon request prior to the meeting by calling 1-800-481-6494.

Aquellas personas que hablan español y no hablan inglés, o tienen limitaciones para leer, hablar o entender inglés, podrían recibir servicios de interpretación si los solicitan antes de la reunión llamando al 1-800-481-6494.



#### **Exercise Training Study in African Americans**

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The Daily Drum



### Woman climbs Statue of Liberty to protest **Trump immigration policies**



Therese Patricia Okoumou walks around the base of the Statue of Liberty in New York City Wednesday. Okoumou climbed to protest the Trump administration's immigration policies. Photo by John Angelillo/UPI License Photo

interfering with national

park regulations, trespass-

ing and disorderly conduct,

according to WLNY-TV.

itself from her actions.

erty was one of forty par-

ticipants in our planned

banner action, but her de-

#### By Ray Downs UPI

July 5-18, 2018

A woman was arrested Wednesday after she climbed the State of Liberty to protest the Trump administration's immigration policies, officials said.

Therese Patricia Ok-

officers tried to persuade Okoumou to come down from the statue. Glacken said it took about three hours to convince Okoumou to get down and she apologized to officers for having to arrest her.

She faces charges of climbed the Statue of Lib-



was made independently of the group, without consulting any other member of the group," they said in a statement. "We understand and share her desire to see the immediate release of children from detention and reunion with their parents. We hope that her legal representation will arrange for her release under her own recognizance."

cision to climb the statue

tion has received criticism in recent weeks for its "zero tolerance" policy at the U.S.-Mexico border, which involved prosecuting all immigrants who enter illegally and, in some cases, separating children from their parents as the cases get moved through federal court. In response to that criticism, President Donald Trump signed an executive order on June 20 to end the family separating policy,

The Trump administra-

**Former Greenville Mayor Pat Dunn** 



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### Teen soccer team may be stuck in Thailand cave for months

#### By Sara Shayanian UPI

Rescuers are trying to figure out how to free a dozen teen boys and their coach from a Thailand cave, which officials say could take months.

The 12 boys and their 25-year-old coach were found alive Monday after a nine-day search in the Tham Luang cave complex in Chiang Rai.

The initial relief of finding the team has turned to concern as rescuers attempt to free the boys from a deep cavern underground, where the exit has been blocked by floodwaters.

"It is estimated that the boys are around 1.2 miles into the cave and somewhere between 0.6 miles below the surface," Bill Whitehouse, vice chairman of the British Cave Rescue Council, said.

Options for accessing the trapped team remain

limited to a narrow, flooded channel. Attempts to pump water or find another exit have been unsuccessful.

Rescuers say the boys may have to effectively scuba dive out.

"Diving is not easy," Interior Minister Anupong Paojinda said in Bangkok on Tuesday. "Those who have never done it will find it difficult because there are narrow passages in the cave. They must be able to use diving gear. If the gear is lost at any moment, it can be dangerous to life."

It could take months for the floodwaters to recede enough for the team to get out.With the rainy season likely to last for a few more months, the team may need to have food sent for the next four months, military officials said.

In the meantime, doctors will conduct medical checks on the boys and attempts were being made to set up a phone line for Nang Non-Forest Park, Chia the boys to speak with their parents, Chiang Rai Gov. Narongsak Osotthanakon said.

The trapped team drew international help, includ-



Rescuers found 13 missing members of a youth soccer team inside the cave complex at Tham Luang cave in Khun Nam Nang Non-Forest Park, Chiang Rai, and are working to bring them out. Photo courtesy of the Royal Thai Army

the boys to speak with their ing from U.S. military rescuers and British cave experts.



#### By Daniel Uria UPI

U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions promised Monday that "100 percent" of immigrants who enter the United States unlawfully at southwestern borders will be prosecuted.

Speaking at the Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies conference in Scottsdale, Ariz., Sessions said the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security will work together to accept as many cases as possible until 100 percent have been prosecuted. "If you cross this border unlawfully, then we will prosecute you. It's that simple," he said.

Sessions said the departments will also prosecute those who make false statements or fraudulently obtain immigration benefits, as well as accomplices. He also threatened to separate children from their parents if they're smuggled over the border.

"If you are smuggling a child, then we will prosecute you and that child will be separated from you as required by law."



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# Hate Thy Neighbor Colors Sessions' Immigration Practices

#### By Rev. Dr. Barbara Reynolds and Rev. Dr. Keith Magee www.triceedneywire.com

Atty. Gen. Jeff Sessions has reached down into the garbage can of history to twist passages of Holy Scripture, once used by segregationists to perpetuate slavery, segregation, White nationalism and Jim Crow, to justify separating immigrant children from their parents, many of whom Donald Trump dehumanizes as criminals.

Reports show that thousands of children are being tragically and traumatically separated from parents and held in cage-like structures, according to Democratic U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley. Some have traveled thousands of miles to flee death threats, gangs and rapes in their countries.

Is the 'make America great' rhetoric now calling them to thump the Bible, stand self-righteously and piously practicing a new

breed of spirituality that encompasses "hate thy neighbor"?

Paul, who wrote around A.D. 60, was an apostle of love reflecting the virtues of Jesus Christ. He wrote: "if there be any other commandment, it is summed up in this word, namely, love thy neighbor as thyself. Love works no ill to his neighbor; love therefore is the fulfillment of the law."

In Romans 13 Paul writes that Christians are both citizens of the state and the church having a duty to obey both.

Sessions uses that passage to justify punishing immigrants-most of whom are brown or Black, coming from where Trump has labeled other countries."

Very boldly, however, Paul clearly states in that same passage that love is the foundation of the Gospel, which supersedes all other man-made laws.

As clear-cut are the writings of Paul, Chris-



tians must look to a higher source, asking what would Jesus do? The Bible shows Jesus condemning the "sin" of legalism. Legalists can quote, pound and thump the Bible, while being ignorant or oblivion to the spirit of the Law which infuses the soul and conscience to be kind, merciful and charitable.

Legalists most often overlook the sinful practices of corporate greed and the current EPA policies of allowing corporations to leak or belch harmful chemicals into poor neighborhoods or Trump using the budget to deny healthcare to the medically indigent, who are at risk of dying because of that lack of access. These kinds of tactics, no doubt, are why Jesus declares that it's easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than a rich person, who thinks that wealth alone, gives them access to heaven.

Jesus's social gospel was to awaken the Pharisees of his day, namely the lawyers and legalistic communities.

Having a heart for the injustices of humanity, Jesus condemned that group as "hypocrites for "straining at gnats and swallowing camels" and omitting the more important areas of the law, which are "judgment, mercy and faith."

Sessions and his group - Pharisees of today - go to Scripture to find passages to support their harmful anti-Black, anti-women, anti-poor policies, which are so void of love and kindness they have no relevance for today.

Trump's Attorney Gen-



Attorney General Jeff Sessions / www.triceedneywire.com

eral clearly misses the a fundamental message of Scripture which Jesus quoted as Good News, not the lies, harsh words and the meanness we see today.

Declaring his mission in Luke 4:18, Jesus said that he was anointed to preach the Gospel (good news) to the poor, heal the broken-hearted, and preach deliverance to the captives to set at liberty them that are bruised.

Do the Sessions policies have anything to do with the Good News, Jesus, the Bible or anything sacred that is a part of the Jewish, Christian, Islamic faiths?

In fact, the bad news of Sessions is at odds with the official declarations of his own United Methodist Church. In 2016, it said, "The fear and anguish so many migrants in the United States live under are due to federal raids, indefinite detention, and deportations which tear apart families

and create an atmosphere of panic.

Millions of immigrants are denied legal entry to the US due to quotas and race and class barriers, even as employers seek their labor.

With the legal avenues closed, immigrants who come in order to support their families must live in the shadows and in intense exploitation and fear. In the face of these unjust laws and the systematic deportation of migrants instituted by the Department of Homeland Security, God's people must stand in solidarity with the migrants in our midst."

So why are so many preachers, pastors, bishops, megachurch leaders, not pushing back, defending the sacred text and taking these Pharisees to task, not only for their punitive practices toward immigrants, but also the transference of billions of dollars from the needy to the Trump oligarchy?

Isn't sacred text worth defending? How long will loving and moral Americans tolerate hypocrisy, cruelty and sins against humanity? Is it time for Sessions to have a Damascus road experience so that he can get knocked down off his high perch to see the light of Jesus's love for the least of these?

As is often said, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing."

Keith Magee is a public intellectual, ordained minister, and, serves as, Senior Fellow in Culture and Justice, University College London. Barbara Reynolds is an ordained minister, former startup editor and columnist for USA TODAY and author of seven books, the latest The Life, Love and Legacy of Coretta Scott King. They are mother and son.

# Women's Groups plead for clemency for Sudanese teen sentenced to hang

By www.triceedneywire.com upheld a judgment of ex- according to the coalition women are the ones fighting

ecution for a teenage girl

for their own rights, every



A Sudanese court has



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who fought off the forcible sexual advances of her arranged-marriage husband, leading to his death. Noura Hussein has been imprisoned in Omdurman, Sudan, since the murder of the man she was forced to marry, who she says raped her as his relatives held her down. The case has highlighted the issues of forced marriage and marital rape in Sudan, where the legal age of marriage is 10 (as long as the girl is married by a guardian) and marital rape is legal. Approximately 1 in 3 girls in Sudan are married before their 18th birthday,



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Girls Not Brides.

Zaynub Afinnih, a 16 year old activist living in France, responded to Noura's story. "I don't know her .. I've never spoken to her," Afinnih said in a press interview. "But she is my sister in humanity. I can't let her die for defending herself against the man who raped her." Another activist, Sudanese-Australian blogger Yassmin Abdel-Magied, described the #JusticeForNoura campaign in a piece published in the UK Guardian. She explained: "I'm aiming it at all those folk who want to tell us this is the fault of our faith, when Muslim

where around the world. "I don't ask for people to sign petitions very often, but it would be great if you could give this one your support: https://www.change.org/p/ zaynub-afinnih-justice-fornoura-marital rape Since Hussein was sentenced on May 10, calls for mercy have mounted. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres demanded Sudan stop any attempt to execute Hussein and urged respect for her claim of self-defense against attempted rape. Amnesty International has collected 174,000 letters from people around the world asking for her release -- they've sent 150,000 of those letters to Sudan's Ministry of Justice. Calls for clemency have also come from UN Women, the UN Population Fund and the UN Office of the Special Advisor on Africa who wrote: "Speaking as the voices of women and girls of the world, we plead with the government of Sudan to save the life of Hussein."

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