

Evidence of Religious Leaders, Governments, and Citizens Upholding, Defending, or Increasing Efforts to Protect the Sanctity of Human Life, Encourage Childbearing, Limit or End Abortion

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ARGENTINA: In 2007, newly elected President Cristina Elisabet Fernández de Kirchner, and newly appointed Health Minister Graciela Ocaña indicated their intentions to protect the lives and rights of preborn children, and view illegal abortion as a crime.¹ However, their Government has taken positions at the U.N. in support of sexual “rights” and abortion.

AUSTRALIA: In 2004, Health Minister Tony Abbott expressed deep concern over 73,000 Medicare funded abortions and late-term abortions. Others joined him: “Deputy Prime Minister John Anderson; Minister for Veterans' Affairs De-Anne Kelly; Special Minister for State Eric Abetz; Parliamentary Secretary for Health, Christopher Pyne; backbencher Alan Cadman; (and then) newly elected MP, Stuart Henry and Senator-elect Barnaby Joyce.”² In 2007, the results of surveys conducted revealed that “74 percent of Australians favor waiting periods before an abortion and more than half want abortion practitioners to give fetal development information.”³ In 2008, Senator Guy Barnett, supported by Senators Ron Boswell and Steve Fielding, led an effort to prevent taxpayers from having to pay for abortions through Medicare “after the first trimester of pregnancy.”⁴

AZERBAIJAN: In 2012, Hadi Rajabli, chairman of Parliament’s Social Policy Committee, said, “In many countries of the world ... abortion is regarded as murdering a human being. The destruction of unborn infants in their mothers’ wombs is not justified on humanitarian or religious grounds. ... We therefore believe that such a ban (on abortion) could be introduced in Azerbaijan. ... The termination of a child because of its gender can lead to serious consequences. This is murder which could not be justified from any point of view.”⁵

BRAZIL: In 2008, pro-life governors and legislators met together for the first time and produced a pro-life manifesto, plus started the process to create a committee in parliament to monitor illegal abortions. The Parliamentary Front for Life group organized the conference in response to draft legislation to legalize abortion.⁶ Subsequently, the Brazil National Congress rejected the bill that would have decriminalized abortion.⁷ In 2010, a national poll revealed that “73.5 percent of respondents” are “against abortion.” Early that same year, the Lula da Silva Government tried to amend the Human Rights Code to include abortion as a right, but the language was deleted.⁸

CAMEROON: In 2009, when the U.N. Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) pressured Cameroon to legalize abortion, the Government wrote a bold and thorough response defending the sanctity of human life, motherhood, and the importance of children, family, and generational relationships. The Government further replied that abortion “is portrayed as a freedom without mentioning that the mother exercises this freedom to the detriment of the child’s,” which “is murder.” Then they asked the Committee, “Does not legalizing abortion mean depriving children of their right to life?”⁹ Also, in 2009, because the Government ratified the Maputo Protocol – which includes a provision calling for the legalization of abortion – Cardinal Christian Wiyghan

Tumi, Archbishop of Douala, organized a pro-life rally. Over 20,000 people participated in the peaceful protest, carrying signs that read, “abortion is an abomination,” and “do not legalize sin.” A delegation of Catholics, Protestants, and Muslims gave a letter and petition, with 30,000 signatures, to the Governor for President Paul Biya, “petitioning an end to legal abortion.”¹⁰

CANADA: In 2006, 54 candidates for the Canadian Parliament, half serving as MPs then, all signed a pledge that they would support legislation to ban abortions in Canada.¹¹ Polls in 2006 revealed small shifts occurring in public opinion towards a pro-life position.¹² In 2012, as part of its “EndtheKilling” campaign, the Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform launched The New Abortion Caravan to end abortion in Canada by 2030.¹³

CHINA: In 2007, a Chinese businessman “filed a lawsuit against family planning officials over a forced abortion that has left the couple unable to have children.”¹⁴ In 2012, the story emerged about an 88-year old poor woman who rescued 30 abandoned babies between 1972 and 2004, and is viewed as a hero.¹⁵

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: During a time of international pressure to legalize abortion in 2007, Cardinal Nicholas De Jesus Lopez Rodriquez accused U.N.-affiliated international organizations of trying to bribe legislators to support the draft abortion bill. Congressman Ramón Rogelio Genao, lead member of the PRSC party in Congress, concurred.¹⁶

EAST TIMOR: In 2009, faced with continuing U.N. and pro-abortion organization pressure to legalize abortion, the East Timor Parliament passed a revised law that criminalized abortion in every case except where it is the only means of preventing the mother’s death.¹⁷

EGYPT: In 2008, Mr. Amr Roshdy Hassan, Egypt’s delegate to the UN Human Rights Council, challenged the UN body to “take a serious look at induced abortions undertaken for whatever reason ... In this form, abortion, more accurately defined as the brutal murder of a defenceless soul in its mother’s womb, is the worst form of extrajudicial killings accounting for tens of millions of lost lives annually. Legalizing induced abortion does not diminish the fact that it constitutes a violation of the right to life.”¹⁸ [Amr collaborated with pro-life/family NGO representatives (including me) during the years he was posted at the Egyptian Mission to UN- NYC.]

EL SALVADOR: In 2008, “all 84 Salvadorian legislators signed the ‘Yes to Life’ statement – part of a campaign to promote respect for human life in Central America – condemning abortion as an ‘abominable crime’ and affirming the duty of legislators to ‘unconditionally’ defend life from conception to natural death.”¹⁹

EU & POLAND: In 2008, MEP Conrad Szymański is strongly pro-life, and defends the sanctity of human life within the EU. He led 100 MEPs from 19 EU nations in writing a letter to Lithuania, informing their Parliament that European law did not prevent them from restricting abortion, and encouraging them to “ensure better protection for children prior to birth.” The letter was in response to a group of pro-abortion MEPs who wrongly informed Lithuania that it was bound by certain UN conference documents.²⁰

GUATEMALA: In 2007, after the start of a World Health Organization program as a Guatemala Ministry of Health campaign that disguised its promotion and facilitation of abortion, the Catholic Bishops in Guatemala issued a statement directly opposing the “use of

a suction machine,” and saying, “Our Constitution protects human life from the moment of conception.”²¹

HONDURAS: In 2007, when CEDAW pressured them on abortion, the Honduran delegation replied that Article 67 of their constitution gives the same rights to unborn and born children.²²

HUNGARY: In 2005, while serving as a CEDAW Committee member (2002-2006), Kristina Morvai, an attorney and professor, declared during a Committee session that “abortion is bad for women,” and “in the future will come to be seen the same way that ‘torture’ is currently viewed in the area of human rights.” She further said, “abortion is a terribly damaging thing psychologically, spiritually and physically,” and hopes one day “abortion will be the past.”²³ In 2011, the Hungarian Government, with the support of a new Constitution stating, “life is protected from conception,” launched a pro-life campaign, encouraging adoption.²⁴

INDIA: In 2007, after the discovery of “30 bags full of body parts of unborn children who authorities say are most likely the victims of sex-selection abortions or infanticides,” the Catholic Church of India condemned the horrible and inhumane practice of abortion and elimination of babies “only because they are female,” calling it “murder.” Mgr. Oswald Gracias, Archbishop of Mumbai, called it a “diabolic practice, and said, “We must all fight in our own way to ensure that this practice is abandoned.”²⁵ Later that year, the India Supreme Court ruled that men who force women to have abortions will be put in jail, up to a life term.²⁶ Another India court upheld the law prohibiting sex-select abortions (majority girls), stating, “Sex selection is not only against the spirit of the Indian Constitution, it also insults and humiliates womanhood. It violates a woman’s right to life.”²⁷

IRAN: After 3 decades of promoting reduced fertility, now at 1.6, and 10-20 years from implosion, religious and government leaders in Iran changed course in 2012 to encourage couples to have more children, offering aid, and stopping the birth control program.²⁸

IRELAND: In 2012, Youth Defence and the Life Institute organized a pro-life rally in Belfast, with 7,000 protesting against Labour party and European Court of Human Rights pressure to legalize abortion.²⁹

ITALY: “Nearly 70 percent of gynecologists in Italy have refused to perform abortions based on moral grounds.”³⁰ In 2005, the Italian Parliament considered “a proposal to pay pregnant women with unplanned pregnancies” to keep, and not abort, their children.³¹ In 2009, the Italian Parliament directed the Government to push for a UN General Assembly resolution that “condemns the use of abortion as an instrument of demographic control and affirms the right of each woman not to be forced to undergo abortion.”³²

JAMAICA: In 2007, Miss World Caribbean Sara Lawrence said she would step down from her title position as Miss Jamaica rather than have an abortion, because keeping the baby is “right” and her “moral obligation.” She was not forced to step down, and kept her crown.³³ In 2008, when the Government was under pressure to legalize abortion, Kingston Archbishop Donald J. Reece and two other Catholic bishops called on Parliament to protect preborn children. Also, pro-life leaders collected and presented 87,000 signatures in support of keeping the laws prohibiting abortion.³⁴

KENYA: In 2008, President Mwai Kibaki voiced opposition to the draft bill to legalize abortion, but was ignored by media. Dr. Stephen Karanja, former head of the Kenya Medical Association, supported the President. Cardinal John Njue said that “a country [is going mad] if it starts killing its youth, because in children the country has the seed for its future.”³⁵ The abortion bill did not pass then, but abortion language was incorporated into the new Constitution, and with the input of \$18 million from the Obama Administration funding pro-abortion NGOs, the Constitution was approved in 2010.³⁶

LITHUANIA: In 2008, the Lithuanian Parliament seriously considered legislation that would highly restrict or ban abortion, which was met by strong opposition from the CEDAW Committee and pro-abortion groups the same year.³⁷ (see EU & Poland above)

MALTA: In 2008, the Maltese Government repelled pressure from the Council of Europe, asserting it would not change its laws protecting preborn children.³⁸ Also in 2008, the leading pro-life group, The Gift of Life Foundation, started asking MPs to change Malta’s Constitution, Article 33, to read, “No person shall intentionally be deprived of his life from conception.”³⁹

MEXICO: In 2008, after the Mexico Supreme Court affirmed the Mexico City legislative policy allowing abortion within the city, the Catholic Bishops of Mexico released a statement, “The Culture of Life in Mexico.” Bishop Carlos Aguiar Retes of Texcoco challenged the nation to “a greater social conscience on the culture of life and rights of the newly conceived,” and the courts and government to protect “human life from the moment of fertilization.”⁴⁰ In early 2009, the Mexican State of Colima amended their Constitution to protect the right to life “from the moment of conception.”⁴¹ By 2010, 16 additional Mexican states passed laws or constitutional amendments affirming bans on abortion or the right to life of unborn children.⁴²

NEW ZEALAND: In 2009, New Zealand Right to Life won a court victory that exposed the Abortion Supervisory Committee (ASC) as authorizing abortions that did not meet the legal requirement; the High Court ordered the ASC to follow the law.⁴³ In 2012, Catholic Bishop Colin Campbell rallied Christians in Dunedin against the addition of an abortion clinic at a Southland hospital that could abort babies up to full term.⁴⁴

NICARAGUA: In late 2006, with strong support from legislators and the people, Nicaragua removed the legal exception for “therapeutic” abortion, and prohibited all abortions.⁴⁵ The bill was signed by President Enrique Bolaños in November. In 2007, the Nicaraguan Congress voted again for a total ban when it was challenged, voting down an amendment.⁴⁶

PAKISTAN: In 2007, when CEDAW pressured Pakistan on abortion, the Pakistani delegation responded that “abortion is considered murder once a fetus is conceived,” and was legal only to save the life of the mother.⁴⁷

THE PHILIPPINES: A 2006 Pew Research study revealed that “97 percent of those polled said abortion was never justified.”⁴⁸ In 2006, when CEDAW pressured the Philippines on abortion, the Philippine delegation said, “under the Philippine Constitution, the unborn child, as well as the mother, had rights.”⁴⁹ In 2007, in response to UN pressure, a bill was introduced that would have created a 2-child policy, but pro-life legislators, groups and

citizens defeated the bill. Over 10,000 people, mostly youth, participated in a pro-life rally in the capital. In 2008, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo ordered governing authorities to increase their efforts to protect the sanctity of human life and to campaign against abortion.⁵⁰ Also in 2008, the Center for Reproductive Rights (based in USA) tried to coerce the Philippines to remove a policy that encourages natural family planning, and in its place to ensure that citizens have the “rights” and access to “a full range of family planning services,” which to CRR includes abortion. The effort was rejected by the Philippine Court of Appeals.⁵¹

POLAND: In 2007, the League of Polish Families organized a pro-life rally, with 4,000, before Parliament, calling for “a complete ban on abortions” in Poland.⁵²

RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Russia is facing both declining population and demographic crises, so the Government supports restricting abortion. In 2006, President Putin’s Government started offering large financial bonuses to encourage women to have more children.⁵³ In 2007, the region of Ulyanovsk declared a Day of Conception, allowing workers to take time off from work that day to create babies.⁵⁴ In 2011, the Government required abortion providers not to claim abortion to be a safe procedure, and to use 10% of advertising funds to educate about abortion risks. A bill drafted that year, but not law yet, would prohibit most abortions after the first trimester, and require ultrasounds for women whose pregnancy is over six weeks. In 2012, the Government stopped funding almost all late-term abortions.⁵⁵

SINGAPORE: Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, in his 2012 Chinese New Year Message, said “Strong families are the foundation of a cohesive, harmonious society.” After expressing concern about Singapore’s low 1.20 Total Fertility Rate, he encouraged the people to have more children, emphasizing the “Baby Bonuses” offered by the Government.⁵⁶

SLOVENIA: In 2009, the Seimas, the Slovakian Parliament, passed legislation requiring that women be informed about child development in the womb, and the dangers of abortion.⁵⁷ In 2012, Alojz Peterle, Slovenian Member of the European Parliament (MEP), sponsored a resolution approved by the EU that condemned a forced abortion case in China. On Vatican Radio, he said that public funding should not be allocated to coercive “family planning” programs in China.⁵⁸

SOUTH AFRICA: In 2006, Christians for Truth and other pro-life groups led a rally against abortion in Durban. CFT said “polls there show 80 percent of the population opposes abortion on demand.”⁵⁹

SPAIN: In 2009, the biggest pro-life rally ever occurred in Madrid when 40 pro-life groups collaborated and 1.5 million people gathered to protest a new abortion bill supported by President Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero.⁶⁰ In 2012, Bishop Saiz Meneses and the Diocese of Terrassa issued a statement condemning two hospitals for performing abortions, secured an affirmation of his policy from the Vatican, and is trying to work with the hospital boards composed in part of Catholic clerics.⁶¹ Also in 2012, Spain’s Justice Minister announced plans to remove “fetal deformity” from the abortion law to end abortions of handicapped babies.⁶²

SWEDEN: In 2007, after a Christian Democratic Party victory, 20-30 members considered forming a new party for the purpose of campaigning for “a total ban on abortion.”⁶³

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC: In 2007, when CEDAW pressured Syria on abortion, the Syrian delegation replied, “abortion was not allowed in Syria.”⁶⁴

TAIWAN: In 2006, the Executive Yuan drafted a bill to put restrictions on abortion, including requiring a 3-day waiting period, a husband’s consent for married women, and parental or legal guardian consent for minors.⁶⁵

TURKEY: In 2012, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan called abortion “murder,” and said his government is drafting a bill to prohibit abortion after the baby is four weeks old. His government is also encouraging families to have three or more children. The Health Minister, Recep Akdag, and the Chairman of the Human Rights Commission, Ayhan Sefer Üstün, further said that abortion should not be granted to rape victims, and offered that “the state will take care of their babies if necessary.”⁶⁶ Also, the Turkish Government rescinded the license of a tourism company advertising “abortion tours.”⁶⁷

UNITED KINGDOM: In 2007, MEP Nirj Deva expressed strong opposition to an EU report about the Millennium Development Goals that inserted “a covert agenda of abortion promotion.”⁶⁸ Also that year, the Lawyer’s Christian Fellowship challenged Christians throughout the UK to “join it in protesting 40 years of legalized abortion,” and “demonstrate that the current situation is no longer acceptable.”⁶⁹ In 2009, the Society to Protect Unborn Children (SPUC) launched “a new petition drive called Amnesty for Babies,” to counter “the misuse of international law to promote abortions across the world” and instead ensure its correct application in protecting preborn children.⁷⁰

UNITED STATES: Since the 1973 erroneous Supreme Court decision in *Roe v. Wade*, numerous pro-life organizations have been formed throughout the country, at the local, state, national, and international levels. Also, there are 2,400 crisis pregnancy clinics helping girls and women to carry their babies to birth, and then either keep or adopt them. There are now 100s of pro-life student groups on college campuses throughout the nation. One of the most remarkable and effective tools to persuade pregnant women not to abort their babies are ultrasound machines enabling the mother to see her baby, reducing the likelihood of abortion in such cases by 80 percent. That is why Focus on the Family funded and placed more than 500 ultrasound machines. In 2012, Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia said abortion “is simply not in the Constitution,” and that he is “adamantly opposed” to abortion.⁷¹ In 1995, Gallup began polling Americans about their position on abortion. In 1995, 33 percent of those surveyed said they were “pro-life”, and 56 percent said they were “pro-choice”. That trend is steadily reversing so that the most recent 2012 poll showed 50 percent (17 percent increase) of Americans identifying themselves as “pro-life”, and 41 percent (15 percent decrease) as “pro-choice.”⁷²

UGANDA: In early 2007, the Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC), representing Catholic, Orthodox, and Anglican Churches, in anticipation of the annual African Union meeting, appealed to President Yoweri Museveni to “reject any policy that would expose Uganda in particular and Africa as a whole to mass murder through the legalization of abortion.”⁷³ Later in 2007, after leaders from 10 African nations said their countries should permit abortion, Ugandan Vice President Gilbert Bukenya said, “The practice might be legal

in some western countries, but we cannot adopt it here because our culture norms are different. . . . As a member of Parliament, I will definitely oppose any proposal to adopt such abnormal and immoral practices.” The Catholic Bishops concurred, saying, “A state which legalizes abortion most definitely abdicates a very basic reason for its own existence.”⁷⁴

URUGUAY: In 2008, President Tabaré Vázquez, M.D., vetoed a bill that would have decriminalized abortion, and shortly thereafter resigned from his own Socialist party because of their support for abortion.⁷⁵

VIETNAM: In 2006, the Vietnamese government started issuing fines in their effort to prevent sex-select abortions, especially of female baby girls; and in 2008 implemented “stricter measures” to address significant imbalances between male and female children.⁷⁶

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