

# POPULATION RESEARCH INSTITUTE REVIEW

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*A review and analysis of worldwide population control activity*

## President Trump Ends Funding for United Nations Population Fund

*The UNFPA has long been complicit in China's planned birth policies*

By Jonathan Abbamonte

The U.S. will cease funding the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)—the notorious U.N. agency that has been the chief international cheerleader for, and financial supporter of, China's repressive "Planned Birth" policies from their beginning.

U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Bob Corker received a letter from the State Department on Monday stating that it had been determined that UNFPA was supporting the management of a family planning program involved with coercive abortion or involuntary sterilization and that, per a provision



Donald J. Trump

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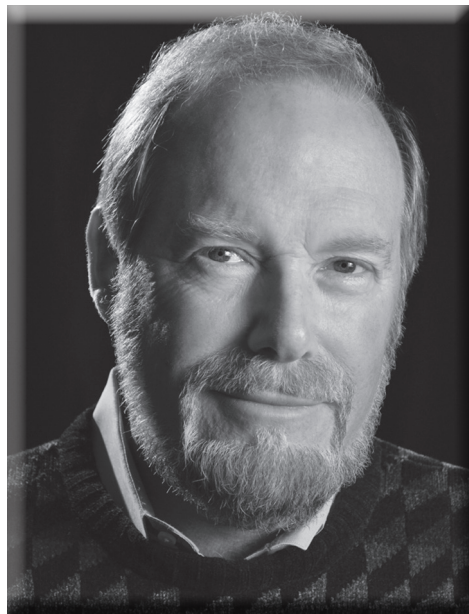
in U.S. law known as the Kemp-Kasten Amendment, it was therefore ineligible for federal funding.

"The Chinese Government's Population and Family Planning Law, even as amended in 2015...clearly constitutes a program of coercive abortion or involuntary sterilization, and are an integral part of the comprehensive population-control program the Chinese Government advances," the letter stated, "[UNFPA] continues to partner with the [China National Health and Family Planning Commission] on family planning, and thus can be

found to support, or participate in the management of China's coercive policies."

Funding that would have otherwise been allocated to the UNFPA will be reallocated to the Global Health Programs account for family planning, and maternal and reproductive health programs.

"Defunding UNFPA is a great victory for the women of China and everyone who respects the inherent dignity of each and every human life," says Population Research Institute President Steven W. Mosher, the first American eyewitness of



Steven W. Mosher

## A President Who Keeps His Promises

For all of us who lived through the Obama administration's long war on the unborn, the last few weeks have been bracing. In fact, less than 100 days after taking office, President Trump has achieved an unprecedented trifecta of pro-life victories.

Pro-Life Victory Number One: Judge Neil Gorsuch was confirmed to the U.S. Supreme Court. Senators voted 54-45 for Gorsuch with a few Democrats voting with all Republicans for his nomination. Manchin of West Virginia, Donnelly of Indiana, and Heitkamp of North Dakota joined Republicans. AUL Acting President Clarke Forsythe commended the Senate Republican leadership "for changing the Senate rules to confirm a judge who is committed to preserving self-government through the rule of law. Judge Neil Gorsuch's exemplary

record shows his commitment to constitutional originalism, the separation of governmental powers, and principles of judicial restraint, which makes him the right person to weigh the contentious issues that will come before him."

All too often in the past, our legislative efforts to protect unborn children have been overturned by left-wing "judges" who simply impose their own views on pro-life Americans.

Judge Gorsuch, on the other hand, believes in following the original intent of the Constitution and the laws. Moreover, he has written "the intentional taking of human life by private persons is ALWAYS wrong."

Such views mean he should be a reliable vote to overturn Roe v. Wade.

It is no wonder pro-aborts, who count on activist judges to enforce their radical pro-abortion policies, are alarmed. Planned Parenthood President Cecile Richards tweeted that Gorsuch's confirmation is "the worst." Naturally, we disagree. We think that Judge Gorsuch's accession to the Court is "the best" thing to happen to that body in a long time.

Pro-Life Victory Number Two:

Congress passed and President Trump signed H.J.Res. 43 to repeal the HHS rule prohibiting states from defunding Planned Parenthood programs. This means states can

now elect to give Title X grants to organizations that do not kill babies. Our hope is that the Senate vote on H.J.Res. 43 will bode well for the passage of legislation to strip Planned Parenthood of all federal funding.

Because of you, states now have the choice to spend Title X money on comprehensive health care clinics that are better for girls and women. Thank you for helping make this possible through your gifts and prayers!

Pro-life victory number three: The Trump administration blocked funding to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) because of the organization's history of supporting China's one (now two) child policy, which has resulted in the forced abortions of millions of Chinese babies. Federal law prohibits the use of taxpayer funds for organizations that support or participate in the management of a program of coercive abortion or involuntary sterilization.

During the campaign Candidate Trump promised us that we were going to win so much that we would get tired of winning.

We're not tired of winning yet, Mr. President. We still have a long way to go. But the string of victories—thank God—is lengthening rapidly.

POPULATION RESEARCH INSTITUTE



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## GLOBAL MONITOR

By Moriah Bruno

**Fox News**—32 year old Natalie was making breakfast for her two sons when she collapsed unexpectedly. What was thought by her general practitioner to be migraines turned out to be a stroke that was brought on by Natalie's birth control. She had been taking the contraceptive Microgynon pill for approximately one year before the stroke occurred.

During an interview with *Fox News*, Natalie told the reporter that "strokes are a potential risk of the pill as they can lead to an increased risk of blood clots." But, as a young woman in good health (often competing in Crossfit competitions) Natalie never expected to have a stroke. "People assume strokes only happen to older people over the age of 50 and I probably thought the same before it happened to me." Natalie believes that there is not enough awareness of the blood clot side effect associated with oral contraceptives. "There was no other reason for me suffering a stroke at such a young age," she said "I don't drink or smoke."

**The New York Times**—

Research on marijuana use during pregnancy is just beginning to emerge. Although medical marijuana can be beneficial in treating a variety of diseases such as glaucoma, Crohns Disease, epilepsy, Alzheimers, and multiple sclerosis, doctors are advising women to avoid smoking marijuana while pregnant.

*Fox News*—<http://www.foxnews.com/health/2017/04/17/mom-says-stroke-was-triggered-by-birth-control-pills.html>  
*The New York Times*—[https://www.nytimes.com/2017/02/02/health/marijuana-and-pregnancy.html?\\_r=0](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/02/02/health/marijuana-and-pregnancy.html?_r=0)  
*Daily Mail*—<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-4441480/The-ingenious-weapon-treat-women-s-cancer.html>

Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) is the main psychoactive ingredient found in marijuana. THC can cross the placenta and effect unborn babies' cognition, birth weight, and brain development. A study out of Pittsburgh, published in *Neurotoxicology and Teratology* found that, by the age of 6, children born to women who smoked marijuana while pregnant had a decreased ability to understand concepts in listening and reading. By 10, those "children exposed to THC in utero were more impulsive than other children and less able to focus their attention." By 14, those children had lower scores in reading, math, and spelling when compared to their peers who were not exposed to marijuana in utero.

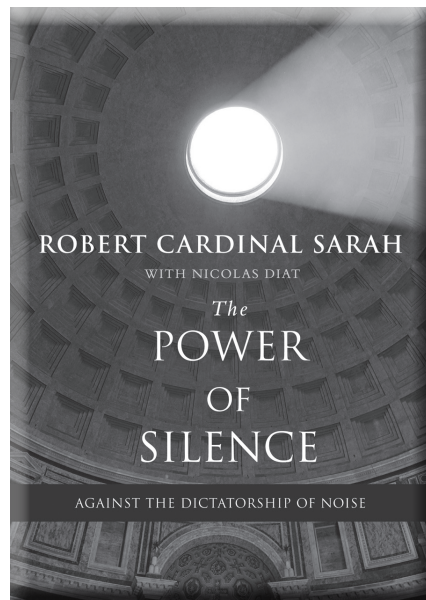
Other studies have found that marijuana use can cause changes in the brains of fetuses. For example, male babies between 18 and 22 weeks gestation who had been exposed to THC showed abnormal amygdala function, which is the part of the brain that controls emotion.

The effects are not dramatic, as cannabis does not seem to be linked to major birth defects. But Dr. Erica Wymore, a neonatologist at Children's Hospital Colorado warns that "just because they don't have a major birth defect or overt withdrawal symptoms doesn't mean the baby's neurological development is not impacted."

**Daily Mail**—Scientists at the Institute for Integrative Nanosciences in Dresden, Germany are testing the use of sperm as a treatment for reproductive cancer in women. The revolutionary treatment involves soaking the sperm in a chemotherapy drug called doxorubicin for several hours. Afterwards scientist place tiny harnesses covered in an iron solution on the head of each sperm. Researchers can then use a magnet held over the pelvis and an ultrasound machine to guide the chemotherapy laden sperm towards hard to reach tumors. Once the sperm reach the malignant cells they lock onto it using the four legs of the miniature harness and then burst through the outer membrane of the tumor, allowing the chemotherapy drug to penetrate the cancerous cells. Thus far, testing using bull sperm and cancer cells in dishes has been successful. This treatment would allow doctors to target only cancerous cells using a mode of transportation the patient won't reject, and one which already has its own means of propulsion. In the United Kingdom, uterine cancer kills more than 2,000 women a year and cervical cancer kills around 900. Researchers would like to test their cancer treatment using human sperm in cancer patients within the next five years.

# HELP Has Arrived—Help in Overcoming One of Satan’s Biggest Weapons!

**Just released—and it’s PRI’s gift to You!**



C. S. Lewis warned that Satan distracts us with noise, often making us unable to hear the voice of God. Ignatius Press has just released a powerful book to help us understand and overcome Satan’s weapon of noise and hear God clearly. I hope you’ll let me send you a copy today . . .

. . . It’s *The Power of Silence: Against the Dictatorship of Noise* by Cardinal Robert Sarah. Cardinal Sarah, as you know, was named Archbishop by Pope John Paul II and then Cardinal by Pope Benedict. Cardinal Sarah now serves as Prefect for the Congregation for Divine Worship.

*The Power of Silence* gives you 365 concise thoughts, reflections and meditations on silence, all essential to hearing God. I invite you to take this quick look at just some of what Cardinal Sarah’s book teaches us about silence . . .

- Why silence is the key to being in the image of God . . . how silence is attained and grows . . . **silence as our greatest freedom, immune from even war and dictators** . . . the wisdom of the Carmelite Rule on silence . . . what St. John of the Cross, St. Teresa of Calcutta, St. John Paul II, St. Gregory the Great and dozens

of other saints taught about silence over the centuries . . .

- Mother Teresa’s intimate knowledge of silence . . . the best method of gaining the support you need to deepen your prayer life . . . the difference between exterior and interior silence . . . **how to master your own interior silence** . . .

- How illness is a manifestation of God’s silence (**believe me, Cardinal Sarah’s reflections on illness will have you thinking very deeply!**) . . . what the lack of silence deprives us of . . . how to respond to those who think that “God is not interested in me. He is always silent.”

The wisdom in Cardinal Sarah’s new book is so profound and extensive that it’s best read in small bites, allowing you to reflect on what you’ve read. Whenever you have a few moments to yourself, reach for Cardinal Sarah’s book, read one of his 365 reflections and then think about what you’ve just learned.

Cardinal Raymond Burke says that “Cardinal Sarah provides an incomparable help to contemporary man, so that he may practice the silence which is necessary to hear the voice of God and so to know himself and the world in their deepest truth, beauty, and goodness.”

Archbishop Charles Chaput says it “ . . . offers us a richly engaging, elegantly written reflection on the importance of recovering silence in our own lives, and through silence, rediscovering the presence of God, the beauty of creation, and the nature of our mission as disciples.”

And Bishop Robert Barron really sums it up with these words of praise for Cardinal Sarah’s *The Power of Silence*: “This book shows Cardinal Sarah to be one of the most spiritually alert churchmen of our time.”

May I send Cardinal’s Sarah’s *The Power of Silence* today, to thank you for your support of \$40 or more?

**Please visit <https://pop.org/donate/prir> or use the enclosed Gift Reply to quickly receive *The Power of Silence: Against the Dictatorship of Noise***

## “TRUMP DEFUNDS” CONTINUED

the widespread practice of forced abortion and forced sterilization under the one-child policy.

Mosher directed on the ground investigations that exposed numerous human right abuses under the one-child policy and provided the impetus for the Reagan, Bush 41, and Bush 43 Administrations to cut U.S. funding to UNFPA. Under Bush 43, for instance, PRI reports led the U.S. State Department to conduct its own investigation which confirmed PRI’s findings, namely, that the One-Child Policy was just as rigorously enforced in Chinese counties where the UNFPA was in charge as elsewhere in China.

“The UNFPA was not a force for moderation in China, but was aiding and abetting the Chinese government’s enforcement of the policy,” says Mosher.

Mosher’s earlier research and testimonies before Congress further played an important role in helping to craft and pass the Kemp-Kasten Amendment in the 1980’s.

With the exception of former-President Obama, U.S. Government funding for UNFPA has been cut at some point under every U.S. President since Reagan.

Cutting UNFPA funding is estimated to save taxpayers an estimated \$32.5 million dollars in 2017—the amount of funding UNFPA received in core contributions last year. While core contributions have provided the mainstay of U.S. funding for UNFPA over the past decade, the U.N. entity has also received significant funding from other sources of foreign aid in recent years. Under the Obama Administration, UNFPA received over \$340 million from the U.S. Government in either obligations or disbursements.

The move to end funding for UNFPA comes as a response to a presidential memorandum issued by President Trump on January 23rd which directed the Secretary of State to enforce the Kemp-Kasten Amendment. The Kemp-Kasten Amendment allows the president to cut funding for any organization that supports or manages a family planning program where coerced abortion or forced sterilization are practiced.

The Kemp-Kasten Amendment has been included in every foreign appropriations act since 1985. Kemp-Kasten, in its most current version states: “none of the funds

“ **The UNFPA was not a force for moderation... but was aiding and abetting the Chinese government’s enforcement of the policy.** ”

made available in this Act nor any unobligated balances from prior appropriations Acts may be made available to any organization or program which, as determined by the President of the United States, supports or participates in the management of a program of coercive abortion or involuntary sterilization.” President Trump’s January 23rd memorandum had also reinstated the Mexico City Policy, a separate regulation that prohibits the U.S. Government funding for any foreign nongovernmental organization that performs or promotes abortion as a method of family planning.

Since the advent of the one-child policy, the China Government has committed over 364 million

abortions, according to data from the National Population and Family Planning Commission and the State Department’s 2016 Report on Human Rights Practices.

Coercive abortion remains a core implementing component of family planning policies throughout much of China today. According to the State Department’s 2016 report, policies requiring women to submit to abortion if they are over their birth quota continued to be enforced in Hubei, Hunan, and Liaoning provinces despite allegations that China’s planned birth policies had been loosened following the adoption of the two-child policy. Statutes requiring “remedial measures” (a common euphemism for abortion in China) for over quota births continued to remain official policy in Guizhou, Jiangxi, Qinghai, Yunnan, and Guangdong even after the two-child policy was put in place.

In a press statement released last month, the United Nations continues to maintain—its continued partnership and past support of China’s planned birth programs notwithstanding—that the UNFPA “promotes the human rights of individuals and couples to make their own decisions, free of coercion or discrimination.”

However, to this day, UNFPA has never apologized for its support and praise of China’s one-child policy. The U.N. entity continues to work in close collaboration with the Chinese Government, including the China National Health and Family Planning Commission in the areas of “reproductive health” and “population dynamics.” The UNFPA’s current five-year program in China will continue until 2020.

## PRI IN THE NEWS

By Allen Baldanza

### **National Catholic Register**

—The U.S. State Department has cut \$32.5 million in funding to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) due to its support for, and involvement in, China's forced abortions carried out under its now two-child policy. The order, initiated by President Trump, is not the first time a U.S. president has defunded the UNFPA. Presidents Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, and George W. Bush also cut funding to the organization following revelations of its involvement in China's population control programs.

The UNFPA denies any involvement in China's forced abortions and population control programs. But pro-life experts with first hand, on the ground experience disagree. Steven Mosher, president of the Population Research Institute (PRI), called the UNFPA "the notorious U.N. agency that has been the chief international cheerleader for, and financial supporter of, China's repressive 'planned birth' policies from their beginning."

Mosher was the first American social scientist to go to China in 1979 to study the country's population control program. He witnessed and documented horrific episodes of the Chinese government forcing women to undergo abortions. PRI

went on to conduct several on-the-ground investigations in China that exposed numerous human-right abuses under the one-child policy and provided the impetus for Presidents Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, and George W. Bush to withdraw American funding for the UNFPA.

"Under Bush 43, for instance, PRI reports led the U.S. State Department to conduct its own investigation, which confirmed PRI's findings, namely, that the 'one-child policy' was just as rigorously enforced in Chinese counties where the UNFPA was in charge as elsewhere in China," said Mosher. "The UNFPA was not a force for moderation in China, but was aiding and abetting the Chinese government's enforcement of the policy."

**LifeSiteNews**—President Donald Trump withdrew funding to the UNFPA due to its involvement in China's brutal population control programs. On a smaller and less well-known scale, these programs were also taking place in both Vietnam and North Korea.

"The UN Population Fund does not deserve one dime of U.S.

taxpayers' money because it's involved in coercive family planning programs in a number of countries around the world," Steve Mosher, President of the Population Research Institute, told *LifeSiteNews*. He said China's coercive family planning program is the most well-known, but the

**“ In North Korea, the UNFPA is encouraging these brutal, dictatorial regimes to drive down their birthrate by forced abortion. ”**

UNFPA collaborates with similar ones in Vietnam and North Korea.

"In North Korea, the UN Population Fund has offices and is encouraging these brutal, dictatorial regimes to drive down their birthrate by forced abortion and forced sterilization policies," said Mosher.

"The evidence is clear," said Mosher, noting there are "agents of the United Nations Population Fund who are paid by the United Nations Population Fund are carrying out these policies in different parts of China. This is why we were able to get the Bush administration" to cut off UNFPA's funding in the early 2000s.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

**National Catholic Register**—<http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/state-dept.-to-defund-un-population-fund>

**LifeSiteNews**—<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/breaking-trump-pulls-us-money-from-un-population-fund-over-forced-abortion>

**Town Hall**—<https://townhall.com/columnists/jonathanabbamonte/2017/03/10/obama-administration-gave-over-340-million-to-un-agency-complicit-with-chinas-onechild-policy-n2296766>

**Wispolitics**—<https://www.wispolitics.com/2017/rep-wichgers-generational-opportunity-to-move-towards-life/>

**The Christian Post**—<http://www.christianpost.com/news/trump-defunds-un-population-fund-tied-to-forced-abortions-pro-lifers-elated-179463/>

"PRI IN THE NEWS" CONTINUED

This policy was reversed soon after President Obama came into office, despite evidence showing the UNFPA's involvement. It is a welcome change to see President Trump reinstate this critical pro-life policy.

**Town Hall**—Research analyst for the Population Research Institute, Jonathan Abbamonte, wrote for *TownHall* on Obama's massive funding for the UNFPA, which was complicit in China's population control programs. A recent report from the U.S. Department of State now shows that the Obama administration in its last year obligated \$68 million in federal funding to the controversial U.N. agency. Altogether, since 2009, the Obama administration has given over \$340 million to the UNFPA in either disbursements or obligations.

**Wispolitics**—President of the Population Research Institute, Steven Mosher, was the keynote speaker at a Pro-Life Dinner at the

Waukesha Marriot the night of March 28, 2017. Mosher said of the event, "The capacity crowd was filled with pro-life champions that have devoted decades of work fighting for life, and I was humbled to be in the room with these tireless warriors."

In attendance was Rep. Chuck Wichgers (R-Muskego). "Steven, who travels the country, was encouraged by Pro-Life Wisconsin's success in our state fighting for a culture of life," he said. "[Mosher] encouraged legislators to participate fully in this generational opportunity to continue to implement pro-life legislation."

After the event, Matt Von Rueben, the Development Director of Pro-Life Wisconsin, thanked Steven for his testimony: "Thanks again for such a wonderful event in Wisconsin. We got so much wonderful feedback on how great it was to hear you speak!"

**The Christian Post**—The U.S. State Department announced it will end funding for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) as a result of its involvement in

coercive population control in China, which included forced abortions. "The State Department said it would no longer fund the United Nations Population Fund (UNPFA) because the group "supports, or participates in the management of, a program of coercive abortion or involuntary sterilization," reported *The Christian Post*.

"This is another promise kept [from President Trump], and at the speed of light," said Steven Mosher, president of the Population Research Institute, in a Tuesday interview with *The Christian Post*.

"Compare this to 2001 to 2002. It took us a year to convince George W. Bush's secretary of state, Colin Powell, who was pro-abortion and pro-population control to cut off funding to the UNPFA. Now we've done it in the first 100 days." Mosher told *The Christian Post*.

Mosher further mentioned that there was "no doubt" as to the UNFPA's involvement in China's coercive population control programs, which included forced sterilizations and forced abortions.

## Are You Reading This?

If so, please know that this newsletter is in your hands...**Because of You!**

**You**, dear reader, have joined with PRI to bring an end to taxpayer funding for abortion, here in the United States and around the world; you have supported mothers who must live in hiding to safely bring their babies into the world . . . and **you** have made important investigations and research possible. That's just for starters!

So please know that the newsletter is one of the ways we say Thank You for joining with us in doing what we can to make this world a better one, in which all life is considered precious. A world that puts people first.

**Thank You!**



**Dr. Christopher Manion**

On July 25, 1968, Blessed Paul VI promulgated *Humanae Vitae*, reaffirming the Church's teaching on the marriage and the family.

But the "sexual revolution" was in high gear, infecting even many Catholics as its promise of "liberation" captured the popular culture without a fight.

Among Catholic clergy, there arose such a wave of opposition to the encyclical that Francis Cardinal Stafford, a Baltimore priest at the time, has given a name to that anguishing year. He calls it "Gethsemane."

Organized opposition among "some priests and theologians" was so strong that coercion and anger raged at those who refused to dissent, Cardinal Stafford recalls. "Friendship in the Church sustained a direct hit," he says, "after a large number of priests expressed shame over their leaders and repudiated their teaching."

"Anguish and disquiet overwhelmed the distant hope of reconciliation and friendship," he continues, and today we "must look into the abyss and see what dread beasts are at its bottom."

That widespread dissent, coupled with the sexual tsunami, was so intense that it literally buried *Humanae Vitae*. Today, dissenters don't bother to deny the encyclical any more, they merely

## Humanae Vitae's Unhappy Birthday

ignore it. And meanwhile, as Timothy Cardinal Dolan has observed, instead of boldly teaching its timeless truths, most bishops have had "laryngitis" when it comes to sexual morality.

The results are in, and marriage is the loser. According to *Bloomberg News*, two-thirds of 25 to 34-year-olds were already married in 1980. In 2015, just two in five millennials were married. Moreover, as Blessed Pope Paul warned, illegitimacy is raging and "alternate lifestyles" now dominate the news, while our bishops focus their waning authority on political issues like amnesty and "global warming."

The bottom line? As its 49th birthday approaches, *Humanae Vitae* has few friends.

But the truths of this beautiful document are not distant abstractions to be easily cast aside; rather, they constitute the foundation for the blessings of our freedom and prosperity. If a society dismisses the family's foundational role in securing liberty and the common good, Blessed Paul warns that the powerful state will eventually become the ultimate arbiter of sex and birth (HV, No.17).

Consider Europe. Our friends in the European Union (EU) are experiencing a profound identity crisis. Slowly but surely, the demographic winter is creeping up on them like an early autumn blizzard—because the warm and sweet summertime of Christian Europe is long past.

Over a decade ago, EU leaders refused even to mention Europe's Christian roots in their proposed Constitution (which was ultimately rejected). Meanwhile, an inordinate number of Europeans decided that,

whatever the future holds, it's not their problem—they simply aren't having any children at all.

EU's leaders responded to their drastic demographic collapse by welcoming millions of foreign workers from other cultures. When some EU countries sought to limit the influx, Turkish President Recep Erdogan responded by condemning Europe's "crusade" against Islam. To counter it, he now encourages the millions of Turks already living in Europe to have at least five children per family.

Erdogan recognizes the role of demography all too well, but EU countries avert their glance, instead spending countless millions to support abortion in developing countries with growing populations, as though that perfidy will somehow save Europe. If Europeans aren't going to have children, they seem to say, they're going to stop other people from having them.

It hasn't worked. Today a helpless Europe stares into Cardinal Stafford's dark "abyss."

Shouldn't this crisis prompt America's bishops to boldly proclaim *Humanae Vitae* as their first priority? Well, it won't make them popular. Like 1968, dissenters will rage, and yet, the alternative is capitulation.

Will our bishops lead a celebration of *Humanae Vitae*'s fiftieth birthday in July 2018? Only if a prayerful and supportive laity encourages them to do so. This is "The Age of the Laity," and we should act like it. They are waiting for us to lead.

## FROM THE COUNTRIES

By Allen Baldanza

### Iran

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), an organization that normally supports population control, voiced support for Iran's plans to stimulate population growth. The rare stance from a UN organization came after the new head of the UNFPA, Leila Saiji Joudane, met with Iran's foreign minister, Javad Zarif, in Tehran. Zarif expressed support for closer cooperation with the UNFPA by respecting "the cultural values of Islamic countries." He further expressed Tehran's readiness to cooperate with the UNFPA to formulate new population policies. In May 2014, Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei presented general policies for Iran aimed at encouraging population growth. This comes as Iran's fertility rate has declined over the past years.

### China

Chinese authorities have projected that the country's elderly population (those above 60 years old) will reach 255 million by 2020. It is further projected that provisions of necessary healthcare for this surging demographic will fall far short of requirements. According to a plan for elderly healthcare in the 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-2020), China's elderly population will grow, on

average, at a rate of 6.4 million per year. By 2020, the number of elderly will represent 17.8% of China's population. The stress on the Chinese healthcare system is especially affected by China's population control programs, notoriously its pre-2015 one-child policy, and continued by its now two-child policy.

### Canada

In the wake of Canada's legalization of euthanasia, Canadian transplant surgeons have already harvested organs from dozens of euthanasia patients. According to the *National Post*, up to 26 people killed by lethal injection have donated tissue or organs. The most common donated organs were corneas, skin, heart valves, bones, and tendons. The report only covered Ontario, however, and Bioethicists, Transplant Quebec, and an ethics committee of the Quebec government argued last year that euthanasia could be a good source of organs, and as such, it is possible that similar procedures have been carried out in that province as well.

### India

Jammu and Kashmir, West Bengal, and Tamil Nadu topped India's states in terms of population control. In 2015, all three states recorded a record low fertility rate of 1.6 children per woman. A fertility rate of 2.1

children per woman is required for the population to replace itself. The information was presented in Rajya Sabha on March 28th by Anupriya Patel, minister of the state of health and family welfare. According to the most recent data, 13 of the 22 states recorded a total fertility rate below 2.1 children per woman, thus giving the real prospect of negative population growth in the near future.

### Iran

Results from the latest census in Iran show that family size is shrinking. Compared to the previous census, conducted five years ago, the family size in Iran has fallen by 0.2 percent. During the same time frame, the rural population became smaller by 772,383. Meanwhile, the number of urban families rose by 2,798,649 to hit a total of 18,125,000, and Iran's population overall grew by 4,776,601 to reach a total of 79,926,270.

If you like the news you receive in *PRI Review*, then you will really be glad if you sign up for *The PRI Weekly Briefing*.

Each week, we send you an e-mail about current events that impact, or are the result of, our work stopping coercive population controls efforts around the world.

Just go to [www.pop.org](http://www.pop.org) and scroll down until you see the green sign-up section. It's simple!

Iran—<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2017/03/14/1354795/unfpa-backs-iran-s-plan-on-population-growth>

China—[http://china.org.cn/china/2017-03/24/content\\_40498050.htm](http://china.org.cn/china/2017-03/24/content_40498050.htm)

Canada—<https://www.mercatornet.com/careful/view/canadian-surgeons-harvesting-organs-from-euthanised-patients/19557>

India—<http://blogs.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/cash-flow/jammukashmir-indias-only-muslim-majority-state-tops-in-population-control/>

Iran—<http://en.trend.az/iran/society/2731297.html>

## Father of Four Forcibly Sterilized

By Jonathan Abbamonte and Steven Mosher

A 42-year-old man and father of four has claimed that he was forcibly sterilized at the hands of local family planning authorities in Yunnan province in southwest China.

The victim, a Mr. Hu, says that he was detained by family planning officials on the evening of February 8th while he was visiting a friend's house for the Chinese New Year. According to Hu, several family planning officials arrived at the scene in plain clothes telling him that he was required to go with them to the town government office.

Married at the age of 19, Hu had three children with his first wife. After the couple's third child, Hu's wife was sterilized and the couple paid the compulsory fine. Hu later divorced and remarried and had a fourth child with his second wife.

According to Hu, despite having had only one child with his second wife, family planning officials insisted that he was in violation of the two-child policy and would therefore need to be sterilized.

Refusing to comply with officials' demands, Hu argued that he had already paid a fine for his third child and had committed no wrong. Hu further argued that the Yunnan family planning officials had no authority over him as he was no longer registered in that province but was now registered instead in Sichuan province where he and his family have been living for the past few years.

Family planning officials then purportedly proceeded to push and beat him, according to Hu's account of the incident on Weibo:

"Ten population control workers surrounded me while the local

Communist Party Secretary Lo and the worker wearing glasses grabbed me by the collar. Then they began to beat me and pushed me around. A fist hit me in the face, and my neck was clawed and scratched. They forced me to sit on a stool and took pictures. Then one of the workers shouted, 'immediately notify the [clinic] that we are bringing in someone by force to be sterilized.'"

After Hu's wife attempted to intervene, police arrived at the scene. According to Hu, police told him to cooperate with the family planning

**“ Then they began to beat me and pushed me around. A fist hit me in the face, and my neck was clawed and scratched. ”**

officials and then proceeded to detain his wife and child. Police allegedly threatened Hu with imprisonment if he continued to resist sterilization.

"If I had not agreed they would have put my wife and I in jail for 15 days on the grounds of disorderly conduct against a government agency, then they would have sterilized me anyway," according to Hu's account on Weibo, "when I went to the local police station this is what they threatened me with."

After being subjected to pressure by police, Hu was subsequently vasectomized at 1 am on the morning of February 9th and then released.

"My little son was only two years old," Hu explained in the post.

"Besides, the weather at this time of year was very cold. I was afraid for my wife and my two-year-old's safety and well-being. I was very angry that I was being subjected to this terroristic pressure. But because of concern for my wife and children I was forced to agree to their demands that I undergo this operation.

According to the *South China Morning Post*, the Yunnan province Health and Family Planning Commission has asked the local family planning division office to investigate the incident.

According to Sixth Tone, official documents purportedly obtained by the media outlet reveal that Hu's visit to his hometown over the holiday provided the chance for family planning officials to "seize the opportunity," and that Hu voluntarily accepted vasectomy after being given a "thorough and detailed" explanation of the family planning law.

Earlier PRI investigations in China revealed a widespread practice of forced sterilization under the one-child policy. One such woman encountered by PRI investigators was even compelled to submit to sterilization twice after she became pregnant after being sterilized for the first time.

In 2013, a 42-year-old woman from Hubei province bled to death after she was forcibly sterilized following the birth of her second child. Family planning officials compelled her to undergo the operation even after her doctor warned her that she should not undergo surgical sterilization due to possible health risks.

## Infant Mortality at Record Levels

By Jonathan Abbamonte

A recent report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reveals that over the past decade, infant mortality in the United States has dropped nationwide by 15%.

According to the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), infant mortality declined significantly in 33 states. Colorado, South Carolina, and Connecticut made the greatest progress proportionally, each seeing infant mortality plummet by more than 20%. The District of Columbia, however, saw the most precipitous decline with infant mortality falling by 43%.

A steady decrease in the mortality rate from the three leading causes of infant death—congenital abnormalities, short gestation/low birth-weight, and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS)—helped, in part, to drive the trend. Out of the top five leading causes of infant mortality, the proportion of deaths due to SIDS declined most, proportionally, falling by 29% since 2005.

Despite recent gains, however, infant mortality in the United States still remains higher than in Europe and other developed countries. In 2014, the U.S. ranked 30th out of 35 member states of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). In fact, each one of the top ten ranked OECD countries had infant mortality rates less than half of that of the U.S.

In 1960, the U.S. ranked 11th among current OECD member states. Over the intervening decades, however, the U.S. gradually slipped in ranking as infant mortality in other emerging economies countries declined faster and eventually outpaced the U.S.

While infant mortality has consistently declined in the U.S. since the early part of the 20th century, progress stagnated at the turn of the 21st century. Between 2000-2005, there was no significant decrease in the infant mortality rate, until now.

The reasons why the U.S. continues to lag behind other developed countries on infant mortality are multifaceted and not entirely understood.

One contributing factor may be due to better reporting of very early preterm births in the U.S. compared to other countries. While most countries, like the U.S., report all live births regardless of gestational age, some European countries do not count births prior to 22 weeks or infants that weigh less than 500 grams.

But even if the playing field were leveled, so to speak, to include only births after 24 weeks gestation, the U.S. would still be far behind many of its European peers. A NCHS study found that excluding births after 24 weeks gestation in 2010 would have reduced IMR in the U.S. by approximately 31%. Even so, this lower rate was still twice as high as the IMR after 24 weeks in both Sweden and Finland.

According to the NCHS, infant mortality in the U.S. remains particularly high due to a higher percentage of preterm births (births prior to 37 weeks) relative to other developed countries.

Preterm births are not the only contributing factor, however. The NCHS found that in comparison to Sweden, the U.S.'s higher mortality after 37 weeks gestation in 2010 contributed more to the higher U.S. IMR than preterm births.

Certain underlying health conditions may also be to blame. The U.S. has the highest level of obesity of any OECD country.



Photo Credit: Getty Images

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Several demographic factors such as education and marital status may also play a role in affecting infant mortality.

Women with more education are less likely to experience infant demise. In 2011, the infant mortality rate for women without a high school diploma was 7.54 deaths per 1,000 live births. But for women with a bachelor’s or postgraduate degree, the infant mortality was nearly half that rate at 3.63 per 1,000 live births.[6]

Similarly, infant mortality is notably higher among unwed mothers than among married women. In 2014, infant mortality for married women was 4.47 deaths per 1,000 live births, but among unwed mothers, the rate was much higher at 7.83 per 1,000 births.

Over the past several decades, the percentage of births to unmarried women has increased tremendously in both the United States and other developed countries. Although this trend in the U.S. appears to have leveled off since 2008, the high percentage of women bearing children outside of the context of a marital union could unnecessarily hinder progress in reducing IMR.

Many studies have shown marriage to be a protective factor against infant mortality. Marriage, as an institution, appears to provide a bundle of benefits for both women and their children, particularly in social contexts where marriage is a social norm.

Even in contexts where marriage as a societal norm has been sufficiently weakened and secularized, marriage is protective against risk factors for infant demise. A hospital-based study in Finland (during a time when unwed childbearing averaged a little below its prevalence in the

U.S. today) found that single and cohabiting women were significantly more likely than their married peers to have a preterm delivery. Countries where out-of-wedlock childbearing was fairly common, unmarried women were significantly more likely to have an early preterm birth less than 33 weeks gestation.

Unmarried women in the U.S. are also significantly less likely to quit smoking during pregnancy than married women, which could contribute to lower preterm birth and lower SIDS among married women. Unmarried women are also far more likely to smoke prior to pregnancy and resume smoking after delivery.

In the U.S., alarming racial disparities for infant mortality continue to persist. While infant mortality among Asians & Pacific Islanders was 3.86 per 1,000 live birth in 2014, IMR among non-Hispanic blacks was more than twice as high at 10.93.

Several states have made reducing infant mortality a public health priority. New Jersey, Ohio, and Alabama have recently offered to give mothers free baby boxes, equipped with foam mattresses and tight fitting sheets to prevent SIDS by providing a safe sleeping environment for newborns.

In 2011, South Carolina forged a public-private alliance between the state’s Medicaid program and BlueCross BlueShield, the state’s largest private insurer, to disincentivize early elective induced deliveries. And it seems to have worked. While South Carolina had the 12th highest IMR nationwide for infants born at 37-39 weeks gestation,

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Many studies have shown marriage to be a protective factor against infant mortality.

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by 2014, the state had cut down on its 37-39 week IMR by a whopping 30.5%, the fastest decline of any state nationwide.

The initiative not only protected infant health by delaying the onset of labor, it also saved the state of South Carolina an estimated \$6 million in Medicaid spending in the first quarter of 2013.

Overall, the decline in U.S. infant mortality rates in recent years is welcome news. But more still can, and needs, to be done to reduce the number of infant deaths yet further.

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