



States 'Must' Legalize Abortion, Says U.N. Human Rights Committee

BY JONATHAN ABBAMONTE

The Human Rights Committee at the United Nations Office in Geneva has adopted a radically pro-abortion document that could have lasting implications for pro-life laws worldwide. The document, known as General Comment No. 36, is the first of its kind to declare that states “must” legalize abortion in cases of rape, incest, health of the mother, and when the pregnancy “is not viable.”

The General Comment also calls on nations to remove laws that impose criminal penalties on health care workers who perform illegal abortions, claiming that the mere enforcement of pro-life laws “compel[s] women and girls to resort to unsafe abortion.” The Committee also declared that states “may not regulate” abortion in a manner that “compel[s]” women to resort to “unsafe abortion” and that states “should revise their abortion laws accordingly.”

The document is an attempt by the Human Rights Committee to reinterpret Article 6 of the Interna-



The United Nations building exterior, New York City / Getty Images

tional Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which deals with the “right to life.” The ICCPR is one of the most important and widely ratified international human rights treaties drafted through the U.N. system.

General Comment No. 36 seeks to reinterpret the “right to life” to mean that states “must provide...legal and effective access to abortion” under expansive terms. The adoption of the General Comment will inevitably provide pro-abortion activists in the U.N. system with sufficient grounds

to place considerable pressure on pro-life countries to legalize abortion.

The document also attempts to redefine the “right to life” to mean that states are permitted to legalize physician assisted suicide and euthanasia for those suffering from “severe physical or mental pain” if they so choose.

Despite this, no right to abortion, euthanasia, or assisted suicide can be found anywhere in the ICCPR. To the contrary, Article 6 of the ICCPR specifically guarantees the right to life for “every human being”:

(continued on page 6)

INSIDE

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1 UN Experts Demand Worldwide Abortion | 5 The Gift of Children |
| 2 Kavanaugh's Confirmation | 8 Anti-Life in Guatemala |
| 3 Your God-Given Call | 10 PRI in the News |
| 4 Vatican OKs China Deal | 12 From the Countries |



Kavanaugh's Appointment: Sign of Hope, and Warning

by Steven W. Mosher

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I joined President Trump's Catholic Advisory Group after meeting with him in New York prior to the election. The Donald Trump whom I and other pro-lifers heard was not the impassioned speaker on the stump, but rather a calm, deliberate man who promised that he would appoint pro-lifers to key positions and, above all, keep his pro-life promises. He came across to me as a man who, when he made a promise, kept that promise.

With the nomination and confirmation of Judge Brett Kavanaugh, he has kept the most important promise of all: He has put a thoroughly pro-life, pro-family justice to the Supreme Court.

We now have today, thanks to Trump, the pro-life majority on the Court that we have been awaiting for two generations.

Now, no one knows when a challenge to *Roe v. Wade* will reach the Court. When it does, I expect that this wrongly decided ruling, which has to date cost over 60 million innocent lives, will be overturned. And it may well be new Associate Justice Kavanaugh who writes the deciding opinion.

The end of *Roe v. Wade* will not, sadly, mark the end of abortion in the U.S. It will merely send the abortion issue back to the states, where we will continue to have to fight battle after battle in state after state to pass pro-life laws. But it will mark the beginning of the end.

More broadly, I believe the confirmation of Kavanaugh represents a return in American jurisprudence to the original purpose of the Supreme Court as envisioned by the Founders. Its role should not be to legislate from the bench, but to

judge whether legislation that is passed by the legislative branch conforms to—or violates—the Constitution.

After such a momentous victory, it is tempting to retreat from the front lines and rest on our laurels. But now is not the time to disengage from the battle.

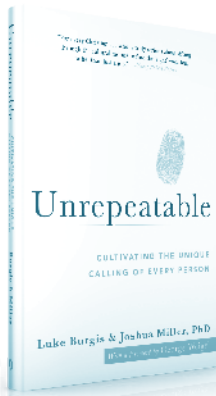
The truth is that the abortion movement will now be even more dangerous than it was in earlier times. Planned Parenthood is spending literally tens of millions of dollars to elect politicians who will keep funneling money to its murderous business.

It is absolutely essential that everyone vote pro-life in every election, and they must encourage all their family and friends to do the same.

Looking down the road, President Trump will probably have the opportunity to make another Supreme Court pick in a year or two, and perhaps even a second after that. While I pray that the party of abortion will not again stoop to the same kinds of gutter-level attacks that Judge Kavanaugh was forced to endure, the odds are that they will.

Regardless of who the next nominee is, the abortion radicals will set out to deliberately destroy him or her, in the hope that they can either force the nominee to withdraw or convince enough senators to vote against him or her that confirmation is beyond reach.

For the moment, however, let us celebrate. I am convinced that Judge Kavanaugh will distinguish himself on the Supreme Court.



How you can help others develop their God-given, one-of-a-kind callings

One of the PRI researchers gave me a book that I found fascinating and I think you will too, so I hope you'll let me send you a copy. The book is *Unrepeatable: Cultivating the Unique Calling of Every Person*.

It's a book that will, as the authors say, help you know and love others by recognizing and helping them develop their special, unique essence — an essence that bears the fingerprints of God.

It will aid parents ... grandparents ... pro-life organizers ... teachers (especially home school teachers!) ... lay leaders ... businessmen ... civic leaders ... and others cultivate the unique callings of those around them.

Here's a brief look at all that's to be learned about uniqueness and vocations in *Unrepeatable: Cultivating the Unique Calling of Every Person*...

- What vocation" really means, as defined by John Paul II and Pope Pius XI... the three core aspects of a personal vocation... the true test of a vocation... ways you can help others discern effectively...
- The three main challenges we face when helping others cultivate their unique callings... the one thing that every vocation requires, without exception... the one thing that's required to help cultivate uniqueness in others... the simple way to help people discover their uniqueness... the questions that should be asked to really understand the uniqueness of others...

And there is this, too ...

Unrepeatable: Cultivating the Unique Calling of Every Person is illustrated with fascinating, real-life achievement stories of people who found their uniqueness, including St. Gianna Molla ... Dorothy Day ... Bob Dylan (yes, Bob Dylan!) ... and Billy Beane, manager of the Oakland Athletics baseball team who discovered a unique way to quickly transform his team from a consistent loser into a World Series champion.

And those are just some of the "famous" achievement stories told in *Unrepeatable*. There are also real-life stories of students, businessmen and other "not-so-famous" people who found their unique, God-given calling with the help of parents, grandparents, teachers and others.

Unrepeatable is co-authored by Luke Burgis, Entrepreneur-in-Residence at the Ciocca Center for Principled Entrepreneurship at The Catholic University of America. His co-author is Joshua Miller, personal vocation mentor for faculty and staff at Franciscan University.

***Unrepeatable: Cultivating the Unique Calling of Every Person* comes with high very praise from several prominent Church leaders...**

Philadelphia Archbishop Charles J. Chaput describes *Unrepeatable* as "Beautifully written, compellingly personal, and a treasure to read."

With sincere thanks for your baby-saving gift of \$40 or more, *Unrepeatable: Cultivating the Unique Calling of Every Person* will be in the mail the very same day I hear from you. Shall I send it?

Please... Use the enclosed Gift Reply to request your copy of *Unrepeatable: Cultivating the Unique Calling of Every Person*...



Vatican to Allow Beijing to Name Bishops

It is never a good idea to sign a deal for the sake of signing a deal

by Steven W. Mosher

The Vatican has signed a provisional agreement¹ with China, one that cedes control over the appointment of bishops to Beijing. In return, we are told, Beijing has agreed to recognize the pope as the head of China's Catholics.

From my position as a longtime observer of the machinations of the Chinese Party-State, this seems like a bad deal. The pope is ceding his *very real authority to name bishops* to China's communist authorities in return for the *promise of symbolic recognition* as the titular head of all Catholics in China. Might he not be giving up something for nothing?

The Vatican originally proposed that China follow the terms of an agreement it had reached with the Vietnamese government over the appointment of bishops. Under its terms, the Vatican and the Vietnamese authorities, working together, draw up a list of candidates. The Vatican then chooses someone from the list who, once Hanoi ratifies the choice, is consecrated as a bishop by the pope. Such a model clearly preserves papal authority.

This "Vietnam model" was rejected by China, however. As the official Global Times later reported², "[s]uch a model was not accepted by China when it was tested in the country



in 2005, as the Chinese authorities want total control over choosing candidates."

Beijing went on to insist upon a "Chinese model," under the terms of which the communist authorities alone will nominate a potential candidate for bishop. The pope must then approve or reject that candidate. If he vetoes the first candidate, Beijing will nominate another.

The pope's "veto power," however, is not unlimited.

As a Chinese official familiar with the negotiations was quoted as saying, "[w]e cannot submit endless candidate lists to the Vatican if the pontiff keeps saying no. We may have to appoint bishops unapproved by the pontiff after a set number of rounds of negotiations. Such bishops may not be legitimate under the Church doctrine, but they can

still give Church services to Chinese Catholics."³

In other words, the pope may veto an obviously unsuitable candidate or two, but Beijing has made it clear that there is a limit to the number of times a papal veto can be used. It has also limited the amount of time that the Vatican has to respond once a candidate's name is submitted.

This means that at the end of the day, it is the communist authorities, and not Pope Francis, who will have the final say over who becomes a bishop in the Chinese Catholic Church.

It seems to me even more unwise to move forward with an agreement at the present time, when the communist authorities are engaged in a widespread crackdown on all forms of religious expression in China.

Excerpted from an article originally published in OnePeterFive.

¹ <https://www.wsj.com/articles/china-and-vatican-to-sign-landmark-deal-over-bishops-1536929831?redirect=amp#click=https://t.co/9he9cMi9Vw>

² <http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/970460.shtml>

³ <http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/970460.shtml>



HUMANAE VITAE COALITION

Challenge to the Culture and the Gift of Children

by Dr. Christopher Manion

In 2012—four months before Pope Francis was elected—New York’s Timothy Cardinal Dolan observed that America’s bishops “have an internal catechetical challenge—a towering one—in convincing our own people of the moral beauty and coherence of what we teach.”

Addressing *Humanae Vitae* directly, he said that the encyclical “brought such a tsunami of dissent, departure, [and] disapproval of the church” that it was “just too hot to handle. We forfeited the chance to be a coherent moral voice,” he continued. The sex-abuse scandals just “intensified our laryngitis over speaking about issues of chastity and sexual morality.... How will I have any credibility in speaking on that,” he asked.

Six years later, things haven’t improved. The “coherent moral voice” of America’s bishops has attenuated to a whisper. Our shepherds have been knocked off-balance by new scandals, widespread uncertainty about the Church’s moral teaching, and growing division within their own ranks. In some chanceries, what Cardinal Dolan called the bishops’ “laryngitis” has become an attitude of outright hostility to magisterial truths about sex, marriage, the family and children. In April, a prominent pro-life archbishop stunned a group gathered to discuss the 50th anniversary of *Humanae Vitae*. In the Church’s confrontation with the sex-

ual revolution, he said simply, “we’ve lost.” That doesn’t mean we’ve given up, he continued, but it does mean that the laity has to fill the void.

Over the years, the laity has risen to the challenge. Throughout the country, it is the laity who are teaching the methods of Natural Family Planning and the principles that explain not only its practical reliability but its beauty and its place in our response to God’s command to “be fruitful and multiply.”

Yes, the Culture of Death still rages. In the recent turmoil preceding the confirmation of Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court, opposition to his nomination was financed by a group of elite magnates who have poured billions of dollars into top-down organizing of pro-abortion operations for years. Their organizers trained demonstrators to harass and threaten lawmakers and Kavanaugh supporters. On reflection, one cannot escape the resemblance of their visceral violence directed at their targets with the violence inflicted on every unborn child who fights and screams against the abortionist’s murderous machines.

The pro-life movement in the United States is worlds away from all that. It has been led not by elites but by laity, normal folks who built the movement from the ground up. Over the years we have had the prayerful support of many among the clergy, but the movement that

brings half a million people to the March for Life every year is a unique grass-roots phenomenon in American politics. No artificial ingredients, no manufactured protesters—our movement is all-organic, thoroughly genuine. That’s why it will last.

Surprise —Children Are The Future!

Europe is witnessing a rebellion against the population planners of the European Union. In recent years, EU leaders, most of whom are childless, have sent hundreds of millions of dollars to the Third World for “family planning” —as though eliminating foreign children will save Europe from its own pathetic birth rate.

A new groundswell of popular movements in several countries—Poland, Hungary, Austria and Italy—are supporting policies that encourage parents to have larger families. They are well-aware of the threat. For Turkey’s President Recep Erdogan, demographics is destiny. He encourages Turkish families in Turkey to have at least three children. For the tens of millions who live in the EU, he says to have at least five! He doesn’t have to explain why. And Europeans don’t need an explanation.

Predictably, the usual suspects are howling, affirming once more that the Catholic Church, not “democracy,” is the true bulwark that bars the Left from establishing new tyrannies worldwide.

Human Rights Experts, *continued*

“Every human being has the inherent right to life. This right shall be protected by law.”

The treaty even explicitly prohibits the execution of the death penalty on a pregnant woman[2] in order to protect the life of the unborn child. As the drafters of the ICCPR noted during the drafting process, “the authors of the original text had specified that sentence of death should not be carried out on a pregnant woman principally in order to save the life of an innocent unborn child.”[3]

The Human Rights Committee adopted General Comment No. 36 by consensus this on Tuesday, October 30 during its 124th Session.

In response, the Population Research Institute has started a petition to tell the Human Rights Committee that the right to life does not include a ‘right’ to abortion.

Pro-life advocates had been closely following the drafting of General Comment No. 36 since the process began back in 2015. Last summer, the Human Rights Committee completed its first reading of the draft document which was subsequently adopted paragraph by paragraph until the entire document was approved earlier last week.

In October 2017, the Committee accepted comments on the first reading draft from member states and civil society. Several member states, members of academia, and more than two dozen pro-life organizations pushed back hard against the Human Rights Committee’s draft General Comment, condemning the document as contrary to the universal right to life and rebuking the Committee for overstepping its mandate. Our own comment to the Commit-

tee explained at-length that General Comment No. 36 is clearly contrary to the universal and inherent right to life recognized in the treaty and contrary to international norms.

Despite receiving several comments from member states, members of Congress, and pro-life organizations imploring the Committee not to overstep its mandate by seeking to reinterpret the treaty in a manner never intended by states, the Committee pushed ahead with the drafting for General Comment No. 36 anyway. The only notice it took of such comments was to state that they could simply “ignore” any submitted statements that did not agree with their approach.

The final draft of the General Comment adopted by the Committee in fact goes far beyond the initial first-reading draft. The final draft includes text that was not included in the first-reading draft, including a sentence which calls on states to cease introducing new pro-life laws and to remove any current pro-life laws which create a “barrier” to obtaining an abortion, including “barriers caused as a result of the exercise of conscientious objection” rights of health care workers not to participate in abortion procedures.

The Human Rights Committee consists of a panel of so-called human rights experts that are tasked with monitoring the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The Human Rights Committee, from time to time, issues documents known as General Comments that outline how the Committee interprets certain provisions or thematic issues contained in the treaty. General Comments often provide states with

the Committee’s official opinion on how they should implement the treaty and they often outline actions the Committee believes states ought to take in order to be in compliance with their obligations under the treaty.

The recommendations issued by the Committee via General Comments are not legally binding on states, however. States are not required under international law to adopt the Committee’s recommendations for implementing the ICCPR. But while General Comments are not legally binding on states, they do carry significant weight as authoritative documents issued by an instrument created by the treaty. General Comments carry certain implications for the development of what is known as international “soft” law, which are rules which do not have the force of a “hard” law or a binding legal obligation but nonetheless can contribute to the eventual development of international standards and norms. Over time, it is possible for certain “soft” law standards to evolve into “hard” customary norms.

And in some cases, it turns out, these “soft” laws standards are not so “soft” after all. In the past, certain non-binding recommendations issued by treaty bodies have in fact led some states to legalize abortion under limited circumstances.

For example, Chad, was chastised by the Committee on the Rights of the Child in its state party review in 1999 for maintaining legal restrictions on abortion.[4] Later, in its 2007 state party report, Chad noted that it had “adopted a series of measures” “In response to the Committee’s concluding observations.”[5] One of these ‘adopted measures’ that the Chad Government cited was Act No. 06/PR/2002,

the law which legalized abortion in Chad in cases of health of the mother and fetal disability. Similarly, constitutional courts in Bolivia and Colombia have also legalized abortion based in part on the supposedly non-binding recommendations issued by treaty bodies.[6]

What does this mean for the United States? While General Comment No. 36 is not legally binding on the U.S., the ICCPR is. The United States has ratified the ICCPR and is thus bound by the U.S. Constitution to abide by its terms. While the ICCPR does not in any way require states to legalize abortion or keep abortion legal, certain far-left activist judges in the U.S. federal court system could presumably attempt to use the General Comment as a basis for blocking certain pro-life laws by arguing that it is an authoritative interpretation of the U.S.'s obligations under the treaty.

Indeed, while it is exceptionally rare for federal courts to resort to General Comments when handing down decisions, if the current members of the Supreme Court make a ruling that significantly scales back or overturns *Roe v. Wade*, pro-abortion activist judges may try to get creative in keeping abortion legal. And indeed, it is not unprecedented for U.S. federal courts to resort to General Comments as authoritative interpretations of the U.S.'s obligations under certain treaties.[7] The possibility now exists, even if at the present moment unlikely, that the radical pro-abortion views expressed

by the U.N. Human Rights Committee in General Comment No. 36 could be cited in some future case on abortion.

General Comment No. 36 goes beyond the recommendations any other treaty body has made on abortion or euthanasia. With the adoption of General Comment No. 36, the Human Rights Committee has taken a significant step that threatens the right to life.

States parties to the ICCPR must hold the Human Rights Committee accountable by thoroughly vetting candidates nominated to serve on the Committee. States parties must ensure that nominees to the Committee will not attempt to read new invented rights into the treaty. States parties that are opposed to an international right to abortion should also actively seek out and nominate candidates who will defend the right to life at the Human Rights Committee.

Pro-lifers must also petition their national U.N. ambassadors (or their national representatives to the Human Rights Committee elections meetings) asking that they elect only pro-life candidates to serve on the Human Rights Committee and other treaty bodies.

States parties to the ICCPR should also issue public statements condemning General Comment No. 36 as an erroneous interpretation of the right to life recognized under the treaty.

All countries which have ratified the ICCPR's First Optional Protocol

Sign our Petition
to the UN: see how
on your reply sheet
with this issue!

should also immediately denounce and withdraw from the Protocol. States have a right to withdraw from the Protocol at any time and for any reason under the procedure laid out in Article 12. With the adoption of General Comment No. 36, it is now abundantly clear that states that have ratified the First Optional Protocol are particularly vulnerable to the Committee's pro-abortion activism. States under the Protocol "recogniz[e] the competence" of the Committee to hand down judgements on complaints of violations under the treaty brought to the Committee by individual citizens against state parties.[8]

The Human Rights Committee has already handed down several judgements requiring states parties to the Optional Protocol to provide restitution to women who were denied abortion by the state, including in the views adopted in *K.L. v. Peru*, *L.M.R. v. Argentina*, *Siobhán Whelan v. Ireland*, and *Amanda Jane Mellet v. Ireland*. With the adoption of General Comment No. 36, states parties to the treaty's Option Protocol can only expect that judgements punishing states for their pro-laws will continue.

[1] International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), art. 6(1), December 16, 1966, 999 U.N.T.S. 171.

[2] ICCPR, *supra* note 1, at art. 6(5).

[3] U.N. GAOR, 12th Sess., Third Comm., 819th mtg. at ¶33, U.N. Doc. A/C.3/SR.819 (Nov. 25, 1957).

[4] Comm. on the Rights of the Child, *Concluding Observations, Chad*, ¶30, U.N. Doc. CRC/C/15/Add.107 (Aug. 24, 1999).

[5] Comm. on the Rights of the Child, *Second Periodic Reports of States Parties Due in 1997, Chad*, ¶14, U.N. Doc. CRC/C/TCD/2 (Aug. 14, 2007).

[6] See Zorzi K. The impact of the United Nations on national abortion laws. *Cath. U. L. Rev.* 2015;65(2):409-428.

[7] See *United States v. Bakeas*, 987 F. Supp. 44 (D. Mass. 1997).

[8] Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, art. 1, December 16, 1966, 999 U.N.T.S. 171.



Left Smuggles Anti-Life Agenda into Guatemala

by Carlos Polo

Guatemala is a charming country. It is the gateway to Central America if one comes from the north. It has 15 million inhabitants with a culture with Christian roots, very pro-life and pro-family. Nevertheless, political groups from the radical left led this nation to a recent history of social conflicts which included a civil war.

In the face of a real necessity for peace and struggle against corruption, in 2006 the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG) was created through a signed agreement between the UN and the government of Guatemala. At that time, everyone was in agreement that CICIG would help to stop the proliferation of what are known as “illegal bodies of security,” armed gangs of organized crime who were devastating the country. Its function was to assess and strengthen the country’s attorney and judicial systems to prosecute this type of crime.

In October 2013 the official chosen by the UN to direct CICIG was the Colombian Iván Velásquez. Very quickly, CICIG went beyond its mandate and became distorted, becoming an institution of political power stronger than the proper authorities of the state. Many public officials, including judges, politicians, businessmen, and Guatemala’s own President Jimmy Morales, everyone opposing CICIG’s agenda were threatened with accusations and investigations.

CICIG was, little by little, meddling in the domestic politics of



Guatemala, suspiciously taking aim at key conservative political figures, while at the same time it clearly was involved in pushing a leftist agenda. A couple months ago, in our most recent visit to Guatemala, we were able to confirm that CICIG has terrorized all Guatemalans. And pro-life and pro-family leaders saw that CICIG was helping to create a path to enacting laws and public policies on abortion and gender.

Of course, the accusations from CICIG and Velásquez began to multiply. One of the most egregious examples of this was when CICIG investigated San Pablo, a small town in Guatemala’s interior. As American journalists were able to confirm, CICIG failed to intervene in a town that was known to harbor violent Marxist groups involved in organized crime. And perhaps the most famous example was CICIG’s handling of the Bitkov family, Russian dissidents that were mistreated by CICIG, as confirmed by a congressional investigation by

U.S. Congressman Chris Smith.

It is no wonder that the U.S. visa of Martha Lucía Zamora, one of the most active officials of CICIG, was revoked on October 4: In Colombia a trial is being brought against her for supposedly harboring various ex-heads of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). Moreover, CICIG has committed itself to expanding gender ideology in the country, a task that does not belong to it either, and which is also an imposition that comes from the U.N. and is an imposition against which Guatemala resists.

According to the U.N. convention, CICIG’s mandate should have expired in 2017. However, the majority of Guatemalans called for putting an end to CICIG even earlier and the sectors of the left that wanted to perpetuate it. The conflict and social tension grew to the point that President Morales preferred that the investigation not end abruptly. President Morales extended CICIG’s mandate for another year so that it

would be able to transfer all its work to local authorities. The mandate was extended even in spite of the fact that the accusations of Velásquez's actions continued to accumulate.

For this reason, it is no wonder that Mary Anastasia O'Grady, Opinion Columnist at the *Wall Street Journal*, dedicated numerous columns to CICIG's controversial involvement, referring to the mandate as a "vice-royalty of the U.N." in Guatemala. "Over the years CICIG expanded its authority to advance the politics of

“ CICIG has become a threat to peace in Guatemala. CICIG has set up a system of terror, a system where anyone who thinks differently is persecuted and investigated.”

the extreme left, which seeks to consolidate power by gaining control of institutions,” O'Grady wrote on September 4th, “Mr. Velásquez isn't an elected official. He's more of a modern-day viceroy, suppressing with force opposition in the “colony” from those who challenge his authority.”

All analysts indicate that CICIG would not have been able to come to power without the help of the Obama administration. While he was Vice President, Joe Biden visited Guatemala on three occasions within one year to strengthen the institution. And in those days, Biden himself wrote on Twitter: “The U.S. Administration should condition assistance on CICIG's continued op-

eration.” It is also said that the American ambassador to Guatemala from 2014 to 2017, Todd Robinson, was a key player in increasing the power of CICIG.

The fight against corruption continues to be a work in progress in Guatemala. CICIG has implemented an agenda that is clearly leftist and progressive which has intensified the division of Guatemala and puts its democracy at risk.

On September 25 President Morales, before the U.N. General Assembly, made a brave accusation against CICIG. He said that it had polarized the country, using excessive force in operations that it coordinates with the Public Ministry, using war rifles, among other things. He said expressively, “In essence, CICIG has become a threat to peace in Guatemala. CICIG has set up a system of terror, a system where anyone who thinks differently is persecuted and investigated. The commission is accused of coercing witnesses.”

Morales is not asking them to leave corruption unpunished. But he is proposing to the U.N. that they work together, to name a commissioner who is trustworthy and who does not have a leftist agenda, and who would prepare the judges of Guatemala to do all of this. At the present moment, the U.N. is not responding.

As the journalist Betty Marroquín wrote: “The legacy of Gutierrez is to become the Secretary General who was champion in the fight against corruption in the world. He wants to reproduce the formula of CICIG in many developing countries and fears losing that opportunity if he allows the party of President Morales to win.”



Making Your List? Checking it twice?

When you want reliable information about UN Human Rights policies, or the truth about China's planned birth policy, where do you turn? If you're like more than 100,000 others, you turn to PRI. Why? Because you know you will receive top-notch demographic research from faithful Catholics committed to providing the truth and to keeping people—all people—our priority!

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■ Mosher: U.S. To Eclipse China, Thanks to Trump

FOX NEWS — PRI President Steven Mosher penned an opinion column for Fox News on the strength of the U.S. economy over China's due to Trump's economic policies.¹

"The great engine of American capitalism is once again firing on all cylinders, as shown by the 4.1 percent annualized growth of America's gross domestic product (GDP) in the second quarter of this year," the article began.

"Most Americans (with the exception of Democrats in Congress) are celebrating the good economic news. There is quiet rejoicing in many European and Asian capitals as well, since their mostly sluggish economies will now be drawn along in America's powerful wake.

"But there is one capital where the American economic renaissance is definitely not welcome news. Consternation reigns in China, where President Xi Jinping is nervously watching his 'China Dream' of dominating the United States go up in smoke.

"Under the Trump administration, the American economy is rising like a phoenix from the ashes of the over-regulation, over-taxation and bad trade deals that had threatened to suffocate it," continues the article.

"China's economic growth, on the other hand, is slowing under the burden of an aging population, massive corruption, unproductive investment and excessive debt. Add to this

the growing risk that Chinese products will be gradually pushed out of their major export market — the United States — and you have the risk of a full-blown economic meltdown in China.

"While America under President Trump is lightening the regulatory and tax burdens that have hindered economic growth, China is attempting to spend its way out of its self-inflicted economic malaise. The only Chinese sector that has been performing well in recent years is exports, and here President Trump is determined to make the Chinese pay for its rampant cheating of the past.

"The bottom line is this: The 21st century may not belong to China after all. In fact, may well turn out to be the second American Century."

■ Chelsea's Math All Wrong on Abortion, Mosher Explains

BREITBART — According to PRI President Steven Mosher, in a recent Breitbart column, Chelsea Clinton wrongly claims that legalized abortion has produced economic benefits for the United States.²

Mosher wrote: "Speaking at an event called 'Rise Up for Roe,' organized to oppose the confirmation of Brett Kavanaugh to the U.S. Supreme Court, Bill and Hillary's daughter reportedly said: 'It is not a disconnected fact ... that American women entering the labor force from 1973 to 2009 added three and a half trillion dollars to our economy. ...The net, new entrance of women — that is not

disconnected from the fact that Roe became the law of the land in January of 1973.'

"But in touting the economic benefits of abortion, isn't Chelsea forgetting someone? Or rather, a whole lot of someones? About 61 million someones, to be exact.

"... I have some numbers for her to reflect on ... Let's start by calculating the economic value of an American baby at conception. The Department of Agriculture estimates the cost of raising an only child born in 2015 at around \$233,000 over 17 years. Of course, the per-child costs go down dramatically in larger families because of the cheaper-by-the-dozen-effect.

"The future earnings of each of those children from 2035 to 2080 — assuming that wages continue to rise at their current rate — will be well over 10 times this amount, probably in the neighborhood of between \$4 and \$5 million. Discounting these future costs and benefits to the present produces a figure of around \$750,000. That's the present future value of a baby conceived today.

"How many people realize that each and every abortion is the death of a small fortune? How many people understand that America's abortion toll — currently running at an estimated 926,000 per year — is roughly equivalent in economic terms to nuking a mid-sized American city each year? Not Chelsea Clinton, apparently.

"The truth is, instead of adding \$3.5 trillion to the economy, as she

¹ <https://www.foxnews.com/opinion/trumps-policies-could-enable-americas-economy-to-outpace-chinas>

² <https://www.breitbart.com/faith/2018/08/26/mosher-chelsea-clinton-is-wrong-abortion-has-made-us-poorer-not-richer/>

claims, abortion to date has subtracted \$62 trillion from America's GDP. And that number is climbing rapidly. Market researcher Dennis Howard estimates that "by 2040, that cumulative deficit [from abortion] will likely reach \$400 trillion."

"To view babies solely as economic liabilities to their mothers, as Chelsea apparently does, is not only dehumanizing, it makes no economic sense whatsoever."

■ Communists Push Pregnancy Across SE Asia

THE ASEAN POST — PRI President Steven Mosher was quoted in an article about declining fertility in all the countries represented by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, from the Philippines, with the highest fertility, to Singapore, with the lowest.³

He warned that the new direction will still be driven by coercive policies of communist governments.

"According to a statement by the Population Research Institute (PRI) President, Steven Mosher, besides an about-face promotion to reversing China's birth rate by the state-controlled media in recent months, the 2-children quota strategy is also being pushed to the masses through the communist party mechanism," the article stated.

"The authorities in Yichang, a city of four million people, have called on all Communist Party members to 'take the lead in responding to the Party Central Committee's call' to have a second child. Younger Party members were advised to lead by example (the Chinese phrase used

literally means "doing it starts with me"), while older comrades were told to "educate and supervise their children" with the obvious intent of encouraging grandchildren.

"Party members of all ages were urged to 'take various measures to mobilize the masses to actively achieve a 'full two-children policy,'" said Mosher.

"With provincial and local Party committees 'mobilizing the masses' to reproduce, can even more coercive measures be far behind? To enforce the one-child policy, the Chinese Communist Party forcibly aborted and sterilized hundreds of millions of women over the years. To enforce a mandatory two-child policy, what would the Party not do?" he said.

■ China Holds Cards In Bishop Naming, Mosher Believes

LIFESITE NEWS — In an opinion article in Lifesite News by PRI President Steven Mosher registered concerns about the controversial agreement between Pope Francis and the Chinese Communist Party about the naming of bishops.⁴

Wrote Mosher: "Pope Francis released a letter on Wednesday defending his secret agreement with the Chinese Communist Party over the appointment of bishops, claiming that it will help 'heal wounds of the past.'"

"The controversial decision—perhaps the most controversial of a papacy dogged by controversy—accedes to the Communist Party's demand that it be allowed to name

bishops, whom the Pope will then approve.

"The previous day, speaking to journalists while returning from a trip through the Baltics, Francis insisted that he, and not the Communist authorities, would have the final say in who is named. 'Rome names them,' he said, 'the pope names them.'"

"If this were true, it would mean that those same authorities had backed off from their longstanding demand that they, and they alone, advance candidates for China's dioceses. Without seeing the exact terms of the agreement, which are unfortunately hidden from us, it is impossible to know exactly what procedure, if any, has been set up to preserve papal authority in this regard.

"But what we do know—because Pope Francis himself confirms it in his letter—is that he has already accepted as bishops all seven Patriotic 'bishops' who have been ordained over the past few years without papal mandate.

"The Communist authorities had demanded that the Pope lift the excommunications of the seven as a condition of signing the agreement and he complied."

"Now it may be that each and every one of these illicitly ordained bishops proved upon examination to be utterly deserving of papal recognition. But, given the numbers involved, it is hard to avoid the conclusion that the entire group was given a kind of blanket amnesty. If this were the case, I suppose it would still be technically true to say that the Pope had 'named them,' although not in the commonly understood sense of the phrase."

³ <https://theaseanpost.com/article/baby-making-name-nation>

⁴ <https://www.lifesitenews.com/opinion/pope-francis-empowered-communists-with-magisterial-authority-in-vatican-chi>

From the Countries



IRELAND

Ireland Heading Down Slippery Slope of Abortion

DUBLIN — The Irish government has brought before parliament legislation that would legalize abortion on demand, effectively bringing the protection of unborn life in the once pro-life country to a tragic conclusion, reported the National Catholic Register.¹

The legislation follows the tragic referendum in May, where a strong majority in the erstwhile Catholic country voted to remove the Irish Constitution's Eighth Amendment, which had recognized the equal right to life of the unborn and the mother.

After the popular vote, Irish President Michael Higgins signed the abortion referendum bill into law on Sept. 18, opening the door for new abortion legislation.

According to the Register, the new bill debated in October in the lower house of parliament (the Dáil) would allow abortion for any reason up to 12 weeks and, on the grounds of “a risk” of serious harm to the physical or mental health of the mother, up to “viability,” considered around 24 weeks.

In addition, the Catholic News Agency reported that the Irish bishops have lamented that the draft bill to legalize abortion in the Republic would require pro-life healthcare professionals to provide abortion refer-

als, calling the provision “an affront to conscience.”²

“The Health (Regulation of Termination of Pregnancy) Bill 2018 poses a very real practical and moral dilemma for healthcare professionals who believe in the fundamental human right to life and in their own responsibility to serve life,” according to an October statement from the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference. “This is the opposite to how many of us view health care,” explained Dr. Andrew O'Regan, a member of the Irish Doctors for Life organization. “For the first time, we are being asked to use our skills as doctors to harm instead of to heal,” he told the Register.



CHINA

Bishop: China Policy Leads to Sex Trafficking

ROME — Asked what this month's Synod of Bishops on youth can do for young women, Cardinal Charles Bo of Yangon said the biggest concern on his home turf is protecting them from human trafficking, which he said is being driven by China's infamous one-child policy, according to Crux.³

“What would we offer to young women in our country? During synod I was reflecting on our own situation, the situation of young people here in Europe, and in Asia, it's quite different, but especially in Myanmar, where women, with the help of some religious

congregations and the Church, we are focusing on saving young women and girls from human trafficking,” Bo told journalists Oct. 23.

Women, he said, are trafficked “from Myanmar to Thailand, and especially from Myanmar to China. Because of the one-child policy in China, many girls and women have been trafficked desperately into China.”



FINLAND

Finnish Minister Stands Up For Pro-Life

FINLAND — Standing on principle doesn't always mean losing votes: As an example, a pro-life minister in Finland has survived a vote of no confidence, according to LifeSite News.⁴

Four opposition parties brought forth a confidence vote against Timo Soini, the Finnish Foreign Minister, and he won the vote by 100 votes to 60, the article reported.

Soini is a convert to Catholicism in predominately Lutheran Finland. He faces ongoing criticism for his outspoken views on abortion. Undaunted, he even attended a pro-life candlelight vigil in Canada while on an official trip.

He has also come under fire for lamenting the legalization of abortion in Ireland and for congratulating Argentine lawmakers for voting down a pro-abortion motion there.

His answer to the critique: “I'm not ashamed of it, nor will I ever be.”

¹ <http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/irish-abortion-bill-comes-before-parliament>

² <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/lack-of-safeguards-in-irish-abortion-bill-an-affront-to-conscience-93157>

³ <https://cruxnow.com/synod-of-bishops-on-youth/2018/10/23/myanmar-prelate-says-china-one-child-policy-leads-to-trafficking/>

⁴ <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/finnish-minister-attacked-with-overcomes-no-confidence-vote>