

Nun Exposes Media Lies about Foreign Invasion of Syria

Agnès-Mariam, Mother Superior at the Monastery and Convent of St. James the Mutilated in Qara, Syria, gave this interview to LaRouchePAC's Lena Platt on Nov. 12, in Los Angeles. Mother Agnès-Mariam is the founder of the International Support Team Mussalaha (Reconciliation) in Syria, and is currently touring the United States and Great Britain; she is scheduled to visit Cleveland, Ohio; Denver, Colo.; Lincoln, Neb., New York, New Jersey, and Washington, D.C.

Lena Platt: Hello, Sister. I wanted you to welcome you, on behalf of our LaRouche Political Action Committee and the Schiller Institute, and to ask you to give your own observations and your own report, since you've been an eyewitness, on what is happening on the ground in Syria. So much of the American population's access to what's going on is from the news media.

Mother Agnès-Mariam: Even though in the beginning, we witnessed such a gap between the mainstream media stories and the reality on the ground, today there is no possibility to hide the terrible reality of the ongoing violence in Syria, where there is a remotivation of

this so-called "revolution." What makes me very much surprised, is that today, you still have people here in the United States, and also in other places in the Western world and in the Arab world, who continue to watch the mainstream media stories, and they still believe that in Syria there is a radical or global movement, an honest global movement, toward freedom and democracy!

I am very much surprised, because you have, today, many articles every day in many big newspapers, or documentaries on TV, where you can see with your own eyes, that Syria is invaded by foreign mercenaries, coming from more than 80 countries, spreading violence under an exclusivist, radical title of the so-called "Islamic Caliphate."

We watch the civilian population in Syria targeted by those death squads, and by those hordes of terrorists, that are spreading chaos, destruction, and defiling human beings everywhere in Syria! This is the fact. There is nothing else.

Platt: And why do you suppose that the institutions in the West are not responding, including the religious



LPAC-TV

Mother Agnès Mariam, interviewed by LaRouchePAC's Lena Platt, provided an eyewitness account of the Syrian conflict, at odds with mass news media coverage.

institutions, the churches, the humanitarian institutions, etc.?

Mother Agnès-Mariam: Because, in the beginning, the Arabic Spring, and the Arabic Spring in Syria, were heavily depicted as an honest and legal striving for freedom, democracy, and human rights, which was opposed and repressed by dictatorship, by a regime of a tyrant. And those people [Western institutions—ed.], believed the story. And they have stuck to this version of the facts. And with the intromission of some big powers, with such great authority in the United Nations and in the international arena, nobody dares to think differently.

The mainstream media are every day orienting minds and hearts toward false goals, and they are hiding, thus, the terrible crimes against humanity, and atrocities perpetrated by those rebels.

It's true that you have, today, an armed conflict. It is true that the Syrian Army is struggling with those so-called rebels, but we have to seek the cause, not in a repression of a democratic and peaceful striving for human dignity, but in a hidden, foreign intervention into Syrian affairs, and in the attempt to dismantle the Syrian state, and to attack all its values, especially pluralism and the unity among its diverse factions, whether they be religious, ethnic, or cultural, diverse factions of the very rich social tissue of Syrian society.

A Breaching of International Law

Platt: You described in the past that this is a proxy war, that it's almost like an invasion. What do you think of the idea that this Syria situation could lead to a global war?

Mother Agnès-Mariam: Well, we just bypassed it, because after the so-called chemical attacks on West Ghouta, we were on the eve of a global war. So we have bypassed it. But, all the parts are so greatly invested and engaged, that we have to always fear in the future, a regional or a global war, of course.

Platt: In view of the fact that the Pope has been speaking out very loudly against the humanitarian disaster, for example, in Lampedusa [Italy, off the Tunisian coast], and other humanitarian disasters, do you



VOA/Patrick Wells

The cause of the civil war, says Mother Agnès Mariam, is not the striving for human dignity by the so-called “rebels,” but “a hidden, foreign intervention into Syrian affairs, an attempt to dismantle the Syrian state, and to attack all its values, especially pluralism and the unity among its diverse factions. . . .” Here, a rebel sniper in Khan al-Assal, Aleppo province.

think there is some kind of a moral deficiency in our society today, a breakdown of values, a civilizational breakdown, that prevents us from responding to situations like this, the way we might have responded 40 or 50 years ago?

Mother Agnès-Mariam: Yes, I think that there is a total collapse of civilization, and total collapse of the international institutions, beginning with the United Nations. I believe that today, the law is a vector of the most powerful: The most powerful will impose its own reading, and its own application of the laws, following its own interests.

We have a constant breaching of international law, or a constant amendment of the international law—I mean amendment that seek to bypass the international law, for example, the “[Responsibility—ed.] To Protect [R2P],” or other amendments. And what we are experiencing, is the total inversion of the international equilibrium into real oppression and real threat to the sovereignty of states, where there is no more immunity even on an international level.

For example, you look at what is happening with the Palestinians, and all of this story is how a party can *always* infringe on international law and the United Nations decrees, with total impunity. Before the Arab Spring, if you look at the Gulf War, the invasion of Afghanistan, the invasion of Iraq, you will see that it is, at each step, an infringement of international law *and* con-

sequently, an infringement of humanitarian international laws, because you incur atrocities when you go to invade a country, and you launch the “daisy-cutter” bombs [BLU-82, the largest conventional bomb, at 15,000 pounds, with a destruction radius of 600 yards], you will have collateral damage; and we have seen massacres occurring with total impunity! And when [then-Secretary of State] Mrs. Albright was asked, was it worth it, to kill half a million children in Iraq, she said, it is worth it.

So we are heading toward a new barbaric era. And with this collapse, the whole balance, the whole international peace that resulted from an international agreement after the Second World War—all this is collapsing! We are heading toward terrible days for everybody, where the mighty—let it be financial, let it be military—will impose their own law, and this is a threat to *all* the civilized world! We are like in the era of the invasion of the Avars, of the Huns, of the Moghuls—we are coming to this era!

And the most terrible, is that the religious institution, the moral leaders, are bypassed by this disinformation. They think they cannot imagine that those people who were the promoters of international stability and security, and were the founders of the United Nations, and also of the Charters of Human Rights—those same people or their successors are those who are breaching them and putting them into danger!

It is very difficult today, to have a prophetic posture and to address those issues. Those issues mean that you are discovering that the main powers that are leading the world, the civilized world, the democratic world, are becoming a terrible dictatorship—the *most terrible* dictatorship and the most terrible oppressive system in world history! This is the reality.

America’s True Mission

And here in the United States, I am really scandalized, that now I did not find the United States that we see in the movies, that we hear about, and that we consider as the first democracy in the world. I have found people that are oppressed, that are killed. Yesterday, we



VOA/Scott Bobb

Mother Agnès Mariam’s organization, the International Support Team for Mussalaha (“Reconciliation”) has liberated abducted people, political detainees, and established ceasefires in hot regions. Here, doctors and medical staff treat the injured in Aleppo, October 2012.

heard that last week, in L.A., someone also killed like this...

Platt: Yes.

Mother Agnès-Mariam: That is, if you use violence, and you as a leader, or a moral reference, justify violence for your own interest, and you say that this violence is a “right to protect” or something like this, it means that any other man, any other individual, will do the same! He has the right to protect his own interest. You see, it’s an ethical and philosophical problem. And financial and military might will not resolve anything. That’s why we call on people to come back to a real reflection on what is really happening, and what will be the solution for the future of humankind.

I read in my teenage years, Aldous Huxley’s *Brave New World*. I think we are heading toward this, and Syria is just a moment of the achievement of this new world order.

Platt: What would be your message to the American people?

Mother Agnès-Mariam: Well, first of all, I love them. And despite the errors or the choices of the American Administration, the American people are real lovely people, honest and great people. This first: my total solidarity is with the American people.

Second, as the biggest democracy in the world, and as the first financial, or economic power in the world, you have a big mission, and this mission is not concentrated in your administration, because your administra-



The videos of the alleged chemical attack in Ghouta Aug. 21, 2013 (shown here), were a fraud, says Mother Agnès Mariam: “What I am sure about, is that the videos that I have studied are a fake, they were staged, and they were prepared before [Aug.] 21st, even if they were uploaded the 21st.

tion is elected by you. It means it’s the people of America who are responsible for its administration, and that’s why I here would invite you to better consider what is happening with your administration, since 20 years.

Where are we going? Where are you going? What is the real mission and the real values of United States in the world, and why in many places you are considered as an oppressive power, and as an invader? Why? Why not make it better, for example, that America would help, would serve world security, would really be the big friend of everybody?

And I would consider also the propaganda of the mainstream media, that you should ask real accountability of the media, who are fooling you—and they *are* fooling you. You should ask for good information, honest information, about what is happening. Because bad information will let you make a bad choice. It means a choice that is based on erroneous data. What you need is good data, or else you will be believing that this choice, for example, is to support democracy, but in reality, you are supporting terrorists. That’s what is happening in Syria! The opposition gives you big discourses and philosophical treatises on democracy in Syria, and you approve this, and you support this! But the reality on the ground, is that the strife is not for democracy in Syria, it’s to implement a radical kind of Islam that you would not accept for your worst enemies!

We should, all of us, choose the nonviolent way. Of course, you have an arsenal; you spend every year, bil-

lions and trillions of dollars for your armaments and your defense system. I was surprised to see that the level of life here, is much poorer than in Europe, for example, or even in Syria. In Syria, we had free education and a free health system. You did not have to wait, for example, three months to get an X-ray. I have a friend [in the U.S.] who had to wait for three months to have a free X-ray! It means that there is an economic collapse here in the United States. Of course you will have this collapse if you are spending all your money

to have heavy weapons. So maybe the choice of non-violence could be a good choice, and also, on a humanitarian level, the nonviolence will keep you on a high-ranked level of values. While, if you choose violence, as I said, you can be considered as an invader, or as a tyrant. Because your might is to be imposed on others with violence.

Nonviolence is the good way to live together in a peaceful world and build something together, while the violent way is to destroy, on an individual basis, to benefit from the other. So you eliminate a rival, to take his place, and take his commodities or his resources. But the nonviolent way is to consider the other, not as your rival, but as your partner. And like this, we can build a better world, with solidarity, with love, with relations—you know, it’s positive. While violence is very negative.

And the justification of violence is a terrible philosophy. It’s a philosophy that was adopted by Adolf Hitler, by Mussolini. And today, I don’t know why, in the civilized world it is adopted by the great democracies. I think it’s an error: We have to revise it.

The Initiative of Reconciliation

Platt: You mentioned you had presented some evidence to the United Nations, and are you calling for a UN report, or formal commission on the situation Syria, based on your evidence. And in that context, please give our listeners a sense of what you do, your involvement in Syria, your organization, and what the mission of your organization is.

Mother Agnès-Mariam: Yes. I just finished talking about the benefit of nonviolence, and in Syria, in the midst of this terrible chaos, and in the midst of this terrible, violent struggle, the initiative of reconciliation, raised on a grassroots basis, and based on the understanding of Syrian citizens that the biggest threat for the future is a civil war. And so, they [the International Support Team for Mussalaha] made an oath to never adopt an armed conflict, one against the other, but to adopt negotiation, dialogue, openness, forgiveness, to arrive to a peaceful settlement of the crisis.

And I was invited by the Syrian people to collaborate in a think-tank, to implement those ideas into a practical application. And to help them—I am not Syrian—but to help them, I have founded the International Support Team for Mussalaha, which is “reconciliation” in Syrian. So, it’s a broad network, which goes from Australia, to Europe, to the United States, passing through many Arab countries, where people of good will, peace activists, and even a Nobel Peace prize laureate [Mairead Maguire], contribute either by their insight or by their action, or by their articles, for the implementation of this ongoing process of reconciliation in Syria.

And we have been able to achieve many things, like the liberation of abducted people, or the liberation of detainees, political detainees; or proclaiming ceasefires in hot regions. Our method—we follow the Syrian reconciliation teams—is to open a dialogue with all Syrian people, let them be from the armed opposition, from the nonviolent opposition, from the loyalist part, and even from the government and the security/intelligence service. Because if you want to serve the civilian population, and protect it from violence, you have to be in contact with all the parts who contribute to this violence.

The last achievement was the evacuation of 7,000 civilians from a rebel stronghold, Moamadiya, in West Ghouta, that was besieged by the Syrian Army for eight months, without any possibility to supply food and other essentials to this besieged area. This led to a kind of starvation of the civilians. And I was told by those families that they would prefer to be evacuated, because I was negotiating the supply of food and other alimentations to them, but they preferred to be evacuated. So, in four days, we were able to achieve an agreement with all parties, and evacuated 7,000 women and children; and also, some 600 fighters, who decided to surrender, and they chose a nonviolent way.

We are in contact with the United Nations Human Rights Council. I have been invited many times for par-

allel events in Geneva, and we would have direct contact with the Commission of Inquiry on Syria, and with the High Commissioner’s Office for Human Rights. And we have asked, and we are asking, that the inquirers on the human rights violations in Syria would have access to victims from the other side, because normally they cannot enter into Syria, so they hear mainly the stories of the rebel environment. So we ask them to be aware that, on the other side, you had the terrible fate of the population, and it is the majority of the population.

So this is happening on a good scale, at a good rate; and during the chemical attacks on the 21st of August, this year, I was contacted by some survivors of the terrible massacres of 11 villages, of Latakia, Alawite villages, where al-Qaeda fighters had just massacred more than 400 people in a terrible way! Complete families were decimated, slaughtered. And they abducted 115 women and children.

Fake Videos of ‘Chemical Warfare’

The survivors of this massacre told me that the recognized some of those abducted children in the victims of the chemical attacks. And these led me, first of all, to track those children in the videos that were uploaded, where I found that the videos, especially the videos chosen by the U.S. intelligence community to present as authenticated to the Congress, to obtain permission for the strikes on Syria, those videos are fake. This was my study. Especially I made a study on video #1, #6, #11, and #13, among the 13 videos that were chosen as authentic and originals. And you know, it means that there have been manipulations of public opinion, and of the international community.

And I have asked, and I am still asking, the United Nations to promote an unbiased inquiry, to find out where are the victims of those so-called chemical attacks. And if the children are among the victims—because we want to know, who are those children in the videos? Are they alive? Are they dead? And how were they killed? Because in the video, it appears that there are *no* chemical attacks; because those videos were *staged before the 21st of August*. They were prepared.

So the victims: Are they real? Are they fake? And in reality, we want to know where 1,466 civilians, allegedly victims of chemical attacks, where were they buried? Because you know, if they were really dead, we have to find out where they are buried! And to make inquiry with DNA, if these are the children of the survivors of the Latakia massacre.

Doing this, I do not incriminate anybody, and I do not pretend to give an answer to what really happened, in the so-called chemical attacks. I do not have any position, any posturing, you see—I don't know, if there was, or if there wasn't. Was it an attack? Was it a kind of show? I don't know. But what I am sure about, is that the videos that I have studied are a fake, they were staged, and they were prepared *before* the 21st, even if they were uploaded the 21st.

‘Where Are We Heading?’

Platt: Do you have anything else that you would like to say to the American people, to President Obama, to the institutions in the United States?

Mother Agnès-Mariam: I just want everybody to consider what are the achievements of this so-called “right to protect,” since the 9/11 events. Did we gain better peace, more serenity, more security? Where are we heading? I think that the Middle East is turning into real chaos, and a laboratory for all kind of atrocities.

But it's never too late. We can choose the best and stop the support or the recycling of al-Qaeda terrorist groups, stop using them to implement chaos every-

where. And stop lying to the American people, telling them that our support is for democratic or liberal groups. What we see on the ground is the ongoing support, the ongoing empowerment, of the most radical groups ever.

So my message is that the American people are our friends, and should be the biggest supporter of real democracy, of real international law, and of real brotherhood among all nations, and especially in the Middle East.

Platt: I thank you very much. And I want to assure you that we will get as wide publicity for your message as possible, so that the American people can hear a different voice, than they've been hearing in general in the media about what is actually going on on the ground in Syria. Because you're an eyewitness, and you've courageously taken the time to travel around the world, I see, to get the truth out, and to prevent a collapse into total chaos. I thank you very much.

Mother Agnès-Mariam: I thank LaRouche and the Schiller Institute, that you are among those references that can help the American people to open its eyes and make the right choice. God bless you.

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