

# U.N. targets Islam as obstacle to its depopulation programs

by Hassan Ahmed and Joseph Brewda

*This article is entirely based on the research reports of the Information Project for Africa.*

"Europe is literally melting away like snow in the sun," the 1989 United Nations publication *World Population at the Turn of the Century* warns, "slipping from 15.6% of the world population in 1950 to 10.2% in 1985 and 6.4% in 2025." Such are the true sentiments of the U.N. population planners who have organized the September 1994 International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo. The U.N. document adds that Africa's population will increase from 8.9% of the world's total in 1950 to almost 20% by the turn of the century. By the year 2025, according to various U.N. projections, such African nations as Algeria, Morocco, and Sudan will have larger populations than either Germany or Great Britain.

Thorvald Stoltenberg, the former U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, has called this demographic change "one of the most dramatic developments of the 1990s," and, in a 1990 *Christian Science Monitor* article, warned that it implies a grave long-term security problem for Europe.

Jean-Claude Chesnais, a director of the National Institute for Demographic Studies in Paris, agrees, calling the change a "demographic time bomb."

"Europe faces an Islamization or Africanization as the demographic and economic gap between the two banks of the Mediterranean Sea widens, and people move south to north," he warned in a 1990 article in the *American Enterprise*. "Young powers will emerge, basing their strength in large part on their population size and the stimulus it creates, and old powers will fade as their populations decline."

Some western countries have proposed measures to increase birth rates among white populations in an effort to offset this demographic shift. But, as one advocate of this view, American Enterprise Institute strategist Ben Wattenberg, moaned in his book *The Birth Dearth*: "Even if western fertility should climb back to the replacement level in the decades to come, the population of the Third World will be a much greater proportion of the world's population than it is now. Those Third World nations will also likely be richer and more powerful than they are now."

## 'The Islamic problem'

The major source of resistance to the Cairo depopulation conference is found within the Roman Catholic Church, within Islam, and from the LaRouche movement. That the Islamic peoples are not conforming to U.N. population planners' demands has long been noted.

"The Islamic nations are the world's fastest-growing population group. Nearly 1 in every 5 human beings is Muslim," emphasizes a report of the Washington D.C. Population Reference Bureau, *The Demography of Islamic Nations*. "At current rates of growth, the 1988 estimated population of some 980 million Muslims could nearly double to 1.9 billion before the year 2020, accounting by then for 23% of the world's total. Nations of Islam are growing at an average of 2.8% per year, which is 22% faster than other developing nations and 833% faster than developed nations."

The Population Reference Bureau was established in 1929 by the director of the American Eugenics Society, Guy Irving Burch, also a leader of the pro-Nazi Coalition of Patriotic Societies, which was indicted for sedition in Washington, D.C. in 1942.

In order to soften up the former colonial sector for population reduction, there has been a systematic campaign to undermine Catholic and Islamic beliefs within former colonial populations.

A World Bank study published in 1990, *Population Growth and Reproduction in Sub-Saharan Africa*, emphasizes that traditional Islamic and Roman Catholic beliefs among Africans have undermined population reduction plans. The authors note that African governments and leaders have frequently attacked family planning programs "on the grounds that population programs are a form of foreign intervention and that they are imperialistic, neo-colonial plots to keep Africa down." But, the authors report, such views do not fully account for the failure of population control in Africa. More important, they conclude, is that "politicians, civil servants, and political activists all feel that the programs may run counter to the basic spiritual beliefs and emotions of African society."

Accordingly, the authors report that to be effective, population control policies targeting sub-Saharan Africa must be

directed not only at "potential family planning acceptors," "but also at political and community leaders," including "religious leaders."

### Fostering Islamic heresy

That the U.N., and its associated population reduction planning agencies, has been in the business of fostering heretical movements within Islam in conformity to their views, is a matter of the public record.

A directory of international population activities published by the U.N., for example, lists one program to "revise source documents on Islam and family planning for theologians and teachers." The U.N. index reveals that the program, targeting Nigeria, had a mid-1980s budget of \$30,000 (then about 227,000 Nigerian naira) a year.

An 1986-87 U.N. index lists another project intended to search Islamic writings for "positive aspects of birth-spacing and family planning." Both projects were carried out by the

Pathfinder Fund of Boston, founded by a heir to the Procter and Gamble fortune. A June 27, 1986 internal memorandum of the fund, entitled "Working Group on Islam and Family Planning," describes the projects as intended to "explore the feasibility of working with organizations involved in family planning where Islamic attitude and opinion are important to program development and operations."

One of the key figures in this effort is Prof. Abdel Rahim Omran, a consultant to the U.N. Population Fund (UNPFA) currently based at Al-Azhar University in Cairo, Egypt's most important theological academy. During the Reagan-Bush years, Omran directed the Center for International Development and Conflict Management at the University of Maryland, and served as a consultant to the U.S. Department of Defense Office of Net Assessment.

In 1988, Omran was a co-author of the demographics section of the Reagan-Bush administration's "Wohlstetter Report" on strategic planning. The demographics section of that report urged that the administration treat Third World population growth as a threat to U.S. national security, an argument earlier put forward by then-National Security Adviser Henry Kissinger in his 1974 National Security Study Memorandum 200. NSSM-200, which was declassified in 1990, called for targeting of 13 Third world nations for population reduction, 7 of whose populations are Islamic or have large Islamic minorities.

In 1988, Omran also authored "a resource manual on Islam and family planning with special reference to the Maliki school," which was widely distributed in Nigeria. The manual falsely argued that birth control is acceptable to and even advocated by Islam. It was funded by the U.S. State Department's Agency for International Development (AID) via the Pathfinder Fund.

AID records show that Omran also received 187,500 naira for "preparation of documents on Islam and family planning" in 1987 and another 427,500 naira for conducting population workshops with Islamic groups.

The Futures Group of Washington, D.C., under its RAPID II program, conducted a similar project during the same period, entitled the "Islam and Population Policy Project." The head of the project, Dr. A.B. Sulaiman, then of the Ministry of Health and today director of the Planned Parenthood Federation of Nigeria, was advised by Dr. Omran. According to the group's contract, the project's "overall directives" included "an active explanatory effort to dispel the existing misconceptions about inconsistencies between Islamic teachings and population policy and family planning goals."

In 1989, *Nations and Needs*, the official publication of the University of Maryland institute which Omran then directed, reported that Omran had just returned from a "trip to Africa and Asia where he coordinated and took part in a series of conferences on family planning in the Muslim world."

## Facts about the Muslim world

1. Total 1988 world population 5,128,000,000

2. Total 1988 world Muslim population 983,546,000

### 3. Countries with a Muslim majority

Afghanistan	Iraq	Qatar
Albania	Israeli Occupied Territories	Saudi Arabia
Algeria		Senegal
Azerbaijan	Jordan	Sierra Leone
Bahrain	Kazakhstan	Somalia
Bangladesh	Kyrgyzstan	Sudan
Bosnia	Kuwait	Syria
Brunei	Lebanon	Tajikistan
Chad	Libya	Tunisia
Comoros	Mali	Turkey
Djibouti	Maldives	Turkmenistan
Egypt	Mauritania	United Arab Emirates
Gambia	Morocco	
Guinea	Niger	Uzbekistan
Indonesia	Oman	Yemen
Iran	Pakistan	

### 4. Countries with a 25-49% Muslim minority

Burkina Faso	Guinea-Bissau	Nigeria
Côte d'Ivoire	Malaysia	Tanzania
Ethiopia		

The visit, the newsletter reports, "was carried out under the auspices of the Al-Azhar University in Egypt, with the support of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities." The article reports that Omran had succeeded in his mission to orchestrate among Muslims "a shift in attitudes from stiff resistance to acceptance of family planning."

### Mass brainwashing

In 1986, Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore received \$35 million in AID funds to conduct a mass media campaign designed to increase the use of contraceptives in Africa, targeting especially Muslim and Catholic populations.

A typical project funded by the university on behalf of that program was that carried out in Gambia, whose population is 90% Muslim. The project involved the scripting and producing of a radio drama called "Fakube Jarra," which was then broadcast throughout the country. The broadcast was intended to increase the use of contraceptives.

In preparation for the broadcast, Johns Hopkins researchers interviewed 64 men and 71 women, mostly from rural areas, on the subjects they found interesting, the personal characteristics they admired in others, their special concerns, and their hopes for the future. Many of the Gambians interviewed revealed anxiety about the high cost of living, and the desire for a better water supply and better farm tools. They expressed admiration for people who are hard-working.

On the subject of birth control, several participants said that "a child is given to someone through God's permission," and that "God provides for all his creatures so there is no need to limit births." Others argued that Islamic law specially prohibits artificial birth control.

The research team concluded that in the planned radio drama, "plots and discussions between characters should be built around the difficulties of farmers, the high cost of living, the low prices for crops, and the unreliability of rainfall." Family planning users should be portrayed in the series as "husbands and wives who care for each other and their children, who work to improve their communities, and who are happy and healthy."

The research team also concluded that the radio program had to "give convincing evidence that Islamic teaching supports the use of modern family planning." "Messages should counter the belief that children are a gift from God," they wrote, and should suggest instead that "God has given us family planning so we can choose to bear only those children we care for."

The message should also be made, the team wrote, that while "the Prophet Muhammed said to have as many children as possible at a time when the world population was small," that this no longer applies. Because Islam "forbids pregnancy during lactation," the report claims, it should be said that "Islam supports family planning."

## Patience needed for peace in Korea

by Kathy Wolfe

North Korea was calm following the death on July 8 of President Kim Il-sung, from a heart attack suffered the day before. His eldest son, Kim Jong-il, consolidated power, with no apparent opposition, before the July 17 funeral. From July 12, Kim Jong-il took charge of receiving guests at the presidential palace wake. North Korean TV showed Defense Minister O Jin-u, Prime Minister Kang Song-san, and other senior figures at Jong-il's side, to indicate that the political and military elite backed the succession.

"The scene verified what is now taken for granted here, that the transfer of power to the son is complete except for an official announcement," Seoul's Yonhap news agency said. Radio Pyongyang said on July 14 that Jong-il is "at the top helm of the party, state, and military" and will assume all three posts—Korean Workers Party chief, State President, and chairman of the party's Central Military Commission (which controls the Armed Forces)—which Kim Il-sung held at his death.

Patience, not provocation, is needed now, to enable negotiations for the economic reconstruction of North Korea's nuclear program and peace in Korea to resume, *EIR* Founding Editor Lyndon H. LaRouche said on July 13. The death of a chief negotiator "is never a good thing to happen at the beginning of a negotiation," he said, since "with his successor, who is new on the job, it may be more difficult to get immediate results. This will require more patience." President Bill Clinton and former President Jimmy Carter have done a good job so far, he noted, in avoiding the calls for war coming from Britain and cabinet members in the George Bush administration.

Indeed, London leapt at the chance to escalate tensions in Korea. Hours after Kim's heart attack, Gerald Segal, Asia director of Britain's International Institute for Strategic Studies, penned a wild attack on Clinton's Korea strategy from Hongkong, in the July 8 *International Herald Tribune*. "President Bill Clinton's . . . proclaiming a 'breakthrough,' while accepting nuclear proliferation, is a 20th-century version of Neville Chamberlain's 'peace in our time,'" Segal wrote. He predicted Kim's death would force Kim Jong-il to use the bomb against competitors: "The prospect of a succession crisis in Pyongyang being waged with nuclear weapons must chill the bones of Northeast Asia."

British Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd let loose at Pyon-