

Pope Condemns Religious Fundamentalism, Middle East Violence

In wide-reaching interview Pope Francis says he's worried about sectarianism worldwide, will 'ask God' about retirement.

By AFP and Arutz Sheva Staff
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Note from Pastor Kevin Lea follows this article.



Pope Francis strongly condemned violence in the Middle East Friday, in an interview with the Vatican correspondent of Barcelona-based daily *La Vanguardia*.

Following his first visit to the Middle East as pope last month, the pontiff criticized fundamentalism in Christianity, Islam and Judaism as a form of violence. **"A fundamentalist group, even if it kills no one, even it strikes no one, is violent [emphasis added].** The mental structure of fundamentalism is violence in the name of

God."

Asked about religious violence in the Middle East, Francis, who made his first visit to the region as pope last month, said it was a "contradiction." "Violence in God's name does not fit with our times. It is something old. With historical perspective, we have to say that we Christians, at times, have practiced it," he was quoted as saying. "Today it is unimaginable."

Anti-Semitism, the pope claimed, seemed to be linked more to the right-wing than to the left, though he could not explain why. "And it still continues. We even have people who deny the Holocaust, which is madness."

Pope Francis also said he was worried about drives for independence in lands such as Scotland and Catalonia. The Argentine pontiff said separatism was understandable in cases such as former colonies and the former Yugoslavia, but said these models did not apply in all cases. "Any division worries me," he said. He cited cases such as Scotland, the northeastern Spanish region of Catalonia and the northern Italian region of Padania, saying these did not have the same history of "forced unity".

"There are obviously peoples with cultures so diverse that they cannot be stuck together even with glue. In the case of Yugoslavia that is very clear but I wonder where it is so clear in other cases of peoples who until now have been together," he was quoted as saying. Pope Francis said in an interview Friday he will ask God's advice ...

Note from Pastor Kevin Lea: Considering these statements by Pope Francis in conjunction with other recent comments by him, it is obvious that he is one of the devil's "change agents" for bringing about the prophesied, apostate one-world religion of the end times.

Note that the Pope describes fundamental Christians (and Jews) as violent, even if they never threaten or harm anyone! Although he does not define what he means by Christian fundamentalism, we know from the Catholic Church's history of persecution of true believers that he means those who believe that faith (alone) in the biblical Jesus is necessary and sufficient for salvation from judgment and hell.

Throughout the centuries, biblical Christians have peacefully preached the gospel (good news) of salvation. True believers in Jesus do not threaten or attack non-believers. Instead, they willingly lay down their lives for the truth.

With the Pope now condemning true Christians as "violent" (and therefore enemies of the rapidly-forming global government), it may not be long before we hear the call to "deal with" us "violent" fundamentalists accordingly. If so, the Pope might soon dust off his "inquisition" playbook, and many true believers alive today could be joining (in heaven) martyrs of the past who died at the hands of the past popes.

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