

November 2015

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## The Syrian Refugee Debate

84% of Republicans oppose President Obama's current resettlement plans

*As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.* --Galatians 6:10

**T**he nation of Syria and our own Washington State are similar in geographic size. Both are endowed with approximately 71,000 square miles of land within their respective borders. There, all similarities end. As far as the east is from the west, are the differences in climate, topography, governance, industry, ethnicity, and religion. At the moment, an epic "Islamic" family feud is playing out in Syria that has the potential to bring about that nation's ultimate demise.

The 22 million population of Syria (as recently as 2012), *was* more than three times that of our Evergreen State. *Was*, is emphasized, because an estimated four million Syrians have since fled their homeland due to a civil uprising that is escalating into a vast regional conflict. Some 210,000 Syrians <sup>1</sup> have been killed thus far in the four-year war, and five-thousand Syrians continue to leave their homeland each day. All told, some 11.6 million Syrians have been displaced. Most are bereft of homes and income and many are looking beyond Syrian borders for help.

While the United States is self-flagellating over the issue of when, and how many Syrians should be granted refugee status in America, no such hand-wringing dialogue is occurring among the 60 members of the so-called *Organization of the Islamic Conference*; including 27 African, 24 Asian, 2 South American, 3 European (Albania, Bosnia, and North Cyprus) and 4 transcontinental nations.

Although the indigenous population of Syria is 90% Arab (and 87% Muslim), virtually all who are packing their belongings hope to make their way WEST, not eastward where Mohammed rules from the grave. This includes refugees from Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan and other Muslim countries.

Comes now, the great debate for America. Do the arms of Miss Liberty blindly extend to hordes of Muslims who may unintentionally, but incidentally, bring with them, a minute few who would fly planes into the Pentagon or The Big Apple's new 104-story Freedom Tower? Governor Jay Inslee says unequivocally, "YES."

"...Like many states," says Inslee, "we have long kept an open door for people fleeing violence and repression. In 1975, Daniel J. Evans, a Republican governor, welcomed Vietnamese refugees to our state, even as other states turned their backs, along the lines of what we hear today about Syrians. Governor Evans's initial invitation to accept 500 of these refugees became the basis for a successful resettlement program that continues to this day, helping those fleeing war and persecution rebuild their lives.

Today, nearly 70,000 Vietnamese-Americans live in Washington, and they have added to our quality of life in countless ways... In 2014, more than 2,800 refugees from countless countries arrived in Washington, and no one demanded we send them back to where they came from..." <sup>2</sup>

But State Republican Party Chair Susan Hutchison says, "Hold on a there."

In response to the Governor and copied to fellow party activists this week, Hutchison wrote:

(To Jay Inslee) "...You sent a letter to the *New York Times* comparing yourself and your position on the Syrian refugees, to Republican Governor Dan Evans in the mid '70s when Evans welcomed Vietnamese refugees to our state. Big difference, Jay. The Vietnamese refugees had fought alongside us for 10 years against the communists. When the U.S. pulled out, those who represented a threat to communism (the educated middle class—teachers, doctors, lawyers, engineers, military) fled for their lives.

When they arrived in our state, they took humble jobs and raised their children to embrace the American Dream. None of the Vietnamese who risked their lives crossing the sea has ever posed a threat to our national security. Recently, Governor Evans said, 'Welcoming them was the right thing to do. The same would be true today if we didn't have the problems of terrorists. So I think we have to be a lot more careful than we were then. All it takes is a handful of terrorists determined to wreak havoc....'

Given the sadness (Hutchison continues), anger and alarm Americans feel after the Paris attacks, why would a caring leader show contempt for his citizens instead of caution? ... Americans believe this country is vulnerable to a Paris-style attack. We want leaders who will protect us, not lecture us." <sup>3</sup>

The long and the short of all this is that President Obama is not trusted, nor are his appointees who head five federal agencies charged with determining who in regions of conflict is safe to emigrate to the United States. A new poll shows that about 6-in-10 voters think President Obama lies on important issues some or most of the time. <sup>4</sup> When he says his people are carefully vetting all potential refugees, a majority of Americans do not believe him. (*Proverbs 29:2, 12*)

We suggest that the most comprehensive pre-screening of potential emigres, can be done quietly and expertly by various worldwide Christian charities—free of charge to U.S. taxpayers. Several of our top picks would include, Samaritan's Purse, World Vision, Voice of the Martyrs, and Operation Blessing.

This morning, a leading charity official told of a Syrian pastor friend who affirms reports of atrocities committed by Islamic terrorists against Christians and others. One of his close relatives had his head cut off—which was immediately employed in a soccer game for the next few minutes. Children have been roasted in ovens, and their mothers have been raped and left naked in the streets. Often ten or more men rape a woman until the woman dies. "This is done everywhere," he says, "especially to Christians."

But the news that is not being reported, is that Christian churches that were empty five years ago, are teeming with new converts. Says the pastor, "We are distributing hundreds of thousands of Bibles...mostly to Muslims. There are signs on the main door of the churches, which say, 'The church offers a New Testament as a free gift to anyone who wants one.' Every day, many people...take a New Testament. Right now there is a big revival inside the church, and the churches cannot seat any more people..."

This same charity official on his recent return from Iraq, reports, "...I met a pastor who is distributing aid to displaced Muslims. On one occasion, he invited the Muslims inside the church so they could get out of the rain while waiting to receive aid. As they sat down...the pastor shared Scriptures with them. Since then, the Muslims who come for help want the pastor to preach a sermon before distributing aid."

Clearly, America's answer to the threat of imported terrorists, doesn't rest with Democrats or Republicans or reside in the next General Election. Neither can it be found in a Church whose endgame is cultural relevance. No, the remedy is the same today as it was yesterday. "If my people who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray..."

*Rick Forcier*

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<sup>1</sup> [www.reuters.com/article/2015/02/07/us-mideast-crisis-toll-id](http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/02/07/us-mideast-crisis-toll-id)

<sup>2</sup> [www.nytimes.com/2015/11/21/opinion/why-my-state-wont-close-its-doors-to-syrian-refugees.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/21/opinion/why-my-state-wont-close-its-doors-to-syrian-refugees.html)

<sup>3</sup> [www.wsrp.org](http://www.wsrp.org), "Open Letter to Jay Inslee about the Syrian Refugees"

<sup>4</sup> [www.newsmax.com/Newsfront/Obama-trust-Fox-poll/2014/04/16/id/566088/](http://www.newsmax.com/Newsfront/Obama-trust-Fox-poll/2014/04/16/id/566088/)