



## COUNCIL FOR NATIONAL POLICY

### BREAKING NEWS BRIEFING Lt. Gen. William G. Boykin (Ret.)



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As most of you know, this is a big week for us at the Family Research Council coming up next week because it is our big annual event. It is the Values Voter Summit, we have an all-star cast this year. Some of the same people that are here with us this week but the real highlight of this will be on Saturday night as we honor a very courageous woman named Miriam Ibrahim. Most of you know the story of Miriam Ibrahim as she sat shackled in a prison in Khartoum and was told repeatedly just deny your Christian faith and we will release you otherwise we are going to kill you. And this woman refused to recant on her faith in Jesus Christ. She stood firm in her faith. You know, I wish that the leaders in America, the pastors and the political leaders would have that same kind of courage because that's what we need more than anything else in America today. We are seeing a persecution of Christians all over the world today. Most of it is in Islamic countries and that is why these beheadings of these two journalists and this aid worker from Britain are nothing new. You see, the President lost me in his first 60 seconds during his strategy rollout when he said, "Isis is not Islam." Do any of you in here believe that? You don't believe what he said though do you? I think most Americans have figured this out. When you say Isis is not Islam the rest doesn't really matter because if you are laying out a strategy that doesn't start with an understanding of your enemy and who you are up against and what motivates him to do what he does the rest doesn't matter. This is not a serious strategy that has been outlined here and I will talk briefly about that.

In reality there is nothing new about Isis. We have been watching Isis since 1999 when they were created. They initially were created by a man named Abu Musab al-Zarqawi his objective was to destabilize the nation of Jordan because he was a Jordanian and he wanted to bring down King Hussein and his government because they had not implemented sharia and that was his initial objective. Now over time he eventually became Al Qaeda in Iraq after the US invasion in 2003. Al Qaeda in Iraq and Zarqawi was killed in 2006 in a drone strike. Read Stan McChrystal's book *My Share of the Task* and he talks about the pursuit of and ultimately the killing of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. It was in October of 2006 when a new man stepped up and took the mantle of leadership for Al Qaeda in Iraq that the name changed to Al Qaeda or the Islamic State in Iraq. Let me emphasize that. The Islamic State in Iraq. It was not Isis. It was not Isis until 2011 when the uprising began in Syria. And at that point the leadership of ISI and that leader

being a guy named al- Baghdadi. Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, a man that had been in US custody from 2005 until 2009 when this war started in Syria he then began to focus his attention on Syria. He went in and helped establish an organization called the al-Nusra Front. He say that as an extension on ISI. He change the name of ISI to ISIS with the S standing for what most people say is Syria. In reality it's al-Sham. Al-Sham is greater Syria. Al-Sham or greater Syria includes Lebanon and Jordan and probably even parts of Israel. I do not use the term ISIL because ISIL, there is a subliminal message there using the term Levant or the Islamic State of Iraq and Levant does not recognize the sovereignty of Israel and that is one of the subliminal messages when people are using the term ISIL. It doesn't recognize Israel because the concept of the Levant is a concept that does not include Israel. So I say Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham, which is greater Syria including Lebanon and Jordan. Now, what is unique about these people? We know what their theology is. Their theology is the same theology as Al Qaeda it is radical jihadist theology. They want to establish a caliphate, a global caliphate it is what they're all about. They establish a global caliphate, their Messiah then returns and they bring about sharia or Islamic law. And their Messiah governs under the concept of sharia.

One of the mistakes that we make about Islam is that only 16% of Islam is actually a religion. The rest of it is the legal system. A geopolitical system called a global caliphate. A military system in a dress code and a moral code. but only 16% is an actual religion. And we make the mistake of thinking that it's exactly like Christianity. It is not. So they went into Syria and they establish this al-Nusra Front. They got into a squabble with the leadership of the al-Nusra Front. and the man that heads up Al Qaeda a man named man named al-Zawahiri , Ayman al-Zawahiri had to step in and try and separate the warring factions that being al-Baghdadi and the guy that headed up the al-Nusra Front. Al-Zawahiri stepped in and tried to separate these two factions and as a result of that he forced ISIS to separate itself from Al Qaeda. So you hear all the stuff in the news about they're so radical that even the Al Qaeda has distanced themselves from them but it's not because they're radical. They are no more radical than the rest of Al Qaeda. They are uncontrollable and that's why they've been separated. They are just uncontrollable. They are uncooperative. They refused to subordinate themselves to the leadership of Al Qaeda.

What's unique about them is that they are very well-funded. They were a funded initially by Saudi Arabia as well as Qatar. And oh by the way, remember that Qatar is where we sent the five detainees that we released out of Guantánamo in exchange for Beau Bergdahl. We sent them to Qatar because Qataris is our great friends and they are going to make sure that these people will stay out of the fight. And if you believe that I've got some oceanfront property in Arizona that I want to sell you. It was a terrible mistake to send those people or to let them go at all but to send them to Qatar was even worse. So, they have lots of money now. They don't need Saudi money and they don't need Qatari money. They have lots of money. In one bank robbery in Mosul they got \$400 million. And that's what they been doing, they have been hitting banks and taking the money out of those banks. \$400 million in one bank robbery. They also have eight or nine oil wells. They are black marketing around \$300 million a day in oil revenue, they are running extortion rings, they are kidnapping people for ransom and they are doing a variety of things that are very profitable for them. So they are well-funded. They can buy whatever they need on the international market. And by the way, they are actually well-equipped because they have US equipment now because the Iraqi Army which is predominantly Shias, every time that ISIS would attack a village or city the Iraqi Army would run off and leave their equipment and ISIS would then take over that equipment. So they are well-equipped with US equipment right now. They have moved into this vicinity of Baghdad and I will tell you they will not go into Baghdad. It will be blood in the streets for them to go into Baghdad because that's the last bastion for the Shias. The Shias have no place to go. They have no alternative but to stand and die right there and ISIS is not going to go into that city and lose probably thousands of their fighters fighting an urban warfare. They will make a fate.

But what is there real target? Their real target, their next real target is really two places, northern Iraq which is where the Kurdish region is and that is where the oil wells are. There is lots of oil up there and

they are going into that area. they are obviously challenging the Kurds right now because they want those oilfields. The second thing is that they will go towards Jordan. Jordan is considered to be a major part of al- Sham. Jordan is in great peril. And then ultimately if they can establish a foothold in Jordan, if they can take over that area their ultimate goal is the destruction of Israel. That is their real enemy. That is what they want to do.

A member of Congress, just yesterday, from New York stood up and made a statement that we know that based on what he's been told by federal law enforcement that 40 of the Americans that have been over fighting with ISIS have returned to the United States. He claims that the FBI has them under surveillance. I'm skeptical of that but he says that he's been told by reliable sources in the federal government that 40 of them have returned from the battlefield and are back in the United States now. We know that five days ago a man was caught up in Rochester New York who was recruiting for ISIS. We also know that based on the good work of Tom Fitton and Judicial Watch that there are reliable reports that ISIS has a number of cells that are located in Juarez Mexico. Right across the border from San Antonio. Right down the road from Fort Bliss. And, in fact, as Tom dug into this he discovered that the Fort Bliss commander had moved his entire installation to a much higher state of readiness even though Jay Johnson and the administration deny that they have any specific intelligence on this. Tom was able to figure it out. So do we have anything to worry about here in America? Yes, we certainly do. Our concern needs to be that we are allowing them to come across our southern borders. You see if you go to YouTube or you go to anything on the web and look at ISIS on the US border and what you will find is farmers and border patrol agents are finding prayer rugs, terrorist training manuals and Quran's and waddies down in the Tucson sector as well as Fort Bliss or the El Paso sector. They are finding those waddies on the American side of the border. So what is that mean? It means that these terrorist cells are coming across. Robert Mueller, six years ago, testified before a congressional committee and said that we do have Islamic terrorist cells that have come across our southern border and setting up operations here in America. They are establishing cells. Do we have a problem here at home? Of course we do. They are coming across that southern border.

We only catch one out of ten. Talk to the border control, we catch one out of ten. Which means for everyone that we catch there may be nine more that are getting across that we are not stopping. You see it is important to understand that there are large sectors of our southern border that are not patrolled at all because in many cases they are national forests and the border patrol is not allowed to go in there with anything other than a horse and they don't patrol these big sectors of our border. In fact, they had an incident two years ago where a border patrol officer was shot and actually because of EPA regulations would not go in and pick him up by helicopter. They went in and got him by horse because they couldn't land helicopters in the national forest down in the Tucson sector, it is about a 30 mile stretch there. So we have a serious problem on the border. We know that they are coming across. 80% of the category called other than Mexican, other than Mexican actually accounts for about 20% of the people that come across that border and 80% of those people are actually Middle Easterners ours that are coming across. Now, watch what's happened over the period about the last five years with regard to how the drug cartels operate. They used to stay under the radar now you know what they're doing? they are beheading people now. Where do you think that influence came from? I go down there a couple times a year and talk to the National Association of Former Border Patrol Officers and I get them to explain all this to me as to what's happening down there. They showed me the photographs and the videos and all that they have. They said the influence of Middle East terrorists groups is incredible down there because the drug cartels have changed their whole modus operandi to where they are now using beheadings as one of their favorite techniques. Do you all realize that beheadings is a Qur'anic directive? Smite the neck of the infidel. It is not something new. It became a big thing when we started seeing it on television and they used it to poke our president in the eye but the reality is it has been going on for a long time because they have been beheading Christians and crucifying Christians and have you seen that? Seen any of the stuff that's on YouTube now about beheadings and the crucifixions of Christians up in northern Iraq. And how about the

Christians in a place called Maia Lula, the oldest Christian village in the world where they still speak the ancient language of Aramaic. And only two months ago these ISIS people along with some other radical entities went into that village and they killed priests by beheading them, they raped nuns and they killed men, women and children and many of the children had to flee to the mountains to find refuge in the caves up in the mountains. This is not something new and this is a very serious threat to Christians all over the Middle East and all over North Africa.

What is going to happen in Syria? Let me say, at the risk of offending some of you who have a different view, please understand that this is my personal view. I am adamantly opposed to arming and equipping the rebels in Syria. More support than I thought. Look, I know that well-intentioned good people have voted in favor of this and I respect many of the people that I know voted for this. But it was a feel-good measure. It just made them feel good to go and say they were doing something, but the reality is that we've have people that we have armed and equipped in Iran and Kuwait that right there in the very base we have armed them and equip them and train them they have turned on us and they have killed our people. They have killed our soldiers and we vetted those people. We can't vet these 5000. And by the way, I think there is credible evidence that these people have signed a non-aggression pact with ISIS saying we will focus on Bashar al-Assad and not on fighting against each other which means if we equip him and train them what are they going to do? Who are they going to fight? Do you think it's ISIS? I don't. They are not going to go after ISIS. They are going to turn their attention back to Bashar al-Assad. There is no good outcome in Syria period. There is no good outcome in Syria. Bashar al-Assad is an evil despot. But there are two things that you need to understand about Bashar al-Assad. Bashar al-Assad has never threatened Israel and he has never threatened Christians. At the same time that these rebel forces in there are wiping out villages, Christian villages like Maia Lula. So which is the worse? See, it is my view that we need to stay out of this, not arm these people and not give them anything that they could ultimately use against Christians or against Israel. Yay, Bashar al-Assad is a bad man but he is less evil than the people that we are about to see takeover the nation of Syria. That is my personal view.

And finally, on the 12 June I was in Israel, I was outside of Jerusalem I was there with 150 members of the Israeli Defense Force. I was speaking there. Spending a weekend at a retreat with the believers from the IDF of which there are roughly 500. About 150 of them had gathered there and that was the day that the three young Israeli boys were taken as they walked home from school that afternoon. And I saw an outrage among these Israeli military people like I had never seen before. I have actually lived up in Acco with the Golani Brigade. I know the Israelis and I know their military and I saw an outrage like I had never seen before and when I came home a few days later I said to several people, "they are going to Gaza and there's going to be a ground war and it's going to be bloody." They are going to kill a lot of people but they are also going to lose a lot of people because that's what happens when you fight a ground campaign in an urban environment. And as I predicted they came back and after they found the bodies of these three young men they went into Gaza. And it is important for Americans to understand that Hamas is not going to go away. Hamas is not just going to lay down their weapons and stop fighting because when they do they don't exist anymore, they ceased to exist. They have only one purpose in life. Read their charter. Their charter is very clear. Their purpose in life is the destruction of Israel. So if they sign a real, no kidding, long term cease-fire they go away, they don't exist anymore. They have no purpose in life. and the Israelis have no alternative but to fight them in the Gaza Strip and while their iron dome has been very effective, the reality is the only way they dig these weapons out of those tunnels, the only way they close those tunnels, the only way they find these caches of ammunition, rockets and mortars is to go in there on the ground. You cannot do that from the air. And that's why this whole strategy with ISIS of going in and not putting boots on the ground will not destroy ISIS. It simply will not destroy ISIS. We can degrade them, we can set them back, we can reduce their military capability but we cannot destroy ISIS and that's what the President's strategy called for. We can't do it without boots on the ground. And at the same time one of the most egregious things that I have seen and I'm actually going to go over to the Fox Studio here tonight and do Judge Jeanine's program is the fact that is taken over a year

for our President to lay out a strategy to deal with ISIS. We've been watching these people. We know who they are. We know what they do. It has taken us over a year to come up with a strategy. And now the strategy is feckless and ineffective but we are going to send 3000 of our troops to Liberia to deal with the Ebola virus. And my view of that is that is such an absolute tragedy that we could make that decision overnight at a time when our military is under the greatest stress and the greatest duress that it has been under since the American Revolution. Suicide is at an all-time high. Marriages are falling apart. Domestic abuse is at a very high level. Our young men that are fighting in the battle space in Afghanistan right now are being given pink slips saying that when your service in Afghanistan is over you are out. You are out of our military. The reductions both programmed as well as sequestration will reduce us to pre-World War II levels. The stress on our military is incredible and now we are going to send 3000 of them to do a mission that is absolutely not the responsibility of the US military. The US military as Douglas MacArthur said when he stood at the mess hall in West Point he said, "Your mission remains constant. It is to fight and win this Nation's war." We need to stop and think about what is happening with regards to our military. With the social experimentation, with the fact that our military is in steep decline because of budget cuts, because of the experiments that have been done with our military and the 13 years in combat. It is destroying our military and I think that all of us should be thinking in terms of what can we do to try to restore not only our capabilities but the morale and welfare of our Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines? God bless you.

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