



Settimo Cielo



di Sandro Magister

03 mag

Al-Baghdadi's New War Against Christians. But the West Is Also Attacking the Church



> **Italiano**
> English
> **Español**
> **Français**

> **All the articles of Settimo Cielo in English**

*

On the **Sunday** and **Monday** of Easter, in Saint Peter's Square, Pope Francis did all he could - in the name of dialogue with Islam - to downgrade to generic and "never justifiable" acts the chain of terrorist attacks in Sri Lanka that had killed hundreds of Christians gathered at church to celebrate Jesus risen, a fifth of them children.

But one week later, on Monday April 29, came the unequivocal "justification." Five years after his memorable sermon at the grand mosque of Mosul there reappeared in a video the supreme head of the Islamic State, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, who not only claimed responsibility for the hecatomb in Sri Lanka but pointed to it as the model of a new offensive to be unleashed on a worldwide scale, especially in Africa and Asia, with Christians as the first targets.

Meanwhile, in all the churches of Sri Lanka, Mass was not celebrated on the Sunday after Easter, in the fear of new attacks. Christians there are about 7 percent of the population and have been cut to the quick.

Expelled from the territories initially conquered in Syria and Iraq, al-Baghdadi has proclaimed a new "war of attrition," in Arabic "istinzaif," against the "crusaders," with no more armies in the field but with guerrilla acts, assaults, murders, attacks, carried out by militants deployed and concealed everywhere, even in Europe, to judge by the numerous "foreign fighters" who went back to France, Great Britain, Italy, Belgium, Germany, etc., after having fought in Syria and Iraq among the ranks of the defeated Islamic State.

And all of this in the name of a radical Islamic ideology that not only "emir of believers" al-Baghdadi boasts of but that "is still widespread and enjoys the support, even financial, from different people. The jihadist vision is infused with revenge and denies spiritual values," as Chaldean patriarch of Baghdad and cardinal Louis Raphael Sako told "**Asia News**" on April 30. "The Muslim authorities," he added, "have the task and the responsibility to defeat this ideology."

*

But do Europe, the West, the whole Catholic Church have a response that is up to the challenge?

The burning of the cathedral of Notre-Dame in Paris on April 15 prompted a surge of identification with the "Judeo-Christian" roots of France and of the continent, even in that secular opinion which years ago had fought strenuously to prevent this origin from getting a nod in the founding documents of the European Union.

But it is doubtful that this coming to awareness is meant to last, seeing the indifference with which the West continues to abandon to themselves the Christian Churches in the Middle East, until the recent past still flourishing in some cases but now mostly on the verge of extinction.

A highly documented account of the modern-day martyrdom of the eastern Christian communities is in this book by Giulio Meotti released a few weeks ago in Italy and called by the great English philosopher Roger Scruton "a powerful book about a crime that strikes at the heart of our civilization":

> **G. Meotti, "La tomba di Dio. La morte dei cristiani d'Oriente e l'abbandono dell'Occidente", Edizioni Cantagalli, Siena, 2019.**

But the disinterest and disquiet with which the West reacts to this tragedy also demands to be analyzed. And it is that is done by this document of the international theological commission affiliated with the congregation for the doctrine of the faith, produced over five years of work and approved by Pope Francis last March 21, available for now only in Italian:

> **La libertà religiosa per il bene di tutti. Approccio teologico alle sfide contemporanee**

This document is the most in-depth denunciation produced so far at the Vatican against the "soft totalitarianism" that expels religion from the public sphere in the name of a false "ideology of neutrality."

The phenomenon has its origin in the West and finds its most macroscopic manifestations there. But it is not only ideological. It is also made up more and more of physical aggression. In France, the accidental burning of Notre-Dame turned the attention for a moment to the ever more numerous acts of vandalism, by no means accidental, that in recent years have struck the churches and synagogues of this same country, the homeland of "laïcité."

In "L'Osservatore Romano" of April 25 Charles de Pechpeyrou gave a startling account of this:

"The latest episode, just a week ago, concerns the churches of two villages in Normandy, the tabernacles of which were emptied and the consecrated hosts thrown on the floor. A week before the church of Saint Pierre in Montluçon had been hit: the tabernacle was damaged and the ciborium with the consecrated hosts stolen. But the month of February showed itself to be particularly dark: some of the graves of the Jewish cemetery of Quatzenheim, in Alsace, were desecrated, as were five Catholic churches in the span of just a week, in Dijon, in Bourgogne, in Nîmes, in Occitania, or again in Maison-Laffitte, in the environs of Paris. An abrupt intensification after a 2018 already marked by numerous analogous episodes."

"According to the latest data published by the national gendarmes," Pechpeyrou continued, "every day in France three churches are vandalized. A figure that is confirmed by the interior ministry, which cites 1,063 acts committed against Christian buildings, including cemeteries, for 2018, an increase with respect to 2017. Also very troubling is the number of episodes of anti-Semitism in the country: on the decline in 2016 and 2017, it grew by almost 75 percent in 2018, a year in which the episodes went from 311 in 2017 to 541. Among these episodes, 183 are acts of anti-Semitism (81 cases of violence, murder attempts, and one murder, 102 acts directed toward their property) and 358 threats. Today the security forces and the soldiers of Opération Sentinelle must ensure the protection of 824 sites connected to the Jewish community. There was a drop, instead, in episodes of violence against Muslims, at their lowest level since 2010 with 100 cases registered."

Circumscribing the analysis to the Catholic Church alone, this therefore appears to be under growing attack on several fronts, in the West as in the rest of the world. Islamic radicalism is not the only threat, but it is certainly the most aggressive and bloody. The Easter massacre in Sri Lanka and al-Baghdadi's proclamation of war may be inaugurating a new season of martyrdom.

Condividi:



03 maggio 2019 English

0

NESSUN COMMENTO

I commenti sono disabilitati.

CHI SONO



Versione italiana



English version



Versión española

CERCA NEL BLOG

Cerca



Dal 2002 al 2016 quindici anni di notizie, analisi, documenti sulla Chiesa cattolica. In italiano, inglese, francese e spagnolo

From 2002 to 2016 fifteen years of news, analysis, documents on the Catholic Church. In Italian, English, French, and Spanish

De 2002 à 2016 quinze ans d'informations, d'analyses, de documents concernant l'Église catholique. En italien, en anglais, en français et en espagnol

De 2002 a 2016 quince años de noticias, análisis y documentos sobre la Iglesia católica. En italiano, inglés, francés y español

NEWSLETTER

Italiano English Español Français

Vuoi ricevere l'avviso di ogni nuovo articolo?

ISCRIVITI

Per cambiare il tuo indirizzo o altri dati:

MODIFICA

Per annullare la tua iscrizione:

CANCELLA

ARTICOLI RECENTI

Papa non rigorista ma della vera misericordia. Ecco come Ratzinger racconta oggi Giovanni Paolo II

Not a Rigorist Pope, But One of True Mercy. Here's How Ratzinger Describes John Paul II Today

Papa no rigorista, sino de verdadera misericordia. Tal como Ratzinger habla hoy de Juan Pablo II

Passo dopo passo verso i preti sposati. Un aggiornamento

Step By Step Toward Married Priests. An Update

Paso a paso hacia los sacerdotes casados. Una actualización

Francesco imprenditore buono "che non vuole licenziare nessuno". Ma i fatti dicono l'opposto

Francis, the Good Boss "Who Doesn't Want To Fire Anyone." But the Facts Say the Opposite

Francisco, un buen empresario "que no quiere despedir a nadie". Pero los hechos dicen lo contrario

Il virus è un castigo di Dio? "La Civiltà Cattolica" dice di no

maggio: 2019

L	M	M	G	V	S	D
		1	2			
6	7	8		10	11	12
		15		17	18	19
		21		24		
27	28			31		

LINK

- Santa Sede
- Sala stampa
- Vatican News
- L'Osservatore Romano
- La Civiltà Cattolica
- Il Sismografo
- Diplomazia pontificia
- Vatican Insider
- Avenire
- La Nuova Bussola Quotidiana
- CNA
- ACI Stampa
- ACI Africa
- Crux
- Asia News
- UCA News
- Bitter Winter
- Zen
- Religjondigital.com
- Corrispondenza Romana
- RossoPorpora
- Rod Dreher
- Opzione Benedetto
- LifeSite News
- Edward Peters
- messainlatino.it
- Lo Straniero
- L'Isola di Patmos
- InfoVaticana
- Il Regno
- A. Grillo
- A.M. Valli
- finesettimana.org
- Catholic World Report
- First Things
- The Catholic Thing
- MondayVatican
- NCR - Pentin
- Ross Douthat
- Jason Horowitz
- Francis X. Rocca
- Religion News Service
- KNA in English
- Pew Research

ARCHIVI

Seleziona mese