

Syrian War Is Being Steered from Abroad

Jan. 13—LPAC-TV on Jan. 9 interviewed Mother Agnès-Mariam de la Croix of the Monastery of St. James the Mutilated in Syria. She was recently on an international tour to bring to the attention of the world that what is taking place in Syria is not what is being reported in the mainstream press.

In the [interview](#) by Limari Navarette-Bedford, Mother Agnès-Mariam discussed the trend among opponents of the Assad regime toward sectarianism. She highlighted a trip she made to Homs during Spring 2011, with a group of European reporters, which revealed that among the demonstrators were “unknown or unidentified armed gangs, shooting and aggressing both the security forces and the demonstrators.”

She described this element as a fifth column in the Syrian conflict, using the example of the civil war in her home country, Lebanon, which started in 1975, raged for more than 25 years, and still affects the region.

“We know you can engineer a war,” she said. “You put in the elements that will encourage a sectarian conflict, that will encourage a civil war. I have to tell you that we are seeing the fabrication, the manufacturing in Syria of an artificial war, which is rooted in something real, a real struggle—and if it had been left alone, it would never, ever have given birth to such horrors. That’s why I say that the Syrian people are being abducted by unnamed powers, to completely deprive them of any stability or any peace, under the title of a legitimate revolution.”

How is this a “revolution,” she asked, if it is targeting electricity plants, water supplies, industries, schools? In Aleppo alone, 200 factories were disman-

ted and sent to Turkey and sold at a very low price.

In regard to those entering the conflict from abroad, she said: “They are al-Qaeda members, they are Jabhat al-Nusra members, they are Salafists and Wahhabists—it means extremists. They come and they say, we are not fighting for freedom or for democracy, we are fighting for Islam; but their Islam is not the moderate Islam of our sisters and brothers. We have lived with them in the Orient since the 13th Century!

“We are victims of an instrumentalization of religion, and those people are achieving an agenda which is unknown, but is neither about the security of the civilian population, nor about human rights, nor about children, nor about women. It is something very, very dark and ominous.”

Many former supporters of the revolution are now against it, she said. They are opponents of the government,

but are also against the revolution.

A Message to the U.S. Congress

Asked what she would say to members of Congress who want to intervene on the side of the rebels, she replied, “I would tell them this is not the first time” Look at Iraq, look at Libya. “Today the U.S. has lost its aura as the savior of democracy, of the people. Why is America working against its own values? An invasion of Syria will just support extremism, sectarianism. As in Iraq, we will have decades of battles, chaos, and civil war. That’s what I would say to the Congressmen. . . .

“I said—and it was reported in the Israeli press—that if those sectarians come to power, they will become a threat to everyone on the Mideast, including Israel.”

The Middle East is the cradle of civilization, she said, where the living God revealed Himself to Abraham, to Moses, to Jews, Christians, and Muslims. “Why can’t we make of the Middle East an oasis, an international reserve of humanism, culture, conviviality, peace, dialogue, and reconciliation? . . .

“If our rulers, our Congressmen, are not aware of what is going on, we should tell them.”

