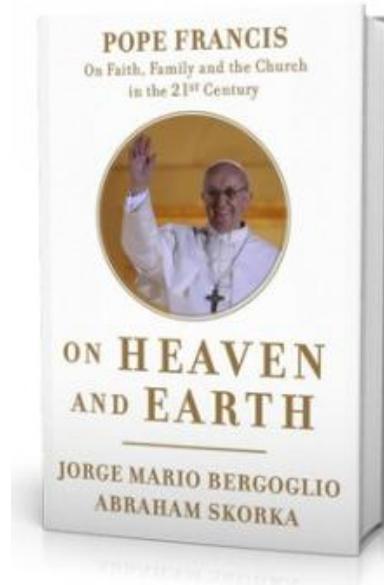


From the man who became Pope Francis – Jorge Mario Bergoglio shares his thoughts on religion, reason, and the challenges the world faces in the 21st century with Abraham Skorka, a rabbi and biophysicist. For years Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, archbishop of Argentina, and Rabbi Abraham Skorka were tenacious promoters of interreligious dialogues on faith and reason. They both sought to build bridges among Catholicism, Judaism, and the world at large. On Heaven and Earth, originally published in Argentina in 2010, brings together a series of these conversations where both men talked about various theological and worldly issues, including God, fundamentalism, atheism, abortion, homosexuality, euthanasia, same-sex marriage, and globalization. From these personal and accessible talks comes a first-hand view of the man who would become pope to 1.2 billion Catholics around the world in March 2013.



World news that never makes it to the American Press These two articles are taken from the BBC World News Service

Tanzania church attack: Saudis held for 'act of terror' ~ Eight people - four Saudi nationals and four Tanzanians - have been arrested in connection with the bombing of a new Roman Catholic church in the northern Tanzanian city of Arusha on Sunday.

The Saudis were detained as they tried to cross into Kenya, police said. At least two people were killed by the blast, which President Jakaya Kikwete condemned as "act of terrorism". The Vatican's ambassador to Tanzania and the archbishop of Arusha were in the church at the time of the attack. Archbishops Francisco Montecillo Padilla and Josaphat Louis Lebulu escaped unharmed. No group has said it carried out Sunday's bombing, in which dozens of people were wounded. However, suicide bombers linked to al-Qaeda killed 11 people in an attack on the US embassy in Dar es Salaam in 1998. A simultaneous attack in Nairobi killed 212 others.

Sunday's bombing occurred during the inaugural Mass at St Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in Olasti, a suburb of Arusha which is predominantly Christian. On Monday, Internal Affairs Minister Emmanuel Nchimbi told parliament that police and army experts had been examining the scene. "Preliminary investigations show that the bomb was thrown into the church compound, but we don't know its nature," he said, adding that there were "indications that more people are involved". "We must protect national unity, peace and tranquility of our country at any costs," he added. Arusha Regional Commissioner Magesa Mulongo said the Saudis had flown into an airport near Arusha on Saturday. They were detained late on Sunday while trying to cross the border with Kenya, he added. President Kikwete said he was "shocked and deeply saddened". "We are ready to deal with all criminals, including terrorists and their agents, who are based in the country or externally," he added. Tanzania has seen a rise in sectarian violence between Christians and Muslims in the past year. Last month, police in southern Tanzania used teargas to disperse about 200 Christian rioters attempting to set fire to a mosque following a dispute over animal slaughtering. In February, a Catholic priest was shot in the head on the largely Muslim island of Zanzibar.

Last year, Muslim cleric Sheikh Ponda Issa Ponda was arrested over attacks on churches, following rumours that a Christian boy had urinated on a copy of the Koran. There are no official records of religious affiliation in Tanzania so it is not clear whether Muslims or Christians form the majority.

kidnapped on the road to Aleppo from the rebel-held Bab al-Hawa crossing, which is close to the Turkish town of Reyhanli. Asked who was behind their abduction, he said: "All probabilities are open."



Kidnapped Syrian bishops' whereabouts remain unclear: Confusion surrounds the whereabouts of two Orthodox bishops kidnapped in Syria on Monday, but who were said to have been freed on Tuesday.

*Save, O Lord, and have mercy on the old and the young;
the poor and the destitute; the orphans and the widows;
those in sickness and sorrow, misfortune and tribulation;
those held captive or in exile;
and on those of Your servants who suffer persecution
for Your sake and for the orthodox faith...*

There were reports that the two men, Yohanna Ibrahim and Boulos Yaziji, were back in the city of Aleppo. But other sources with links to the bishops have told the BBC this is not so and their families are still worried about their whereabouts. They had been returning from the Turkish border when they were seized. It was not immediately clear who had kidnapped them. Bishop Ibrahim is the head of the Syriac Orthodox Church in Aleppo, while Bishop Yaziji leads the city's Greek Orthodox Church. They are the most senior Christian clerics caught up directly in the war.

(from the "Prayer Book" of the Melkite Greek Catholic Church)

Kidnappings have increased dramatically in Syria in the past year but the abduction of such high-ranking Christian figures is unusual, the BBC's James Reynolds reports from the city of Istanbul, in neighbouring Turkey. Christians made up about 10% of the mainly Sunni Muslim country's population before the uprising against President Bashar al-Assad began just over two years ago. President Assad's government has hoped to retain their loyalty, based on a shared fear of what might happen if Sunni Muslims take over the country, our correspondent says.

But some Christians have chosen to join the opposition - including George Sabra, the newly appointed leader of the opposition coalition, he adds. State TV earlier announced that an "armed terrorist group" had kidnapped the two bishops as they carried out "humanitarian work in [the] Aleppo countryside". Their driver is thought to have been killed in Monday's kidnapping attack. Abdulahad Steifo, a Syriac member of the opposition Syrian National Coalition, said the men had been

