



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

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SYRIA: RUSSIA, CHINA VETO SIGNALS TROUBLE

February 8, 2012 SpaceWar.com reported: "The double veto by Russia and China of a U.N. Security Council resolution on political transition in strife-torn Syria appears to sound the death knell for a diplomatic solution and herald an all-out civil war that will destabilize the Middle East.

Lebanon and probably Iraq, Syria's neighbors where sectarian tensions are already high and getting worse, will more than likely be dragged into the maelstrom.

Israel, which sees itself facing an unprecedented threat from a sustained missile bombardment by its foes, is also jittery that the Persian Gulf confrontation between the West and Iran, Syria's ally, could trigger a region-wide conflict in which it will be a target."..."

EU CONCERNED ABOUT POTENTIAL INSTABILITY IN JORDAN

February 8, 2012 The EU Observer reported: "With all eyes on violence in Syria, some EU countries are becoming increasingly concerned about the risk of instability in neighbouring Jordan.

A senior EU diplomatic contact told this website on Wednesday (8 February) that the Arab Spring is taking a nasty turn inside one of the West's main allies in the region. "The problem now is if things get worse and spill into Jordan," the source said.

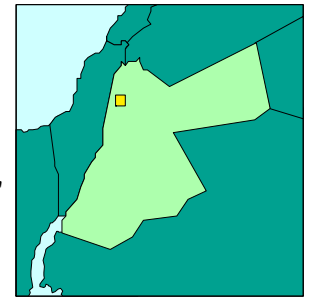
Ruled by King Abdullah II - better known abroad for his high society wife, Queen Rania - the Bedouin tribes which form the bulk of Jordanian society and its security forces have been grumbling about the royal clique's monopoly on wealth and power for the past year.

In recent weeks, they stopped calling for reform and started calling for the king to step down.

"The mood has shifted quite sharply. There is a loss of support in the Bedouin bedrock which is turning quite antagonistic at this stage ... I am not saying it's on the brink of instability, but there has been a qualitative change," Alastair Crooke, a former EU advisor on Middle East security affairs who now runs an NGO in Lebanon, told EUobserver.

"It's another artificial state. It's a very fragile country," Ali Ben-David, a defence expert for Israel's Channel 10 TV station, said.

With Jordan currently home to some 750,000 refugees from Iraq, including some Islamist radical groups, he added that if Jordan begins to unravel, it could create a security nightmare for Israel. "Tens of thousands of terrorists in Iraq lost their job and they are looking for their next target ... If things begin spilling into Jordan, you could get both Al-Qaeda and the Iranian revolutionary guard camped on the other side of the Jordan river," he said."..."



Jordan

CHURCH IN NIGERIA 'BEING ELIMINATED'

February 9, 2012 ChristianToday.com reported: "The Church of England's ruling body called this week on the Government to 'do all it can' to support the protection of religious minorities in Nigeria. In an address to General Synod, the Bishop of Durham the Rt Rev Justin Welby said violence in Nigeria had become 'pervasive'.

'[We are here] to consider the fate of a church that in the north of Nigeria is systematically, deliberately and progressively being eliminated,' he said. While he acknowledged that some attacks were being committed against Muslims, he said the 'vast majority' of the violence was being directed at Christians.

Nigeria is split roughly between a largely Muslim north and predominantly Christian south. Churches and Christian communities in the north have come under increasing attack from Islamic militant group Boko Haram. Dozens of people were killed in a series of bomb attacks in Nigeria on Christmas Day. Targets included St Theresa Catholic Church in Madalla.

In the weeks that followed, dozens more Christians were killed in an attack on a church in Gombe and a town hall meeting in Mubi. The scale of the violence has caused thousands of people to flee to the south..."

RUSSIA FM MEETS ASSAD, SEEKING 'SWIFT STABILIZATION' IN SYRIA

February 7, 2012 Haaretz.com reported: "Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov began talks with Syrian President Bashar Assad on Tuesday by saying Moscow wants the Arab people to live in peace and the Syrian leader is aware of his responsibility, Russian news agency RIA reported.

"Every leader of every country must be aware of his share of responsibility. You are aware of yours," state-run RIA quoted Lavrov as saying at the meeting in Damascus.

Lavrov said "it is in our interests for Arab peoples to live in peace and agreement," RIA reported. The remarks may be intended to prompt Assad to take steps to end 11 months of bloodshed which most of the world blames largely on his government. Russia has said Assad's opponents must also share responsibility for the violence.

Lavrov and Russia's foreign intelligence chief were making a one-day visit to Syria that the Russian Foreign Ministry said was part of Moscow's efforts to "seek the swiftest stabilization of the situation in Syria on the basis of the swiftest implementation of democratic reforms whose time has come."

Russia and China used their veto power on Saturday to block a Western-Arab draft United Nations Security Council resolution that backed an Arab League plan calling for Assad to quit."..."

AYATOLLAH: KILL ALL JEWS, ANNIHILATE ISRAEL

February 5, 2012 WorldNetDaily reported: "The Iranian government, through a website proxy, has laid out the legal and religious justification for the destruction of Israel and the slaughter of its people. The doctrine includes wiping out Israeli assets and Jewish people worldwide.

Calling Israel a danger to Islam, the conservative website Alef, with ties to Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said the opportunity must not be lost to remove "this corrupting material. It is a 'jurisprudential justification' to kill all the Jews and annihilate Israel, and in that, the Islamic government of Iran must take the helm."

The article, written by Alireza Forghani, a conservative analyst and a strategy specialist in Khamenei's camp, now is being run on most state-owned conservative sites, including the Revolutionary Guards' Fars News Agency, showing that the regime endorses this doctrine. Because Israel is going to attack Iran's nuclear facilities, Iran is justified in launching a pre-emptive, cataclysmic attack against the Jewish state, the doctrine argues.

On Friday, in a major speech at prayers, Khamenei announced that Iran will support any nation or group that attacks the "cancerous tumor" of Israel. Though his statement was seen by some in the West as fluff, there is substance behind it.

Iran's Defense Ministry announced this weekend that it test-fired an advanced two-stage, solid-fuel ballistic missile and boasted about successfully putting a new satellite into orbit, reminding the West that its engineers have mastered the technology for intercontinental ballistic missiles even as the Islamic state pushes its nuclear weapons program.

The commander of the Revolutionary Guards, Brig. Gen. Seyyed Mehdi Farahi, stated in August that the Safir missile, which is capable of transporting a satellite into space, can easily be launched parallel to the earth's orbit, which will transform it into an intercontinental ballistic missile. Western analysts didn't believe this would happen until 2015. Historically, orbiting a satellite is the criterion for crediting a nation with ICBM capability.

Forghani details the Islamic duty of jihad as laid out in the Quran for the sake of Allah and states that "primary jihad," according to some Shiite jurists, can only occur when the Hidden Imam, the Shiites' 12th Imam Mahdi, returns. Shiites believe Mahdi's return will usher in Armageddon.

In the absence of the hidden Imam, Forghani says, "defensive jihad" could certainly take place when Islam is threatened, and Muslims must defend Islam and kill their enemies. To justify such action, Alef quotes the Shiites' first imam, Ali, who stated "Waging war against the enemies with whom war is inevitable and there is a strong possibility that in near future they will attack Muslims is a must and the duty of Muslims."

The article then quotes the Quran (Albaghara 2:191-193): "And slay them wherever ye find them, and drive them out of the places whence they drove you out, for persecution [of Muslims] is worse than slaughter [of non-believers] ... and fight them until persecution is no more, and religion is for Allah."

It is the duty for all Muslims to participate in this defensive jihad, Forghani says. A fatwa by the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini made it clear that any political domination by infidels over Muslims authorizes Muslims to defend Islam by all means. Iran now has the ICBM means to deliver destruction on Israel and soon will have nuclear warheads for those missiles."..."

IRANIAN WARSHIPS DOCK AT SAUDI PORT

February 5, 2012 SpaceDaily.com reports: "Iranian naval ships docked on Saturday in the Saudi port city of Jeddah on a mission to project the Islamic republic's 'power on the open seas,' the Fars news agency reported.

The supply ship Kharg and Shaïd Qandi, a destroyer, docked in the Red Sea port in line with orders from Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, it quoted navy commander Admiral Habibollah Sayari as saying.

"This mission aims to show the power of the Islamic republic of Iran on the open seas and to confront Iranophobia," he said, adding that the mission started several days ago and would last 70 to 80 days. The commander did not give other destinations.

Iran's navy has been boosting its presence in international waters since last year, deploying vessels in the Indian Ocean and Gulf of Aden on missions to protect Iranian ships from Somali pirates..."

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