



WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

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KUWAIT PARLIAMENT APPROVES DEATH PENALTY FOR THOSE WHO INSULT ALLAH

April 4, 2013 Breitbart.com reported: "Kuwait's parliament has approved the death penalty for any Muslim who insults Allah, 'his prophets, messengers, Prophet Mohammed's wives or the Koran, in any form of expression, if they don't repent.'

The law requires judges to give offenders an opportunity to repent. If the offender repents, he gets to live but faces prison for at least five years and a fine of \$36,000. 'Non-Muslims will be sentenced to 10 years in prison if convicted of violating the law.'

40 Kuwaiti lawmakers, including 'all Cabinet members present,' voted for the new law..."

NORTH KOREA MOVES MISSILE TO ITS EAST COAST

April 4, 2013 wsj.com reported: "North Korea has moved an intermediate-range missile to its east coast, likely for a test-firing or drill, South Korea's defense minister said Thursday, as tensions on the peninsula remained high. Analysts said the missile could be launched later this month as part of celebrations for North Korea's most important holiday, the April 15 anniversary of the birth of the country's founder, Kim Il Sung.

 North Korea moved intermediate-range missiles like these--here on parade in Pyongyang in 2010--to its east coast, likely for a test-firing or drill, South Korea said.

Also Thursday, North Korea blocked the entry of South Korean workers to an industrial park inside the North for a second day as it continues to pressure Seoul during South Korea's annual military exercises with the U.S.



While the missile doesn't pose a threat to the U.S. mainland, its likely trajectory toward Japan generated concern in Tokyo. North Korea tested missiles in 1998 and 2009 that flew over Japan's main island and landed in the Pacific Ocean. The missile path over Japan is North Korea's easiest route to the Pacific Ocean but is also seen as a major provocation by Tokyo."..."

AMID PYONGYANG BLUSTER, MISSILE LAUNCH FEARED

April 4, 2013 cnn.com reported: "Missile and launch components have been moved to the east coast of North Korea in the "last few days," a U.S. official with direct knowledge of the information told CNN Thursday.

The apparent deployment comes amid further threatening statements by North Korea and heightened tensions in the region -- a situation that "does not need to get hotter," a U.S. State Department spokeswoman said.

The move of the missile and launch equipment could mean that Pyongyang, which unleashed another round of scathing rhetoric accusing the United States of pushing the region to the "brink of war," may be planning a missile launch soon.

The components, the official said, are consistent with those of a Musudan missile, which has a 2,500-mile range, meaning it could threaten South Korea, Japan and Southeast Asia.

The United States has been looking for a hidden North Korean east coast launch site or mobile launchers, a concern because a launch from the east coast would go over Japan, the official said.

It is believed a missile launch would be a "test" launch rather than a targeted strike. That is because it appears the North Koreans have only moved the components so far. The United States is waiting to see whether North Korea issues a notice to its airmen and mariners to stay out of the region.

Communication intercepts in recent days also seem to show that Pyongyang might be planning to launch a mobile ballistic missile in the coming days or weeks, another U.S. official said."..."

'MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD SOWING SUBVERSION IN GULF STATES'

April 3, 2013 The Jerusalem Post reported: "Sunni Muslim-ruled Gulf Arab states are often wary of subversion from their powerful Shi'ite neighbor Iran, but Dubai's veteran police chief reserves most of his wrath for the 'dictators' of the Muslim Brotherhood.

Dhahi Khalfan's suspicions focus mostly on the Egyptian branch of the Sunni Islamist organization, propelled to power in the most populous Arab country in elections since the overthrow of President Hosni Mubarak in a popular uprising in 2011.

'The Brotherhood as a ruling party in Egypt has no right to interfere with other countries. They are no longer a political party and should respect the independence of other countries,' Khalfan told Reuters in an interview this week.

He reiterated charges that Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood was linked to an alleged plot to topple the UAE government, saying the group's ultimate goal was Islamist rule in all Gulf states.

Khalfan, who has often railed against the Brotherhood on his Twitter account, is one of only a few UAE officials to speak publicly about politics...

Khalfan complained that the West 'sympathies, adopts and supports' the Brotherhood, saying he did not understand why. His stance testifies to new tensions in the Arab world arising from two years of popular ferment that has unseated autocrats in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and Yemen, although it has so far spared US-allied dynasties in the Gulf and elsewhere...."

AMNESTY 'OUTRAGE' AT SAUDI PARALYSIS SENTENCE

April 3, 2013 BBC News reports: "The reported sentencing of paralysis for a Saudi man as punishment for paralyzing another man has been described as 'outrageous' by a leading human rights group. Saudi reports say the 24-year-old man could be paralysed from the waist down if he cannot pay his victim one million riyals (£250,000) in compensation. Amnesty International says the sentence is a form of torture.

The man has been in prison for 10 years since he stabbed a friend in the back. Saudi newspapers say Ali al-Khawahir was 14 when he paralysed his friend in the attack in the Eastern Province town of al-Ahsa. The law of qisas, or retribution, in Saudi Arabia means his victim can demand that he suffers exactly the same punishment as he caused.

'Paralysing someone as punishment for a crime would be torture,' said Ann Harrison, Middle East and North Africa deputy director at Amnesty.

'It is time the authorities in Saudi Arabia start respecting their international legal obligations and remove these terrible punishments from the law.'

This is the latest example of Saudi Arabia's fundamentalist interpretation of Islamic law attracting international criticism. Amnesty says the law has seen judicially approved eye-gouging and tooth extractions..."

'IRAN'S PLAN B IS ALAWITE STATE IF SYRIA'S ASSAD FALLS'

April 2, 2013 Israel National News reported: "A Syrian expert on Middle Eastern affairs believes Iran is angling to fragment Syria and create an Alawite state in order to maintain its power in the region, Today's Zayman reports.

Professor Murhaf Jouejati opposes the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. A member of the faculty at the National Defense University in Washington D.C., he spoke with the newspaper Monday in an exclusive interview about savage civil war wracking his homeland.

The downfall of the Assad regime would strike a lethal blow to the Syria-Iran-Hizbullah axis, Jouejati contended.

'Syria is a major stake for Iran. Syria is Iran's door to Mediterranean and Arab politics. The fall of the regime would be a tremendous loss for Tehran,' he told the newspaper.

In order to prevent that loss, Iran is likely to attempt to divide Syria and create an Alawite state – one comprised of Muslims who support Assad. Alawite Islam, a branch of Shi'ite Islam, is practiced by those in power in Tehran and by the Lebanon-based Hizbullah terrorists that have been fighting alongside Syrian government troops..."

FM: IRAN NOT TO GIVE IN TO WESTERN PRESSURES

April 3, 2013 The Fars News Agency reported: "Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi said that western sanctions and pressures cannot influence Tehran's stances, adding that the West is well-aware of Iran's prowess in the Middle East.

'The West has reached the conclusion that the Islamic Republic is the most powerful country in the Middle East, so it is (now) trying to turn its confrontational approach into one of interaction,' Salehi said on Tuesday. He noted that the Iranian nation will never give in to the West's pressures and threats.

Earlier this year, Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei warned about the arrogant powers' full-fledged attempts to pressure Iran, but meantime, underlined that the Iranian nation will not surrender to enemies' plots and sanctions.

'The front of the arrogance has made a maximum use of its efforts and power to force the Iranian nation to surrender to sanctions and pressures, but this nation will tolerate the difficulties since it has understood the enemy's plot and tactic and its strategic goal, and it acts upon its correct understanding and recognition,' Ayatollah Khamenei said ..."

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