



NEWLY DISCOVERED VIRUS TAKES MORE LIVES, SPREADS

May 29, 2013 CNN.com reported: "A new SARS-like virus recently found in humans continues to spread -- with the worldwide total now at 49, the World Health Organization said Wednesday. Of the 49 known infections with the MERS-CoV virus, 27 have resulted in death, the organization said. The latest deaths were reported in Saudi Arabia. The Saudi health ministry said Wednesday that three people died from their infections in the country's eastern region.

The virus is 'a threat to the entire world,' the WHO's general director said Monday. It 'is not a problem that any single affected country can keep to itself or manage all by itself,' Margaret Chan said Monday in her closing remarks at the 66th World Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland.

Although many of the cases have occurred on the Arabian Peninsula, people have died of the infection elsewhere. On Tuesday, a patient died in France after having contracted the virus during a trip to the Middle East, the WHO reported.

Coronaviruses cause illnesses ranging from the common cold to SARS, or Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, as well as a variety of animal diseases. However, the new virus is not SARS."..."



IRAN HAULS OFF CHRISTIAN PASTOR, SHUTS DOWN CHURCH IN NEW SWEEP

May 28, 2013 Fox News reported: "Government agents shut down Iran's largest Persian-language Pentecostal church Monday, just one week after one of its pastors was arrested and hauled away midway through a worship service.

The closing of Central Assemblies of God church in Tehran is the latest case of the Islamic Republic's leadership cracking down on Christians ahead of the June 14 presidential election to replace President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Leaders appear especially wary of groups deemed dangerous to their power base, including growing Christian churches, according to Iranian Christians and rights groups who spoke to BosNewsLife, a news agency that specializes in the plight of Christians in Middle Eastern nations.

"These incidents appear to be an attempt to stop worship services from being conducted in Farsi, the language of the majority of Iranians," George Wood, general superintendent of the AoG in the U.S., told the service. "Services are allowed in Armenian, a minority language that most Iranians do not speak or even understand."..."

'THE ENEMY IS EVERYWHERE': FORMER MI5 HEAD

May 28, 2013 MailOnline reported: "The former head of MI5 Dame Stella Rimington has called for British people to inform security services if they suspect their neighbours maybe extremists. Dame Stella, who supports the Government's controversial 'snoopers' charter', said people need to be more alert because it is impossible for security services to spot every threat. She called for a wartime vigilance and for people to be the Government's 'eyes and ears' following the killing of Lee Rigby.

The 78-year-old, who was MI5's first female Director General, said: 'The community has the responsibility to act as the eyes and ears, as they did during the war ... where there were all these posters up saying the walls have ears and the enemy is everywhere.

'There have often been indications in the community, whether it's Muslim or anywhere else, that people are becoming extremists and spouting hate phrases.'

Dame Stella said security services had to prioritise the most dangerous threats because 'thousands' of people were being radicalised in Britain. She said further terror attacks on the UK were inevitable unless the country became a 'police state'.

MAJOR U.S. WEAPONS SYSTEMS COMPROMISED BY CHINESE HACKERS

May 28, 2013 Haaretz reported: "Designs for more than two dozen major U.S. weapons systems have been compromised by Chinese hackers, a U.S report said on Monday, as a news report in Australia said Chinese hackers had stolen the blueprints for Australia's new spy headquarters.

Citing a report prepared for the Defense Department by the Defense Science Board, the Washington Post reported that compromised U.S. designs included combat aircraft and ships, as well as missile defenses vital for Europe, Asia and the Gulf.

Among the weapons listed in the report were the advanced Patriot missile system, the Navy's Aegis ballistic missile defense systems, the F/A-18 fighter jet, the V-22 Osprey, the Black Hawk helicopter and the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter.

The report did not specify the extent or time of the cyber-thefts or indicate if they involved computer networks of the U.S. government, contractors or subcontractors. But the espionage would give China knowledge that could be exploited in a conflict, such as knocking out communications and corrupting data, the Post said. It also could speed Beijing's development of Chinese defense technology..."

ISRAEL'S NEW NEIGHBOR: SYRIAN AL-QAEDA REBEL GROUP

May 27, 2013 Israel National News reported: "In recent months, there has been a shakeout among the various Syrian rebel groups, and one of the dominant ones that has emerged is Jabhat al-Nusra – closely identified with Al Qaeda. The Sunni Islamist group is seeking to take

over as much of Syria as possible and place it under Sharia Islamic law.

Now, the group has taken up positions close to Syria's border with Israel, adjacent to the Syrian side of the Golan Heights. In a video released on Youtube, the group's soldiers are seen conducting training exercises in the Dar'a area of southern Syria, right next to the Heights. In the exercise, the soldiers are seen attempting to take over a building, using weapons and bombs.

They are also seen singing Arabic songs in praise of terror, and swearing revenge on the 'unbelievers' - the Alawite group that runs Syria, as well as Shi'ite Muslims who, according to Sunni views, hold an incorrect interpretation of Islam.

The video provides evidence of a well-trained, motivated fighting force, military experts said. The group is clearly better equipped and trained than the other rebel groups, the experts said, and apparently has incorporated a large number of Sunni Muslim defectors from the Syrian army.

While the group says that putting the 'Syrian house in order' is its first order of business, it says that it eventually plans to deal with the 'Zionist enemy' and end the 'occupation,' first of the Golan, and then of the 'rest of Palestine.' ..."

CLERIC: BEHEADING BRITISH SOLDIER COULD BE JUSTIFIED UNDER ISLAM

May 25, 2013 Breitbart.com reports: "According to the British newspaper The Independent, Cleric Omar Bakri Mohammed believes the attempt to behead a British soldier in London can be justified 'under certain interpretations of Islam.'

Bakri Mohammed, who was banned from Britain for 'extremist activities,' is believed to have influenced London attacker Michael Adebolajo through his sermons. The cleric said when he saw the video of Adebolajo holding a knife and a cleaver in his blood-soaked hands after the attack, he thought Adebolajo to be 'very courageous.'

Bakri Mohammed added: 'Under Islam this can be justified, he was not targeting civilians, he was taking on a military man in an operation.'

'To people around here [in the Middle East] he is a hero for what he has done.' ..."

THE PRIME MINISTER SAYS THAT THE "DOCTRINE OF STATE MULTICULTURALISM" HAS FAILED

February 11, 2011 NewStatesmen.com reported: "...We won't defeat terrorism simply by the actions we take outside our borders. Europe needs to wake up to what is happening in our own countries." ...

We need to be absolutely clear on where the origins of these terrorist attacks lie – and that is the existence of an ideology, 'Islamist extremism'. And we should be equally clear what we mean by this term, distinguishing it from Islam. Islam is a religion, observed peacefully and devoutly by over a billion people. Islamist extremism is a political ideology, supported by a minority.

At the furthest end are those who back terrorism to promote their ultimate goal: an entire Islamist realm, governed by an interpretation of sharia. Move along the spectrum, and you find people who may reject violence, but who accept various parts of the extremist world-view including real hostility towards western democracy and liberal values." ...

This highlights a significant problem when discussing the terrorist threat we face: there is so much muddled thinking about this whole issue. On the one hand, those on the hard right ignore this distinction between Islam and Islamist extremism and just say: Islam and the West are in irreconcilable. This is a clash of civilisations." ...

The point is this: the ideology of extremism is the problem. Islam, emphatically, is not. Picking a fight with the latter will do nothing to confront the former....They lump all Muslims together, compiling a list of grievances and arguing if only governments addressed them, this terrorism would stop.

So they point to the poverty that so many Muslims live in and say: get rid of this injustice and the terrorism will end. But this ignores that fact that many of those found guilty of terrorist offences in the UK have been graduates, and often middle class.

They point to the grievances about Western foreign policy and say: stop riding roughshod over Muslim countries and the terrorism will end. But there are many people – Muslim and non-Muslim alike – who are angry about western foreign policy and don't resort to acts of terrorism."...But this raises the question: if a lack of democracy is the problem, why are there extremists in free and open societies?"

The root lies in the existence of this extremist ideology...In the UK, some young men find it hard to identify with the traditional Islam practised at home by their parents whose customs can seem staid when transplanted to modern Western countries. But they also find it hard to identify with Britain too, because we have allowed the weakening of our collective identity.

Under the doctrine of state multiculturalism, we have encouraged different cultures to live separate lives, apart from each other and the mainstream. We have failed to provide a vision of society to which they feel they want to belong..."



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