



## **SYRIAN REBELS TO CHRISTIANS: FLEE OR DIE!**

*June 6, 2013* World Net Daily reported: "A new report from a ministry worker who visited a remnant of Syria's Christian community confirms the worst: Rebels battling President Bashar al-Assad for control are imposing Islamic law, giving Christians the choice to flee or die.

The report is from the Religious Freedom Coalition, the faith-based organization run by William J. Murray, author of 'My Life Without God.'

Murray explained that the report on persecution of Christians in Syria by jihadists was by Martin Janssen, who visited Amman, Jordan, for a prayer walk held for two Syrian church leaders kidnapped by Syrian rebels, Greek Orthodox Archbishop Paul Yazigi and Syriac Orthodox Archbishop Yohanna Ibrahim.

The report, in Dutch, was translated by Mark Durie, an Anglican vicar in Melbourne, Australia, and an associate fellow at the Middle Eastern Forum. After the prayer walk, Syrian Christian refugees told Janssen they had been attacked by the rebels fighting in Syria, where Christians had been allowed to worship and live under Assad's regime..."

## **NEW SAUDI DEATH FROM MERS VIRUS, MINISTRY SAYS**

*June 6, 2013* alarabiya.net reported: "The Saudi health ministry on Thursday announced the death of one of its citizens in the eastern region of Al-Ahsaa after he contracted MERS, a SARS-like virus.

The ministry website said the latest death, announced on Wednesday, brings to 25 the number of people who have died from the virus since September, adding that 40 people are suffering from the disease in the kingdom.

The strain was renamed the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus, or MERS, reflecting the fact that the bulk of the cases are in that region, mainly in Saudi Arabia. On May 31, the World Health Organization said that the global death toll from the virus has risen to 30.

Previously known as nCoV-EMC novel coronavirus, the disease is a cousin of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), which sparked a world health scare in 2003 when it leapt from animals to humans in Asia and killed some 800 people.

Like SARS, MERS appears to cause an infection deep in the lungs, with patients suffering from a temperature, coughing and difficulty breathing. However, it differs from SARS in that it also causes rapid kidney failure. Health officials have expressed concern about the high rate of fatalities compared to the number of cases..."



## **ISRAEL FAST-TRACKS ARROW 3 OVER IRAN NUCLEAR FEARS**

*June 5, 2013* SpaceDaily.com reported: "Israel Aerospace Industries, flagship of Israel's defense sector, is accelerating development of its high-altitude Arrow 3 antiballistic missile system amid mounting concerns about Iran's nuclear program.

'We're thinking mostly about the nuclear threat,' Col. Aviram Hasson, who heads the project, told a conference on Aerial Threats in the Modern Age at the Institute for National Security Studies in Tel Aviv Monday.

'We want to reach a situation in which Israel has a ready defense for any threat, present or future.'..."

## **PUTIN HOLDS BACK ON SYRIA MISSILE DELIVERY**

*June 4, 2013* SpaceDaily.com reported: "Russian President Vladimir Putin said Tuesday that Moscow has held back on delivering sophisticated S-300 missiles to the Syrian regime, while UN investigators said they have "reasonable grounds" to believe both sides in the conflict have used chemical weapons.

Putin, a key backer of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, said Russia has so far refrained from supplying the powerful S-300 surface-to-air missile systems to Assad's regime for fear of upsetting the delicate balance of power in the volatile region."...

"The contract was signed several years ago. It has not been realised yet," Putin said at a joint press conference with European Union leaders in the Ural Mountains city of Yekaterinburg."...

The weapon could theoretically shoot down Israeli jets and harm any Western military support missions. But Putin warned the West and Arab states allied to the opposition that any attempt to resolve the crisis through outside force was "doomed to failure."..."

## **NEW AL QAEDA VIDEO URGES BOSTON-LIKE HOMELAND ATTACKS**

*June 4, 2013* ABC News reported: "Al Qaeda's most dangerous franchise is threatening the U.S. with renewed attempts at homeland terror attacks, while urging radicalized Americans to launch strikes like the Boston bombings and poison mail cases on their own.

The dual-pronged 'Message to the American Nation' comes from a top militant in Yemen's al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and was both a warning to the U.S. and call to arms for homegrown jihadis...

Referencing 'the Boston events' and 'poisoned letters,' AQAP military commander Qassim ar-Reimy claimed in the new video those attacks 'indicate that the control of your security has broken away.' ..."

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### **IRANIAN GENERAL WARNS OF BIO-WARFARE**

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*June 3, 2013* WND.com reported: "Viruses can be turned into easily concealed weapons with high epidemic powers that could contaminate food, water and animals, Iran has warned.

Gen. Gholamreza Jalali, head of Iran's Passive Defense Organization, in a recent event discussing defensive and offensive measures for cyber-attacks and viruses, talked about the strategic importance of using viruses as weapons to contaminate an environment, according to AsrIran, a media outlet of the Islamic Republic.

'Biological viruses are extremely clever and have the capability to distinguish their environment. These viruses can only be recognized in labs,' he said, stressing that these agents are easily hidden in the environment and can cause widespread epidemics. Jalali said that viruses, parasites, botanical poisons and animal poisons are elements that can be used in biological warfare.


'The environmental threats include humans, domesticated animals, poultry, environment, natural resources, food industry and drinking water,' he said, identifying seven ways a biological agent could strike..."

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### **US MISSILE SHIELD THREATENS BALANCE IN ASIA-PACIFIC REGION**

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*June 3, 2013* SpaceDaily.com reported: "The United States move to send a missile shield to the Pacific island of Guam could upset the strategic balance of power in the Asia-Pacific Region, a Russian defense official said on Saturday.



Speaking at the security conference Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore, Russian Deputy Defense Minister Anatoly Antonov said: "We are concerned about the unilateral deployment of anti-ballistic missile defense elements [in the Asia-Pacific Region]. We believe such actions could undermine the foundation of the strategic balance and lead to a polarization of powers in the region."

Antonov said "firm guarantees" were needed to prove that "the missile shield potential is adequate to the declared goals and will not upset global and regional balances."

In April, the Pentagon said it was deploying a missile defense shield to the western Pacific island of Guam, a US territory, to protect the US and its allies in response to increasingly hostile rhetoric from North Korea.

The Russian defense official said Russia believes peace in the region should be based on a dialogue, cooperation and confidence, and warned against a military buildup."..."

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### **MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD CLERIC CALLS FOR SUNNI JIHAD IN SYRIA**

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*June 2, 2013* The Telegraph reported: "Yusef al-Qaradawi, who is based in Qatar and has been a leading voice supporting the Arab Spring, warned that Iranian Shia were trying to "eat" Sunni Muslims, who are a majority in the Muslim world.

He referred to Alawites, the followers of the Muslim sect to which President Bashar al-Assad of Syria belongs, as being "worse infidels than Christians or Jews". He also used the deliberately contemptuous term "Nusayris" when talking about them.

He was particularly critical of the roles played by Iran, which is largely Shia, and the Lebanon Shia militia Hizbollah whose name translates as Party of God but which he called "Party of Satan", in supporting the Assad regime.

"There is no common ground between the two sides because the Iranians, especially conservatives, want to eat the Sunni people," he said.

The Syrian opposition is dominated, like Syria itself, by Sunni Muslims, but also includes a number of Christians, Alawites and other minorities.

However, Alawite militias loyal to the Assads have been responsible for sectarian attacks on Sunni villages, while there are also increasing reports of sectarian attacks by militant Sunni jihadists, many of whom regard the Shia and Alawites as heretics.

In recent days, a number of Shia shrines have been attacked and desecrated in rebel-held territory, including the tombs of Ammar ibn Yasir in Raqqa and of Hujr bin Uday al-Kindi near Damascus.

Alawite leaders have openly called for Sunni areas to be "cleansed" - coinciding with attacks by Alawite militias on civilian Sunni towns near Baniyas which killed 300 people.

The Muslim Brotherhood, though a Sunni, Islamist movement that has given birth to a number of jihadist offshoots, has been held up as a "moderating" force within Arab Spring countries with which the West "can do business". Egypt has a Muslim Brotherhood president..."..."

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