



ASSAD 'CONFIDENT' OF VICTORY IN SYRIA

August 1, 2013 voaews.com reported: "Syrian President Bashar al-Assad says he is confident his forces will prevail in the country's crisis.

In a message Thursday on Syria's Army Day, Assad said without that confidence, the government would not have been able to resist what he called more than two years of aggression.

The conflict in Syria began as an uprising against Assad's rule in March 2011, and later developed into a civil war, leaving more than 100,000 people dead. Millions more have been displaced by the fighting.

Both the government and rebels opposed to the president have accused each other of using chemical weapons during the conflict.

The United Nations said Wednesday that U.N. experts will travel to Syria "as soon as possible" to investigate three sites where chemical weapons have allegedly been used."..."

LEADER: 'OPEN SEASON' ON NIGERIAN CHRISTIANS BY ISLAMISTS

August 1, 2013 Arutz Sheva reported: "Christians in Nigeria are an endangered species, according to Pastor Ayo Oritsejafor, president of the Christian Association of Nigeria. Oritsejafor met this week with U.S. lawmakers, pleading for help in combating the Islamist groups, which have mercilessly attacked Christian communities for the past several years – making Nigeria one of the most dangerous places in the world for Christians.

Currently there are some 80 million Christians in the country, but many of them, especially in the north of the country, have faced terror and death at the hand of Islamist groups such as Boko Haram, whose leader, Abubaker Schekau, has personally murdered hundreds of Christians, and helped plan the murders of many more. In 2012, more than 100 Christians died on average each month in northern Nigeria, many by members of the Jihad group.

In a recent troubling development, Oritsejafor told legislators that Islamists have begun targeting not only churches, but also schools – shooting up classrooms with children in attendance. Islamists have declared all schools except those teaching Islam illegal, and Boko Haram is intent on enforcing that law, as well as others drawn from Sharia Islamic law. 'It is open season on Nigeria's Christians,' Oritsejafor told the legislators

Speaking at an event at the National Press Club, Oritsejafor said that the U.S. was perhaps the last hope for Nigerian Christians. "America has a strong history of civil rights," he said, "and my hope is that our brothers here can awaken the conscience of humanity to stop this genocide."..."

SPACE CODE DEBATE AND THE RIGHT TO SELF DEFENSE UNDER ARTICLE FIFTY FIVE

July 31, 2013 SpaceDaily.com reported: "Advancement in science and technology in the last two decades has transformed the debate on national security in a considerable manner. In particular, outer space has become a critical topic for many countries concerned with the future of socioeconomic and security development that relies on space-based services.

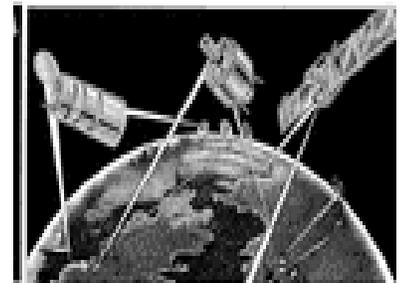
In addition, a renewed emphasis on hard power and the proliferation of space technology has made the potential for space weaponization much more real. Efforts are being made to write new "rules of the road" to govern outer space activities in order to reduce the potential for weaponization of space.

While there are several existing mechanisms and institutions - including the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), the Conference on Disarmament (CD), the UN Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) and the European Union's proposed International Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities (ICoC) - that address some of the current and emerging challenges, they have all been found wanting.

The ICoC represents a particularly ambitious initiative because it seeks to establish norms of behaviour for all space activities, whether civilian or military in nature. While many of the concerns and objections that have been raised in respect of the ICoC have been procedural, there have also been problems raised regarding its content.

One serious objection relates to Article 51 of the UN Charter, namely the right to self defence which is a key clause in the ICoC. Many countries in Asia do not see this clause as a problem; in fact Article 51 has not sparked any debate in India or in any other Asian countries.

However, many countries across Latin America - a region that will soon represent a significant percentage of overall space activities - see this as particularly troubling because they see this clause as further opening the door to conflict in space."..."



EGYPTIAN PEACE ELUSIVE AS MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD INSISTS ON MORSI'S RETURN

July 31, 2013 Voice of America News reported: “Prospects for a quick return to peace in Egypt are slim as the Muslim Brotherhood calls for continued street protests demanding the return to power of ousted President Mohamed Morsi. World leaders are urging the two sides to come to a compromise.

Morsi supporters vow the protests will continue until he is returned to power, even after more than 80 of them were killed in recent clashes. On Tuesday, hundreds of women marched in Cairo calling for Morsi's reinstatement.

‘I am here so I could express myself and tell the world that this was not a revolution,’ a protester said. ‘It was an illegitimate military coup.’

The march coincided with a visit by European Union policy chief Catherine Ashton, the first outsider to meet with the detained president...”

OBAMA URGED TO RESTORE MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD

July 31, 2013 WND.com reported: “The Washington, D.C.-based Council on American-Islamic Relations – which was established as a Muslim Brotherhood front, according to FBI evidence – is urging the Obama administration to restore the Muslim Brotherhood-backed regime in Egypt that was ousted in a popular revolt.

In a statement, CAIR urged Obama to ‘use the leverage of taxpayer funds being sent to that nation’s military to push for a return to democracy,’ which would mean putting President Mohamed Morsi back in office.

Under its 12 months of dictatorial rule, Morsi’s Muslim Brotherhood government pushed through an Islamic-law constitution, defied the courts and consolidated power to ward off opposition, prompting another revolution after the one that brought down Hosni Mubarak in 2011.

CAIR also called on the Obama administration ‘to forcefully condemn the killing of dozens of pro-democracy demonstrators by Egyptian security forces.’...”

U.S. CHURCHES WARNED OF 'JIHADIST' THREAT

July 30, 2013 WND.com reported: “Police in Fort Collins, Colo., are warning local churches to report any suspicious behavior after a self-proclaimed ‘Islamist jihadist’ threatened Mormons and Catholics ‘would be destroyed’ in the next two weeks.

According to the Coloradoan, police released a memo describing an unnamed white man in his early 30s who was stopped for attempting to shoot a video while driving. Wearing a T-shirt wrapped around his head and a bandana and sunglasses over his face, the man reportedly claimed he was the Archangel Michael and told police everyone would know who he was in the next two weeks, but didn’t elaborate or make threats specific enough to warrant arrest.

The man is also reportedly linked to a white Honda coupe spray-painted with ‘F— DHS’ (Department of Homeland Security) on the trunk, ‘Rev 14:7’ on its side and ‘YHVH’ (the Hebrew name for God) on the back bumper and hood.

The verse on the vehicle, Revelation 14:7, reads, ‘Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.’...”

ABBAS: PALESTINE WILL BE JUDENREIN [FREE OF JEWS]

July 30, 2013 Arutz Sheva reported: “Palestinian Authority (PA) head Mahmoud Abbas presented a racist and hateful vision of a future Palestinian state when he spoke to reporters in Cairo Monday.

‘In a final resolution, we would not see the presence of a single Israeli – civilian or soldier – on our lands,’ he told a group of reporters, most of them Egyptians, on Monday.

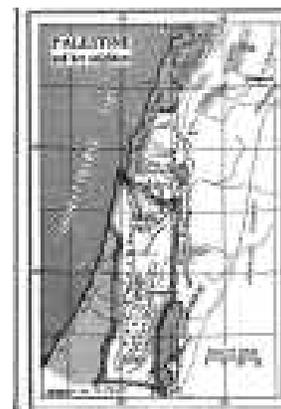
‘An international, multinational presence like in Sinai, Lebanon and Syria – we are with that,’ he went on, referring to United Nations peacekeeping forces like UNDOF and UNIFIL.

Arab affairs expert Dalit Halevy explained that when Abbas speaks of ‘Israelis’, he in fact means ‘Jews.’ She pointed out that the PA refers to all of the Arabs who live in what they term ‘Palestine’ – including ‘Israeli Arabs’ – as Palestinians. There is, therefore, no distinction in the PA’s approach between ‘Palestinians’ and ‘Arabs,’ and similarly no distinction between ‘Jews’ and ‘Israelis,’ when speaking of residents of the territory of the Land of Israel (‘Palestine’).

Even now, Jews are not permitted to live inside the PA-controlled territory, and the sale of land to Jews is punishable by death.

It was after meeting Egyptian prime minister Adly Mansour, that Abbas laid out his vision for a the permanent status arrangement he will insist upon in the talks that opened in Washington Monday, between the Israeli delegation headed by Minister Tzipi Livni and the PA delegation headed by Saeb Erekat.

‘We have already made all of the necessary concessions,’ he said, adding that ‘eastern Jerusalem is the capital of the state of Palestine.’...”



ljt5053@sbcglobal.net