



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

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'IMAGINE AMERICA WITHOUT LOS ANGELES': EXPERT WARNS SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ISN'T READY FOR MAJOR QUAKE

December 11, 2013 losangeles.cbslocal.com reported: "A leading earthquake expert has issued a dire warning to Californians about the expected impact of a major disruption to the San Andreas fault line. The title of Dr. Lucy Jones' lecture this week to the American Geophysical Union in San Francisco was titled "Imagine America without Los Angeles."

KCAL9's Dave Bryan reports, Jones, a Science Advisor for Risk Reduction at the U.S. Geological Survey, says when the "Big One" hits Southern California, the damage could be much greater, and could last much longer, than most of us ever imagined.

"Loss of shelter, loss of schools, loss of jobs and emotional hardship. We are risking the ends of our cities," she said during the presentation. According to a USGS study called the "Shakeout Report," when a high-magnitude earthquake rocks the San Andreas fault, the damage will go far beyond the collapsed buildings and freeways seen in the 1994 Northridge earthquake.

For example, LA-area supermarkets now depend on Internet systems for warehousing and shipping food to stores, and the food is stored on the other side of the San Andreas fault.

"With the development of the Internet and the new just-in-time economy, none of them store food on the Los Angeles side of the San Andreas anymore," Jones said. "So this is one more place where the development of the complexity of our modern society is creating new vulnerabilities as we face the big earthquakes."

Fiber-optics could also be cut off when a disastrous earthquake hits the San Andreas fault.

"Two-thirds of the connectivity from Los Angeles to the rest of the world go through fiber-optic cables crossing the San Andreas fault," Jones explained. "So we expect at the time of the earthquake when the fault moves, we will break these fiber-optic cables and two-thirds of the data capacity between LA and everyone else will disappear," she said. Natural gas pipelines also cross the San Andreas fault, so gas for cooking and heating would be in short supply. And the area's aging water pipes, which seem to break with great regularity even without a temblor, are not expected to stand up well when the big earthquake hits..."

Much of the high-tech damage could hinder the recovery effort in the weeks and months after the earthquake, according to Dr. Jones, so getting Southern California back on its feet could be a wrenching process..."



BILL IN JORDAN: VIOLENCE AGAINST ISRAEL ISN'T TERRORISM

December 12, 2013 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "Jordan's parliament has adopted a bill which stipulates that violent action against Israel will not be considered a terrorist act, NRG/Maariv reported on Wednesday. The Jordanian parliament, which was elected following the various 'Arab Spring' revolutions in the Middle East and following pressure by the opposition on King Abdullah, is comprised mainly of representatives from Islamist parties who hold extreme positions against Israel.

Jordan and Israel signed a peace treaty in 1994. Jordan thus became the second Arab country after Egypt to sign a peace treaty with Israel..."

CHRISTIANS BEING "TARGETED" IN EGYPT

December 11, 2013 ChristianToday.com reported: "A UK Coptic Orthodox leader was in Washington DC on Tuesday to give evidence about the discrimination being experienced by minority religious groups in Egypt.

Bishop Angaelos, a General Bishop in the Coptic Orthodox Church in the UK, spoke alongside four other witnesses before the House Committee of Foreign Affairs at a Congressional hearing highlighting the escalation of human rights abuses in Egypt.

The timeliness of the hearing was noted as yesterday marked International Human Rights Day and Bishop Angaelos labelled it 'providential' that the committee happened to be meeting on that day.

Alongside Zudhi Jasser, Mr Samuel Tadros, Morad abou-Sabe and Mr Tad Stahnke, the bishop discussed concerns about the 'culture of impunity that has led to a lack of equality' in Egypt, as minority religious groups suffer abhorrently at the hands of rebels and the government.

Coptic Christians in particular are frequently subjected to violent attacks as a result of their faith in the north African nation, which is currently struggling with a weakened and unstable political system..."

PUTIN SAYS RUSSIA WILL UPGRADE ITS WEAPONRY

December 11, 2013 SpaceDaily.com reported: "President Vladimir Putin said Tuesday the share of modern weaponry in Russia's armed

forces would reach 30 percent in 2014 and urged the military to stay alert for threats and challenges.

The armed forces would receive more than 40 inter-continental ballistic missiles, 210 warplanes and helicopters, and more than 250 armored vehicles in a year, Putin said at an expanded meeting of the Defense Ministry Board.

In addition, six military satellites would be launched and two new strategic submarines would be put on duty, he said.

The president said persisting armed confrontations in some Middle East countries, as well as the withdrawal of international forces from Afghanistan in 2014, could create a sizable "area of instability" in the adjoining Central Asian countries, posing direct threats to Russia.

He also mentioned U.S. plans to build a missile defense network, "including its European segment."

"I have to say that the military deterrence factor still plays a rather weighty role," the Interfax news agency quoted him as saying.

Moscow has opposed the deployment of U.S.-led European missile defense facilities near its border, and has called for legally binding guarantees from Washington and NATO that the missile shield will not target Russia."

YELLOWSTONE SUPERVOLCANO 'EVEN MORE COLOSSAL'

December 10, 2013 BBC News reported: "A study shows that the magma chamber is about 2.5 times bigger than earlier estimates suggested. A team found the cavern stretches for more than 90km (55 miles) and contains 200-600 cubic km of molten rock. The findings are being presented at the American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting in San Francisco.

Prof Bob Smith, from the University of Utah, said: "We've been working there for a long time, and we've always thought it would be bigger... but this finding is astounding."

If the Yellowstone supervolcano were to blow today, the consequences would be catastrophic. The last major eruption, which occurred 640,000 years ago, sent ash across the whole of North America, affecting the planet's climate."..."

U.S. ALLYING WITH HEZBOLLAH?

December 10, 2013 World Net Daily reported: "The Party of God, better known as the Iranian-backed Lebanese Hezbollah, wants to pursue a 'common enemies' approach with the United States in an effort to halt the spread of al-Qaida in the Middle East, sources close to the Hezbollah leadership tell Joseph Farah's G2 Bulletin.

This prospect seems to bolster recently published reports that Hezbollah, which the U.S. officially regards as a terrorist organization, has been making 'indirect' soundings through the British of this prospect. One report quotes senior British diplomatic sources as telling the Kuwaiti newspaper Al-Rai that British diplomats have been holding discussions with leaders of the Lebanese group and conveying the results to the Americans.

Sources close to Hezbollah (said) that some of the contacts have been 'direct' and that the resistance group is prepared to work with the U.S. to eliminate the 'common enemy' of al-Qaida, which these officials regard as a greater threat to Lebanon than neighboring Israel..."

FORMER JIHADI WARNS OF SYRIAN REBELS WITH '9/11 IDEOLOGY'

December 10, 2013 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "A French Islamist who fought as part of a jihadi rebel faction in Syria has said that foreign fighters with a '9/11 ideology' could return to the West, where they would pose a definitive security threat.

In an interview with the BBC the anonymous former rebel fighter told of how he had fought for an unnamed Islamist brigade, before leaving after it pledged its allegiance to Al Qaeda's Islamic State of Iraq and al-Shams (ISIS), saying that he opposed the brutal methods of the group - but not necessarily its vision for Syria.

The interview offers an intriguing insight into the mindset, ideology and motivations of the increasingly dominant Islamist rebel movement in Syria, which has eclipsed the more secular Free Syrian Army. It also once again highlights the growing security concerns shared by most Western countries over the increasingly large number of Western-born Islamists fighting in Syria and the prospect of their return to their countries of birth at some point in the future..."

PUTIN DISSOLVES STATE NEWS AGENCY, TIGHTENS GRIP ON RUSSIA MEDIA

December 9, 2013 Reuters reported: "President Vladimir Putin tightened his control over Russia's media on Monday by dissolving the main state news agency and replacing it with an organization that is to promote Moscow's image abroad. The move to abolish RIA Novosti and create a news agency to be known as Rossiya Segodnya is the second in two weeks strengthening Putin's hold on the media as he tries to reassert his authority after protests against his rule.



Most Russian media outlets are already loyal to Putin, and opponents get little air time, but the shake-up underlined their importance to Putin keeping power and the Kremlin's concern about the president's ratings and image.

The head of the new agency, to be built from the ashes of RIA Novosti, is a conservative news anchor, Dmitry Kiselyov, who once caused outrage by saying the organs of homosexuals should not be used in transplants.

'The main focus of ... Rossiya Segodnya (Russia Today) is to highlight abroad the state policy and public life of the Russian Federation,' said a decree signed by Putin."..."