



# PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

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## U.S. INTELLIGENCE CHIEF WARNS AGAINST SYRIA'S BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS

*January 30, 2014* Arutz Sheva reported: "The Syrian regime has agreed to dismantle its arsenal of chemical agents but may now have the ability to produce biological weapons, the U.S. intelligence chief warned senators Wednesday, according to AFP.

'We judge that some elements of Syria's biological warfare program might have advanced beyond the research and development stage and might be capable of limited agent production, based on the duration of its longstanding program,' James Clapper, director of national intelligence, said in a written statement presented to the Senate Intelligence Committee.

Clapper offered no further details but it was the first time officials had stated publicly that America's spy agencies believed Syria had made significant strides in its biological weapons program.

British experts have already warned that there is a 'clear and present danger' of Al-Qaeda gaining possession of the Assad regime's stockpile of biological weapons, claiming to have substantial evidence that Al Qaeda-linked groups may already have possession of toxic agents. Clapper, according to AFP, added that Syria could potentially launch biological agents with conventional weapons..."



## ALARMED, HEZBOLLAH TAKES DEFENSIVE MEASURES IN BEIRUT

*January 30, 2014* Haaretz reported: "Hezbollah has taken defensive measures in its southern Beirut stronghold, anticipating a new wave of so-called tafriki attacks, Lebanese newspaper Al Nahar reported Wednesday. Tafriki refers to a Muslim who accuses another Muslim as an apostate. Hezbollah is Shi'ite, while the al-Qaeda linked Al Nusra Front is Sunni.

According to the report, the exercise, performed after discovering a plan to carry out an assault, involved 'locking stores in the area, evacuating the streets within ten minutes, and preventing any gatherings.'

Al Nahar also reported that Hezbollah is attempting to allow only ten entrances into Dahieh 'in order to properly monitor the flow of vehicles and pedestrians.' In addition, Hezbollah parliamentarians removed the blue license plates from their vehicles that identify their official status.

The Sunni-affiliated Islamic State of Iraq and Syria and Al-Nusra both posted messages on their websites over the past week declaring war on Lebanon and declaring an expansion of the Islamic state into the multi-sectarian state, Al Akhbar in English reported on Saturday..."

## TRANSGENDER CANDIDATE TO CHALLENGE GAY SENATOR IN MARYLAND

*January 30, 2014* CBS DC reported: "A transgender candidate has announced she will run against an openly gay state senator in Montgomery County in the Democratic primary. Dana Beyer, who is the executive director of Gender Rights Maryland, made the announcement Thursday. Beyer says Maryland residents have waited too long for economic fairness and equal opportunity.

Beyer is running against Sen. Richard Madaleno, who has been in the state Senate since 2007. He served in the House of Delegates from 2003 to 2007. Madaleno has been an advocate for gay and transgender rights in Maryland."..."

## KERRY PLAN: ARAB CAPITAL IN EAST JERUSALEM

*January 29, 2014* Arutz Sheva reported: "US Secretary of State John Kerry is about to present a plan for peace between Israel and the Palestinian Authority (PA) that will call for a phased Israeli withdrawal from Judea and Samaria based on the 1949 lines, with 'unprecedented' security arrangements in the strategic Jordan Valley, writes Thomas Friedman in the New York Times – one of the journalists considered most close to the Obama administration.

The Israeli withdrawal will not include certain settlement blocs, but Israel will compensate the Arab side for this with Israeli territory. The deal will call for 'Palestine' to have a capital in Arab East Jerusalem and to recognize Israel as the nation state of the Jewish people. It will not include any right of return for Palestinian refugees into pre-1967 Israel, Friedman says.

Kerry has been 'fanatically relentless' but also 'highly sophisticated' in his attempts to bridge the gaps between Israel and the PA, he adds. 'After letting the two sides fruitlessly butt heads for six months, he's now planning to present a U.S. framework that will lay out what Washington considers the core concessions Israelis and Palestinians need to make for a fair, lasting deal.'..."

## DIRTY-BOMB FEARS SOAR AT OLYMPICS

*January 29, 2014* World Net Daily reported: "National security experts are expressing increasing alarm over the possibility Islamic militants could use a 'dirty' bomb at the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, and spark mass panic at the seaside location where potential escape routes could become choked.

Despite the 1,500 mile 'ring of steel' that Russian President Vladimir Putin said surrounds Sochi to prevent the infiltration of North Caucasus militants, who have vowed to disrupt the Olympics with violence, experts say that a dirty bomb not only would be difficult to stop but could cause a major disruption.

A dirty bomb, known as a radiological dispersal device, or RDD, is a weapon combining radioactive material with conventional explosives. Essentially, it would have nuclear materials attached to something as simple as plastic explosives.

Experts say materials suitable to make a radiological weapon include nine reactor-produced isotopes such as americium-241, californium-252, cesium-137, cobalt-60, iridium-192, plutonium-238, polonium-210, radium-226 and strontium-90..."

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### **TURKEY-IRAN ALLIANCE LOOMING?**

*January 29, 2014* Arutz Sheva reported: "Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan arrived in Iran on Tuesday, where he met Iranian President Hassan Rouhani to discuss establishing a high-level council of cooperation. The rapprochement follows eased sanctions on Iran's nuclear program.

Erdogan will be in Iran for two days, meeting with Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei as well. Aside from speaking at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, he will also discuss a reciprocal visit by Rouhani to Turkey, reports the Turkish Hurriyet Daily.

Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Marzihe Afkham called the visit 'very important,' commenting that 'dialogue and contacts have entered a new phase, and we hope this trend continues.'

David Cohen, the US Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence, was in Ankara, Turkey on Monday, where he said "businesses interested in engaging in Iran really should hold off."

However, in his state of the union address this week, US President Barack Obama reiterated that he would veto new sanctions on Iran.

Sunni-majority Turkey has been at odds with Shi'ite Iran over the Syrian war, as Turkey sides with opposition forces and Iran backs President Bashar Assad. However, with the recent Iran nuclear deal last November, the two countries announced they would boost the cooperation of their intelligence services."..."

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### **CHRISTIAN PERSECUTION? NO. ANNIHILATION!**

*January 28, 2014* World Net Daily reported: "The first delegation of Syrian Christian church leaders to visit the U.S. since civil war broke out in March 2011 spoke Monday at the Heritage Foundation, issuing a stunning warning that the nation's Christian population could vanish.

'Today we are faced with a potential extinction of the church,' Patrick Sookhdeo, chairman of the Westminster Institute, warned. 'Not just in Syria. We've seen it in Iraq. The church could fall in Lebanon.'

The panel discussion, 'Marked for Destruction: The Plight of Syria's Christians,' featured Syrian Christian leaders Rev. Adib Awad, the general secretary of the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon; H.E. Bishop Elias Toumeh, Orthodox bishop of Pyrgou-Syria; Rev. Riad Jarjour, former general secretary of the Middle East Council of Churches; H.E. Bishop Dionysius Jean Kawak of the Syrian Orthodox Church; Bishop Armash Nalbandian of the Armenian Church of Damascus, and Bishop Julian Dobbs.

Dobbs said Syria 'used to be one of the easiest places in the Arab world to be a Christian across the Middle East.

'The church has existed there since biblical times,' he said. 'Christians were respected by the Muslim majority and were able to practice their faith with little interference. But, this has largely changed since the civil war broke out.'..."

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### **REVOLUTIONARY GUARDS THREATEN US AFTER KERRY SAYS MILITARY OPTION IS 'READY'**

*January 27, 2014* The Jerusalem Post reported: "The head of Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps, Maj.- Gen. Muhammad Ali Jafari, threatened the US with a strong military response after American Secretary of State John Kerry said a military option to counter the country's nuclear drive was 'ready.'

'You could never understand the extent of the invasive capacity of the Islamic Republic of Iran,' Jafari said Saturday according to Iran's Fars News Agency.

'Mr. Kerry must know that direct battle with the US is the biggest dream of pious and revolutionary people across the world. Your threats offer our revolutionary people the best opportunity,' he said. He went on to say that 'wise' American politicians would most likely prevent use of the 'ridiculous military option.'

Kerry, in an exclusive interview with the Al Arabiya website on Thursday, said that if Iran did not abide by its commitments with world powers, 'the military option of the United States is ready and prepared to do what it would have to do.'

Multiple senior Iranian officials responded to Kerry's remarks.

'The Americans are well aware that if they make a mistake, the Islamic Republic's response will be crushing and devastating and in other words, we will give a response with a wider radius,' Yadollah Javani, a senior official of the Revolutionary Guards, told Fars on Sunday. 'The Islamic Republic can attack all the US interests in the region and they will never be able to show a proportionate reaction....'

Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani said Iran would increase its military budget following Kerry's comments..."

