



## U.S., SOUTH KOREA TO LAUNCH MASSIVE LANDING DRILL

*March 20, 2014* SpaceDaily.com reported: "More than 10,000 US troops will participate in a large-scale landing drill in South Korea next week, the US military said Thursday, days after North Korea test-fired 25 projectiles in apparent protest at the continuing joint exercises.

The drill, code-named Ssang Yong ('Twin Dragons') and billed by local news media as one of the largest-ever of amphibious landing exercises by the two allies, will take place from March 27 through to April 7 on the southeast coast of South Korea. It will involve 7,500 US Marines, 2,000 US Navy personnel, and an undisclosed number of Australian and South Korean forces, a US military spokesman told AFP. Yonhap news agency said 3,500 Marines and 1,000 Navy sailors would take part from South Korea.



'Ssang Yong 14 is an annual combined exercise conducted by Marine and Navy Forces with the ROK (South Korea) in order to strengthen the interoperability and working relationships of the two militaries across the range of operations - from disaster relief, to complex expeditionary operations,' US Forces in Korea said in a press statement..."

## CHRISTIANS' THROATS SLIT IN PAGAN SLAUGHTERHOUSE

*March 19, 2014* World Net Daily reported: "After exposing videos of 'ritual human sacrifices' of Christians by Muslims, a former Palestinian Liberation Organization member-turned-Christian has discovered a new set of shocking videos that show human slaughterhouses in which non-Muslims are executed.

The videos, posted by Walid Shoebat, and his son, Theodore Shoebat, are horrific, showing heads neatly lined up against a wall and bodies suspended by their feet in a room. Also shown is the testimony of a witness who was threatened with being 'sacrificed.'

'I have never seen something like this,' Shoebat told WND. 'I have been investigating this story for the past two weeks. The story is probably the most horrific I have ever [done]. It proves with footage actual systematic [sl]laughterhouses of human beings, including Christians in Syria.'..."

## MOSCOW SIGNALS CONCERN FOR RUSSIANS IN ESTONIA

*March 19, 2014* Reuters reported: "Russia signaled concern on Wednesday at Estonia's treatment of its large ethnic Russian minority, comparing language policy in the Baltic state with what it said was a call in Ukraine to prevent the use of Russian.

Russia has defended its annexation of Ukraine's Crimea peninsula by arguing it has the right to protect Russian-speakers outside its borders, so the reference to linguistic tensions in another former Soviet republic comes at a highly sensitive moment. Russia fully supported the protection of the rights of linguistic minorities, a Moscow diplomat told the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, according to a summary of the session issued by the U.N.'s information department.

"Language should not be used to segregate and isolate groups," the diplomat was reported as saying. Russia was "concerned by steps taken in this regard in Estonia as well as in Ukraine," the Moscow envoy was said to have added. The text of the Russian remarks, echoing long-standing complaints over Estonia's insistence that the large Russian minority in the east of the country should be able to speak Estonian, was not immediately available.

But amid the growing Crimea crisis, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania - which like Ukraine were all parts of the old Soviet Union - have expressed growing apprehension over Moscow's intentions..."

## UK ISLAMISTS RALLY FOR SHARIAH BRITAIN

*March 18, 2014* Breitbart.com reported: "Convicted terrorists, extremist preachers and dozens of other Islamist activists rallied in East London on Saturday, in a sure sign that the newly founded 'Need4Khilafah' group is becoming increasingly emboldened in its anti-Western agitation efforts in the UK. A video released by the group (below) shows their rally, led by Islamist preacher Abu Izzadeen, in Green Street in East London. Breitbart London reported yesterday that the group clashed with former BNP members from the 'Britain First' organisation.

But Need4Khilafah's video brings new information about the rally to light. The footage features notorious hate preacher Anjem Choudary, who smiles smugly as Izzadeen whips up the crowd into an anti-Western frenzy. Abdul Muhid, another convicted terrorist, also features heavily. Izzadeen, who was released from prison in 2009, can be heard exclaiming, 'Let us be clear as a community, we are a unique part of this society. We are not going to integrate and lose our identity.

'As Muslims... we are obliged to call those kuffar [non-believers] towards Islam...'

## VENEZUELA IN TURMOIL FOR LACK OF FLOUR, MILK AND DIAPERS

*March 16, 2014* npr.com reported: "Alvaro Villarueda starts his morning the same way every day — putting in a call to his friend who has a friend who works at a Caracas, Venezuela, supermarket.

Today, he's looking for sugar, and he's asking his friend if he knows if any shipments have arrived. As he talks on the phone, his wife

Lisbeth Nello, is in the kitchen. There are 10 mouths to feed every day in this family — five of them children. The two youngest are still in diapers.

"The things that are the scarcest are actually what we need the most," Nello says. "Flour, cooking oil, butter, milk, diapers. I spent last week hunting for diapers everywhere. The situation is really tough for basic goods."

Student-led demonstrations have been roiling Venezuela for more than a month. At least 28 people have been killed and dozens wounded in confrontations between security forces and those who have taken to the streets. The list of grievances — rising crime, inflation — is long, but the main one for many is the scarcity of basic foodstuffs.

As with everything in Venezuela, the reasons given for the food shortages depend on political affiliation. The government says it's the result of unscrupulous businessmen waging an economic war and hoarding by regular people afraid of shortages.

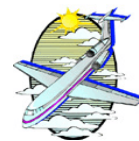
Those in the opposition blame a system that imposes price controls, the lack of money to buy imports and problems in the supply chain after the expropriation of farms and factories by the socialist government.

Whatever the reasons, the shortages have meant that Nello spends a lot of time in long lines. It's usually the women who have to go to the shops and her house is no exception."..."

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### **ISRAEL PREPARES FOR POSSIBLE ATTACK BY HIJACKED MALAYSIAN PLANE**

*March 17, 2014* Breitbart.com reported: "As the possibility--however remote--grows that Malaysia Airlines flight 370 may have been hijacked and taken to a hidden location, Israeli authorities are preparing for the possibility that the hijackers might attempt to use the Boeing 777 to mount an attack. According to the Times of Israel, Israel's Channel 2 has revealed that Israeli air defenses have been boosted, and approaching civilian aircraft will be asked to identify themselves far earlier.



Though the flight was presumed at first to have crashed, whole or in pieces, into the ocean, passive satellite transmissions from the aircraft suggest that it made a deliberate course change and may have headed north into central Asia... Though the possibility that the Boeing 777 could be used in a terror attack is mere speculation, it is evidently being taken seriously by Israel. A plane filled with nuclear material would not need to be in Israeli airspace long to do catastrophic damage, even if shot down..."

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### **STATE TV SAYS RUSSIA COULD TURN US TO 'RADIOACTIVE ASH'**



*March 17, 2014* AFP reported: "A leading anchor on Russian state television on Sunday described Russia as the only country capable of turning the United States into 'radioactive ash', in an incendiary comment at the height of tensions over the Crimea referendum.

'Russia is the only country in the world realistically capable of turning the United States into radioactive ash,' anchor Dmitry Kiselyov said on his weekly news show on state-controlled Rossiya 1 television. Kiselyov made the comment to support his argument that the United States and President Barack Obama were living in fear of Russia led by President Vladimir Putin amid the Ukraine crisis..."

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### **RUSSIA SOUNDS ALARM ON ECONOMIC CRISIS AS WEST IMPOSES SANCTIONS**

*March 17, 2014* bloomberg.com reported: "Russia's economy is showing signs of a crisis, the government in Moscow said as the U.S. and the European Union announced sanctions over the country's support for the Crimea region breaking away from Ukraine.

"The situation in the economy bears clear signs of a crisis," Deputy Economy Minister Sergei Belyakov said in Moscow yesterday. The cabinet needs to refrain from raising the fiscal burden on companies, which would be the "wrong approach," he said. "Taking money from companies and asking them afterward to modernize production is illogical and strange."

Even before the worst standoff against the West since the Cold War, Russia's economy was facing the weakest growth since a 2009 recession as consumer demand failed to make up for sagging investment. EU foreign ministers yesterday agreed to freeze assets and impose visa travel bans on 21 Russian, Crimean and former Ukrainian officials, while U.S. President Barack Obama imposed sanctions on seven Russians.

The Ukrainian crisis is putting a strain on Russia's \$2 trillion economy, which grew 1.3 percent in 2013 after expanding 3.4 percent previous year. Last year's growth was "insufficient" and the current outlook and government forecasts "can't satisfy us," President Vladimir Putin said March 12. The Economy Ministry projects growth will average 2.5 percent a year through 2030.

Russia will probably dip into a recession in the second and third quarters of this year as "domestic demand is set to halt on the uncertainty shock and tighter financial conditions," Vladimir Kolychev and Daria Isakova, economists at Moscow-based VTB Capital, said in a research note yesterday. They cut their 2014 growth estimate to zero growth from 1.3 percent.

The ruble has weakened 9.4 percent against the dollar this year, more than any other of the 175 currencies tracked by Bloomberg except the Argentine peso, the Ukrainian hryvnia, the Kazakh tenge, Zambian kwacha and the Kyrgyz som.

The currency's slide, exacerbated by the intensifying tensions over Ukraine and the threat of sanctions, forced the central bank to look past sluggish growth and tighten monetary policy. Bank Rossii lifted its benchmark interest rate to 7 percent from 5.5 percent at an emergency meeting March 3."..."

*L. Jim Tuck, Pastor*

*UCGIA Oakland, San Jose, Santa Rosa, Stockton, and Hawaii  
ljt5053@sbcbglobal.net*