



## UKRAINE FOREIGN MINISTER: READY TO FIGHT RUSSIA

*April 24, 2014* The Associated Press reported: "Ukraine's foreign minister has blasted the Russian decision to start military maneuvers along their border and said Thursday his country will fight any invading troops. Andriy Deshchytisa told The Associated Press in Prague that Russia's decision to launch the military exercises "very much escalates the situation in the region."

Deshchytisa said his country had been taught a lesson by Russia's annexation of the Crimean Peninsula.

"We will now fight with Russian troops if ... they invade Ukraine," he said. "The Ukrainian people and Ukrainian army are ready to do this. Ukraine will confront Russia. We will defend our land. We will defend our territory."

Ukrainian authorities have renewed a push to force pro-Russia armed insurgents out of occupied buildings in eastern cities. Reacting to the killing of at least two pro-Russian insurgents Thursday, Moscow announced the military exercises."..."

## US TO SEND 600 TROOPS TO BALTICS, POLAND AMID UKRAINE TENSIONS

*April 23, 2014* The EU Observer reported: "The US Tuesday announced it is sending hundreds of troops for military exercises to four countries in Eastern Europe to assure them of its commitment to the region's defence amid ongoing tension in Ukraine."

The 600 US troops will be deployed to Poland and the three Baltic countries - Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania - and will conduct live ammunition exercises with forces from the four host states. The US Pentagon said the move was in response to Russia's actions in Ukraine.

"If there's a message to Moscow, it is the exact same message, that we take our obligations very, very seriously on the continent of Europe," said Pentagon press secretary, Rear Admiral John Kirby on Tuesday, according to US media reports. Kirby said the decision was more than about symbolism, with Nato having ruled out military intervention in Ukraine.

"Any time you put troops on the ground and doing exercises — in this case, for a month at a time — it's more than symbology. The kind of work that we're going to be doing is real infantry training. And that's not insignificant."



## CANADIAN ABORTED BABIES INCINERATED IN OREGON WASTE-TO-ENERGY FACILITY TO PROVIDE ELECTRICITY

*April 23, 2014* lifesitenews.com reported: "The British Columbia Health Ministry has admitted that the remains of babies destroyed by abortion in B.C. facilities are ending up in a waste-to-power facility in the United States, providing electricity for residents of Oregon. The province's Health Ministry said in an email to the B.C. Catholic that "biomedical waste" shipped to the U.S. to be incinerated includes "human tissue, such as surgically removed cancerous tissue, amputated limbs, and fetal tissue."

"The ministry understands that some is transferred to Oregon. There it is incinerated in a waste-to-energy plant," the email stated. The ministry said that contractors handling the province's "biomedical waste" follow "health and safety protocols, as well as federal, provincial, and local regulations."

Kristan Mitchell, executive director of the Oregon Refuse and Recycling Association, told the B.C. Catholic that the "biomedical waste" likely ends up at the Covanta Marion waste-to-energy facility in Oregon since it is the only facility that uses waste to power the grid. The facility confirmed that it still receives and incinerates B.C. medical waste. The power facility, located in Brookes just off the I-5, burns waste in two massive boilers at a temperature of about 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit. The heat transfers into water tubes, which creates steam to drive turbines. The turbines generate electricity...."

## TONY BLAIR: WORLD MUST TAKE A STAND AGAINST RADICAL ISLAM

*April 23, 2014* Haaretz reported: "The world must take a stand against Islamic fundamentalism and support the principles of religious freedom and open economies, former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, the Quartet representative to the Middle East, was to say Wednesday in a speech at the Bloomberg London H."

In the speech, the text of which was released early, Blair also argues the fate of Israel 'remains absolutely core to the region and the world' and that U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry was right to invest so much effort into attempting to forge an Israeli-Palestinian peace.

'There is a titanic struggle going on within the region between those who want the region to embrace the modern world – politically, socially and economically – and those who instead want to create a politics of religious difference and exclusivity,' says Blair. 'This is what, irrespective of the problems on the Israeli side, divides Palestinian politics and constrains their leadership.'

'We have to take sides,' says Blair. He is calling on the world to commit to the Middle East and engage in it, specifying that while this does not necessarily mean military involvement, 'it does mean stirring ourselves.'

'We have to elevate the issue of religious extremism to the top of the agenda,' says Blair. 'All over the world the challenge of defeating this ideology requires active and sustained engagement.' ..."

---

## **WAR ON CHRISTIANS: THE POLITICS OF PERSECUTION**

---

*April 22, 2014* Breitbart.com reported: "In Nigeria, 234 Christian schoolgirls abducted; a Jesuit priest shot in the head outside his house in Homs, Syria; a young Christian woman dragged from her car in Egypt and beaten to death... These are some of the latest stories of Christians being hunted, tortured, or executed at the hands of Islamists."

Stories such as these are increasingly finding their way into the American media, and Americans are showing a growing concern for the persecuted church, but policymakers seem slow to respond. Not only is the United States government virtually silent on the issue of the worsening plight of Christians globally, but in three countries where Christians are currently most under siege – Syria, Egypt, and Nigeria – U.S. policy is actually exacerbating the situation"..."

Nigeria is now the second most deadly country in the world for Christians, second only to Syria, in spite of the fact that Christians make up approximately 50% of the population. While Nigeria has seen waves of Islamist extremism over the past century, its latest incarnation, established in 2002, is Boko Haram (which translates as "Western ways Forbidden").

The U.S. government has consistently taken the position that the conflict is not religious in nature but is rather a function of the poverty and lack of opportunity in the Muslim-majority north. However, Boko Haram describes themselves as deeply Islamic and the nature of the conflict as fundamentally religious in nature. In June 2012, Boko Haram issued the following statement:

The Nigerian state and Christians are our enemies and we will be launching attacks on the Nigerian state and its security apparatus as well as churches until we achieve our goal of establishing an Islamic state in place of the secular state.

Because the United States government interprets the problem as a sociological one, under which Boko Haram's violence is seen as being fuelled by lack of economic opportunity and a feeling of political disenfranchisement, one policy solution has been to spend millions of U.S. aid dollars on Koranic schools in northern Nigeria. So not only has the United States repeatedly distorted the nature of the conflict, it may be actively fueling it by funding the institutions where Islamist doctrine is taught.

Persecution of Christians is on an upward trajectory that runs parallel to the Islamist awakening and has accelerated under the so-called 'Arab Spring.' Yet it has not made it to the top-ten list of priorities for American policymakers, which is ironic, given that our nation was founded on the principle of religious freedom. Reports from North Africa and the Middle East attest to the fact that at least one side of this conflict sees it as a religious war."

---

## **TERRORISTS TAKE UP ARMS AS KERRY BLAMES ISRAEL**

---

*April 21, 2014* World Net Daily reported "In a sign of growing anti-Israel militancy, terrorists disarmed as part of an amnesty agreement between the Palestinian Authority and Israel have taken up weapons in violation of the amnesty deal. The information comes after U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry largely blamed Israel for the collapse in Mideast talks he was attempting to broker here.

Israel is considering rescinding the amnesty deal extended to members of the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, the so-called military wing of PA President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah organization. According to informed Middle Eastern security officials, Israel has extensive information showing scores of Al Aqsa members have been brandishing weapons in public, with some plotting attacks.

The Brigades, declared by the U.S. State Department as an official terrorist group, is responsible for suicide bombings, shootings and other terrorist attacks. The amnesty agreement was forged in 2007 purportedly as an Israeli gesture to Abbas and to bolster Fatah against its Hamas rivals in the West Bank..."

---

## **CANADA 'TREMENDOUSLY CONCERNED' ABOUT THE MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD**

---

*April 18, 2014* Arutz Sheva reported: "Canada is 'tremendously concerned' about the Muslim Brotherhood, according to an announcement made shortly after the UK announced a probe into the terror organization.

'Canada has taken an aggressive stand when it comes to listings [of terror groups] ... but there is a certain process,' John Baird, Canada's foreign minister, said at a news conference in Cairo.

'We are tremendously concerned about the Muslim Brotherhood ... but the listings are made on the basis of facts and intel.'

Since the 2012 ouster of Mohammed Morsi, the Muslim Brotherhood has been outlawed and has been designated as a terrorist organization by the army-led government in Egypt. Since then, the Brotherhood has been linked with a number of terrorist organizations, including Hamas. In light of the revelations, Britain announced earlier this month that it was considering blacklisting the group; the Brotherhood responded to the UK probe by subtly threatening more terrorism in the event of a ban.

Shortly after the threat was made, Canada announced that it was also considering a ban on the Brotherhood. The debate over blacklisting the group could have large-scale political consequences in Canada, due to the high prominence of at least one Brotherhood-associated group..."



*L. Jim Tuck, Pastor  
UCGIA Oakland, San Jose, Santa Rosa, Stockton, and Hawaii  
ljt5053@sbcglobal.net*