



AFTER COUP, THAI ARMY SUMMONS SHINAWATRA FAMILY

May 23, 2014 myway.com reported: "Thailand's ruling military on Friday summoned the entire ousted government and members of the politically influential family at the heart of the country's long-running conflict, a day after it seized control of this volatile Southeast Asian nation in a bloodless coup.

There was hardly any visible military presence on Bangkok's streets, which were less crowded than usual but still filled with vendors and people heading to work. There were no reports of overnight violence.

Countries including the United States, Japan and Australia expressed concern and disappointment over the coup, with the U.S. saying there was "no justification" for the takeover.

It was unclear why more than 100 people — including the ousted prime minister and several members of the influential Shinawatra family — were ordered to report to the military, which said it was summoning the high-profile figures "to keep peace and order and solve the country's problems.".."

CHINA LEADER WARNS US, OTHERS OVER ASIAN SECURITY

May 22, 2014 SpaceDaily.com reported: "Chinese President Xi Jinping issued a veiled warning to the United States on Wednesday, saying countries should not build up military alliances in Asia, even as Beijing feuds with several neighbours. Speaking at an Asian regional security forum in Shanghai, Xi said a rising China would seek 'peaceful' means to resolve territorial disputes.

Beijing has sought to counter Washington's foreign policy 'pivot' to Asia, but it has also irritated Vietnam, Japan and the Philippines -- the latter two US allies -- with what those countries say are aggressive moves in separate maritime rows.

'To beef up an entrenched or military alliance targeted at a third party is not conducive to maintaining common security,' Xi said, without naming names. Washington's traditional allies in the Asia-Pacific region include Japan, where it has military bases and whose security it guarantees by treaty, and Australia. China's official Xinhua news agency...urged countries from outside Asia not to raise tensions. "...



Southeast Asia

The relationship between Beijing and Washington has been strained in recent days after a US grand jury indicted five Chinese military officers on charges they hacked American computers to benefit Chinese state firms."..."

PALESTINIAN TV TEACHES KIDS THE WAY TO 'JIHAD STREET'

May 21, 2014 Breitbart.com reported: "Every day, hundreds of millions of children in more than 120 countries settle in to watch their local versions of 'Sesame Street' or similar shows inspired by the Muppet model. They learn to read, to write, to count. They learn about things like 'sharing,' and 'friendship,' and how to be kind to others. They learn what it is to love. Except in Palestine, where the lessons from Hamas children's television are aimed at something else: to kill.

Take, for instance, 'Pioneers of Tomorrow,' with its fluffy talking bee who encourages viewers to 'throw stones' at Jews, and a pretty young host who, in one episode, praises a little girl for her desire to be a police officer and 'shoot Jews.' Or consider the show's transformation, some years ago, of Mickey Mouse, into an Islamic supremacist character named Farfour. When international protests erupted, producers gave Farfour an honorary farewell: in his final episode, he is 'martyred' by Israelis..."

NEW AGE OF TERROR: ISLAM 'METASTASIZING WORLDWIDE'

May 21, 2014 World Net Daily reported: "A leading expert on Islamic terrorism says al-Qaida is different but as dangerous as ever because the U.S. failed to lead properly, and she says confronting the radical ideology is the key to victory.

Brigitte Gabriel said the good news is that more and more in the West are finally acknowledging the destruction radical Islam leaves in its path, but she said Americans should not hold their breath waiting for moderate Muslims to begin lashing out at extremist acts. Gabriel grew up as a Christian in Lebanon and experienced terrorism firsthand. She is now president of ActForAmerica.org and author of 'They Must Be Stopped: Why We Must Defeat Radical Islam and How We Can Do It.'

Al-Qaida has evolved greatly from how it functioned around the time of the terrorist attacks in September 2001. Instead of a powerful central organization, it now exists primarily as many different regional organizations spread out from East Asia to North Africa and each group largely appears to be making their own decisions.

New FBI Director James Comey recently told New York Times reporter Michael Schmidt that al-Qaida's current strength is a major surprise.

'I didn't have anywhere near the appreciation I got after I came into this job just how virulent those affiliates had become,' Comey told the Times. Director of National Intelligence James Clapper also acknowledges al-Qaida's resilience..."

U.S. SENDS ANOTHER WARSHIP TO THE BLACK SEA

May 21, 2014 SpaceDaily.com reported: "The US Navy is sending a guided missile cruiser to the Black Sea, the Pentagon said Tuesday, the latest bid by Washington to reassure allies worried over Russia's intervention in Ukraine.

'I can confirm the Vella Gulf, a Navy cruiser, will be going in to the Black Sea probably later this week,' Pentagon spokesman Rear Admiral John Kirby told reporters. The Vella Gulf will arrive in the Black Sea after the recent departure of the frigate USS Taylor, which left the area on May 12.

Since the crisis in Ukraine began in March, the United States has deployed troops to Eastern European countries for joint drills and sent ships to the Black Sea for exercises with NATO states in the area. But the 1936 Montreux Convention that governs the Black Sea bars outside countries from keeping warships in the strategic waters more than 21 days.

The Pentagon, keen to allay the concerns of allies bordering Russia, has said it would keep up regular deployments of troops to NATO members in Eastern Europe through the end of the year. The higher US military profile also would "include naval presence in and out of the Black Sea," according to Kirby."..."

FOREIGN DOCTORS, NURSES IN SAUDI ARABIA COULD TAKE MERS GLOBAL

May 20, 2014 Voice of America News reports: "The biggest risk that Middle East Respiratory Syndrome will become a global epidemic, ironically, may lie with globe-trotting healthcare workers.

From Houston to Manila, doctors and nurses are recruited for lucrative postings in Saudi Arabia, where MERS was first identified in 2012. Because the kingdom has stepped up hiring of foreign healthcare professionals in the last few years, disease experts said, there is a good chance the MERS virus will hitch a ride on workers as they return home.

'This is how MERS might spread around the world,' said infectious disease expert Dr Amesh Adalja of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

It can take five to 14 days for someone infected with MERS to show symptoms, more than enough time for a contagious person to fly to the other side of the world without being detectable. Healthcare workers 'are at extremely high risk of contracting MERS compared to the general public,' Adalja said. The threat has attracted new attention with the confirmation of the first two MERS cases in the United States. Both are healthcare workers who fell ill shortly after leaving their work in Saudi hospitals and boarding planes bound west..."

JERUSALEM IMAM URGES MUSLIMS TO INVADE ISRAEL

May 19, 2014 WND.com reported: "An imam at the Al Aqsa Mosque atop Jerusalem's Temple Mount has publicly urged the armies of the Arab world to invade Israel thus fulfill the great Muslim longing of destroying the hated 'Zionist entity.'

In a televised sermon from Milan, Italy that was broadcast by Al Jazeera, Imam Raed Al-Daan said that Muslims everywhere are beginning to realize that 'the Jewish state will vanish, and that the morning sun will rise on Palestine.'

Al-Daan went on to state that he and the other clerics who serve on the Temple Mount as part of the Palestinian Authority-appointed Islamic Trust (Waqf) 'await the legions of the conquerors. We await the armies from Tunisia, from Jordan, from Egypt, from Iraq, from the Maghreb (Morocco and Algeria), and from the Hijaz (Saudi Arabia).'

To clarify that he was not speaking of a Palestinian state confined to the so-called "West Bank," Al-Daan repeatedly referred to Muslims shouting victory cries from Israeli cities such as Jaffa, Haifa, Beit Shean, Lod and Ramle."

POPE WILL 'RECOGNIZE PALESTINE, CALL TO END OCCUPATION'

May 19, 2014 Arutz Sheva reported: "Palestinian Authority (PA) and Arab Christian sources are already celebrating Pope Francis's visit to Israel starting next Sunday, saying his choice to begin the trip directly in PA-held Bethlehem is meant to 'recognize Palestine' and 'oppose the occupation.'

'He is taking a helicopter directly from Jordan to Palestine - to Bethlehem. It's a kind of sign of recognizing Palestine,' Father Jamal Khader of the Latin patriarchate in Jerusalem told AFP. The claims that his trip will begin in a 'recognition of Palestine' comes amid reports from February by Rabbi Sergio Bergman, a member of the Argentinian parliament and close friend of Pope Francis, who said that the pope intends to define himself as the 'Che Guevara of the Palestinians' and support their 'struggle and rights' during his visit.

In Bethlehem the pope is to travel in an open-top car and meet with PA Chairman Mahmoud Abbas, holding 'mass' prayer services there instead of in Jerusalem in what has been called a show of support for the PA. It has been noted that the pope has been remarkably tight-lipped over the violent persecution of Christians in Bethlehem, instead choosing to condemn alleged Jewish 'price tag' vandalism. After the 'mass' services, the pope is to visit a nearby 'refugee camp.'

'Knowing who he is, and his sensitivity for all those who suffer, I am sure that he will say something defending all those who are suffering, including the Palestinians who live under occupation,' Khader said. The fact that "the pope will begin his visit in Palestine and not Israel," as Bandak put it, was meant as a slight to the Jewish state according to the PA official, who added "I know that Israeli officials are not happy with this decision."..."

