



BULLARD PREDICTS FED RATE INCREASE IN FIRST QUARTER OF 2015

June 26, 2014 Bloomberg.com reported: "Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis President James Bullard predicted the central bank will raise interest rates starting in the first quarter of 2015, sooner than most of his colleagues think, as unemployment falls and inflation quickens.

Asked about his forecast for the timing of the first interest-rate increase since 2006, he said: "I've left mine at the end of the first quarter of next year."...

U.S. stocks fell after a report showed consumer spending grew less than forecast and extended declines following Bullard's comments. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index slid 0.4 percent to 1,951.10 at 11:41 a.m. in New York. The 10-year Treasury yield fell four basis points, or 0.04 percentage point, to 2.52 percent.

Bullard predicted the jobless rate may fall below 6 percent and inflation rise near 2 percent by the end of this year. "..."



HAMAS: ATTACK GAZA AND WE'LL ATTACK HAIFA

June 26, 2014 Arutz Sheva reported: "If Israel attacks Gaza, Hamas will attack Haifa, a member of the group threatened on Wednesday.

Speaking at a rally in Gaza, the deputy head of the Palestinian Legislative Council Ahmad Bahr warned Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu against making a 'silly move' which may result in an escalation in Gaza.

'The resistance will not sit idly by, as it has combat capabilities and missiles that will hit Haifa if the enemy attacks the Gaza Strip,' Bahr declared.

He attacked the security coordination between Israel and the Palestinian Authority (PA), calling on the PA to stop cooperating with 'the occupation'. Judea and Samaria, claimed Bahr, has started a new intifada against the 'occupation and security cooperation.'

Bahr's threats mark the third day in a row that Hamas leaders have threatened Israel. On Tuesday, senior Hamas leader Mahmoud Al-Zahar declared that Hamas has rockets that can hit any city in Israel."..."

AL-MALIKI CONFIRMS SYRIAN AIRSTRIKES CARRIED OUT AGAINST ISIS IN IRAQ

June 26, 2014 Haaretz reported: "Syria has carried out air strikes inside Iraqi territory earlier this week, Iraq Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki was quoted on Thursday as telling the BBC.

The article said Maliki confirmed that Syrian jets had bombed militants near the border town of al-Qaim. Maliki said he did not ask for the raid but 'welcomed' any strike against the Islamic State in Iraq and the Syria militant group, the BBC said.

Syrian state media has denied the country has carried out attacks on Iraq. "..."

IRAQ'S SADR WARNS WILL 'SHAKE THE GROUND' AGAINST MILITANTS

June 25, 2014 spacewar.com reported: "Powerful Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr Wednesday voiced opposition to US military advisers who have begun meeting with Iraqi commanders, and warned that his supporters would "shake the ground" in combatting militants.

"We will shake the ground under the feet of ignorance and extremism," he said, referring to Sunni insurgents who have overrun a swathe of territory in the past two weeks, in a televised speech from the Shiite holy city of Najaf.

He added that he only supported "providing international support from non-occupying states for the army of Iraq".

The cleric's remarks came days after fighters loyal to him paraded with weapons in the Sadr City area of north Baghdad, vowing to fight a major militant offensive that has alarmed the world and threatens to tear Iraq apart.

Iraq's flagging security forces, which were swept aside by the initial offensive but have since at least somewhat recovered, have already been joined by some Shiite fighters, and thousands more are ready to take part.

Sadr's Mahdi Army militia, which battled US forces for years when American troops were stationed in Iraq during their country's nearly nine-year war, remains officially inactive, but fighters loyal to the cleric have nevertheless vowed to combat the militant advance."..."

HAMAS LEADER: WE CAN BOMB ANY CITY IN ISRAEL

June 25, 2014 Arutz Sheva reported: "Senior Hamas leader Mahmoud Al-Zahar on Tuesday issued a direct threat against Israel. Al-Zahar, who spoke at a memorial ceremony for terrorists who died in a 'work accident', declared that Hamas has rockets that can hit any city in Israel.

He further said that during Operation Pillar of Defense in 2012, Hamas held a 'dry run' in attacking Israeli cities such as Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

Hamas is known to have test-fired long-range M-175 rockets that can reach Tel Aviv and even beyond that when fired from Gaza...”

ISIS THREATENS TO STORM JORDAN WITH 15,000 FIGHTERS

June 24, 2014 WND.com reported: “Members of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria are claiming on jihadist websites that the group is preparing an operation in which more than 15,000 of its militants will storm into Jordan, WND has found.

The claims were made on Arabic jihadist websites in which the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, or ISIS, is known to be active.

While it was unclear whether or not the ISIS could fulfill its threat to storm Jordan, the al-Qaida-inspired group on Sunday reportedly seized control of Iraq’s main border crossing with Jordan.

Alongside its capture of the Turabil border crossing, three more towns in Iraq’s western Anbar province fell to ISIS, putting the jihadist group within reach of Jordan.

According to informed Middle Eastern security officials, Jordan has been holding emergency meetings since Sunday to discuss a possible military response, while the Jordanian air force was placed on high alert...”

IRAQ INVADERS THREATEN NUKE ATTACK ON ISRAEL

June 24, 2014 World Net Daily reported: “The well-organized army of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, or ISIS, claims it has access to nuclear weapons and a will to use them to ‘liberate’ Palestine from Israel as part of its ‘Islamic Spring,’ according to a WND source in the region.

Franklin Lamb, an international lawyer based in Beirut and Damascus, said the move is part of the ISIS aim of creating a caliphate under strict Islamic law, stretching from the Mediterranean Sea to Iraq.

Lamb, who has access to ISIS fighters and sympathizers, said ISIS has been working with a ‘new specialized’ unit organized at the beginning of 2013 to focus ‘exclusively on destroying the Zionist regime occupying Palestine.’

Lamb added that the ISIS ‘Al-Quds Unit’ is working to broaden its influence in more than 60 Palestinian camps and gatherings from Gaza, across ‘Occupied Palestine,’ or Israel, to Jordan and from Lebanon up to the north of Syria ‘seeking to enlist support as it prepares to liberate Palestine.’

ISIS is also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Sham. ‘Sham,’ or ‘Greater Syria,’ refers to Cyprus, Palestine, Jordan, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Israel and southern Turkey...”

AMERICANS LEAVE HOME TO WAGE JIHAD FOR ISIS

June 23, 2014 Breitbart.com reported: “In the past few months, as many as 15 Somali-American men have left the Minneapolis-St. Paul area in order to join radical jihadist insurgents in Syria, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

One of the Minnesota residents told MPR News that he had joined the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS), the militant Islamist group that has been gaining territory in blitzkrieg fashion in both Syria and Iraq. Some say ISIS’s tactics are so ruthless and destructive that they pose a greater threat to civilization than even Al Qaeda.

‘A Muslim has to stand up for [what’s] right,’ said Abdirahmaan Muhumed, a 29-year-old Muslim who packed up one day, leaving nine children behind, to go to Syria to ‘give up this worldly life for Allah.’ Muhumed’s big-picture goal was to ‘save the global Muslim community.’

He disregarded claims that he was a terrorist, saying that if people wanted to look at him that way, then he was ‘happy with it’ if it meant pursuing his course. He said he asked Allah to ‘make my mom strong for the decision that I made.’

What may be most shocking about Muhumed’s journey towards jihad is the fact that he has no family members or ethnic connections to the Levant region for which he departed. Muhumed’s only connection is through his Muslim faith...”

CONVERT TO ISLAM OR FACE THE SWORD

June 23, 2014 The National Post reported: “Convert to Islam or face the sword.

That was the stark message Christians in the Syrian city of Raqqa received last year when ultra-fundamentalist Sunni extremists, proclaiming themselves to be members of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham (ISIS), seized power and launched a reign of terror against Shiites and Christians that has included beheadings and at least three crucifixions.

Aware of ISIS’ ferocious reputation for murder and mayhem, thousands of Christians who lived in Mosul and the surrounding Nineveh Plain fled in panic when ISIS rebels captured Iraq’s second largest city from

government forces on June 10.

Many of those who escaped have sought refuge in this Christian enclave in the Kurdish city of Irbil, only an hour’s drive away from Mosul...”



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