



## CHINESE PRESIDENT WIELDS ECONOMIC MIGHT ON LATAM TOUR

July 23, 2014 spacedaily.com reported: "Chinese President Xi Jinping wrapped up a nine-day Latin American tour in Cuba on Wednesday, heading home with dozens of deals underlining Beijing's growing interest -- and influence -- in the region. Xi kicked off his trip at a summit of the BRICS emerging powers in Brazil, then traveled to Argentina, Venezuela and Cuba -- three countries that have often been among the most outspoken critics of US dominance over the region.

His charm offensive began with the announcement by the BRICS -- Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa -- of a new \$50-billion development bank and \$100-billion reserve fund designed to provide an alternative to the Western-led World Bank and International Monetary Fund. Latin American leaders had glowing praise for the move, which Xi followed up by proposing a \$20-billion infrastructure fund for the region."...

It earned him a warm welcome in Argentina, whose cash-strapped government, locked out of capital markets since defaulting on its debt in 2001, is fighting off hedge funds in a US court while staring down the threat of another default. Argentina and China signed more than 20 deals worth several billion dollars during Xi's visit, in areas from oil to mining to agriculture.

"The arrival of new actors is going to bring our countries new and better opportunities, because it will no longer be possible to have a world where some dominate others. It will be a world of cooperation and that should be the new global model," said Argentine President Cristina Kirchner.

Xi again had his sights on raw materials and energy in his visit to Venezuela, where he signed some 30 deals with President Nicolas Maduro in the oil, mining and agriculture sectors.

"Venezuela has become one of the top countries for Chinese investment," said Xi. China is also Venezuela's top creditor, and the second-largest market for Venezuelan oil after the United States. It pays for its average 640,000 daily barrels in part by writing down the \$17-billion debt Caracas owes it.

Xi announced a "comprehensive strategic partnership" with both Argentina and Venezuela, highlighting China's eagerness to do business with the two resource-rich countries often given the cold shoulder by US and European investors."..."

## SUDANESE CLERIC: 'MUHAMMAD SAID IT IS A DUTY TO FIGHT AND TARGET AMERICA'

July 23, 2014 Breitbart.com reported: "In a sermon delivered on June 20, Sudanese cleric Muhammad Ali al-Jazouli told his congregation to target and kill American men, women, and children, insisting that the Prophet Muhammad had called for war on America and that those killed by American forces would receive '144 black-eyed virgins' in the afterlife.

In an address translated by the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI), al-Jazouli, who has for years promoted violent anti-American sentiments, tells his congregation that all Americans are to blame for any deaths in Iraq. 'American taxpayers share the blame for the blood of every Iraqi child,' he says, explaining that 'killing their women and children is permitted' because the Prophet Muhammad once said 'their offspring constitute part of them.' He argues that Muhammad had taught his followers that anyone who 'helps kill a Muslim man... no longer enjoys protection,' and, as such, all Americans were valid targets..."

## AL-QAIDA WING ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR ISLAMIC EMIRATE IN YEMEN

July 23, 2014 Voice of America News reported: "Yemen's al-Qaida wing is declaring plans to establish an Islamic emirate in the remote eastern Hadramout province. Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula's (AQAP) announcement also orders men and women in the east to obey its strict interpretation of Islamic law. The terrorist group issued leaflets with the orders and its intent to create an Islamic state.

The announcement comes weeks after the al-Qaida offshoot called the Islamic State and the Levant (ISIL) declared its own caliphate across parts of Syria and Iraq. AQAP is one of the most active branches of the global militant network. Its militants have shifted operations to Hadramout after the army, backed by U.S. drones, helped drive the group out of southern strongholds earlier this year..."

## WHO: MIDDLE EAST RESPIRATORY SYNDROME COULD BE AIRBORNE

July 22, 2014 theweek.com reported: "In a scientific paper published Tuesday, scientists suggested that Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) may be airborne. The disease has already claimed at least 288 lives since its appearance in 2012.

Researchers at King Fahd Medical Research Center in Saudi Arabia analyzed air samples from an infected camel barn, and the samples tested positive for a strain of the viral genome MERS RNA, CNN reports. The possibility of MERS being airborne has been in question after reports found that some infected people had close contact with other MERS patients. The WHO recommends that "airborne precautions should be applied" when treating MERS, in case the disease may spread through air particles.

"These data show evidence for the presence of the airborne MERS in the same barn that was owned by the patient and sheltered the infected camels," the study authors said in a statement. However, doctors are still looking into the



difference between dead and live virus particles and are unsure whether MERS can be transmitted through aerosols.”... “

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## **CHINA SAYS SPY SHIP OPERATIONS 'IN LINE WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW'**

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*July 21, 2014* spacewar.com reported: “Beijing has defended its dispatch of a spy ship to international waters off Hawaii, near where Chinese vessels are taking part in a US-led naval exercise for the first time, reports said Monday. The defence ministry said the vessel's activities are in line with international law, reported the Global Times, which is close to the ruling Communist party.

Reports in the US quoted the US Navy saying that a Chinese surveillance vessel had been found operating near the location of the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) naval exercises, viewed by analysts as one step toward potentially repairing ties at a time of heightened US-China tensions.

Four ships of the People's Liberation Army Navy with an estimated 1,100 sailors on board -- a missile destroyer, missile frigate, supply ship and hospital ship -- are officially taking part in the RIMPAC exercises, which began last month. But China and the US have found themselves increasingly at odds as Beijing seeks to assert its claim to disputed territory in the East and South China Seas and as Washington seeks to shore up its influence in the region.

China's dispatch of the surveillance ship is a reminder that relations remain fraught between the Asian giant and western superpower.

"The People's Liberation Army naval ships' operation in waters outside the territorial seas of other countries is in line with international law and international practice," the Chinese defence ministry statement said.

"The Chinese side respect the rights of maritime countries in accordance with international laws, but also wishes relevant countries could respect the rights Chinese ships are entitled to enjoy by law," it added.

US officials have affirmed that the ship is operating legally. Previously, Washington has accused Beijing of harassing US ships operating in international waters of the South China Sea.

In 2009, tensions spiked after five Chinese ships surrounded and nearly collided with a US Navy surveillance ship in waters off south China, in one of the highest-level confrontation between both countries in recent years.

More recently, Washington last December issued a formal protest after the USS Cowpens warship was forced to manoeuvre to avoid a collision with a Chinese naval vessel in the same waters. Beijing claims almost the whole of the South China Sea, even areas close to the coasts of other littoral states.”

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## **AFTER 2,000 YEARS, THE LAST CHRISTIAN IS FORCED TO LEAVE MOSUL**

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*July 21, 2014* Breitbart.com reported: “The last Christian reportedly left Iraq's second largest city of Mosul at 12:00pm on Saturday, ending over 6,000 years of Assyrian history in the city. Assyrians have lived in Mosul for over 6,000 years, converting to Christianity over 2,000 years ago. This all came to an end on Saturday, when the last Assyrian Christian left the city.

On Thursday, July 17th, the Islamic State (IS)-- formerly the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS)-- released a statement demanding the Christians in Mosul either to convert to Islam, paying the jizya (tax on non-Muslims), leave the city, or be killed. The threat was to be implemented on Saturday. It is being reported locally that by noon yesterday, every Christian had chosen to leave...”

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## **ANTI-ISRAEL PROTESTERS RALLY ACROSS FRANCE, DEFYING BAN IMPOSED AFTER SYNAGOGUE CLASH**

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*July 21, 2014* Haaretz.com reported: “Thousands of pro-Palestinian protesters marched in French cities on Saturday to condemn violence in Gaza, defying a ban imposed after demonstrators marched on two synagogues in Paris last weekend and clashed with riot police.

A Reuters photographer said demonstrators in northern Paris launched projectiles at riot police, who responded by firing teargas canisters and stun grenades. Demonstrators also climbed on top of a building and burned an Israeli flag. At least one car was set on fire. A police spokesman said that 38 demonstrators had been arrested by early evening and that the clashes were dying down.



French President Francois Hollande said he understood emotional responses to the killing of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip in a flare-up of hostilities with Israel but would not allow violence to spill over into France.”...



Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve justified bans in Paris, the Sarcelles suburb and the Mediterranean city of Nice by saying the security risk was too great, prompting outrage from left-wing and pro-Palestinian groups. He had asked police in cities to examine security risks city by city and, where necessary, to issue ban orders.

The far-left New Anticapitalist Party, an organizer of last Sunday's rally and the banned one in Paris, urged protesters in Paris to defy the ban, prompting police to issue a warning.”...”

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has contributed to growing tensions between France's Muslim and Jewish populations, both of which are the largest in Europe. In the first three months of 2014 more Jews left France for Israel than at any other time since the Jewish state was created in 1948, with many citing rising anti-Semitism as a factor.”... ”

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