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ISIS THREATENS TO CRUCIFY LEBANON'S CHRISTIANS AS ISLAMIC STATE PREPARES TO CROSS SYRIA BORDER

October 2, 2014 IBT.com reports: "Christians in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley have begun arming themselves in preparation for an Isis (now known as the Islamic State) offensive as it seeks to expand its territorial control outside of Syria."

Up to 3,000 militants from the Islamic State and other jihadists occupy the mountain range between Lebanon and Syria near the Sunni town of Arsal.

As IS seek to grab land outside of the mountain caves and farms they currently control, Christian volunteers have now created village defence forces to protect against the Sunni militants who have taken up to 21 Lebanese soldiers and policemen hostage.

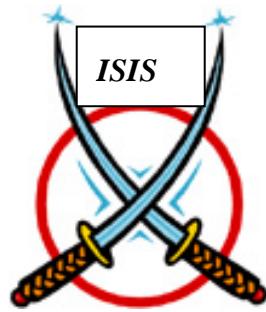
'We are a minority and we are under threat by the jihadists,' Rifaat Nasrallah, a commander of the volunteer guards in the Greek Catholic town of Ras Baalbek, said.

'It wasn't the idea of anyone in particular,' Nasrallah says of the formation of defence units. 'The whole village felt in danger so we all agreed it was necessary.'

'We don't shoot if we see someone or something moving in the mountains,' said one of the watchmen. 'We just call the Army and they investigate.'

Ras Baalbek has a population of 15,000 and is separated from the flashpoint town of Arsal by a range of hills.

'Imagine if Islamic State makes it into Ras Baalbek and they crucify a Christian. It will set Lebanon alight,' a western diplomat in the Lebanese capital of Beirut, speaking on condition of anonymity, told The Times..."



OFFICIALS: SECOND PERSON BEING MONITORED FOR EBOLA

October 1, 2014 USA Today reported "Health officials are closely monitoring a possible second Ebola patient who had close contact with the first person to be diagnosed in the U.S., the director of Dallas County's health department said Wednesday."

All who have been in close contact with the man officially diagnosed are being monitored as a precaution, Zachary Thompson, director of Dallas County Health and Human Services, said in a morning interview with WFAA-TV, Dallas-Fort Worth.

'Let me be real frank to the Dallas County residents: The fact that we have one confirmed case, there may be another case that is a close associate with this particular patient,' he said. 'So this is real. There should be a concern, but it's contained to the specific family members and close friends at this moment.'

The director continued to assure residents that the public isn't at risk because health officials have the virus contained..."

REELING FROM EBOLA, WHO WARNS OF MERS RISK TO AFRICA

October 1, 2014 Reuters reported: "Vulnerable countries, especially in Africa, need to defend themselves against the possible seasonal spread of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) in the first half of 2015, the World Health Organization said on Wednesday."

A WHO Emergency Committee recommended steps 'to strengthen infection prevention control practices, build capacity of health care workers and provide protective equipment in vulnerable countries, especially African countries.'

Poor infection control and a lack of expertise and equipment are widely seen as key reasons for the rapid spread of the deadly Ebola virus in three West African countries.

The committee, whose experts issue an update on the disease every three months, also called for improved MERS awareness among pilgrims going to Saudi Arabia for the annual Muslim hajj journey and for surveillance of pilgrims during and after hajj..."

HAMAS: ISRAEL THE SOURCE OF ALL WORLD EVIL

September 30, 2014 Arutz Sheva reported: "Hamas claimed Monday night that photos that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu displayed during his UN General Assembly speech showing Hamas terrorists setting up rocket launchers and firing rockets at Israel from areas containing civilians were fabricated. Hamas, terrorist group spokesperson Sami Abu-Zuhri said, would never place rocket launchers next to children, as depicted by the photos Netanyahu displayed. 'Obviously it is a lie,' he said."

In his speech, Netanyahu equated Hamas with the Islamic State, the Islamist group that has conquered large parts of Syria and Iraq. 'ISIS is Hamas, and Hamas is ISIS,' Netanyahu said. 'Both want the same things. Hamas shares the same militant ambitions of global Islamists,' the Prime Minister said.

Netanyahu also noted Hamas's executions of Fatah members and dissidents, as well as the terror group's deliberate use of children as

human shields, using a France 24 photo as proof. ‘This is a war crime,’ he said. ‘I say to Abbas: there are the war crimes committed by Hamas, under your leadership, under the unity government you head, and these are the war crimes you should have called to investigate last week.’

‘The profound moral difference between Israel and Hamas couldn’t have been clearer,’ he said. ‘Israel was using missiles to protect its children, Hamas was using children to protect its missiles.’

Hamas repudiated both the photo and Netanyahu’s comments. ‘Comparing Hamas to the Islamic State and presenting them as two sides of the same coin is an attempt to confuse matters. Hamas is the national liberation movement of Palestine. It is the occupation by Israel that is the source of all evil and terror in the world. Israel and terror are the same thing.’ ...”

TURKEY BACKS ISIS TO ELIMINATE ASSAD

September 28, 2014 World Net Daily reported: “There has been mounting concern over the lack of participation by Turkey – a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization – in the U.S.-led coalition to attack ISIS, but the reason for holding back has become more apparent.

At first, Turkey did not take action because ISIS, which now calls itself the Islamic State, was holding hostage 49 of its diplomats who were captured when ISIS blitzkrieged into Iraq from Syria last June and took over the city of Mosul.



However, the diplomats were released under mysterious circumstances. ISIS says they were exchanged for 180 ISIS fighters, but Turkish officials will neither confirm nor deny the claim.

At the recent Paris meeting of Western powers to discuss how to defeat ISIS, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu made clear that Turkey’s first priority wasn’t the elimination of ISIS but to overthrow the government of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

According to informed sources, Cavusoglu charged Assad was responsible for the creation of ISIS. The only way to eliminate the extremist Sunni jihadist group, he said, was to eliminate its root causes, citing the need for an all-inclusive government in Iraq and the toppling of Assad as necessary priorities...”

FROM ARAB SPRING TO ISLAMIC WINTER - TO TOTAL CHAOS

September 29, 2014 Arutz Sheva reported: “Middle East experts Dr. Mordechai Kedar and Prof. Eyal Zisser recently sat down with Arutz Sheva ahead of the Jewish New Year (Rosh Hashanah), and recapped the tumultuous and bloody events of the Arab world over the past year.

Kedar, a senior lecturer at Bar Ilan University, began by noting the current warfare is the continuation of a trend of disorder since the ‘Arab spring’ revolutions began in 2011, leading to the ‘deterioration of states like Syria, Iraq, Libya, Yemen.’

‘On the ruins of these countries we see already enclaves of Islamic states,’ said Kedar, noting the Islamic State (aka ISIS) that has brutally seized power and declared statehood in parts of Iraq and Syria, as well as the Al Qaeda-linked Boko Haram terror group that similarly declared statehood in Nigeria.

Zisser, an expert on Syria and Lebanon and Dean of the Faculty of the Humanities at Tel Aviv University, concurred with Kedar’s appraisal, saying ‘the Arab spring turned out to be an Islamic winter, and now it’s not a spring, it’s not a winter - it’s simply chaos and anarchy.’

The western world has exhibited ‘hypocrisy’ towards the developing bloodshed in the Middle East according to Kedar, who remarked the world only wakes up when Westerners are beheaded.

For over three years over 200,000 Syrians have been killed by brutal internece violence without the world intervening, but ‘when three or four western journalists and aid workers are beheaded all of a sudden the world starts to act,’ said Kedar, noting the airstrikes following several very publicized and gruesome murders...”

RUSSIA THREATENS TO RETALIATE AGAINST U.S. MILITARY

September 29, 2014 World Net Daily reported: “Russia has delivered a behind-the-scenes threat to retaliate if airstrikes carried out by the U.S. or its allies target the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, Middle Eastern security officials told WND.

The security officials said Russia complained Sunday in quiet talks with United Nations representatives that the Obama administration’s current aerial campaign against Islamic State fighters in Syria is a violation of international agreements regarding control of Syrian airspace.

The officials said Russia warned it could potentially retaliate if U.S. or Arab airstrikes go beyond targeting Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, or ISIS, and instead bomb any Syrian regime targets.

The officials told WND they do not have any information about the seriousness of the Russian threat or whether Moscow meant it would retaliate directly or aid Assad’s air force in a military response...”