



U.S. WAR AGAINST IS STEADILY ESCALATES, RAISING STAKES

November 13, 2014 SpaceWar.com reported: "US military action against Islamic State jihadists in Iraq and Syria began on a small scale three months ago but has steadily expanded in size and scope, raising the stakes for Washington, experts say.

The mission has morphed from protecting religious minorities in Iraq to a vow to 'destroy' the IS group in both Syria and Iraq, a dramatic shift for an American president who as a candidate was an outspoken opponent of the previous US war in Iraq.

'As commander in chief, I will not allow the United States to be dragged into another war in Iraq,' President Barack Obama said on August 7, when he announced the first US air strikes against the IS group in Iraq.

But last week, Obama approved reinforcements that will bring the total military footprint to 3,100 troops in Iraq, with a new mission to shape the government army into an effective fighting force..."

RUSSIA PLANS LONG-RANGE BOMBER FLIGHTS NEAR U.S. SHORES

November 13, 2014 CNN reported: "Russia plans to send long-range bombers to patrol the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean, the nation's defense minister said, amid escalating tensions with the West over Ukraine. The patrols would bring the flights close to the United States' territorial waters. In September, the U.S. intercepted six Russian planes, including fighter jets, near airspace off Alaska, officials said.

The plan to send the long-range bombers is in response to a growing international resentment against Russia, defense minister Sergey Shoigu said Wednesday. In addition, he said, Russia will boost its security in Crimea, the region it annexed from Ukraine earlier this year.

'In many respects, this is connected with the situation in Ukraine, with fomentation of anti-Russian moods on the part of NATO and reinforcement of foreign military presence next to our border,' Shoigu said.

'Under these conditions, the formation of full-fledged and self-sufficient forces on the Crimean peninsula is a priority task.'

Shoigu said Russian long-range bombers will conduct flights along the Russian border and over the Arctic Ocean..."

CHINA SHOWS OFF NEW STEALTH FIGHTER

November 12, 2014 SpaceDaily.com reported: "China's new stealth jet fighter rocketed skywards Wednesday as Beijing puts on an unprecedented display of openness -- and military force -- at the country's premier airshow. The black J-31 rose in a nearly vertical climb on take-off in Zhuhai before circling back and doing two rolls, in the aircraft's first announced public appearance.

The plane's existence has been the subject of rumour and speculation for years, with photographs appearing increasingly frequently on military websites in recent months.

Defence analysts say the J-31 is China's answer to the United States' F-35, though the Chinese jet lags behind the American one technologically. The fighter's Chinese name is "Falcon Eagle" and it is manufactured by a unit of Aviation Industry Corp. of China (AVIC), whose defence arm uses the slogan: "We are making the best weapons for guardians of the peace."

The plane's debut comes amid tensions between China and its neighbours over territorial disputes, particularly Japan which has feuded with Beijing over a group of islands in the East China Sea.

China's air force said the display of military might at the airshow showed the intention to build a strong country. The People's Liberation Army (PLA) air force "will make unremitting efforts to realise dreams of a strong China and powerful armed forces", read a sign alongside an array of eight warplanes at the airshow.

"The display... demonstrates the strength and confidence of (the) PLA Air Force to fulfil missions and achieve world peace."

China has steadily increased its defence budget for years, with funding projected to rise more than 12 percent to \$132 billion in 2014. But the US has accused Beijing of under-reporting its spending by as much as 20 percent in the past..."

IRAN DEAL: THE NEW 'PEACE IN OUR TIME'

November 12, 2014 Breitbart.com reported: "In Tuesday's Wall Street Journal, the indispensable Bret Stephens explained why an Iran deal--which he still regards as unlikely--would be worth less than the paper on which it is printed. Should President Barack Obama emerge, Neville Chamberlain-like, and wave the page on the tarmac, Stephens warns that the agreement will be highly technical, using the opacity of specifics to impress the West while delaying, then blocking enforcement.

There are other reasons to doubt the value of any deal with Iran. For one thing, Iran has defied UN Security Council resolutions on nuclear enrichment for a decade. The interim deal signed late last year, and the long-term deal now under negotiation, both allow Iran to enrich uranium up to a point. So Iran has already been rewarded for breaking the most serious international agreements--why should it behave differently in the future? ..."



ABBAS: WE WON'T LET ISRAELI EXTREMISTS 'CONTAMINATE' TEMPLE MOUNT

November 12, 2014 The Times of Israel reported: "Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas on Tuesday warned that the Palestinians will not allow Israeli extremists to 'contaminate' the Temple Mount, and said that allowing Jewish prayer at the site would risk a global religious war.

The PA leader also maintained that the rioters at the Al-Aqsa Mosque on the disputed holy site had the right to defend themselves, and said Muslims and Christians would never recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

Abbas's remarks (Arabic link) came in an address to thousands who gathered in Ramallah in honor of the 10th anniversary of the death of PLO leader Yasser Arafat, during which he cautioned the Israeli government against changing the status quo at the Temple Mount.

'Keep the settlers and the extremists away from Al-Aqsa and our holy places,' Abbas demanded. 'We will not allow our holy places to be contaminated. Keep them away from us and we will stay away from them, but if they enter al-Aqsa, [we] will protect al-Aqsa and the church and the entire country,' he said. It was unclear what church Abbas was referring to.

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has repeated several times in recent days that he does not intend to change the status quo at the site — the holiest in Judaism, and the third-holiest in Islam. Jews are allowed to visit but forbidden from praying at the contested site, which Israel captured from Jordan in the 1967 war, but where it allowed the Muslim Waqf authorities to remain in administrative charge."..."

SCHOOL BANS STUDENTS FROM PRAYING TOGETHER

November 11, 2014 World Net Daily reported: "For the last three years, high-school senior Chase Windebank has been meeting with other students during a designated free period to discuss their Christian faith, pray and even sing together.

But on Sept. 29, the assistant principal of Pine Creek High School in Colorado Springs, Colorado, told the students it has to stop because it violates the 'separation of church and state.'

Religious discussion gatherings, the school insists, can only take place before or after school hours. Now, with the help of attorneys from Alliance Defending Freedom, or ADF, Windebank is suing the school to lift the ban and restore what he says are protected First Amendment rights.

'Far from being unconstitutional, religious speech is expressly protected by the First Amendment,' says ADF Legal Counsel Matt Sharp, 'and public schools have no business stopping students from praying together during their free time.'

'Public schools should encourage the free exchange of ideas,' adds ADF Senior Legal Counsel Jeremy Tedesco. 'Instead, this school implemented an ill-conceived ban that singles out religious speech for censorship during free time.'..."

IRAN'S KHAMENEI PROPOSES PLAN FOR ISRAEL'S ELIMINATION - ON TWITTER

November 9, 2014 Haaretz reported: "Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has put forth a plan to eliminate Israel, which he believes will be accepted by the international arena. In a neat table posted on Khamenei's official Twitter account on Sunday, the ayatollah answers nine key questions on why – and how – this plan is to be implemented.

In the post, Khamenei accuses Israel of seeking to realize its goals 'by means of infanticide, homicide, violence & iron fist,' and says that the only way to stop the 'Israeli crimes' is to eliminate the 'fake Zionist regime.'

According to the post, Iran has presented 'international communities' with 'a practical and logical mechanism' aimed at achieving this goal – and it doesn't include a massacre of the region's Jews. Instead, the 'proper way' of eliminating Israel 'would come through a referendum that would encompass 'all the original people of Palestine including Muslims, Christians and Jews wherever they are.'

The post stipulates that the referendum would instate a government in Palestine, but does not specify how. This government will then decide whether the 'Jewish immigrants who have been persuaded into emigration to Palestine' can remain in the country or should return to 'their home countries.'

While the 'usurper Zionists' are not expected to accept the proposal easily, Khamenei believes that the 'fair and logical plan' can be 'properly understood by global public opinion and can enjoy the supports of the independent nations and governments.'..."

CALIPHATE IN EUROPE: SWEDEN CEDES CONTROL OF MUSLIM AREAS

November 7, 2014 Investors.com reported: "Political Correctness: The perils of multiculturalism and open borders have reached critical mass in Sweden. There are Muslim enclaves where postal, fire and other essential services — even police officers themselves — require no police protection.

A police report released last month identifies 55 of these 'no-go zones' in Sweden. These zones are similar to others that have popped up in Europe in recent years. They formed as large Muslim populations emigrating to politically correct and tolerant European states refuse to assimilate and set up virtual states within a state where the authorities fear to tread.

Soeren Kern of the Hudson Institute has documented the proliferation of these zones. They are de facto Muslim micro-states under Shariah law that reject Western values, society and legal systems. In these districts non-Muslims are expected to conform to the dictates of fundamentalist Islam or face violent consequences. 'A more precise name for these zones,' says Middle Eastern expert Daniel Pipes, 'would be Dar al-Islam — the House of Islam or the place where Islam rules.'..."

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