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JORDAN'S KING VOWS 'RELENTLESS' WAR AGAINST ISLAMIC STATE

February 5, 2015 VOA.com reported: "Jordan's King Abdullah has vowed to take tough action against Islamic State militants following the group's gruesome killing of a Jordanian pilot captured after his plane went down during a mission targeting the militants in Syria.

The murder of pilot Muath al-Kaseasbeh triggered international condemnation and prompted Jordanian authorities to execute two Iraqi prisoners, failed suicide bomber Sajida al-Rishawi and al-Qaida operative Ziad al-Karbouly. King Abdullah stressed that Jordan would be 'relentless' in the war against Islamic State.

'We are waging this war to protect our faith, our values and human principles. And our war for their sake will be relentless and will hit them in their own ground,' he said...'

IRAN: THE 'AMERICANS ARE BEGGING US FOR A DEAL'

February 5, 2015 freebeacon.com reported: "A top Iranian military leader claims that U.S. officials have been "begging us" to sign a nuclear deal during closed door negotiations with Tehran over its contested nuclear program, according to recent comments made to the Iranian state-controlled media.

Mohammad Reza Naghdi, the commander of the Basij, a paramilitary group operating under the wing of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corp (IRGC), recently claimed that the "Americans are begging us for a deal on the negotiation table," according to comments published in Persian and independently translated for the Washington Free Beacon.

Naghdi added that American officials routinely "plea" with Iran in talks and that the United States is negotiating from a position of weakness, according to his comments, which follow earlier reports claiming that Iran's leading negotiator "frequently shouts" at U.S. officials.

The military leader's remarks appear to jibe with new reports that the United States is conceding ground to Iran in talks and will now allow it to "keep much of its uranium-enriching technology," according to the Associated Press. Iran, the AP reported, "refuses to meet U.S.-led demands for deep cuts in the number of centrifuges it uses to enrich uranium, a process that can create material for anything from chemotherapy to the core of an atomic bomb."

Regional experts say that the Iranians feel that they are in a position of power in the talks and believe that the Obama administration is desperate to ink a deal."..."

ISIS FORCES CAPTURE BIG LIBYAN OIL FIELD

February 4, 2015 Debka.com reported: "Islamist State forces have seized the al-Mabrook oil field south of Sirte, one of the largest in Libya, security sources in Paris reported Wednesday.

DEBKAFfile: Insufficient attention is paid in the West to the ISIS's creeping expansion in Libya, where the jihadis are focusing on capturing oil fields, as in Syria.

The head of the Pentagon's Defense Intelligence Agency, Gen. Vincent Stewart, disclosed Tuesday that at least 20 terrorist organizations in Egypt, Libya and Algeria had recently joined ISIS and were operating under its orders. The general spoke at a briefing to the US House Armed Forces Committee."..."



NORTH KOREA STRIKES DOWN U.S. TALKS, VOWS 'FINAL DOOM'

February 4, 2015 SpaceDaily.com reported: "North Korea on Wednesday appeared to rule out any resumption of dialogue with the United States, threatening to react to any US 'war of aggression' with nuclear strikes and cyber warfare.

The statement from the country's top military body, the National Defence Commission (NDC), came after reported moves by Washington and Pyongyang to revive long-stalled six-nation talks on denuclearisation. The NDC said recent comments from President Barack Obama had revealed that the United States' goal was to 'bring down' North Korea.

The statement was an apparent reaction to an interview Obama gave on January 22 in which he spoke of the eventual collapse of the North Korean regime, calling it 'the most isolated, the most sanctioned, the most cut-off nation on Earth'. North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un, who is head of the NDC, said on the weekend that Pyongyang refused to sit any longer at the table 'with rabid dogs barking' about toppling its socialist system.

'Since the gangster-like US imperialists are blaring that they will 'bring down' the DPRK (North Korea)... the army and people of the DPRK cannot but officially notify the Obama administration... that the DPRK has neither need nor willingness to sit at negotiating table with the US any longer,' the NDC said.

If the US ignites 'a war of aggression' and unleashes a nuclear war, North Korea will 'counter it through its own nuclear strikes', it said in a statement carried by the North's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA)..."

IS ISLAMIC INDOCTRINATION BEING TAUGHT IN LA PUBLIC SCHOOLS?

February 3, 2015 Breitbart.com reported: “Concerns have arisen over the perceived teaching of Islam in California’s seventh grade school curriculum. Questions have been raised as to whether the education within these classrooms are merely teaching about Islam or preaching the faith, in what many now view as a scandal of indoctrination of youth.

That question was central to a recent lecture and discussion addressing the topic of Islam in public elementary schools hosted by the American Freedom Alliance (AFA) at the Luxe Hotel in Los Angeles. A panel of four speakers, three of whom are public educators, conveyed their personal experiences with this subject.

One of the textbooks in question was History Alive, which was approved and adopted by the Palo Alto-based California state Board of Education in 1998. The text is part of their adoption of the History, Social Science Content Standards for CA Public Schools.

While teaching Islam, along with Christianity and Judaism, is an important part of history, the educators present at the AFA lecture pointed out that History Alive pays an enormous amount of time and attention to Islam (55 pages) in the seventh grade. When teachers were asked whether Christianity (16 pages, which focused mainly on the Crusades) and Judaism (1 page) were given the same amount of attention in the classroom, they were told yes — but in sixth grade.

This proved to be untrue — Jewish and Christian curriculums were reportedly given half as much attention as Islam was. The lecturers found this to be particularly concerning when noting America’s Judeo-Christian foundation, where there is a separation of church and state. In Islam, there is no separation of church and state...”

MPs SAY YES TO THREE-PERSON BABIES

February 3, 2015 BBC News reported: "In an historic move, MPs have voted in favour of the creation of babies with DNA from two women and one man. The UK is now set to become the first country to introduce laws to allow the creation of babies from three people.

In a free vote in the Commons, 382 MPs were in favour and 128 against the technique that stops genetic diseases being passed from mother to child. During the debate, ministers said the technique was "light at the end of a dark tunnel" for families. Proponents said the backing was "good news for progressive medicine".

A further vote is required in the House of Lords. If everything goes ahead then the first such baby could be born next year. Critics say they will continue to fight against the technique that they say raises too many ethical and safety concerns..."



RUSSIA PLANS JOINT MILITARY DRILLS WITH NORTH KOREA AND CUBA

February 2, 2015 Newsweek.com reported: “Russia could soon be carrying out military drills alongside North Korea and Cuba according to Valery Gerasimov, the chief of staff of the Russian armed forces.

Speaking at a meeting on Saturday which was also attended by Russia’s defence minister Sergey Shoygu, along with the heads of all armed forces branches, Gerasimov announced: “We are planning an expansion of the communication lines of our military central command. We are entering preliminary negotiations with the armed forces of Brazil, Vietnam, Cuba and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.”

“We are going to conduct a series of joint naval and air force exercises, as well as joint drills of our ground troops and air assault troops,” the military official added.

According to the former U.S. ambassador to the Ukraine Steven Pifer, Russia is developing these potential military partnerships as a response to its current international isolation. Due to its involvement in the Ukrainian conflict, the U.S. and EU have both imposed sanctions on the country and certain Russian individuals, and the country was suspended from the G8 last March.

“The Russian military may be reaching out to other countries as part of Moscow’s effort to show that it is not isolated, despite the very negative international reaction to Russian aggression against Ukraine,” Pifer says. However Pifer, who also served as special assistant to president Bill Clinton on Russia and Eurasia, does not believe Russia’s attempts to embark on new military partnerships will develop further: “I’d be astonished to see Russian and North Korean troops training together,” Pifer says.

“As for Cuba, Moscow has a long history there. My guess is that part of the Russian interest is tit-for-tat: they are unhappy with U.S/ military cooperation with the Baltic states and other countries, such as Georgia, that are close to them, so they hope to tweak the United States by upping their engagement in Cuba.”...”

However, according to Pifer a Russian partnership with Cuba may also be unlikely due to the recent thawing of relations between Havana and the U.S...”...”

IRAN WARNS OF NEW RULES OF ENGAGEMENT WITH ISRAEL

February 1, 2015 Times of Israel reported: “Hours after Hezbollah terror chief Hassan Nasrallah warned that his terror group would not be ‘deterred’ and that any Israeli action against it would not go unpunished, the head of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps said Israel ‘learned a lesson’ from Wednesday’s attack in which two IDF soldiers were killed.

Speaking in Beirut at a ceremony for the ‘martyrs of Quneitra’ ... — General Mohammad Ali Jafari was quoted by the IRNA news agency as saying that Iran’s and Hezbollah’s responses to any future Israeli attack would be ‘the same.’ ...Iran and its proxy Hezbollah effectively outlined a new policy on Friday, according to a report on Channel 2, in which any Israeli operation in Syria would be met with a powerful response. Both indicated ‘new rules of engagement’ on Friday during respective remarks in Beirut...”

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