



# PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

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## SYRIA CRISIS: NATO CONCERNED BY RUSSIA 'MILITARY BUILD-UP'

*September 10, 2015* BBC News reported: 'The US and NATO have expressed concern over reports that Russia is increasing its military presence in Syria.'

NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg said if confirmed, Russia's involvement would not help to solve the conflict.

Separately on Wednesday, US Secretary of State John Kerry 'reiterated' his concerns to Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov over the phone.

Russia, a key ally of Syria during its four-year civil war, says it has sent military experts but that is all.

Correspondents say that without Moscow's backing, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad may have fallen by now.

Unnamed US officials quoted by Reuters say Moscow has sent additional aircraft and two tank landing ships to Russia's naval base in the Syrian coastal city of Tartus, within the past day or so. They also say a small number of naval infantry forces have been deployed...'

## DESPERATE IRAQIS JOIN TIDE OF MIGRANTS HEADING TO EUROPE

*September 10, 2015* myway.com reported: "As the sun sets over Baghdad, Mustafa Jassim Mohammed wades into the Tigris River, lifts his feet off the muddy bottom and paddles with an arm maimed by shrapnel, practicing ahead of a journey on which his ability to swim could mean the difference between death at sea and a new life in Europe."



He knows that hundreds of migrants — men, women and children — have died when their smuggler boats capsized, and he's seen the heart-wrenching pictures of the drowned Syrian boy who washed ashore in Turkey last week. But he's also seen TV footage of thousands of migrants making their way across Europe and being welcomed in certain quarters. After more than a decade of chaos and war in his homeland, it's a gamble he's willing to take.



"The situation in Iraq is getting worse every day," said Mohammed, a 29-year-old father of two. "I'm fed up. I can't continue living here and can't feed my family. There's nothing left in Iraq."

He quit his two jobs, as a civil servant and a tea seller, and sold his belongings to buy a one-way ticket to Iraq's northern Kurdish region, where he'll cross into Turkey and join an unprecedented tide of migrants fleeing war and poverty across Africa, the Middle East and South Asia. His wife and two children will stay behind, praying for his safety and hoping to be reunited with him somewhere more secure.

Like many Iraqis, he's wanted to leave for years, but is only doing so now because he's seen the images of migrants being welcomed in Germany and Austria. He's found videos online offering advice on how to sail from Turkey to Greece: Check the weather forecast before leaving; wear a life vest if you can't swim; get rid of your inflatable raft as soon as you arrive in Greece so the coast guard doesn't send you back on it.

Migration is nothing new for Iraqis, many of whom fled persecution under Saddam Hussein, the war with Iran in the 1980s and the crippling economic sanctions following the 1990 Gulf War. Well over a million Iraqis fled the violence and chaos that followed the 2003 U.S.-led invasion. But until recently the only realistic destinations were neighboring countries like Syria and Jordan, where work opportunities were limited.

Now Iraqis are on the move again, joining Syrians, Afghans, Eritreans and others in the largest tide of migrants since World War II."..."

## QAEDA LEADER: ISIS IS 'ILLEGITIMATE' – BUT WE MIGHT WORK WITH IT

*September 10, 2015* Arutz Sheva reported: "The leader of the Al-Qaeda terrorist group, Ayman al-Zawahiri, on Wednesday said that rival group Islamic State (ISIS) and its leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi are 'illegitimate', but also said his followers would join them in fighting the Western-led coalition in Iraq and Syria if possible."

Speaking in an audiotape on the internet and quoted by the Reuters news agency, Zawahiri said, 'We don't recognize this caliphate.'

It was not clear when the recording was made but references to events suggest it was made at least eight months ago.

ISIS has declared a caliphate in large parts of Iraq and Syria under its control and sought to expand its power in the Middle East.

Despite rivalries between the two Islamist organizations, Zawahiri suggested there was still room for cooperation when it came to combating the West.

'Despite the big mistakes (of Islamic State), if I were in Iraq or Syria I would cooperate with them in killing the crusaders and secularists and Shiites even though I don't recognize the legitimacy of their state, because the matter is bigger than that,' he said, according to Reuter.

Zawahiri did not elaborate, but his comments raised the possibility he could seek cooperation with the movement that has in many ways eclipsed Al-Qaeda.

While Al-Qaeda has specialized in high profile bombings, ISIS seems bent on seizing and holding territory in its quest to create a self-sustaining caliphate. Despite fierce fighting in Syria between ISIS and a coalition of powerful jihadist groups which included Al-Qaeda's Syria affiliate Al-Nusra Front, Al-Nusra and ISIS had temporarily agreed to work together several months ago.

However, by June this year that alliance seemed to have ended, when ISIS jihadists beheaded 12 men from rival Syrian rebel movements. Three of those killed in the new video were from Jaysh al-Islam, one of the main rebel groups in the Damascus area, and a fourth from Al-Nusra Front."

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### **IRAN'S SUPREME LEADER: ISRAEL WILL NOT EXIST IN 25 YEARS**

*September 9, 2015* Haaretz reported: ""Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Wednesday that Israel will not exist in 25 years. In remarks to the Iranian people in Tehran, Khamenei said that after the nuclear deal reached with the West, 'the Zionists said' that in the next 25 years there won't be room to worry about Iran's nuclear program. Khamenei was likely referring to the fact that monitoring the Iranian nuclear program will continue for the next 25 years.

'I'd say [to Israel] that they will not see [the end] of these 25 years,' Khamenei said. 'God willing, there will be no such thing as a Zionist regime in 25 years. Until then, struggling, heroic and jihadi morale will leave no moment of serenity for Zionists.'

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### **MOSCOW CONFIRMS RUSSIAN MILITARY EXPERTS PRESENT IN SYRIA**

*September 9, 2015* Haaretz reported: "Russia's Foreign Ministry said on Wednesday that Russian military experts were present in Syria, the first official confirmation that the Russian military is on the ground in Syria after weeks of increased talk that Moscow may be growing its presence there.

Maria Zakharova, a spokeswoman for the Foreign Ministry, said the experts were assisting with Russian arms deliveries to Syria which Moscow says are aimed at combating terrorism.

On Tuesday, Syria's information minister denied reports of a Russian military buildup in his country, saying there were no Russian combat forces fighting alongside the army against mainly Islamist insurgents..."

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### **RUSSIA DISMISSES AMERICAN CONCERNS OVER PRESENCE IN SYRIA**

*September 8, 2015* Arutz Sheva reported: "Moscow on Monday dismissed the United States' concern of a Russian military build-up in Syria, saying its military aid to President Bashar Al-Assad was nothing out of the ordinary, AFP reported.



Over the weekend, Secretary of State John Kerry phoned his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov to express concern about reports of an 'enhanced Russian build-up' in Syria.

The call came after The New York Times reported that Russia had sent a military advance team to its ally Syria and was taking other steps that Washington fears may signal plans to vastly expand military support for the beleaguered Assad. That report was followed up by new images which came to light and which appeared to confirm previous reports of Russian 'boots on the ground' in Syria.



The pictures appear to be taken in a variety of locations in western Syria, including Homs and the key port city of Tartus. They show Russian fighters posing with weapons in front of Russian and Syria flags, and portraits of the countries' respective leaders Vladimir Putin and Assad.

'The Russian side has never concealed the fact that it is sending military equipment to the Syrian authorities to help them fight terrorism,' Russian foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told AFP on Monday, commenting on the Kerry-Lavrov phone talks..."

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### **IRAN GLOATS OVER WORLD POWERS' 'SURRENDER' ON NUCLEAR DEAL**

*September 6, 2015* Arutz Sheva reported: "Iranian leaders view the nuclear deal signed by western powers as a 'surrender' to Iran, and as cementing the Islamic Republic's status as a 'superpower.'

An analysis by the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI) has shed light on the sense of victory held by Iran's most senior leadership, as neighboring countries prepare for a surge in terrorism sponsored by an emboldened Tehran.

Among the comments translated by MEMRI was a statement made by Iranian Defense Minister Hossein Dehghan at an armed forces general command ceremony on August 30, in which he boasted that Iran had forced the 'surrender' of the world's superpowers, led by the US.

'Today, Iran has attained such status that the superpowers have surrendered to it, because of its majesty, its steadfastness, its resistance, and its unity. Despite their great pride, the regime of the arrogance [the West, led by the U.S.] sat humbly behind the negotiating table and obeyed the rights of the Iranian nation,' he said.

Less than a week earlier, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei's official website published a poster hailing the ascendancy of Iran as a regional hegemon. Entitled 'The Iron Fist,' the poster was meant to symbolize Iran's might and stubbornness both during and following negotiations for an agreement, which will grant it total sanctions relief in exchange for only limited curbs on its nuclear program..."

*Compiled by L. Jim Tuck, Pastor  
UCGIA Oakland, San Jose, Stockton, Santa Rosa & Hawaii  
ljt5053@sbcglobal.net*