



PLANS BY U.S. TO CAPTURE ISLAMIC STATE'S CAPITAL ALREADY GO AWRY

October 22, 2015 The Washington Post reported: "In this abandoned desert town on the front line of the war against the Islamic State in Raqqa, local fighters are fired up by announcements in Washington that the militants' self-proclaimed capital is to be the next focus of the war. But there is still no sign of the help the United States has delivered ostensibly for the use of the Arab groups fighting the Islamic State, nor is there any indication it will imminently arrive, calling into question whether there can be an offensive to capture Raqqa anytime soon.

Fifty tons of ammunition air-dropped by the U.S. military last week and intended for Arab groups has instead been claimed by the overall command of the Kurdish People's Protection Units, or YPG, which is fighting alongside Arab units but overwhelmingly dominates their uneasy alliance, according to Kurdish and Arab commanders.

The question of whether Arab or Kurdish fighters get the weapons is crucial, in part because of Turkish sensitivities surrounding the United States' burgeoning relationship with the Syrian Kurds. Turkey accuses the YPG of affiliation with the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, designated a terrorist organization by Ankara and Washington, and has already lodged a complaint with the U.S. Embassy in Ankara that the YPG received the weapons intended for Arabs.

Just as significant, however, is the recognition that Kurds are unlikely to be able — or perhaps even willing — to fight for the Sunni Arab lands controlled by the Islamic State, including Raqqa, the jewel in the crown of the militants' self-styled caliphate and a city the Kurds do not aspire to govern."..."

IRAN'S SUPREME LEADER ENDORSES NUCLEAR DEAL

October 22, 2015 SpaceDaily.com reported: "Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei explicitly endorsed a nuclear deal with world powers for the first time Wednesday, but warned his president it contained weaknesses that must be guarded against.

Despite years of negotiations that culminated in a July 14 accord, Khamenei had never before said openly that he backed the diplomacy. Nor had he said he was against talks.

The agreement with the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany will see a raft of trade sanctions against Iran lifted in return for curbs lasting up to 15 years on its atomic activities..."

UN CHIEF 'NOT OPTIMISTIC' AFTER MIDDLE EAST VISIT

October 22, 2015 Arutz Sheva reported: "UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon told the Security Council on Wednesday that he was 'not optimistic' following talks with Israeli and Palestinian leaders to urge them to defuse tensions, a diplomat said, according to AFP.

Ban addressed a closed-door emergency session of the council by video-conference from Amman, the latest stop on his mission to de-escalate the violence.

The UN chief traveled to the region on Tuesday to urge the Israelis and Palestinians to pull back from a 'dangerous escalation' that could lead to a full-scale Palestinian uprising.

After meeting Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority (PA) chairman Mahmoud Abbas, Ban delivered a sobering assessment of the prospects, according to a diplomat at the meeting.

Ban told the council that addressing the situation at the holy sites was key to quelling tensions and that he was very concerned by incitement from both sides.

Stating bluntly that he had emerged from his meetings 'not optimistic,' he said there was no time to waste to press for a de-escalation and pull the sides back from the brink, AFP reported..."

MYSTERY DEATHS IN SIERRA LEONE SPREAD FEAR OF EBOLA RELAPSES

October 21, 2015 Reuters reported: "A poster in Sierra Leone's crumbling coastal capital Freetown proclaims a message from an Ebola survivor called Sulliaman: "I feel 100 percent healthy!" Another beaming survivor Juliana says: "I am one of the safest people to be around!"



Throughout the two-year Ebola epidemic, thousands of West African survivors have been shunned by their communities, prompting governments to sponsor messages stressing their complete recovery in a bid to counter fear and paranoia. But the case of Scottish nurse Pauline Cafferkey – the first known Ebola survivor to have an apparently life-threatening relapse – has revived concerns about the health of some 17,000 survivors in Sierra Leone, neighboring Guinea and Liberia.

Doctors and health officials in Sierra Leone told Reuters that a handful of mystery deaths among discharged patients may also be types of Ebola relapses, stirring fear that the deadly virus may last far longer than previously thought in the body, causing other potentially lethal complications.

Diagnoses have not been made, partly because of a lack of relevant medical training and insufficient equipment for detecting a virus that can

hide in inaccessible corners of the body - such as the spinal fluid or eyeball. In Cafferkey's case, the virus in her brain caused meningitis.

Dr. Dan Kelly, founder of non-profit organization Wellbody Alliance who has worked on Ebola in Sierra Leone, estimates that relapsing Ebola might affect 10 percent of all recovered patients.

He said this was based on two cases, including Cafferkey's, where the live virus was detected among the roughly 20 survivors treated in Europe and the United States. Other experts have declined to give an estimate, saying it is too early to tell.

Confirmation of such relapses would prolong for a third year the struggle to defeat a virus that has killed nearly 11,300 people and ravaged the economies of some of the world's poorest countries.”...”

CANADA TO WITHDRAW FIGHTER JETS FROM SYRIA AND IRAQ STRIKES



October 21, 2015 BBC News reported: “Canadian Prime Minister-designate Justin Trudeau has confirmed he will withdraw Canadian fighter jets from the air strikes against Islamic State (IS) in Iraq and Syria. He informed US President Barack Obama of his decision hours after leading his Liberal Party to victory in the polls.

As part of his election campaign, Mr Trudeau pledged to bring home the CF-18 fighter jets that were deployed to the region until March 2016. He has not yet given a timescale...”

UNDER SHARIA LAW, ISLAMIC AUTHORITIES DESTROY THREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES IN LODONESIA

October 21, 2015 Breitbart.com reported: “The Islamic authorities of Singkil in the Aceh province of Indonesia began the demolition of ten Christian churches deemed illegal under Sharia law because of a lack of the proper ‘building permits.’

Using clubs and hammers, police demolished the wooden structures of the three small churches, called ‘undung-undung,’ as the Christian community looked on. Seven other churches are slated for destruction in the coming days.

Indonesia is the most populous Muslim country in the world, and the Aceh province in western Indonesia is the most Islamic region in the country. Aceh is known as the ‘Gateway to Mecca,’ both because it is the westernmost tip of the Indonesian archipelago and thus a good starting point for the Islamic pilgrimage (hajj) and because of its long association with Islam...”

NATO LAUNCHES LARGEST MILITARY EXERCISE IN DECADE

October 20, 2015 VOAnews.com reported: “NATO has launched its largest military exercise in more than a decade, with the United States and its allies increasingly concerned about Russian military moves and growing instability in the Middle East. The Western military alliance said during the three-week exercise, dubbed Trident Juncture, 36,000 troops from more than 30 NATO member-nations and partners will undergo ‘intensive training’ across Italy, Spain and Portugal.

Speaking to reporters Monday at Tapani air force base in Italy, NATO Deputy Secretary General Ambassador Alexander Vershbow stressed the military exercise involves a ‘fictitious adversary’ and said NATO seeks ‘confrontation with no one.’...”

HAMAS APPEALS TO RUSSIA TO ‘STOP ISRAELI AGGRESSION’

October 19, 2015 Arutz Sheva reported: “Amid ongoing Palestinian Arab attacks against Israeli civilians and security forces, Hamas has called on Russia to intervene and stop Israeli ‘aggression’ against Palestinians. According to a statement released to the terror group’s website, Hamas political leader Khaled Mashaal spoke with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov on Saturday evening.

Mashaal blamed the recent spate of terror attacks against Israelis on the Jewish state’s ‘policies of oppression’ toward Palestinians as well as its attempts to ‘damage the Al-Aqsa Mosque.’

He then urged Russia to use its influence as a global power to demand that Israel stop its ‘aggression’ against ‘our people and our holy sites,’ primarily in Judea-Samaria and Jerusalem...”

ISIS CALLS ON FOLLOWERS WORLDWIDE TO WAGE JIHAD AGAINST RUSSIANS AND AMERICANS

October 19, 2015 ChristianToday.com reported: “The Islamic State jihadist group is reportedly urging Muslim youths everywhere to wage a holy war against Russians and Americans over their crusaders’ war in the Middle East.

The call was made through an audio message delivered by ISIS spokesman Abu Mohammad al-Adnani and distributed by supporters of the ultra hard-line group, according to Reuters.

‘Islamic youths everywhere, ignite jihad against the Russians and the Americans in their crusaders’ war against Muslims,’ al-Adnani urged in his speech. He also confirmed the death of another ISIS leader, Abu Mutaz Qurashi, who was reportedly blown up in a US airstrike near Mosul on Aug. 18.

The Mirror reported that the SITE monitoring service previously referred to the senior ISIS official killed in Iraq in August as Fadhil Ahmad al-Hayali.

The White House also said Hayali was the second-in-command of the group...”