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## **NORTH KOREAN LEADER WANTS NUKES READY TO FLY**

*March 3, 2016* USA Today.com reported: "North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has ordered nuclear weapons to be readied for use, the state-controlled Korean Central News Agency reported Thursday.

The shift in military posture would allow North Korea to carry out pre-emptive attacks, and deprive "the enemies to sleep in peace till the moment they meet their final end in their land," KCNA reported, citing a speech by the country's leader, Kim Jong-un. KCNA continued: "The only way for defending the sovereignty of our nation and its right to existence under the present extreme situation is to bolster up nuclear force both in quality and quantity and keep balance of forces," he said, stressing the need to "get the nuclear warheads deployed for national defense always on standby so as to be fired any moment."

The move follows the U.N. Security Council's unanimous approval Wednesday of tough new sanctions against North Korea in response to its recent nuclear and long-range missile tests. The resolution contains the toughest set of sanctions imposed by the Security Council in more than two decades, Secretary of State John Kerry said. The sanctions require North Korean cargo ships and aircraft to be inspected before entering and after leaving the reclusive country. They would also prohibit small arms and other conventional weapons sales to North Korea.

The Pentagon said it is aware of the reports and closely monitoring the situation in coordination with regional allies."..."

## **NORTH KOREA 'FIRES MISSILES' INTO SEA HOURS AFTER UN VOTE**

*March 3, 2016* BBC News reported: "North Korea has fired six short-range projectiles into the sea, South Korea's defence ministry has said, hours after the UN imposed tough new sanctions.

A South Korean spokesman told the Yonhap news agency the projectiles were fired at about 10:00 local time (01:00 GMT) from Wonsan on the east coast. They were either rockets or guided missiles, the ministry said.

Correspondents say it is being seen as an act of defiance against the sanctions.

Hours earlier, the UN Security Council unanimously voted to impose some of its strongest ever sanctions against North Korea. The new measures are in reaction to North Korea's recent nuclear test and satellite launch, both of which violated existing sanctions..."



## **BRAZIL ON COURSE FOR WORST RECESSION IN CENTURY**

*March 3, 2016* yahoo.com reported: "Brazil's economy shrank by 3.8 percent in 2015, the government said Thursday, with the biggest contraction in 25 years set to push the Latin American giant into its worst recession for more than a century.

The latest gloomy news from Brazil was no surprise, but the severity underlined the depth of problems facing President Dilma Rousseff's government as it battles both declining economic output and 10.67 percent inflation. The state statistics office said 2015 registered the worst single annual fall in GDP since 1990, a year when the economy dipped 4.3 percent.

With the International Monetary Fund predicting a further 3.5 percent shrinkage this year, Brazil appears to be well into a recession that would be worse than any on government record going back to 1901.

The GDP results shove Brazil into the bottom bracket for performance in Latin America, where it is easily the biggest economy. Only Venezuela, with what the IMF estimates was a 10 percent plummet in GDP, is worse off."..."

## **GULF STATES DECLARE LEBANON'S HEZBOLLAH A TERRORIST GROUP**

*March 3, 2016* France24.com reported: "The move by the Gulf Cooperation Council comes less than two weeks after Saudi Arabia announced it was cutting \$4 billion in aid to Lebanese security forces. The kingdom and other Gulf States followed up that move by urging their citizens to leave Lebanon, dealing a blow to the tiny nation's tourism industry.

A statement from GCC Secretary-General Abdullah al-Zayani said the bloc decided to implement the terrorist designation because of hostile acts by Hezbollah within its member states. It said the designation applies to the militant group as well as all its leaders, factions and affiliates.

Al-Zayani accused Hezbollah of charges including seeking to recruit members within the GCC to carry out terrorist acts, smuggling weapons and explosives, and incitement to sow disorder and violence.

Those activities within GCC member states and in Syria, Yemen and Iraq "are incompatible with the values and moral and humanitarian principles and international law, and pose a threat to Arab national security," he said.

The GCC includes Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman."..."

## **NATO COMMANDER: RUSSIA THREAT TO US, ITS ALLIES AND PARTNERS**

*March 2016* voanews.com reported: "NATO's military commander has told the U.S. lawmakers that Russia poses a long-term threat to the United States and to its European allies and partners.

In testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee, U.S. Air Force General Philip Breedlove said that Russia is eager to exert unquestioned influence over neighboring countries.

"Russia has used military force to violate the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of Ukraine, Georgia and others like Moldova. In Ukraine specifically, Russia continues to use all elements of national power to hinder Kyiv," he said.

Breedlove said Tuesday that NATO has recently observed an increase in violence along the line of contact in Ukraine's eastern Donbas region and a number of diplomatic, economic and propaganda efforts on Moscow's part to keep Ukraine from moving closer to the West.

Breedlove told senators Russia has also undertaken a massive military deployment in Russia's Kaliningrad province, the Black Sea and, most recently, in the eastern Mediterranean Sea and western Syria, sharply constraining the alliance's access to those areas.

"Russia seeks to re-establish a leading role on the world stage. Russia does not just want to challenge the agreed rules of the international order, it wants to re-write them. Russia sees the U.S. and NATO as threats to its objectives and as constraints on its aspirations. So, Russia seeks to fraction our unity and challenge our resolve. Russia recognizes strength and sees weakness as opportunity," he said."..."

### **CHRISTIAN STUDENT EXPELLED FROM UNIVERSITY FOR QUOTING BIBLE ON HOMOSEXUALITY**

*March 2, 2016* ChristianToday.com reported: "A married Christian student with four children has been expelled from his university because he wrote a post on Facebook opposing gay marriage. Felix Ngole, aged 38, was asked to leave the University of Sheffield [UK], where he was in the second year of a Masters in social work.

He is to appeal against the decision, which came after members of the faculty decided he might have 'caused offence' to some people for expressing support for Kim Davis, the Kentucky clerk jailed after refusing to issue same-sex marriage licences. In the comments on Facebook profile, which were not visible to anyone outside his circle of friends, he quoted Leviticus in support of biblical teaching on marriage and sexual ethics.

The post was brought to the attention of the faculty at Sheffield. Following a Faculty of Social Sciences 'fitness to practise' committee hearing, he was advised he has been 'excluded from further study on a programme leading to a professional qualification' and is 'no longer recognised as a University student'.

This was because the committee believed that he 'may have caused offence to some individuals' and had 'transgressed boundaries which are not deemed appropriate for someone entering the social work profession.' His action would have an effect on his 'ability to carry out a role as a social worker,' the committee said..."

### **POWDER KEG: 'SOLDIERS OF ALLAH' TO COMBAT NORWEGIAN 'SOLDERS OF ODIN' GROUP**

*March 1, 2016* Breitbart.com reported: "In response to the infidel group Soldiers of Odin patrols, we Muslims have chosen to create a group that will patrol the streets, first in Oslo, to prevent evil and encourage the good," a source within the Islamist scene told local paper Verdens Gang.

The source claimed that the 'Soldiers of Allah' would wear a black hooded jumpers adorned with infamous black flag of the IS terror group as their official uniform.

Norwegian police have not commented on the development, but an MP with Norway's Labour party, Hadia Tajik, said there was no place for vigilantism in the country.

"I assume that the police, who are the only ones who have the authority to patrol the streets and use force, are following these groups as closely as the circumstances require," she said. Named after the Norse god, the Soldiers of Odin were formed in Finland last year, spreading to Norway this year.

"We want the streets to be safe, we want to get rid of the delinquency we see in Norway today, which the police are unable to address," a spokesman for the group told AFP on Monday. Ronny Alte, the spokesman, also said that things could "begin to get dangerous" if the Soldiers of Allah used their patrols to recruit extremists, but claimed it was not valid to compare the groups.

"When it comes to 'Odin's soldiers' and 'Allah soldiers,' so we have two completely different starting points. We want safe streets but they want to use coercion and oppression. That they use a word like 'infidel' to describe us really forces a reaction from me. What will they do – force us to convert?", Mr. Alte said. Adding: "That they say they want to patrol for 'the good' means nothing. What is good for us and what is good for them are two different things".

However, the Soldiers of Odin have now reportedly kicked out Mr. Alte out of the gang, Vespen reports. They said that his comments about a potential clash between the two groups was damaging for the Soldiers of Odin's image."

### **ISRAELI MINISTER: PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY WILL COLLAPSE, THE ONLY QUESTION IS WHEN**

*February 29, 2016* Haaretz reported: "Israeli Minister of Immigrant Absorption and Minister of Jerusalem Affairs Ze'ev Elkin gave a speech at Bar-Ilan University Monday, in which he predicted the eventual collapse of the Palestinian Authority.

'The question is not if the PA collapses but when it is going to collapse,' Elkin said. 'It can happen in a month or two or a year or two tops.' He went on to explain that Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas' 'control on the ground is diminishing.'

Elkin says he decided to go public with his warnings after trying to bring the subject up at cabinet meetings to no avail. 'I'm not sure that the government has passed the diagnostic stage and realized the dramatic change we are facing.'

According to Elkin, the PA has no mechanism in place to choose a successor once Abbas relinquishes power, which would likely mean that 'the most probable scenario is a violent succession struggle in the PA.'..."

### **CHINA ARMS EXPORTS DOUBLE AS REGIONAL TENSIONS MOUNT**

*February 29, 2016* Voice of America News reports: "A research group says China's arms exports have almost doubled in five years as the country has moved to become a major player in the global industry.

Chinese exports of major arms grew by 88 percent between 2011 and 2015, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). 'China is actively pushing for exports. A lot of the exports are going to countries where China has had good relations for a long time, so there's also a strategic incentive for China to supply weapons. Pakistan for example, Bangladesh, Myanmar,' said Siemon Wezeman, a senior researcher with the institute.

China is now the world's third largest arms exporter behind the U.S. and Russia, and the country accounted for nearly six percent of arms exports between 2011 and 2015..."



