



# PROPHETIC TIMES

January, 1998

Weekly World News Briefs

May 21, 2016

## **SUPERBUGS WILL 'KILL EVERY THREE SECONDS'**

*May 19, 2016* [bbc.com](#) reported: "BBC News reports: "Superbugs will kill someone every three seconds by 2050 unless the world acts now, a hugely influential report says. The global review sets out a plan for preventing medicine 'being cast back into the dark ages' that requires billions of dollars of investment. It also calls for a revolution in the way antibiotics are used and a massive campaign to educate people. The report has received a mixed response with some concerned that it does not go far enough.

The battle against infections that are resistant to drugs is one the world is losing rapidly and has been described as 'as big a risk as terrorism'. The problem is that we are simply not developing enough new antibiotics and we are wasting the ones we have. Since the Review on Antimicrobial Resistance started in mid-2014, more than one million people have died from such infections. And in that time doctors also discovered bacteria that can shrug off the drug of last resort – colistin – leading to warnings that the world was teetering on the cusp of a 'post-antibiotic era'..."

## **CHINA SAYS IT'S READY IF US 'STIRS UP ANY CONFLICT' IN SOUTH CHINA SEA**

*May 19, 2016* [cnbc.com](#) reported: "China's attempts to claim a nearly 1.4-million-square-mile swathe of open ocean are without precedent and probably without legal merit, but Beijing continues to assert its right to the economically critical zone — and increasingly puts its claims in military terms. Speaking to a small group of reporters in Beijing on Thursday, a high-ranking Chinese official made his warning clear: The United States should not provoke China in the South China Sea without expecting retaliation.

"The Chinese people do not want to have war, so we will be opposed to [the] U.S. if it stirs up any conflict," said Liu Zhenmin, vice minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. "Of course, if the Korean War or Vietnam War are replayed, then we will have to defend ourselves."

The so-called "nine-dash line" that China has drawn over most of the South China Sea — a gargantuan territorial claim that stretches about 1,200 miles from its shores — would give Beijing control over a zone that's estimated to handle about half of global merchant shipping, a third of the planet's oil shipping, two-thirds of global liquid natural gas shipments, and more than a 10th of Earth's fish catch. The Obama administration, backed by several Asian governments and entities such as the Brookings Institution, argues that such massive ocean claims at great distance from land are "inconsistent with international law."

## **'IT'S A SYNAGOGUE, CHURCH, AND MOSQUE ALL IN ONE'**

*May 19, 2016* [Arutz Sheva 7](#) reported: "An interfaith group is laying the groundwork for what will likely be the world's first ever joint house of prayer. The center of worship, which will be called the 'House of One,' will combine simultaneous Jewish, Muslim, and Christian prayer services. The House of One is planned to be built on the site of Berlin's first church, the Petrikirche.

One of the organizers of the interfaith group behind the planned church/mosque/synagogue, Rabbi Tovia Ben Chorin, said that the House of One is a reminder that despite the dark history of Berlin in the 20th century it is now a center of tolerance.

'For me as a Jew, this city is the 'city of wounds' and the 'city of miracles.' In this place our systematic extermination was planned. And it is from this city that an answer has emerged,' said Ben Chorin..."

## **ABBAS WELCOMES EGYPT'S CALL FOR PEACE TALKS**

*May 18, 2016* [Arutz Sheva 7](#) reported: "Palestinian Authority (PA) chairman Mahmoud Abbas on Tuesday evening welcomed Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi's call for a peace agreement between Israel and the PA. In a statement quoted by Israeli media, Abbas said he welcomed the Egyptian president's efforts to achieve peace and establish a Palestinian state. Abbas also highlighted 'Egypt's historic role in supporting the Palestinian cause.'

Hamas also welcomed Sisi's statement, though its comment focused more on his call to achieve unity between rival Palestinian factions. Hamas spokes Sami Abu Zuhri said in a statement quoted by the Ma'an news agency that Hamas is ready to undertake all efforts towards reconciliation and achieving national Palestinian unity. Abu Zuhri said he hoped that Sisi's statements would re-energize achieving reconciliation between opposing Palestinian factions..."

## **IN SEARCH FOR CURES, SCIENTISTS CREATE EMBRYOS THAT ARE BOTH ANIMAL AND HUMAN**

*May 18, 2016* [npr.org](#) reported: "A handful of scientists around the United States are trying to do something that some people find disturbing: make embryos that are part human, part animal. The researchers hope these embryos, known as chimeras, could eventually help save the lives of people with a wide range of diseases.

One way would be to use chimera embryos to create better animal models to study how human diseases happen and how they progress. Perhaps the boldest hope is to create farm animals that have human organs that could be transplanted into terminally ill patients. But some scientists and bioethicists worry the creation of these interspecies embryos crosses the line. "You're getting into unsettling ground that I think is damaging to our sense of humanity," says Stuart Newman, a professor of cell biology and anatomy at the New York Medical College.

The experiments are so sensitive that the National Institutes of Health has imposed a moratorium on funding them while officials explore the ethical issues they raise. Nevertheless, a small number of researchers are pursuing the work with private funding. They hope the results will persuade the NIH to lift the moratorium.

"We're not trying to make a chimera just because we want to see some kind of monstrous creature," says Pablo Ross, a reproductive biologist at the University of California, Davis. "We're doing this for a biomedical purpose."

The NIH is expected to announce soon how it plans to handle requests for funding. Recently, Ross agreed to let me visit his lab for an unusual look



at his research. During the visit, Ross demonstrated how he is trying to create a pancreas that theoretically could be transplanted into a patient with diabetes.”...”

## **22 PERCENT OF RESETTLED REFUGEES IN MINNESOTA TEST POSITIVE FOR TUBERCULOSIS**

*May 17, 2016* breitbart.com reported: “One of every five refugees resettled in Minnesota by the federal government tested positive for latent tuberculosis in 2014, according to the state’s Department of Health. Only 4 percent of the general population in the United States tested positive for latent tuberculosis in the most recent report provided by the Centers for Disease Control.

The April 2016 edition of the Refugee Health Quarterly, published by the Minnesota Department of Health reports that: Minnesota had 150 cases of TB in 2015, compared to 147 cases in 2014 (a 2 percent increase). The most common risk factor for TB cases in Minnesota is being from a country where TB is common. TB screening is offered to all refugees during the domestic refugee health exam.

In 2014, 22 percent of refugees screened tested positive for LTBI (latent tuberculosis infection). 26 percent of all foreign born cases of tuberculosis in Minnesota were from people born in Somalia. Somalians almost exclusively enter the state through the refugee resettlement program.

More than 70,000 refugees have been resettled in the United States annually for the past three decades by the federal government. It’s not just tuberculosis being brought in by these resettled refugees. Measles, whooping cough, diphtheria, and other diseases that were on their way to eradication are also coming in across the borders of the United States.”...”

## **U.S. CONCERN GROWS OVER POSSIBLE VENEZUELA MELTDOWN: OFFICIALS**

*May 16, 2016* reuters.com reported: “The United States is increasingly concerned about the potential for an economic and political meltdown in Venezuela, spurred by fears of a debt default, growing street protests and deterioration of its oil sector, U.S. intelligence officials said on Friday. In a bleak assessment of Venezuela’s worsening crisis, the senior officials expressed doubt that unpopular leftist President Nicolas Maduro would allow a recall referendum this year, despite opposition-led protests demanding a vote to decide whether he stays in office.



But the two officials, briefing a small group of reporters in Washington, predicted that Maduro, who heads Latin America’s most ardently anti-U.S. government and a major U.S. oil supplier, was not likely to be able to complete his term, which is due to end after elections in late 2018. They said one “plausible” scenario would be that Maduro’s own party or powerful political figures would force him out and would not rule out the possibility of a military coup. Still, they said there was no evidence of any active plotting or that he had lost support from the country’s generals.

The officials appeared to acknowledge that Washington has little leverage in how the situation unfolds in Venezuela, where any U.S. role draws government accusations of U.S.-aided conspiracies. Instead, the administration of President Barack Obama wants “regional” efforts to help keep the country from sliding into chaos.

“You can hear the ice cracking. You know there’s a crisis coming,” one U.S. official said. “Our pressure on this isn’t going to resolve this issue.”

Maduro hit back on Friday night, blasting what he said was a meeting “to conspire against Venezuela” in Washington.”...Maduro, 53, then declared a 60-day state of emergency which includes the “necessary measures” to protect Venezuela in the event of a foreign attack, he said, without providing details.

Mobs in Venezuela have stolen flour, chicken and even underwear this week as looting increases across the crisis-hit OPEC nation where many basic products have run short, and the U.S. officials said this could spiral into widespread unrest.”...”

Maduro has sworn he will not be forced out before his term expires in 2019 and accuses the opposition of seeking a coup against him to destroy the socialist legacy of his predecessor, the late Hugo Chavez. Washington has had an acrimonious relationship with Caracas for years, especially following U.S. support for a short-lived 2002 coup against Chavez.”...”

## **AHMADINEJAD’S RETURN TO PUBLIC EYE IN IRAN FUELS TALK OF COMEBACK**

*May 15, 2016* voa.com reported: “On a podium decorated as a bunker from the Iran-Iraq war, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad woos a crowd of hundreds with an anti-Western speech reminiscent of his fiery addresses as Iran’s president. At the end of the event in Jiroft in southeast Iran, held partly to honor victims of the 1980-88 war, some of the crowd chant: ‘The slogan of any man is that Ahmadinejad is coming back.’

After nearly three years out of the public eye following two terms as president, Ahmadinejad has made a handful of appearances in the past few weeks, including his speech last week in Jiroft, which have stoked talk of a political comeback.

The 59-year-old conservative and populist has made no announcement about his future or addressed speculation that he plans to stand in the next presidential election, due in 2017. But if he does run, he could cause problems for his pragmatic successor, Hassan Rouhani, who gained popularity after the deal with world powers that led to most sanctions on Iran being lifted in exchange for curbs on its nuclear program...”

## **AL-QAIDA OPERATIVE DIRECTED TO TARGET ARRIVALS FROM ISRAEL, U.S. AT HEATHROW**

*May 15, 2016* Haaretz.com reported: “An Al-Qaida bomb maker had personally instructed one of his students, a Vietnam-born British national, to stage an attack at London’s Heathrow airport, targeting crowds arriving from Israel or the United States, court documents say. The bomb maker met the operative, a convert to Islam named Minh Quang Pham who had pledged allegiance to Al-Qaida in Yemen, and gave him \$10,000 in British pounds and a ‘clean’ laptop. Upon returning to the U.K., however, Pham had a change of heart and did not carry out the attack.

Court documents submitted by the U.S. government in Pham’s trial revealed that the bomb-maker was Al-Qaida in Yemen leader Anwar al-Awlaki, a top English-language propagandist for the terror network, the New York Times reported. Pham, who secretly entered Yemen in 2010 to train with the terror network, was extradited to the United States by Britain to face trial on terrorism charges. He has plead guilty to three counts of terror-related activity and is due to be sentenced on Monday....”

