



PROPHETIC TIMES

January, 1998

Weekly World News Briefs

July 16, 2016



WEAR A HEADSCARF OR BE RAPED, SWEDISH WOMEN WARNED

July 14, 2016 Breitbart.com reported: "Stickers calling for democracy to be replaced with Islam and for women who do not wear a veil to be raped have appeared in public places in Sweden. They have been reported to the police. Pictures of the stickers, which have been stuck to objects on streets in Nybro, Småland, have been circulating on social media. One of the stickers reads, in English: "Women who don't wear a headscarf are asking to be raped." Another reads: "No democracy. We just want Islam," Fria Tider has reported. The stickers have been reported to the police who are currently investigating who placed them there, but admitted that at the moment they do not know who is behind them..."

VENEZUELA ARMY DEPLOYED TO CONTROL FOOD PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

July 13, 2016 bbc.com reported: "Venezuela's military has taken control of five ports in an effort to guarantee supplies of food and medicine. In a decree, President Nicolas Maduro has ordered the army to monitor food processing plants, and co-ordinate the production and distribution of items.

Venezuela is going through a deep economic crisis despite having the world's largest oil reserves. Basic products are increasingly hard to find and many say they struggle to feed their families. The Venezuelan Bishops Conference said the rise of the military is a "threat to tranquility and peace".

Mr Maduro says the measure is to fight the "economic war" he claims is being waged against his government by political foes and businessmen, with US backing. But the opposition says the government has mismanaged the economy, and has called for a referendum to oust the president.

What is behind the shortages?

- Venezuela grows and produces very little except oil and has historically relied on imports to feed its people
- Oil prices have plummeted leaving the government with a shortfall of income
- A lack of dollars means it is struggling to import all the goods its people need and want
- The socialist government introduced price controls on some basic goods in 2003 to make them affordable to the poor
- But up to 40% of subsidised goods were smuggled across to Colombia to be sold at a profit

Mr Maduro announced on state television that the ports of Guanta, La Guaira, Puerto Cabello, Maracaibo and Guamache would be controlled by the army. He created a government initiative called Great Mission of Sovereign Supplying, which will be headed by the country's Defence Minister, General Vladimir Padrino. Among other things, it can establish how purchases and distribution of food, medicine and household goods are made."..."

LIFE ON THE LINE IN VENEZUELA AS ECONOMIC CRISIS WORSENS

July 12, 2016 Associated Press reported: "The people waiting for hours in front of the drugstore were dazed with heat and boredom when the gunmen arrived. The robbers demanded a cellphone from a 25-year-old in black shorts. Instead of handing it over, Junior Perez took off toward the entrance to the pharmacy. Eight shots rang out, and he fell face down.

The dozens of shoppers in line were unmoved. They held their places as the gunmen went through Perez's pockets. They watched as thick ribbons of blood ran from the young man's head into the grooves of the tiled walkway. And when their turns came, each bought the two tubes of rationed toothpaste they were allowed.

"These days, you have to put the line above everything," said pharmacist Haide Mendoza, who was there that morning. "You make sure you get what you need, and you don't feel sorry for anyone."

As Venezuela's lines have grown longer and more dangerous, they have become not only the stage for everyday life, but a backdrop to death. More than two dozen people have been killed in line in the past 12 months, including a 4-year-old girl caught in gang crossfire. An 80-year-old woman was crushed to death when an orderly line of shoppers suddenly turned into a mob of looters — an increasingly common occurrence as Venezuela runs out of just about everything. The extent of the country's economic collapse can be measured in the length of the lines snaking through every neighborhood. The average Venezuelan shopper spends 35 hours waiting to buy food each month. That's three times more than in 2014, according to the polling firm Datanalisis.

"As the economy breaks down, life is telescoping to be just lines," said Datanalisis president Luis Vicente Leon. "You have masses of people in the streets competing for scarce goods. You're inevitably going to get conflict, fights, tricks, you name it."...

The longest lines are for what is in the shortest supply: food. Nine out of 10 people say they can't buy enough to eat, according to a study by Simon Bolivar University. Prices have been driven impossibly high by scarcity, hoarding and black market resellers.

Venezuelans line up again and again for subsidized goods, not always knowing what they'll get when they finally reach the front. When supply trucks arrive, workers throw open the doors, game-show style, to reveal whether shoppers will be taking home precious pantry staples, or a booby prize like dog food..."

GERMANY PLANS TO ASSUME GREATER SECURITY ROLE

July 12, 2016 defencetalk.com reported: "Economic giant, political dwarf" -- that is how the world long viewed post-World War II Germany, the European export power reluctant to use military muscle in global conflicts. It is an image that Europe's most populous country wants to shed as it gradually assumes a bigger defence role, within the frameworks of NATO and the European Union.

That ambition, the outcome of a debate that began two decades ago, is the message of Germany's new military roadmap, the defence ministry's so-called White Paper, to be released Wednesday. It marks a shift for Germany which, burdened by guilt about Nazi terror and the Holocaust, for decades stepped softly on the world stage and long refrained from sending troops abroad.

The paper, the first of its kind issued in a decade, envisions a future defence union of European states -- reviving a 1950s-era idea that was rejected

by France at the time -- as Europe is nervously eyeing Russia and digesting the shock of the Brexit vote.

"Germany is increasingly seen as a key player in Europe," says a draft of the document seen by AFP.

"Germany, a globally highly connected country... has a responsibility to actively help shape the world order," it says, vowing that the country is ready to "assume responsibility" and "help meet current and future security and humanitarian challenges". The paper presents a paradigm shift for a country often lampooned as a "Bigger Switzerland" -- prosperous and seeking to stay neutral -- in the words of French economist Alain Minc.

While Germany's dark past has nurtured a strong pacifist tradition, its leaders have also often been stung by allies' criticism that they are not pulling their weight in tackling crisis hotspots, lack the stomach for full-fledged military engagement and prefer chequebook diplomacy. It was not until 1994 that Germany's highest court allowed the country to participate in multinational peacekeeping missions.

Germany has since deployed troops to conflict zones, from the Balkans to Afghanistan and Mali, but has also earned criticism for staying out of other conflicts, especially the 2011 NATO intervention in Libya. Over the past two years, President Joachim Gauck and Defence Minister Ursula von der Leyen have repeatedly argued that Germany must engage more forcefully abroad.

Berlin has since joined the international alliance against the Islamic State group, though in a non-combat role, sending Tornado reconnaissance jets, aerial refuelling planes and other support.

Germany, a major arms exporter, has also broken with another taboo -- sending weapons into an active conflict -- by arming Kurdish Peshmerga fighters battling IS in Iraq. And at the NATO summit in Warsaw, Germany was one of the members to pledge to station rotating battalions in Poland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania from 2017 as a collective deterrent against Russian adventurism.

The new engagements come as the German army has complained of being overstretched, underfunded and plagued by equipment failures, including its G36 assault rifle, which reportedly doesn't shoot straight at high temperatures.

The Bundeswehr is now set to see its budget boosted and to get its first increase in troop strength since the Cold War, when it was still a conscript force, with plans to recruit nearly 20,000 personnel over seven years. Germany, in order to reassure international partners, stresses in the White Paper that it will act within the trans-Atlantic and European frameworks.

"As a long-term goal, Germany aims for a common European security and defence union," says the text. For now, this means using all ways of military cooperation authorised under the EU treaties and "strengthening the European defence industry" through tie-ups, with France in particular. "..."

COLORADO INCREASES NUMBER OF REFUGEES DIAGNOSED WITH ACTIVE TB TO SIXTEEN

July 12, 2016 Breitbart.com reported: "The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment admits that sixteen refugees were diagnosed with active TB between 2011 and 2014. The admission comes one month after Breitbart News reported ten recently arrived refugees in Colorado were diagnosed with active tuberculosis (TB). Between 2011 and 2014, 16 out of 7,754 refugees were diagnosed with active TB at the time of their initial medical screening.

That's one out of every 484 arriving refugees. During that same time period, 67 out of the state's estimated 4.5 million U.S.-born residents were diagnosed with active TB. That's one out of every 67,164 U.S.-born residents of Colorado.

Refugees resettled in Colorado developed active TB at a rate 138 times higher than U.S.-born residents of Colorado. The number of refugees resettled in Colorado between 2011 and 2015 diagnosed with active TB may actually be higher than sixteen, since the most recent total does not include any refugees who may have been diagnosed in 2015. As Breitbart News reported previously, at least one migrant to Colorado in 2015 reported as a "B1" tuberculosis health risk by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) was diagnosed with active TB that year.

Also, unlike several other states which track refugees who develop active TB within one to five years of their arrival in the United States, the most recent Colorado data only reports refugees who are diagnosed with active TB at the time of their initial domestic medical screening, which usually takes place within 90 days of their arrival. According to the newly reported data on refugee health from the Colorado Department of Health for the years 2011 to 2014, 19 percent of the refugees -- or 1,348 out of 7,754--tested positive for latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI). "..."

ON RARE ISRAEL VISIT, EGYPT FM PUSHES FOR RENEWED PEACE TALKS

July 10, 2016 timesofisrael.com reported: "Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry made a rare visit to Jerusalem on Sunday and asserted, standing alongside Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, that Cairo remained a 'steadfast and unwavering' supporter of the two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Sameh Shoukry's was the first such visit by an Egyptian foreign minister since 2007. Recently, Israel has emerged as a discreet ally of Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, who has positioned himself as a central player in jump-starting the stalemated peace process. The visit came amid talk of renewing an Arab peace initiative and with Israel's military having recently saluted 'unprecedented' intelligence cooperation with Egypt to combat the Islamic State group..."



CRITICIZING HOMOSEXUALITY NOW 'CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY'?

July 10, 2016 World Net Daily reported: "A motion for summary judgment has been filed in federal court in Massachusetts seeking the end to a lawsuit by a coalition of Ugandan 'gays' who contend an American pastor was not protected by the First Amendment when he was speaking in the United States about homosexuality. The case was brought by Sexual Minorities of Uganda (SMUG) against American minister, speaker and advocate Scott Lively of Abiding Truth Ministries. The homosexuals claimed that Lively's comments about homosexuality are 'crimes against humanity' and are forbidden under international law. And they claimed that America's Alien Tort Statute allows them to come into the U.S. and dictate what people say..."

Compiled by L. Jim Tuck, Pastor

*UCGIA Oakland, San Jose, Santa Rosa, & Hawaii
ljt5053@sbcglobal.net*