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SYRIA CONFLICT: CEASEFIRE AGREED, BACKED BY RUSSIA AND TURKEY

December 29, 2016 BBC News reported: "The Syrian government and rebel groups have agreed a nationwide ceasefire from midnight local time (22:00 GMT) on Thursday, followed by peace talks. The deal was announced by Russian President Vladimir Putin and confirmed by the Turkish foreign ministry. Russia and Turkey, which back opposing sides in the bitter conflict, will act as guarantors.

A number of Syrian rebel spokesmen have confirmed the deal, but certain jihadist groups are excluded. The Syrian army said in a statement that so-called Islamic State (IS) and Jabhat Fateh al-Sham (formerly the Nusra Front) 'and the groups affiliated to them' were not part of the agreement. A rebel source quoted by Reuters news agency said that only IS areas were not covered by the truce. The ceasefire reportedly does cover the rebel-held eastern Ghouta area near Damascus, which had been a sticking-point in negotiations..."

SPANISH MILITARY REPORT: ISLAMIC TERRORISTS OPERATE, RAISE CASH IN LATIN AMERICA TO ATTACK U.S.

December 29, 2016 judicialwatch.org reported: "Latin America is a hotbed of Islamic terrorism where groups like ISIS and Hezbollah operate freely and raise large sums of money to finance terrorist activities in other countries, mainly the United States, according to a new report released by Spain's Defense Ministry. 'Latin America represents an important region for Islamic radicalism because conditions enable the free, almost undetectable, movement of their members throughout the region,' the defense document states.



Governments in the region consider Islamic terrorism to be a foreign problem, the report says, and intelligence agencies are ill equipped to handle the threat they represent. 'The ignorance involving the threat of jihadist terrorism in Latin America has been such that some governments have refused to cooperate with U.S. authorities and other intelligence services,' the disturbing assessment reveals.

The report was released this month by the division of Spain's Defense agency known as Instituto Español de Estudios Estratégicos (IEEE), Spanish Institute of Strategic Studies. The document, authored by a counterterrorism expert, is titled 'El radicalismo islámico en América Latina. De Hezbolá al Daesh (Estado Islámico),' Islamic Radicalism in Latin America, from Hezbollah to ISIS..."

DMV LICENSED 800,000 UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS UNDER 2-YEAR-OLD LAW

December 29, 2016 mercurynews.com reported: On the day that California officials implemented a controversial law that allows undocumented residents to obtain driver's licenses, DMV offices throughout the state were packed with immigrants looking to take advantage of the opportunity.

Two years after the implementation of AB 60 on Jan. 1, 2015, an estimated 806,000 undocumented residents have received driver's licenses, according to Department of Motor Vehicles statistics this month. About 14,000 of these licenses were issued in November alone, the DMV said.

The law has allowed undocumented residents to come out of the shadows and drive safely in their neighborhoods, according to Maricela Gutierrez, executive director of the immigration advocacy organization, SIREN.

"Many of them have been able to drive their kids to school and to run errands, when many times they were taking buses that would take them up to three hours to get from point A to point B," she said. "It opened up new opportunities..."

TOP DEFECTOR: NORTH KOREA PLANS NUCLEAR PUSH IN 2017

December 28, 2016 SpaceDaily.com reports: "North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un is planning a 'prime time' nuclear weapons push in 2017 to take advantage of leadership transitions in South Korea and the United States, a high-ranking defector said Tuesday.

In his first press conference since fleeing his post as North Korea's deputy ambassador to Britain in August, Thae Yong-Ho said Kim had issued a directive at a rare ruling party congress in May to 'complete' nuclear development by the end of next year.

'With South Korea holding presidential elections and the US undergoing an administration transition, the North sees 2017 as the prime time for nuclear development,' Thae told local reporters.

'That's based on a calculation that the US and South Korea will not be able to take physical, military measures because they are tied up with domestic politics,' he added.

North Korea carried out two nuclear tests in 2016 and numerous missile launches in pursuit of its ultimate goal of a deterrent capable of delivering a nuclear warhead to the US mainland.

Analysts are divided as to how close Pyongyang is to realising that ambition, especially as it has never successfully tested an inter-continental ballistic missile..."

CHINA FLEXES MILITARY MUSCLE BEFORE TRUMP TAKES OFFICE

December 28, 2016 SpaceDaily.com reported: "An aircraft carrier in the Pacific and a newly upgraded combat aircraft: China's military is showing off its newest equipment less than a month before the swearing-in of US President-elect Donald Trump, who has raised tensions between Beijing and Taipei.

In recent days state media announced that the country's only aircraft carrier, the Liaoning, was on its way to the Pacific for the first time, while a new fighter, the FC-31, had its debut flight test. They are the latest steps in the years-long build-up of China's military, as Beijing seeks greater global power to match its economic might and asserts itself more aggressively in its own backyard, but the timing raises questions about its intentions.

The show of strength comes after Trump broke four decades of US policy by accepting a phone call from Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen, even though China objects to any official contact between its foreign partners and leaders of Taiwan.

China views self-ruling Taiwan as part of its territory awaiting unification, by force if necessary, even though the two sides split in 1949 after a civil war. With its escort warships, the Liaoning was in the South China Sea on Monday, according to the Taiwanese defence ministry which monitored the carrier's passage off its shores.”...

ISLAMIC STATE ARRESTS REVEAL JIHADI THREAT NEAR SEAT OF U.S. GOVERNMENT

December 28, 2016 The Washington Times reports: “Law enforcement agencies have arrested nine Northern Virginia residents on charges of aiding the Islamic State since the terrorist group rose to power in Syria and Iraq in 2014 and launched social media propaganda to attract followers, a government message to police states.

The Northern Virginia Regional Intelligence Center issued profiles of the nine in a Dec. 21 report labeled ‘law enforcement sensitive.’

Such reports are designed to help state and federal agents recognize trends in the types of individuals who are influenced by the Islamic State’s message and how they communicate across terrorist networks...The Northern Virginia report shows that Muslims seeking to become mass killers live near the seat of American government...”

OHIO MUSLIM SHOOTS DAUGHTER 3 TIMES IN HEAD, CLAIMS ‘ACCIDENT’

December 27, 2016 WND.com reported: “If a father shoots his adult daughter in the head three times while asleep in her bed, then claims it was an accident, it sounds too bizarre to believe. But that’s what happened in Rocky River, Ohio, on Sept. 27, leaving the community in shock and disbelief. Last week in court, Jamal Mansour, 64, pleaded not guilty to aggravated murder charges, and his attorney reaffirmed the same reason for the shooting: A mere accident.

This despite new evidence entered into court that Mansour was caught on video loading his revolver at a gas station the day before the shooting. That adds yet another layer to the case. Not only did Mansour shoot his 27-year-old daughter, Tahani, three times in the head at close range, once from just one foot away, while she lie helpless in her bed at 1:15 a.m., but he should have known his gun was loaded, prosecutors said...”

JERUSALEM MAYOR: JERUSALEM NOT OPEN FOR NEGOTIATION

December 27, 2016 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: “Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat expressed support for Prime Minister Netanyahu’s position vis a vis the U.S. this evening, requesting that the incoming administration articulate Israel’s position to the rest of the world.

‘They have always said in Israel, from Ben Gurion through Begin, that it does not matter what the nations do, it matters what Israel does. I wish to strengthen the Prime Minister, who stands in front of the national camp as a shield, protecting the rights and status of the Jewish nation and the Torah of Israel, and he stands as a wall against all who would weaken us. I call also upon the President of the United States to act fast and relate to the nations that Jerusalem is not open to negotiation.’ Barkat said.”

US MUST ‘GREATLY STRENGTHEN’ ITS NUCLEAR CAPABILITY: TRUMP

December 23, 2016 SpaceDaily.com reported: “President-elect Donald Trump said Thursday that America must massively boost its nuclear capability until the ‘world comes to its senses.’

‘The United States must greatly strengthen and expand its nuclear capability until such time as the world comes to its senses regarding nukes,’ Trump wrote on Twitter, without explaining what he meant.

His comment marks a jarring departure from President Barack Obama’s rhetoric, who in a famous speech in Prague in 2009 called for the elimination of nuclear weapons. Trump’s tweet came the day after he met with a group of Pentagon brass including Vice Admiral James Syring, who heads the Missile Defense Agency. The conversations centered on cutting costs to various military programs.

America currently has an estimated arsenal of about 7,000 nuclear warheads, second only to Russia, which has a few hundred more. The Pentagon wants to replace or modernize all three legs of its ‘triad,’ a three-pronged nuclear attack force comprising intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), submarines and bombers...”

HAMAS: ISRAEL HAS BECOME A BURDEN TO THE WORLD

December 27, 2016 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: “ Hamas leadership praised the recent UN resolution which declared Jewish settlement in Judea and Samaria and eastern Jerusalem illegal. At a press conference in Turkey earlier this week, Hamas leader Khaled Mashaal said that Israel has become a ‘burden’ to the world, and that the Palestinian side is the winning side. Mashaal said that the passage of the UN resolution was a step in the right direction in the ‘struggle for the returning of the Land’ to Arab hands – without political negotiations with Israel...”

SECRET ISIS LIST IDs U.S. CHURCHES FOR ATTACK DURING HOLIDAYS

December 23, 2016 World Net Daily reported: “The Islamic State has allegedly published a secret list in Arabic of thousands of churches in all 50 states and called on its followers to attack them during the holidays. ISIS, according to a report by Vocativ.com, posted the list late Wednesday night in the group’s ‘Secrets of Jihadis’ social media group using the encrypted app Telegram.

WND asked several Arab speakers to search for the list and after an exhaustive search online they came up empty, leading some question whether such a list even exists. If it does, it is well hidden within the encrypted app.

A user going by the name of ‘Abu Marya al-Iraqi’ posted an Arabic-language message calling ‘for bloody celebrations in the Christian New Year’ and announced the group’s plans to utilize its network of lone wolf attackers to ‘turn the Christian New Year into a bloody horror movie,’ Vocative reported. The names and addresses, distributed in a number of posts, were all previously available online and include a public directory of churches across all 50 states...”

