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N. Korean group demands US be turned to 'ashes and darkness'

September 14, 2017 spacedaily.com reported: "A North Korean organisation demanded Thursday that the United States be "beaten to death" like a "rabid dog" for spearheading fresh UN sanctions on Pyongyang over its latest nuclear test, adding ally Japan should be "sunken into the sea".

The UN Security Council unanimously imposed an eighth set of sanctions on the North on Monday, banning it from trading in textiles and restricting its oil imports, a week after Pyongyang tested what it said was a hydrogen bomb small enough to fit onto a missile, raising tensions on the peninsula and globally.

A spokesman for the North's Korea Asia-Pacific Peace Committee (KAPPC) denounced the "heinous sanctions resolution" and said there were mounting calls for strong retaliation against the US and its allies.

"The army and people of the DPRK are unanimously demanding that the Yankees, chief culprit in cooking up the 'sanctions resolution', be beaten to death as a stick is fit for a rabid dog," he said in a statement carried by the official KCNA news agency.

"Now is the time to annihilate the US imperialist aggressors. Let's reduce the US mainland into ashes and darkness," it said.

North Korea has a long history of issuing dramatic threats against the US and its allies but not carrying them out.

According to the South's unification ministry, the KAPPC acts as "a window for improving relations with countries like the US and Japan... while campaigning to change North Korea's closed and negative image".

But the KAPPC statement accused Tokyo of "dancing to the tune of the US" and warned of a "telling blow" against Japan, noting the missile test that overflew the Asian island nation last month.

The North's launch of an intermediate range missile over Hokkaido triggered alarm bells, sparking emergency sirens and mass text alerts in northern Japan.

"The four islands of the archipelago should be sunken into the sea by the nuclear bomb of Juche," KAPPC warned, referring to the North's national philosophy of "Juche" or self-reliance."..."

While Christianity dies in Germany, Islam springs up in its place

September 14, 2017 WND.com reported: "Christianity in Germany, and indeed in all of Europe, is dying. There are about 47 million Catholics and Protestants combined in Germany, representing roughly 60 percent of the German population, but that number is falling by 500,000 a year through deaths alone, according to the Gatestone Institute.

All across Germany, churches now sit mostly empty on Sunday mornings, and it's a problem for Catholics and Protestants alike.

In the year 2016 alone, the German Catholic Church lost 162,093 faithful attendees and closed 537 parishes, according to data from the German Bishops' Conference. One-quarter of all German Catholic communities that existed in 1996 have now closed.

Similarly, in 2016, 340,000 German Protestants died while 190,000 people left the church. Only 25,000 people joined the church...

While Christianity is dying in Germany, Islam is on the rise. Historian Walter Laqueur wrote that Germany had about 700 'little mosques and prayer rooms' in the 1980s but 'more than 2,500 at the present time' – and that was in 2009..."

UK Imam Tells Congregation to 'Spill Blood' and 'Establish Law of Allah'

September 13, 2017 Breitbart.com reported: "An imam preaching in a West Midlands mosque acted as a recruiter for Islamic State and told Muslims to 'be ready to spill blood' and 'establish the law of Allah over the necks of the people' including the Queen, a court has heard.

Kamran Sabir Hussain, 40, allegedly told up to 15 children and about 25 adults at the mosque in Tunstall, Stoke-on-Trent, that martyrdom was the 'supreme success', greater than achievements at school or college, The Times reports.

He was caught after the mosque was infiltrated by an undercover police officer, who recorded 17 of the alleged hate preacher's sermons, starting in June last year.

A jury at the Old Bailey heard that Mr. Hussain told one congregation: 'Stand up and be ready to sacrifice, be ready to stand in the face of the elements of shaytan [Satan], be ready to spill blood and have your blood spilt.'..."

Joint military drills begin in Ukraine as Russian war games loom

September 13, 2017 SpaceDaily.com reported: "Ukraine on Monday launched joint military exercises with the United States and a host of other NATO countries as its bitter rival Russia gears up for its own war games on the EU border.

The annual Rapid Trident military exercises, taking place in the western Ukrainian city of Yavoriv until September 23, involve an 'unprecedented' number of 2,500 soldiers from 15 countries, the Ukrainian military said in a statement.

'Today, your support is very important for us. The experience of our colleagues is extremely valuable for the Ukrainian army,' Colonel Sergei Litvinov, the exercises co-director on the Ukrainian side, said.



The Ukraine drills began days ahead of Moscow's massive military exercise 'Zapad 2017' ('West') in neighbouring Russia and Belarus. The event has caused alarm in the Baltic states and Poland and drawn criticism from the United States and NATO for a lack of transparency..."

EU seeks to ramp up N. Korea sanctions pressure

September 12, 2017 spacedaily.com reported: "The European Union will enforce new UN sanctions over North Korea's nuclear programme while pressing ahead with work on fresh measures of its own, the bloc's diplomatic chief said Tuesday.

The UN Security Council on Monday unanimously backed new sanctions against Kim Jong-Un's regime, including restrictions on shipments of oil products, drawing an angry response from Pyongyang.

The move came amid international outrage over the pariah state's sixth nuclear test – its most powerful to date – earlier this month and its intercontinental ballistic missile launch in July.

EU diplomatic chief Federica Mogherini told the European Parliament meeting in Strasbourg, France, that ramping up pressure through tighter, better enforced sanctions, was key to forcing the North to negotiate an end to the crisis.

"We now will implement new UN sanctions as we have always done before," Mogherini said. "Second, we will work to make sure all our international partners do the same to ensure the maximum level of efficiency for the economic measures.

"Third, we will continue the discussion we launched last week on additional EU sanctions to complement action decided by the Security Council and put maximum pressure on North Korea."

After a meeting of the 28 EU foreign ministers in Tallinn last week, Mogherini said work would begin on new measures against the North to add to the broad range of sanctions the bloc already has in place.

A number of EU countries including Britain are calling for the expulsion of North Korean workers posted in Europe, saying the revenue they generate is used to fund the nuclear programme."..."

Turkey signs deal to get Russian S-400 air defence missiles

September 11, 2017 BBC News reported: "Turkey has signed a controversial deal with Russia to arm its forces with Russian S-400 anti-aircraft missiles. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Ankara had already paid the deposit on the deal, estimated to be worth \$2.5bn (£1.9bn).

Turkey has the second-largest army in NATO. Alliance members are urged to buy compatible weapons systems. Turkey has been establishing closer links with Russia after its recent souring of ties with the US.

Turkey objects to US military support for the YPG Syrian Kurdish rebels, who are linked to rebel Kurds in Turkey.

Russia says the S-400 system has a range of 400km (248 miles) and can shoot down up to 80 targets simultaneously, aiming two missiles at each one..."

North Korea warns US will pay price for UN sanctions

September 11, 2017 Asia Times Online reported: "North Korea warned on Monday the United States would pay a 'due price' for spearheading a UN Security Council resolution against its latest nuclear test, as Washington presses for a vote to impose more sanctions on Pyongyang.

The call for additional sanctions came after the North's sixth nuclear test on September 3, which Pyongyang said was an advanced hydrogen bomb. North Korea has also threatened to fire missiles into waters off the Pacific island of Guam, home to US military bases, as a show of force.

The United States wants the Security Council to impose an oil embargo on the North, block its export of textiles and freeze the financial assets of leader Kim Jong-un, according to a draft resolution seen by Reuters..."

Syria demands UN take action against Israel

September 10, 2017 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "Syria on Thursday complained to the UN following an air strike on a Syrian military site which it blames on Israel.

The Syrian Foreign Ministry demanded that the UN Security Council condemn Israel's 'repeated aggressions on the country' and 'take an immediate and decisive measure to halt them in accordance with its resolutions related to combating terrorism'.

The letter claimed that such attacks 'complement the ISIS crimes' and 'escalate the situation and fuel the region and the world.'

'The repeated Israeli attacks have become systematic behavior with the aim of protecting Jabhat al-Nusra and ISIS terrorists,' the ministry claimed in its letter, which was quoted in Syria's official news agency, SANA. The Syrian army earlier on Thursday threatened there would be 'dangerous consequences' following the air strike.

'This belligerence is a brazen attempt to raise the morale of the terror organization ISIS, which finds itself in a state of collapse after crushing victories by the Syrian army against the terror on more than one front,' the army said..."



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*Compiled by L. Jim Tuck, Pastor
UCGIA Phoenix, Northern AZ, Show Low & Hawaii
ljt5053@sbcglobal.net*