

# PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

09 APRIL 2005

## DESPITE U.S. EFFORTS, ARAB STATES FAIL TO REFORM

*May 7, 2005* Middle East Newslite reported; "Despite more than two years of U.S. efforts, Arab states have failed to take significant measures toward reform. A report sponsored by the United Nations asserted that Arab regimes, often with the help of the United States, have refused to take significant advances since October 2003. The Arab Human Development Report termed reform measures announced by Arab regimes "embryonic and fragmentary" and failed to address the need to end government repression.

"Overall, there has been no significant easing of the human development crisis in the Arab region," the report, released on Tuesday, said. "There is a near-complete consensus that there is a serious failing in the Arab world, and that this is located specifically in the political sphere."

The report, citing improvements in women's rights and education, said the U.S.-led war against Al Qaida has reduced freedom in the Arab world. Arab intellectuals complained of increased harassment and detention of Arabs in the West, saying this has provided a pretext for Arab regimes to ignore calls for reform..."

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## ITALY RATIFIES EUROPEAN CONSTITUTION

*April 7, 2005* EU observer reported: Italy became the first major EU country to ratify the European Constitution following a parliamentary vote on Wednesday. A vote by the upper house saw 217 vote in favour and 16 against the new EU charter - the lower house had voted in favour in January.

The European Commission welcomed the news saying it was "pleased about this ratification" and noted that Italy is the first of the six founding members of the EU to ratify. This brings the number of countries that have ratified the document to four. Hungary, Lithuania and Slovenia also gave the green light to the EU charter via their parliaments while Spanish citizens voted on it in a referendum in February - but the parliament is also expected to rubberstamp it.

Germany, as the biggest member of the EU, will put the question before its lower house (Bundestag) on 12 May. However, difficult referendums are still to come.

France is to vote on the Constitution on 29 May, but a yes vote remains far from certain as the debate has become embroiled in several other diverse issues - including Turkish membership of the European Union; an unpopular EU proposal to open the market in services and the general unpopularity of the government. A no from France would throw the EU into chaos and would probably have a direct effect on the referendums to follow..."

## MUSLIMS PROTEST JEWISH TEMPLE MOUNT VISIT

*April 5, 2005* WorldNetDaily reported: "Thousands of Muslims protested throughout the Middle East against a plan to bring 10,000 Jews to the Temple Mount, while a senior security source told WND a Palestinian terror group is looking to use the Jewish visit to spark violence.

Several thousand demonstrated Friday in Cairo against a plan by Revava, a Jewish organization with the stated mission of "restoring self-esteem to the state of Israel by restoring national pride and values," to bring 10,000 Jews to the heavily restricted Temple Mount April 10 to spark Israeli dialogue about reclaiming the holy site from its Islamic custodians.

Protesters reportedly chanted anti-Israeli slogans, denounced U.S. policy in the Middle East and renewed a call for boycotting U.S. and Israeli products. Also Friday, an estimated 10,000 members and supporters of Hamas rallied in Gaza against the scheduled Jewish visit to the Mount. About 2,000 masked but unarmed, uniformed men were seen in footage of the protest. One threatened over a loudspeaker, "Qassam rockets are going to be ready and aimed toward [the Israeli town of] Sderot on April 10 ... if the Zionists attack Al Aqsa Mosque."

The Jerusalem police have told WND they would not allow thousands of Jews on the Temple Mount at once. Shmulik Ben Ruby, a police spokesman, said the current government restriction of allowing only small groups of about 30 to 50 non-Muslims to ascend the Temple Mount, the holiest site for Jews, will apply on the day of the scheduled gathering..."

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## MUBARAK READY TO CLASH WITH OPPONENTS

*April 4, 2005* Middle East Newslite reported: "Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak appears prepared to confront opponents who have demanded his resignation. Egyptian officials said the Mubarak regime would not allow opposition protests without a license. They said the regime was concerned that the protests would mushroom and turn violent.

"It is permitted to express views," Cairo Security Director Maj. Gen. Nabil Ezabi said. "But if we are getting to the stage of [people] getting used to violations, then the principle must be that legal regulations must be implemented."

Officials said opposition groups have been holding unlicensed protests in Alexandria, Cairo and Mansoura. They said licenses would be issued by authorities to groups that could ensure non-violent demonstrations..."



**April 5, 2005** Middle East Newline reported: "Algeria and Iran have agreed to begin military cooperation. The agreement came during a three-day visit by Iranian Defense Minister Ali Shamkhani to Algiers. Shamkhani held talks with the Algerian leadership on military cooperation with the North African country.

This has been the first visit by an Iranian defense minister to Algeria since the Islamic revolution in Iran in 1979. For more than a decade, Algeria has charged that Iran was supporting the Islamic insurgency in the North African country. Over the last year, relations between Algiers and Teheran significantly improved and officials from both countries described Shamkhani's current visit as seminal. In 2000, the two countries restored diplomatic relations and discussed economic and energy cooperation..."

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## **NORTH KOREA WANTS JAPAN OUT OF NUCLEAR TALKS**

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**April 3, 2005** Voice of America News reported: "Korea says there is no longer any place for Japan in multinational talks aimed at ending the North's nuclear weapons programs. The comment is the latest in a series of demands and justifications Pyongyang has cited for refusing to return to the bargaining table.

North Korea says it is willing to return eventually to six-party talks aimed at its nuclear disarmament - but it demanded that Japan withdraw from the process. A statement carried by the official Korean Central News Agency accused Japan of what it called the "cunning and vulgar" intention of exploiting the talks for its own self-interest.

The talks, which also involve the United States, South Korea, China, and Russia, have been suspended since June of last year, following three unproductive rounds.

North Korea has demanded Japan be excluded from the talks once before, in connection with a dispute over Japanese citizens that Pyongyang has admitted kidnapping in the 1970's and 1980's. Saturday's statement is only the latest in a series of reasons given by Pyongyang during the past nine months for refusing to participate in the talks..."

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## **KORAN SCHOLAR: US WILL CEASE TO EXIST IN 2007**

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**April 1, 2005** Jerusalem Post reported: "A thorough analysis of the Koran reveals that the US will cease to exist in the year 2007, according to research published by Palestinian scholar Ziad Silwadi. The study, which has caught the attention of millions of Muslims worldwide, is based on in-depth interpretations of various verses in the Koran. It predicts that the US will be hit by a tsunami larger than that which recently struck southeast Asia.

"The tsunami waves are a minor rehearsal in comparison with what awaits the US in 2007," the researcher concluded in his study. "The Holy Koran warns against the Omnipotent Allah's force. A great sin will cause a huge flood in the Atlantic and Pacific oceans."

Silwadi, who is from the village of Silwad near Ramallah – the home of Hamas leader Khaled Mashaal – is not a world-renowned scholar. He said he decided to publish the findings of his research "out of a sense of responsibility because what is about to happen is extremely shocking and frightening."

His fear, he said, is that the world economy, which relies heavily on the US dollar, would be deeply affected by the collapse of the US...

Silwadi said his study of the Koran showed that the US would perish mainly because of its great sins against mankind, including the Native Americans and blacks... Silwadi pointed out that the US continued to commit war crimes and "ethnic cleansing" against humanity by becoming the first country to use nuclear weapons during World War .

"International law penalizes such crimes," he said. "If these laws were not applied then, they are certainly implemented in heaven. If no one on earth is capable of punishing [the US], Allah was and remains able to do so. All these actions have been documented by Allah in a big archive called the Koran."

Silwadi said he reached the conclusion that several suras (chapters) in the Koran that talk about punishment for those who perpetrate heinous sins actually refer to the US.

As an example, he quotes in his study verse 40 of the Spider Sura, which states: "So each We [God] punished for his sin; of them was he on whom We sent down a violent storm, and of them was he whom the rumbling overtook, and of them was he whom We made to be swallowed up by the earth, and of them he whom We drowned; and it did not beseem Allah that He should be unjust to them, but they were unjust to their own souls."

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