



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

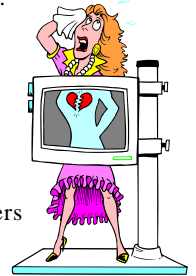
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AL-QAEDA PRACTISES BEATING BODY SCANNERS

December 29, 2009 Radio Nederland Wereldomroep reported: "A body scanner at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport would not necessarily have detected the explosives which the would-be syringe bomber, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab had sewn into his underwear. A Dutch military intelligence source told De Telegraaf newspaper that Al Qaeda has its own security scanners and has been practicing ways of concealing explosives.

The terrorist group has even carried out test runs at smuggling explosives through European airports, the paper reports.

On Monday Schiphol's operational manager Ad Rutten said the explosives carried by the 23-year-old Nigerian Abdulmutallab may well have been detected had he been scanned by one of the airport's 15 body scanners. Schiphol was the first airport to run a trial of body scanners, which use sound waves to see through passengers' clothing. At present the scanners are only an optional alternative to the conventional metal detector, as European privacy laws prevent them being made compulsory."..."



NO RISE OF ATMOSPHERIC CARBON DIOXIDE FRACTION IN PAST 160 YEARS, NEW RESEARCH FINDS

December 31, 2009 ScienceDaily.com reported: "Most of the carbon dioxide emitted by human activity does not remain in the atmosphere, but is instead absorbed by the oceans and terrestrial ecosystems. In fact, only about 45 percent of emitted carbon dioxide stays in the atmosphere.

However, some studies have suggested that the ability of oceans and plants to absorb carbon dioxide recently may have begun to decline and that the airborne fraction of anthropogenic carbon dioxide emissions is therefore beginning to increase.

Many climate models also assume that the airborne fraction will increase. Because understanding of the airborne fraction of carbon dioxide is important for predicting future climate change, it is essential to have accurate knowledge of whether that fraction is changing or will change as emissions increase.

To assess whether the airborne fraction is indeed increasing, Wolfgang Knorr of the Department of Earth Sciences at the University of Bristol reanalyzed available atmospheric carbon dioxide and emissions data since 1850 and considers the uncertainties in the data.

In contradiction to some recent studies, he finds that the airborne fraction of carbon dioxide has not increased either during the past 150 years or during the most recent five decades. The research is published in Geophysical Research Letters."..."

'HUNDREDS OF AL-QAEDA MILITANTS PLANNING ATTACKS FROM YEMEN'

December 30, 2009 The Times Online reports: "Hundreds of al-Qaeda militants are planning terror attacks from Yemen, the country's Foreign Minister said today. Abu Bakr al-Qirbi appealed for more help from the international community to help to train and equip counter-terrorist forces. His plea came after an al-Qaeda group based in Yemen claimed responsibility for the failed Christmas Day airliner bomb plot.

Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, alleged to be behind the attempt to blow up an American-bound aircraft, spent time in Yemen with al-Qaeda and was in the country only days before the failed attack. Dr al-Qirbi said: 'Of course there are a number of al-Qaeda operatives in Yemen and some of their leaders. We realize this danger.

'They may actually plan attacks like the one we have just had in Detroit. There are maybe hundreds of them — 200, 300.'

Dr al-Qirbi said it was the 'responsibility' of countries with strong intelligence capabilities to warn states such as Yemen about the movements of terror suspects. The United States, Britain and the European Union could do a lot to improve Yemen's response to militants on its own soil, he added.

'We have to work in a very joint fashion in partnership to combat terrorism,' he said. 'If we do, the problem will be brought under control.

'There is support, but I must say it is inadequate. We need more training, we have to expand our counter-terrorism units and provide them with equipment and transportation like helicopters.'

Mr. Abdulmutallab is said to have told US agents that there were more people 'just like him' ready to carry out attacks..."

U.S. MULLING JAPANESE PARTICIPATION IN F-35 FIGHTER: REPORT

December 29, 2009 SpaceWar.com reported: "The United States is considering allowing Japan to take part in a multinational project to develop the F-35 next-generation stealth fighter, a press report said Tuesday. Washington may allow Tokyo to participate in the project even without assurances from Japan that it will procure the F-35, Kyodo News reported, quoting sources from both governments.

The move is intended to clear the way for Japan to introduce the F-35 as its future mainstay fighter as countries not participating in the joint development would not be allowed to acquire it at an early date, Kyodo said. Tokyo's participation would be limited to developing components to be provided exclusively to its air defence force as Japan bans weapons and arms-technology exports, Kyodo quoted the sources as saying.

The F-35 is being jointly developed by the United States, Australia, Britain and other countries, Kyodo said. It is due to be ready for operational use in the mid-2010s. Countries involved in the joint development are expected to be able to acquire the fighter on a preferential basis, the report added."

BATTERED SPAIN BRINGS HIGH AMBITIONS TO EU PRESIDENCY

December 31, 2009 SpiegelOnline reported: "Spain has been pummeled by the economic crisis, rising unemployment and corruption scandals. At the moment, Spain's only ray of hope is its upcoming assumption of the rotating presidency of the European Union. But the bloc's new top brass, Herman Van Rompuy and Catherine Ashton, might just spoil Spain's turn at the EU helm.

Spain will assume the six-month rotating presidency of the European Union on Jan. 1. A week later, on Jan. 8, a gala ceremony will be held at Madrid's Teatro Real, with its velvet armchairs and gilded mouldings and the country's royal couple in attendance. Though the surroundings might be glamorous, the battered Spaniards will face enormous responsibilities in their new role -- and perhaps even ones that are too great.



Now that Europeans have finally put a rest to their squabbling over the Lisbon Treaty, it's time to implement the new body of laws it entails and for Europe to dispose itself in a new way. The EU now has a permanent president* of the European Council, Belgian politician Herman Van Rompuy, and a new foreign policy chief, British politician Catherine Ashton. Both have reputations for being able technocrats rather than polished diplomats. From now on, in accordance with the new reform treaty, they will chair important summit meetings in Brussels -- which means that Spain will be forced to assume a less prominent role..."

IRANIAN MULLAH: KILL THE PROTESTERS

December 30, 2009 IsraelNationalNews.com reported: "In a television appearance shocking in its candidness, a leading Iranian ayatollah says that it would be far better for the Islamic Republic to simply murder those protesting against the regime, rather than arrest and beat them. Meanwhile, an unknown group claiming to represent Iranian soldiers threatens to take up arms against the regime.

In a live interview broadcast on the Islamic Republic's national television station sometime within the last two weeks, Ayatollah Mehdi Haeri Shirazi described a Communist protest movement from the early years of the Islamic Republic, noting how it was effectively crushed by the authorities. The government targeted opposition activists, he said, "arrested them in the afternoon and the same night announced the names of 30 people killed or executed by the government forces."

In reaction to the arrests and killings, Shirazi continued, "nothing happened. Why? Because they killed them."

Expanding on what he sees as the lesson from those events, the ayatollah said, "The more of them [the opposition] are killed, the more beneficial [to the people]. If the armed forces kill some of them, it is to our benefit."

On the other hand, Shirazi continued, "When they are arrested, it is bad [for public opinion], when they are captured [it is bad for public opinion]. Do not make victims out of them."

Killing the opposition protesters, the ayatollah insists, "is sanctioned by obedience to Allah and the prophet and is handed down to the Supreme Leader [Ayatollah Khamenei]. When it is sanctioned by such a power, there is no need to go through the government powers."

Shirazi warned the opposition forces, "Do not look upon the Supreme Leader [simply] as a person with a soft turban on his head, and that you can beat him. His support comes from the Hidden Imam Mahdi, he [Khamenei] is made of iron. It will come back down to break your own heads."..."

PUTIN: RUSSIA MUST COUNTER U.S. MISSILE DEFENCES

December 29, 2009 The BBC News reported: "Russia needs 'to develop offensive weapons systems' to counter US missile defences and maintain the strategic balance, PM Vladimir Putin says. Otherwise, the United States would feel 'completely protected' and able to 'do whatever they want'.

The US this year dropped controversial plans for missile defence bases in the Czech Republic and Poland, but said it would develop other defensive systems. Mr Putin said such plans were hindering nuclear arms reduction talks.

Russia and the US are yet to find a successor to the Cold War-era Start I treaty, which expired on 5 December. The 1991 treaty led to deep cuts in nuclear arsenals on both sides. Both sides have agreed to continue observing Start I until they reach a new agreement.

Under a joint understanding signed in July, deployed nuclear warheads should be cut to below 1,700 on each side within seven years of a new treaty - a huge cut on Soviet-era levels. Nonetheless, between them the two countries will retain enough firepower to destroy the world several times over.

"To preserve the balance, we must develop offensive weapons systems, not missile defence systems as the US is doing,' Mr Putin said during a visit to Russia's Far East."..."

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