



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

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NIGER OFFICIAL: NIGERIA SECT LINKED TO AL-QAIDA

January 25, 2012 The Associated Press reported: "Niger's foreign minister says a radical Nigerian Islamist sect responsible for a series of deadly attacks received training and weapons from al-Qaida's North African wing.

Mohamed Bazoum said Wednesday in Mauritania's capital that members of the Boko Haram sect have had training and received explosives from al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb. He says "there is no doubt the two organizations are connected and that they have the same objective of destabilizing our region."

SOROS: EURO CRISIS MIGHT WRECK EU

January 25, 2012 The Guardian reported: "The euro fell sharply on the foreign exchanges today after the legendary speculator George Soros said that growing economic and political tensions could destroy the European Union. A hard-hitting attack by the billionaire financier on the ineptitude of European policymakers was backed by warnings from other economists on the first day of the World Economic Forum in Davos about the fragility of the single currency.

"Unfortunately, the European authorities had little understanding of how financial markets really work, and did everything wrong." Greece, Soros added, was on the edge of a default that could push it out of the euro. "The odds are in that direction." Following his remarks, the euro lost a cent against the dollar, falling below \$1.30.

Nouriel Roubini, one of the few economists to predict the global financial crisis, said: "The policy response is making the recession worse. What Europe needs is less austerity and more growth."

Ken Rogoff, a former chief economist at the International Monetary Fund, added to the pressure when he said the euro was a "halfway house that doesn't work".

Soros proposed that Spain and Italy should be allowed to finance their deficits by issuing treasury bills with a 1% interest rate, and warned that the current policies were leaving the weaker eurozone nations "relegated to the status of third world countries that became highly indebted in a foreign currency.

"The trouble is that the austerity that Germany wants to impose will push Europe into a deflationary debt spiral."..."



PM: WORLD SILENT WHILE IRAN, HEZBOLLAH THREATEN TO DESTROY ISRAEL

January 25, 2012 YnetNews.com reported: "Seventy years have passed since the Holocaust, and many around the world still remain silent in the face of Iran's threats to wipe Israel off the map, and many stay silent despite Hezbollah's call for the destruction of Israel, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Tuesday during a special Knesset session ahead of International Holocaust Remembrance Day, which will be marked this week.

'International Holocaust Remembrance Day is the day on which the world needs to stand behind the words 'no more.' It's not a slogan, but has a deep meaning,' he said. 'It is the day on which the world must unite to make certain weapons of mass destruction do not fall into the hands of dark regimes, headed by the ayatollahs' regime in Iran.'

Netanyahu added: 'Have we learned the lessons of the Holocaust? Are we treating these threats of destruction seriously? Or perhaps, like many generations before us we do not want to see the scope of the danger that is facing us. The Iranian regime is openly calling for the destruction of Israel, but many around the world remain silent. We mustn't bury our head in the sand. The Iranian regime is planning the annihilation of Israel and is working towards Israel's destruction – its agents (Hezbollah) fired over 12,000 missiles towards Israel's cities. They are not concealing their intent to kill as many (Israelis) as possible.

'The UN was founded to prevent genocides and massacres. These were its basic goals. Have these goals been attained? Unfortunately, the answer is no,' said the PM..."

IRAQ HITS OUT AT TURKEY AS TIES WORSEN

January 24, 2012 SpaceWar.com reported: "Baghdad hit out on Tuesday at alleged Turkish provocations after Ankara said it would speak out if sectarian conflict erupted in Iraq, in a dramatic worsening of tensions between the two neighbours.

Despite improving ties and increasing trade between the pair in recent years, the rhetoric between Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki and his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan has become heated in the past two weeks as Iraq has grappled with a political crisis that has stoked sectarian tensions.

"All Iraqis are proud of belonging to their country and no other. Erdogan has provoked all Iraqis with his comments, particularly those he believes he is defending," Maliki said in a statement released by his office on Tuesday, in a clear allusion to Iraq's Sunni Arab minority.

"Sunni and Shiite Iraqis are brothers and do not need anyone claiming to defend them against each other," he said. The statement was a quick response to remarks made by Erdogan to Turkish lawmakers in parliament, carried on television.

"Maliki should know that: if you start a conflict in Iraq in the form of sectarian clashes, it will be impossible for us to remain silent," he said.

"Those who stand by with folded arms watching brothers massacre each other are accomplices to murder," Erdogan said.

The two countries have traded accusations in recent weeks, since Erdogan telephoned Maliki on January 10 to discuss the political crisis engulfing Iraq since US troops withdrew from the country on December 18, pitting the Shiite-led government against the main Sunni-backed bloc."..."

IRAN'S NEW NUKE BUNKER MAY BE WAR TRIGGER

January 24, 2012 SpaceDaily.com reported: "Iran's new uranium enrichment plant buried under a mountain outside the holy city of Qom could become the crucial factor in determining whether the United States launches a barrage of military strikes on the Islamic Republic.

Tehran announced Jan. 9 that it had started uranium enrichment at the heavily guarded underground Fordow facility on the fringe of Iran's Great Salt Desert 100 miles south of Tehran. Enriched uranium can have civilian uses but it's the critical part of the process in producing weapons-grade uranium for nuclear weapons.

The Iranian move was in defiance of escalating U.S.-led Western pressure on the fundamentalist regime to curb such activity. The Iranians had been saying for months they planned to move their uranium-enrichment equipment to Fordow..."..."

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD PARLIAMENT SPEAKER CREATES WORRIES FOR SOME

January 24, 2012 Voice of America News reported: "Egypt's newly elected interim People's Assembly met for the first time Monday, amid heated debate over whom to elect as its new speaker. Muslim Brotherhood's candidate, Saad Katatni, won the post. The Brotherhood won 235 seats in the 498 seat chamber. That is causing worries in some quarters.

The dominance of the Muslim Brotherhood in the new parliament leadership has some Egyptians concerned because of the group's longstanding positions on issues like women's rights, minority rights, and Islamic shariah law.

The Brotherhood, whose slogan is 'Islam is the solution,' won 47 percent of the vote in three rounds of parliamentary elections, stunning some secular observers. Egyptian publisher Hisham Kassem, a long-time democracy advocate, admits to having been taken by surprise by the strong showing of Islamic fundamentalist groups.

'I never was so off-track as I was with my forecast for the parliamentary elections. I didn't see the Salafi party having any presence. I forecast 10 seats for them and I didn't think the [Muslim] Brotherhood would exceed 20 percent,' said Kassem. Egypt's fundamentalist Salafi party, the Hezb al-Nour or Party of Light, wants the clock to be turned back and life to be lived as it was in the time of Islam's prophet during the Seventh Century."..."

SOUTH KOREA LOOKING TO BUY ISRAEL'S IRON DOME AERIAL DEFENSE SYSTEM

January 24, 2012 Haaretz reported: "South Korea has offered to buy a significant quantity of Israeli-made weapons and defense systems, including the anti-rocket Iron Dome system, if Israel agrees to purchase South Korean fighter jets.

The Israel Air Force is looking to replace its aging fleet of American-made A-4 Skyhawk jets, which are used to train fighter pilots. The two alternatives being considered are the Korean-made T-50 Golden Eagle and Italy's M-346 Master.

The defense industries of South Korea and Italy are locked in a fierce competition for the contract, worth approximately \$1 billion. Last week, the Israel Air Force recommended purchasing the Italian planes. The final decision, however, will be made by the Defense Ministry, and one of the considerations which will be taken into account is the value of reciprocal deals with Israel's defense industry.



Italy has proposed a reciprocal deal, under which it would purchase some \$1 billion of defense equipment, including satellites, from Israel. In response, Korea proposed a deal potentially worth \$1.6 billion, which would include the purchase of Israeli-made radar systems, as well as contracts for upgrading helicopters and Hercules aircraft..."

STUDY: FIFTH OF GERMANS HARBOR SOME ANTI-SEMITISM

January 23, 2012 The Associated Press reported: "A new study by a Parliament-appointed commission shows 20 percent of Germans harbor "latent" anti-Semitism, but anti-Jewish crimes are almost exclusively committed by the far right.

The study which draws on several different surveys and other research puts Germans in the middle of the pack in Europe, with a German university survey showing more latent anti-Semitism in countries such as Poland, Hungary and Portugal, and less in Italy, Britain, the Netherlands and France. The study released Monday said the surveys show that about one-fifth of Germans agree with anti-Semitic statements, such as "Jews have too much power in business."

The study also showed that 90 percent of anti-Semitic crimes are committed by right-wing extremists, who number about 26,000 according to official estimates. It recommends better coordination of local, state and federal strategies to combat anti-Semitism."

*Compiled by L. Jim Tuck, Pastor
UCGIA Oakland, San Jose, Santa Rosa, and Stockton
ljt5053@sbcglobal.net*