

ASIA-PACIFIC & GLOBAL SITUATIONAL AWARENESS UPDATE

17 FEBRUARY 2016

A WEEKLY OPEN-SOURCE NEWS UPDATE ACROSS THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION AND THE GLOBE

ASIA-PACIFIC

North Korea Regime Reportedly 'Executes' Army Chief Of Staff Ri Yong-Gil



<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-35543364>

<http://www.cnn.com/2016/02/10/asia/north-korea-army-chief-ri-yong-gil-executed/>

The U.S. And Other Countries Don't Understand How Orwellian and Dangerous North Korea Is



**Any order would be
carried out with extreme
loyalty - you were ready
to sacrifice your life**

Kim Hyun-hui

"In North Korea, I was taught that our [founding] leader Kim Il-sung was a god. You were taught to put him before your own parents. You learn from early childhood to say 'Thank you, Great Leader' for everything. And if you said the wrong thing, even if it was a slip of the tongue, you'd end up in the gulag." She said that after eight years of training she was picked for the mission to blow up the Korean Air jet – a plot devised by the present leader's father, Kim Jong-il, who hoped it would scare foreigners away from the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IDAQ4etyMKY> (12 min. video, 2013)

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-22244337>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/northkorea/9984615/N-Korean-spy-Kim-Hyun-hee-I-was-plucked-by-regime-to-bomb-S-Korean-plane.html>

North Korea Orders Seizure of Kaesong Joint North-South Border Industrial Complex, Expels South Korean Workers, North Cuts 2 Hotline Ties



<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/02/north-korea-seizes-joint-industrial-complex-south-160211161107629.html>

<http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2016/02/11/466381582/north-korea-expels-south-koreans-from-joint-park-cuts-2-hotline-ties>

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-02-11/north-korea-to-shut-industrial-park-freeze-south-korean-assets>

South Korean Workers Leave Kaesong Industrial Park



<http://www.cnn.com/2016/02/11/asia/south-korea-kaesong-industrial-complex-closed/>

North Korea Says South's Pulling Out Of Industrial Zone 'Declaration Of War'

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-northkorea-satellite-expulsion-idUKKCN0VK0L4>

North Korea to Freeze South's Assets at Kaesong Industrial Park

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/02/12/world/asia/north-south-korea-kaesong.html?_r=0

South Korea Shutting Down Joint Industrial Park In North Korea

<http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2016/02/10/466254605/south-korea-shutting-down-joint-industrial-park-in-north-korea>

President Park: South Korea's Money Ended Up In North Korea's Nuclear Program

<http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20160216000763>

South Korea's Leader Warns Of North Korea Collapse



<http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/south-koreas-leader-warns-north-korea-collapse-36960884>

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/south-koreas-leader-warns-north-korea-collapse-061357315.html>

South Korea's President Vows All-Out Push To Punish North For Provocations



https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/south-koreas-park-vows-all-out-effort-to-punish-north-for-provocations/2016/02/15/f4c6aece-4d3f-4378-b9c0-eccef80c1966_story.html

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/north-korea-south-korea-missile-us_56c28b42e4b0b40245c7b742?utm_hp_ref=world

Kim Jong-Un Says North Korea Rocket Launch Was 'Telling Blow' To Enemies, Calls For More Launches

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/feb/15/kim-jong-un-says-north-korea-rocket-launch-was-telling-blow-to-enemies>

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/north-korea-leader-kim-jong-7373085>

38 North: Is North Korea Preparing for a Fifth Nuclear Test?

<http://38north.org/2016/02/punggye021616/>

North Korea Will 'Collapse' If It Pursues Nuclear Weapons: South Korea's President Park



<http://video.ap.org/S-Koreas-Leader-Warns-of-N-Korea-Collapse-30355675?videoid=30355675&playlistId=10212>

<http://www.latimes.com/world/asia/la-fg-korea-south-korea-20160216-story.html>

North Korea's Latest Nuclear Provocation: Founder, Asian Studies Center

<http://www.heritage.org/research/commentary/2016/2/north-koreas-latest-nuclear-provocation>

South Korea's Park, In Reversal, Vows Hard Line With North Korea

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-northkorea-satellite-park-idUKKCN0VP06X>

Seoul Mulling Denying Entry To Its Ports To All Ships From Third Countries Sailing To And From North Korea

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2016/02/16/2016021601024.html

South Korea Displays North Korea Rocket Debris



<http://www.reuters.com/video/2016/02/11/south-korea-displays-north-korea-rocket?videoid=367365201>

China Supports New U.N. Resolution On North Korea But Reluctant To Agree To Crippling Sanctions

<http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20160216001198>

China Useless Against North Korea's Missile Mania

<http://www.heritage.org/research/commentary/2016/2/china-useless-against-north-koreas-missile-mania>

China Calls for United States to Declare Peace With North Korea



<http://www.rokdrop.net/2016/02/china-calls-for-united-states-to-declare-peace-with-north-korea/>

America's Comforting—but Wrong—Notion About North Korea



<http://nationalinterest.org/feature/americas-comforting-wrong-notion-about-north-korea-15219>

CSIS: What Does New Sanctions Legislation on North Korea Mean?

<http://csis.org/publication/csis-critical-questions-what-does-new-sanctions-legislation-north-korea-mean>

Cracking Down On Pyongyang Is Difficult. Here's Why

<http://www.stripes.com/news/pacific/cracking-down-on-pyongyang-is-difficult-here-s-why-1.394272>

No Clear Strategy To Stopping North Korea Nuclear Program

<http://www.stripes.com/news/pacific/no-clear-strategy-to-stopping-north-korea-nuclear-program-1.393671>

UN Expert: Kim Jong Un Could Be Held Accountable for Crimes Against Humanity

<http://www.voanews.com/content/un-expert-kim-jong-un-could-be-held-accountable-for-crimes-against-humanity/3191967.html>

China Hails Late North Korean Leader On Birthday Anniversary

<http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20160216001197>

China Warns U.S. Of 'Serious Consequences' Over Washington D.C. Plaza Name After Someone China's Leaders View As A Criminal

China's Foreign Ministry warned the United States on Tuesday there would be "serious consequences" if a plaza in front of the Chinese embassy in Washington was named after a pro-democracy dissident and Nobel Peace Prize winner. By unanimous voice vote, the U.S. Senate on Friday backed a plan to name the plaza after Liu Xiaobo, jailed for 11 years in 2009 on subversion charges for organizing a petition urging an end to one-party rule. China views Liu as a criminal.

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-usa-diplomacy-congress-china-idUKKCN0VPOSC>

China Forbids Great Famine Author From Traveling to U.S. To Receive Harvard Award

<http://www.voanews.com/content/ap-china-forbids-great-famine-author-from-taking-harvard-prize/3192760.html>

Key North Korean Web Sites Restored After Hours Of Shutdown

<http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20160216001259>

Iran Ships First Oil to E.U., Seeks Growth in Japan



<http://maritime-executive.com/article/iran-ships-first-oil-to-europe-eyes-growth-in-japan>

South Korea Triples Imports of Iranian Oil

<http://maritime-executive.com/article/south-korea-triples-imports-of-iranian-oil>

Contested Air Superiority Returns to the Asia Pacific

<http://nationalinterest.org/blog/the-buzz/contested-air-superiority-returns-the-asia-pacific-15156>

U.S. Navy Warns Against Chinese Flights in South China Sea

<http://m.voanews.com/a/us-navy-warns-against-chinese-flights-south-china-sea/3192166.html>

China Reclaimed Land for South China Sea Anti-Submarine Helicopter Base Near Vietnam



<http://news.usni.org/2016/02/15/china-reclaimed-land-for-south-china-sea-anti-submarine-helicopter-base-near-vietnam>

China's Naval Modernization: Where Is It Headed?



COMMENTARY (World Politics Review)

February 10, 2016

China's Naval Modernization: Where Is It Headed?

<http://www.rand.org/blog/2016/02/chinas-naval-modernization-where-is-it-headed.html>

China Reshapes Military Spending For South China Sea



<http://maritime-executive.com/article/china-reshapes-military-spending-for-south-china-sea>

Obama, ASEAN Seek to 'Advance Regional Order' at U.S. Summit Held in California



<http://m.voanews.com/a/obama-seeks-to-pave-long-term-path-for-us-rebalance-toward-asia-pacific/3191157.html>

South China Sea Takes Centre Stage At U.S.-ASEAN Summit



<http://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-usa-asean-idUKKCN0VP1EE>

Obama, SE Asian Leaders Seek Resolution To Maritime Disputes

<http://www.stripes.com/news/us/obama-se-asian-leaders-seek-resolution-to-maritime-disputes-1.394241>

ASEAN Summit Draft Statement Includes Potential South China Sea Sticking Points

<http://www.voanews.com/content/draft-sunnylands-principles-include-potential-south-china-sea-sticking-points/3191995.html>

China Downplays Impact of ASEAN Meeting

<http://m.voanews.com/a/china-downplays-impact-of-asean-meeting/3192793.html>

U.S.-ASEAN Relations: Hiding in Plain Sight



<http://carnegieendowment.org/2016/02/10/u.s.-asean-relations-hiding-in-plain-sight/itr0>

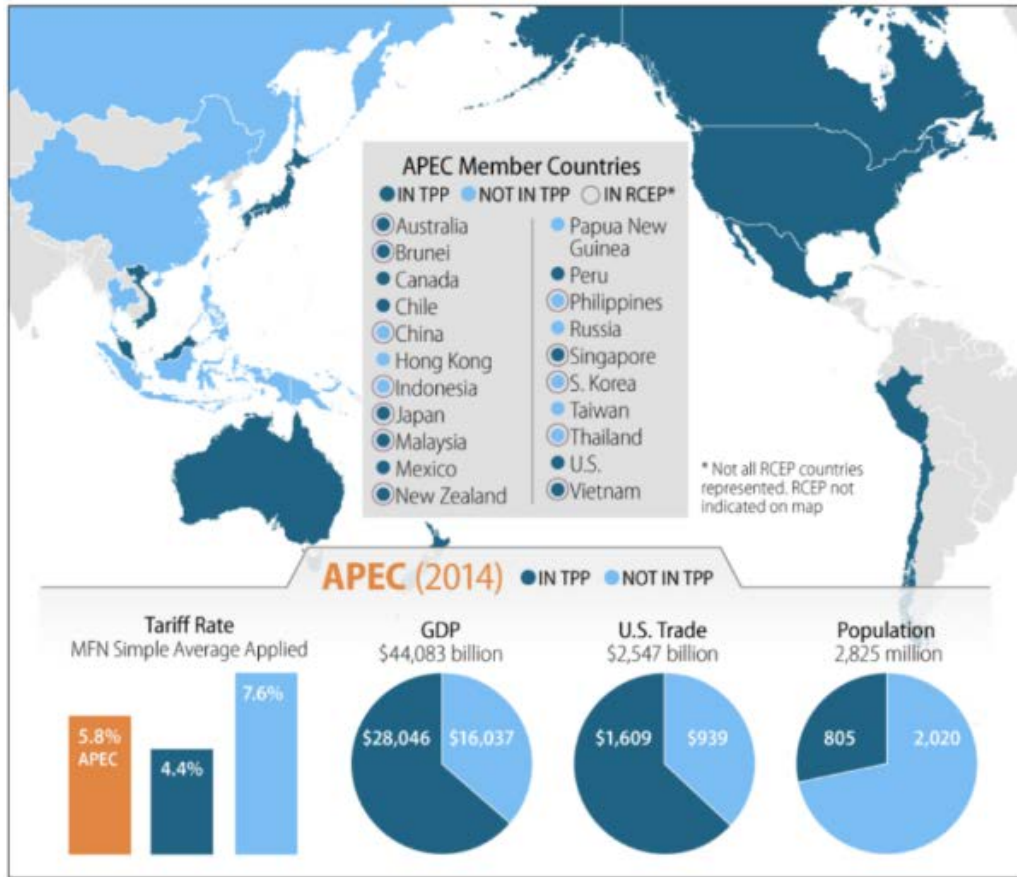
Sri Lanka Wants China in Port Deal

<http://maritime-executive.com/article/sri-lanka-wants-china-in-port-deal>

Testing of Panama Canal Lock Repair Complete

<http://maritime-executive.com/article/testing-of-panama-canal-lock-repair-complete>

Report To Congress On Strategic Implications Of The Trans-Pacific Partnership



<http://news.usni.org/2016/02/16/document-report-to-congress-on-strategic-implications-of-the-trans-pacific-partnership>

THAILAND

Thai King Recovers From Infection, Fever Still High - Palace Statement

<http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/thai-king-recovers-from-i/2520392.html>

Thailand Dengue: All 77 Provinces Report Cases, Phuket See A Rise In Dengue



<http://outbreaknewstoday.com/thailand-dengue-all-77-provinces-report-cases-phuket-see-a-rise-in-dengue-62648/>

CAMBODIA

Despite Stronger Economic Ties, Democracy Still A Thorny Issue In Cambodia-US Relationship

<http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/despite-stronger-economic/2520326.html>

MALAYSIA

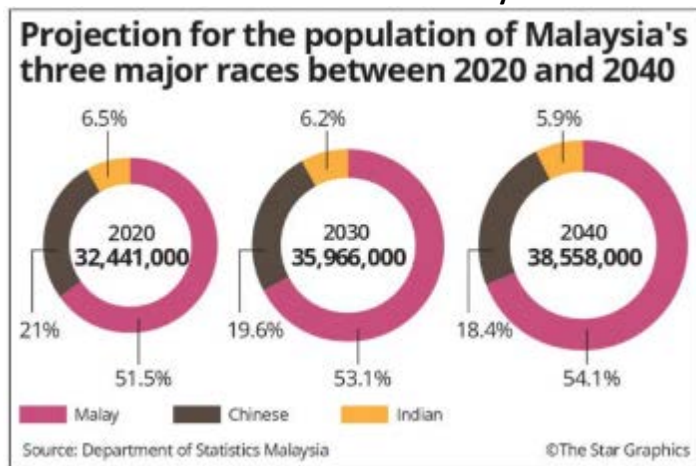
Malaysia Reaches 20,000 Dengue Cases In 2016, Consistent With 2015

<http://outbreaknewstoday.com/malaysia-reaches-20000-dengue-cases-in-2016-consistent-with-2015/>

IS Releases Video Of Malaysian Militant Minutes After He Was Shot

<http://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2016/02/16/is-puts-out-video-showing-death-of-msian-bomb-maker/>

Drastic Fall In Chinese Birth Rate In Malaysia



<http://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2016/02/16/drastic-fall-in-chinese-birth-rate-dept-of-statistics-population-ratio-will-fall-to-just-184-by-2040/>

INDONESIA

Indonesia Arrests 33 Radical Islamists Plotting Attacks Against Airport, Other Locations: Police

Indonesian police have arrested dozens of people from radical Islamic groups who were plotting attacks against a Jakarta airport and other targets, the national police chief said yesterday. After the Jakarta attacks, the police have launched a crackdown across the country, saying they suspect that a broader extremist network helped to carry out the assault. Seventeen of those arrested were directly linked to the Jakarta attacks, while the remaining 16 were members of three other radical groups.

<http://www.straitstimes.com/asia/se-asia/indonesia-nabs-33-plotting-attacks-against-airport-police>

ISIS Reaches Indonesia: The Terrorist Group's Prospects In Southeast Asia

<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/indonesia/2016-02-08/isis-reaches-indonesia>

Indonesia Plans Tougher Anti-Terrorism Laws After Jakarta Attack



<http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/exclusive-indonesia-pla/2520506.html>

Inside Indonesia's Nuclear Dream

<http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/inside-indonesia-s/2519384.html>

Indonesian Official: Gay Emojis Could Cause Civil Unrest

<http://foreignpolicy.com/2016/02/12/indonesian-official-gay-emojis-could-cause-civil-unrest/>

Anti-Gay Actions, Sentiment Threaten Fragile Population

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/02/16/world/asia/indonesia-antigay-sentiment.html?src=me&mtrref=www.nytimes.com>

PHILIPPINES

Six Philippine Policemen Killed In Rebel Ambush

<http://www.straitstimes.com/asia/se-asia/six-philippine-policemen-killed-in-rebel-ambush>

Philippines-Based Jihadist Groups Pledge Allegiance To The Islamic State



<http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2016/02/philippines-based-jihadist-groups-pledge-allegiance-to-the-islamic-state.php>

Philippines: ISIS and China Updates

<http://www.strategypage.com/qnd/phillip/articles/20160213.aspx>

NORTH KOREA

Kim Jong-un Misses Event Marking Father's Birthday

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2016/02/17/2016021701201.html

North Korean Leader Pays Tribute To Late Father On Anniversary

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/news/2016/02/17/0200000000AEN20160217001400315.html?input=rss>

Inflating the North Korean Threat Doesn't Help

<http://nationalinterest.org/blog/the-skeptics/inflating-the-north-korean-threat-doesnt-help-15185>

New Footage of North Korea's Rocket Blast-Off



<http://www.popularmechanics.com/military/weapons/news/a19421/watch-north-koreas-rocket-takeoff/>

North Korea 'Built Mock-Up of Seoul for Military Training'

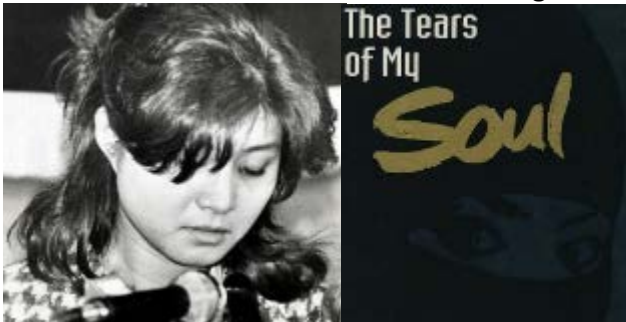
http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2016/02/15/2016021501715.html

Who Is The Woman Behind North Korea's News on Air Since 1971?



<http://www.kitv.com/story/31159855/who-is-the-woman-behind-north-koreas-news>

Former North Korean Terrorist Shares Thoughts During South Korean Talk Show



<http://www.koreabang.com/2013/videos/north-korean-terrorist-spills-all-on-south-korean-talk-show.html>

North Korean Regime Truly Orwellian

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/world/north-korean-regime-truly-orwellian/story-e6frg6ux-1225835337972>

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/programmes/from_our_own_correspondent/8711355.stm

North Korea's Systematic Indoctrination Of Anti-Americanism Starts As Early As Kindergarten



<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/125/photos/north-korea-guttenfelder/>

North Korea Documentary: How Americans Live Today, 'Survive By Eating Birds and Snow and Receiving Food Handouts from North Korea'



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CJoQQHQ8oA>

A Day In The Life: Reality of Living in North Korea



"Sing along; 'He comes to care for you. Our powerful People's Army shakes heaven and earth. The pathetic Americans kneel on the ground. They beg for mercy.'" (at 3:10)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGE9S6svs-s>

One Of North Korea's Most Popular Children's Songs Titled 'We Have Nothing To Envy In The World'

<http://www.csmonitor.com/1984/0118/011849.html>

Brainwashed by North Korea: From Birth Children are Taught North Korean Leaders are God

<http://www.cnn.com/video/?/video/world/2013/04/11/tsr-dnt-todd-north-korea-fmr-spy-who-defected.cnn#/video/world/2013/04/12/lah-nkorea-brainwash.cnn>

North Korea: 'You Are Brainwashed From The Time You Know How To Talk'

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/feb/17/north-korea-human-rights-abuses-stories-un-brainwashed>

Until I Escaped, I Could Die For Them: How North Korea Brainwashes Children

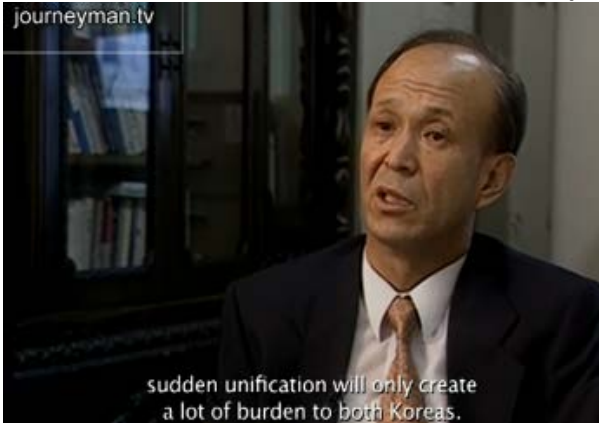
<http://www.cnn.com/video/?/video/world/2013/04/11/tsr-dnt-todd-north-korea-fmr-spy-who-defected.cnn#/video/world/2013/04/12/tsr-pkg-todd-north-korea-brainwashed-children.cnn>

North Korean Defector Hyeonseo Lee: We Are Living An Orwellian Nightmare



<http://www.wired.co.uk/news/archive/2015-10/15/hyeonseo-lee-north-korea-defector-wired-2015>

North Korea's Brainwashed Defectors Can't Cope in the Outside World



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u0QVkf-B0qc>

Ice Skating Festival In North Korea



<http://uk.reuters.com/video/2016/02/16/ice-skating-festival-in-north-korea?videoId=367416244&videoChannel=117759&channelName=World+News>

SOUTH KOREA

The Dream Of A Korean Unification



<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2014/11/dream-korean-unification-2014111565039906410.html>

South Korea, Its Rival And The Power Of Words

<http://www.koreatimesus.com/ap-analysis-south-korea-its-rival-and-the-power-of-words/>

More Pre-Screening of Visitors to Prevent Terror Attacks

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2016/02/15/2016021501558.html

Seoul's Population On Course To Become Much Older By 2033: Median Age Will Rise From 39 To 48.6

<http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20160216000862>

How Chinese Money Is Changing Korean Media

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2016/02/16/2016021601918.html

TAIWAN

After Quake, Taiwan Seeks Detention Of Developers Of Fallen Building



<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/after-earthquake-taiwan-seeks-detention-of-developers-of-fallen-building/>

CHINA

China May Be Putting Its Nukes on Hair-Trigger Alert



<http://www.popularmechanics.com/military/weapons/a19462/china-may-be-putting-its-nukes-on-hair-trigger-alert/>

China Damming Lhasa River Into Artificial Lakes



<http://www.voanews.com/content/exclusive-china-turning-lhasa-river-into-artificial-lakes/3192624.html>

China To Relocate 10,000 To Make Way For Huge Telescope Apparently To Help Search For Alien Life



<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/02/china-relocate-10000-huge-telescope-160216082150242.html>

<http://foreignpolicy.com/2016/02/16/beijing-to-chinese-humans-please-move-so-we-can-hunt-for-aliens/>

MYANMAR/BURMA

Thousands Displaced In Myanmar Rebel Clashes: UN



<http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/thousands-displaced-in/2519644.html>

BANGLADESH

Bangladesh Arrests Publisher for Books Said to Hurt Muslims

<http://www.voanews.com/content/Bangladesh-Arrests-Publisher-for-Books-Said-to-Hurt-Muslims/3193273.html>

Authorities Close Down Book Stand For Insulting Islam



<http://www.jihadwatch.org/2016/02/bangladesh-authorities-close-down-book-stand-for-insulting-islam>

INDIA

Indian Soldier Survived Five Miraculous Days Trapped Beneath A 25-Foot Avalanche



https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2016/02/09/this-indian-soldier-survived-five-miraculous-days-trapped-beneath-a-25-foot-avalanche/?tid=pm_world_pop_b

RUSSIA-UKRAINE

How the World Looks From the Russian Perspective



http://www.huffingtonpost.com/sergey-karaganov-/world-russia-perspective_b_9237060.html?utm_hp_ref=world

Russia Having Success In Hybrid War Against Germany

<http://blogs.reuters.com/great-debate/2016/02/07/russia-having-success-in-hybrid-war-against-germany/>

Ukraine in Political Crisis as Government Faces No-Confidence Vote

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/ukraine-political-crisis-government-faces-confidence-vote/story?id=36966837>

Ukraine Should Heed Its Economy Minister's Warning On Corruption

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/ukraine-should-heed-its-economy-ministers-warning-on-corruption/2016/02/15/eb7af9e6-cea3-11e5-88cd-753e80cd29ad_story.html

Ukraine Needs A Reboot

<http://foreignpolicy.com/2016/02/12/ukraine-needs-a-reboot/>

EUROPE

Is the West Losing Its Military Edge?



<http://www.popularmechanics.com/military/weapons/news/a19398/is-the-west-losing-its-military-edge/>

Expert On NATO Calls For Permanent Alliance Military Presence In Baltics As Hedge Against Russia Military Action



<http://news.usni.org/2016/02/16/expert-on-nato-calls-for-permanent-alliance-military-presence-in-baltics-as-hedge-against-russia-military-action>

Cameron Defends EU Deal As Lawmakers Offer No Guarantees



<http://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-britain-eu-idUKKCN0VP0T0>

UK: Muslim Trucker Planned Jihad Attack On US & UK Airmen At Bases

<http://www.jihadwatch.org/2016/02/uk-muslim-trucker-planned-jihad-attack-on-us-uk-airmen-at-bases>

Muslim Migrants Attacking UK Troops And Families Based In Germany

<http://www.jihadwatch.org/2016/02/muslim-migrants-attacking-uk-troops-and-families-based-in-germany>

Germany Shuts Down Islamic Centre In Bremen, Raids Apartments

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-germany-security-idUKKCN0VP20I>

Police Conduct Terror Raids in Germany and Belgium

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/police-conduct-separate-terror-raids-germany-belgium/story?id=36966733>

Racial Profiling Seems To Be A Weapon In Europe's War On Terrorism

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/racial-profiling-seems-to-be-a-weapon-in-europes-war-on-terrorism/2016/02/15/78788aea-cb91-11e5-b9ab-26591104bb19_story.html?tid=pm_world_pop_b

Prosecutor: 'Overwhelming Majority' Of Cologne New Year's Eve Sex Assault Suspects Are Refugees

<http://www.jihadwatch.org/2016/02/prosecutor-overwhelming-majority-of-cologne-new-years-eve-sex-assault-suspects-are-refugees>

Life As A Female Refugee: 'You Don't Know Who To Trust'

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2016/02/life-female-refugee-don-trust-160210092005932.html>

Will The EU Really Fence Off One Of Its Own Members?



<http://blogs.reuters.com/great-debate/2016/02/09/why-ring-fencing-greece-from-europe-wont-solve-anything/>

Austria Plans Quota As Part Of 'Domino Effect' To Slow Migrants



<http://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-europe-migrants-austria-idUKKCN0VP102>

Refugees in the Arctic: Sweden, It's Now Time for Refugees to Leave



<http://interactive.aljazeera.com/aje/2016/arctic-refugees/index.html>

What I Saw When I Volunteered In A Greek Refugee Camp, The Scale Of The Crisis Confounded The Senses

http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/foreigners/2016/02/i_volunteered_in_a_refugee_camp_in_leros_greece.html

Migrant Crisis: No End in Sight



<http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/02/04/world/europe/migrant-crisis-by-the-numbers.html?ref=world>

Merkel Warns Against Border Closures, To Fight For EU-Turkey Plan



http://www.todayszaman.com/diplomacy_merkel-warns-against-border-closures-to-fight-for-eu-turkey-plan_412478.html

Germany Will Take In 500,000 More Muslim Migrants This Year Alone

<http://www.jihadwatch.org/2016/02/germany-will-take-in-500000-more-muslim-migrants-this-year-alone>

NATO Orders Warships Into Aegean To Help Ease Migrant Crisis

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Europe Again Has Two Options: War And Peace

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Is The Norwegian Military Ready For Female Soldiers?



<http://sciencenordic.com/norwegian-military-ready-female-soldiers>

Norway Opened All Combat Positions to Women in 1985

Norway: In 1985, Norway became the first country in NATO to allow women to serve in all combat capacities, including submarines. Norwegian women are also subject to the draft in the event of a national mobilization. "The few women that are attracted by the infantry and cavalry do a great job in the Norwegian Army," says Col. Ingrid Gjerde, an infantry officer in the Norwegian military for 25 years. "I have to be clear: You have to meet the physical standards, because the job is still the same. It works very well as long as women hold the standards," added Colonel Gjerde, who was the commander of Norwegian forces in Afghanistan in 2012. "It's not a big deal because women who go into these fields know the standards, and it's not that hard for women to train up to the standards if they really want."

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2013/13/130125-women-combat-world-australia-israel-canada-norway/>

In 2013, Norway Recruited 2,000 Women to Build The World's First All-Female Special Forces



For special operations, the number of female members is still zero: the country's Special Forces is open to women, but few had applied and none had passed the admissions test. The lack of women has limited the Special Forces' effectiveness in international operations. "In Afghanistan, one of our big challenges was that we would enter houses and not be able to speak to the women," explained Captain Ole Vidar Krogsaeter, an officer with Norway's Special Forces Operations. "In urban warfare, you have to be able to interact with women as well. Adding female soldiers was an operational need."

<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/norway/2016-02-08/norways-hunter-troop>

<http://www.newsinenglish.no/2013/12/19/women-recruited-for-special-forces/>

A Wake-up Sign to Other Nations: Greece's Seniors Reveal The Harsh Truth About Nation's Pension Cuts and Crisis



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MIDDLE EAST

Air Strikes On Schools And Hospitals In Syria 'War Crimes': France And Turkey Denounce Raids In Which Up To 50 People Were Killed As Assad Casts Doubt On Prospects For A Truce



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NATO Powers, UN Condemn Deadly Strikes On Syrian Schools, Hospitals

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Russia Denies Striking Charity's Hospital in Syria

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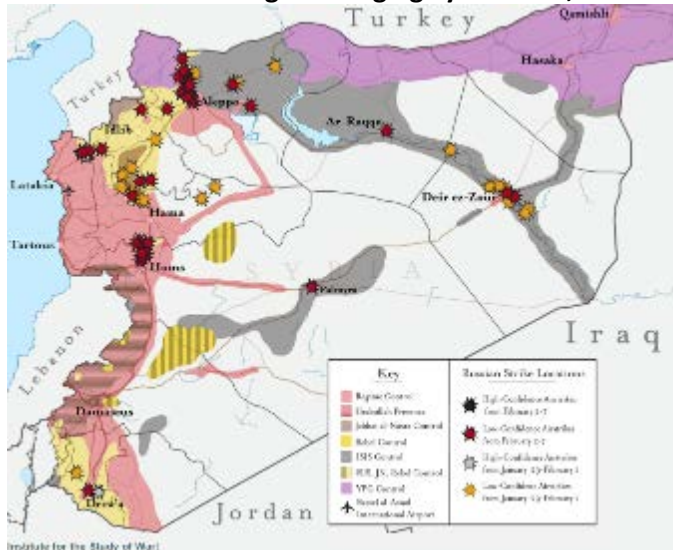
Why The West Is Standing By Amid Russia's Campaign In Syria

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Russian Intervention in Syrian War Has Sharply Reduced U.S. Options

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How Russian Bombing Is Changing Syria's War, In 3 Maps



<http://www.vox.com/2016/2/16/11020140/russia-syria-bombing-maps>

Russia Proposes March 1 Ceasefire In Syria; U.S. Wants It Now

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The Syria War Will Not Be a Quagmire -- Because Putin and Assad Are Winning



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If Assad And Putin Win, Then Islamic State Wins

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Turkey Vows 'Harsh Reaction' If Kurds Try To Take Syrian Town Of Azaz And Do Not Retreat From Their Positions Near The Border



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Turkey Pushes Case For Ground Operations As Kurds Advance

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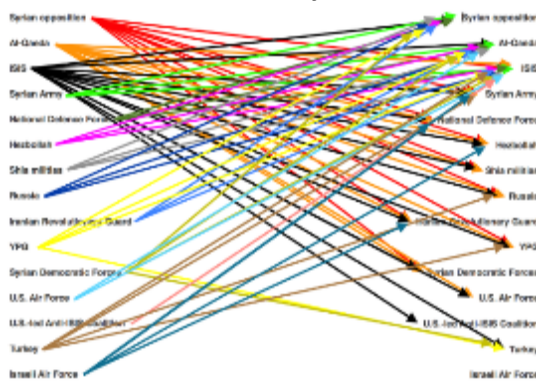
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ISIS, in a First, Says It Was Behind Attack in Syrian Capital



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Massive ISIS Car Bomb Detonates Just Before It Reaches Iraqi Forces



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How Iran's Election Could Make History

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New Islamic State Franchise Threatens Egypt

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Saudi Arabia's Master Plan Against ISIS, Assad and Iran in Syria



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The Problem With Saudi Arabia's Terrorist Reeducation

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The One Thing In Saudi Arabia That Works Well Is Under Threat: Oil

Aramco produces more than 70 percent of the Saudi government's revenue and has been a near-sacred entity ever since the Saudi state gradually bought out its original American owners in the 1970s. The process differed from the forced nationalizations of Western oil assets in other OPEC countries: Instead of letting the kingdom's national oil company Petromin take over Aramco, the princes decided to preserve the company's American managerial structures and gradually "Saudiize" its ranks. Petromin, riddled by corruption like many national oil companies in OPEC, was allowed to quietly wither away.

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Al Qaeda Seizes More Territory In Southern Yemen

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A Change of Strategy Is Needed in Yemen

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The Next Generation of Leaders in the Gulf



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Stop Islamic State In Libya Before It Is Too Late: Former Undercover CIA Operative

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Obama Says Will Try To Block Islamic State From 'Digging In' In Libya

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In Libya, No Unity without Security

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Setting The Record Straight On Benghazi: Islamist Politics In Libya Reveals That This Singular Event Was Part Of A Larger Plan To Create An Islamic State Within Libya



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Suicide-Bomber Girls Kill 58 in Nigerian Refugee Camp

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Islamists Kill Somalia's Former Defense Minister With Car Bomb

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Uganda Detain Two Presidential Hopefuls Who Are Challenging Incumbent

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Jihadists Launch Assaults On UN, Malian Forces In Northern Mali

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CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA

'3 to 4' Gun Battles a Day Between Gangs and Security Forces, Resembles Low-Intensity Civil War: El Salvador Police Chief

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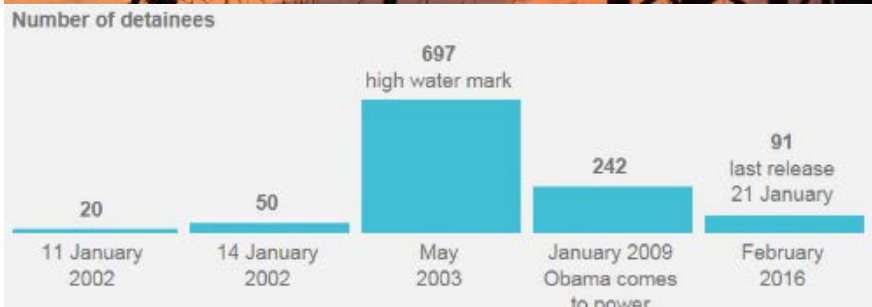
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On ISIS, Canada's Priorities Are Backwards

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52 Dead In Riot At Mexico's Topo Chico Prison

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The Challenge of the U.S.-Mexico Border

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In Poor, Crime-Ridden Mexican Community, Pope Critiques Inequality



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Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia Passes On at 79



Remembering Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia

In Memoriam:
Supreme Court Justice
Antonin Scalia
1936-2016

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https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/supreme-court-justice-antonin-scalia-dies-at-79/2016/02/13/effe8184-a62f-11e3-a5fa-55f0c77bf39c_story.html

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Three Americans Abducted In Baghdad A Month Ago Allegedly Freed By Iraqis

All three men were said to be in good health. It is not yet clear who was behind the abduction, but officials suspect it was an Iranian-backed Shia militia. The three men were working for a private contractor when they were abducted in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, on 15 January. It was the first such abduction of Westerners in Iraq for several years. "The three Americans were released in an area near Yusufiya, south of Baghdad. Intelligence forces received them and will hand them over to the American authorities [in Baghdad]," an Iraqi interior ministry official told Reuters news agency on Tuesday. Some analysts believe the kidnappings were meant to embarrass and weaken Abadi, who is trying to balance Iraq's relations with rival powers Iran and the United States.

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What A Bernie Sanders' Military Might Look Like : Possibly a 60% Reduction in Current Forces

First, the defense budget would be much, much smaller. All his new social programs, whatever their merits, must be paid for. Higher taxes could cover part of the cost, but inevitably other budget elements get squeezed. Running such a budget through the CSIS Force Cost model produces some interesting results. Essentially, forces would be cut by about 60 percent and acquisition programs would have to be radically restructured. Such a budget cannot support the defense establishment that has existed since the Second World War. Nor can it execute the kind of global strategy that Americans have taken for granted, whatever the ups and downs of defense spending have been

Here's what you would need to do to produce the savings needed.

- Reduce the active Army to about 250,000 soldiers, down from today's level of 475,000. To compensate, the reserves might be reduced less, to perhaps 290,000 for the National Guard and the Army Reserve. This would be consistent with Sander's statements that he wants to decrease America's overseas presence, particularly in wealthy regions like Europe and Japan. The Army would become a surge force rather than a forward-deployed force. Its capability would still be formidable, perhaps 25 total combat brigades, but it would take much longer to get overseas. Think World War Two, not Desert Storm.
- Shrink the Navy to about 160 ships with maybe five carriers ("Cold War weapons"). It would take a long time to get to this level, even by retiring ships early. The Navy could live off its existing inventory for a decade or two. Nevertheless, the smaller fleet would over time mean a much reduced overseas presence. Even giving preference to the Pacific theater, withdrawing entirely from Europe and mostly from the Middle East, the Pacific rebalance would be radically scaled back. Countries in the Western Pacific would likely make their best deal with a rising China rather than relying on a withdrawing United States. To maintain any sort of shipbuilding industrial base, the Navy would need to continue to build a few ships, but some shipyards would still have to close. Based on recent history, NASCO in California and Bath Iron Works in Maine would certainly go out of business. So might the Electric Boat Company in Connecticut.
- Switch the Air Force from building fifth generation aircraft like the F-35 ("incredibly wasteful") to extending the life of its fleet of legacy aircraft like F-16s and F-15s. The Air Force would still have a formidable fifth-

generation force in the F-35's already built and the existing F-22's, although that force would be much smaller than planned.

- Reduce the Marine Corps to a strength of about 90,000 (active). It would still be the largest marine corps in the world but would not be able to maintain the forward deployments that have been customary since the Second World War.

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The Clinton Emails: What Is and Is Not Damaging – Why and How U.S. Government Information is Handled

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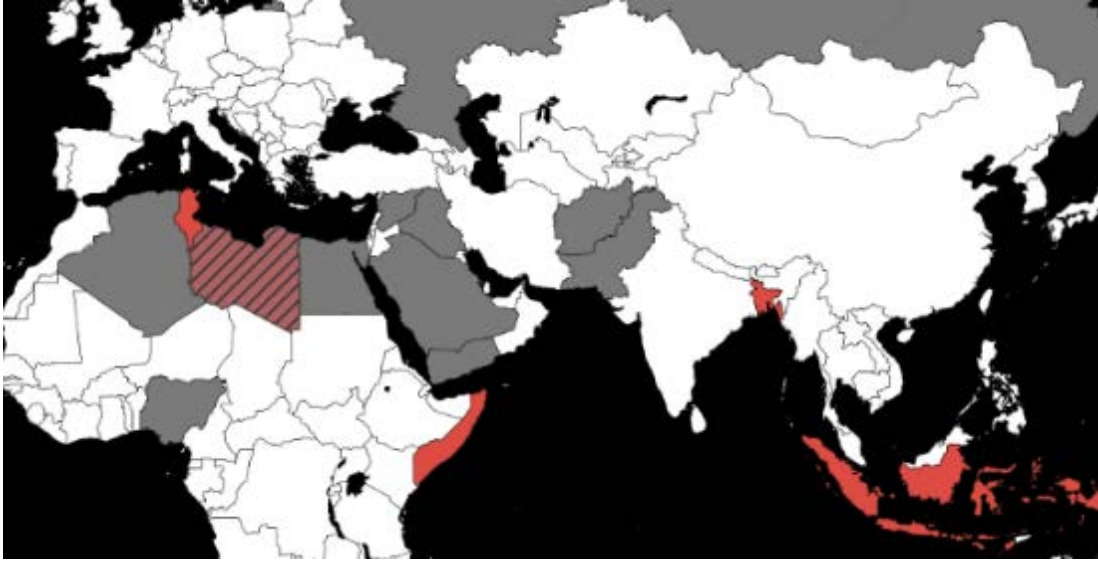
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