

US Will Fight Russia Over Global Order

TEHRAN (Press TV) - The recent downing of a Russian warplane by NATO-member Turkey underscores that the US and its Western allies are committed to a military conflict against Russia to maintain their world domination and "global order," an American analyst says.

The downing of the Russian fighter jet by Turkish warplanes was likely carried out with the authorization of NATO and Washington, said Mark Glenn, co-founder of the Crescent and Cross Solidarity Movement.

The provocative incident may escalate to an "international crisis" and lead to a war with Moscow, Glenn said in an interview with Press TV on Wednesday.

West are completely willing to commit themselves right now to a war with the Russians and it's not just over Syria, but it's really over what we would call the global order," he added.

Some American officials are "drunk with power" and believe they have a "messianic" mission to impose their will on countries across the globe, Glenn noted.

On Tuesday, NATO member Turkey shot down a Russian fighter jet near the border with Syria, claiming the aircraft had repeatedly violated its air space.

The United States believes the Russian warplane entered Turkish airspace for only several seconds.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said the jet had been attacked when it was 1 kilometer (0.6 m) inside Syria.

Putin warned of "serious consequences" and said the downing of the Russian plane was a "stab in the back" administered by "the accomplices of terrorists."

Russia has been conducting airstrikes on Daesh positions at the request of the Syrian government since September 30.

Syria has been gripped by deadly violence since March 2011. The United States and its regional allies - especially Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Turkey - have been supporting the militants operating inside Syria since the beginning of the crisis.

More S Sudan peacekeepers needed: UN

NEW YORK (Press TV) - UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has called for the deployment of an extra number of 1,100 peacekeeping forces to South Sudan as unprecedented level of violence continues to grip the African country.

In a recent report to the UN Security Council on the peacekeeping mission in South Sudan, known as UNMISS, Ban recommended that 500 additional military troops and 600 police be sent to the country.

The UN chief also urged the deployment of 13 helicopters and transport planes to quickly move the peacekeepers.

In addition to that, Ban called for the construction of a field hospital in Bentiu, the capital of Unity State, where nearly 100,000 people have taken ref-

uge in the UN-operated base. Figures show nearly 180,000 people are sheltered in six UN bases across South Sudan.

Ban said there should be an upgraded medical facility in the capital, Juba.

More UN vehicles and food patrols will be needed, he stated, to protect aid convoys and ensure the safe delivery of humanitarian aid across the country.

During the briefing to the 15-member Security Council, the UN chief accused both the troops loyal to President Salva Kiir and defectors led by rebel leader Riek Machar of committing violence and mass killings.

"The atrocities committed during the twenty months of conflict and general collapse of state authority ... imply that

revenge killings and increased inter-communal violence will also constitute major risks during the transition period," Ban stated.

Some 12,500 peacekeepers have been deployed in South Sudan, which has been wracked by the conflict between government forces and rebels since December 2013.

The conflict has killed tens of thousands of people and displaced more than two million.

Under pressure from its neighbors and a threat of UN sanctions, Machar signed a power-sharing agreement on August 17. The president signed the peace deal about ten days later, on August 26.

The deal has failed to end the civil war in the world's youngest nation.

Putin Sends Air Defense Missiles to Syria to Deter Turkey

MOSCOW (AFP) - President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday ordered state-of-the art air defense missile systems to be deployed at a Russian air base in Syria following the downing of one of its warplanes by Turkey, a move that raised the threat of a military confrontation between the NATO member and Moscow.

The S-400 missile systems will be sent to the Hemeimeem air base in Syria's coastal province of Latakia, located about 50 kilometers (30 miles) south of the border with Turkey. The systems are capable of targeting Turkish jets with deadly precision. If Russia shot down a Turkish plane, NATO would be required to intervene.

Turkey shot down a Russian Su-24 bomber on Tuesday, saying it crossed into its airspace from Syria despite repeated warnings. One of its two pilots was killed by militants after bailing out, while his crewmate was rescued by Syrian army commandos and delivered in good condition to the Russian base early Wednesday.

Putin said the Russian plane remained in Syria's skies when it was shot down. He described Turkey's action as a "crime" and a "stab in the back," warning of serious consequences.

He said that the Russian Foreign Ministry's warning to Russians not to visit Turkey was needed "because we can't exclude some other incidents following what happened yesterday and our citizens in Turkey could be in significant danger."

On Wednesday, the Russian leader ordered the military to deploy the S-400s to Hemeimeem and took other measures that "should be sufficient to ensure flight safety."

Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said Wednesday that the Russian missile cruiser Moskva already has moved closer to shore to protect the Russian aircraft flying missions near Syria's border with

Turkey with its long-range Fort air defense system.

"It will be ready to destroy any aerial target posing a potential danger to our aircraft," he said at a meeting with military officials.

Shoigu also said that from now on all Russian bombers will be escorted by fighters on their combat missions in Syria. He said that his ministry has severed all contacts with the Turkish military.

Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, who canceled his planned trip to Turkey after the incident, described the shooting down of the Russian plane as a "planned provocation."

He said the Turkish action came after Russian planes successfully targeted oil infrastructure used by the Islamic State group, alleging that Turkey benefited from the oil trade.

Lavrov also said that Turkish territory was used by "terrorists" to prepare attacks in other countries, but offered no details. He said that Russia "has no intention to go to war with Turkey," but added that Moscow will re-consider its ties with Ankara.

Some leading Russian tourist agencies already have suspended the sales of tour packages to Turkey. Nearly 4.5 million Russians visited Turkey last year, second only to German tourists.

Some Russian lawmakers suggested that Moscow should respond to the downing of the plane by cracking down on Turkish companies in Russia, but Lavrov said that "we don't want to artificially create problems for Turkish producers and exporters, who aren't responsible for what has happened." Still, he added that "we can't but react to what has happened."

Russia was the biggest source of Turkish imports last year, worth \$25 billion, which mostly accounted for Russian gas supplies.



GENEVA (AFP) - Switzerland's Italian-speaking region has moved a step closer to banning the full-face Muslim veil, after its parliament gave the proposed law the thumbs-up this week.

The canton of Ticino thus looks set to become the first region in Switzerland to introduce such a ban.

Following the green light from the regional parliament on Monday, the bill, which was backed by 65 percent of the electorate in a 2013 referendum, could take effect in April, a parliamentary spokeswoman told AFP.

The regional government still needs to give its approval before it can be signed into law, she said.

ISLAMABAD (Dispatches) - One of Pakistan's few female fighter jet pilots was killed in a training crash Tuesday, the air force said in a statement, adding that she was the first of its women pilots to "embrace martyrdom".

Flying Officer Marium Mukhtiar and Squadron Leader Saqib Abbasi were flying a training mission on an FT-7PG aircraft and encountered a "serious in-flight emergency" during the final stages, the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) said in a statement.

"Flying Officer Marium embraced martyrdom and became the first lady pilot from PAF to attain this great honor," it said.

The crash took place in Kundian, Mianwali district, about 175 kilometers (109 miles) southwest of Islamabad.

The male officer, Abbasi, sustained minor injuries, the air force added.

KIEV (Press TV) - Ukraine has banned all Russian planes from using its airspace and exports of Russian gas to Ukraine have been halted by state-controlled giant Gazprom.

The decision was announced by Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk at a televised government meeting.

Gazprom said it had halted gas deliveries to Ukraine because it had used up all the gas it had paid for.

But Ukraine said it had stopped buying from Gazprom because it could get cheaper gas from Europe.

The airspace ban applies to military planes as well as civil airliners.

"The Ukrainian government has decided to ban all transit flights for all Russian airlines in Ukraine's airspace," said Mr Yatsenyuk.

"The government is instructing [aviation authority] Ukraerorukh, in line with the norms of international law, to inform the Russian Federation that Russian airlines and Russian aircraft do not have the right to use Ukraine's airspace any longer."

TUNISIA (Dispatches) - The death toll in an explosion targeting Tunisia's presidential guard has risen to 13 and the perpetrators remain unidentified, the interior ministry said.

Another body was discovered in the charred remains of a bus carrying presidential guards that exploded in central Tunis on Tuesday, spokesman Walid Louguini said. The body has not been identified yet.

Mr Louguini could not confirm or deny Louguini media reports that the body could be that of a suicide bomber who jumped on the bus just before the bomb exploded.

Troops fanned out around the capital and the president declared a month-long state of emergency after Tuesday's attack.

The blast rattled the country after two major attacks by Islamic extremists that targeted tourist sites earlier this year.

French PM Says Europe Can't Take In More Refugees

BERLIN (Reuters) - European countries are stretched to their limits in the refugee crisis and cannot take in any more new arrivals, French Prime Minister Manuel Valls was quoted as saying in a German newspaper on Wednesday.

Europe is grappling with its worst refugee crisis since World War Two. Germany so far has taken in the bulk of some 1 million people expected to arrive this year.

"We cannot accommodate any more refugees in Europe, that's not possible," Valls told the Sueddeutsche Zeitung, adding that tighter control of Europe's external borders would determine the fate of the European Union.

"If we don't do that, the people will say: Enough of Europe," Valls warned.

The comments were published only hours before German Chancellor Angela Merkel was scheduled to meet French President Francois Hollande in Paris.

Merkel was initially celebrated at home and abroad for her welcoming approach to the refugees, many of whom are fleeing conflict in the Middle East. But as the flow has continued the chancellor has come under increasing criticism.

Some conservatives say Merkel's decision to open up Germany's borders to Syrian refugees in September has spurred more migrants to come.

The refugee debate has become more politically charged after the deadly attacks in Paris that stoked fears Islamic State militants could exploit the migrant crisis to send extremists to Europe.

Valls avoided criticising Merkel directly for having suspended European asylum rules to allow in Syrian refugees stranded in Hungary. "Germany has made an honorable choice there," he said.

But he signalled that Paris was taken by surprise by Merkel's decision: "It was not France that said: Come!"

French Economy Minister Emmanuel Macron and his German counterpart, Sigmar Gabriel, have proposed setting up a 10 billion euro (\$10.7 billion) fund to pay for tighter security, external border controls and caring for refugees.

The United Nations on Tuesday condemned new restrictions on refugees that have left around 1,000 migrants stuck at the main border crossing into Macedonia from Greece.

Chicago Awaits More Protests Over Police Shooting

CHICAGO (AP) - The white officer who shot a black Chicago teen 16 times has been charged with murder and jailed. The graphic video of the slaying has been made public. And in the hours after the footage was released, protesters seemed to honor pleas for restraint.

The question now is whether those efforts will be enough to address the simmering resentment that authorities took more than a year to share the footage and charge the officer who emptied an entire magazine into the teen even after he had crumpled to the ground.

City officials and community leaders had long braced for the release of the dash-cam video showing the death of 17-year-old Laquan McDonald. They feared the kind of turmoil that occurred in cities such as Baltimore and Ferguson, Missouri, after young black men were slain by police or died in police custody.

A judge ordered that the recording be made public by Wednesday. Moments before it was released, the mayor and the police chief urged protesters to stay calm.

Mayor Rahm Emanuel said residents will "have to make an important judgment about our city and ourselves and go forward." He referred to the episode as a potential "moment of understanding and learning."