

UK Warned to Avoid Syria Military Action

LONDON (Dispatches) – A former MI6 intelligence director has called on the British government to stay clear of direct military action in Syria.

Nigel Inkster cautioned the British government that getting embroiled in direct military action in Syria could antagonize President Bashar al-Assad's allies, including Russia.

He also said the any military activity that takes place in Iraq is with the consent of the Iraqi government, which is not the case with Syria,

and that any such activity could be deemed as "an act of war".

"You can be confident that Assad's allies would be very quick to make this point. But from a military perspective the logic of such an engagement is inevitable because ultimately Syria is where this force needs to be defeated. The emphasis has to be on local actors, enabling local Syrian actors. They had some success previously [against ISIL] but then they had logistical problems, running out of equipment just at the point Isis was acquiring new

supplies," he added.

The former intelligence director's comments follow the US Senate approving President Barack Obama's plan to train and arm anti-government insurgents in Syria to fight ISIL terrorists.

The UK, who refers to targeting ISIL positions in Syria as complicated, has not yet launched airstrikes in Iraq or Syria.

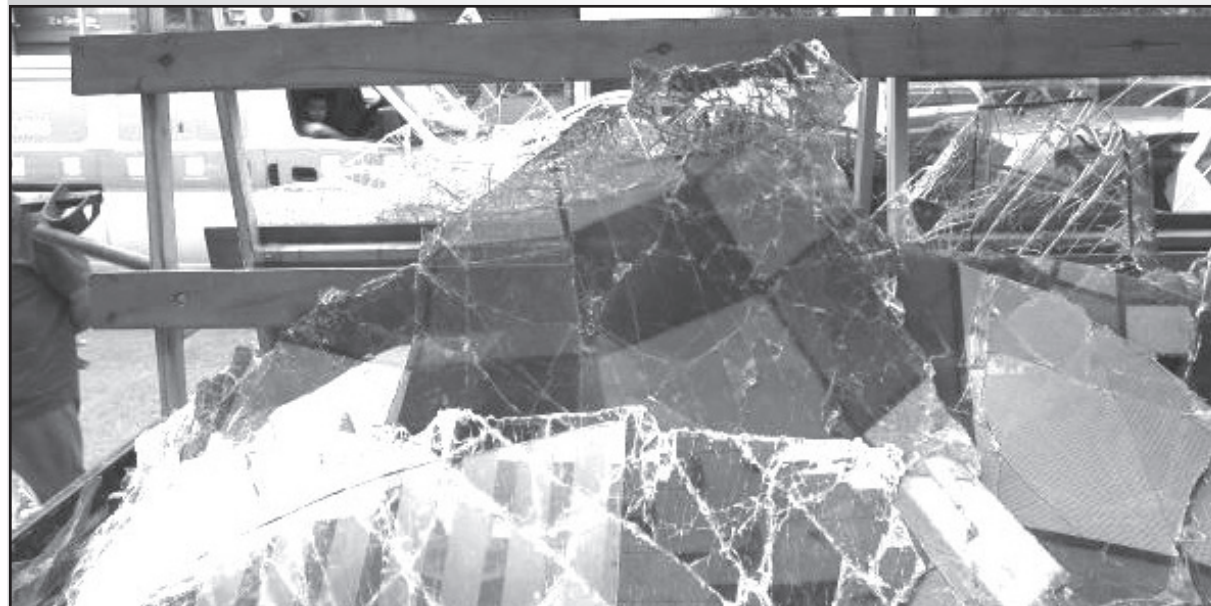
The Takfiri ISIL terrorists have seized large swathes of Iraq and Syria. They have carried out heinous crimes in the two countries

including mass execution of people.

Syria has been gripped by deadly violence since 2011. The Western powers and their regional allies -- especially Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Turkey -- are reportedly supporting the terrorists operating inside Syria.

More than 191,000 people have been killed in over three years of fighting in Syria, says the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), calling the figure a probable "underestimate of the real total number of people killed."

Bombing Kills 3 at Checkpoint in Lebanon



A car bomb explosion has killed at least three people at a checkpoint in Lebanon's eastern Beqaa Valley.

BEIRUT (Dispatches) – A car bomb explosion has killed at least three people at a checkpoint in Lebanon's eastern Beqaa Valley.

The bomb attack took place by an explosives-rigged vehicle at the

checkpoint about 3 miles (4.8 kilometers) from the Syria border near the town of Khreibeh.

Lebanese security sources have allegedly said that the victims included members of the Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah.

On Friday, a roadside bomb killed two Lebanese soldiers as the army truck passed by on a road near the town of Aarsal on the border with Syria.

Violence erupted in eastern Lebanon after soldiers arrested a Syrian man who the army said confessed to belonging to the ISIL. Angered by the arrest, the Takfiri terrorists opened fire on army checkpoints and stormed a police station in a border area.

Northern Lebanon has been the epicenter of fierce clashes between the supporters and opponents of the Syrian government. The Takfiri terrorists are said to have infiltrated into Lebanon from Syria's mountainous al-Qalamoun region.

Syria has been gripped by deadly violence since 2011 with the ISIL Takfiri terrorists currently controlling parts of it mostly in the east.

More Unions Join Post Strike in Occupied Territories

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – A three-week-old strike by Post employees in the occupied territories spreads as other labor unions join the walkout in protest at a recovery plan that involves layoffs.

Courthouses were closed to the public on Sunday, and tax and customs officials at the border crossings with Jordan and Egypt did not let goods in and out of Israel as of 8

a.m. local time (0500 GMT).

Moreover, labor sanctions are ongoing at Israel's Health Ministry facilities, where employees are not offering public services and are not monitoring imported food and medication.

The strike by Israel Post employees has put the nearly bankrupt mail service in more financial trouble, and the postal service is expected to be out of cash within six months.

The striking postal workers object to a layoff plan that includes 1,500 employees with more than five years' seniority.

On September 18, workers at the Airport Authority went on a three-hour strike in solidarity with postal workers. The strike shut down Ben Gurion Airport and an estimated 8,000 passengers were stranded.

Later in the day, Zionist Finance

Minister Yair Lapid met with chairman of Histadrut labor federation Avi Nissenkorn and a host of representatives from various unions to resolve the dispute, but failed to reach an agreement. They are scheduled to renew negotiations later this week.

Nissankoren has threatened to shut down public services, including the air transport, in a general strike if the labor dispute is not resolved.

'Bahrain Serves West interests in Mideast'

MANAMA (Press TV) – The West keeps silent on Bahraini regime's violent crackdown on peaceful protesters because the Persian Gulf monarchy pursues their interests in the Middle East, an analyst tells Press TV.

"Unfortunately the West is backing the [Bahraini] dictatorship because they buy weapons from the West, like the United States and the United Kingdom," Jawad Fairouz said in an interview with Press TV.

He added that the West is supporting the Manama regime because it hosts the Fifth Fleet of the United States and is ready to "apply the political views of the West" in the Middle East.

"That's why the West is very comfortable with these regimes even though they are dictators and they are undemocratic," the analyst added.

He said that the Western countries' claim of supporting democracy is merely a "slogan."

Fairouz said the West-backed Manama regime refuses to heed to public demands to carry out political reforms as it seeks to keep stealing the wealth of the people, adding, "It is not to their favor to turn the...dictatorship into a dem-

ocratic state."

Since mid-February 2011, thousands of anti-regime protesters have held numerous demonstrations in the streets of Bahrain, calling for political reforms.

In March 2011, troops from Saudi

Arabia and the United Arab Emirates were deployed to Bahrain to help Manama quash the anti-regime protests.

The Saudi-backed crackdown on protesters turned people's demands into calls for the downfall of the re-

gime.

Scores of people have been killed and hundreds of others injured in the Manama regime's ongoing crackdown on peaceful anti-regime rallies. The regime has also detained many protesters.



A political analyst says the West keeps silent on Bahrain's crackdown on protests because Manama serves their regional interests.

Prime...

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The revolutionaries hail from the Zaidi Shia community, a minority in the nation but the majority community in the northern highlands, including the Sanaa region.

Also known as Houthis after the name of their leading family, they have battled the government on and off for a decade from their stronghold of Saada in the far north.

Report: ...

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Under a November 2013 interim deal, Iran froze some parts of its nuclear program in exchange for limited sanctions relief.

That agreement was intended to buy time for negotiations on a comprehensive deal that end the decade-long standoff with Iran.

On Sunday, Iran's Majlis speaker Ali Larijani called on the Western countries to avoid adopting an opportunistic approach to the ongoing negotiations with six world powers on Tehran's nuclear energy program.

"The U.S. and the West should not follow a business-type mentality in the nuclear talks while...a logical approach can create peace and tranquility in the Middle East region," Larijani told reporters.

He described Iran's nuclear program as "transparent," noting that the Islamic Republic has been "generous" in the nuclear talks by allowing the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to complete its inspections of Iran's nuclear facilities.

Larijani recommended the six world powers to avoid "haggling" in nuclear talks, noting that no new framework should be sought in dealing with Iran's nuclear program.

He added that the six world powers should not lose time in reaching a permanent deal with Iran over its nuclear program.

FM: West ...

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Iran and the United States share a common enemy in the ISIL, but a deep-seated lack of trust keeps them from joining hands to confront the terrorists.

Iraq's new prime minister, Haider al-Abadi, made his frustration clear in a recent interview, saying Iran's refusal to attend Paris talks aimed at combating the militant threat had left him "in a very difficult position".

"I actually find it puzzling that we hold a conference in Paris to help Iraq and to fight terrorism and... the biggest neighbor of Iraq — Iran — is excluded," he said.

Iran is convinced the United States wants to use the fight against ISIL as a pretext to strike Syrian President Bashar Assad. Rejecting any cooperation with Assad, Washington is planning airstrikes in Syria.

Iranian officials are even skeptical the U.S. really opposes ISIL, since it is fighting Assad, whom the U.S. wants removed from power. Last Tuesday, the top commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps dismissed the anti-Islamic State group coalition as "a show".

"There is not much hope in this coalition since they've set it up for their own objectives," Gen. Muhammad Ali Jafari said. "We have serious doubts that this coalition seeks to destroy the Islamic State."

FM Zarif also has ruled out cooperating with the United States. Speaking at the Council on Foreign Relations on Wednesday in New York, he expressed doubts about Washington's willingness and ability to fight the group "across the board".

Nevertheless, Iran has already been closely involved in the fight. Iran has publicly confirmed that it has provided military advice to Iraqis including Kurds to fight the ISIL militants but has denied sending forces or shipping weapons.

Zarif says Iran's assistance — without any troops — helped Iraq prevent ISIL from taking over Baghdad and the Kurdish capital Arbil.

Ayatollah Khamenei said last week the U.S. is "seeking a pretext" for military intervention in Iraq and Syria and warned that if the Americans go ahead with it "they will suffer the same problems they faced in Iraq in the past 10 years".

Despite their long decades of enmity, Iran and the United States have been united by a common enemy before: Afghanistan's Taliban. When the U.S. invaded Afghanistan in 2001, Iran coordinated with it, especially on operations in the western part of the country near its border. The cooperation ended badly, however, when then-President George W. Bush branded Iran part of an "axis of evil", infuriating Tehran.

Iran's deputy foreign minister, Amir Abdollahian, said his country won't wait for a coalition to act against extremists. He said the best way to fight the group is "to assist Iraqi and Syrian governments which are actively involved in the fight against terrorism".

White House ...

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Obama and his daughters had just left the White House by helicopter on Friday evening when the Secret Service says 42-year-old Omar J. Gonzalez hopped over the fence. He ran toward the presidential residence unimpeded, ignoring orders from officers to stop, until being tackled just inside the doors of the North Portico — the grand, columned entrance overlooking Pennsylvania Ave.

Officials initially said the fact that Gonzalez appeared to be unarmed may have been a factor in why agents at the scene didn't shoot Gonzalez or sic their dogs on him before he made it inside. But a criminal complaint revealed Gonzalez had a small folding knife with a 3 1/2-inch serrated blade with him at the time of his arrest.

The Secret Service said its Office of Professional Responsibility was carrying out the review, which began with interviews and a physical site assessment and will include a review of all of security and operational policies.

But those assurances were unlikely to satisfy the concerns of those who said the stunning breach marked just the latest in a string of mishaps on the Secret Service's watch.

"Unfortunately, they are failing to do their job," said Rep. Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah. "These are good men and women, but the Secret Service leadership has a lot of questions to answer."

According to a criminal complaint, Gonzalez told Secret Service agents after the arrest that he was "concerned that the atmosphere was collapsing" and needed to contact the president "so he could get word out to the people".

The breach triggered a rare evacuation of much of the White House. Secret Service agents drew their weapons as they hurried White House staffers and journalists out of the West Wing through a side door.

Parliament ...

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involves some western and Arab states supported by Washington that created the ISIL first and launched their so-called fight against the extremist group later.

Kharrazi recalled that this same assessment made the Islamic Republic of Iran to reject a request from the White House to join a coalition, because "it considers that it was a suspicious action".

The former diplomat noted that Tehran has played an active role in fighting the terrorism carried out by ISIL, in tune with the strategy designed for Iran by Leader of the Islamic Revolution, and pointed out that Iran "only complies with its commitments" to supporting Iraq and Syria.

Ministry: ...

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She said that the Islamic Republic of Iran believes the United Nations General Assembly was the best chance to raise the issue of extremism and that the UN as the world's most important body would deal with the issue in the best possible manner thanks to many tools it possesses.

Afkham said that the Islamic Republic of Iran respected "the right of peace for all nations" as a major objective in the past three decades.

She said that the Islamic Republic of Iran supports the oppressed nations to honor their right for peace.