

# Merkel, Hollande Warn May UK Faces 'Rough' Ride With Hard Brexit



BERLIN (The Guardian) - Theresa May has been given a stark warning from both Angela Merkel and Francois Hollande that Britain faces a "rough" and "hard" negotiation as she pursues a tough approach to Brexit negotiations including a clampdown on immigration. The prime minister updated her fellow leaders with a short speech on Britain's plans for leaving the EU after a dinner in Brussels that had been dominated by a tense debate on Russia. No EU leader responded to May, following the lead of the European council president, Donald Tusk, who had wanted to avoid discussion of

Brexit. Speaking after the summit, Merkel said the speech repeated what EU leaders already knew but was nevertheless important. "As long as Great Britain hadn't concluded the negotiations it will continue to be a member with all the rights and duties that entails and that was a very good piece of news for us," she said. But she added a warning on negotiations: "It is going to be rough going I think. It will not be that easy. But what she said today is OK." Earlier in the day the French

president said the EU was prepared to make things difficult for the UK if May pursued a tough approach to Brexit negotiations. But the British prime minister and Conservative leader, who angered some EU leaders with her uncompromising party conference speech, received a frostier reception from Martin Schulz. The president of the European parliament used a speech to all 28 European leaders, including May, to warn that any restrictions on refugees would mean an economic cost for the UK.

# Polling Safeguards Stepped Up After Trump's 'Rigged Election' Claim



Voters At Polling Station In 2012 Presidential Election

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Authorities in Philadelphia will station prosecutors throughout the city on election day to respond to any reports of voter intimidation or other illegal activity after Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump claimed that polling might be "rigged" in this mostly minority city. Philadelphia is one of many U.S. municipalities wrestling with how to respond to Trump's call for supporters to "watch" polling places, and corresponding promises from civil rights groups that they will send their own backers to the polls.

Washington (Reuters) - comments about groping women, has refused to promise that he will accept the results of the election if he loses to Democrat Hillary Clinton. This week, Trump told supporters to "watch" polling places in such cities as Philadelphia, St. Louis and Chicago - all with large minority populations. As Trump has slipped in the polls, he has repeatedly said the election is "rigged" against him. Fearing that to be true, voters in Denver have been calling officials seeking reassurance, said Amber McReynolds, the city's director of elections.

"All of our election judges will be provided with cell phones that have direct access to the district attorney's office of Philadelphia," said Tim Dowling, chief deputy to City Commissioner Lisa Deeley. "As soon as you cross the line, you're going to be dealing with law enforcement." The Nov. 8 presidential election has been among the most contentious in the nation's history. Trump, whose campaign has been shaken by allegations that he groped numerous women after a video surfaced in which he made lewd

In Arizona, a traditionally Republican state where polls have recently begun to show an increase in support for Clinton, poll workers are being trained to deal with an expected onslaught of observers, said Elizabeth Bartholomew, spokeswoman for elections officials in Maricopa County, where Phoenix is located. In North Carolina, where a local Republican party headquarters was badly damaged on Sunday in an unsolved arson attack, state elections officials are taking extra steps to address poll security.

# South Africa to Quit International Criminal Court

CAPE TOWN (Dispatches) - South Africa says it is pulling out of the international criminal court, making the country the second this week, after Burundi, to move to leave the tribunal that pursues the world's worst atrocities. The ICC's obligations are inconsistent with domestic laws giving sitting leaders diplomatic immunity, the country's justice minister, Michael Masutha, said.

Pretoria said last year it planned to leave the ICC after receiving criticism for ignoring a court order to arrest the visiting Sudanese president, Omar Hassan al-Bashir, who is accused of genocide and war crimes. Bashir has denied the accusations. On Friday at a press conference in the capital, Masutha said: "The implementation of the Rome statute of

the International Criminal Court Act 2002 is in conflict and inconsistent with the provisions of the Diplomatic Immunities and Privileges Act 2001." Under the Rome statute, countries have a legal obligation to arrest anyone sought by the tribunal. Any move to leave would take effect one year after notice is formally received by the United Nations secretary general, currently Ban Ki-moon.

# Congo Security Forces Killed Dozens in Anti-Government Protest: UN

KINSHASA (Reuters) - Congolese state security services shot, burned, beat and hacked to death at least 48 civilians and reportedly hired thugs to attack protests last month against the extension of President Joseph Kabila's mandate, the United Nations said on Friday. The death toll of the two days of violence in the capital Kinshasa, which also included four police officers killed by protesters and one

other civilian, was higher than during the 2011 electoral process, the UN Joint Human Rights Office in Congo (UNJHRO) said in a report. Democratic Republic of Congo's government spokesman and justice minister could not be immediately reached for comment and a police spokesman said he had not yet seen the report. The government denied last week that on-duty security forces opened

fire on protesters, who authorities say were conducting an armed insurrection. In its own report, it said 32 people, including three police officers, were killed by protesters or private security guards, or in accidents. Congo's main opposition alliance had called for a march on Sept. 19 to demand that Kabila, who has ruled the vast central African country since 2001, step down in December as

required by constitutional term limits. The country's ruling coalition and other smaller parties agreed last week to postpone elections planned for November until April 2018, citing logistical problems registering millions of voters, but most major opposition parties have rejected the accord. Congo has never experienced a peaceful transition of power and international donors fear that the

impasse over Kabila's plans to stay on will lead to widespread bloodletting. In total, UNJHRO said, there were at least 422 victims of human rights abuses by state agents in Kinshasa between September 19 and 21. "This is clearly outrageous and serves to fuel an already explosive situation in the country," said UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein.

# British Warplanes Set for Drills in Japan, South Korea



A UK Royal Air Force Typhoon. Four of the Typhoons will participate in drill in Japan and South Korea

LONDON (CNN) - The turbulent security situation in East Asia gets a new player this weekend as British warplanes begin a set of exercises in Japan and South Korea, with North Korea and

China likely keeping a wary eye. The British deployment marks the first time ever Japan's Air Self Defense Force has hosted joint exercises with aircraft from a nation other than the

United States. "This exercise aims to enhance tactical skills of the air forces and strengthen Japan-Britain defense cooperation. We do not have a specific country or region in mind," Japan's Defense Ministry said. But they come at a time when Japan is becoming increasingly embroiled in disputes with North Korea over Pyongyang's testing of nuclear warheads and missiles that could potentially carry them. Two of those missile tests have seen rockets penetrate Japan's air defense identification zone in recent months. Koichi Nakano, a professor of Japanese politics at Tokyo's Sophia University, said the drills were a result of security legislation passed last year in Japan. That allowed the country's Self Defense Forces to participate in foreign

conflicts in the name of "collective self-defense," as Japan's pacifist constitution only allows it to act in self defense. "The idea is that Japan will be able to collaborate further with the U.S. and also other countries that do not necessarily have an alliance," he said. Japan's Defense Ministry echoed that. "Conducting this exercise in Japan will help in strengthening the UK's commitment in the Asia Pacific region and increasing other European countries' interest in the security situation in Japan and the Asia Pacific region," the ministry said. For Britain's part, the East Asia deployment tests its air force in a new way. "This is the most ambitious deployment that the Typhoon Force has ever done. I think it's probably the

most ambitious deployment that the Air Force has done to the Far East," said Wing Cmdr. Roger Elliott, who leads the Royal Air Force unit dispatched to Japan. The RAF's Typhoon fighters are twin-engine jets capable of air-to-air and air-to-ground combat. They have been used in the UK combat operations in the Mideast in recent years. The Typhoons will first operate out of Misawa Air Base, a joint Japanese-U.S. facility in northern Amori prefecture on the main Japanese island of Honshu. They'll fly with four F-15 and four F-2 Japanese fighters as well as British tanker and cargo aircraft. The UK-Japan exercise will wrap up on November 6, when the British planes head to Osan Air Base in South Korea for the first-ever South Korea-U.S.-UK joint air force drill, South Korea's Defense Ministry said.



TOKYO (AP) - A powerful earthquake in western Japan knocked loose roof tiles, toppled store shelves and caused power outages Friday afternoon, but apparently caused no widespread damage. At least seven people were injured, one seriously. The Japan Meteorological Agency said the 6.6-magnitude quake occurred in Tottori, a prefecture on the Sea of Japan about 700 kilometers (430 miles) west of Tokyo. The epicenter was at a relatively shallow depth of 11 kilometers (7 miles). Shallow quakes potentially cause more damage, but Friday's damage appeared to be mostly minor or localized.

LONDON (BBC) - A flotilla of Russian warships passed through the English Channel en route to Syria. Two British naval ships shadowed the vessels. The Ministry of Defense said they would be "man-marked every step of the way" while near UK waters. A Russian tug, believed to be in convoy with the taskforce, entered the channel first off the coast near Ramsgate.

ROME (AFP) - Armed men have attacked an overcrowded dinghy carrying refugees off Libya, leaving at least four dead and up to 25 missing, the German NGO Sea-Watch said Friday. The group said the Italian coastguard had sent a Seawatch rescue ship and a diverted oil tanker to help a dinghy in distress in international waters, 14 nautical miles off Libya, early Friday. As the operation was unfolding, assailants arrived aboard a vessel with Libyan coastguard insignia and tried to steal the dinghy's motor, a spokesman for Sea-Watch said. The men, who spoke only Arabic, beat some of the refugees with clubs, causing panic which caused most of them to fall into the sea, the spokesman said.

TEHRAN (Press TV) - A building housing refugees in Sweden has been burned in a suspected arson attack, in a second such incident this week. Two staff members and nine residents were at the center at the time of the incident in the early hours of Friday but no one was hurt, said Stockholm's police spokesman, Kjell Lindgren. Lindgren said the refugee center's staff had alerted police after hearing noises and seeing lights outside the building. Lindgren said, "Things do not just catch fire outside for no reason," adding that a police investigation was underway.

PARIS (Dispatches) - Several hundred police officers rallied in the French capital, Paris, for a third night of demonstrations calling for stiffer penalties following a spate of attacks on officers. Around 500 officers gathered near the Eiffel Tower in the French capital to express their anger on Thursday night. The protesters, mostly dressed in civilian clothes and some with their faces masked, called for reinforcements and stiffer penalties following the recent attacks on police. Some reports said the protest had not been authorized. Similar demonstrations were also held in other French cities as concerns are growing over the safety of law enforcement forces.