

Medvedev: U.S. Views ‘Money’, ‘Blood’ as Good Investment



U.S. Marines fire an M777 155mm howitzer.

MOSCOW (RT International) -- Former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev has said that U.S. President Joe Biden’s latest opinion piece for the Washington Post once again highlighted the essence of Washington’s security doctrine, which is to provide for America’s interests at the expense of others.

The U.S. supposedly makes itself safer by pouring money into “its own military industry” and starting “wars on other continents,” Medvedev said in a post on X (formerly Twitter), calling it “the essence of the American security doctrine.”

“How very American. No comment,” he added.

“Others, surely, don’t matter,” the former Russian leader said, commenting on the article in which Biden once again reaffirmed U.S. support to Ukraine and Israel. The U.S. leader also argued in the piece that Russia and the Gaza-based Hamas fighters should not be allowed to have their way.

“Out of great tragedy and upheaval, enormous progress can come,” Biden wrote. He claimed that the U.S. is “the essential nation” with a “duty of leadership.”

On the topic of Ukraine, the U.S.

president also admitted that the conflict “draws America in directly.” Washington has openly supported Kiev since armed hostilities with Moscow began in February 2022. The U.S. has provided Ukraine with military equipment worth billions of dollars together with its allies in Europe and elsewhere.

Moscow has repeatedly argued that sending arms to Kyiv would only prolong the military operation and extend human suffering. Russia also repeatedly accused the U.S. and its allies of planning to make Kiev fight “to the last Ukrainian.”

Ample Western military supplies, including heavy armor, such as tanks and infantry fighting vehicles, have so far not helped Ukraine achieve any significant success in its closely-watched summer offensive, which has failed to bring about any meaningful changes to the frontlines over several months since the start of the operation in early June. Ukrainian forces have suffered heavy losses in both personnel and material, including the Western-supplied equipment, during the assault, however.

In early November, the Pentagon warned it potentially had only \$1 billion remaining for Ukraine military aid and would have to ration arms packages in the future.

Richest 1% Emit as Much CO2 as Poorest Two-Thirds



According to the finding, the richest one percent globally are responsible for 16 percent of global emissions related to their consumption.

WASHINGTON (AFP) -- The richest one percent of the global population are responsible for the same amount of carbon emissions as the world’s poorest two-thirds, or five billion people, according to an analysis by the nonprofit Oxfam International.

While fighting the climate crisis is a shared challenge, not everyone is equally responsible and government policies must be tailored accordingly, Max Lawson, who co-authored the report, told AFP.

“The richer you are, the easier it is to cut both your personal and your investment emissions,” he said. “You don’t need that third car, or that fourth holiday, or you don’t need to

be invested in the cement industry.”

“Climate Equality: A Planet for the 99%”, was based on research compiled by the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) and it examined the consumption emissions associated with different income groups up to the year 2019.

It was published as world leaders prepare to meet for climate talks at the COP28 summit in Dubai later this month. Fears are growing that limiting long-term warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius could soon be impossible to achieve.

Among the key findings of this study are that the richest one percent globally -- 77 million people -- were responsible for 16 percent of global

emissions related to their consumption.

That is the same share as the bottom 66 percent of the global population by income, or 5.11 billion people.

The income threshold for being among the global top one percent was adjusted by country using purchasing power parity -- for example in the United States the threshold would be \$140,000, whereas the Kenyan equivalent would be about \$40,000.

Within country analyses also painted very stark pictures.

For example, in France, the richest one percent emit as much carbon in one year as the poorest 50 percent in 10 years.

Excluding the carbon associated with his investments, Bernard Arnault, the billionaire founder of Louis Vuitton and richest man in France, has a footprint 1,270 times greater than that of the average Frenchman.

The key message, according to Lawson, was that policy actions must be progressive.

“We think that unless governments enact climate policy that is progressive, where you see the people who emit the most being asked to take the biggest sacrifices, then we’re never going to get good politics around this,” he said.

These measures could include, for example, a tax on flying more than ten times a year, or a tax on non-green investments that is much higher than the tax on green investments.

Hundreds Protest After France Releases Cop in Killing of Teen

NANTERRE, France (AP) — The mother of a 17-year-old who was killed during a traffic stop in France led a protest to call for justice after the police officer suspected in the fatal shooting of her son was released from custody pending further investigation.

The death of Nahel Merzouk June touched off rioting around the country that highlighted anger over police violence, poverty and discrimination against people with immigrant backgrounds. Merzouk was of North African origin.

Hundreds of people rallied at the site where he was killed, Nelson Mandela Square in the Paris suburb of Nanterre. Police vans lined nearby streets. Shouts briefly erupted when objects were thrown at police, but the gathering was overall peaceful.

The late teenager’s mother, Mounia, choked with emotion as she described missing her son. She led the group in chants of “Justice for Nahel.”

Those in the crowd included people who have experienced police violence, such as music producer Michel Zecler, as well as left-wing activists and mothers fearful their children could experience the same fate as Merzouk.

Several hundreds dismayed at a far-right crowdfunding campaign that raised \$1.6 million for the police officer before he got out of custody.

“We don’t understand his release,” Nanterre resident Nadia Essa said. “It’s a bad signal to young people.”

She said she refused to let her 17-year-old son, who has Moroccan roots, go out for weeks after Merzouk’s death.

“We are longer comforted when we pass by the police.”

Video of the day Merzouk died showed two motorcycle officers at the window of the car he was driving, one with his gun pointed at the teenager. As the car pulled forward, the officer fired.

The officer, who has been identified only as Florian M., was jailed two days later and given a preliminary charge of voluntary homicide. On Wednesday, the Nanterre prosecutor’s office said magistrates concluded that his continued detention “no longer fulfills the legal criteria” under which he was held.

Protests over Merzouk’s death quickly morphed into rioting that spread to towns around France, driven by a mainly teenage backlash against a French state that many say routinely discriminates against them, and amplified by social networks.

The mayhem subsided after a massive police deployment, and left 100 million euros (\$109 million) in damage to schools, stores and other public buildings, many of which have not been repaired. The government has promised a raft of measures in response to the summer events, mostly focused on tougher policing and prosecution.

“We all know someone in our families or entourage who has been touched by police violence, because you are Arab or Black,” Ibrahim Assebbane, a 22-year-old computer science student from Nanterre, said during Sunday’s protest.

“The only time they heard us was when there were riots,” Assebbane said. “We don’t support that, but we understand” where the anger was coming from.

Experts Warn Sudan Faces ‘Libya Scenario’



Soldiers of the Sudanese Armed Forces escort Darfur’s governor during a stopover in the eastern city of Gedaref.

PORT SUDAN, Sudan (AFP) -- More than seven months into Sudan’s devastating war that has killed thousands and displaced millions, experts warn that the scarred and impoverished country faces the threat of breaking apart.

The paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) is waging war against the armed forces and there have been reports of new massacres in Sudan’s western Darfur region.

Experts now warn the country could face a “Libya scenario”, in reference to the north African country long divided between two rival administrations in its east and west.

“Continued fighting could lead to a few terrifying scenarios, including division,” said Khaled Omar Youssef, spokesman for the Forces of Freedom and Change, the main civilian bloc ousted from power in a 2021 joint coup by Sudan’s warring generals.

“The rising tide of militarization along ethnic and regional lines deepens social fissures in Sudan,” Youssef told AFP.

As it stands, the RSF is currently in control of much of the capital Khartoum and the Darfur region, while the army controls the country’s north and east.

Meanwhile, the army-aligned government has been all but exiled to the eastern city of Port Sudan.

With the two sides failing to make any headway at U.S.- and Saudi-brokered negotiations this month, some fear a new, fragmented status

quo.

Since April 15, the war between army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and his former deputy, RSF commander Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, has forced about six million people to flee both within Sudan and across borders.

By the end of last month, it had killed over 10,000 people, according to a conservative estimate by the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project.

But in November, new reports of massacres began to emerge amid a major offensive by the RSF in the vast Darfur region, where they quickly claimed control of army bases in all but one major city.

In Ardamata alone, in West Darfur, the United Nations reported that nearly 100 shelters housing displaced people were razed to the ground, with fighters going house to house killing civilians and more than 8,000 people fleeing to neighboring Chad in one week.

Preliminary reports indicate hundreds have been killed, but with Darfur under an ongoing communications blackout, civilians have struggled to document the full scale of the violence.

The European Union said on November 12 it was “appalled” by reports of more than 1,000 people killed in “just over two days”.

Organizations and civilians have both blamed the RSF and allied Arab militia, which have carried out a targeted campaign against the region’s Massalit tribes, including the assassination of tribal leaders.

North Korea Slams ‘Dangerous’ U.S. Sale of Tomahawks to Japan



The guided missile destroyer USS Sterett shown firing a Tomahawk missile.

SEOUL (Reuters) -- North Korea on Monday denounced the United States’ potential sale of advanced weapons to Japan and South Korea, calling it a dangerous act that raises tension in the region and brings a new arms race, state media reported.

In a statement carried by the KCNA news agency, the North’s defense ministry said Pyongyang will step up measures to establish war deterrence to respond to instability in the region which it said was caused by the United States and its allies.

Japan plans to buy 400 Tomahawk missiles from the United States, part of its biggest military build-up since World War Two. The Pentagon said on Friday the U.S. State Department has approved the potential sale in a deal valued at \$2.35 billion.

The United States has also recently announced the approval of a possible sale of Sidewinder missiles and the Standard Missile 6 Block I to South Korea.

“We warn that the more the United States profits from indiscriminate arms sales, the more it would have to pay for the security crisis,” North Korea’s statement said.

Pyongyang has been criticizing what it called “military threats” from the United States and its allies, saying it would demonstrate “more offensive and overwhelming counter-action capabilities” in response.

On Wednesday, North Korea said it had successfully conducted static tests of “new-type high-thrust solid-fuel engines” for intermediate-range ballistic missiles (IRBMs), which it said were essential for enhancing its military’s strategic offensive capabilities.

News in Brief

TULSA, Okla. (AP) — Two people were killed and three were wounded when shots were fired early Sunday during an argument at a gathering at an Oklahoma home, police said. Tulsa police said officers were called to the home at about 2 a.m. Police have not said how many people fired weapons or whether any suspects have been identified or arrested. Police said one of the victims died at the scene while four others were taken to hospitals with critical injuries. One of those taken to a hospital died after arriving. Police said four small children were in a back room of the home at the time, but they were not hurt.

SEOUL (AFP) -- South Korea’s military warned North Korea on Monday to immediately stop preparations for a spy satellite launch, vowing to take “necessary measures” if it goes ahead. North Korea is preparing to launch a spy satellite for the third time, after failing twice this year to put a military eye in the sky. Earlier this month, Seoul’s spy agency said that Pyongyang was in the final stages of preparations for its third try and South Korean defense minister Shin Won-sik said Sunday that the lift-off could take place as early as this week. “We sternly warn North Korea to... immediately suspend the current preparations to launch a military spy satellite,” said Kang Ho-pil, chief director of operations at the Joint Chiefs of Staff. “If North Korea goes ahead with the launch of a military reconnaissance satellite despite our warning, our military will take necessary measures to guarantee the lives and safety of the people,” he added. After a failed second attempt in August, Pyongyang said it would carry out the third launch in October, though it never materialized.

BRASILIA (Reuters) -- Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva extended best wishes to the newly elected government in Argentina, without making direct mention of President-elect Javier Milei, who has previously criticized Lula and labeled him an “angry communist.” “I wish good luck and success to the new government. Argentina is a great country and deserves all our respect. Brazil will always be available to work together with our Argentine brothers,” he wrote on Sunday on X, formerly Twitter. On Tuesday, leftist Lula had said that Argentina, the country’s third-largest trading partner, should choose a president who supports democracy and the Mercosur trading bloc. Milei, a far-right economist, has cast doubt on the future trajectory of Argentina’s ties with Brazil, calling Lula a “socialist with a totalitarian vocation.” He has also criticized the South American common market Mercosur and said Argentina would “follow its own path.” Milei’s rival, Economy Minister Sergio Massa, enjoyed warmer relations with the Lula government. He met with Brazilian Finance Minister Fernando Haddad in Brasilia earlier this year to discuss mechanisms to secure imports by Buenos Aires. Haddad had told Reuters that he was “worried” about Milei’s potential victory, given his statements about severing ties with Brazil.

DEHRADUN, India (AFP) -- Indian rescuers were battling Monday to free 41 men trapped in a road tunnel for nine days, as they prepared to dig an entirely new shaft after previous efforts failed. Excavators have been removing earth, concrete and rubble from the under-construction tunnel in the northern Himalayan state of Uttarakhand since November 12, after a portion of the tunnel collapsed. But rescue efforts have been slowed by falling debris as well as repeated breakdowns of the crucial heavy drilling machines, with the air force having to twice airlift new kit. Engineers had been trying to horizontally drive a steel pipe through the debris, just wide enough for the increasingly desperate men to squeeze through. But drilling on that route was paused on Friday, after a cracking sound created a “panic situation”, officials said. Teams were now preparing to dig the new shaft from above, forcing workers to cut an entirely new track up to the top of the forested hill high above for the heavy equipment needed.

AMSTERDAM (Guardian) -- Leftwing parties in the Netherlands have urged people to vote strategically to avoid a far-right government after a poll showed last-minute gains for Geert Wilders’ Party for Freedom (PVV). Wilders, whose manifesto calls for an asylum “stop” and ban on “Islamic schools, Qu’rans and mosques”, said it was a “game changer” when a poll on Saturday evening put him level with Mark Rutte’s party, the People’s Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD). The pollster Maurice de Hond – who over-estimated Wilders’ share by five seats in the last election – found in a survey of almost 7,000 people on November 17 that the PVV and VVD were neck and neck in 26 of the 150 seats, thanks to a five-seat surge for Wilders after an aggressive performance in a television debate.

SANTO DOMINGO (Reuters) -- Dominican Republic authorities said at least 21 people have died after heavy rains the day before that have displaced thousands of residents. Over 13,000 people in the Caribbean country had to move to more secure areas after torrential rains flooded homes, caused power outages and damaged bridges and parts of roads, the Emergency Operations Center (COE) said. A total of 21 people have lost their lives, the COE said. The storm’s victims includes nine people who died on Saturday after rains caused the wall of a highway tunnel to collapse onto their cars, the National Police said. Videos on social media showed rushing water dragging cars down streets and flooded ground floors of buildings.