

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

MAY 2016

BRIEF STATEMENT	LINKS
<p>The United Nations Security Council is going to try to do something about the internet's role in promoting hateful ideologies and terrorism.</p>	<p><u>United Nations orders plan for tackling online terror propaganda</u></p>
<p>For those of us who study Latin America, it has been fascinating to watch the gradual but certain Latin-Americanization of U.S. politics. The latest and most compelling sign yet is the rise of Republican presidential contender Donald J. Trump, whose braggadocio, demagoguery, and disdain for the rule of law puts him squarely in the tradition of El Caudillo (loosely translated into English as “the leader” or “the chief”), a mainstay of Latin American politics. Although difficult to define, the phenomenon of caudillismo is easy to trace through Latin American history. During its golden age—the nineteenth century—the typical caudillo was a charismatic man on horseback with a penchant for authoritarianism.</p>	<p><u>Trump and the Latin-Americanization of U.S. Politics</u></p>
<p>The upscale middle-class suburb of Rabat is packed with nondescript office buildings and recently built apartment blocks, telltale signs of the widening prosperity of Morocco’s capital. But nestled behind these structures is a marker of a very different sort: a multi million-dollar academic campus that houses the kingdom’s premier religious training academy, formerly known as the Mohammed VI Institute for the Training of Imams</p>	<p><u>Morocco's Islamic Exports</u></p>
<p>States backing Syria's peace process must stop the warring parties from attacking unlawful targets such as hospitals and other civilian sites, U.N. war crimes investigators said in a statement on Wednesday.</p>	<p><u>U.N. investigators tell states to stop Syria war crime</u></p>
<p>Millions of dollars to major aid organizations working in Syria was temporarily suspended following revelations of systemic corruption. An investigation revealed bid-rigging, bribery and kickback schemes involving organizations and individuals based in neighboring Turkey and Jordan that provide humanitarian assistance in Syria. Further, the evidence suggests that people were working together to create this rigged system.</p>	<p><u>USAID suspends funds to major aid groups after inquiry finds corruption in Syrian aid pipeline</u></p>

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<p>Last week, Londoners elected Sadiq Khan, a human rights lawyer and a former member of Parliament for the Labour Party, as their first Muslim mayor. Khan was predicted to win, but in the last minute an ugly row over anti-Semitism in the party ranks threatened to derail his election and forced Khan to denounce Ken Livingstone, a former London mayor who is stalwart of the Left</p>	<p><u>Anti-Semitism and Terrorism</u></p>
<p>The numbers are astronomical. More than 60 million people have been forcibly displaced either within countries or internationally. There are 19.6 million refugees-- a 24 per cent increase since 2000. Half of them are children. Last year, the number of migrants who have left their countries in search of a better life reached 225 million.</p>	<p><u>Why accepting migrants and refugees can be a win for everyone</u></p>
<p>The intentional targeting of hospitals and medical staff is not unique to the Syrian war; they've been hit in the wars in Yemen, South Sudan, and Sri Lanka as well. In fact, the problem is so grave that the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) has launched a new project called Health Care in Danger to raise awareness of the systemic problem.</p>	<p><u>How International Law Failed in Syria</u></p>
<p>According to the New York Times, U.S. President Barack Obama will visit Hiroshima during this month's G-7 summit in Japan. His doing so will be a welcome gesture that would encourage the nuclear nonproliferation regime, help strengthen the U.S.-Japanese alliance, and aid Washington's rebalance to Asia, which depends on strong partnerships with regional allies. The timing couldn't be better: all of those initiatives have been challenged by North Korea's recent nuclear tests and China's increasing military assertiveness in the South China Sea.</p>	<p><u>Abe Should Visit Pearl Harbor</u></p>
<p>President Obama will become the first sitting American president to visit Hiroshima, Japan, making a heavily symbolic stop this month at the site where the United States first used an atomic bomb at the end of World War II.</p>	<p><u>Obama to Be First Sitting President to Visit Hiroshima</u></p>
<p>The top U.N. envoy in Iraq strongly urged the country's political leaders and civil society on Friday to work together to resolve the current political deadlock,</p>	<p><u>UN's Kubis: Iraq must pursue inclusive political system</u></p>

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<p>warning that the ongoing crisis and chaos are only serving the interests of Islamic State extremists.</p>	
<p>Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu's May 5 resignation at the request of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is a further consolidation of power in the hands of a man who is already the most powerful politician in Turkey since the country became a multiparty democracy in 1950.</p>	<p>Turkey's King</p>
<p>Next week, Israel will be transfixed by the trial of Elor Azaria, a sergeant in the Israeli Defense Forces who was indicted for manslaughter in the Jaffa Military Court for allegedly shooting a Palestinian stabber who was wounded and lying motionless on the ground. The whole incident, which took place in Hebron in March, was captured on video and quickly went viral</p>	<p>The Israeli Defense Forces Fill the Void</p>
<p>Zhu is but one of the thousands of Chinese workers who have come to the Gulf for better opportunities. The region is part of China's so-called New Silk Road project, which connects Chinese companies to markets in the Middle East, Africa, and throughout Asia. And Dragon City is an important brick in the road.</p>	<p>China's Megamall Ambitions in the Middle East</p>
<p>Russian President Vladimir Putin's seizure of the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine in early 2014 was the most consequential decision of his 16 years in power. By annexing a neighboring country's territory by force, Putin overturned in a single stroke the assumptions on which the post-Cold War European order had rested.</p>	<p>Why Putin Took Crimea</p>
<p>Recalling that just two weeks ago, 175 countries came to the United Nations to sign the historic Paris Agreement on climate change, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today said it is time to take climate action to the next level.</p>	<p>At climate summit in Washington, UN officials call to take action 'to the next level'</p>
<p>As world leaders prepare to gather for a first-ever World Humanitarian Summit in Turkey later this month, the United Nations humanitarian coordinators for the Middle East and North Africa today called on the international community to assume its responsibility in finding solutions to end the widespread conflict and humanitarian crises in the region.</p>	<p>At World Humanitarian Summit, leaders must take 'bold decisions' for real change – UN</p>

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<p>Ancient superstitions and clashing cultures did not lead the United States into war in Iraq in 2003; on the contrary, the people who conceived and sold that war were the products of America's finest universities and were presumably well schooled in post-Enlightenment rationalism and basic cost-benefit analysis. Yale- and Harvard-educated George W. Bush was even lauded as "the MBA President," and he was surrounded by people with similar pedigrees. Yet these highly educated, rational individuals still blundered into an unnecessary and disastrous war.</p>	<p><u>The (Con)Fusion of Civilizations</u></p>
<p>The Greek crisis erupted in 2009 and peaked for the first time in the spring of 2010. Unable to refinance its enormous debt, Greece was bailed out by the European Commission, the European Central Bank, and the IMF.</p>	<p><u>Greece's Next Bailout Battle</u></p>
<p>The announcement last week that Australia will replace its aging submarine fleet with Shortfin Barracuda submarines from France is an enormous missed opportunity, not only for Australia, but also for its most important allies, Japan and the United States. Had Canberra opted for a modified version of Japan's Soryu-class vessel, it would have not only altered the way Washington interacts with its allies and the way its allies interact with one another, but also compelled Beijing to reassess the determination of all three to maintain a favorable balance of power in East Asia.</p>	<p><u>Poor Substitute</u></p>
<p>Warplanes level a hospital in the rebel-held half of Aleppo, Syria, killing one of the city's last pediatricians. A Saudi-led military coalition bombs a hospital in Yemen. In Afghanistan, American aircraft pummel a hospital mistaken for a Taliban redoubt.</p>	<p><u>U.N. Security Council Condemns Attacks on Health Workers in War Zones</u></p>
<p>The Security Council unanimously adopted a new resolution demanding that all parties in conflicts protect medical staff and facilities.</p>	<p><u>Attacks on Hospitals Are 'War Crimes,' UN Chief Says</u></p>
<p>With increasing wartime assaults on and patterns of systematic destruction of health facilities in countries affected by conflict, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution today to strengthen protection for health care workers, the sick and wounded, hospitals and clinics, in war zones.</p>	<p><u>Security Council demands protection for hospitals and health workers in conflict zones</u></p>

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<p>Washington and Moscow said on Monday they were working hard to extend a truce in Syria to Aleppo, the divided northern city where a sharp escalation of violence in recent weeks has left a ceasefire in tatters and torpedoed peace talks.</p>	<p><u>Kerry aims to extend truce to Syria's Aleppo as ceasefire unravels</u></p>
<p>Two years after he joined the Islamic State (ISIS), Ammar was no longer a believer. A former law student from the Syrian province of Deir Ezzor, Ammar had been swept up in the 2011 protests against Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. He turned to ISIS in November 2014, after watching the revolution degenerate into a devastating civil war. The caliphate, he believed, was the only force capable of challenging the Assad regime and restoring the dignity of Muslims after decades of humiliation and oppression by the West. He genuinely believed that ISIS wanted to bring justice and security to his country.</p>	<p><u>Why Syrians are Abandoning the Group</u></p>