

# Vatican Calls for Weapon Sales Limits to Protect Civilians

VATICAN - The Vatican is renewing its call for limits on the manufacture, selling and giving of "horrendous weapons" later used to "terrorise" ordinary people. The Holy See has made the plea during an open debate meeting of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) entitled "Protection of Civilians in the Context of Peacekeeping Operations." Speaking before the UNSC, the Vatican's UN ambassador, Archbishop Bernardito Auza also warned that civilians are increasingly being targeted in conflict or being used as weapons of war.



He reported the share of civilians deaths, as a proportion of armed conflict-related fatalities, has risen from five-per-cent in the 1900s to more than 90-per-cent in the 1990s. Pedrik/Flickr

Speaking of the role of UN peacekeepers, Archbishop Auza warned against withdrawing peacekeeping personnel too soon and he also highlighted a preventative function to "realistically stop latent conflicts from exploding". He said: "While my delegation considers the protection of civilians a positive evolution of UN peacekeeping mandates, paradoxically, it also points to the disturbing fact that more and more civilians are being targeted during armed conflict and indeed used as weapons of war."

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## UN Chief, CAR President Meet on Peace Process

UNITED NATIONS - UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Friday met Faustin Archange Touadera, president of the Central African Republic (CAR), to discuss the situation in the country, including the president's dialogue with representatives of the armed groups. "The secretary-general noted that the country had turned a corner following the holding of democratic elections," UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric told reporters

here after the meeting. "He welcomed the president's outreach to the armed groups and his vision for a comprehensive process to address the underlying reasons that had driven them to take up arms." Meanwhile, the secretary-general also welcomed the resolve of the president and his government to pursue this process in a spirit of national reconciliation and inclusiveness, guided by the principles and ...*(More on P4)...*(20)

## US Urges Pakistan, India to Pursue Closer Ties on Security Front

WASHINGTON - Pakistan and India need to pursue closer relations on security front to counter threat of terrorism, a US State Department spokesman said, stressing that the United States need to seek closer ties between both countries. "There's no zero-sum game here," Spokesman Mark Toner told a regular briefing at the State Department on Saturday, responding to a question about the recent remarks by Indian Prime Minister

Narendra Modi he made during his 3-day visit to Washington this week. Asked to comment on mention of cross-border terrorism during Modi's address to the US Congress, the spokesman refused to say what his intended audience was, but added that there was no zero-sum game here. "We need to pursue closer relations with India, with Pakistan, and they need to also pursue closer relations on the security front, certainly, with each other,"



the spokesman said and added that such relationship would benefit all in the face of continuing serious terrorist threats.

"We all need to work in a concerted and coordinated fashion to address it, and we're trying to do so," he ...*(More on P4)...*(21)

## UN-Backed Fund Expands Wildlife Protection Plan to 19 Countries in Africa, Asia

UNITED NATIONS - A UN-backed partnership fund on Friday approved an additional 40 million U.S. dollars to expand its support of a global program fighting against illegal trafficking to a total of 19 countries in Africa and Asia. The expansion for the Global Wildlife Program (WFP) was approved by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and includes contributions from the Asian Development Bank, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Environ-

ment Programme (UNEP), the World Bank Group and the World Wildlife Fund. "The victims of wildlife crime are not only the animals and ecosystems that are devastated by poaching and trafficking, they are people as well. The human cost of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife is measured in lives lost to the criminal networks involved and livelihoods destroyed by the erosion of a natural economic foundation," said UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner. "Ending the illegal trade in ...*(More on P4)...*(22)

## Britain Faces \$26 Bln in Spending Cuts, Tax Rises in Event of Brexit: Watson

LONDON - Deputy leader of the Labour Party Tom Watson has warned that Britain will face spending cuts and tax rises of around 26 billion U.S. dollars if Britons back leaving the European Union (EU). The main opposition party, representing the working class and blue-collar workers in Britain, is officially in favor of remaining part of the 28-member bloc.

The "Leave" camp denounced Watson's claim as fanciful and ridiculous. Justice Secretary Michael Gove, a "Leave" supporter, described the claim as



"Project Fear" from Labour which tried to scare people into voting to stay in the EU. "Many of the people who say that we will suffer eco-

nomically if we're outside the EU are the same people who said we had to be inside the euro. They were wrong then, they're wrong now," said Gove.

With a national referendum on June 23 now less than two weeks away, latest polls showed the "Leave" and "Remain" ...*(More on P4)...*(23)

## 8 Dead, 4 Injured and 30 Missing in Colombian Landslide

BOGOTA - At least eight workers died, four injured and over 30 more are missing in a landslide that occurred in northwestern Colombia on Thursday night, the country's office for disaster management (UNGRD) said Friday. The workers were building a highway along the Medellin-Quibdo road in the northwestern state of Chocó when the landslide caused by intense rains in recent days tore through a section of the roadway, UNGRD said. Rescue efforts began in the early hours of Friday, with eight bodies having been found, before being briefly suspended due to the risk of provoking other landslides.

"At the moment, eight people have been killed, four more have been injured, three machines have been destroyed and one road has been affected," said a UNGRD report issued on Friday afternoon. The UNGRD confirmed that over 30 workers are also still missing. One survivor, Heiler Chavarra, told Colombian daily El Tiempo that he saw the landslide move a bulldozer "almost 1,000 ...*(More on P4)...*(24)

## Italy Continues to Face Sea Flows, over 2,500 Migrants Expected to Arrive

ROME - More than 2,500 sea migrants are expected to be brought to southern Italy between Friday and Saturday, after being rescued during their perilous crossing of the Mediterranean, according to local reports.

Early on Friday, 592 migrants arrived in Palermo, the capital city of Sicily island region, onboard the Bourbon Argos ship operated by medical aid group Doctors Without Borders (MSF). Among them there were 464 men, 119 women and 9 children, including very small ones. "Most of these migrants came from sub-Saharan



Africa, and we rescued them in three separate operations," a MSF spokesperson, Sara Creta, told Xinhua.

Creta, who was onboard the ship, said the migrants were rescued off the Libyan coasts, and all of them told aid operators that

"Libya's deteriorating situation is alarming." "All of the migrants who talked to us said they have either suffered or witnessed violence in Libya. Many said they saw people dying or being beaten. Some said they would ...*(More on P4)...*(25)

## 30,000 Displaced Somalis Need Food Aid after Flooding: Red Cross

MOGADISHU - More than 30,000 displaced people are in need of humanitarian assistance after flooding in Somalia's south-central region of Beletweyne, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has said.

Albert Jabre, the region's field coordinator for ICRC Somalia, on Friday said the displaced people were in need of food and safe drinking water. "This flooding is the worst in years. It covered most of the town and surroundings. As the people move to higher grounds, they are in need of

everything," Jabre said in a statement. "The ICRC is providing food and other basic items, clean water and health care to the most affected communities. This will enable them to hold on as they start to rebuild their homes," he added.

The ICRC and Somali Red Cross Society this week carried out a five-day distribution of rice, oil, beans, blankets and mosquito nets for the displaced people. About 100,000 water purification tablets were distributed, with each family receiving 20 tablets, enough to be used for ...*(More on P4)...*(26)

## Thousands Protest Against Drones at U.S. Air Force Base in Germany

BERLIN - Several thousand demonstrators formed a human chain along the perimeter of a U.S. Air Force Base in southwest Germany on Saturday in protest against drone operations by the United States.

The demonstration was organized by the alliance "Stop Ramstein -

No Drone War", which says the Ramstein base transmits information between operators in the United States and unmanned drone aircraft in places such as Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen and Syria. Police estimated 3-4,000 people had formed the chain close to the base, ...*(More on P4)...*(28)

## Nieghbor News

### China, EU Hold High-Level Strategic Dialogue

BRUSSELS - China and the European Union (EU) held their sixth high-level strategic dialogue here Friday, with both sides pledging to further cooperation in various areas. The event was co-chaired by visiting Chinese State Councillor Yang Jiechi and EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini.

China sees the EU as a comprehensive strategic partner for mutual benefit, Yang said, adding that deepening China-EU relations was not only in line with both demands on economic and social development, but also conducive to global peace, stability and economic recovery.

The two sides agreed to implement the consensus reached by both leaders at the 17th China-EU Summit held in June last year that enhances synergy between their development strategies, and deepens cooperation on trade, investment, infrastructure connectivity, digitization, legal affairs, and facilitation of people-to-people exchanges, Yang said.

They also agreed to accelerate negotiations on bilateral investment agreements and to inject more vigor into cooperation on political security, technology innovation, maritime economy, ocean technology, and ...*(More on P4)...*(29)

### Indian PM Set to Attend SCO Summit in Uzbekistan

BISHKEK - Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi is set to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit scheduled to be held on June 23-24 in Uzbekistan.

"We received an official confirmation that Prime Minister Modi will attend the [SCO] Summit," said a diplomatic source.

SCO is a political, economic and military alliance comprising Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. India, who had observer status, applied for SCO membership in 2014.

The SCO Summit held in the Russian city of Ufa last year approved inclusion of India and Pakistan to the list of member states and launched accession proceedings. The SCO leaders are expected to sign an accession memorandum with Pakistan and India at the upcoming summit in Tashkent. (AKIpress)

### Director of UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and CIS Visits Tajikistan

DOSHANBEH - Ayse Cihan Sultanoğlu Director of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (RBEC) Ayse Cihan Sultanoğlu will pay a visit to Tajikistan from June 12-13, the press service of the Tajik Foreign Ministry said. RBEC administers the UNDP's

programs in Central and Eastern Europe and the CIS, playing an important role in the transition process through empowering people, organizations and governments to promote sustainable human development.

The Foreign Ministry did not provide any details of the coming visit. (AKIpress)

### Turkmenistan Names Ambassador to Brunei

ASHGABAT - Yazguly Mammadov has been appointed Turkmenistan's extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador to Brunei, according to the Turkmen president's decree.

Mammadov will also continue to head the country's diplomatic mission in Malaysia, which is of interest for Turkmenistan due to the

activity of the Malaysian oil and gas company Petronas Charigali, working in the Turkmen sector of the Caspian Sea since 1996.

Petronas Charigali began commercial production of oil and its export in Turkmenistan in May 2006, and the transportation of oil is being conducted through Azerbaijan's territory. (Trend)

### Iran Urges Political Measures, Coupled with Military Options, to Resolve Syrian Crisis

TEHRAN - Iran, Russia and Syria can activate their political capacities, along with military cooperation against terrorism, to achieve a comprehensive strategy to stop war and bloodshed in Syria, a senior Iranian security official said, according to semi-official Mehr news agency on Friday.

Ali Shamkhani, Iran's Secretary of Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), made the remarks in a meeting with the visiting Syrian Defense Minister Fahd Jassem al-Frej. Shamkhani reiterated Iran's decisive support for Syria until the complete eradication of

terrorist groups in that country, saying that "today, Syria is the battlefield of dangers which if not be dealt with, will spread its roots to all over the world."

He hailed what he termed as the "successes" of the Syrian army and the people in liberating various parts of the country from the terrorist groups.

He further criticized the "unconstructive" approach of the United States and its western and regional allies toward the Syrian crisis, saying that the U.S. approach in Syria seeks the security and interests of Israel. ...*(More on P4)...*(30)