

EIR Daily Alert Service

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- Lift All Sanctions on Syria and End the U.S. Occupation
- Helga Zepp-LaRouche Discusses China's Peace Proposal for Ukraine on Pakistani TV's 'Views on News'
- U.S. Still Stealing Syrian Oil
- Nuland Frets Over Fading Support for World War III Project in Ukraine
- General Touts Role of U.S. Army Against China
- Hungary's Orbán Supports Chinese Peace Proposals, Cautions Europe Not To Be Dragged into War
- Ron Paul Reflects on Washington Peace Rally
- Some See Israeli State as Sanctioning Settlers' Anti-Palestinian Riots
- Anti-Palestinian Riots Scare Many Israelis

EDITORIAL

Lift All Sanctions on Syria and End the U.S. Occupation

Feb. 28, 2023 (EIRNS)—The LaRouche movement is circulating the following pre-release of the lead editorial of the March 3 issue of *EIR* magazine, as part of an intense, concentrated effort aimed at members of the U.S. Congress, to break through the deafening wall of silence on the barbaric activities sanctioned by U.S. military forces in Syria, military forces which are in that nation illegally—illegally under U.S. law, and illegally under international law. The similarly illegal and barbaric sanctions against Syria must now be lifted.

Editorial: Lift All Sanctions on Syria, End the U.S. Occupation

Feb. 25—The sanctions against Syria can no longer be tolerated. [Pax Christi USA](#) joined several faith-based groups in an open letter asking “the Biden administration and Members of Congress to affirm the dignity of all persons by lifting sanctions, continuing diplomacy, and sending aid to those most affected in Türkiye and Syria.”

The Schiller Institute’s two-hour Feb. 21 webcast, “[Syrian Sanctions Must Be Lifted](#),” is a powerful weapon of truth, directly addressing the fact that the sanctions and war, which have forced 90% of the Syrian population into poverty, go hand in hand with the United States’ military occupation of Syria, which must also end.

Helga Zepp-LaRouche, founder of the Schiller Institute; Vanessa Beeley, British independent journalist now living in Damascus; Marwa Osman, a professor, author and TV presenter from Lebanon; Col. Richard H. Black (ret.), former Virginia State Senator; and Chandra Muzaffar of Malaysia, leader of JUST (International Movement for a Just World) presented the scale of destruction inflicted by United States and its European allies on Syria since 2007.

After the devastating earthquakes this February, the necessity of the complete abrogation of the unilateral economic and financial sanctions by which the United States and European Union are blocking reconstruction—and now, even aid to that country—is imperative.

The call went out: “You must demand that the U.S. Congress lift the ‘Caesar’ Sanctions. This is collective punishment of the civilian population” of Syria. Moderator Dennis Speed noted that as the seminar was going on, Schiller Institute delegations were in Congress pressing for an end to NATO’s war in Ukraine and to the sanctions on Syria.

Action Beginning

In the U.S. House of Representatives, a “War Powers Resolution,” was submitted Feb. 21 by [Rep. Matt Gaetz](#) (R-FL) to get all U.S. troops out of Syria. By law, that action is a privileged measure, which must be voted

upon within 18 days. If it is voted up, the Biden Administration will have 15 days in which to implement the withdrawal of U.S. troops.

The LaRouche movement is mobilizing to target Congress, which has blood on its hands, to pass this resolution, which will be an important first step in stopping the barbarism of sanctions in Syria, and worldwide.

Reports From Experts

Vanessa Beeley, speaking from Syria reported: “Syrians are resilient, they’re resourceful. And despite the fact that 90% of the population is below the poverty level, they have survived. ... Now, they have a terrible humanitarian tragedy, 5 million estimated homeless in Syria. Even in the northwest, which is under the control of Western-backed terrorist groups, it is a humanitarian tragedy. But the West is not helping.” She underscored that sanctions are a part of the occupation of Syria, which has “three of its four borders controlled by hostile powers.” Moreover, she said, “The West is exploiting this tragedy to effectively kick start the war again against Syria,” letting “humanitarian” aid in only through the Bab al-Hawa crossings from Türkiye which al-Qaeda controls. She concluded, “What Syria needs now is for the sanctions to be lifted; but more than anything, it needs the U.S. occupation ended.... [The U.S.] occupies the southeast in their Al-Tanf military base which also controls the Rukban refugee camp. It has established a 55-kilometer no entry zone around it, where it’s training and arming armed groups, including ISIS. So, end the occupation, please.”

Chandra Muzaffar emphasized, “In all, sanctions wouldn’t mean a thing without occupation.... We must understand that occupation continues in West Asia.” Syria, he said, has become since 2007 a state which is not able to function as a state, because large parts of it are occupied by foreign powers and various groups backed by those powers. Syria had outdone many of the richer countries in Southwest Asia in providing both health care and education to all its people, equal rights and respect to women, tolerance in a multi-ethnic, multi-religious society. It is a victim of “U.S. hegemony,” he said, which must end. “We should cooperate and work

together ... where the finest values of our respective civilizations would be able to flourish.”

Marwa Osman was very specific in suggesting to Americans: Go to associates or neighbors and raise some funds to aid the tens of thousands of Syrian victims of the earthquakes. Then contact your Member of Congress and ask for assistance in sending those funds to people or charities in Syrian cities like Aleppo, and ask that Member to explain to you why that’s blocked, not possible, although the sanctions were supposed to be “suspended for 180 days” (the financial sanctions were not suspended). Then demand that that Member change it. Even NGOs in neighboring Lebanon, Ms. Osman said, are afraid that they will be sanctioned by the United States and EU if they convey funds to Syrians across the border.

Col. Richard Black (ret.), who has made numerous visits to Syria, graphically described the nature of the terrorists supported by the U.S. government, stating that we have turned over large parts of the country to terrorists “who take selfies standing on the backs of innocent women. It is disgraceful! And now, we’re following up by taunting the people of Syria who are under this terrible earthquake devastation, and we’re taunting them about how they really should have gone the other way. They should have been on our side, and now they’re getting what they deserve is essentially what the State Department is saying.

“It is a disgrace! It is a horror! If the American people understood what is happening, this government would fall. This government could not exist in the United States if the American people were not shielded by this complicit media in the horrors that we have imposed on the Syrian people.

“It is a shame. I hate to see it, because I love my country. I want it to be a better place, than it was when I was growing up. And I have hope and prayer that it will become better, but we could certainly start by ending these obscene Caesar Sanctions that are imposing famine and freezing on innocent people.”

Faith-Based Groups

An urgent appeal was issued on Feb. 6 by the Middle East Council of Churches, an affiliate of the World Council of Churches, stating “We urge the immediate lifting of sanctions on Syria and allowing access to all materials, so sanctions may not turn into a crime against humanity.”

On Feb. 17, an open letter was released by a group of faith-based organizations in the United States. The letter states in part:

“Therefore, we as a community ask Congress and the Administration to:

“Lift sanctions in order to expedite aid delivery, open commercial access, and expand relief services to civilians in need.

“Remove the 180-day sunset on the new General License for Syria.

“Extend applicability for the newly adopted Global General License for material support in all of Syria.

“Continue to communicate with Syrian and UN counterparts during the earthquake response, and work to open new border crossings for personnel to access Northern Syria.

“Issue letters of comfort to financial institutions and aid organizations to help facilitate emergency assistance in Syria.

“Coordinate the opening of banking channels to help NGOs and INGOs get aid to where it is needed; including family remittances.

“Appropriate additional funds to USAID and UN programs to support Türkiye and Syria through the earthquake response and recovery.”

The letter was signed by the Alliance of Baptists; American Friends Service Committee (AFSC); Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP); Community of Christ; Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces; Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL); Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns; Mennonite Central Committee U.S. (MCC); National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd; Pax Christi USA; Presbyterian Church (USA); The United Methodist

Church—General Board of Church and Society; Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC); and United Church of Christ, Justice and Local Church Ministries.

- Watch [Harley's Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Wednesday March 1, 2023: Every weekday morning on The LaRouche Organization, Schlanger will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

NEW STRATEGIC & ECONOMIC ARCHITECTURE

Helga Zepp-LaRouche Discusses China's Peace Proposal for Ukraine on Pakistani TV's 'Views on News'

Feb. 28, 2023 (EIRNS)—On Feb. 27, Helga Zepp-LaRouche was one of four invited guests on the “[Views on News](#)” program broadcast by Pakistan’s PTV. The other guests were: Michael Kugelman, deputy director of the Asia Program at the Wilson Center in Washington; Prof. Dr. Aqab Malik with the Center for International Peace and Stability (CIPS), National University of Science & Technology (NUST); and Air Commodore Basit Raza Abbasi (ret.), senior analyst.

The program was focused on the Ukraine crisis, and the [Chinese 12-point peace framework](#), which has drawn positive comments even from Ukrainian President Zelenskyy.

The Chinese proposal was welcomed by all panelists as representing a path forward through a focus on reducing the loss of lives and military destruction. Zepp-LaRouche spoke to the potential for the Nord Stream destruction to split the NATO alliance. If the report by Seymour Hersh is true, and NATO member Norway attacked another NATO nation, then how could the alliance stay intact?

Zepp-LaRouche was asked about Blinken’s warning to China not to supply weapons to Russia, and about U.S.-EU-NATO relations with China more broadly. She responded that European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen is against the Chinese proposal, and that many EU member

states are seeking to “diversify” away from China. Zepp-LaRouche added that China’s 12-point outline should be seen in the context of a growing number of peace proposals. Brazil’s President Lula da Silva has called for a peace club among nations of the Global South, and he will be going to China to discuss it (among other topics) with Chinese President Xi Jinping. Turkish President Erdogan has offered to help with peace talks. Italian Gen. Fabio Mini (ret.) has made a proposal. The Pope’s offer of the Vatican as a venue for peace talks is extremely important.

We must not allow a world in which an accident could lead to the thermonuclear annihilation of the human race. There is no way to win a war against Russia, Zepp-LaRouche added.

This is a new world crisis. Although the two World Wars were terrible, the only nuclear weapons were used at the very end of the war. What would war look like today?

As to the shifting of power, she told viewers that the BRICS nations already exceed the G7 economically. World power is shifting to Asia, to the Global South. And the Global South should speak up for peace!

Asked for her views on the U.S. response to this shift in world power, Zepp-LaRouche said that the U.S. should join the new paradigm. John Quincy Adams had denounced the idea of the U.S. going abroad in search of monsters to destroy. Abraham Lincoln’s collaboration with Mexican President Benito Juárez, the presidencies of FDR and JFK—these show the real potential of the U.S.

Is there a real risk of nuclear war? Yes, she replied. Unlike the Cuban Missile Crisis, today there is no trust. Kennedy and Khrushchev were in communication. But what about today? After Merkel and Hollande admitted that they used the Minsk agreements used simply to buy time to arm Ukraine, how can Russia take seriously any words from such nations?

Overall, the world needs a [new security and development architecture](#), for which Zepp-LaRouche has advanced a ten-point outline. NATO should have been dissolved with the Warsaw Pact in 1991. In today’s world,

China's Global Security Initiative and Global Development Initiative point in the right direction.

COLLAPSING WESTERN SYSTEM

U.S. Still Stealing Syrian Oil

Feb. 28, 2023 (EIRNS)—Despite the devastation of the Feb. 6 earthquakes in northwestern Syria, the U.S. military is still stealing Syrian oil.

Yesterday, the official news agency SANA cited local sources in the al-Yarubiya countryside reporting that the U.S. occupation forces took 34 tanker truckloads of oil from the al-Jazeera oil field and from the eastern region of the country to its bases in Iraq.

STRATEGIC SHOWDOWN

Nuland Frets Over Fading Support for World War III Project in Ukraine

Feb. 28, 2023 (EIRNS)—Neo-con heavy and the Maidan coup's queen Victoria Nuland has taken aim at the voices not on board for World War III, labeling them as part of the dreaded "fringe." Nuland, who is presently the State Department's Under Secretary for Political Affairs, is likely unnerved by the demonstration over this past weekend by more than 50,000 people in Berlin and other cities in Germany, who went into the streets protesting NATO's proxy war in Ukraine, with thousands more protesting across Europe. Those protests built upon a smaller, yet focused, "Rage Against the War Machine" protest of a few thousand people in Washington, D.C., on Feb. 19, which explicitly rejected the fake left-versus-right paradigm.

Speaking to a Feb. 27 event hosted by the U.S. Chamber of Congress, Nuland stated that "on the fringes of both parties, people are starting to question, but fundamentally, when you look at how this issue is polling around the country, Americans hate a bully," though not clarifying to which bully she was referring. Nuland also tried to downplay those on the

“fringe,” by noting that the U.S. has contributed more than \$30 billion to Ukraine. “You can’t do that without overwhelming support of both parties in the Congress,” she added.

Nuland’s comments on polling data come in the context of a recent AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll, which found that 48% of Americans support the U.S. providing weapons to Ukraine, with 29% opposed and 22% remaining on the fence. While the poll indicates that there are more people in favor of arming Ukraine than are against, it should be noted that a similar poll last May showed support at 60%; thus, the new poll indicates a 12% drop.

Nuland’s jitters about the fading support for her proxy war in Ukraine come in the context of Florida Republican Rep. Matt Gaetz’s Feb. 9 introduction of the “Ukraine Fatigue Resolution” and its dozen co-sponsors in the U.S. House of Representatives. Elsewhere on the fringe, Elon Musk said on a Twitter post last week that “nobody is pushing this war more than Nuland,” while former President Donald Trump said in a Feb. 21 video that “for decades, we’ve had the very same people, such as Victoria Nuland and many others just like her, obsessed with pushing Ukraine toward NATO, not to mention the State Department support for uprisings in Ukraine.” Meanwhile, the Feb. 8 revelations of Seymour Hersh have identified Nuland as part of the small team that conspired to blow up Nord Stream—which if true, could have Nuland as part of the small fringe in history accused of war crimes.

General Touts Role of U.S. Army Against China

Feb. 28, 2023 (EIRNS)—Lt. Gen. Charles Flynn, the commander of U.S. Army Pacific, told the [American Enterprise Institute](#), that the Chinese People’s Liberation Army is not ready to attack Taiwan, but the “historical trajectory” of their recent military modernization campaign requires U.S. forces to speed up their preparations to deter such an attack. “The payload of exercises in pathways is really at its zenith here in ‘23,” Flynn said, referring to an array of U.S. military exercises in the Indo-Pacific. “This is an important year to get in position [and] create enduring advantage ... so

we're ready to do that, and our forces are ready today to be able to respond if need be in the event that something goes in the direction we don't want it to go." Flynn and Army Secretary Christine Wormuth touted the importance of the U.S. Army in the competition with China, an obvious pitch to Congress to pump more money into the Army budget.

China's military is improving at an alarming rate, in large part due to its land-based missile force, Flynn went on. "I can't go into great detail in here on what's happening on the ground, but I can tell you that the PLA army and the PLA Rocket Force and the strategic support forces are in dangerous positions," he claimed.

Flynn also argued that the PLA's "anti-access/area denial" (A2/AD) plan to eject U.S. forces from the region has a major hole, and that is, he claimed, that it can't counter Army forces. "The A2/AD arsenal that the Chinese have designed is primarily designed to defeat air and maritime capabilities, and secondarily, it's designed to degrade, disrupt, and deny space and cyber," he said. "It is not, however, designed to find, fix, and finish mobile, networked, dispersed, reloadable ground forces that are lethal and non-lethal that are operating amongst their allies and partners in the region." Still, he said, China's expected ability to target incoming ships and major bases puts pressure on U.S. forces to stash weapons and supplies in friendly states throughout the region.

Hungary's Orbán Supports Chinese Peace Proposals, Cautions Europe Not To Be Dragged into War

Feb. 28, 2023 (EIRNS)—Hungary's government supports Beijing's peace plan for the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, [Prime Minister Viktor Orbán](#) told parliament on Feb. 27. "We therefore also consider China's peace plan to be important, and we support it. On the first anniversary of the outbreak of war, Hungary should make it clear that it shall not change the position it has held up to now," he told the lawmakers. In his speech, which is posted on his official website, Orbán said, "This war ... is bad for Ukrainians, it is bad for Russians, it is bad for Hungarians, it is bad for Europe, and it is becoming clear that it is bad for the whole world." The prime minister went

on to stress that “The Hungarian government looks on with grave concern as, step by step, the whole of Europe is drifting into war. European countries are already sending tanks, fighter jets are already on the agenda, and if this continues, there will be those who want to send troops to Ukraine. Last April Hungarians decided that Hungary should stay out of the war, and they confirmed this in the national consultation at the end of last year.”

He stressed that his government insists on settling the Ukrainian conflict by peaceful means—his homepage reads in large type “Hungary Is On the Side of Peace”—and called on lawmakers to pass a resolution to that effect. “The fighting can only be stopped by a ceasefire. Therefore a ceasefire is needed and peace negotiations must begin. In every international forum Hungary is calling for peace, and I see that the majority—the great majority—of the world is also in favor of peace. ... A clear resolution by Parliament is also necessary, because Hungary is under enormous pressure every day. Everyone can see that they want to press us into the war. They want us to join the pro-war countries.”

He reiterated that he continues to be against the European Union’s anti-Russian sanctions, especially in the energy sector. He recalled that restrictions on fuel supplies had provoked a dramatic price rise and Hungary’s spending on energy sources had increased by €10 billion in 2022. “Brussels has taken this money from the pockets of Hungarians with the use of sanctions,” he declared, boasting that in the “national consultation” 97% of Hungarians expressed their opposition to EU sanctions against Russia.

Orbán also took aim at the Nord Stream pipeline sabotage: “The blowing up of Nord Stream ... was a simple act of terrorism,” he said and then raised the danger that a similar act of sabotage could occur against the TurkStream pipeline, which brings Russian gas across the Black Sea to Turkiye, and from there into Europe. “And what we need to understand is that if they did it in the north, just to stop gas from Russia coming into Europe—if they blew up the northern pipeline to do that—then they can do

it in the south.” But, he went on: “Together with Serbia we have made it clear that if this were to happen ... it would not be so easy to conduct a cover-up, as is now being done in relation to the blowing up of the Nord Stream pipeline.” He was referring to the deafening silence from Germany, where the Nord Stream submarine pipelines from Russia terminated.

U.S. POLITICAL & ECONOMIC

Ron Paul Reflects on Washington Peace Rally

Feb. 28, 2023 (EIRNS)—“On February 19, the National Mall in Washington, D.C. saw its largest antiwar rally in 20 years,” wrote former presidential candidate [Ron Paul](#) yesterday in “The Antiwar Movement Roars Back into Life.” “The speakers list included four former U.S. presidential candidates and a broad and diverse collection of antiwar activists from beyond the left and right.”

Although the “Rage Against the War Machine” rally drew thousands of participants, it was not as large as some of the 2003 protests against the Iraq War. “To that I say, ‘who cares?’ ” Paul responds. Considering the media propaganda environment, “I think it’s a miracle anyone had the courage to travel to the heart of the war machine in Washington, D.C. to make their voices heard!”

“We don’t need a majority to fight back,” he writes, “an educated and dedicated minority will do quite nicely. And we certainly had that at the rally!”

Paul points to the large anti-war rallies in Europe the following weekend, and to ongoing polling that shows support for the war evaporating among citizens of the U.S. and in Europe.

Of Rachel Maddow’s unhinged Feb. 20 report on the rally, Paul writes: “What do Maddow’s hysterics about the rally show? They are nervous. It shows that the mainstream media ... is afraid. They are afraid they are losing the narrative. Good. It’s about time.”

SOUTHWEST ASIA**Some See Israeli State as Sanctioning Settlers' Anti-Palestinian Riots**

Feb. 28, 2023 (EIRNS)—The riot by Jewish settlers in the West Bank town of Huwara, Palestine, on Feb. 26 was a fire waiting for ignition. A gunman assumed to be Palestinian, who apparently still hadn't been caught as of yesterday, provided it by killing two settlers. According to a report in the Middle East Eye (MEE), the rioters were praised by extreme right-wing leaders, including certain members of Benjamin Netanyahu's government, lending credence to charges that the government encouraged the rioters.

In a since-deleted tweet, Davidi Ben Zion, the deputy head of the Samaria Council that governs illegal settlements in the northern West Bank, called for Israeli politicians to show no mercy and said that the "village of Huwara should be erased today." The tweet was liked by the country's Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, leader of the Religious Zionist Party, a member of the coalition government headed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. (What the settlers call "Samaria and Judea" is the west bank of the River Jordan.)

Smotrich's liking of the tweet by Ben Zion also drew condemnation and was viewed by some as the Israel sanctioning the mob violence. "Our minister of finance, minister of the defense ministry and a member of the security cabinet supports erasing an entire village when the only sin of its inhabitants is that they are Palestinians," Shir Nosatzki, a social media entrepreneur, said on Twitter.

On Feb. 26, Smotrich escalated rhetoric himself, demanding that the Israeli army "hit Palestinian cities, with tanks and helicopters, mercilessly, in a way that would convey that the owner of the house has gone mad." Smotrich promoted a Twitter thread recommending "collective punishment of the terrorist's family and environment as an effective and necessary tool in asymmetric warfare." Collective punishment of occupied populations, MEE notes, is illegal under international law.

At least 1 Palestinian was killed and nearly 400 wounded in the attacks on Huwara and other West Bank towns and villages, Palestinian health officials said. Settlers completely burned down at least 35 homes, 40 others were partially damaged, and many of the buildings were set on fire while their Palestinian inhabitants sheltered inside. More than 100 cars were burnt or otherwise destroyed.

The *Jerusalem Post*, in its coverage of the riot, described Huwara as a “ghost town” where fires were still burning on Monday, Feb. 27. Despite the presence of security forces, settlers were allowed to enter the town again on Monday morning, scuffling with Palestinians in the town, and returning Monday afternoon to spark fights again. The residents at the scene who spoke to journalists stressed that they would remain in the town, stating calmly “We will sacrifice our lives for our land,” wrote the *Jerusalem Post*.

Anti-Palestinian Riots Scare Many Israelis

Feb. 28, 2023 (EIRNS)—The Feb. 26 riot by Jewish settlers in the Palestinian town of Huwara has frightened some Israelis so much that it’s even drawing comparisons to Kristallnacht in Nazi Germany in 1938, during which Nazi storm troopers smashed Jewish businesses all over Germany while the authorities looked on. “The government needs to decide if it acts as a sovereign in the [occupied Palestinian] territories, if it is determined to impose law and order on Arabs and Jews alike, or if it serves as a fig leaf for the hilltop youth,” wrote Nahum Barnea for the major Israeli news outlet Ynet, referring to the radical settler group. Ynet is also the online outlet for Israel’s major daily, *Yedioth Ahronoth*.

While Israeli settlers have regularly committed attacks against Palestinians in the West Bank, the Feb. 26 attacks were “almost unprecedented,” warned Barnea. Rioting settlers feel “immune to the law. Fear of the state does not apply to them,” said Barnea. Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich and National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir “observe the rioters in Huwara and probably remember themselves: when they were their age, they behaved like them.”

The *Times of Israel* reports today that Israelis had donated nearly \$300,000 to a fund on behalf of the Palestinians whose homes were destroyed in the riots. Labor Party member Yaya Fink, who launched the online fundraising drive, said in an interview that his original goal was to raise \$27,275 but by 6 a.m. on Feb. 28, Israelis had donated \$291,015.

Fink said he was driven to act after seeing the “horrifying” footage from the rampage, which showed yarmulke-wearing Jewish perpetrators gathering for an evening prayer quorum in front of Huwara buildings engulfed in flames. “As a religious Jew myself ... I felt that I could not be silent under such circumstances,” Fink said. “They’re creating a warped new Judaism and bearing the name of the true one in vain.”

While he insisted that the majority of Israelis “don’t accept such anarchists,” Fink acknowledged that the perpetrators now have “very senior partners in the government.”