

EIR Daily Alert Service

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- U.S.A. Countdown: 14 Days Remain for House Vote on H.Con.Res.20 to Remove U.S. Forces from Syria
- India's Modi Expresses 'Voice of the Global South' at the G20 Foreign Ministerial
- No Joint Communiqué at G20 Foreign Ministerial Meeting Unveils 'G7 vs. the World'
- New 'Global Majority' Hold Meetings at the G20 New Delhi Foreign Ministers Meeting
- Blinken and Lavrov Had Short Discussion in New Delhi
- Hungarian Foreign Ministry Argues, EU Rejects Any Mention of a Ceasefire in Ukraine
- House of Representatives Renews Commitment to Genocide in Syria
- NBC News Conduits Alternative Line to Media Narrative that Ukraine Can Take Crimea
- Jackson Hinkle Added to Myrotvorets Kill List
- Seymour Hersh Excoriates Unreality Factor in Biden's Proxy War Against Russia
- British 'Salad Crisis' Food Shortage Going into Fourth Week
- Greek Train Wreck Sparks Profound Political Crisis

EDITORIAL

U.S.A. Countdown: 14 Days Remain for House Vote on H.Con.Res.20 to Remove U.S. Forces from Syria

March 2, 2023 (EIRNS)—The world war machine bloc of nations, otherwise known as Global NATO, presented itself in certain special ways this week, but all part of the same NATO dynamic of promoting war and perpetrating genocide. At the same time, the forces gathering momentum against this—as seen in the past two weeks of mass demonstrations in the Trans-Atlantic—have the mighty strength to defeat the evil, because of the commitment to truth, and love for humanity. The stakes include preventing a nuclear holocaust.

On the war-making front, in Washington, D.C. on Feb. 27, a depraved vote succeeded in the U.S. House of Representatives to extend the duration of the U.S. sanctions against Syria, passed in 2019, known as the “Caesar Sanctions” (the name given for an anonymous source of purported photos of atrocities committed by the government of Bashar al Assad, with no proof).

Continuing these sanctions, in the face of the earthquake disaster, continues the subversion, impoverishment, and occupation of Syria, which has gone on for 12 years. The House vote is a continuation of the Obama/Trump/Biden policy of sanctions, warfare, and occupation against that country for all this time, and the vote affirms the use of sanctions at large. The vote was 414 to 2 (for House Resolution 132), with Rep. Thomas Massie (R-TN) and Marjorie Taylor-Greene (R-GA) voting no.

On the war-making front, in New Delhi, at the Group of 20 Foreign Ministers meeting today and yesterday, the Group of Seven and aligned NATO nations, tried to bully other G20 nations to get in line with Global NATO, to condemn Russia over the “issue” of Ukraine. The foreign envoys of the U.K., U.S.A., and the Netherlands were outspoken. U.S. Secretary Antonio Blinken blustered before the meeting began that China dare not

continue to remain “on both sides” of the Ukraine issue, but must condemn Russia.

However, the new “Global Majority” is overriding these particular instances and expanding by the minute. In New Delhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India, the G20 Chair Country at present, said today that he speaks, and will continue to speak, in the “voice of the Global South.” He focussed his remarks, and today’s agenda, on the need for all nations to tackle crises in basic needs—food, energy, debt relief, and other areas; and secondly, to collaborate against terrorism, narcotics and other common threats. No joint statement condemning Russia could materialize. Instead a “chairman’s statement,” was released.

Turning to the United States, the way to fully understand the disgusting pro-sanctions vote by the Congress earlier this week, is that orchestrating this vote was a direct response to the worldwide, escalating condemnation of the sanctions in Syria (and elsewhere,) and rejection of Global NATO itself. The role of the Schiller Institute and collaborators is critical in this mobilization.

Among the latest actions, mass demonstrations are planned for this Saturday, March 4, by the “End the Siege” campaign, in at least 13 nations, and for more nations soon, for the goal of ending the conditions in which “Syrians are suffocated by these sanctions, with the lack of fuel, electricity, water and even food.” An originating group in this drive is the Jordanian Peoples’ Committee for Relief.

An immediate target for our mobilization in the U.S. is to give orders to Congress to pass the bill introduced in February to get all U.S. Armed Forces out of Syria. This is House Concurrent Resolution No. 20, filed by Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-FL), which some time in the next 14 days must come up for a vote, under the protocol of being a “privileged” resolution, for rush-vote, under the War Powers Act.

Join the mobilization now. A personal message sent out by an American Pax Christi organizer today stated, “We know U.S. troops are in 800+ camps around the world and it has to change. There is now an opportunity

to remove U.S. troops in war-devastated Syria. Please read this report [attached] and take the opportunity to force Republicans and Democrats to get our troops out of Syria. Please do not be turned off by any sense of pragmatism of either party or those individuals calling for this act to happen. The vital need is to help end foreign occupation, remove U.S. troops and lift sanctions so Syrian people can get food and materials now being blocked by the U.S..

“This atrocity cries to Heaven for resolution and intervention. Demand the U.S. elected officials withdraw troops and end sanctions to save the Syrian people and culture.”

- Watch **Harley’s Updates** with Harley Schlanger on Friday March 3, 2023: <https://laroucheorganization.com/HarleySchlangerReport> Every weekday morning on The LaRouche Organization, Schlanger will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

NEW STRATEGIC & ECONOMIC ARCHITECTURE

India’s Modi Expresses ‘Voice of the Global South’ at the G20 Foreign Ministerial

March 2, 2023 (EIRNS)—Prime Minister Narendra Modi, speaking for India as this year’s Chair of the Group of 20 nations, at the March 1-2 G20 Foreign Ministerial in New Delhi, said that he is speaking with the “voice of the Global South” to demand world attention and work on the crises in food, energy, fertilizer, and debt.

STRATEGIC SHOWDOWN

No Joint Communiqué at G20 Foreign Ministerial Meeting Unveils ‘G7 vs. the World’

March 2, 2023 (EIRNS)—The two-day Group of 20 meeting in New Delhi ended today without a joint statement, because of dissension within the grouping that can be summarized as, “the G7 vs. the world.” Delegations

from 27 nations attended, as well as 40 delegations including other international associations and entities. Roughly put, the dividing line “issue” was over demands by various G7 nations, that Russia be denounced for its actions in Ukraine. India is this year’s chair of the G20, and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi made an address to the group, appealing for all to appreciate their “common ground” and act accordingly, but that was not to be.

Indian Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar said today that the group adopted the Chair Summary and Outcome document. His comment, according to India’s News18: “Foreign Ministers of 27 countries have participated in the G20 Foreign Ministers meeting. The meeting was the biggest congregation of foreign ministers focused on what unites us, not divides.” He reported that the assembly noted that multilateralism is in crisis, and that all the member nations condemn terrorism.

The G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors ministerial last week in Bengaluru ended with the same kind of Chair Summary, instead of a joint communiqué, because of the non-agreement to the G7 demand that a denunciation of Russia must be included in any text.

European Union foreign affairs secretary Josep Borrell went into the meeting demanding that, “this war has to be condemned ... I hope, I am sure that India’s diplomatic capacity will be used in order to make Russia understand that this war has to finish.” U.S. Secretary of State [Antony Blinken](#) said at a press availability yesterday in Tashkent that China, in particular, has to take a stand against Russia: “So China can’t have it both ways. It can’t be putting itself out as a force for peace in public while it, one way or another, continues to fuel the flames of this fire that Vladimir Putin started.” These views were echoed by Netherlands Foreign Minister Wopke Hoekstra and among other G7 foreign ministers during the meeting.

British Foreign Secretary James Cleverly, after a diplomatic feint, saying there was a lot in [China’s 12-point peace proposal](#) that Britain could agree with, nevertheless, “the priority is to condemn Russia.”

Host Prime Minister Narendra Modi repeatedly stressed that the G20 should focus on food, energy and fertilizer security, and financial burdens, among other things. Today's agenda had two sessions, in line with that perspective. The first was to address debt relief, food, fertilizer, energy, health, and social conditions; the second on fighting terrorism, narcotics, and related mutual security topics.

New 'Global Majority' Hold Meetings at the G20 New Delhi Foreign Ministers Meeting

March 2, 2023 (EIRNS)—One outstanding pattern at the Group of 20 foreign ministerial on March 1-2 in New Delhi is that, among the many bilateral meetings, nations in the emergent “Global Majority” are exerting their own leadership in discussions and topics. A few reports on this:

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov met with his fellow foreign ministers from Brazil, South Africa, Turkiye, China, among others. He met on March 1 with Indian External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, whose country chairs the G20 this year, before the event began.

Lavrov and Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang discussed many matters, including a political settlement in Ukraine, for which the Chinese Foreign Ministry had released [China's 12-point proposal](#) on Feb. 24. The Russian Foreign Ministry reported, “We have confirmed a high degree of proximity and convergence of positions on all of the issues discussed. The parties expressed unanimous rejection of attempts to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries, to impose unilateral approaches through blackmail and threat, and to oppose the democratization of international relations.” In his remarks to Qin, Lavrov specifically cited that “by working together we will be able to ensure continuity and steady progress in all areas, as agreed by our leaders, including during their [February 4, 2022 summit](#) in Beijing,” referring to the Presidents’ “Joint Statement on International Relations Entering a New Era and the Global Sustainable Development.”

Blinken and Lavrov Had Short Discussion in New Delhi

March 2, 2023 (EIRNS)—U.S. Secretary of State Blinken and Russian Foreign Secretary Sergey Lavrov had a short meeting today in New Delhi, on the sidelines of the G20 Foreign Ministerial Council. The meeting lasted only about 10 minutes. Blinken delineated at an evening [press briefing](#) three points he made to Lavrov: 1) that the United States “stand [sic] ready to support Ukraine through diplomacy to end the war” on the basis of Ukraine’s “peace” proposal; 2) that Russia should return to implementation of the New START Treaty; and 3) that Moscow should accept Washington’s proposal to free Paul Whalen, the American prisoner in Russia.

Blinken apologized for holding the press availability so late, saying, “I hope I’m not disrupting people’s dinner plans.”

Hungarian Foreign Ministry Argues, EU Rejects Any Mention of a Ceasefire in Ukraine

March 2, 2023 (EIRNS)—Speaking on March 1 on Kossuth Radio’s “Good Morning, Hungary,” Budapest’s Foreign Ministry Secretary of State responsible for bilateral relations Tamás Menczer expressed his shock that the European Union rejected the very idea of even mentioning the need for a ceasefire and negotiations to end the Ukraine conflict, in its statement on the first anniversary of the conflict. Sputnik today, quoted Menczer as having said: “Even knowing that Brussels represents the position of the ‘party of war,’ we were still shocked.... When we, the Hungarians, suggested that the documents on the occasion of the anniversary of the start ... contain calls for an immediate ceasefire and the start of talks, they were rejected in each case.” He went on to say that Brussels “not aloud, and sometimes even aloud, made it clear that the immediate cessation of the war is a red line, they do not accept this, because they think the war must be continued until Ukraine wins.”

By contrast, he said that Hungary supports peace talks and believes there can be no winner in the conflict, citing Prime Minister [Viktor Orbán](#)’s Feb. 27 address to Parliament. The Prime Minister had stressed: “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. This is why we are not supplying weapons, and why the Hungarian government remains on the side of peace. We want the war to end as soon as possible, because we believe that in this war no one can win. ... If this war continues, ever more people will die. If this war continues, hyperinflation and the threat of economic collapse will become permanent. If this war continues, no one in the world will be able to feel safe and the war could easily become a global one. ... The fighting can only be stopped by a ceasefire. Therefore a ceasefire is needed and peace negotiations must begin....”

Menczer further stressed that the purpose of the EU sanctions is to push Russian gas and oil out of Europe, allowing more expensive energy carriers to arrive on the continent. He pointed out that Hungary has rejected that approach and done everything to secure the country’s energy supplies for the future, citing Budapest’s negotiations with Egypt last week, reported the daily *Magyar Nemzet*.

Finally, Menczer asserted that even before war’s outbreak, Brussels showed no interest in the fate of Transcarpathian Hungarians in Ukraine, who are deprived of their rights, including the use of their mother tongue, and who are subjected to numerous punishments.

U.S. POLITICAL & ECONOMIC

House of Representatives Renews Commitment to Genocide in Syria

March 2, 2023 (EIRNS)—On Feb. 27, the House passed a resolution which calls for the Biden administration to remain committed to “implementing the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019,” a law that unilaterally imposed crippling sanctions on Syria, designed to prevent the country from rebuilding after 12 years of war. The vote was 412-2, with the only dissenting votes coming from Republicans Thomas Massie and Marjorie Taylor Greene, demonstrating once again that these two, frequently vilified by Democrats as demonic right-wingers, are actually more “progressive” than their opponents across the aisle. The Biden administration is

disingenuously claiming to have lifted “earthquake-related” sanctions, but the sanctions which remain have effectively blocked all earthquake relief.

NBC News Conduits Alternative Line to Media Narrative that Ukraine Can Take Crimea

March 2, 2023 (EIRNS)—The brawl within the U.S. government between those, such as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark Milley, arguing that a negotiated settlement will eventually have to be reached in Ukraine, and the British “defeat Russia at all costs” crew represented by the Victoria Nuland nutcases, is escalating. That is quite evident from the deployment of NBC News Senior International Correspondent Keir Simmons to Crimea on Feb. 28-March 1, to file reports which warn against the strategic danger of allowing Ukraine to try to take Crimea.

The Ukrainian government and its killer thugs responded hysterically to Simmons’s initial report, denouncing it for conveying the reality that inhabitants of Crimea are happy to be Russians, which they had voted overwhelming to rejoin just after the 2014 coup d’état.

But Kiev is not talking about NBC News Chief Foreign Correspondent Andrea Mitchell’s Feb. 28 follow-up interview with Simmons, which makes clear that U.S. government networks arranged for the NBC deployment.

Mitchell and Simmons argued that Ukraine’s commitment to taking Crimea appears unrealistic, not only because Crimeans oppose it. Simmons pointed to Russia’s naval base in Sevastopol, visible behind him, bristling with military might. Negotiations face the conundrum that Russia views this warm water base as so strategically important that Putin might be willing “to do anything” to defend it, while the Ukraine regime is determined that the Russian fleet must leave—“a very, very dangerous standoff,” Simmons added.

Mitchell raised Under Secretary of State Victoria Nuland’s insistence this week that Crimea has to be “at least demilitarized.” Simmons looked at

the base behind him, and replied, “I am wondering how on Earth is that going to happen.”

Should Ukrainian long-range missiles or F16s strike Crimea, that would be “a tripwire,” the two agreed. That is why this is the place that has National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan “really worried,” Simmons commented. Simmons cited Gen. Mark Milley’s warning that retaking Crimea would be very, very difficult, and made the case that if Ukraine attempts (again) to take out the Kerch Bridge connected the peninsula to the Russian mainland, it would be very costly for “Russian civilians,” because there would be no way for the civilians to escape. He reiterated: that’s why General Milley says this is very difficult.

Ukrainian Foreign Ministry spokesman Oleg Nikolenko denounced Simmons’s visit to Crimea March 1, threatening that Simmons could be “banned from entering Ukraine for such actions.” [Myrotvorets](#), which works tightly with the Ukrainian Security Service (SBU), had already placed Simmons on its kill list on Feb. 28, charging him, among other crimes, of participating “in propaganda activities of Russia (the aggressor country) against Ukraine” and “in attempts to legalize the occupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea by Russian invaders.” The [Center for Countering Disinformation](#) of President Zelenskyy’s National Security and Defense Council, followed with a March 2 Telegram post attacking NBC News and Simmons for “questionable” coverage of Crimean views. The CCD implies that NBC is a Russian propaganda outlet, because Simmons interviewed Putin in 2021 and because the head of NBC’s international department was born and educated in Russia.

Jackson Hinkle Added to Myrotvorets Kill List

March 2, 2023 (EIRNS)—“I’ve been added to the Ukrainian Government’s kill list,” popular independent journalist and speaker at the Feb. 19 “Rage against the War Machine” anti-war rally [Jackson Hinkle](#) tweeted yesterday. “This kill list is maintained by the Ukrainian Ministry of Interior, which ... has marked off murdered targets, such as Darya Dugina, as ‘liquidated.’ ”

Dugina's automobile was exploded as she was driving in Moscow, on Aug. 20, 2022.

Myrotvorets put Hinkle on the list on March 1, for the alleged crimes of “anti-Ukrainian propaganda; spreading Kremlin propaganda for profit. Justification and informational support of the open attack of fascist Russia on Ukraine.”

Myrotvorets has now added to all its entries the disingenuous statement that “the Peacemaker Center asks law enforcement agencies to consider this publication on the website as a statement about the commission by this citizen of deliberate acts against the national security of Ukraine, peace, the security of mankind and international law and order, as well as other offenses.”

Seymour Hersh Excoriates Unreality Factor in Biden's Proxy War Against Russia

March 2, 2023 (EIRNS)—In a March 1 article entitled “Does It Take a War?” published on his Substack site, veteran investigative reporter Seymour Hersh takes aim at the delusions guiding Joe Biden and his team in the prosecution of their proxy war against Russia at a time when antiwar sentiment is growing throughout the U.S., and was very visible over the Feb. 25-26 weekend with tens of thousands gathering in Berlin, Rome, Paris and many other European capitals and major cities.

Hersh points out that there was a parallel to this unreality factor during Jack Kennedy's Presidency in how the Vietnam War was prosecuted. He recalls the reports given him by historian David Herbert Donald, who met with Kennedy in early 1962 at an intimate White House gathering, and later told Hersh that had he found the young President's discussion of the Vietnam War “scary,” because of Kennedy's misconceptions about what it took to be a “great” President. “I came away feeling that this was a young man who doesn't understand history,” Donald told Hersh some years later.

That was borne out by Kennedy's approval of the expansion of the war and especially of the disastrous “strategic hamlet” program of forcibly

relocating peasants, which Hersh described as being marked by “ignorance and cruelty.” Hersh observed that the private meeting with Kennedy that Donald attended in the White House family quarters “was dramatic, but in terms of the reality of the war then underway, the two men could have been chatting in the captain’s quarters on the *Titanic* as the ship neared the ice flows.”

Hersh continued: “Our current President and his foreign policy team, in their unwillingness to seek an immediate ceasefire in the war between Vladimir Putin’s Russia and a NATO-backed Ukraine, could be on the same boat.” Look at the anti-war rallies that have occurred in the U.S. and various European capitals recently, he comments, noting that the Wagenknecht-Schwarzer “[Manifesto for Peace](#)” in Germany that calls on officials to halt the flow of weapons to Ukraine, gathered 650,000 signatures in two weeks. “The clock is ticking,” he concludes.

COLLAPSING WESTERN SYSTEM

British ‘Salad Crisis’ Food Shortage Going into Fourth Week

March 2, 2023 (EIRNS)—On Feb. 27, British supermarket chain Lidl GB followed market leader Tesco, as well as Asda, Morrisons, and Aldi in imposing consumer purchase limits on tomatoes, cucumbers, and peppers. That is not going to improve the situation in general, since the U.K. is faced with a shortage of fruit and vegetable supplies not only due to decreasing production by their sources in Spain and the Netherlands because of high energy costs throughout the EU, but also from a drop in production in Hertfordshire County and other domestic locations, as greenhouse capacities have shut down, likewise from high energy costs.

This takes Britain into its fourth week of empty supermarket shelves, with the Agriculture Ministry acknowledging that the shortages are not expected to improve for several weeks more. Apart from the absence of food items at the stores, drastically increasing prices is a shock to average consumers. Britain’s inflation rate was already at 17% year-on-year at the end of February.

Greek Train Wreck Sparks Profound Political Crisis

March 2, 2023 (EIRNS)—The horrendous Greek train crash late at night on Feb. 28 that has already confirmed 57 people dead, which number will rise as the search of wreckage continues, has created a profound political crisis with far-reaching consequences, as evidence of pervasive government negligence is being dramatically exposed.

Today transport workers demonstrated in Thessaloniki. In Athens, police used tear gas on a protest action in front of the railway headquarters. The railway unions went out on a 24-hour strike, before which they issued a statement on March 1, that they had already warned the government three weeks ago of the dangerous condition of the railways. The strike stopped all train traffic in the country. Athens Metro workers also struck in solidarity. “The disdain all governments through time have shown for Greek Railways resulted in the tragedy at Tempe. Unfortunately, our longstanding demands for hiring permanent personnel, better training and, above all, modern safety technology, always end up in the trash can,” a union statement charged. “The next day is a day of reflection and mourning for our unjustly perished colleagues.”

Meanwhile student groups demonstrated outside Hellenic Train headquarters, where protesters clashed with riot police, who used tear gas and stun grenades. Many of the passengers on the Athens to Thessaloniki trains were students, returning from Carnival celebrations.

It was also revealed that railway unions had sent official letters, by special couriers, to the relevant ministers, including the Transport Minister, already three weeks ago, which were ignored.

In an interview with the *Kathimerini* daily, Vassilis Zavogiannis, who represents the workers of Hellenic Train SA on the company board, revealed that the safety mechanism that could have prevented the crash was out of order. He spoke of a system that has been “disarmed.” “The fundamental problem on this particular line, between Athens and Thessaloniki, is that the remote-controlled operation and signalling systems—that is, the basic safety measures that protect trains from

accidents—do not work,” Zavogiannis said. “It took 45 whole minutes to locate which part of the route the train was on. It’s shocking.”

Hellenic Train SA is owned by the Italian national railway company, Ferrovie dello Stato Italiane, which bought it in 2017 when Greece was forced to privatize the railways.

“Essentially, on a line that is critical for the country, the part of safety and protection relies, in the year 2023, entirely on the human factor. Our trains operate like they did 30 years ago,” Zavogiannis said. “It is something workers’ unions have been shouting about since 2018.... Remote operation and signalling was an important part of the line’s upgrade that never went ahead.”

The Greek police have arrested the station master who was responsible for switching the passenger train onto the wrong track, thus causing it to crash into an oncoming freight train. Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, in his statement, used this fact to say the accident was caused by “human error.” Yet the station master was reportedly not been fully trained and was not qualified, on top of the fact that the signalling system he was operating was hopelessly inadequate to manage the rail network.

While the Athens-Thessaloniki rail bed had been almost fully rebuilt, the signalling system, necessary for running the rail system, was never finished. That was the result of not just criminal government negligence, but of austerity measures the government was forced to take, including reducing personnel and privatizing the railway companies. That was worsened by the Mitsotakis government’s obsession with buying billions in weapons in order to be NATO’s key military asset in the Eastern Mediterranean and turning Greece into a de facto U.S. military base. The same government is supplying weapons to Ukraine, which is unpopular among Greek citizens. General elections have to be held this year, most likely in the spring, so the government could very well resign. Hopefully a better government will be voted in.