



Inside Track

EU Report: ISIS Has Sent Up to 1,750 Terrorists to Europe

Gilles de Kerchove, the EU's counter-terrorism coordinator, said December 9 that between 1,500 and 1,750 Islamic fundamentalists who left Europe to fight alongside ISIS in Iraq and Syria in recent years have been sent back to Europe to carry out "specific missions."

A December 9 report in Britain's *Express* newspaper noted that an estimated 5,000 Islamic extremists traveled from Europe to Syria and Iraq to fight alongside ISIS, with about 15-20 percent of those being killed during fighting.

An estimated 30-35 percent of those who left Europe to fight with ISIS have been sent back to Europe with "specific missions" presumed to be terrorist in nature. Those remaining will stay in Syria and Iraq to fight.

Britain's *Express* and *Sun* quoted from the EU report: "There are largely two categories of returnees: those in the majority who will drift back and those who will be sent back on specific missions, which are of most concern."

The *Express* cited a statement de Kerchove made earlier in December in which he said that it is impossible to know for sure how many Islamic militants were already in Europe.

The EU official, who is a lawyer from Belgium, said, "We have to be prepared because some of them will come to Europe. They may try to come back home and we don't want to repeat the mistake we made in the late 80s when the Russians left Afghanistan and we left these mujahideen in the wild."

De Kerchove added: "The physical caliphate ... is collapsing but we still have the virtual caliphate and this allows the organization to direct attacks." "So far the terrorist organizations have not used the Internet as a weapon, to mount an attack through the Internet," he continued, indicating such possible ISIS targets as nuclear power stations, dams, electricity grids, or even air traffic control systems.

De Kerchove continued, "It has not happened so far ... but I don't exclude that before five years we will be confronted by this."

Top Experts Expose Climate Scam at Freedom Confab

Various prestigious scientists and a wide range of experts in various disciplines converged at the Buttes resort in Phoenix, Arizona, December 2-4 for a hard-hitting conference, under the banner of "Global Warming: An Inconvenient Lie," organized by longtime liberty movement leader G. Edward Griffin and his pro-liberty organization, Freedom Force International. Attendees and speakers came from across America, Canada, and Europe to learn and participate in the event.

The first official speaker at the event, Princeton physics Professor William Happer, began his presentation by demolishing the pseudo-science underpinning climate hysteria. Also speaking at the summit was Dr. Tim Ball, a prominent climatologist and retired professor from the University of Winnipeg in Canada. Among other evidence, he showed reconstructed temperature records going back thousands of years showing that the Earth has been far warmer in the past than it is today.

The keynote speaker for the event was Lord Christopher Monckton, the internationally known climate



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realist and former science advisor to U.K. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Lord Monckton's presentation began by outlining a series of "red flags" in the man-made global-warming theory and the alarmism surrounding it. Using a wide variety of graphs and charts focusing on everything from temperatures and trends to storms and global sea levels, Monckton showed that the United Nations is wrong about practically everything when it comes to climate change.

Also speaking at the conference were a number of activists, researchers, experts, and leaders covering a wide array of fields and disciplines. Radio host and Montana activist Dan Hoppel, a former elected official in his state, showed how the climate alarmism and the UN's sustainability schemes such as Agenda 21 were being used to promote tyranny at the national and international level.

Taken together, the presentations completely demolished the climate alarmism and the anti-freedom agenda pushed by the UN, the Obama administration, and other forces. In short, the climate fraud has been exposed. All that is left is to make the rest of humanity aware of the facts.

Boomers Are Retiring, Draining Pension Plans

In a moment of surprising candor, Danielle DiMartino Booth, a former advisor to the Federal Reserve, said in a Real Vision TV interview on December 10 that "the Baby Boomers are no longer an actuarial theory. They're a reality. The checks [from their retirement plans] are being written."

For years, commentators have repeatedly asserted that "when" the Baby Boomers (those born between 1946 and 1964) start to retire, they will start using up funds set aside in pension plans, putting those plans into crisis. According to Booth, that day has arrived.

She pointed to the crisis in Dallas that threatens to put the city into bankruptcy, and the report from Calpers (the California Public Employees Retirement System), which noted that it earned less than one percent last year, compared to its long-term target of 7.5 percent.

She said the "endgame" could evoke memories of the Winter of Discontent in London in 1979 or the more recent riots in Athens. They were provoked by cutbacks in paychecks and essential services as the governments struggled with too many promises made and too little money to keep them.

According to Rasmussen Reports and other polling agencies, younger workers can see what's coming: "Only 35% of voters under 40 still consider Social Security a good deal for working Americans." And that figure is nearly two years old.

It was Boston University Professor Laurence Kotlikoff who first exposed the "funny accounting" that has led so many, including Moody's, to vastly understate the real shortfall. Kotlikoff says that it's an "economics labeling problem" that has led to gross understatements of the liability overhang. The professor instead uses "generational accounting" — estimating what one generation will be forced to pay for another generation's promises. The "fiscal gap," according to Kotlikoff, isn't the usually reported \$20 trillion, it's closer to \$200 trillion.

There is at least one positive: Young people are recognizing reality. They are learning that they will need to make independent financial decisions without factoring in promises that won't be kept.

U.S. Steel Likely to Bring Jobs Back to the United States

In an interview with CNBC on December 7, U.S. Steel's CEO Mario Longhi said he'd like to bring back



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up to 10,000 jobs to the United States.

His company used to employ 37,000 people, but that dropped to just 21,000 as of last December, thanks not only to the Great Recession and its almost immeasurably small recovery but also due to excessive regulations. “There was a point in time in the past couple of years that I was having to hire more lawyers to try to interpret these new regulations than I was hiring engineers. That doesn’t make any sense,” he said.

Investors in the company’s common stock perceived the opportunity for significant growth long before Longhi’s December 7 interview: Since the 2016 election, U.S. Steel’s common stock has jumped 80 percent.

Longhi is not alone in seeing the potential as the country’s enormous economic engine might be unleashed if Trump implements his promises. The day before Longhi’s interview, SoftBank’s founder, Masayoshi Son, pledged to invest \$50 billion in the United States, which he said would create 50,000 jobs. That same day, AT&T’s chief executive, Randall Stephenson, confirmed the same optimism: “If we achieve any kind of meaningful corporate tax reform I am quite convinced that it is going to change this trajectory in terms of capital investment. I can’t remember the last time [we] did an upside sensitivity in [our] business plan, but we are doing an upside sensitivity plan now.”

Before his inauguration, Trump was making his presence felt. He persuaded top Ford Motor officials to keep an Indianapolis manufacturing plant from being moved to Mexico, and helped Carrier to see the advantages of keeping one of its plants from moving there as well.

Although freedom is more important than prosperity, it’s nice to note how well they work together. If Trump keeps his promises, more and more companies are likely to be making “upside sensitivity plans” to take advantage of them.



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