

# Newsbytes

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“Let us be alert to the season in which we are living. It is the season of the Blessed Hope, calling for us to cut our ties with the world and build ourselves on this One who will soon appear. He is our hope—a Blessed Hope enabling us to rise above our times and fix our gaze upon Him.” Tozer

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## The Muslim prayer at Rome's Coliseum was a declaration of war

That mass prayer means that it is not possible to turn Muslims into liberal secularists. Quite the contrary.

by Giulio Meotti, 25/10/16

Something dramatic happened last Friday in Rome and slowly, slowly we are starting to decipher it. A vast, silent mass of hundreds of Muslim faithful gathered to pray in front of Rome's Coliseum.

They chose a symbol of Western culture and did so under the wise guidance of political Imams. This was not an Islam respectful of the secular and democratic nature of Italian institutions. It was the political branch of an Islam that does not separate state and mosque, the Muslim Brotherhood, whose slogan has never changed since the time of Hassan al-Banna: “Allah is our goal, the Prophet our leader, the Koran our law, the jihad our way, dying for the way of Allah is our greatest hope”.

That spectacular Islamic mass was like a refusal of the illusion of a cultural “peace” slowly being strangled and punctuated with Koranic invocations. Something similar had already happened in front of Milan's main cathedral and Bologna's church of San Petronio, the target of Islamic fundamentalism because of a fresco by Giovanni da Modena that depicts Mohammed among the damned, in accordance with Dante's Divine Comedy.

Islamists aim at a pedagogy that is not afraid of using words based on strength honor, faith and war. That mass prayer means that it is not possible to turn Muslims into liberal secularists. That Muslims could be assimilated to a secular environment.

Rome's prayer was part of the acculturation of Europe's Muslims, understood as “dar al shaada,” a land of religious mission by Islamist organizations. The purpose of prayer was to advance loyalty to the Prophet. It was pure Islamic, their concept of “the solution”.

We lack the will and fear abounds.

Rome's prayer was not a “peaceful” rally, although there was no violence. It was not a manifestation of freedom of conscience, it was not the modern exercise of religious freedom. It was a declaration of cultural war, the deadly encirclement of Western secularism.

Lee Harris said a most important thing: “The glory of the West has been the eradication of the virus of

fanaticism, but perhaps we have achieved it at the price of our defeat.”

The well-known preacher Yussuf al Qaradawi said that the day will come when Rome will be Islamized. It remains to decide whether it will “by the word or by the sword”. Last Friday’s prayer it was by the word, while ISIS released videos in which the Coliseum is burned and bombed.

The American philosopher Lee Harris said a most important thing: The glory of the West has been the eradication of the virus of fanaticism, but perhaps we have achieved it at the price of our defeat.

The multicultural paradox, of which Rome’s mass prayer was another manifestation, looks like this: We are afraid of each other and we try to flatter, we do not know ourselves so we don’t see our enemy’s goals.

The mass prayer in front of the Coliseum is a way of saying, “we are radically different and we say this in front of your historical nationalist monument”. But is there someone who hears them?

The writer, an Italian journalist with Il Foglio, writes a twice-weekly column for Arutz Sheva

## Russia puts 130 military centers on high alert – U.S. strategic bombers arrive in the Pacific in record numbers

by Utopia: the Collapse

October 2016 – RUSSIA / WEST - Britain is sending tanks, drones and 800 troops to Estonia as part of the biggest military build-up on Russia's borders since the Cold War. The soldiers will be sent to the Eastern European country and will be joined by forces from Denmark and France, according to Defense Secretary Michael Fallon. It comes a day after Russia unveiled chilling pictures of its largest ever nuclear missile - Satan 2 - which is capable of obliterating the UK.

Yesterday, Putin also reportedly launched an RS-18 ballistic missile, understood to be a test to see if it could defeat US defense systems. And today, 130 military centers were put on high alert in Russia and six surrounding countries for drills on the region's ability to respond to attacks from the West. The United States hopes for binding commitments from Europe to fill four battle groups of some 4,000 troops, part of NATO's response to Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea and concern it could try a similar tactic in Europe's ex-Soviet states. –Daily Mail

Russian strategic missile troops reportedly launched an RS-18 ballistic missile on Tuesday. The launch may have been a test of the advanced hypersonic glider warhead, which would be able to defeat US anti-missile systems. The test was conducted at midday from a site near the town of Yasny, Orenburg region, in the southern Urals, and the warhead reached the Kura test range in Kamchatka in Russia’s Far East. “The test was a success. The warhead was delivered to Kura field,” the Defense Ministry reported.

Popular defense blog MilitaryRussia.ru says the launch was meant to test Russia’s hypersonic glider warhead, currently known by its developer designation, ‘object 4202’, or Aeroballistic Hypersonic Warhead. A select few countries are currently developing the technology. The US has the HTV-2, a device developed by DARPA that has two partially successful tests under its belt. The Chinese warhead using the same technology is called DF-ZF, with Beijing first confirming a test in 2014. India is also studying hypersonic flight technology, but unlike Russia, the US and China, it is reportedly not developing a strategic missile warhead.

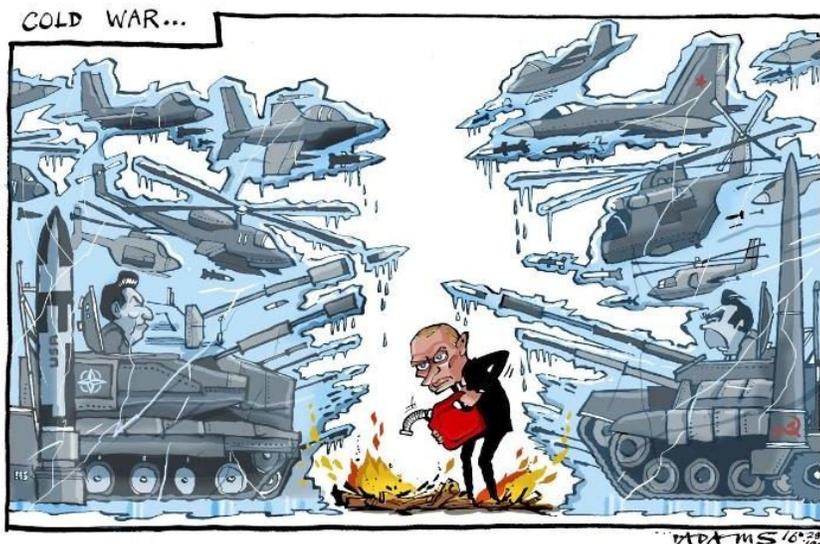
A hypersonic glider vehicle (HGV) is different from a conventional ballistic missile warhead in that it travels most of the time in the stratosphere rather than in space. It gives an HGV-tipped missile greater range and may give anti-missile systems a shorter window to respond to an attack. More importantly, an HGV can maneuver during the approach to a target at high speed, making interception significantly harder, because it makes guiding an interceptor missile towards the attacking vehicle challenging and potentially impossible with current rocket technology. –RT

Last Friday in this remote US military outpost on Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean (see image below), a US military private contractor who cycles through every nine days working on the island for ongoing maintenance of military hardware reported an enormous, unprecedented buildup of US Air Force bombers - both B-1's and B-2's. Some were painted flat black. On a related note, this past week the US Air Force was caught dressing up its warplanes disguised as Russian aircraft that would likely be used in false flag operations to blame Russia for aggression it didn't commit. The civilian contractor on Diego Garcia stated that far more activity was witnessed than any time prior in the 9 years he's been on the job there. He reports that under the tightest security the government has blocked off access roads and that so many warplanes have been assembled on the island that aircraft are now being parked on blocked off roads.

A count of over a dozen refueling tankers were sighted and flights were taking off on the average of every 15 minutes. He also observes the tent city that sprang up includes temporary barracks and hangars for both US Air Force and Navy personnel. His ex-Air Force coworker speculated that the ultra-tight security and sudden influx of so much activity is characteristic of top secret nuclear weapons movement. Speaking of which, the eyewitness also noticed that 6-8 US Navy vessels were offshore and the island docks were busily unloading countless pallets of bombs. Obviously sneaky Obama is up to something very big against his targeted cold war enemies potentially including nuclear powered Russia and China. –Pravda

## Britain to send hundreds more troops to Russia border as Cold War tension escalates across Europe

27 OCTOBER 2016 • 4:45PM



Britain will send hundreds more troops close to Russia's border, the Government has said, as the Prime Minister also called for "pressure" on Moscow over the Syria crisis.

Around 800 soldiers along with tanks, armoured vehicles and drones will now head to Estonia in the spring in a Nato effort to reassure the Baltic states over Russian aggression.

The boosted mission, up from 500 announced earlier this year, will be Britain's largest long-term deployment to one of Russia's neighbours since the end of the Cold War.

Defence sources said the six-month deployment to Tapa army base, around 100 miles from the border, was the start of a persistent UK presence in the country.

The British troops will form one of four Nato battalions being deployed in response to a perceived threat from Russia to the alliance's eastern allies.

The announcement came as Russia abandoned plans to refuel and provision warships headed for the war in Syria at a Spanish port following international pressure on Madrid.

Russia's embassy in Spain said on Wednesday that vessels from a squadron led by the Admiral Kuznetsov, Russia's only aircraft carrier, would not stop as planned for refuelling in Ceuta, a Spanish port on the North African coast.

"The Russian Embassy in Madrid has just informed us that it is withdrawing the request for permission for stopovers for these ships and these stopovers have therefore been cancelled," the Spanish Foreign Ministry said.

The Russian defence ministry denied ever planning to stop at Ceuta and said the carrier group carried sufficient fuel and supplies to operate "autonomously" through out their mission.

"The Russian ministry of defence never sent any such requests to Spain about the aircraft carrier Admiral Kuznetsov visiting Ceuta for refuelling," said Maj Gen Igor Konashenkov, a military spokesman.

Eight ships from Russia's northern fleet, including the Admiral Kuznetsov and the Peter the Great, a missile-carrying battle cruiser, passed through the English Channel en route to Syria last week.

The group is expected to join a flotilla operating off the coast of Syria, where the Kuznetsov's MiG-29k and SU-33 fighters may be used to take part in bombing raids over Aleppo.

Theresa May said "What we have seen, sadly, is that the Russians are already able to unleash attacks on innocent civilians in Syria.

"What matters is that we put pressure on Russia to do what everybody agrees is the only way that we are going to resolve this issue, which is to ensure that we have a political transition in Syria, and that's where we should focus our attention."

Sir Michael Fallon, the Defence Secretary, said the battle to liberate the Syrian city of Raqqa, the capital of Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant's so-called caliphate, will begin within weeks.

Meanwhile, concerns were growing about the apparent deployment of two powerful Russian missile corvettes to the Baltic.

The Zeleny Dol and the Serpukhov, which carry long-range nuclear-capable Kalibr cruise missiles, are to join Russia's Baltic fleet in Kaliningrad, Izvestia, a pro-government broadsheet, reported.

The Buyan-M class corvettes pose "a much more serious threat to Nato than an aircraft carrier," said Alexander Mozgovoi, the editor of National Defence, a Russian military journal.

"They are not big and expensive, but they pack a serious punch. From the southern Baltic they could hit London. In fact their Kalibr missiles can cover most of Europe from there," he said.

# Turkey's New Maps Are Reclaiming the Ottoman Empire

Erdogan's aggressive nationalism is now spilling over Turkey's borders, grabbing land in Greece and Iraq.  
BY NICK DANFORTH OCTOBER 23, 2016

In the past few weeks, a conflict between Ankara and Baghdad over Turkey's role in the liberation of Mosul has precipitated an alarming burst of Turkish irredentism. On two separate occasions, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan criticized the Treaty of Lausanne, which created the borders of modern Turkey, for leaving the country too small. He spoke of the country's interest in the fate of Turkish minorities living beyond these borders, as well as its historic claims to the Iraqi city of Mosul, near which Turkey has a small military base. And, alongside news of Turkish jets bombing Kurdish forces in Syria and engaging in mock dogfights with Greek planes over the Aegean Sea, Turkey's pro-government media have shown a newfound interest in a series of imprecise, even crudely drawn, maps of Turkey with new and improved borders.

Turkey won't be annexing part of Iraq anytime soon, but this combination of irredentist cartography and rhetoric nonetheless offers some insight into Turkey's current foreign and domestic policies and Ankara's self-image. The maps, in particular, reveal the continued relevance of Turkish nationalism, a long-standing element of the country's statecraft, now reinvigorated with some revised history and an added dose of religion. But if the past is any indication, the military interventions and confrontational rhetoric this nationalism inspires may worsen Turkey's security and regional standing.

At first glance, the maps of Turkey appearing on Turkish TV recently resemble similar irredentist maps put out by proponents of greater Greece, greater Macedonia, greater Bulgaria, greater Armenia, greater Azerbaijan, and greater Syria. That is to say, they aren't maps of the Ottoman Empire, which was substantially larger, or the entire Muslim world or the Turkic world. They are maps of Turkey, just a little bigger.

But the specific history behind the borders they envision provides the first indication of what's new and what isn't about Erdogan's brand of nationalism. These maps purport to show the borders laid out in Turkey's National Pact, a document Erdogan recently suggested the prime minister of Iraq should read to understand his country's interest in Mosul. Signed in 1920, after the Ottoman Empire's defeat in World War I, the National Pact identified those parts of the empire that the government was prepared to fight for. Specifically, it claimed those territories that were still held by the Ottoman army in October 1918 when Constantinople signed an armistice with the allied powers. On Turkey's southern border, this line ran from north of Aleppo in what is now Syria to Kirkuk in what is now Iraq.

When the allies made it clear they planned to leave the empire with a lot less than it held in 1918, it led to renewed fighting in which troops under Mustafa Kemal Ataturk defeated European forces to establish Turkey as it exists today. For the better part of the past century, Turkey's official history lauded Ataturk for essentially realizing the borders envisioned by the National Pact (minus Mosul, of course), as recognized with the Treaty of Lausanne. It was an exaggerated claim, given the parts of the pact that were left out, but also an eminently practical one, intended to prevent a new and precarious Turkish republic from losing what it had achieved in pursuit of unrealistic territorial ambitions. Indeed, while countries like Germany, Italy, Bulgaria, and Hungary brought disaster on themselves by trying to forcibly rewrite their postwar borders, Turkey — under Ataturk and his successor — wisely resisted this urge.

Erdogan, by contrast, has given voice to an alternative narrative in which Ataturk's willingness in the Treaty of Lausanne to abandon territories such as Mosul and the now-Greek islands in the Aegean was not an act of eminent pragmatism but rather a betrayal. The suggestion, against all evidence, is that better statesmen, or perhaps a more patriotic one, could have gotten more.

Among other things, Erdogan's reinterpretation of history shows the ironies behind the widespread talk in the United States of his supposed "neo-Ottomanism." A decade ago, Erdogan's enthusiasm for all things Ottoman appeared to be part of an effective strategy for improving relations with the Muslim Middle East, a policy that some U.S. critics saw as a challenge to their country's role in the region. But refashioning the National Pact as a justification for irredentism rather than a rebuke of it has not been popular among Turkey's neighbors. Criticism of Erdogan's neo-Ottoman foreign policy is now as likely to come from the Arab world as anywhere

else. Criticism of Erdogan's neo-Ottoman foreign policy is now as likely to come from the Arab world as anywhere else.

Erdogan's use of the National Pact also demonstrates how successfully Turkey's Islamists have reappropriated, rather than rejected, elements of the country's secular nationalist historical narrative. Government rhetoric has been quick to invoke the heroism of Turkey's war of independence in describing the popular resistance to the country's July 15 coup attempt. And alongside the Ottomans, Erdogan routinely references the Seljuks, a Turkic group that preceded the Ottomans in the Middle East by several centuries, and even found a place for more obscure pre-Islamic Turkic peoples like the Gokturks, Avars, and Karakhanids that first gained fame in Ataturk's 1930s propaganda.

Similarly, in Syria and Iraq, Erdogan is aiming to achieve a long-standing national goal, the defeat of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), by building on the traditional nationalist tools of Turkish foreign policy — namely, the leveraging of Turkish minorities in neighboring countries. The Sultan Murad Brigade, comprising predominantly ethnic Turkmens, has been one of Ankara's military assets inside Syria against both Bashar al-Assad's regime and the PKK. Meanwhile, the Turkmen population living around Mosul and its surrounding area has been a concern and an asset for Ankara in Iraq. Turkish special forces have worked with the Iraqi Turkmen Front since at least 2003 in order to expand Turkish influence and counter the PKK in northern Iraq.

Over the past century, the Turkish minorities in northern Greece and Cyprus have played a similar role. That is, their well-being has been a subject of genuine concern for Turkish nationalists but also a potential point of leverage with Athens to be used as needed. (Greece, of course, has behaved similarly with regard to the Greek minority in Turkey. Not surprisingly, both populations have often suffered reciprocally as a result.) In the case of Cyprus, for example, Turkey's 1974 invasion was as much about defending its strategic position as it was about protecting the island's Turkish community. Following his statements about Lausanne, Erdogan further upset Greece by stating, "Turkey cannot disregard its kinsmen in Western Thrace, Cyprus, Crimea, and anywhere else." Yet Athens might take comfort from the case of the Crimean Tatars, which reveals the extent to which geopolitics can lead Turkey to do just this: Although Ankara raised concerns over the status of the Crimean Tatars after Russia seized the peninsula, it seems to have subsequently concluded that improved relations with Moscow take precedence over ethnic affinities.

But Erdogan has also emphasized a new element to Turkey's communitarian foreign-policy agenda: Sunni sectarianism. In speaking about Mosul, he recently declared that Turkey would not betray its "Turkmen brothers" or its "Sunni Arab brothers." Like secular Turkish nationalism, this strain of Sunni sectarianism has an undeniable domestic appeal, and Erdogan has shown it can also be invoked selectively in keeping with Turkey's foreign-policy needs. Erdogan's new sectarianism is evident in Mosul, where Turkey has warned of the risks to Sunnis should Shiite militias take control of the city. But the policy's influence is clearest in Syria, where Turkey has been supporting Sunni rebels aiming to topple the Assad regime (including those now struggling to hold the city of Aleppo). In both Iraq and Syria, however, Turkey's sectarianism has not been allowed to trump pragmatism. Ankara has been keen to maintain a mutually beneficial economic relationship with Iran despite backing opposite sides in Syria and in the past year has also expressed its willingness to make peace with Assad if circumstances require it.

More broadly, Turkey's current interventionism in Syria and Iraq fits within an established pattern. Turkey's current interventionism in Syria and Iraq fits within an established pattern. Not only do countries regularly find themselves sucked into civil wars on their doorstep, but the points at which Turkey has proved susceptible to irredentism in the past have all come at moments of change and uncertainty similar to what the Middle East is experiencing today. In 1939, Ankara annexed the province of Hatay, then under French control, by taking advantage of the crisis in Europe on the eve of World War II. Then, after that war, Syria's newfound independence prompted some in the Turkish media to cast a glance at Aleppo, and the transfer of the Dodecanese Islands from Italy to Greece also piqued some interest in acquiring them for Turkey. Similarly, Ankara paid little attention to Cyprus when it was firmly under British control, but when talk of the island's independence began, Turkey started to show its concern. Subsequently, it was only when it appeared Greece might annex the island that Turkey invaded to prevent this change in the status quo. In this light, Turkey's recent rhetoric is perhaps less surprising following several years in which events and commentators have repeatedly suggested that the entire political order of the modern Middle East is crumbling.

More specifically, though, Turkish policy in the Middle East is driven by an urgent concern stemming from its conflict with the PKK, which has been exacerbated by the group's gains in northern Syria. The PKK has long shaped Turkey's relations with its southeastern neighbors. Most notably, Turkey nearly invaded Syria in 1998 in an ultimately successful effort to force Damascus to stop sheltering the group's leader. Similarly, Turkey has kept military forces in the area of Mosul for the better part of two decades, in order to conduct operations against the PKK. Ankara has always portrayed this intervention, with little controversy in Turkey, as a matter of national security and self-defense. Today, self-defense remains Turkey's main justification for its activities in Iraq, with Erdogan repeatedly emphasizing that the presence of Turkish forces there "acts as insurance against terrorist attacks targeting Turkey." As long as the PKK maintains an open presence in Iraq, this is also the most compelling justification, domestically and internationally, for military involvement beyond its borders.

Indeed, to all the specific ethnic, sectarian, and historical rationales he has offered for Turkey's interest in Mosul, Erdogan has been quick to attach one additional argument: The United States and Russia continue to play an outsized role in the region despite lacking any of these connections to it. Erdogan noted that some countries were telling Turkey, which shares a 220-mile border with Iraq, to stay out. Yet, despite not having history in the region or connection to it, these same countries were "coming and going." "Did Saddam [Hussein] tell the United States to come to Iraq 14 years ago?" he added.

Behind the history, in other words, Ankara is all too aware of the fact that the power to do so remains the only rationale for foreign intervention that matters. In this regard, the legitimacy of Turkey's plans for Mosul remains to be seen.

## Judge reaffirms nationwide ban on Obama transgender school bathroom policy

WICHITA FALLS, Texas, October 19, 2016 (LifeSiteNews) — A federal judge has stopped President Obama's policy forcing public schools to allow boys in the girls' locker room.

U.S. District Court Judge Reed O'Connor rejected the Obama administration's request to lift an injunction against enforcement of the transgender bathroom policy put forth by the Department of Education.

In response to 13 state attorney generals, Judge O'Connor issued the nationwide injunction in August. The Justice Department requested the injunction at least be limited to the 13 objecting states, but O'Connor ruled late Tuesday against the Obama administration.

"It is clear from Supreme Court and Fifth Circuit precedent that this Court has the power to issue a nationwide injunction where appropriate. Both Title IX and Title VII rely on the consistent, uniform application of national standards in education and workplace policy," O'Connor, a George W. Bush appointee, ruled. "A geographically-limited injunction would be ineffective."

The Justice Department vowed to appeal to the Fifth Circuit Court in New Orleans if it did not prevail.

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, representing one of the 13 states objecting to transgender school showers, praised Judge O'Connor's decision. "The court's reaffirmation of a nationwide injunction should send a clear message to the president that Texas won't sit idly by as he continues to ignore the Constitution," Paxton wrote in a statement. "The president cannot rewrite the laws enacted by the elected representatives of the people and then threaten to take away funding from schools to force them to fall in line."

"We are ecstatic that Obama's massive executive overreach has been stopped, at least temporarily," Peter LaBarbera, president of Americans for Truth about Homosexuality, told LifeSiteNews. "Barack Obama clearly overstepped his authority as president by trying to push his gender confusion agenda nationwide through public schools."

"We can only hope that sanity will be restored to America by this coming election," LaBarbera added, "and that the schools will return to their proper role of educating kids on reading, writing, math, and science."

The issue of transgender use of opposite sex intimate facilities has created contrary opinions from the nation's courts. The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in Virginia ruled the Obama transgender school mandate was constitutional and issued an injunction allowing Caitlyn Grimm, a transgender girl who changed her name to Gavin, to use the boys' facilities. The U.S. Supreme Court temporarily stayed that injunction.

## Italy earthquakes leave 15,000 homeless, 'soul of the country' damaged

by The Extinction Protocol

October 2016 – ITALY - Italian authorities said on Monday they were taking care of more than 15,000 people left homeless by the country's most powerful earthquake in nearly 40 years. Although Sunday's 6.6-magnitude tremor did not result in any deaths, the third powerful quake in just over two months has left thousands of homes in ruins or structurally unsafe and emptied a string of villages and small towns across the country's mountainous central regions. The majority of residents of the devastated villages and towns have taken refuge with friends and family as they anxiously await a green light to return to their homes.

But the national civil protection agency said on Monday it was providing assistance to 15,000 people affected by Sunday's quake, which was so powerful it caused cracks in buildings in Rome, some 120 kilometers (75 miles) away from the epicenter near the Umbrian town of Norcia. Some 4,000 people from the worst-hit area around Norcia have been sent to hotels on the Adriatic coast with another 500 taken by bus to the inland Lake Trasimeno. More than 10,000 are being put up in converted sports halls and other temporary facilities, including tents, across Umbria and the neighboring Marche region, the protection agency said.

A further 1,100 people are still in Adriatic coast hotels as a result of the August 24th Amatrice earthquake, which left nearly 300 dead. Given the strength of Sunday's new quake, experts said it was remarkable that it had not resulted in any more fatalities. With many roads blocked by landslips or huge boulders dislodged by the quake, civil protection chief Fabrizio Curcio and reconstruction supremo Vasco Errani were surveying the damage by helicopter. Prime Minister Matteo Renzi has vowed that every damaged house will be rebuilt and that communities he described as part of "the soul of the country" would not be abandoned. But after the trauma of three major quakes in such quick succession, the future of the already sparsely populated affected areas looks bleak.

"At the moment I don't see any possible future," evacuated Norcia resident Antonella Ridolfi told AFP. "Everything here will have to be rebuilt. There is nothing really solid left in the center. We have always bounced back after other earthquakes but we've never had to deal with one as strong as this." – The Local