

# 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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***We called this one many months ago...keep an eye on Macron and his EU Federalists. He's definitely up to something...***

Macron's attack on May over Brexit was all part of his bid to become the big man of Europe

HENRY SAMUEL



Leading Brexiteers are bristling with outrage at Emmanuel Macron's extraordinary break from diplomatic protocol by branding them liars who had misled the British people.

Some have accused the French president of trying to distract from his own domestic woes.

“Is it an attempt to distract attention from the French senate interviewing his former bodyguard yesterday? It is not unknown for politicians to make outlandish claims to cover up a more interesting story,” said

Jacob Rees-Mogg.

He was referring to the biggest domestic scandal of the Macron presidency after his ex-security chief was filmed beating people on the edge of a demonstration illegally dressed as a police officer. It emerged that the president's office had been informed of the misconduct at the time but had not reported it to police.

Convincing as that argument may sound given that Mr Macron's approval ratings are at an all-time low, it is plain wrong.

The brutal truth is that the French care very little about Brexit and talk about it even less. It is almost totally absent from national political debate and sovereignists have failed to make political capital out of it. Indeed, the whole EU Chequers spat barely made a ripple in French national news today, except to say that it was clearly part of a 27-state strategy to exert “maximum pressure” on the May government ahead of the Tory Party conference. As for Mr Macron's acrimonious remarks, they were mostly ignored.

To be fair to the French president, the essence of what he said on Thursday has not changed a jot since

before his 2017 election.

"Those who were responsible for Brexit, who said everything is possible and will be wonderful, have all scarpered. They've gone into hiding...Other Conservatives are going to have to deal with it and by the way we're going to have to be incredibly tough with them." Mr Macron made this stark assessment back in March 2017 during his first televised presidential campaign debate. He said it again during a debate on Europe in March.

More interesting is the brutal timing, twisting the knife just as Theresa May was being humiliated in Salzburg. Rather than a smokescreen for domestic woes, this has a lot more to do with Mr Macron's drive to re-align the EU political landscape into a binary fight between "pro and anti-Europeans", "progressives and nationalists" ahead of next May's EU parliamentary elections.

Hungary's Viktor Orban and Italy's Matteo Salvini have branded Mr Macron the champion of supranational, globalised and rootless liberalism that is lax on immigration. "If they see me as their main opponent, they're right," he has replied.

"On the international stage, Macron likes to come across as the cool leader who can say it as is. The message is that Eurosceptics and nationalists are not the only ones who can be blunt and uninhibited," said Thomas Legrand, political commentator on France Inter.

"He doesn't want it to boil down to on the one hand straight-laced, clipped pro-Europeans like (EU Brexit negotiator) Michel Barnier and on the other loudmouthed populists like Orban, Salvini - and Farage and Johnson in the UK. He is saying that even reasonable liberals can play that game."

Some would argue that this is a high-stakes strategy as seeking to create a two-way face-off between "progressives and nationalists" helps inflate the latter.

It is a gamble Mr Macron is clearly willing to take.

***Now, if this next one doesn't scare you just a bit, you're not paying close enough attention:***

## Marine Le Pen ordered to undergo psychiatric tests for tweeting images of Isil atrocities

French "far-right" leader Marine Le Pen was stripped of her parliamentary immunity and then charged in March with "distributing violent images"

French far-Right leader Marine Le Pen has refused to undergo court-ordered psychiatric evaluation for tweeting photos of Isil atrocities, angrily comparing the demand to methods used by totalitarian regimes.

Ms Le Pen was stripped of her parliamentary immunity and then charged in March with "distributing violent images" for tweeting three gruesome pictures showing killings by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (Isil).

On Thursday she tweeted copies of a court document ordering her to undergo the evaluation before the case goes to trial, at which she faces the possibility of up to three years in prison and a fine of €75,000 (£66,000)

"I thought I had seen it all, but no! For denouncing the horrors of Daesh in tweets, the 'justice system' is putting me through psychiatric tests! Just how far will they go?" she said in another tweet, using the Arabic acronym for Isil.

"This regime is really starting to be frightening," she wrote in a further post, suggesting that the case was part of a government plot to discredit her.

Later the leader of the National Rally (formerly the Front National), who lost to the centrist Emmanuel Macron in last year's presidential election, spoke to journalists in the corridors of the National Assembly to say she would not attend any evaluation.

"I'm waiting to see how the magistrates plan to force me to do it," said Ms Le Pen.

The court order was dated 11 September and requested that the tests be carried out as soon as possible to determine whether the 50-year-old "is capable of understanding remarks and answering questions."

Ms Le Pen also argued that obligatory psychiatric evaluation was usually reserved for sex offenders and paedophiles.

The images that she tweeted in December 2015, with the caption "This is Daesh [the Arabic acronym for Isil]," included a picture of the beheaded US journalist, James Foley, a man on fire in a cage, and a tank driving over another victim.

At the time, Mr Foley's parents accused Ms Le Pen of using their son's "shamefully uncensored" image for political gain.

Ms Le Pen later deleted the photograph from her account and claimed she did not know it showed Mr Foley when she tweeted it. She said she removed it immediately after his family complained.

Mr Foley, a freelance reporter, was abducted in Syria in 2012 and beheaded in August 2014.

Ms Le Pen had shared the images in response to a French journalist who drew a comparison between Isil and her anti-immigrant, anti-Islam, eurosceptic party.

## Macron Vows Punishment for States Refusing Third World Migration

Breitbart

Emmanuel Macron has said funding should be withdrawn from pro-sovereignty nations reluctant to hand more power over to Brussels, and that countries which refuse to welcome third world migrants must be thrown out of the Schengen area.

"Europe is not a menu à la carte, it's a political project," the French president declared, speaking at the end of an EU mini-summit on migration in Salzburg Thursday evening.

At a press conference following the meeting of European leaders, Macron acknowledged there was "a crisis and tensions" over the topic but, crying out, "Who generates them?" the former investment banker launched a broadside at nations which reject asylum seekers and those which "refuse to let boats dock on its ports".

Taking aim at the ex-communist Visegrad states, which are reluctant to follow the West down the road of

globalist multiculturalism, he lashed out at “the leaders who tell me... ‘[I] love Europe when it gives me money, when it makes my people prosperous, when it allows my workers to make better a living in neighbouring countries,’ but at home, will not take a single migrant, not a single refugee.”

“Countries that do not want more Frontex or solidarity [in housing and feeding third world migrants] will leave Schengen. Countries that don’t want more Europe will no longer [get access to] structural funds,” he told journalists.

Turning the topic to EU Parliament elections, the banking protégé said next year’s vote would be “an historic fight [and] an election like no other”, as it would determine whether “the political project led by the founding fathers [of the union] ... will prevail”.

Macron has previously summarised next year’s vote as a battle between pro-sovereignty conservatives and a “progressive” bloc which would impose his vision of a globalist, socially liberal EU superstate, which revolves around “values” and secular “human rights”, on the entire continent.

While most of the French leader’s ire at Salzburg was aimed at populists, his attack on countries “that do not want more Frontex” encompassed a much larger group at the summit, where Sebastian Kurz told reporters that southern states at the frontline of mass migration to Europe were “reluctant” over plans to massively increase the size and scope of the EU border agency.

The Austrian leader explained that in countries including Greece, Spain and Italy, there is “concern” that handing more power over to Brussels would make it “harder to wave migrants through” to other, richer EU countries.

In an interview on national radio last week, he said: “Because they were unable to persuade Hungary to let migrants in, the plan now is that they will take border protection rights away from us.

“They want no less than to send their mercenaries from Brussels to replace our Hungarians who are defending the border, and working as police and soldiers, whose homeland is important.”

Speaking at Salzburg, the populist leader told journalists that the expansion of Frontex was a “nice idea”, but said the agency had “never successfully protected a single metre of a border, while we have protected hundreds of kilometres”.

“There’s no need for them to protect the Hungarian border in our place, not to mention the questions of principle concerning the issue of sovereignty,” he said, adding that he had presented at the summit his own proposal which would “resolve this problem” to Austria, which is currently chairing the EU presidency.

Noting that the Hungarian proposal, which would see money marked for Frontex instead sent to help individual nations invest in protecting and strengthening their own external borders, had already been presented to Bulgaria, Orbán said “there are more of us who oppose” the EU plans than for, adding: “The status quo is on our side for now”.

This view was also expressed by Slovak prime minister Peter Pellegrini and his Czech counterpart Andrej Babiš, the latter of whom said on the subject: “Malta, Italy, Greece, Spain need to be told that they will get more money. They each have their own coast guard, they don’t need any Frontex.”

# Has The Era Of Autonomous Warfare Finally Arrived?

SEPTEMBER 21, 2018

The global arms race for the latest weapons of war is a naturally escalating cycle of countries pursuing ways to dominate the battlefield of the future. Increasingly, that battlefield is a matrix of soldiers with traditional weapons, robots, drones and cyberweapons.

Until this point, command over this matrix has ultimately been in the hands of humans. Now, however, many of the trends in artificial intelligence-driven autonomy are enabling data collection, analysis and potentially combat to be done by algorithms.

Another key signpost has entered the roadmap toward a future of autonomous systems capable of engaging in combat without human oversight. The U.S. military announced the first ever successful unmanned aerial "kill" of another aircraft during a previously unreported training exercise.

The successful test late last year showed the U.S. Air Force that an unmanned vehicle like the MQ-9 has the ability to conduct air-to-air combat, much like its manned fighter brethren such as an F-15 Eagle or F-22 Raptor, according to Col. Julian Cheater, commander of the 432nd Wing at Creech Air Force Base, Nevada.

"Something that's unclassified but not well known, we recently in November ... launched an air-to-air missile against a maneuvering target that scored a direct hit," Cheater said. Military.com sat down with Cheater here at the Air Force Association Air, Space and Cyber conference outside Washington, D.C.

"It was an MQ-9 versus a drone with a heat-seeking air-to-air missile, and it was direct hit ... during a test," he said of the first-of-its-kind kill.

The fact that the military has this capability should not be shocking, as it has been well documented on this website and others that the largest defense contractors in the world have developed a clear intention to create fully autonomous weapons systems.

However, previous research has indicated that robotics/A.I. is not yet up to even the most basic ethical tasks, yet its role in weapons systems continues.

Reason.TV recently weighed in on the consequences of handing over ethical responsibility to computers. Reason conducted a must-see interview with a former Army Ranger and current Defense Policy Analyst, Paul Scharre, who is trying to sound the alarm about an era of warfare fought completely by robotic systems. It seems the only question left is whether that day indeed has already arrived.

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# Amb. Haley: Iran's "Fingerprints" on Every Conflict in the Middle East

by TheTower.org Staff | 09.21.18

"For almost 40 years, the Iranian regime has existed outside the community of law-abiding nations," United State Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley said at the opening of this week's UN Security Council meeting on the Middle East. "It is difficult to name a conflict in the Middle East that does not have Iran's fingerprints on it."

In her speech, Haley reiterated a theme she has sounded since she was first appointed ambassador, that Israel, despite the disproportionate attention and condemnation it receives at the UN, is not the primary cause of turmoil in the Middle East.

While she acknowledged that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is worthy of the Security Council's attention, Haley asserted, "if there is one country that is the source of conflict and instability in the Middle East – one country that merits a quarterly debate in the Security Council – that country is not Israel. It's Iran."

Iran, Haley charged, "has trampled on the sovereignty of its neighbors," including Syria, Lebanon, and Yemen. In particular, the ambassador pointed out that Iran has lately taken to preventing Iraq from asserting sovereignty over its own territory.

Iran recently fired ballistic missiles at the headquarters of the Kurdistan Democratic Party – Iran (KDP-I) and the Democratic Party of the Iranian Kurdistan (PDKI), as well as at a refugee camp for Iranian Kurds in Erbil, killing eleven people. Since this attack was by forces of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), and not a proxy force, Haley observed, that it was "Iran's first direct military strike into Iraqi territory in over a decade."

Iran's attempts to assert itself in Iraq involve violations of UN Security Council resolutions. The IRGC-Quds Force commander Gen. Qassem Suleimani is under a UN travel ban that was extended in Resolution 2231, which implemented the 2015 nuclear deal. Haley observed, however, that he "has practically taken up residence in Iraq since the May elections." His goal, Haley said, is "to build an Iraqi government that is under the control of the Iranian regime."

Iran, in recent weeks, has also used its proxies to attack U.S. interests in Baghdad's secure Green Zone, and in the southern Iraqi city of Basra. Haley said that the administration would hold Iran "accountable" for the attacks on U.S. interests and personnel.

At the end of her remarks, Haley noted that respecting sovereignty of nations is an important part of the work done at the UN. Iran, however, she said, "is acting in shameless disregard of Iraqi sovereignty."

Iranian violations of Iraqi sovereignty, she said, will destabilize Iraq just as Iran has done in "Syria, Yemen, Lebanon, and across the Middle East." Haley concluded by calling on all those who support self-determination for the Iraqi people to "come to their defense."