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| **Jihad Report Jan 07, 2017 -Jan 13, 2017**  |
| Attacks | 45  |
| Killed | 298  |
| Injured | 453  |
| Suicide Blasts | 14  |
| Countries | 12 |

**The Space Elevator**

The space elevator—a theoretical mode of transportation where transport modules move up and down a long cable that connects Earth to space—has long been the stuff of futuristic fantasy. It's shown up in [books, movies, and scientific journals](http://www.smithsonianmag.com/innovation/people-are-still-trying-build-space-elevator-180957877/), while researchers have tried to uncover a material strong enough and light enough to make such a structure possible. Now, a team of MIT scientists has designed one of the strongest lightweight materials in existence, taking us one step closer to realizing that sci-fi dream—and creating a formula for a material that could revolutionize architecture and infrastructure right here on Earth, too.

The material is composed of graphene, a two-dimensional form of carbon that's considered to be the strongest of all known materials. But because the 2D form of graphene is so thin—it's only one atom thick—it's impractical for building purposes. The team's breakthrough is in creating a 3D geometry out of graphene using a combination of heat and pressure. As detailed in a paper published today in the journal *Science Advances*, they developed computational models of the form and then recreated it with graphene. The kicker? During testing, they found that the samples of the porous material were ten times stronger than steel, even though they were only 5% as dense.

According to Markus Buehler, the head of MIT’s Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, who was on the research team along with researchers Zhao Qin, Gang Seob Jung, and Min Jeong Kang, the idea behind reconfiguring graphene is similar to changing the form of a piece of paper: When you roll a piece of paper into a tubular shape, for instance, it's much stronger than when it's flat or crumpled. Tubular forms are already used in architecture because of their strength—the [Willis Tower, in Chicago](http://www.archdaily.com/62410/ad-classics-willis-tower-sears-tower-skidmore-owings-merrill), uses a tubular structural system.

"It’s a very innovative material because if we can produce the material in big amounts, we can use that to somehow substitute some of the steel used for construction and infrastructure," Zhao Qin says. "We could save a lot of labor to construct infrastructure and buildings because it is so light and so strong."

The material could also have a positive environmental impact in architecture. Its porous structure and large surface area could act as a filter for water or air—which has potential applications in building green structures. Because it's made of carbon, the material is chemically and mechanically stable. In the face of external environmental factors, like stronger storms and rising sea levels, these features could help make buildings more resilient.

It's in shipping supplies into space to build stations, or even colonies, that such a lightweight material could dramatically reduce costs.

But Qin believes that the potential applications for the material aren't limited to buildings on Earth. It's in shipping supplies into space to build space stations, or even colonies, that such a lightweight building material could dramatically reduce costs. When asked to speculate about how many stories a skyscraper built of this type of material might have, Qin instead pointed to the space elevator. A structure of three-dimensional graphene could potentially clear the Earth's atmosphere, even if many remaining constraints make this a more distant possibility.

Even more exciting is the fact that the porous geometry the team designed doesn't necessarily require the use of graphene, which Qin says is currently so expensive that it would be ultimately impractical for engineering use. Other forms of organic molecules, like polypeptide proteins, cellulose, or silk, could also potentially be transformed into a material with similar geometric properties. While this has implications for the building industry, these types of super-strong materials could have potential in a host of products, from medical equipment to cars. Qin says this line of inquiry is next on the team's agenda.

While the space elevator today remains a fantasy, this advancement in material science has brought stronger, lighter, and more resilient forms of architecture—and that sci-fi future—a little closer.

**Alzheimer’s and Aluminum**

A British study may provide proof that aluminum does indeed have a role in Alzheimer's disease. Although a link had been suspected by many scientists and health authorities for more than 50 years, many claimed there was no definite proof.

In a study of more than 100 human brains, Professor Chris Exley and his research team from Keele University found that some of the highest levels of aluminum ever found were in the brains of people who died of familial Alzheimer's disease.

Familial Alzheimer's disease is an uncommon hereditary form of the disease that strikes earlier in life, generally between 50 and 65 years of age. Symptoms may begin occurring as early as 30 years of age.

Exley's research found that the genetic predisposition to develop early onset Alzheimer's is linked to the accumulation of aluminum — through everyday exposure — in brain tissue.

"Aluminum is a powerful neurotoxin," says neurosurgeon Dr. Russell Blaylock. "It has been a suspect in Alzheimer’s for many years as well as in the development of dementia, Parkinson’s, Lou Gehrig’s disease (ALS) and other degenerative diseases."

"Experimental studies show that aluminum can produce all the same changes in the brain we see with Alzheimer’s disease," he tells Newsmax Health.

"Aluminum is an accumulative neurotoxin, even in small concentrations, and it has a tendency to concentrate in the hippocampus, an area of the brain vital to crucial functions including learning, memory, and behavior.

"Older adults have a lifetime of aluminum accumulation, and their defense systems are much weaker, so they are much more susceptible to the toxic effects of aluminum than younger brains," he says.

"There is also powerful evidence that aluminum worsens the effects of other toxins, such as pesticides, herbicides, mercury, and fluoride.

"In essence, accumulating aluminum is making your brain age faster," he says. "You're inducing all sorts of neurological disorders including Alzheimer's."

Below are steps you can take to limit your exposure to aluminum:

Be wary of vaccines. Many vaccines contain aluminum, because it's believed it stimulates the body to generate disease-fighting antibodies. Many common vaccines, including pneumonia, tetanus, and HPV, contain large doses, says Blaylock. These megadoses can have a devastating effect on the brain.

The incidence of neurological disorders like Alzheimer's, ALS, Parkinson's, and multiple sclerosis is exploding, says Dr. Blaylock: "It's not due to the aging of the population. It's due to toxins, like aluminum in vaccines, and no one's telling the truth."

Common vaccines that contain aluminum include: DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis), hepatitis B, hepatitis A, Hib (haemophilus influenza type B), PVC (pneumococcoal conjugate vaccine), and HPV

Toss aluminum pots and pans. Small amounts of aluminum leach into foods, especially those containing acids. "Aluminum is cumulative, and even small doses over time become highly toxic," says Blaylock.

When aluminum combines with certain acids, such as those in orange juice, aluminum absorption is increased 11-fold," he said. Replace aluminum and nonstick items with stainless steel or ceramic cookware, and don't cook in aluminum foil.

Buy aluminum-free baking powder and read food labels. Aluminum-free brands, which include Rumford, cost just pennies more than regular baking powder. Check food labels for aluminum, which is a common food additive found in processed cheeses, pickles, cake mixes, and bleached flour.

Check drug labels. The popular antacids Gavison, Maalox, and Mylanta all contain aluminum hydroxide. It can also be found in both prescription drugs and over-the-counter drugs such as painkillers and anti-diarrhea medicines.

Blaylock says you can reduce aluminum in your brain by using the following supplements:

• Ascorbate (as magnesium or calcium ascorbate). A study found ascorbate to be effective at removing aluminum, and higher doses combined with magnesium citramate increased the removal.

• Malate. Malate has been shown to be effective in removing aluminum from the brain.

• Pyruvate (as calcium pyruvate). Pyruvate prevents the brain from absorbing aluminum.

• Flavonoids. Eat a diet high in flavonoid-rich vegetables. Supplements that contain flavonoids, such as quercetin and hesperidin, help prevent aluminum absorption.

You might also choose to drink mineral water. British researchers have shown that drinking silicon-rich mineral water removes aluminum from the bodies of Alzheimer's patients. Silcon is known to help prevent the buildup of aluminum in the body, so researchers asked patients with Alzheimer's to drink a liter (about 34 ounces) of a silicon-rich mineral water each day for 12 weeks.

At the end of the study, according to urine tests, their body burdens of aluminum were significantly reduced. Of 15 patients, eight showed no deterioration in their cognitive abilities, and three of the eight actually showed clinically relevant cognitive improvements.

Although Spritzer, a silicon-rich mineral water from Malaysia, was used in the test, researchers say many mineral waters have high silicon levels, including FIJI water, which is widely available in the United States.

**No More Drilling**

Teeth might someday repair themselves using their own stem cells -- eliminating the need for conventional fillings, researchers report.

Although still in the laboratory stage, a new method tested in mice indicates that a drug called Tideglusib can stimulate teeth to fix decay.

"Teeth have a limited ability to repair themselves by activating their own stem cells," said lead researcher Paul Sharpe.

That "natural repair is greatly enhanced by delivery" of Tideglusib, added Sharpe. He is a professor of craniofacial biology at the Dental Institute at King's College London in England. Restoration of the tooth with its own natural material "means full tooth vitality and structure are maintained," Sharpe explained.

"A new era of regenerate dentistry is on its way, where new dental treatments use an understanding of the biology and physiology of the tooth," Sharpe said. New York dentist Dr. Ronald Burakoff agreed.

"This is part of a new field called regenerative endodontics to save teeth," said Burakoff. He is chair of dental medicine at North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset and Long Island Jewish Medical Center in New Hyde Park, N.Y.

Burakoff said stem cell approaches like Sharpe's are in the forefront of techniques being developed to treat the living pulp of a tooth to save it. Stem cells are able to take on the jobs of specialized cells.

The soft, inner pulp contains the blood vessels and nerves in the tooth, and damage can kill the pulp. Once this occurs, patients usually undergo a root canal procedure to deaden the nerve or lose the tooth, he said. Thanks to advancing science, those undesirable treatments for large cavities may become a thing of the past, Burakoff and Sharpe suggested.

"We are going to see a whole basket full of regenerative techniques in the next several years," Burakoff said.

Sharpe explained that when a tooth is damaged, the body produces a thin layer of dentine to seal tooth pulp and prevent infection. But this isn't effective to repair large cavities, he said.

Man-made cement fillings patch the decayed tooth, but the tooth's normal mineral level is never completely restored, Sharpe said.

Eventually, dentists have to remove old fillings and replace them with larger ones. And after several treatments, the decayed teeth may need to be pulled, he said.For this study, Sharpe and colleagues placed biodegradable collagen sponges laced with a low dose of Tideglusib over holes drilled into the teeth of mice.

Tideglusib is called a small molecule GSK3 antagonist. It has been tested as a treatment for Alzheimer's disease, but its effectiveness in that regard has not been shown.

Over six weeks, as the sponge degraded, it was replaced by new dentine, leading to complete, natural repair, Sharpe said.Although promising, this new process won't be in dentists' offices anytime soon.

Because the results of this animal trial are very preliminary, the American Dental Association says it's too soon to know if this approach has any potential clinical application.

Sharpe's team is currently testing the process on the larger teeth of rats. "After that, we will apply for approval and funding for a human clinical trial," he said. However, results of animal tests aren't necessarily applicable to humans.

**Stabbing the Bear: The Globalist Elite’s Plan to Reset the Clock**

The debt clock is ticking for the Globalist Elites. They have managed to place nearly every single nation on earth hopelessly in debt to them. Every nation, that is, except three. Cuba, Syria, and Russia are the only nations that do not deposit all their funds into their central bank. Russia has its own central bank. Efforts to suck Crimea and Ukraine into debt have failed, thanks to Putin’s quick financial actions. History has shown us for more than 240 years, how the globalists use the power of their banking to market wars and use death and mayhem, to reset the financial clock. It’s a way to clean the slate. It’s a way to sweep the spoils off the table and into their vaults. Now, after 36 years of waiting for Russia to falter, they have grown impatient.

The UN ostensibly controls the UN, and the US is the powerhouse and weapons salesman for the UN. Ubiquitous stories of Russian aggression have allowed them to send thousands of US and German troops along with tanks and equipment to Poland and countries bordering Russia in the name of “defense against Russian aggression,” author and journalist David Swanson recently reported.

Europe is preparing to counter a perceived 'Russian military threat.' NATO countries in the East of the continent are awaiting the arrival of thousands of American soldiers as a part of a US-led battle group. The troops will be stationed along the Russian border from Estonia to Bulgaria. The question is, “Who is leading it, really?” Obama leads nothing. He only signs the massive academic legislation and executive orders and memoranda that are handed to him on a daily basis. If those documents require passage by Congress, he simply uses his lock-step lieutenants to cram it down the Congressional and Senate throat, with threats of blame for shutting down the government and starving senior citizens waiting for their retirement checks.

The troops, tanks, and other offensive weaponry arriving on a daily basis in this endless buildup to war, were greeted in a German port by signs reading "Army Go Home." Scores of protesters marched through Bremerhaven, urging an end to the Alliance's saber rattling.

One thing is painfully clear to the rest of the world, as we can now see through the propaganda because of programs like X-Squared Radio. Sending thousands of troops – US and German – to Poland and countries on Russia’s border along with tanks and equipment is reportedly being done in the name of “defense against Russian aggression.” So unless you’re able to pretend there has been Russian aggression by moving their borders closer to Europe, you’re not going to be able to continue this. The globalist elites in the UN say all this aggression is defensive. If Russia says otherwise, then what Russia is saying must be fake news.

Deep in the bowels of Washington DC, rumbles a major push to do everything possible in the next two weeks to create unending hostility between the West and Russia that can’t be undone by Donald Trump or anyone else. Even at the risk of open violence, rather than simply Cold War hostility. This is highly preferable to weapons profiteers as against actual peace breaking out, which is their greatest fear. No war, no weapons sales. No war, no money changing hands.

Enormous amounts of money will have been made and the potential will have been put in place for an incident that creates further hostility if not all-out war, simply because it is economically valuable. There is no regard, whatsoever, for the loss in human life or the destruction of property. This is the last stage effort, but this isn’t just writing something on a presidential memo that can be torn up – this is sales, this is money in the bank, and this is an attempt to push this thing beyond the point where it cannot be brought back. So that Donald Trump, who has already been moved to say “we need more nukes,” who’s already been moved to say, “Yes, well maybe Russia did it” in regard to the hacking and leaking.” Donald Trump could be moved by the establishment in Washington to say: “All right, ok, we’re going to have hostility with Russia.”

People across Poland are celebrating “Operation Resolve,” the arrival to Poland the largest U.S. military deployment to Europe in decades. The deployment includes about 4,000 troops and also 2,400 pieces of military equipment, including tanks and Humvees.

The deployment is a reaction to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and annexation of Ukraine’s Crimea peninsula. Other countries in eastern Europe are concerned that they will be the next victim of a Russian invasion, and it’s hoped that the presence of US troops will deter Russia.

Prime Minister Beata Szydlo said,

 Welcome to Poland… The presence of American soldiers in Poland is another step in our strategy to ensure safety and security for Poland and the region…

 It’s a great day today when we can welcome, here in Zagan, American soldiers who represent the best, the greatest army in the world.

Poland’s Defense Minister Antoni Macierewicz said:

 We have waited for you for a very long time. We waited for decades, sometimes feeling we had been left alone, sometimes almost losing hope, sometimes feeling that we were the only ones who protected civilization from aggression that came from the east.

The American troops will be part of a Nato contingent that will include troops from Britain and Canada. The troops will be rotated every nine months through Poland, the Baltic countries, Bulgaria and Romania in order to provide a technical workaround to a promise made to Moscow after the fall of the Soviet Union that Nato would not permanently base large numbers of forces east of Germany. Deutsche Welle and CNN and AFP

US troop deployment in Poland angers Russia

Russia’s president Vladimir Putin is always calling everyone he dislikes “Nazis” and “Fascists,” but he does not like to admit that Russians were also “Nazis and Fascists” prior Adolf Hitler’s invasion of Russia. Hitler and Josef Stalin had signed a treaty (the Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact) in 1939 where they split up Poland between them. The agreement also divided Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Finland, and Romania between the Nazis and the Communists. It was only in 1941, when the Nazis invaded Russia, that Stalin finally learned being a Nazi is not a good thing. Even so, after Hitler was defeated, Stalin’s Soviet forces occupied Poland and other east European countries for decades.

These events are far ancient history to today’s young generations in America and Western Europe, but they are still very raw memories to the people of Poland and other East European countries. They have seen Russia invade and annex parts of Georgia and Ukraine, and they have no doubts that Russia would invade their countries, as has happened in the past. Putin press spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that the U.S. troops in Poland would be “a threat to Russia’s national security.”

It is hard to believe that 5,000 American troops would be a threat to Russia’s security, inasmuch as Russia has something like 330,000 troops along its western border. Furthermore, Russia has long-range Iskander cruise missiles in Kaliningrad that can be made nuclear.

The US deployment is being described as a “tripwire” force, designed to prevent Russia from getting away with an easy invasion of some other country, as they did with Georgia and Ukraine. It’s thought that Russia would not be willing to risk a larger war by attacking an American force of any size. Russian military expert Vladimir Kozin says that another reasons for the deployment is that outgoing President Obama wants to box in Donald Trump:

 According to the German military, some 900 railroad cars will be needed to deliver all this equipment to the deployment sites. But what is the reason? First, [US President Barack] Obama wants to play a mean trick on President-elect Donald Trump who won the election.

It is worth mentioning that there’s one other possible theory why Obama did this in the last few days of his administration: It is possible that Trump asked Obama to do it before leaving office, so that he wouldn’t have to do it.

Kozin said that the deployment is unprecedented since the collapse of the Soviet Union, and that the US is forcing Europe to accept it:

 Finally, the US wants to maintain tensions around the world and particularly in Europe. They want to turn the region into another tinderbox ready to ignite. This number one priority…

 The US and NATO plan to increase aerial, anti-submarine, missile defense and intelligence activities with the use of heavy military equipment. In order to justify sanctions, the situation needs to be tense all the time. Europe is becoming a prisoner of this new Cold War initiated by Obama.

This entire process is clearly a careful escalation that involves numerous facets including propaganda about Russian crimes in the US media; that includes shipping troops and equipment to the border; that includes expanding NATO and pushing hard on other NATO members to join in this escalation where you have serious protests in Germany by those who want peace [and are] against sending Germans or Americans from Germany eastward, as they should. There are not enough of us in the US similarly protesting.

It appears the UN is in charge, but prima facie, looks like the Pentagon and NATO headquarters wants it to happen in two weeks, because the US is the deciding element here and everything has been put in the hands of the President. That President is going to be out of office is less than two weeks, so you can see that we are in a very dangerous time period. We do have a brand new Congress in Washington DC - a Congress that under the US Constitution is supposed to decide all important matters, and a Congress in which not a single person ran on a campaign of this sort of escalation with Russia or against it. Just as in the presidential election. We have this huge ordeal about the protecting the US election from informing the US public of what happens during it. Nobody campaigned on escalating hostility with Russia or against it; it wasn’t voted on at all – this is just being done against the will of the US public if they were properly asked and polled about it but in the name of democracy… As if this sort of aggression and arms race is a force for peace and security when of course it is not. But this is the message that is put out by the US State Department.

**The Best Defense is the Armed American**

A couple of months ago, Czech President Milos Zeman made an unusual request: He urged citizens to arm themselves against a possible "super-Holocaust" carried out by Muslim terrorists.

Never mind that there are fewer than 4,000 Muslims in this country of 10 million people — gun purchases spiked. One shop owner in East Bohemia, a region in the northern center of the Czech Republic, told a local paper that people were scared of a "wave of Islamists."

Now the country's interior ministry is pushing a constitutional change that would let citizens use guns against terrorists. Proponents say this could save lives if an attack occurs and police are delayed or unable to make their way to the scene. To become law, Parliament must approve the proposal; they'll vote in the coming months.

The Czech Republic already has some of the most lenient gun policies in Europe. It's home to about 800,000 registered firearms and 300,000 people with gun licenses. Obtaining a weapon is relatively easy: Residents must be 21, pass a gun knowledge check and have no criminal record. By law, Czechs can use their weapons to protect their property or when in danger, although they need to prove they faced a real threat.

This puts the country at odds with much of Europe, which has long supported much more stringent gun-control measures. In the wake of the 2015 terror attacks in Paris, France pushed the European Union to enact even tougher policies. The European Commission's initial proposal called for a complete ban on the sale of weapons like Kalashnikovs or AR-15s that are intended primarily for military use. Ammunition magazines would be limited to 20 rounds or less.

The Czech Republic came out hard against the directive. Officials warned — somewhat ominously — that the measure would limit the country's ability to build "an internal security system" and make it nearly impossible to train army reservists. And a total ban on military-style rifles that can fire large numbers of rounds would make illegal thousands of weapons already owned by Czech citizens, potentially creating a black market for terrorists to exploit. Finland and Germany offered their own reservations; Europe's pro-gun groups also mobilised against the bill with the support of politicians on the extreme right.

After months of contentious negotiations, the EU passed a compromise last month; the Council of Ministers will confirm the measure this spring. All member states will have 15 months to comply with the new gun restrictions. The final measure bans the sale of most military-style rifles and requires all potential buyers to go through a psychological check before they can buy a weapon. If someone fails a check in one E.U. state, that information will be shared in an international database so that the person can't procure a gun somewhere else. Online sales are also severely curtailed. The Czech Republic was the only country to oppose the directive for being too strict. Luxembourg also voted against the measure, but on the grounds that it was too weak.

That means that regardless of how the Czech parliament votes on the terrorist-hunting measure, gun laws in the Czech Republic are going to get stricter. All gun purchasers will be required to pass the psychological checks, though it's not yet clear if gun owners will have to turn in newly illegal weapons. That ambiguity has led one Czech newspaper to suggest that the Interior Ministry's latest move is much more about political safety than safety from terrorism.

**The End of Politics in the Clinton Crime Syndicate Investigation**

If Hillary Clinton thinks the investigation of her private, unsecured email server ended with her failed bid for the presidency in November, she’d better think again, because now the top GOP investigator says a House Republican probe could zero in on “a lot of other characters” involved in the Clinton scandal.

“This was never a political targeting in the beginning, and just because there was a political election doesn’t mean it goes away,” House Oversight and Government Reform Chairman Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah, said Monday. “There were a lot of other characters involved in this that we have to look at.”

The House investigation may include several individuals, including former members of Hillary’s campaign or even FBI officials, the Washington Examiner reported.

“This was potentially one of the largest breaches of security in the history of the State Department,” Chaffetz said. “It cannot and should never be repeated again. How is it that so much information was able to migrate out into the world? These are still open questions that we need to finish up so that they don’t happen again.”

According to the Examiner, Chaffetz said he wants to look into the security clearances of aides who helped Hillary with her “extremely careless” email setup. He indicated Hillary IT aide Bryan Pagliano could even be held in contempt of Congress for defying subpoenas to appear before Congress in 2016. [As WND reported](http://www.wnd.com/2016/09/hillarys-it-man-ignores-subpoena-thumbs-nose-at-congress/), Pagliano – the man who set up Hillary’s homebrew email server – simply refused to obey a subpoena to appear before a House committee hearing in September.

“You can’t just get a subpoena from Congress to testify and not show up,” Chaffetz said Monday.

The GOP lawmaker also indicated interest in probing the role of State Department Under Secretary for Management Patrick Kennedy in the email scandal. The FBI has suggested Kennedy attempted to arrange a “quid pro quo” with the agency so it would declassify Clinton emails.

“FBI leadership could also be a live target of the review, as Republicans re troubled that Va. Gov. Terry McAuliffe, a longtime ally of the Clintons, made campaign donations to the wife of Andrew McCabe, the agency’s second-in-command,” the Examiner reported.

Chaffetz said: “I’m very concerned about the straight-up conflict of interest that Mr. McCabe had. That’s something we’ll continue to spend resources on.”

On the campaign trail during the presidential election, Donald Trump held rallies in which massive crowds chanted, “Lock her up!”

Chaffetz said he is uncertain about whether the White House will collaborate with the investigation.

“It depends how cooperative the administration is going to be. We’re going to work with [White House General Counsel Don] McGahn and [incoming] Attorney General Sessions and others to see what sort of documents and what sort of access we’re going to be allowed.”

Chaffetz indicated that lower level State Department officials might impede progress in the investigation. One thing is becoming clear to the casual observer, now that we have been covering this story for so long. The Agency Government does not want this case to move forward, and they will try to block its progress until Trump is out of office.

“We’re still dealing with the massive bureaucracy; changing the secretary of state doesn’t necessarily change the whole bureaucracy,” Chaffetz said. “I don’t want this to linger, but the reason we’re still talking about it after nearly 6 years, is because stuff that we’ve been demanding since 2010 still hasn’t arrived.” The emasculation of Congress by the Agency Government has been so successful, that they can refuse subpoenas, take the 5th, and even submit false information with impunity. Congress can do nothing about it, because it has no legal authority or power. Repeated attempts to cut off funding have been disastrous in the face of the government shutdown cudgel used by Democrats so effectively in **the fake stream news**.

Although FBI investigation into Clinton’s email scandal concluded in July without charges, FBI Director James Comey said Clinton had been “extremely careless,” sending national security information through an unsecured private email server. A little more than one week before the election, emails were found on a laptop computer to which both Hillary Clinton aide Huma Abedin and her estranged husband, former Rep. Anthony Weiner, who was being investigated in a sexting case, had access. This violates at least 5 Federal statutes, all of which carry jail time, fines, and some even make the perpetrator ineligible to hold public office ever again. One thing is for sure. The Clinton Crime Syndicate was not careless. They were calculating and obstructive to keep their money laundering operations away from prying eyes at the State Department. The misplacement of $6 billion during Clinton’s tenure at State is unique and far from a coincidence. The deeper they dig, the closer they will get to the money trail.

Comey immediately informed Republican members of Congress he needed to time to review the new information, but two days before Election Day he announced the conclusion he reached in July had not changed. The [decision from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia,](http://www.judicialwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/JW-v-Kerry-Appeal-Victory-16-5015.pdf) in fact, said the law requires it.

The conclusion came in a lawsuit brought by [Judicial Watch](http://www.judicialwatch.org) seeking to retrieve emails that were not released to the public. Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton said the courts “seem to be fed up with the Obama administration’s refusal to enforce the rule of law on the Clinton emails.”

“Today’s appeals court ruling rejects the Obama State Department’s excuses justifying its failure to ask the attorney general, as the law requires, to pursue the recovery of the Clinton emails,” he said at the time. “This ruling means that the Trump Justice Department will have to decide if it wants to finally enforce the rule of law and try to retrieve *all* the emails Clinton and her aides unlawfully took with them when they left the State Department.”

When they find them, it is highly likely that the person or institution that made that deal with the Clinton Crime Syndicate will be named. We expect to see some serious infighting as someone is selected to take the fall. Hopefully, that person lives to tell about it.

**The Invincible**

Today, with the long benefit of hindsight, France's stunning collapse in the face of Nazi invasion looks almost unsurprising. The great Maginot Line made the Great Wall look like a speed bump, and yet it was no obstacle. The entire world rested, knowing that it would stop the Nazi armies North of Paris. France was one of the preeminent superpowers of the day. It had one of the world's biggest land armies, navies, and second-biggest colonial empire in the world. Moreover, as France had led the Allies in World War I, a war that was orders of magnitude more brutal than anything anyone had ever known in battle, France had a reputation for military invincibility. When in 1923, Germany defied the Treaty of Versailles in paying back war reparations, France invaded, occupied, and easily steamrolled the Weimar Republic's puny military. In a way, they showed their hand. Hitler knew what he had to defeat, and that knowledge sometimes is all it takes.

France’s reputation for military invincibility was one of the things that held the 1925 world order together. Everyone suspected that the war might resume, this time with faster and more devastating weapons. They knew some veteran of the gassed and aerially bombed trenches would rise up and bring with something more formidable than mere cannon fodder for French gun emplacements. They knew this, because enormous amounts of money were already moving. Deals for aluminum and steel, stamping machines and forges, buildings and refiners were being made almost by the hour with Germany. Bankers and insider-trading industrialists, were building two vast militaries; one to stab peace in the liver, and other to fight back. Both sides would need weapons, and they would spend everything they could on them. Both sides would borrow money from its poor and rob the wealth of the private sector for the greater good. General Motors and Ford built hundreds of thousands of vehicles for both sides. Alcoa Aluminum made aircraft with which to bomb London and to bomb Marienburg.

Today, global peace rests on many things, but one of them is the assumption that the United States military is invincible. We justly fill our headlines with reports of casualties in Iraq, Syria, and Afghanistan, but what is striking in our current era is just how little conflict there is. And one reason for that is that no contemporary military can hope to match the United States, so countries that might want to mess with the U.S. or its allies either don't, or do so through comparatively much less destructive and unconventional means, like hacking, or suicide bombing, or public massacre. America’s enemies don’t have planes, or navies, or even satellite surveillance. They are as mobile as a 30-year old Honda 125 motorcycle. Their method of communication is pony express. And yet they claim victory after victory, slicing, and raping and beheading their way into the news media like the most elaborate and merciless marketing plan the world has ever seen. Ghosts without uniforms or any more formal training than a social media video instruction manual, cannot be bombed into submission. After all, any war is only over when the enemy says it’s over.

But just like France's invincibility on the eve of World War II, America's military invincibility may just be waiting to be toppled by anyone clever and gutsy enough to give the right shove. America’s cities have been prepared for internal conflict. Radical and violent groups, recruited from inner city plantations flooded with racial propaganda, are ready to tear the guts out of every major city upon demand. Obama turned off the back porch light and left the door ajar, so anyone can just walk in and take whatever they want. They cannot be stopped with a super army, any more than you could fight lung cancer with a 45 caliber automatic.

Here are three very worrying ways in which America's conventional war machine is being outclassed.

**1. Supercarriers**

He who rules the seas rules the world. It was true in the time of the Greeks, and it's true today. And on paper, America's dominance looks total. The United States has 10 aircraft carriers. Russia can barely field just one. China only just recently got one, a retrofitted old Soviet clunker. And in some way, this undersells America's advantage: America produces supercarriers which are on the order of twice as large as anything else on the sea, and nuclear-powered, which means they can stay at sea much longer (the only other country with a nuclear carrier is France). Carriers are the dominant means of "force projection" (translation: going out and kicking someone's ass), and have been since World War II, when they and their planes proved much more destructive than the old battleships.

But here's the thing: Just like France's outdated tactics were obsoleted by [German Blitzkrieg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blitzkrieg), carrier strike groups, a technology and formation from the mid-20th century, are probably obsolete. [As an excellent article by David W. Wise convincingly argues](https://warisboring.com/the-u-s-navys-big-mistake-building-tons-of-supercarriers-571c8dad2f29), aircraft carriers are probably extremely vulnerable to a number of new technologies, from asymmetric warfare to super-quiet submarines to advanced ballistic missiles. In military exercises, U.S. aircraft carriers [keep](https://warontherocks.com/2015/11/millennium-challenge-the-real-story-of-a-corrupted-military-exercise-and-its-legacy/) getting [sunk.](http://theaviationist.com/2015/03/05/us-aircraft-carrier-sunk-by-subs/)

Up until very recently, America's overwhelming carrier advantage meant that any attempt, say, by China to invade Taiwan, looked like folly. Now it practically looks like an invitation: With its super-sonic, anti-ship ballistic missiles, China could sink half the U.S. Navy in less than 40 minutes. Add to that the fact that for 8 years, American navies have been moored under Presidential command in Pearl Harbor style fish barrels, where a single successful blast could wipe out entire fleets without so much as a skeleton crew aboard to respond. Recent pictures of a dozen aircraft carriers docked side by side in Baltimore Harbor should make every single student of history shake his head in disbelief, especially given the clandestine capability of today’s weapons. In fact, the media is hemorrhaging with reports of cyber-attack this, and infrastructure that, demanding trillions in taxpayer dollars be spent immediately to address them. All the while, the complete American navy from soup to nuts is floating in a single clogged sink, waiting for the garbage disposal to be turned on.

It increasingly looks like the Navy of the future will mostly consist of drone- and missile-launching submarines (manned and unmanned), which hold a number of decisive advantages over carriers. But these are areas in which the Navy, despite some interesting experiments, is under-investing — partly because its budget is being eaten up by a frenzy to build and maintain ever-more expensive supercarriers.

**2. Stealth fighters**

Like naval power, air power has always been thought to be absolutely crucial in war. He who controls the skies controls the fight, right? Observers and historians often joke that Israel's Six-Day War should really be called the One-Day War; Israel was able to crush vastly superior enemies on two fronts at once because it destroyed their air forces in a masterful preemptive strike, making the rest of the war a formality. Every single conventional military victory by the United States since the end of the Cold War has been premised on, and enabled by, total dominance of the skies. So making sure that, in any conventional war, the United States can establish and maintain air dominance is front and center for all the strategic planners at the Pentagon. Today’s enemies, establish their bases below elementary schools or hospitals. They launch rocket attacks from playgrounds and from the rooftops of apartment buildings. They employ thousands of reporters and set up tens of thousands of surveillance cameras, so that if their victims decide to shoot back, the civilian mayhem can be played on UN-financed channels for the world to see.

America thinks it is safe with stealth! All of the United States' fighter jets will be stealthy. And when you can't even show up on the enemies' radar screens and you can shoot at them with impunity, you're going to crush them very quickly, right? Billions and billions (and billions) were poured into projects such as the F-35 and F-22 (and crucial design tradeoffs were made) so that those planes could have "stealth technology."

But there are two problems. One is that Russia and China are also building their own stealth fighters. And the other is that stealth technology isn't actually all that stealthy. Even the most stealthy of the stealth leave a shadow on the sand below, and can be seen with the naked eye through a gun site. In a development that will shock only those who don't know anything about the history of warfare, America's competitors have come up with [technologies](http://thediplomat.com/2014/10/how-effective-is-chinas-new-anti-stealth-radar-system-really/) to counter these gizmos. In fact, a number of new technologies, including active and passive radars, are pretty good at detecting so-called "stealth" planes. Every moving thing leaves a gravity wave. The faster it moves, the easier it is to find.

The U.S. Air Force's strategic objective is to have enough of an edge, whether technological or organizational, that it can hopefully crush a rival's air force. The method for doing so since the early 1990s has been "Stealth! Stealth!"

But our enemy discovered stealth long before we did. Like the tares among the wheat, they walked past our most sophisticated defenses like cottonwood seeds on the wind. The zombie apocalypse will happen so fast, that no filmmaker could even conceive of the mayhem that is about to happen. The reality is that we cannot carpet bomb Chicago. We cannot use hellfire missiles in Houston or deploy limited tactical nuclear weapons in Los Angeles. The enemy has already invaded us. They are already here in the largest army ever in history. There are not just a few hundred thousand, like America’s armed forces. There are tens of millions of soldiers, dressed in ordinary clothes, living and working right next door to the most vulnerable of our national targets. They drive lazily by our fuel depots, railroad bridges, rivers, reactors, and airports. They are motivated, committed to die for their cause, and have been financed and put into place by our own Agency government under the direct orders of our own officials.

They are simply waiting for the signal to attack. Every week during the Obama administration, they test the fences. The shoot up a dance club, a school, an airport, or a mall. They leave a suspicious package here or there and stand back and watch the response. They learn about our weaknesses. And every single hour of every single day, they send out their message, and spend billions of dollars through thousands of small, tax-exempt foundations to mobilize their armies in plain sight. They assassinate at will, never caring about the assassin. They bribe, smear, blackmail, and even run for national public office because their network of crime and compromise is nearly impregnable.

Your worry, my worry is that we, like France, are about to build a big beautiful wall. There will be every belief that this wall will protect us from our enemies. It will establish our sovereignty. It will reduce the invasion of our country. But, each one us already is fully aware that the enemy is already here. There are 540 thousand active duty soldiers in the armed services. There are more than 15 million people who have invaded our country, and there are as many as 50 million more who do not participate in our system of government. They pay no taxes of any sort. They do not bank. They work for cash, buy and pay in cash. Their communities are tightly knit and are legally citizens of another country. Are they all violent? No. Not yet. They have seen violence. The way they left their homelands was awash in the worst kind of violence.

But one thing is for sure. No wall will stop them now. Should we build the Great Southern Wall? Yes. It’s long overdue. But massive attention must be paid to the millions of people who will then be trapped on this side of the wall. I think they will be helped. But I also know nothing can be said that great benefit that will be bestowed upon these people, until after it is built.

I think the wall will work. It will be penetrated here and there, small amounts here, and small amounts there. But the vast majority of the crossings will be detected and will be repelled or sent back.

**Assassins Mobilizing**

The discovery of a violin case containing two guns led police to uncover a cache of even more guns and ammunition along the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal near the Boathouse at Fletcher’s Cove in Northwest D.C. It appears someone is acting on plans for the Inauguration - plans that include the unthinkable!

U.S. Park Police and D.C. police Wednesday afternoon investigated the two areas where the weapons were found. Traffic on Canal Road near the boathouse had been stopped during the investigation but the road has reopened.

A woman walking along the canal late Wednesday morning saw some debris surrounding a violin case along the stone wall that lines the road, according to park police. When she opened the case, she found two guns inside, and she brought it to authorities near Fletcher’s boathouse.

About a quarter-mile north of that location, investigators found a second site with multiple weapons and ammunition surrounded by trash and other debris.

Park Police spokeswoman Sgt. Anna Rose said there were a variety of weapons recovered, including long guns and pistols. The weapons were in buckets and bags, Rose said, although she said she didn’t believe any of them were loaded.

“There’s no indication as to why these weapons were here, when they came to be here or the circumstances surrounding it — that part’s all under investigation,” Rose said.

Rose said there was no imminent threat to people walking nearby. But authorities decided to close the road out of an abundance of caution and to keep the area clear as investigators worked. Authorities reopened the road to traffic around 3:30 p.m. Wednesday.

The D.C. police bomb squad also conducted a sweep of the area.

Police praised the woman who spotted the weapons.

“This woman saw something and she chose to come forward and say something, giving us the opportunity to make sure this area remains safe for everyone,” Rose said. “And as we approach the inauguration, I think that’s really important to highlight.”

**Agents Around the World Being Eliminated**

A RUSSIAN ambassador has been shot and killed in Yemen, according to unconfirmed reports in Saudi Arabian media.

Ambassador Vladimir Dedushkin was reportedly "keeping a close eye" in the war-torn country.

The diplomat was reportedly assassinated in the capital Sanaa.

The assassination was reported by Saudi Arabia's Barq news agency.

**But some reports claim Mr Dedushkin has not died.**

The Russian Embassy in Yemen has reportedly said “no one’s been shot”, telling NBC no one had been attacked.

A Russian official quoted in Zvezda, a Russian nationwide TV station run by the Ministry of DefenSe, has denied the reports of an assassination attempt.

The Washington Post said that it had spoken to a duty officer at the embassy in the Yemen and he had denied there had been any attack and said the ambassador was fine.

Mr Dedushkin was appointed by Russia’s President Vladimir Putin on August 16, 2013 and replace the outgoing Sergei Kozlov.

Mr Dedushkin said in November last year that Saudi Arabia was key to solving the crisis in the Yemen.

He said: "Saudi Arabia, in my view, has a decisive role in resolving this [Yemeni] conflict. The key to its settlement is in the hands of Riyadh.”

Yemen has been engulfed in a military conflict between the government and Shiite Houthi rebels, the country’s main opposition faction that forced the Yemeni government to resign last January.

In December last year Andrey Karlov, the Russian Ambassador to Turkey, was assassinated by policeman Mevlut Mert Altintas who shouted “Allah Akbar” and “Don’t forget Aleppo”.

Earlier this month diplomat Andrey Malanin, 54, was found dead by embassy staff on the floor of his bedroom in the Greek capital Athens.

**Fake News Strikes Again**

**"It doesn’t make sense to can the general in the middle of an active deployment,"** rages D.C. Council Chairman Phil Mendelson (D) after Maj. Gen. Errol R. Schwartz, who heads the D.C. National Guard and is an **integral part of overseeing the inauguration, has been ordered removed from command** effective Jan. 20, 12:01 p.m., just as Donald Trump is sworn in as president. [As The Washington Post reports](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/public-safety/commanding-general-of-dc-national-guard-to-be-removed-from-post/2017/01/13/725a0438-d99e-11e6-b8b2-cb5164beba6b_story.html?utm_term=.537c47c4a514), **Maj. Gen. Errol R. Schwartz’s departure will come in the midst of the presidential ceremony,** classified as a national special security event — and while thousands of his troops are deployed to help protect the nation’s capital during an inauguration he has spent months helping to plan.

***“The timing is extremely unusual,”*** Schwartz said in an interview Friday morning, confirming a memo announcing his ouster that was obtained by The Washington Post.

**During the inauguration, Schwartz would command not only the members of the D.C. guard but also an additional 5,000 unarmed troops sent in from across the country to help.** He also would oversee military air support protecting the nation’s capital during the inauguration.

***“My troops will be on the street,”*** Schwartz, who turned 65 in October, said, “I’ll see them off but I won’t be able to welcome them back to the armory.” He said that he would “never plan to leave a mission in the middle of a battle.”

Schwartz, who was appointed to head the guard by President George W. Bush in 2008, maintained the position through President Obama’s two terms. He said his orders came from the Pentagon but that he doesn’t know who made the decision.

D.C. Council Chairman Phil Mendelson (D) blasted the decision to remove Schwartz, especially on Inauguration Day.

**“It doesn’t make sense to can the general in the middle of an active deployment,” Mendelson said. He added that Schwartz’s sudden departure would be a long-term loss for the District. “He’s been really very good at working with the community and my impression was that he was good for the Guard.”**

Unlike in states, where the governor appoints the National Guard commander, **in the District that duty falls to the president.** **Schwartz said that he has not been told why he was asked to step down. “I’m a soldier,” he said, noting that he was following orders and has no regrets. “I’m a presidential appointee, therefore the president has the power to remove me.”**

Is this just another part of Obama's "smooth" transition? Or is something even more sinister at work here, since we already know that anti-Trump activists are planning "the biggest protest in US history" on the day of the inauguration? Trump has asked General Schwartz to stay in his current position, but Schwartz has decided on his own to follow Barack Obama’s last order, “Stand down and do not protect the President.” Trump is expected to have his own commander standing next to Schwartz to make sure the people attending the inauguration are kept safe.

\*  \*  \*

[As we noted previously,](http://theeconomiccollapseblog.com/archives/activists-are-hoping-to-turn-donald-trumps-inauguration-on-january-20th-into-one-of-the-biggest-riots-in-u-s-history) **radical leftists are planning to make January 20th the most chaotic Inauguration Day in American history.**  Their stated goal is to “disrupt” the Inauguration festivities as much as possible, and they are planning a wide range of “actions” to achieve that stated goal.  Some of the more moderate groups are using terms such as “civil resistance” and “civil disobedience”, but others are openly talking about “blockades”, jumping barricades, throwing projectiles and “citywide paralysis”.  My hope is that all of their efforts will turn out to be a big flop, but it is important to understand that these groups are well funded, highly organized and extremely motivated.  **The election of Donald Trump has been perhaps the single most galvanizing moment for the radical left in modern American history, and they are working very hard to turn January 20th into a major political statement.**

In fact, just recently one activist group took out [a full page ad in the New York Times](http://www.commondreams.org/news/2017/01/04/urging-millions-rise-trump-foes-issue-call-resist-fascism)…

Thousands of activists, journalists, scientists, entertainers, and other prominent voices took out a full-page call to action in the New York Times on Wednesday making clear their rejection of President-elect [Donald Trump](http://www.commondreams.org/tag/donald-trump) and Vice President-elect [Mike Pence](http://www.commondreams.org/tag/mike-pence) with the simple message: “No!”

“Stop the Trump/Pence regime before it starts! In the name of humanity we refuse to accept a fascist America!” the ad states, followed by a list of signatories that includes scholar Cornel West; author Alice Walker; Chase Iron Eyes of the Standing Rock Sioux; educator Bill Ayers; poet Saul Williams; CNN‘s Marc Lamont Hill; Carl Dix of the Communist Party USA; and numerous others.

The ad pointed people to [refusefascism.org](https://refusefascism.org/), and it asserted that Trump must be stopped [whether he was legitimately elected or not](https://refusefascism.org/)…

Trump promises to inflict repression and suffering on people in this country, to deport millions, to increase violence up to the use of nuclear weapons on people across the globe, and to inflict catastrophes upon the planet itself. **He has assembled a cabinet of Christian fundamentalist fanatics, war mongers, racists, science deniers. NO! His regime must not be allowed to consolidate. We REFUSE to accept a Fascist America!**

If you go to [refusefascism.org](https://refusefascism.org/), you will discover that the protests that they are organizing in Washington D.C. will begin on January 14th.  They say that they want to “stop the Trump-Pence regime before it starts”, and they hope to have protests going “every day and every night” without interruption through at least January 20th.

Another group that plans to kick things off on January 14th is DisruptJ20.  Of course that is short for “Disrupt January 20th”.  If you go to [their official website](http://www.disruptj20.org/), you will find a long slate of events that have already been scheduled.

According to Legba Carrefour, a spokesperson for DisruptJ20, one of the goals of the group is to block major transportation routes into and throughout our nation’s capital.  And he is not shy about the fact that they literally want to [“shut down the Inauguration”](http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2016-12-15/anti-trump-activists-plan-road-blocking-clusterf-k-for-inauguration)…

**“We are planning to shut down the inauguration, that’s the short of it,”** he says. **“We’re pretty literal about that, we are trying to create citywide paralysis on a level that I don’t think has been seen in D.C. before.** We’re trying to shut down pretty much every ingress into the city as well as every checkpoint around the actual inauguration parade route.”

If Carrefour and his fellow conspirators are able to actually accomplish that, it truly would be unprecedented.

And while DisruptJ20 is not publicly advocating violence, they are not exactly discouraging it either…

Carrefour says DisruptJ20 has no publicly announced plans to jump barricades along the inauguration parade route or throw projectiles at the new president, but that autonomous direct actions are encouraged.

**“I can’t comment on specific stuff we’re doing like that, mostly because that would be illegal. But, yeah, it will get pretty crazy, I expect,” he says. “‘Have fun!’ I say.”**

After the rioting that we have seen in Baltimore, Ferguson, Charlotte and many other communities around the nation in recent years, I hope that authorities are taking these threats quite seriously.

Once Donald Trump won the election, many conservatives seemed to think that the war was won.  But the truth of the matter is that many on the left were completely blindsided by Trump’s surprise victory, and now that they are fully awake they are gearing up for battle like never before.

And these protests are not going to end on January 20th.  In fact, abortion advocates are hoping to get close to a million women into Washington D.C. on the day following the Inauguration to protest for abortion rights.  Filmmaker Michael Moore is hoping that this march will be the beginning of [“100 days of resistance”](https://www.intellihub.com/michael-moore-100-days-resistance/) against Trump’s presidency…

Filmmaker and liberal icon Michael Moore has announced his plans to attend the Women’s March on Washington to protest Donald Trump’s inauguration later this month and has called for sore loser liberals to go further — by staging protests acts of resistance through the first 100 days of Trump’s presidency.

In an appearance, this weekend on MSNBC’s The Last Word, the 62-year-old Trumpland and Fahrenheit 9/11 director made a “call to arms” to those opposed to Trump’s presidency to join the Women’s March on Washington scheduled for January 21, the day after the presidential inauguration.

“It’s important that everybody go there,” Moore told MSNBC’s Ari Melber.

**Of course it is easy to imagine how all of this could spiral wildly out of control.**  If Trump cracks down on these protests really hard in an attempt to restore law and order, that could end up sparking a dramatic backlash against his “police state tactics”.  And if the protests become even bigger and more violent, Trump could respond by cracking down even more harshly.

Let us **hope for some really cold weather in D.C. at the end of January** so that as many troublemakers as possible get discouraged and stay home.  Violent protests, blockades and riots aren’t going to solve anything, and they could **easily open fresh wounds** in a nation that is becoming more divided with each passing day.

**You’re Fired: The Trump Train is Coming to Town**

President Donald Trump is shaping up to be a no-nonsense president so far. Evidently on December 23rd, a mandate with no exceptions was issued to the State Department recalling all appointed ambassadors. They must vacate their posts by Inauguration Day… January 20th. It sounds uncompromising and harsh, but I can understand why Trump is doing this. He wants his people to move immediately in and start undoing the mess Obama has made. Liberals are screaming that many of Trump’s Senate-confirmed envoys will not be confirmed in time and the posts could be vacant for months. Well, then I suggest you move your ass and confirm them. There is no grace period on this directive.

This breaks with decades of tradition between incoming and outgoing presidents. But Obama brought this on his minions by being a jerk. Now, Trump wants to clean house entirely and fast. Many of the ambassadors are long time diplomats and life long politicians. Many are heavy donors of Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton. Trump wants them gone and he means it. A senior Trump transition official said there was no ill will in the move, describing it as a simple matter of ensuring that Mr. Obama’s overseas appointees leave the government on schedule, just as thousands of political aides at the White House and in federal agencies must do. The official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity about internal deliberations, said the ambassadors should not be surprised about being held to a hard end date. This is what a businessman does as president… he makes the trains run on time.

From the New York Times:

WASHINGTON — President-elect Donald J. Trump’s transition staff has issued a blanket edict requiring politically appointed ambassadors to leave their overseas posts by Inauguration Day, according to several American diplomats familiar with the plan, breaking with decades of precedent by declining to provide even the briefest of grace periods.

The mandate — issued “without exceptions,” according to a terse State Department cable sent on Dec. 23, diplomats who saw it said — threatens to leave the United States without Senate-confirmed envoys for months in critical nations like Germany, Canada and Britain. In the past, administrations of both parties have often granted extensions on a case-by-case basis to allow a handful of ambassadors, particularly those with school-age children, to remain in place for weeks or months.

Mr. Trump, by contrast, has taken a hard line against leaving any of President Obama’s political appointees in place as he prepares to take office on Jan. 20 with a mission of dismantling many of his predecessor’s signature foreign and domestic policy achievements. “Political” ambassadors, many of them major donors who are nominated by virtue of close ties with the president, almost always leave at the end of his term; ambassadors who are career diplomats often remain in their posts.

Given, this will turn the lives of these diplomats upside down as many counted on staying where their children were until the end of the school term. Also, many assumed a grace period, so they could take their time packing their things and getting their affairs in order. They should not be surprised by Trump’s move and should have anticipated it. Liberals are crying foul and using children as human shields again. I don’t think they are going to get much sympathy.

“When you have people out there whose only reason for being an ambassador is their political connection to the outgoing president of a different party, it’s pretty logical to say they should leave,” said Mr. Neumann, a career Foreign Service officer who held ambassadorships in Algeria, Bahrain and Afghanistan. “But I don’t recollect there was ever a guillotine in January where it was just, ‘Everybody out of the pool immediately.’”

Trump is shaking up every aspect of the government it would seem and these people just got a rude wake-up call. Opponents are saying this will signal an abrupt change in US policy internationally. Good. The State Department informed all politically appointed ambassadors in a letter the day after the election that they were to submit letters of resignation effective Jan. 20th. It instructed those who wanted to seek extensions to submit formal requests explaining their justifications. And I would bet none of those so-called justifications will be approved. There is a new sheriff in town and he’s coming in taking names and kicking butt. Diplomats just got the memo in the form of a pink slip.

**Public Service Announcement**

Know the signs, spot the symptoms, and save a life. Do You Know Someone Suffering From Trump Unacceptance & Resistance Disorder (TURD)? TURD is a pattern of pathologically dissociative and psychotic behavior, first observed in the late hours of November 8th 2016, and increasing in severity with passing time. Sufferers of TURD often exhibit pronounced cognitive dissonance, sudden bouts of childlike rage, rioting and uncontrollable crying. Successful treatment for TURD is obtained free by listening every Sunday evening at 8PM ET to X-Squared Radio.

**Congress Focusing on the End of the ATF**

In what could be a multi-year effort to drain the swamp and end the Federal soldering of Americans, Congress is working on a new law. Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner has just reintroduced legislation to disband the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), folding their duties into other federal law enforcement agencies and ending a national nightmare. The decades long record of mercenary murders and terrorism against the American people is about to end forever with this legislation. It is unclear whether anyone will be heading to prison over crimes against Americans like Fast and Furious, Ruby Ridge, Waco Texas, and dozens of targeted assassinations of constitutionally protected Americans spanning nearly four decades.

 Friday the 13th, Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner reintroduced the ATF Elimination Act, legislation that would dissolve the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and merge its exclusive duties into existing federal agencies, but without the military enforcement tactics that have plagued the country for so long. They will be ordered to stop targeting law-abiding Americans and will instead be focused on finding and disarming Jihadist efforts inside the country.

 Additionally, the Act calls for an immediate hiring freeze at the agency and requires the Department of Justice (DOJ) to eliminate and reduce duplicative functions and waste, as well as report to Congress with a detailed plan on how the transition will take place. Further, it would transfer enforcement of firearms, explosives and arson laws to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and illegal diversion of alcohol and tobacco products would be transferred to the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). Hiring freezes are expected for other agencies such as the GSA, the DOE, and the Dept of the Interior and BLM. And, since we’re going in alphabetical order, is the CIA. This will prevent the agencies from replacing retiring personnel. Senior Democrat sycophants will be fired or encourage to retired immediately with hours of the inauguration.

 Under this bill, the DEA and FBI would be required to submit to Congress a plan for winding down the affairs of the ATF after no more than 180 days, and field offices, along with other buildings and assets of the ATF, would be transferred to the FBI. It would have one year to report excess property to the General Services Administration (GSA).

 Congressman Sensenbrenner: “Despite our country being trillions of dollars in debt, government spending continues to rise. Common sense budgeting solutions are necessary, and the ATF Elimination Act is one measure we can take to reduce spending, redundancy, and practice responsible governance. The ATF is a scandal-ridden, largely duplicative agency that has been branded by failure and lacks a clear mission. It is plagued by backlogs, funding gaps, hiring challenges, and a lack of leadership. These facts make it a logical place to begin draining the swamp and acting in the best interest of the American taxpayer.”

“F Troop” has long been the red-headed stepchild of federal law enforcement, passed around from Treasury, to Justice, back to Treasury, and finally back to Justice. The ATF has been routinely accused of incompetence, abusive prosecution, corruption, and has been responsible for a number of major controversies, including the Ruby Ridge siege, the Branch Davidian siege, and the smuggling of weapons to the Sinaloa drug cartel under Operation Fast and Furious and other alleged gun-running operations in other states that have never been adequately investigated. Democrats are protesting as they are losing one of the most violent and powerful mercenary operations capable of killing their opposition.

**The Environmental Protectionist Agency Avoids Fines**

The Environmental Protection Agency announced Friday it will not repay claims totaling more than $1.2 billion for economic damages from a mine waste spill the agency accidentally triggered in Colorado, saying the law prohibits it.

The EPA said the claims could be refiled in federal court, or Congress could authorize payments.

But attorneys for the EPA and the Justice Department concluded the EPA is barred from paying the claims because of sovereign immunity, which prohibits most lawsuits against the government.

"The agency worked hard to find a way in which it could pay individuals for damages due to the incident, but unfortunately, our hands are tied," EPA spokeswoman Nancy Grantham said.

The EPA said it has spent more than $31.3 million on the spill, including remediation work, water testing and payments to state, local and tribal agencies.

A total of 73 claims were filed, some by farmers who lost crops or had to haul water because rivers polluted by the spill were temporarily unusable for irrigation and livestock. Rafting companies and their employees sought lost income and wages because they couldn't take visitors on river trips. Some homeowners sought damages because they said their wells were affected.

"We had direct revenue losses of $50,000-plus," said Alex Mickel, owner of Mild to Wild Rafting in Durango, Colorado.

Mickel said the EPA had left him with the impression it would compensate for economic losses.

"That just amazes me that they would do just a complete reversal," he said in an interview. Mickel said he would consult with his attorney on his next move.

The August 2015 spill at the Gold King Mine in southwestern Colorado released 3 million gallons of wastewater tainted with iron, aluminum, manganese, lead, copper and other metals. The Animas and San Juan rivers in Colorado, New Mexico and Utah were polluted, with stretches of waterway turning an eerie orange-yellow.

Some of the affected rivers pass through Indian reservations. Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye said the nation would keep pushing for compensation.

"It was devastating to both the Navajo Nation and to the farmers," he said. "Even today, people still question if the water is clean enough for farming, livestock or human consumption."

The EPA has said water quality in the rivers has returned to pre-spill conditions. Members of Congress expressed anger and disappointment at the EPA decision. New Mexico Sens. Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich and Rep. Ben Ray Lujan, all Democrats, accused the agency of reneging on a pledge.

"We are outraged at this last-ditch move by the federal government's lawyers to go back on the EPA's promise to the people of the state of New Mexico — and especially the Navajo Nation — that it would fully address this environmental disaster that still plagues the people of the Four Corners region."

Members of Colorado's congressional delegation said they would introduce legislation to repay economic damage.

"When the law allows the government to hide from those whom it has harmed, the law must change," Colorado Republican Sen. Cory Gardner said. The only way these words will ever mean anything is for the EPA to be dissolved completely and possibly established as regional, state-governed offices that answer directly to the local legislatures.

An EPA-led contractor crew triggered the spill while doing exploratory excavation work at the mine entrance in advance of a possible cleanup. The Gold King is one of hundreds of inactive mines in the Colorado Mountains that continuously spew polluted water into rivers or have the potential to do so.

The EPA has designated the area a Superfund site to pay, with more taxpayer dollars, for a broad cleanup. Initial research is underway. Under no circumstances will the EPA tap into their own vast holdings to pay for their mistake.

State, federal and tribal officials have been harshly critical of the EPA for causing the spill and for its handling of the aftermath, including the costs. The Navajo Nation and the state of New Mexico have already sued the agency in federal court, and other lawsuits are likely after Friday's announcement.

Last month, the EPA said it would pay $4.5 million to state, local and tribal governments to cover the cost of their emergency response to the spill, but the agency rejected $20.4 million in other requests for past and future expenses, again citing federal law; a law that they wrote and passed to protect themselves from catastrophic mistakes like this one.

**The LGBTQ Slavemasters Lash Celebrities into Line**

Sometimes, dreams come true. You work hard, display your talent, get recognition, get a record contract, play every club and every event in sight until enough people hear you, that you become rich and famous. But there is a sad truth in America for more than 300 years now. There are some people who just feel like they can own and control other people. In a dream come true, for one of the most watched events in history, Jennifer Holliday accepted the invitational honor to be perform at the Make America Great Again! concert welcoming people to the inauguration. But within days, she was brought to heel.

the LBGT activists made a nasty call to her manager. They published a nasty article in the tabloids. It was time to teach Miss Holliday a lesson in obedience. The LGBT econo-terrorists ordered her to get back down off that stage and step back into line with their other slaves. Holliday was forced to announce she will no longer be partaking in the festivities.

Holliday was forced to not only to get off the stage, but to write an open letter to her LGBT fans, apologizing for agreeing to sing at the show. She said that she's a "bi-partisan songbird" and has sung for all of the presidents from Ronald Reagan to George W. Bush, and thought that singing at this show would be a "healing and unifying force" for the country. She could not have been more wrong. She has seen the error of trying to think for herself, and dream for herself.

The full text of the letter, which was exclusively sent to [TheWrap](http://www.thewrap.com/jennifer-holliday-trump-inauguration-lgbt/):

TO MY BELOVED LGBT COMMUNITY:

Please allow me this opportunity to speak to you directly and to explain why I originally made my decision to perform at the inauguration which was what I had thought would be my simply keeping in my tradition of being a “bi-partisan songbird” having sung for Presidents Reagan, Bush, Clinton and Bush.

I was asked to sing a song for what was presented to me as the “Welcome Concert For The People”– in my mind I was reflecting on the past times of being asked to sing for presidents and I only focused on the phrase “For The People”… I thought, For America!

I was honestly just thinking that I wanted my voice to be a healing and unifying force for hope through music to help our deeply polarized country… Regretfully, I did not take into consideration that my performing for the concert would actually instead be taken as a political act against my own personal beliefs and be mistaken for support of Donald Trump and Mike Pence.

In light of the information pointed out to me via the Daily Beast article on yesterday, my only choice must now be to stand with the LGBT Community and to state unequivocally that I WILL NOT PERFORM FOR THE WELCOME CONCERT OR FOR ANY OF THE INAUGURATION FESTIVITIES!

I sincerely apologize for my lapse of judgement, for being uneducated on the issues that affect every American at this crucial time in history and for causing such dismay and heartbreak to my fans.

Please know that I HEAR YOU and I feel your pain. The LGBT Community was mostly responsible for birthing my career and I am deeply indebted to you… You have loved me faithfully and unconditionally and for so many years you provided me with work even though my star had long since faded.

Thank you for communicating with me, I had no idea that I still meant so much to all of you.

Thank you for your posted comments both the good supportive ones as well as the ugly hurtful ones.

With LOVE & Appreciation,

JENNIFER  HOLLIDAY
“The Original DreamGirl”

As of now, Jackie Evancho, the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, the Rockettes, Toby Keith, Paul Anka, Three Doors Down, and Lee Greenwood are all scheduled to perform at the inauguration. By the way, Jackie was a star on American’s Got Talent, and her record sales went through the roof with the honor of being asked to sing at the inauguration. What have the LGBT slavemasters done to Jennifer’s career? Well, everyone has to retire sometime.

Honestly, this is such a shame. Holliday's voice is beautiful, and we'd all be better off from having heard her sing. She *could* have been a help heal America from the polarizing force of Obama, but now we have nothing, which is sad.

**Draining the Swamp: What’s it Really Going to Take?**

The Foggy Bottom Swamp, otherwise known as Washington DC, has more Lamborghini and Ferrari dealerships per capita than anywhere in the world. The swamp is deep and wide. There are three main gangs that control life in the swamp. They are brutal. They are merciless. They are celebrating their 84th birthday this year. In 1933, their infiltration of the White House was complete, and during the next 16 years, they built the foundations of what is today known as the Agency government.

The three gangs are the Lobbyists, the Press, and the Agencies.

The Lobbyists are in place to broker corporate money to politicians.

The Press is there to purvey the corporate propaganda.

The Agencies are there to prevent competition with the global multi-billion dollar corporations.

The swamp is protected by the most powerful military and 17 different intelligence groups who do everything from monitor you, place illegal information on your computer, or assassinate you. They are afraid of no one. They will go to war with anyone.

Notice that the elected officials are inconsequential to the swamp. It’s because they truly are. The people who are elected are not the ones who we should focus on. The ones we should focus on are the millions that work in the agencies. The Secretaries are powerful, but they have never been asked to dismantle the Agency for which they have been given command. I hope Rick Perry does take the Dept of Energy apart.

This is what it is going to take to drain the swamp.

**Civilians Launching into Space**

Today's liftoff — which was pushed back from Jan. 9 because of bad weather and issues with launch-site availability — will also include some action in the downward direction. SpaceX plans to try to land the Falcon 9's first stage on a robotic "drone ship" stationed in the Pacific Ocean, as part of the company's effort to develop fully and rapidly reusable rockets. This is a priority for SpaceX founder and CEO Elon Musk, who has said that such technology will slash the cost of spaceflight and help open the heavens to exploration.

The Sept. 1 explosion, which occurred during a routine prelaunch test of a Falcon 9, destroyed the rocket and the $200 million Amos-6 communications satellite. SpaceX investigators traced the cause of the accident to the failure of a high-pressure helium tank inside the Falcon 9's upper stage.

SpaceX announced earlier this month that it had wrapped up its mishap investigation. The Federal Aviation Administration has accepted the results of the inquiry and has granted SpaceX a launch license that covers the seven liftoffs required to loft the 70 Iridium-NEXT satellites from Vandenberg.

**NASA and JPL Exploring Earth for Answers to Climate Change**

NASA scientists, including many from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, California, are crisscrossing the globe in 2017 -- from a Hawaiian volcano to Colorado mountaintops and west Pacific islands -- to investigate critical scientific questions about how our planet is changing and what impacts humans are having on it.

Field experiments are an important part of NASA's Earth science research. Scientists worldwide use the agency's field data, together with satellite observations and computer models, to tackle environmental challenges and advance our knowledge of how Earth works as a complex, integrated system.

"At NASA we are always pushing the boundaries of what can be done from space to advance science and improve lives around the world," said Thomas Zurbuchen, associate administrator of NASA's Science Mission Directorate in Washington. "These field campaigns help us build better tools to address such issues as managing scarce water resources and alerting the public to natural disasters."

**New Investigations**

Three new field campaigns kick off this month. Scientists preparing for a future Hyperspectral Infrared Imager (HyspIRI) mission will take to the skies above Hawaii to collect airborne data on coral reef health and volcanic emissions and eruptions. This airborne experiment supports a potential HyspIRI satellite mission to study the world's ecosystems and provide information on natural disasters.

Scientists working on another future satellite -- the Plankton, Aerosol, Cloud, ocean Ecosystem (PACE) mission -- set sail in January from Hawaii. The month-long sea campaign across the Pacific on the research vessel Falkor will monitor the diversity of oceanic phytoplankton, microscopic plant-like organisms, and their impact on the marine carbon cycle. Novel measurements will be compared to existing satellite observations and used in preparation for the PACE mission.

In February, the SnowEx airborne campaign begins flights over the snow-covered forests of Colorado for the first of a multiyear effort to determine how much water is stored in Earth's terrestrial snow-covered regions.

**Continuing Investigations**

In addition to the new field campaigns, eight Earth science projects will continue this year. The second deployment of NASA's Atmospheric Tomography (ATom) mission begins in January with a 28-day flight around the world. ATom will gather measurements of more than 200 different gases, as well as aerosols from the air near the ocean surface to approximately 7 miles (11 kilometers) altitude. The goal is to understand the sources, movement and transformation of short-lived greenhouse gases, such as ozone and methane, which are important contributors to climate change.

The Atmospheric Carbon and Transport -- America (ACT-America) research team returns to the skies over the eastern half of the United States in January to continue tracking the movement of atmospheric carbon, the objective being to better understand the sources and sinks of greenhouse gases. Flights will originate from Louisiana, Nebraska and Virginia.

Three field campaigns are heading to the Arctic. In March, Oceans Melting Greenland (OMG) will conduct its second set of airborne surveys of glacier heights around the edge of Greenland and coastal ocean conditions. The mission is providing the first comprehensive look at how glaciers and oceans change year to year.

Operation IceBridge returns in March to the Arctic for the ninth straight year to measure changes in the elevation of the Greenland ice sheet and sea ice extent. In the fall, the team also will begin its yearly measurements of land and sea ice in Antarctica.

This summer, the Arctic Boreal Vulnerability Experiment (ABoVE) will start the airborne component of its decade-long campaign that began last year to study the ecology of the fast-changing northern reaches of Alaska and Canada. A diverse suite of instruments will be flown to investigate the region's permafrost, carbon cycle, vegetation and water bodies and inform future satellite missions. Scientists will also go into the field to support the airborne measurements.

Two experiments head back to the Pacific Ocean this year. In February, the Coral Reef Airborne Laboratory (CORAL) project team will continue its airborne and in-water investigations in the Hawaiian Islands to assess the condition of threatened coral-based ecosystems. In the spring, CORAL will target the waters off Palau and Guam and the rest of the Mariana Islands. In October, NASA's second Salinity Processes in the Upper Ocean Regional Study (SPURS-2) returns to the eastern tropical Pacific to recover instruments installed in September to investigate the oceanic and atmospheric processes that control changes in salinity.

On the other side of the world, two field campaigns are returning to the Atlantic Ocean. From its base in Namibia, the Observations of Clouds above Aerosols and their Interactions (ORACLES) study will use airborne instruments this fall to probe the impact on climate and rainfall of the interaction between clouds over the southeastern Atlantic Ocean and smoke from vegetation burning in southern Africa. The North Atlantic Aerosols and Marine Ecosystems Study (NAAMES) will take to the sea and air, for the third year, to study how the world's largest plankton bloom gives rise to small organic particles that influence clouds and climate.

**Russia and the Sanction Game**

When Russia illegally annexed Crimea and started interfering in Eastern Ukraine, the West responded with economic sanctions. In July 2014, sanctions were enacted in a coordinated manner by the European Union, the United States, Canada, and other Allies and partners.

These sanctions were further strengthened in September 2014. EU sanctions, which had been due to lapse in July 2015, have been extended to January 2016. The US and Canadian sanctions are open-ended.

There are three types of economic sanctions. The first restricts access to Western financial markets and services for designated Russian state-owned enterprises in the banking, energy, and defense sectors. The second places an embargo on exports to Russia of designated high-technology oil exploration and production equipment. The third is an embargo on exports to Russia of designated military and dual-use goods.

The justification for these Western sanctions is internationally well-understood. But to muddy the waters, Russia imposed a ban on food imports from Western nations in August 2014. That ban remains in place.

President-elect Donald Trump said that he would consider lifting sanctions on Russia and was non-committal on the One China policy in an interview published Friday in the Wall Street Journal.

The two positions mark significant changes in American foreign policy.

“If you get along and if Russia is really helping us, why would anybody have sanctions if somebody’s doing some really great things?” said Trump, referring to the possibility of lifting sanctions against Russia if they proved helpful in fighting terrorism and in other areas.

Trump told the publication he would keep sanctions put in place in December—imposed in response to Russian cyber-attacks and interference in the 2016 election—“at least for a period of time” but didn’t specify otherwise, according to the report.

In a press conference Wednesday, Trump said it would be an “asset” if Putin liked him.

“I understand that they would like to meet, and that’s absolutely fine with me,” he told the Journal of the Russian leader. Keep in mind that the massive quantity of armor moved into place by Obama’s United Stations investments. Obama appears to have played perfectly into Trump’s plan by providing a bargaining chip to be played. Trump will eliminate sanctions and stand down or defund NATO’s forces to remove the threat from his country. It may, in fact provide a safe future for Russia so that they can elect a peacetime president to replace the long overdue Putin.

**Special Sale**

The Obama Library Association has a new Amazon page. They are offering the American Medal of Freedom to the first 100 people who will work hard to preserve his legacy. He awarded the civilian award to Joe Biden, and of course awarded one to himself. We will provide the link for the Amazon page where you can get one of your own. Limit one per person, sorry.

Also, if you are in prison for felonious drug dealing or manufacturing, please send an email to pardons@ObamaLegacy.com hashtag #ObamaForever #ObamaTheGreat #ObamaThePious.

**Syria: Is the End in Sight?**

The past 15 months changed things dramatically on the ground. Russia’s intervention was a game-changer, short of decisive so far. Hopefully liberating Syria from its US-supported terrorist scourge is possible with a changing of the guard in Washington.

Trump expressed an intention to cooperate with Russia in combating terrorism, an agenda polar opposite Obama’s if he follows through responsibly.

War so far continues. Announced cessation of hostilities with numerous terrorist groups remains shaky. On January 7 alone, Russia’s reconciliation center reported 24 ceasefire violations.

 According to the center, “Russian officials in the Russian-Turkish joint commission set up to monitor ceasefire violations in Syria reported ten violations, including five – in the province of Hama, two – in the province of Latakia, two – in the province of Damascus, and one – in the province of Aleppo.”

 “Turkish officials reported 14 ceasefire violations, including seven – in the province of Damascus, four – in the province of Aleppo, two – in the province of Daraa, and one – in the province of Idlib.”

 The good news is there’s “been a downward trend in the number of mutual violations and an upward trend in confidence among the warring side,” Russia’s center said.

Announced cessation of hostilities took effect at midnight, December 30 local time. Most US-supported terrorist groups agreed to honor it. Many others so far refused, so fighting continues.

On January 7, a bomb detonated near an Azaz, Syria courthouse (near Turkey’s border) killing dozens, wounding scores more, along with causing considerable damage. Aleppo’s liberation last month was a major turning point in the war. Residents are returning. Rebuilding began.

On Saturday, a government plane successfully took off from the city’s international airport for the first time in over four years. The airport is expected to be reopened to the public next month. On Friday, Russia’s naval battle group headed home after two months of operations against terrorists infesting Syria.

According to Russia’s Group of Forces in Syria commander General Andrei Kartapolov, “(over) the two months of their participation in combat operations, naval aviation pilots have carried out 420 sorties, including 117 in nighttime.”

 “Actually all flights were performed in complex weather conditions. A total of 1,252 terrorist facilities have been destroyed.”

 “The strikes were delivered against infrastructure facilities, the amassments of militants and military hardware, fire emplacements and strongholds of illegal armed formations.”

 “The Black Sea Fleet’s frigate Admiral Grigorovich staying in the Mediterranean Sea delivered a missile strike on November 15, 2016 with Kalibr cruise missiles against facilities of the ISIL on the territory of Syria. All the targets were destroyed.”

Airstrikes on ground-based targets from warships aboard naval vessels were completed successfully for the first time in Russian naval history, proving its capability at sea is a force to be reckoned with. According to Kartapolov, “(t)he Northern Fleet’s aircraft carrier naval group is ready for further operations.”

On Friday, Russian Armed Forces General Staff head Gen. Valery Gerasimov announced Moscow’s intention to scale back its military operations in Syria – beginning by withdrawing its Northern Fleet carrier group. Its a risky move, tried earlier last year and failed, giving US-backed terrorists breathing room to regroup, rearm and mobilize for more attacks. If Trump cooperates with Putin in combating terrorism, perhaps it can work this time. If not, we’re back to square one.

The bombing of a military weapons depot at the Syrian military airport near Damascus is confusing as well. There is no statement by Netanyahu as to why he did it. Rockets and jets destroyed the depot. Why Israel? Why didn’t the S-300’s defend the airport? Are they just for parades? No. I think someone is trying very hard to get Russia to attack Israel, and someone is trying very hard to get Israel to shoot down a Russian plane. Fortunately, Putin is not taking the bait. He will wait until Trump takes office, and they can sit down and discuss the situation. Maybe Trump can get everyone to back away from the Rothschild’s card table.

**Egypt not Safe for Christians**

Egyptian prosecutors have thrown out a case brought by an elderly Christian woman against several members of a Muslim mob who stripped off her clothes and paraded her naked through the streets, her lawyer said Sunday.

Last May's assault in the central Minya province began after rumors spread that the son of the 70-year-old woman had an affair with a Muslim woman — a taboo in majority Muslim and conservative Egypt.

Saturday's decision by the prosecutors cited lack of sufficient evidence, according to the lawyer, Eihab Ramzy. Another case against the alleged perpetrators of the violence, which also targeted Christian homes, remains ongoing.

The woman, Souad Thabet, told a U.S.-based Christian TV station that she and her family are unable to return home to this day because of threats by Muslim extremists in the village. Ramzy said local authorities have pressed the family to reconcile with Muslims in the village.

"It's a calamity," Ramzy told The Associated Press about the prosecutors' decision to throw out the case. "The preliminary investigation heard testimonies supporting her account from family members and policemen at the scene."

At the time of the attack, President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi called for the culprits to be held accountable and gave the military a month to restore property damaged during the violence, at no cost to the owners.

A presidential statement issued then praised the role of "glorious Egyptian women" and said "the rights and the protection of their dignity are a humanitarian and patriotic commitment before being a legal and constitutional one."

El-Sissi has since taking office in 2014 been reaching out to the religious leadership of Egypt's Christian minority. He attended this month's Christmas Mass for Egypt's Coptic Orthodox Church, the country's main Christian denomination. Last month, he led a state funeral for the victims of a suicide bombing in a Cairo church that killed nearly 30 people, mostly women.

The bombing, claimed by the extremist Islamic State group, shook the community and raised questions about the adequacy of the security provided for Christian places of worship. Christian activists have long maintained that el-Sissi has not done enough to address the discrimination faced by Christians, who are often denied top jobs in security agencies or academia.

Discrimination against Christians, who make up about 10 percent of the population, is subtle in big cities like Cairo or Alexandria, but becomes much more pronounced in provinces like Minya, where they are a sizable minority.

"The government is allowing the oppressors to walk free on the streets," Thabet told the TV channel. "This is our village that we were born and raised in ... How can we be the victims and not be able to return to our village and homes?"