



# We'll defeat 'Islamic terrorism'

## Vows Trump, accuses media of ignoring terrorist attacks in Europe

AGENCIES

President Donald Trump has vowed that America and its allies would defeat the "forces of death" and keep radical jihadists from gaining a foothold on US soil, but did not offer details about his strategy to defeat the Islamic State group.

In his first visit to US Central Command -- responsible for an area that includes the Middle East and Central Asia -- Trump also did not say whether he would scrap parts of the anti-IS mission in Iraq and Syria undertaken by his predecessor Barack Obama.

"Today, we deliver a message in one very unified voice to these forces of death and destruction -- America and its allies will defeat you. We will defeat them," he told about 300 military personnel at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida.

"We will defeat radical Islamic terrorism. And we will not allow it to take root in our country," Trump added. "Freedom, security and justice will prevail."

He accused Islamic State fighters of leading a "campaign of genocide, committing atrocities across the world," and promised an unspecified "historic financial investment" in the US military.

He claimed that the "very, very dishonest press doesn't want to report" on certain attacks across Europe, without offering any corroborating evidence to back up his allegation.

"They have their reasons," he said, without explaining further.

Trump made fighting "radical Islamic terrorism" a central plank of his election campaign, and the issue is emerging as the organizing principle of his foreign and domestic policies.

In late January, the president ordered generals to



US President Donald Trump attends a lunch with members of the US military during a visit at the US Central Command (CENTCOM) and Special Operations Command (SOCOM) headquarters in Tampa, Florida, US, on Monday.

### US IN TRANSITION

Appeals court to hear travel ban arguments today

Assad sees Trump's IS view as promising

begin a 30-day review of the US strategy to defeat IS.

Trump used potential cooperation in the fight against the fighters as a reason to embrace Russia and has tried to implement an order banning refugees and nationals of seven Muslim-majority countries from entering the United States.

The ban has spurred an unprecedented battle with the courts. On Sunday, Trump tried to pin the blame for future attacks on the federal judge who has temporarily blocked his executive order.

A US appeals court was set to hold a hearing yesterday over the controversial travel ban, which the government is defending as a "lawful exercise" of president's authority.

The White House on Monday urged the court to reinstate the ban in the interests of national security three days after a federal judge barred enforcement of the controversial measure in a high-stakes case that looks increasingly likely to be settled by the

Supreme Court.

Justice Department lawyers challenging the nationwide injunction called it "vastly overbroad" in a court brief filed Monday.

Tuesday's hour-long telephone hearing is scheduled for 3:00 pm (2300 GMT).

Two new polls show a majority of Americans now oppose the travel ban on refugees and travelers from seven mostly Muslim nations, which prompted airport chaos and condemnation around the world.

Most experts express more concern about Americans becoming radicalized and carrying out IS-inspired attacks, rather than the group dispatching clandestine agents around the world.

Meanwhile, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad said Trump prioritising the fight against jihadists by Islamic State was promising although it was too early to expect any practical steps, state news agency SANA reported yesterday.

# Trump reveals US's 'real face'

## Khamenei thanks the US leader

AFP, Tehran

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei yesterday said he was grateful to US President Donald Trump for revealing "the real face of America".

"We are thankful to this gentleman... he showed the real face of America," Khamenei said in a speech to military officers in Tehran.

"What we have said for more than 30 years -- that there is political, economic, moral and social corruption in the ruling system of the US -- this gentleman came and brought it out into the open in the election and after the election."

He referred to the case of a young Iranian boy who was pictured in handcuffs at a US airport following Trump's ban on visas for seven Muslim-majority countries, including Iran.

"By what he does -- handcuffing a five-year-old child -- he shows the true meaning of American human rights," Khamenei said.

He also responded to Trump's tweet of February 3, when the US president said: "Iran is playing with fire -- they don't appreciate how 'kind' President Obama was to them."

Khamenei ridiculed the idea of being grateful to former president Barack Obama, saying he was the one who placed "paralysing sanctions" on Iran and helped create the Islamic State group through his destabilising actions in Iraq and Syria.

Meanwhile, a top Chinese judge has branded Trump a bully and an "enemy of the rule of law" for attacking the US judiciary as China levels in the upheaval gripping the world's leading democracy.



(From left, clockwise) People inspect the damage at a site hit by airstrikes in the rebel-held city of Idlib, Syria, yesterday. A Syrian newborn girl and a man receive treatment at a hospital in Ghouta region following a reported airstrike. Air strikes on Syria's former al-Qaeda affiliate Fateh al-Sham Front in the country's northwest on Tuesday killed 26 people, including civilians, a monitoring group told AFP.



### NEWSIN brief

#### Nobel Prize replica of Satyarthi stolen

TNN, New Delhi

Social activist Kailash Satyarthi's house in south Delhi has been burgled and his Nobel prize replica is among the objects that have been stolen, police said yesterday. The theft was discovered by the staff of the social activist in the morning. 63-year-old Satyarthi is currently attending the World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates in America.

#### Saudi attempts self-immolation in Makkah

AFP, Makkah

Saudi police arrested an apparently "mentally disturbed" man who tried to set himself on fire at Islam's holiest site, the Grand Mosque in Makkah, a police spokesman said yesterday. The man "poured petrol on himself and tried to set it alight," a police spokesman said. One witness said the man had been uttering "takfiri" slogans, referring to extremist Islamist groups. Another witness said the man also tried to set fire to the kiswah, the black curtain that covers the Kaaba.

#### Israeli strikes on Gaza injure 3 Palestinians

AL JAZEERA ONLINE

The Israeli army has attacked a number of Hamas targets in the Gaza Strip, wounding at least three people, Palestinian health officials said. Israel's military said the strikes were in response to a rocket fire, causing no injuries. Two Hamas posts were targeted by Israeli tank fire, while air strikes hit targets in northern Gaza. Later on Monday, at least five air strikes hit Khan Yunis in the south.

### SUICIDE BLAST AT AFGHANISTAN SUPREME COURT

## 20 killed, 41 injured

AFP, Kabul

The piercingly loud explosion shook nearby buildings, smashing windows and blasting debris onto the streets. Police blocked off the road around



the high-profile compound located near the US embassy as panicked relatives of court employees began to gather and ambulances and fire trucks rushed to the scene.

"Twenty people were killed (including 3 women & one child), and 41 others were injured in today's suicide attack in #Kabul," health ministry

official Wahidullah Mayar wrote on Twitter.

The ministry warned the toll could rise still further.

There were scenes of desperation at the Italian-run Emergency hospital in Kabul as anxious civilians looking for missing relatives searched through the ambulances that brought the dead and wounded.

President Ashraf Ghani condemned the attack in a statement, calling it a "crime against humanity and an unforgivable act".

On Monday the United Nations said civilian casualties in Afghanistan in 2016 were the highest recorded by the world body, with nearly 11,500 people -- one third of them children -- killed or wounded.

The report comes as officials warn of a growing humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, as unprecedented numbers of people flee the fighting while hundreds of thousands of failed asylum seekers are repatriated home.

### UN REPORT ON ROHINGYA ABUSES

## Myanmar rejects criticism

AFP, Yangon

A Myanmar state commission probing allegations the military has killed, tortured and raped Rohingya Muslims yesterday rejected accusations, saying it was focused on the "truth" and not pleasing the UN.

Last week the United Nations' human rights office said Myanmar's military had likely killed hundreds of Rohingya during a continuing crackdown in a "calculated policy of terror" against the Muslim minority.

Almost 70,000 Rohingya have fled to Bangladesh since the army launched "clearance operations" four months ago to find Rohingya militants they accused of carrying out deadly raids on police border posts.

The report by the UN's rights body OHCHR said the accounts of torture, murder and gangrape at the hands of security forces were so severe they may amount to ethnic cleansing.

Among the brutal testimonies published were accounts of children butchered with knives while their mothers were raped by security forces.

Meanwhile, the United States' State Department said on Monday said it is "deeply troubled" by the findings of the UN report.

"We are deeply troubled by the findings," Adams said, referring to the Feb. 3 report from the U.N.'s Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva.

For months Myanmar dismissed similar testimony gathered by foreign media and rights groups and curtailed access to the region.

But following last week's UN report a spokesman for Myanmar's president said the government was concerned by the "extremely serious allegations" and would investigate them through the Rakhine commission.

Critics have rejected the state-appointed body, which is led by retired general and Vice President Myint Swe and includes no Muslims, as toothless and lacking in credibility.

Last month it issued an interim report denying that troops had carried out a genocidal campaign against the Rohingya and saying it had found "insufficient evidence" of rape.

There are more than a million Rohingya in Rakhine state, where they are considered illegal immigrants from Bangladesh and forced to live in conditions akin to apartheid.

## Flight attendant saves girl from human traffickers

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A flight attendant rescued a victim of human trafficking after she spotted the girl looking "dishevelled" on a plane accompanied by a well-dressed man.



Sheila Frederick, 49, was working on an Alaska Airlines flight from Seattle to San Francisco when she noticed the girl, who looked around 14 or 15 years old, and immediately knew something was wrong, according to 10 News.

"Something in the back of my mind said something was not right. He was well-dressed. That's what got me because I thought why is he well-dressed and she is looking all dishevelled and out of sorts?" Frederick told the programme. When she tried to speak with the two passengers, the man reportedly became defensive and the girl wouldn't engage in conversation.

Frederick said she subsequently left a note for the teenager in the plane's toilet, which she later responded to with the message: "I need help."

### POLLS CAMPAIGN FRAUD

## Sarkozy to face trial

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A magistrate has ordered former French president Nicolas Sarkozy to face trial for exceeding election expenses during his failed 2012 campaign.

A judicial source told Reuters that 13 others would also face trial over the so-called "Bygmalion Affair", which has involved charges of spending overruns and funding irregularities.

Sarkozy was previously placed under investigation in a probe into his campaign funding. His 2012 re-election campaign costs were more than twice the legal limit.

The charge exposes the conservative politician, who led France for five years from 2007, to a one-year prison sentence if convicted.



Dr Muhamad Alhaj Moustafa, a Syrian citizen, walks with his wife Nabil Alhaffar, also a Syrian citizen, after she returned from a trip to Doha at the international arrivals hall at Washington Dulles International Airport in Dulles, Virginia, on Monday.

PHOTO: AFP