

Obama's Fake War on Terror Under Attack at UN and at Home

by Jeffrey Steinberg

Sept. 28—Although the UN Security Council unanimously passed a resolution against terrorism Sept. 24, the vote was by no means a victory for President Barack Obama, who chaired the special session. All told, representatives of 50 governments addressed the terrorism crisis during the session, with Argentine President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner stealing the show with a persistent interrogation of Obama.

Fernández assailed Obama's fatally flawed and deeply hypocritical terrorism policy in a series of non-stop questions, all of which Obama attempted to ignore. She made reference to the recent statements by Pope Francis, who warned, in her words "We are living a Third World War, as the Pope says—not a conventional war of the 20th Century, but now more targeted wars." She then asked: "What are the most effective tools to combat terrorism?" She added that the current policies of leading governments seem to be producing nothing but "permanent bloodshed."

Fernández went on to attack the U.S. policy, predating the 9/11 attacks, of constantly redefining the terrorist enemy. When Osama bin Laden was fighting against the Soviet occupation in Afghanistan in the 1980s, for example, he was branded a "freedom fighter," she recalled. Similarly, at the outset of the Arab Spring, rebels targeting the Assad government in Syria were branded as "freedom fighters," but later turned out to be members of the Islamic State or other radical jihadist groups.

Fernández called on all governments with sophisti-

cated intelligence capabilities to address some crucial questions: Who funds the Islamic State? Who provides the training and weapons, and purchases its oil, providing the terrorists with millions of dollars a day in revenue? She noted that the United States and other Western powers clearly have the resources to answer these questions.

In a press conference following the special Security Council session, President Fernández gave her full support to the positions adopted by Russia and China: "I agree with what the Russian, and then the Chinese foreign ministers said: There are no good terrorists or bad terrorists; there are just terrorists."

While the U.S.-sponsored Security Council resolution was adopted, the implementation of its Chapter VII provision was left to sovereign governments. Chapter VII requires that all UN member states take measures, consistent with international law, to halt the flow of foreign fighters and funds to terrorist groups, including the



YouTube

Argentine President Fernández confronted President Obama at the UN General Assembly session, citing Pope Francis: "We are living a Third World War, as the Pope says—not a conventional war of the 20th Century, but now more targeted wars." The two are shown here in 2011, at the G20 Summit in Cannes.

Islamic State, the al-Nusra Front and al-Qaeda. The measure made no provision for implementation, oversight, or penalties against those states that failed to comply.

One Washington source deeply involved in the shaping of U.S. counter-terror strategy noted that the focus on halting the flow of funds and foreign fighters was clearly aimed at Saudi Arabia, Britain, Turkey, Qatar, and other states that have been fueling growth of the jihadists in Iraq and Syria.

Congress Speaks Out

The hypocrisy of the Obama counter-terrorism policy has been most clearly shown in the President's refusal to release the classified 28 pages from the 2002 Joint Congressional 9/11 Inquiry report, which detailed the role of the Saudi Kingdom in supporting the hijackers. Despite repeated promises to family members of the 9/11 victims, Obama, in his six years in office, has refused to declassify those pages. A growing number of Congressmen, led by Reps. Walter Jones (R-N.C.), Stephen Lynch (D-Mass.), and Thomas Massie (R-Ky.), who are the sponsors of HR 428 calling for release of the 28 pages, have demanded the declassification, warning that no war on terrorism can be successfully waged as long as the secrets of 9/11 remain sealed.

Instead of fully exposing and probing the roles of Saudi Arabia and of Great Britain, which is notorious as "Londonistan"—the global headquarters of jihadism and narco-terrorism—Obama's anti-IS strategy is based on an alliance anchored in Saudi Arabia and other Sunni Gulf states which are deeply implicated in the growth of the Sunni jihadists, such as IS.

President Obama has also come under searing attack for his refusal to go to Congress for authorization to go to war. Before Congress recessed on Sept. 18, six resolutions were introduced, all giving the President authorization for the use of military force with clear restrictions, while repealing the 2001 and 2002 authorizations that approved the Afghan and Iraqi wars following the 9/11 attacks.

Appearing on "Face the Nation" Sept. 28, Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va.), the author of one of the six resolutions, assailed the President for his refusal to come to Congress for authorization for war. Kaine cited Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution, which gives Congress the exclusive authority to declare war, as a cornerstone of the entire U.S. system of government; he also criticized Congress for leaving town without acting to

defend the Constitution. Before the August recess, the House of Representatives, by a vote of 370-40, had demanded that the President come to Congress for a new authorization.

Those actions, however, fall far short of what is required. The President has now brought the country into two wars without going to Congress for authorization. In 2011, Obama led the war to overthrow Libyan dictator Muammar Qaddafi; and this year, he has ordered military actions in both Iraq and Syria without Congressional approval. These are impeachable crimes under the Constitution and the President should be removed from office for these violations.

President Obama has not only violated the Constitution and ignored the will of Congress. Washington sources confirm that the entire Obama Cabinet, along with the Joint Chiefs of Staff, argue that the President should go to Congress for authorization for war against the Islamic State. The President and key White House aides, however, have refused. This is nothing short of a drive for dictatorship, as warned this week by Lyndon LaRouche.

Furthermore, the failure to go after Saudi Arabia, which is at the center of the promotion and funding of global Sunni jihadist terrorism, is a crime committed by first, the Bush-Cheney Administration, and now, the Obama Administration.

Saudi Scholars' Statement

While President Obama refuses to touch the Saudi factor in jihadist terrorism, dating back to the original 9/11 attacks and earlier, a group of prominent Sunni scholars took up the issue this week (see below). In an open letter to Islamic State head Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, 126 leading Muslim scholars, led by the Al Azhar University in Cairo, Egypt, issued a comprehensive statement showing that the IS has distorted and violated the fundamental teachings of Islam. The Wahhabi version of Sunni Islam espoused by IS is also the version practiced by Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

In a recent webcast, LaRouche enthusiastically endorsed Joint Chiefs chairman Gen. Martin Dempsey's call for an all-out war to destroy the Islamic State. For any such war to succeed, it must be based on a truthful public exposé of the role of both the Saudis and the British in the sponsorship and funding of global terrorism, and it must involve cooperation with all of the nations of the Middle East—including Iran and Syria.

Russian, Chinese, and Syrian government officials,

speaking at the UN General Assembly, all assailed the Obama Administration for conducting war on Syrian soil without the official consent and cooperation of the Syrian government. This clear violation of national sovereignty and the United Nations Charter is no way to wage a winning war on terrorism. The difference between failure and success will be measured by whether the war is conducted with full respect for sovereignty, and is based on the kind of war-winning strategy of genuine economic development embodied in the recent actions of the BRICS nations. For the moment, under President Obama, the United States is failing those tests.