

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY UPDATE
January 30 - February 4, 2015

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1. [Worldwide Threat Scope, Complexity on the Rise](#) (02-03-2015)

By Claudette Roulo
DoD News, Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3, 2015 – Taken in aggregate, recent political, military, social and technological developments have created security challenges more diverse and complex than any the nation has ever experienced, Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Vincent R. Stewart, director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, told Congress today.

Testifying before the House Armed Services Committee on the subject of worldwide threats, Stewart was joined by Army Lt. Gen. William Mayville, Joint Staff director for operations, and Mark S. Chandler, acting director for intelligence for the Joint Staff.

"Our challenges range from highly capable near-peer competitors, to empowered individuals with nefarious intentions. Increasing demands, coupled with today's challenging fiscal environment, have stressed our defense intelligence establishments and forced us to accept greater risk," Stewart said.

The existing strategic environment isn't going away any time soon, he said.

The increasing scope, volatility and complexity of threats are "the new normal," Stewart said.

The Defense Intelligence Agency is focused on three areas of special concern, the general said.

Military Competitors

"Capable military competitors -- Russian military activity, for example -- are at historically high levels," he said. "Moscow is pursuing aggressive foreign and defense policies, including conducting destabilizing operations in the Ukraine, conducting a record number of out of area naval operations and increasing its long-range aviation patrols.

"In addition," Stewart continued, "Beijing is focused on building a modern military capable of achieving success on a 21st century battlefield and advancing its core interests -- which include maintaining its sovereignty, protecting its territorial integrity and projecting its regional influence."

Breakdown of Law and Order

Vulnerable and ungoverned territory is on the rise due to the erosion of moderate and secular Islamic states, Stewart said.

"While coalition strikes have degraded the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant's ability to operate openly in Iraq and Syria, the group retains the ability to conduct limited offensive operations and is seeking to expand its presence and influence beyond these two countries," he said. "Governments in countries such as Egypt, Algeria, Jordan and Lebanon are under stress from a variety of sources, thereby reducing their capability as a region to confront the threat posed by violent extremists."

And the breakdown of order in Syria, Yemen, Iraq, Libya and northern Nigeria has created "fertile spawning grounds" for terrorist organizations with far-reaching influence, the general said.

Space, Cyber Threats

The space and cyber domains are increasingly threatened, he said. Russia and China are recognizing the strategic value of space and are focusing on diminishing the advantages held by the U.S. and its allies.

"Both countries are conducting anti-satellite research and developing anti-satellite weapons, with the intent of denying the U.S. the use of space in the event of conflict," Stewart said.

For the Defense Department, the cyber threat is particularly alarming because of the interconnected nature of weapons, communications and networks, he said.

"At low cost, with limited technical expertise, our adversaries have the potential to cause severe damage and disruption to U.S. systems, leaving little or no footprint behind," the general said. And the speed and influence of mobile communications and social media have the potential to magnify international crises and shorten an already compressed decision-making cycle, Stewart added.

Sequestration

The demand for intelligence has never been greater, he said, but sequestration and operational demands have forced the military intelligence community to accept increased risk.

This "will have a direct and lasting impact on our ability to provide high-quality, nuanced intelligence required by policy makers and war fighters. I fear that the true cost of these difficult choices today may be paid on the battlefield of the future," the general said.

Biographies:

[Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Vincent R. Stewart](#)

Related Sites:

[Defense Intelligence Agency](#)

2. Hagel, Austin Extend Condolences on Murder of Jordanian Pilot (02-03-2015)

DoD News, Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3, 2015 – Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, in a statement released today, extended his deepest condolences to the family of Royal Jordanian Air Force pilot First Lieutenant Moaz al-Kassasbeh, who “was brutally murdered after being taken captive by Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant terrorists.”

Hagel said the “horrific, savage killing is yet another example of ISIL's contempt for life itself.”

The United States and its military “stand steadfast alongside our Jordanian friends and partners,” Hagel said. “Jordan remains a pillar of our global coalition to degrade and ultimately destroy ISIL, and this act of despicable barbarity only strengthens our shared resolve. We send our thoughts and prayers to Lieutenant al-Kassasbeh's comrades, loved ones, and all Jordanians as we join them in mourning this tragic loss.”

U.S. Central Command Statement

Also in a statement issued today, the chief of Tampa, Florida-based U.S. Central Command condemned al-Kasasbeh's murder at the hands of ISIL terrorists.

“U.S. Central Command strongly condemns ISIL's savage murder of Jordanian pilot, Moath al-Kasasbeh. This vicious act is yet another example of ISIL or ‘Daesh's’ brutality and warped ideology,” Army Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III said in his statement.

“First and foremost,” Austin added, “our thoughts and prayers are with his family.” Al-Kasasbeh, he said, served his country courageously and honorably as an important member of the counter-ISIL coalition.

Austin said he'd spoken with General Mashal al-Zaben, chief of staff of the Jordanian Armed Forces, “and assured him that we stand with our Jordanian partners and together we will fight this barbaric enemy until it is defeated.”

Biographies:

[Chuck Hagel](#)

[Army Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III](#)

Related Sites:

[Special Report: Operation Inherent Resolve - Targeted Operations Against ISIL Terrorists](#)

[U.S. Central Command](#)

3. International Community United Against ISIL, Strikes Making Difference (02-03-2015)

By Jim Garamone
DoD News, Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3, 2015 – The battle against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant is not a U.S. war, it is a large international effort to defeat a crazed and barbaric ideology, Pentagon Press Secretary Navy Rear Adm. John Kirby said here today.

ISIL burned a captured Jordanian pilot alive in January. Kirby condemned the murder, and said it in no way will stop the effort against the terrorists. “We know that they have the ability to continue to generate young men that are attracted to this group and this ideology, and that's going to be a long-term problem,” he said during a Pentagon news conference.

“It’s going to take a while to get at the ideology, which is the real center of gravity here,” the admiral said. “You’re not going to do that through bombs and airstrikes. That doesn't mean the bombs and airstrikes aren’t going to keep happening. They are.”

A Coalition of 60

Kirby disputed allegations that the war against ISIL is a U.S. war. “I think a coalition of 60 nations proves that it’s not,” he said. “We’re not the only ones involved in this in trying to get rid of this group.”

U.S. air strikes on the group continue to be effective, he said. As indigenous forces become more capable, the attrition will continue. Still, ISIL is capable of bringing more people to the fight. “We are going to stay committed to this for the long-term, and it is going to be a long-term fight,” the admiral said.

Judging the coalition effectiveness against the group is difficult. “A better judgment of the strength of this group is their behavior,” he said. “So, we’ve seen them change the way they operate on the ground. They are hiding more. We've seen them not travel around in convoys. ... They are not as agile as they once were. We know that they’ve lost literally hundreds and hundreds of vehicles that they can’t replace.”

Coalition strikes have also worked to hit the group’s main source of income – oil. “We assess that it’s no longer the main source of revenue,” Kirby said.

ISIL is largely in a defense posture now. The group launched a small offensive against Kirkuk over the weekend and it lasted a day, Kirby said. They took no new ground. “And they're not on Kobani anymore,” the admiral said. “They are losing ground.”

The group is worried about lines of communications and supply now. “This is a different group than it was seven months ago,” he said. “I’m not saying they are not still dangerous. I'm not saying they are not still barbaric, but they are different. Their character, their conduct, their behavior is different. And that is a sign of progress.”

Related Sites:

[Special Report: Operation Inherent Resolve - Targeted Operations Against ISIL Terrorists](#)

4. Work: FY 16 Budget Request Targets Modernization Efforts (02-02-2015)

By Claudette Roulo
DoD News, Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2, 2015 – President Barack Obama’s fiscal year 2016 budget request for the Defense Department is strategy-driven and resource-informed, and will meet the United States’ 21st century national security needs, Deputy Defense Secretary Bob Work said today.

The surest way to guarantee the opposite -- a resource-driven, strategy-deprived budget -- is to allow sequestration to return to full strength in 2016 as is mandated by law, Work told reporters during a news briefing announcing the budget request. Accordingly, he said, the requested budget is above the sequestration caps.

The department’s request for FY 2016 is \$534 billion, he said, \$36 billion above FY 2016 sequestration caps. In addition to the base budget, DoD is requesting \$51 billion in overseas contingency funds to support the drawdown in Afghanistan and continue forward operations in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility.

Ideal Balance of Ends, Ways, Means

“At the requested levels,” Work said, “we believe quite strongly that this budget is the best balance of ends, ways and means that we could possibly achieve, given the level of resources.”

The deputy secretary said that, even at the president's budget level, achieving a healthy balance between capacity, capability and readiness will remain a constant challenge.

“And this is especially true with regard to maintaining our technological superiority in the 21st century,” he said.

The defense strategy as outlined in the 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review calls for a joint force to defend the nation, conduct a partner-centric global counter-terrorism campaign and to operate forward in multiple theaters, Work said.

“This is a strategy that is designed to preserve U.S. global leadership and to help preserve global peace in the 21st century,” the deputy secretary said.

Global Security First Responder

Like it or not, he added, the United States is the global security first responder of choice -- a status proven repeatedly over the past year as the nation responded to a variety of international crises.

“The U.S. first led NATO in responding to Russian aggression in the Crimea and Ukraine, then formed an international coalition to fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant in Iraq and Syria, and finally, responded to the Ebola crisis in Western Africa,” Work said.

These responses come on top of an already volatile security environment that puts a heavy burden on the joint force, the deputy secretary said.

“Today, there are about 211,000 servicemen and women around the world in 136 countries trying to preserve the peace or fighting against our adversaries,” he said. “Now, in this very stressing and volatile environment, we constantly try to scrutinize whether our strategy, force structure, and global allocation of forces, if they're aligned with what we see happening in the world, and if it's keeping pace with emerging threats.”

Request Supports QDR Priorities

The budget request takes the strategic environment into consideration, Work said, and supports the five key priorities of the 2014 QDR.

Those priorities include the rebalance to the Asia-Pacific region, a strong commitment to Europe and the Middle East, a partner-centric global counter-terrorism campaign, strengthening key alliances and partnerships and prioritizing key modernization efforts.

Sequestration delivered a “punch to the gut” to readiness and modernization efforts, the deputy secretary said.

The compromise budget delivered by the Bipartisan Budget Act helped, he said, but modernization efforts are still being deferred and the department is accumulating risk.

“The best way to say it is we've been surviving, but not thriving, over the past three years,” Work said. The White House added about \$21 billion in requirements over their proposed FY 2015 budget, specifically for modernization, the deputy secretary noted.

“This is a deferred modernization problem and we're trying to tackle it in this budget and we need help above sequestration caps to do so. ... We look forward to Congress in addressing this problem,” Work said. “We think this is the right budget.”

It's easy to say what the department will be unable to purchase if the budget request isn't approved, he said, but it's much harder to get at the strategic implications.

“At that point, you would have to ask yourselves: ‘All right, would you still be able to respond to two crises simultaneously? Would you still be able to have the same level of presence in our forward theaters? Would you still be able to respond in the timelines that we think we can respond to today?’ And the answer to all three of those, in our view, is: not likely,” Work said.

Biographies:

[Bob Work](#)

Related Sites:

[Special Report: FY 2016 Budget Proposal](#)

[FY16 Budget Briefing Slide Presentation](#)

[Fact Sheet](#)

[Press Release](#)

Related Articles:

[Dempsey: Budget Proposal Helps Manage Risk, Prepare for Future Budget Request Balances Today's Needs Against Tomorrow's Threats](#)

5. Treasury's Fowler on U.S. Efforts to Counter ISIL's Financing (02-02-2015)

Remarks of Deputy Assistant Secretary for Terrorist Financing Jennifer Fowler at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy on U.S. Efforts to Counter the Financing of ISIL

Good morning, everyone, and thank you to the Washington Institute for hosting this important conversation. WINEP has been putting out some tremendous work on every aspect of the threat posed by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), so it's an honor to be here today and to shed some light on how we at the U.S. Department of the Treasury are approaching this issue.

As part of the international campaign to degrade and ultimately defeat ISIL, we at Treasury, along with colleagues throughout the interagency, are leading an effort to attack ISIL's financial foundation. We have made tremendous progress in understanding ISIL's revenue sources and financial activities, but we continue to work to fill the remaining gaps in our knowledge. At the same time, we are working to prevent ISIL from using the funds it has accumulated, and to disrupt its access to new funds.

Today I will explain our current understanding of ISIL's revenues and expenses, outline our approach to date to counter ISIL's financing, and provide an overview of additional steps we will take in the coming months.

ISIL's Financial Picture

ISIL's primary sources of revenue are derived from (1) robbery and extortion, (2) the sale of oil, (3) ransom payments for kidnapped victims, and (4) donations from abroad. I'll address each one of these in turn.

ISIL raises at least several million dollars per month by robbing, looting, and extorting a portion of the economic resources in areas where it operates. This estimate excludes money to which ISIL has access in banks in ISIL-held areas, which I'll discuss momentarily. ISIL extorts money in connection with everything from fuel and vehicles transiting ISIL-held territory, to school fees for children, all under the auspices of providing notional services or "protection". The effectiveness of ISIL's extortion relies on the threat or use of force within its operational territory. The economic assets in ISIL-held areas include banks, natural resources such as oil and phosphates, and agriculture.

Treasury estimates that during 2014, ISIL probably gained access to at least half of a billion dollars from seizing control of state-owned banks in northern and western Iraq. In addition, ISIL has assumed control over the accounts of the Shi'a, Christians, and Yazedis, and possibly forces Sunnis to pay the group 10 percent of their cash withdrawals.

Last year ISIL may have earned as much as several million dollars per week, or \$100 million in total, from the sale of oil and oil products to local smugglers who, in turn, sell them to regional actors, notably the Asad regime. While we continue to map out ISIL's oil-related activities, we estimate ISIL's ability to use oil as a source of revenue is diminishing due to the impact of coalition airstrikes on the oil-related infrastructure under ISIL control.

In 2014, we estimate that ISIL earned at least \$20 million from collecting ransoms for kidnapped victims.

Foreign donations represented an important but comparatively smaller source of revenue for ISIL in 2014. However, externally raised funds are used frequently to finance the travel of extremists to Syria and Iraq. Of note, at least 19,000 fighters from more than 90 countries have left their home countries to travel to Syria and Iraq to join ISIL. This pool of international supporters is a source from which ISIL receives both physical and some monetary support.

Efforts to Counter ISIL's Financial Activities

I will now turn to the international coalition's efforts to limit ISIL's ability to use the funds and other economic assets under its control, as well as restrict ISIL's ability to gain access to new funds.

Steps Taken to Restrict ISIL's Access to the International Financial System

Foremost among these efforts have been steps taken to prevent ISIL from accessing the international financial system. ISIL's control of territory gives it access to banks that it can potentially exploit to conduct international transactions. Without restrictions on financial institutions under ISIL's control, ISIL would be able to more easily receive foreign funds to finance its activities as well as send payments abroad to procure weapons and other goods to sustain itself.

The Government of Iraq has taken some important steps to address this issue, including issuing national directives to its banks to prevent wire transfers to and from bank branches in territory where ISIL operates and halt the sale of hard currency to these banks. This has been important in two respects. First, it prevents an ISIL-affiliated individual or entity from using a bank under the government's control to transact through the domestic or international financial system. Second, banks operating in ISIL-held territory can no longer receive cash infusions to finance their operations, which averts potential ISIL exploitation of additional cash as a source of revenue.

Treasury has been working to ensure these restrictions remain in force by engaging closely with foreign counterparts to conduct enhanced due diligence with respect to financial activity emanating from territory where ISIL operates.

We continue to analyze and exchange financial information with domestic and foreign partners to identify illicit financial networks and revenue streams supporting ISIL. This exchange of information provides new leads, and enhances investigations of domestic stakeholders and foreign partners seeking to identify elements of ISIL's financial network that could move money through the financial sector.

Efforts to Disrupt Benefits to ISIL from the Sale of Oil

As noted earlier, the relative value of oil as a source of revenue to ISIL is diminishing. This is largely due to the impact of coalition airstrikes on the oil-related infrastructure under ISIL control. A key example of this is the targeting of modular refineries that ISIL has stolen and used to refine crude oil drawn from wells in territory where it operates. Our efforts to suppress the sale of ISIL oil on regional markets have benefited from the steps the Turkish and Kurdish authorities have taken to seize suspected ISIL-related shipments of oil and oil products transiting their borders.

Kidnapping for Ransom (KFR)

Treasury has focused for several years on engaging foreign partners to adopt "no concessions" policies with respect to ransom payments for kidnapping. The aim has been to force terrorists to abandon KFR as a practice by removing its underlying incentive. In June 2013, G-8 members

issued a communique rejecting the payment of ransoms. Notably, last year, the UN Security Council approved Resolution 2133, which underscored that the payment of ransoms to terrorists creates more victims and perpetuates the hostage-taking problem. The UN Security Council also expressed its determination to secure the safe release of hostages without ransom payments or political concessions.

Despite these successes, certain countries have adopted a de facto policy of allowing the payment of ransoms on a case-by-case basis. We will continue working with countries, particularly in Europe and the Middle East, to adopt and implement no-concessions policies and take steps to prevent kidnappings.

External Funding

Treasury has worked very closely with partners in the Gulf to disrupt the flow of donations to a number of terrorist organizations operating in the Middle East and elsewhere. Most recently, I traveled to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to share information about our understanding of ISIL's revenues and financial activities, and to solicit their support for our efforts to counter ISIL. Treasury officials will continue to engage these and other countries in the region in the coming months to broaden our information sharing about ISIL financing. We will continue to focus our efforts on working with Qatar and Kuwait in particular to ensure that they fully implement their international obligations by preventing terrorist financiers from providing funds to ISIL.

ISIL's Financial Outlook

While we are actively working to disrupt ISIL's financial activities, it is important to note that as the sources of ISIL's wealth – notably the money stolen from banks and revenues from oil sales – are either no longer replenished or diminish over time, we expect ISIL will increasingly struggle to finance its operations. Just like any commercial enterprise whose income is less than its expenses, ISIL's financial strength will diminish unless it is able to find alternative sources of revenue or take additional territory.

There are already signs that ISIL is unable to provide fundamental services to the people under its control, which Baghdad previously provided or subsidized. Notably, access to electricity, fuel, and food in northern and western Iraq has decreased as ISIL has either taken these resources outright for its own purposes or limited their distribution. Even if ISIL chose to use its wealth to provide services to the millions of people it subjugates, which it apparently is unwilling to do, its revenues are insufficient to fund the several billion dollar annual budget that the Government of Iraq had previously allocated to these areas.

Next Steps to Disrupt ISIL Financing

Much work remains to be done with respect to disrupting ISIL's revenue sources and financial activities. Our efforts to date, of course, will continue. We will: (1) continue to gather information and take steps to prevent ISIL from gaining access to the international financial system and cash resources; (2) disrupt ISIL's sale of oil, both through coalition airstrikes and by working and sharing information with regional partners; (3) press our foreign partners to abide by their UN Security Council obligations to prevent ISIL from benefitting from ransom payments; and (4) work to prevent donations from becoming a more important source of revenue to ISIL.

Looking ahead, we will continue to refine our approach. I want to share with you today four relatively new lines of activity that Treasury is pursuing to build on our current efforts.

First, we are working to disrupt trade that continues to and from territory where ISIL operates that benefits ISIL. In addition to taking control of oil wells and refining equipment, ISIL has robbed and

extorted other economic assets, such as grain silos, weapons and other military-related equipment, and vehicles. ISIL can use these assets to its financial benefit through transactions involving neighboring countries. Additionally, transport vehicles throughout the region continue to carry various supplies and cash to and from ISIL-held territory. We will work with the governments and private sectors in these countries to prevent ISIL from being supplied in this manner as well as from extorting the transit of these vehicles.

Second, we are working to prevent unregulated financial companies in Iraq and throughout the region from providing support to ISIL. We remain concerned that money services businesses in ISIL-held territory continue to maintain connections to regional counterparts through which ISIL could conduct funds transfers. Treasury officials are traveling to the region later this week and we will work closely with the Iraqi Government to bring these companies within its regulatory framework.

Third, we are targeting the financial activities of foreign terrorist fighters going to Iraq and Syria. Foreign terrorist fighters do not represent a significant revenue source for ISIL, but targeting their financial activities could help to stem the significant flow of foreign terrorist fighters to Iraq and Syria, which amounted to more than 19,000 from more than 90 countries through December 2014. Treasury will continue to work to develop and share information on foreign terrorist fighter financial activity with partners in source and conduit countries throughout the Middle East, North Africa, and Southeast Asia.

Finally, we are enlisting the support of key partners to develop a common approach to countering ISIL's financial activities. We intend to build on work ongoing in the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), which issued a statement in late October 2014 reiterating the need for all countries to fully implement the FATF standards to combat terrorist financing, and calling on all countries to take steps to prevent ISIL from accessing their financial systems. Importantly, the U.S. and Turkey are co-leading a FATF project to develop a common understanding of the terrorist financing risks posed by ISIL, including how funds and other assets are raised, moved, and used by ISIL. This report will be issued later this month by the FATF with input from many FATF members, and will serve as a baseline to further develop international efforts to counter ISIL's financial activities.

Conclusion

In closing, I want to reiterate what officials across this Administration and internationally have made clear: that the fight against ISIL, financial and otherwise, is a long-term endeavor. Nobody should expect this problem to disappear overnight. But we are making progress each day in understanding how ISIL operates and, in turn, disrupting its attempts to create chaos in Syria and Iraq. We have had some important successes in denying ISIL revenue and limiting its ability to make use of its funds, and we expect that we will continue to undermine its financial strength in the months ahead.

Thank you.

6. President Obama on Murder of Kenji Goto by Terror Group ISIL (01-31-2015)

Statement by the President on the Death of Kenji Goto

The United States condemns the heinous murder of Japanese citizen and journalist Kenji Goto by the terrorist group ISIL. Through his reporting, Mr. Goto courageously sought to convey the plight of the Syrian people to the outside world. Our thoughts are with Mr. Goto's family and loved ones, and we stand today in solidarity with Prime Minister Abe and the Japanese people in denouncing

this barbaric act. We applaud Japan's steadfast commitment to advancing peace and prosperity in the Middle East and globally, including its generous assistance for innocent people affected by the conflicts in the region. Standing together with a broad coalition of allies and partners, the United States will continue taking decisive action to degrade and ultimately destroy ISIL.

Related Statements:

[Kerry on Murder of Journalist Kenji Goto by Terror Group ISIL](#)

[Hagel on Murder of Journalist Kenji Goto by Terror Group ISIL](#)

7. U.S. Envoy at U.N. Security Council on Protection of Civilians (01-30-2015)

*Ambassador David Pressman, Alternate Representative to the UN for Special Political Affairs
Remarks at a Security Council Open Debate on the Protection of Civilians*

Thank you, Mr. President, for chairing this important meeting. And let me also express my thanks to Assistant Secretary-General Kang, Ms. Durham of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and Ms. Elman of the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security for your informative and moving briefings and your tireless work on this important subject.

Shortly after the Secretary-General released his report on Women, Peace, and Security last year, ISIS released a document of its own: a pamphlet of rules about how jihadists should handle trafficked women and girls, including those sold into sexual slavery.

In recent weeks, the al-Qaeda affiliate Al-Nusra Front released a video that appears to depict a woman, arms seemingly bound behind her back, kneeling while a man declares that she has been convicted of adultery by an Islamic court. The video then shows this woman being summarily shot in the head by a man who, himself, is clad in body armor.

Last year, ISIL released its own video that appears to depict a young woman being stoned to death in the presence of her father. In the final moments of the video, she is seen begging her father for forgiveness. She is then led to a hole dug in the earth, surrounded by men who throw stones at her. The young woman, in what would be some of her final words, offers this advice to women: "protect your honor more than your lives."

"Protect your honor more than your lives."

The unique horror confronted by women and girls in conflict is as chilling as it is urgent. While conflict does not discriminate on the basis of gender, it does disproportionately affect those who are marginalized, vulnerable, or oppressed. And in too many societies around the world, for too long, women and girls have been marginalized, vulnerable, or oppressed. If we care about addressing the problems encountered by women and girls in wartime, we must be prepared to address the enduring problems of discrimination and inequality of women in peacetime.

As the Secretary-General documented in his 2014 report on Women, Peace and Security, the threats facing women and children in conflict are worsening, not improving, in many parts of the world. We can and we must work together to turn this tide.

Defenders of women's human rights are increasingly targeted. Efforts to silence people like Razan Zeitouneh in Syria and Salwa Bugaighis in Libya are efforts to silence hope, curtail progress,

impede justice, and infringe upon the dignity of women not just in Syria and in Libya, but around the world.

We know that refugees and displaced persons are mostly women and children. And we know that they suffer disproportionately from sexual and gender-based violence. In eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, the continued presence of armed groups amid an increasing number of displaced persons and refugee has led to shocking cruelty and rampant sexual violence. In one of the most devastating incidents, at least 387 people – including 300 women and 55 girls – were raped by armed groups in 13 villages in Eastern Congo between July 30th and August 2nd, 2010. 387 rape victims in three days.

In the face of this kind of destabilizing cruelty and grotesque violence, this Council has mandated peacekeeping missions in places like the DRC with the very difficult and very important work of protecting civilians. Indeed, 98% of UN troops now serve in missions with mandates to protect civilians.

Yet, again and again, there is a gap between what we say must happen and what actually does. We have seen peacekeeping missions fail to implement their mandates to protect civilians, creating a substantial gap between principle and practice, between mandates and implementation. The United Nations' Office of Internal Oversight Services report found that in 507 attacks against civilians from 2010 to 2013, UN peacekeepers virtually never used force to protect civilians under attack. Thousands of civilians, countless women and children among them, may have lost their lives as a result.

UN peacekeeping missions must do better when they are given a mandate to protect civilians in desperate need of protection. And that means, we must, at a minimum, work to improve early warning systems, especially for sexual violence, to help peacekeepers identify potential threats and take preventative action. Continued shortfalls staffing critical peacekeeping missions in South Sudan, Mali and the Central African Republic have left civilians, and particularly women and girls, vulnerable.

And when peacekeepers themselves become a part of the problem of sexual and gender-based violence, rather than a solution to it, it is our fundamental responsibility – indeed, it is a moral imperative – that we collectively ensure they are held accountable in a transparent and swift manner.

The Security Council also must do more. It is easy enough for us to agree in an open debate in this Chamber that protecting women and girls in conflict is important – I mean, can anyone really disagree? But when called upon to act, too often we are too slow or too silent. When reports emerge of an alleged mass-rape in Darfur and active obstruction by the host government of the peacekeeping mission's ability to investigate becomes clear, this Council has an obligation to act. And yet, too often we do not. This must change, as our credibility depends on it, victims need it, and justice demands it.

We are making modest progress and there have been some developments in our collective efforts. Of nine United Nations peacekeeping operations cited in the latest Secretary-General report, nearly 70% of their military strategic concepts of operations include specific measures to protect the human rights of women and girls. More and more missions are providing more robust gender and conflict analysis in their reporting, but much remains to be done to link analysis and reporting to actionable recommendations, and actionable recommendations to actual action.

Largely due to the work of organizations like those present today, consideration for the risks confronted by women and girls face are now being integrated into peace agreements. In 2013, more than half of all peace agreements signed included references to women, peace and security. The number of cease-fire agreements that include sexual violence as a prohibited act has tripled compared to only three agreements with such provisions signed prior to 2012.

Here, too, at the United Nations, there is work to be done. Women should not only be participating in peacekeeping operations, they should be leading them. While three women lead peace operations as SRSGs – one as force commander and one as an acting head – women head only 19% of all UN field missions. And while we welcome the deployment of three all-female UN police units in Liberia, Haiti, and the DRC, we recognize that 97% of military troops and 90% of police personnel in UN missions are men. If we are serious about expanding opportunity for women everywhere, we must expand opportunity for women right here.

Expanding opportunity and empowering women in peacetime is essential to tackling the unique problems women confront in wartime. After all, the best protection from sexual violence in conflict that targets women and girls is building societies where women and girls are respected; have equal access to justice, educational opportunities and health care services; societies where women enjoy equal protection under the law and equal access to political space. The best protection, to borrow the final words of the woman slaughtered in ISIL's gruesome video, is the difficult and imperative work of building societies that value women's lives and minds and potential as much as their honor.

Thank you, Mr. President.

8. Special Envoy for North Korea Policy Kim's Remarks in China (01-30-2015)

Remarks by Sung Kim, Special Representative for North Korea Policy
Beijing, China, the Westin Chaoyang Hotel

AMBASSADOR KIM: Good afternoon everyone. It is great to be back in Beijing. We have had some developments since I last visited about six weeks ago. This was a good opportunity to exchange views and compare notes with our Chinese interlocutors. We had very productive and detailed discussion on various developments as well as the way forward. And I think I can tell you that we remain very much committed to denuclearization of North Korea and we will be working very hard, together with the other parties in the Six-Party process, to try and make some progress on this very important issue. Questions?

QUESTION: What do you think about North Korea's recent relationship with Russia? Do you think North Korea is trying to lessen its dependence on China by looking to Russia more?

AMBASSADOR KIM: I am obviously aware that Russia and North Korea have had some senior level contact and reports that Kim Jong-un may be planning to visit Moscow. I think what is important is Russia's position on the nuclear issue and they have made very clear in diplomatic communication with us, but also publicly, that Russia remains committed to the Six-Party Process and to our shared goal of denuclearization. And they have, in fact, made it very clear that they would strongly oppose nuclear testing or any nuclear activity by North Korea. I think that is the important point.

QUESTION: Ambassador, there was a media report that the U.S. side offered a bilateral with North Korea in Beijing shortly before your trip here. Can you confirm and comment?

AMBASSADOR KIM: We have made it very clear publicly that we are open to engagement, substantive dialogue with North Korea about the issue of denuclearization. I don't want to get into details of diplomatic communication, but North Koreans were aware that I would be in the region and I think they understood that this would be an opportunity for substantive dialogue on the nuclear issue. But unfortunately, we are not having a meeting on this trip.

QUESTION: Ambassador, they are reports that China last year sent a total of zero tons of crude oil to North Korea for the first time. Do you have any comments on those reports and whether that is accurate?

AMBASSADOR KIM: Well, I can tell you that in general we continue to have very close cooperation and coordination with China on all aspects of our North Korea policy. And that includes sanctions enforcement. I think we have very effective cooperation with China on sanctions enforcement.

QUESTION: Did you discuss or did Ambassador Wu Dawei explain how China would improve the relationship between China and DPRK? Did you discuss this issue?

AMBASSADOR KIM: Well, we discussed many aspects of our approach on North Korea. China is very committed to the denuclearization of North Korea. They're willing to work with us very closely, as well as with other parties in the process, to persuade North Korea to come back to credible and serious negotiations. There's been no change in China's commitment.

QUESTION: Do you believe the improvement of both countries' relationship will be a inaudible in terms of, you know, this denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula issues?

AMBASSADOR KIM: I'm sorry, improvement of relations between China and...

QUESTION: Between China and the DPRK.

AMBASSADOR KIM: China has a very special relationship with North Korea. They have a long history of ties with North Korea, and we expect that China will use its leverage and its leadership of the Six-Party Process to try to persuade North Korea to come back to serious and credible negotiations.

QUESTION: Ambassador, you said at the beginning that you made some developments since you've been here the last time. Can you elaborate about what kind of developments you made, that you're talking about?

AMBASSADOR KIM: No, I meant there have been developments with regards North Korea, not that U.S. and China have had developments. I think you all know about the developments. First of all they conducted a very destructive and unprecedented cyber-attack against a U.S. corporation, very discouraging. And then they made this proposal to suspend nuclear testing in exchange for suspension of our military exercises with South Korea. There have been a couple of other developments, but those are the things that we discussed with Chinese colleagues. This was also a topic for discussion in our trilateral as well as bilateral meetings in Tokyo.

QUESTION: Ambassador, President Obama mentioned the possibility of collapse of the North Korean regime, or that a regime like North Korea will collapse. So what do you think is his intention, and are you negotiating with, collapsing the regime?

AMBASSADOR KIM: Look, I think anyone who saw the YouTube video will know the President was talking about the flow of information, and that when a lot of information starts to flow into a country, it's inevitable that there will be some positive changes. And I think we've seen that over and over in many different contexts. That's all he was talking about. There's been no change in our position, our fundamental position that we're willing to deal with the government that's in power in North Korea if they will work with us sincerely towards credible negotiations on the nuclear issue. We're ready to engage them.

QUESTION: About the U.S.-North Korea bilat. Have you discussed with China about that, and what position do they take on that, the bilat?

AMBASSADOR KIM: Well, I think the current position among all parties, including the U.S. and China, is that we should look for opportunities for substantive engagement with North Korea. The question is not what we are willing to do, I think the question is whether the North Koreans are ready for any serious and productive discussion on the nuclear issue, and that's something that we're continuing to look for.

QUESTION: Ambassador, did you raise the cyber-security issue in the discussion with the Chinese, your counterparts?

AMBASSADOR KIM: We have been in constant communication with them, from the moment that we determined, we concluded, that North Korea was behind the cyber-attack and that was a topic for discussion this time as well. OK? Thank you very much. Bye.
