

# Sweden Is Warned to ‘Brace for War’: Civil Defence Minister Tells Citizens to ‘Get Moving’ and Prepare for the End of 210 Years of Peace as Country Bids to Join NATO in Face of Russia Tensions

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Global Research, January 12, 2024

[Daily Mail Online](#) 10 January 2024

Region: [Europe](#), [Russia and FSU](#)

Theme: [Intelligence](#), [US NATO War Agenda](#)

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*[Sweden](#)’s civil defence minister has warned his country could soon face the prospect of war and urged citizens to join voluntary defence organisations in preparation for a potential armed conflict.*

In a rousing speech that took note of his country’s hotly anticipated accession to [NATO](#) this year and ongoing Russian aggression in [Ukraine](#), Carl-Oskar Bohlin called on ordinary citizens to ask themselves ‘who are you if war comes?’.

Speaking at Sweden’s annual ‘Folk och Försvar’ (Society and Defence) conference in Sälen this past weekend, the minister said:

‘It is human to want to view life as you wish it was, rather than as it actually is.

‘For a nation for whom peace has been a pleasant companion for almost 210 years, the idea that it is an immovable constant is conveniently close at hand. But taking comfort in this conclusion has become more dangerous than it has been for a very long time,’ Bohlin said.

Sweden has not been involved in an armed conflict since a brief war with neighbour Norway in 1814 as the latter sought to establish its own constitution and parliament. It stayed neutral during WW2.

'There could be war in Sweden... The world is facing a security outlook with greater risks than at any time since the end of the [Second World War](#),' the civil defence minister continued.

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