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Iran Claims Its Ballistic Missiles Capable of Striking 'Any Vessel' from 435 Miles

October 18, 2018 Breitbart.com reported: "Iran has developed land-to-sea ballistic missiles with the capability of hitting any ship from an estimated 435 miles, a top official from the Islamic Republic's Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) declared this week amid escalating tensions with the United States over Tehran's missile program.

'We have managed to make land-to-sea ballistic, not cruise, missiles that can hit any vessel or ship from 700 km [435 miles],' Iran's state-controlled Fars News Agency quoted Amirali Hajizadeh, the head of the IRGC's airspace division, as saying on Tuesday, according to Reuters.

On Monday, Brian Hook, the U.S. special envoy on Iran, acknowledged that Iran's ballistic missile program was intensifying tensions in Yemen, Iraq, and Syria, noting, 'We are accumulating risk of regional conflict if we do not do more to deter Iran's missile proliferation in the Middle East.'

The high-ranking IRGC official noted that the Shiite Islamic Republic's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei urged Tehran a decade ago to develop the capability of 'hitting ships' with ballistic projectiles..."



'Israel sliding into war with Gaza'

October 17, 2018 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "Israeli lawmakers called on the government to retaliate against the Hamas terror organization following a rocket attack on the city of Beer Sheva overnight, warning that Israel was in danger of sliding into an 'unwanted war' with Gaza as Israeli deterrence declines.

Late Tuesday night, a rocket fired from the Gaza Strip hit the city of Beer Sheva in southern Israel, landing next to a private home. The building was damaged in the attack, and several people were treated for shock.

Col. (Res.) MK Omar Bar-Lev (Zionist Union) chastised the Israeli cabinet for what he described as the erosion of Israeli deterrence vis-à-vis the Gaza Strip.

'We are sliding into an unwanted war because of the failures of the [security] cabinet, which is focused on internal squabbles instead of focusing on initiatives to lead us forward. We should never have let things get to this point,' Bar-Lev said of the rocket attack, 'with a house destroyed in Beer Sheva...the cabinet has no direction, has no initiative and has wasted our deterrence – it is playing into Hamas' hands, letting them control our fate.'

Yesh Atid chairman Yair Lapid also used the attack as an opportunity to criticize the Netanyahu government, saying Hamas no longer feared IDF responses to their attacks..."

'Anti-racism' rally in Berlin calls for destruction of Israel

October 17, 2018 jpost.com reported: "A march estimated by police to have included 100,000 demonstrators took place in Germany's capital on Saturday to protest right-wing extremism.

Speakers urged the obliteration of the Jewish state and support for the BDS campaign against Israel.

The Jerusalem Post reviewed a video showing two speakers who called for the 'liberation of all of Palestine 48' and 'We must take a stand and boycott Israel. BDS.' The slogan to 'liberate all of Palestine' refers to the founding of the Jewish state in 1948, and is widely considered a euphemism to cleanse Israel of Jews.

The German Middle East expert Thomas von der Osten-Sacken wrote an article on the website of the Austrian-based think tank Mena-Watch, with the headline 'Speaker at Indivisible demonstration calls for Israel's destruction.'..."

US lags behind Russia, China on Space Force says Trump

October 16, 2018 spacedaily.com reported: "In June, the US President ordered the country's Department of Defense to "immediately begin the process necessary to establish a Space Force as the sixth branch of the armed forces."

Speaking at a "Make America Great Again" rally in Kentucky, US President Donald Trump admitted that Washington is lagging behind Moscow and Beijing in the creation of space forces.

"Russia has already started, China has already started. They've got a start, but we have the greatest people in the world, we make the greatest equipment in the world, we make the greatest rockets, and missiles, and tanks, and ships in the world," Trump underscored.

In early August, Vice President Mike Pence detailed the creation of America's new Space Force, which is expected to become the sixth branch of the US Military and help ensure "American dominance in space" by the year 2020."..."

Christians Charged with 'Inciting a Muslim to Change Religion' in Algeria

October 16, 2018 Breitbart.com reported: "Algerian authorities have set a court date to try five Christians accused of 'inciting a Muslim to change his religion,' a criminal offence, and 'performing religious worship in an unauthorized place.'

The five Christians have been ordered to appear in court in the province of Bouira, in Algeria's Kabylie region, on Tuesday, November 6, to answer the charges against them. The accusations against the Christians concern Algeria's Law 03/2006, commonly known as Law 03/06, which governs non-Muslim worship.

The Christians will argue that the 03/06 law is itself unconstitutional, since it contravenes Article 42 of the Algerian constitution, which guarantees freedom of belief, opinion and worship.

Charges were brought against the Christians after a 40-year-old Muslim woman, whose husband had converted to Christianity, accused them of proselytism in July, 2018..."

'Hyperalarming' study shows massive insect loss

October 15, 2018 Imtonline.com reported: "Insects around the world are in a crisis, according to a small but growing number of long-term studies showing dramatic declines in invertebrate populations. A new report suggests that the problem is more widespread than scientists realized. Huge numbers of bugs have been lost in a pristine national forest in Puerto Rico, the study found, and the forest's insect-eating animals have gone missing, too.

In 2014, an international team of biologists estimated that, in the past 35 years, the abundance of invertebrates such as beetles and bees decreased by 45 percent. In places where long-term insect data are available, mainly in Europe, insect numbers are plummeting. A study last year showed a 76 percent decrease in flying insects in the past few decades in German nature preserves.

The latest report, published Monday in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, shows that the problem extends to the Americas. The study's authors implicate climate change in the loss of tropical invertebrates.

"This study in PNAS is a real wake-up call - a clarion call - that the phenomenon could be much, much bigger, and across many more ecosystems," said David Wagner, an expert in invertebrate conservation at the University of Connecticut who was not involved with this research. He added: "This is one of the most disturbing articles I have ever read."

Bradford Lister, a biologist at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in New York, has been studying rain forest insects in Puerto Rico since the 1970s.

If Puerto Rico is the island of enchantment - "la isla del encanto" - then its rain forest is "the enchanted forest on the enchanted isle," he said. Birds and coqui frogs trill beneath a 50-foot-tall emerald canopy.

The forest, named El Yunque, is well-protected. Spanish King Alfonso XII claimed the jungle as a 19th-century royal preserve. Decades later, Theodore Roosevelt made it a national reserve, and El Yunque remains the only tropical rain forest in the National Forest system.

"We went down in '76, '77 expressly to measure the resources: the insects and the insectivores in the rain forest, the birds, the frogs, the lizards," Lister said.

He came back nearly 40 years later, with his colleague Andres Garcia, an ecologist at the National Autonomous University of Mexico. What the scientists did not see on their return troubled them. "Boy, it was immediately obvious when we went into that forest," Lister said. Fewer birds flitted overhead. The butterflies, once abundant, had all but vanished."..."

Moon urges US move towards formally ending Korean War

October 14, 2018 SpaceDaily.com reports: "South Korean President Moon Jae-in called Friday on the United States to move towards the nuclear-armed North's demands for a declaration the Korean War is over, as the allies pursue increasingly different approaches towards Pyongyang.

Washington has shied away from a formal announcement that the 1950-53 conflict, when hostilities ceased with an armistice rather than a peace treaty, has ended, saying that the North must first take more steps towards giving up its atomic arsenal.

For its part Pyongyang — which long insisted it needed nuclear weapons to defend itself against a possible US invasion — has pledged only to work towards denuclearisation 'of the Korean peninsula', demanding simultaneous moves by Washington in return, with a peace declaration its first priority.

'The North has stopped all nuclear and missile tests, dismantled its only nuclear test site and is now dismantling its missile engine test facilities, and is promising to take steps toward dismantling its Yongbyon nuclear complex if the US takes corresponding measures,' Moon told the BBC.

'Declaring the end of the war is a political declaration that the US would end decades of hostile relations with the North,' he said..."



Liberman threatens Hamas: 'The most severe blow'

October 14, 2018 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman said Sunday that Israel is ready for a severe confrontation in Gaza if necessary.

'Israel does not have the luxury of conducting wars of choice, and we have exhausted all the existing options,' Liberman said in an interview with Kan Bet.

He warned Hamas not to continue to provoke Israel. 'Let there be no illusions for Hamas' leaders, we are ready to deal the hardest blow.'

Earlier, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu also threatened that if Hamas would suffer a 'very painful' response if the terror organization does not cease the violence along the Gaza border.

'Hamas has apparently not understood the message: If they do not stop the attacks, they will be stopped in another way and it will be painful, very painful,' Netanyahu said at the start of the weekly cabinet meeting..."

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