



PROPHETIC TIMES

January, 1998

Weekly World News Briefs

December 29, 2018

German Supreme Court Rejects Anti-Child Marriage Law as Unconstitutional

December 27, 2018 breitbart.com reported: "The German Federal Supreme Court has made a new ruling on a child marriage case which could have implications on the way child marriages conducted legally overseas are treated in the country.

The ruling comes from a case involving a Syrian man who was separated from his underage 'wife' when the pair arrived in Germany as asylum seekers in August 2015, Die Welt reports.

The pair, cousins, were married in February 2015 while the man was aged 21 and the girl aged only 14 in a marriage procedure that was done under sharia legally in Syria but was considered invalid by German authorities where the marriage age was 16 at the time.

After his 'wife' had been taken into separate care due to her status as a minor, the Syrian man complained to German courts which initially granted him weekend access to her with a district court claiming the marriage had not been forced.

The case was then sent up to the Federal Supreme Court which has now ruled that the marriage between the pair should be examined on the basis of its legal status in Syria. Such cases in the future should be looked at on an individual basis, the court said, instead of a blanket refusal to recognise them — as was the procedure previously.

In Germany, protection of marriage and family are enshrined in the Basic Law, as well as the principle of equal treatment, and both could be violated under the ban on child marriages..."

Report: Syria to be readmitted to Arab League

December 27, 2018 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "Gulf nations are moving to readmit Syria into the Arab League, eight years after suspending the country over its brutal repression of peaceful protests against President Bashar Al-Assad, The Guardian reported on Wednesday. According to sources, Assad is expected to be readmitted to the body at some point in the next year.

Syria was thrown out of the Arab League in November of 2011 over its violent response to opposition dissent, a move that failed to stem the bloodshed that spiraled into a full-fledged civil war.

Now though, a regional thaw is already under way. Earlier in December, Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir became the first Arab League leader to visit Syria in eight years, a visit widely interpreted as a gesture of friendship on behalf of Saudi Arabia, which has shored up ties with Khartoum in recent years.

Diplomatic sources told The Guardian there is a growing consensus among the league's 22 members that Syria should be readmitted to the alliance of Arab nations, although the US is pressuring both Riyadh and Cairo to hold off on demanding a vote from members..."

Russia touts hypersonic missile speed

December 27, 2018 spacedaily.com reported: "Russia touted Thursday a new hypersonic missile said to hit speeds of more than 30,000 kilometres per hour, amid heightened tension with the US over arms control.

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday tracked final tests of a hypersonic missile dubbed "Avangard," which he says would defeat all existing missile defence systems.

When Putin unveiled the new weapon during his state of the nation address in March, he said the missile was highly manoeuvrable and flew at 20 times the speed of sound. Senior officials now say the intercontinental projectile is considerably faster.

"During tests, Avangard reached the speed of Mach 27," or roughly 33,000 kilometres (20,500 miles) per hour, Deputy Prime Minister Yury Borisov said in televised remarks. Mach 1 is a unit of measurement equivalent to the speed of sound.

"At this speed not a single interceptor missile can shoot it down," Borisov said."

He also claimed it was impossible to predict the missile's movements, which meant "missile defence is practically rendered obsolete..."

Abbas welcomes Pope's call for talks with Israel

December 26, 2018 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "Palestinian Authority (PA) chairman Mahmoud Abbas on Tuesday welcomed Pope Francis' call for the resumption of dialogue between Israel and the PA, the Wafa news agency reported.



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In his Christmas message, the Pope said he hoped the festive season would lead to a resumption of peace talks between Israel and the PA.

'May this Christmas help us to rediscover the bonds of fraternity linking us together,' he said, adding, 'May it enable Israelis and Palestinians to resume dialogue and undertake a journey of peace that can put an end to a conflict that for over 70 years has rent the land chosen by the Lord to show his face of love.'

Abbas affirmed the PA's readiness to resume peace talks with Israel on the basis of the international law and relevant United Nations General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, according to Wafa. The Pope met Abbas several weeks ago at the Vatican, and called for the implementation of a 'two-state solution' to solve the decades old Israel-PA conflict..."

Quake from Mount Etna volcano jolts Sicily, sparks panic

December 26, 2018 AP reported: "An earthquake triggered by Mount Etna's eruption jolted eastern Sicily before dawn Wednesday, injuring at least 10 people, damaging churches and houses on the volcano's slopes and prompting panicked villagers to flee their homes.

Italy's Civil Protection officials said the quake, which struck at 3:19 a.m., was part of a swarm of some 1,000 tremors, most of them barely perceptible, linked to Etna's volcanic eruption this week.

Italy's national seismology institute said the quake had a magnitude of 4.8 on the open-ended Richter scale and 4.9 on the moment magnitude scale, which relates to the amount the ground slips. It struck north of Catania, the largest city in the eastern part of the Mediterranean island, but no damage or injuries were reported there.

The quake opened up cracks in homes in several towns, sending chunks of concrete debris tumbling to the ground. It toppled a Madonna statue in a church in Santa Venerina and broke up sidewalks and a stretch of highway, forcing it to close. Many people spent the hours after the quake sleeping in their cars.

In the town of Piano d'Api, firefighters removed cracked stucco from the bell tower of the damaged Santa Maria della Misericordia church. Italy's culture ministry said the quake damage to churches was being tallied by experts.

"Etna remains a dangerous volcano, and this country of ours is unfortunately fragile," government undersecretary Vito Crimi said as he reported 10 people injured." ...'

Erdogan invites Trump to Turkey amid Syria pullout

December 25, 2018 SpaceDaily.com reported: "Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan sent more troops to Syria's border on Monday ahead of an imminent US withdrawal, as the White House announced he had invited Donald Trump to Ankara.



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Unlike several other allies of the United States, Turkey has praised President Trump's decision to withdraw 2,000 of his ground forces from Syria, a country where it will now have a freer rein to target Kurdish fighters.

On Monday Ankara sent more troops to its Syrian border and said an offensive targeting the Syrian Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) militia and IS group will be launched in the coming months. Turkey views the YPG as a 'terrorist offshoot' of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which has waged an insurgency against the Turkish state since 1984..."

Indonesia tsunami: Death toll from Anak Krakatau volcano rises

December 24, 2018 bbcnews.com reported: "The death toll following the tsunami caused by the Anak Krakatau volcano has risen to at least 373, Indonesia's disaster mitigation agency says. Saturday saw giant waves crash into coastal towns on the islands of Sumatra and Java. It is thought that volcanic activity set off undersea landslides which in turn generated the killer waves.

'1,459 people are injured, while 128 remain missing,' said agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho in a statement. Coastal residents near the volcano have been warned to keep away from beaches amid fears it could trigger a new tsunami. Anak Krakatau erupted again on Sunday, spewing ash and smoke..."

Rare polio-like illness leaving children with 'weak and floppy limbs' hits UK

December 23, 2018 thesun.co.uk/news reported: A RISE in cases of a rare and incurable disease that can paralyse children has led to a probe by health officials.

Acute flaccid paralysis affects the nervous system, causing one or more of the limbs to become weak or floppy and can look similar to polio. A total of 28 cases of AFP have been reported in the country this year, according to official figures.

That is more than the previous nine years combined and there were only 25 cases between 2009 and 2017. Public Health England has now begun investigating the spike in outbreaks of the condition, which mainly affects children. Dr Mary Ramsay, head of immunisations at PHE stressed that that the disease is "very rare" ..."

IDF chief: Iran wants to deploy 100,000 fighters in Syria; we're preventing it

December 23, 2018 timesofisrael.com reported: "Outgoing IDF chief Lt. Gen. Gadi Eisenkot on Sunday defended the military against recent criticism of insufficient action against Palestinian terrorism in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, saying the army's primary goal in recent years has been thwarting Iran's efforts to establish a permanent military presence in Syria. Tehran is seeking to establish a force of 100,000 fighters in Syria, he said, and the IDF is preventing it from doing so.

Eisenkot, who is due to end his four-year tenure as army chief next month, acknowledged that the Israel Defense Forces had failed to give Israelis, especially those living near Gaza, a 'feeling of security,' but indicated this was in part due to the fact that the civilian population is unaware of the majority of the military's activities.

Comparing the threats to Israel to an iceberg, Eisenkot said that the visible dangers — terror attacks in the West Bank, rockets from Gaza — are the smallest, while 'what isn't seen, and which takes much of the army's effort, is the multi-dimensional threat of Iran.' ..."

Putin Lauds US Troop Withdrawal from Syria, Calls Presence 'Illegitimate'

December 21, 2018 voanews.com reported: "Russian President Vladimir Putin expressed support for a surprise White House decision to pull 2,000 U.S. troops out of Syria, calling their presence there illegitimate and an impediment to peace in the region.

Addressing a record 1,700 journalists at his 14th annual end-of-year marathon press conference Thursday, Putin said he agreed with President Donald Trump's assessment that Islamic State had largely been defeated on the ground in Syria.

'Donald is right, I agree with him [about that],' he said, stating that radical militants still holding small parts of northern Syria had suffered at least a 'serious blow' over the past year.

'I don't think the [U.S. forces] are needed there,' Putin said. 'And let's not forget that the presence of [U.S.] troops there is illegitimate.' ..."

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