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Zarif: U.S. is not in a position to obliterate Iran

June 27, 2019 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif on Wednesday responded to US President Donald Trump's threats against his country.

In an interview with CNN, Zarif said that the United States 'is not in a position to obliterate Iran', while adding that US actions have been 'confrontational' and 'provocative' but that Iran is not seeking war.

'I think President Trump should remember that we don't live in the 18th century. There is a United Nations charter, and threat of wars is illegal,' Zarif added.

His comments follow Trump's warning on Tuesday that any subsequent attack Iran might carry out on 'anything American' would be met with 'great and overwhelming force.'

'In some areas, overwhelming will mean obliteration,' the President tweeted..."

Top Iran military adviser threatens to 'erase' Israel if war breaks out

June 27, 2019 timesofisrael.com reported: "A top Iranian defense official said the Americans are fully aware that their assets in the Middle East can be destroyed by Iran's missiles and know that should war break out in the region, it would not be a 'walk in the park.'

In a June 20 interview on Iraq's Alnujaba TV, translated by the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI) monitoring group and posted to social media Sunday, former Iranian defense minister Gen. Hossein Dehghan said Iran's military could destroy US military bases in the region and annihilate Israel.

'Our missiles can totally obliterate those bases,' Dehghan said. 'Israel knows that Iran will erase its entity and uproot it from existence in case of a war.'

Dehghan said US President Donald Trump and his country fear the outbreak of war because they are unable to get global legal legitimacy for an attack or assemble an international coalition against Iran. He warned that if war broke out, America would find itself in the 'garbage bin of history.'..."

Denmark becomes third Nordic country to form leftist government this year

June 26, 2019 Reuters reported: "Denmark will become the third Nordic country this year to form a leftist government after Social Democratic leader Mette Frederiksen agreed terms for a one-party minority government late on Wednesday.

While the new left-leaning government is unlikely to fundamentally change Danish economic policy, Frederiksen, who at 41 becomes Denmark's youngest prime minister, has promised to increase welfare spending after years of austerity.

However, financing plans remained blurry after Frederiksen, together with three leftist parties, presented an 18-page paper entitled 'Fair direction for Denmark' that outlines the new government's ambitions, which include a 70% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

"We still lack the whole financing part of this draft. It is a lot of good intentions but not much on how it concretely will be realized," Nordea economist Jan Storup told Reuters.

Ageing populations have prompted Nordic governments to chip away at the cradle-to-grave welfare state, and the June 5 election showed clear support among Danish voters for leftist parties led by Frederiksen's Social Democratic Party, which won a majority, prompting centre-right leader Lars Lokke Rasmussen to resign as prime minister.

Social Democratic parties also came to power earlier this year in Finland and Sweden.

Despite differences among left-leaning parties over issues such as welfare and immigration, Frederiksen got their backing to form a one-party minority government, a common arrangement in Denmark. She will formally notify Queen Margrethe later on Wednesday of the agreement and is expected to present the new ministers to the monarch on Thursday." ..."

Israel will do 'everything' to stop Iran going nuclear: Netanyahu

June 26, 2019 spacedaily.com reported: "Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Monday his country will do 'everything' to prevent arch-rival Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons, during a visit by a senior Russian security official.

'Israel will not allow Iran, which calls for our destruction, to entrench on our border; we will do everything to prevent it from attaining nuclear weapons,' Netanyahu said.

He was speaking alongside Nikolai Patrushev, the head of Moscow's powerful security council, whose visit followed weeks of simmering tensions between Tehran and Washington in the Gulf.

Israel has carried out repeated strikes to prevent Iranian forces becoming embedded in neighbouring Syria, where both Iran and Moscow back the government of President Bashar al-Assad.

The Israeli government has vowed never to let Iran obtain a nuclear weapon, believing Israel would be the target..."



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Turkey unafraid of US sanctions over S-400 deal

June 25, 2019 spacedaily.com reported: "Turkey said Monday it does not fear US sanctions over its decision to buy a Russian missile defence system that has frayed ties between the NATO allies.

The United States has given Turkey a deadline of July 31 to drop the purchase of the S-400 system, or face sanctions and removal from its F-35 fighter jet programme.

'Regardless of whatever sanctions there may be, whatever the messages from America, we've bought the S-400,' Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu told reporters in Ankara. He said Turkey was working on the date for the system's delivery, which President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said would be in the first half of July.

'If there's an attack on Turkey tomorrow, we cannot expect NATO to protect us because NATO's capacity would only protect 30 percent of Turkey's airspace,' Cavusoglu said..."

Report: Christian Persecution 2019 a Scourge of 'Mammoth Proportions'

June 24, 2019 breitbart.com reported: "June 2019 is an 'especially menacing time' for Christians both on the domestic and international fronts, writes Christian persecution expert John L. Allen in a report Sunday.

The U.S. Catholic Church is facing 'one of the most serious potential violations of religious freedom in its history in the form of SB 360 in California,' writes Allen, author of the 2013 bestseller *The Global War on Christians: Dispatches from the Front Lines of Anti-Christian Persecution*, since the bill would compel priests to reveal information learned while hearing confessions as evidence against possible sex offenders.

'The bill passed the California senate in late May by a 30-2 vote and is expected to be considered by the State Assembly in September,' Allen notes.

On the international scene, 'the scope of anti-Christian hostility is staggering,' Allen continues, with the number of Christians facing 'harassment, physical assault, arrest and imprisonment, torture, and even death' on a daily basis estimated at around 200 million.

Christians in North Korea, China, India, Pakistan, Iran, Iraq, Nigeria and a host of other countries live under a constant threat of active persecution, as documented by Open Doors, a Christian persecution watchdog group. Even in Latin America, the world's largest 'Catholic' region, the number of Catholic clergy and personnel killed each year frequently tops the list of continents..."

'Entire world will pay' if mosque on Temple Mount harmed

June 24, 2019 World Net Daily reported: "A prominent adviser to the Palestinian Authority's Mahmoud Abbas claims Israel is plotting against the Al Aqsa Mosque in its capital, Jerusalem, and if Muslims don't act decisively, 'the entire world will pay.'

The Twitter comments by Mahmoud Al-Habbash, Abbas' adviser on religious and Islamic affairs and a Shariah judge, were spotlighted by Palestinian Media Watch.

PMW described him as one of the more important religious figures in the PA. He was 'repeating the PA libel that Israel is planning to destroy the Al-Aqsa Mosque,' the group said.

Al-Habbash wrote in Twitter: 'The 'Israeli plot against the Al-Aqsa mosque is becoming more dangerous and expanding from day to day. If the Muslims don't act now, something will occur whose end is bad and bitter, and then the entire world will pay dearly. The Al-Aqsa mosque is religion and faith, and nothing is too valuable for it. 'So take warning, O people of vision' [Quran, Sura 59:2, Sahih International translation].'

PMW noted the last warning was a quote from the Quran calling for punishment of the Jews..."

Iran and Iraq: Tehran envisions joint military exercises, missile defense and Mosul influence

June 24, 2019 jpost.com reported: "Iran wants to hold joint military exercises with Iraq, an Iranian news website reported on Monday, potentially increasing the alliance and link between Baghdad and Tehran. It comes as an Iranian diplomat visited Mosul and also after a commander of Iran's air defense indicated Tehran could work with Baghdad on its air defense requirements. Joint military exercises would be a major step in the alliance between Iraq and Iran.

ISNA reported on Monday that Iran's land forces commander of Koumars Heydari suggested joint exercises in a meeting with Iraqi deputy commander of the army Major General Tariq Abbas Ibrahim.

Iran and Iraq were once enemies when Saddam Hussein's regime was in charge, but after the US-led invasion in 2003 the countries have grown closer because of the rise of Shi'ite political parties and allies of Tehran who see Iran as a natural ally for Iraq. Iraq's second largest party, the Fatah Alliance is run by Hadi al-Amiri, the head of Badr Organization, who once served alongside the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps in the 1980s.

However, Iraq has also said it does not want to be in the middle of the current Iran-US tensions. When US President Donald Trump indicated that US forces might use Iraq to 'watch' Iran, this angered Baghdad. New electricity agreements were signed between Iraq and Iran in February, and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani made a strategic trip to Iraq in March in which he signed 22 agreements to boost ties. Rail ties would be constructed, oil infrastructure connected and Iran and Iraq would be more closely integrated, the agreements said..."



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