



# PROPHETIC TIMES

January, 1998

Weekly World News Briefs

August 24, 2019

## **San Francisco board rebrands 'convicted felon' as 'justice-involved person,' sanitizes other crime lingo**

*August 22, 2019* foxnews.com reported: "Crime-ridden San Francisco has introduced new sanitized language for criminals, getting rid of words such as "offender" and "addict" while changing "convicted felon" to "justice-involved person."

The Board of Supervisors adopted the changes last month even as the city reels from one of the highest crime rates in the country and staggering inequality exemplified by pervasive homelessness alongside Silicon Valley wealth.

The local officials say the new language will help change people's views about those who commit crimes.

According to the San Francisco Chronicle, from now on a convicted felon or an offender released from custody will be known as a "formerly incarcerated person," or a "justice-involved" person or just a "returning resident."

A juvenile "delinquent" will now be called a "young person with justice system involvement," or a "young person impacted by the juvenile justice system."

And drug addicts or substance abusers, meanwhile, will become "a person with a history of substance use."

"We don't want people to be forever labeled for the worst things that they have done," Supervisor Matt Haney told the newspaper. "We want them ultimately to become contributing citizens, and referring to them as felons is like a scarlet letter that they can never get away from."...



## **US 'prepared to engage' with N. Korea in nuclear talks: envoy**

*August 21, 2019* spacedaily.com reported: The United States is ready to sit down with North Korea to resume long-awaited working-level nuclear talks, a US envoy said Wednesday.

Nuclear discussions between Washington and Pyongyang have stalled since a second summit in Hanoi in February ended without an agreement over differences on the extent of denuclearisation and a sanctions relief in return.

But anticipation for renewed dialogue has been on the rise after the US and its security ally South Korea wrapped up their two-week joint military drill on Tuesday.

"We are prepared to engage as soon as we hear from our counterparts in North Korea," said Stephen Biegun, the US special representative for North Korea, after his meeting with South Korean counterpart Lee Do-hoon in Seoul.

The comments come amid speculation that Americans could meet with North Koreans at the demilitarised zone dividing the North and South to kick start working-level talks during Biegun's three-day stay in Seoul, which began Tuesday.

## **Report: U.S., Russia gave Israel green light to strike Iran in Syria, Iraq**

*August 21, 2019* timesofisrael.com reported: "Israel has conducted several strikes on Iranian-controlled bases in Syria and Iraq in recent weeks with permission from the United States and Russia, a Western diplomatic source told a Saudi-owned newspaper Wednesday.

Moscow and Washington agreed that the Jewish state could conduct these attacks on Iranian targets in order to 'ensure Israel's security,' the source told the London-based Arabic-language Asharq Al-Awsat.

In recent weeks, a number of explosions have been reported in Iraqi military installations connected to pro-Iranian Shiite militias, including on Tuesday night in an arms depot north of Baghdad.

As part of the reported agreement, Israel would not publicly acknowledge carrying out the strikes. However, this has not prevented Israeli officials from hinting at their involvement in these attacks..."

## **Hamas threatens escalation**

*August 21, 2019* Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "The Lebanese Al Akhbar newspaper on Tuesday morning quoted a Hamas source who claimed that the terror groups have sent a clear message saying that if Israel does not implement the understandings, they will begin escalating the situation.

According to the paper, the understandings Israel must implement include allowing the Qatari money into Gaza each month and increasing the electricity it supplies to Gaza by the end of this week..."

## **U.S. Space Command to start Aug. 29, officials say**

*August 20, 2019* spacedaily.com reported: "The U.S. Space Command will begin operations Aug. 29, Vice President Mike Pence and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Joseph Dunford said Tuesday.

SPACECOM 's start, known as a stand-up, will be the first U.S. combatant command since the Africa Command in 2009, and does not indicate equal status within the government hierarchy with the five branches of the U.S. military.

The date was announced by Dunford and Pence at a meeting of the National Space Council. Dunford said that SPACECOM chief Gen. Jay Raymond will inherit 87 units covering "missile warning, satellite operations, space control and space support."

The command is expected to include nearly 700 personnel pulled from the U.S. strategic Command.

Raymond told the U.S. Congress in June that the standup of his new organization would not be easy, but "my first priority will be to ensure the seamless transition of the command and control of critical space capabilities that the nation and the joint force depend on each and every day.

"Simultaneously we need to ensure we take steps to strengthen readiness and lethality as we complete our shift from a permissive environment to a posture for warfighting."

### **Russia calls U.S. missile test an 'escalation of military tensions'**

*August 20, 2019* timesofisrael.com reported: "Moscow on Tuesday said the United States was ramping up military tensions by testing a medium-range cruise missile weeks after tearing up a pact with Russia.

'This is all a cause of regret. The US has obviously taken a course towards escalation of military tensions. We won't react to provocations,' Russian deputy foreign minister Sergei Ryabkov told state news agency TASS.

The US announced on Monday that it had tested a type of ground-launched missile that was banned under the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty with the Soviet Union..."

### **US Navy 'ready' for Venezuela mission, says a top commander**

*August 20, 2019* alarabiya.net reported: "The US Navy is ready to "do what needs to be done" on Venezuela, a top commander said on Monday, as America ramps up pressure on the crisis-wracked country.



US Southern Command chief Admiral Craig Faller made the remarks in Rio de Janeiro as the United States kicked off its annual UNITAS maritime exercise involving nine Latin American countries as well as the UK, Portugal and Japan.

"I won't speak to details of what we're planning and what we're doing, but we remain ready to implement policy decisions and we remain on the balls of our feet," Faller told reporters.

He added: "The United States Navy is the most powerful navy in the world. If a policy decision is made to deploy the navy, I'm convinced that we'll be able to do what needs to be done."

His remarks came just weeks after President Donald Trump said he was considering a "blockade or quarantine" of the Latin American country.

Trump subsequently intensified sanctions on Venezuela this month, ordering a freeze on all government assets in the United States and barred transactions with its authorities..."

### **Jordan urges pressure on Israel over Al-Aqsa**

*August 19, 2019* Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "Jordan's Foreign Minister, Ayman Safadi, on Sunday urged the international community to pressure Israel to stop its 'violations' against the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in Jerusalem, Xinhua reported.

The appeal by Safadi was made during a meeting he held with EU ambassadors to Jordan to discuss Israel's actions in Jerusalem.

Safadi warned against the grave consequences of Israeli unilateral steps intended to change the historical and legal status of Jerusalem, according to a Foreign Ministry statement obtained by Xinhua.

'Israel must respect the historical and legal status quo in Jerusalem with its Muslim and Christian holy sites, and stop breaching its obligations as an occupying power,' he was quoted as having said..."

### **India hints at changing 'no first use' nuclear policy**

*August 19, 2019* spacedaily.com reported: "India's defence minister hinted on Friday that New Delhi might change its 'no first use' policy on nuclear weapons, amid heightened tensions with fellow atomic power Pakistan.

India committed in 1999 to not being the first to use nuclear weapons in any conflict. Among India's neighbours China has a similar doctrine but arch rival Pakistan does not.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh made the comment on Twitter after visiting Pokhran, the site of India's successful nuclear tests in 1998 under then prime minister Atal Vajpayee.

'Pokhran is the area which witnessed (Vajpayee's) firm resolve to make India a nuclear power and yet remain firmly committed to the doctrine of 'No First Use', Singh wrote.

'India has strictly adhered to this doctrine. What happens in future depends on the circumstances,' Singh tweeted..."

### **Netanyahu: 'If necessary, we will begin a war in Gaza'**

*August 18, 2019* Arutz Sheva 7 reported: Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu on Sunday afternoon promised to begin a military operation in Gaza if the situation demanded it.

Before boarding a plane to Ukraine, Netanyahu responded to the recent events on the Gaza-Israel border, and the weekend's rocket attacks on Israeli territory.

'I heard people saying that I'm avoiding a widescale operation in Gaza because of the elections,' Netanyahu said. 'That's not true. Anyone who knows me knows that my considerations are practical and relevant.'

'If the situation demands it, we will begin a widescale operation regardless of the elections..."

*Compiled by L. Jim Tuck, Pastor  
UCGIA Phoenix, Northern AZ, Show Low & Hawaii  
ljt5053@sbcglobal.net*