



# PROPHETIC TIMES

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## In rebuke to China, Taiwan calls for closer ties with U.S., allies

*September 12, 2019* SinoDaily.com reported: “A report released on Wednesday by Taiwan’s defense ministry calls for closer alliances with the United States, Japan and other countries in a rebuke to China’s military threat.

The annual National Defense Report of the Ministry of Defense outlines strategies for countering China, and Taiwan’s continued role as a ‘defender of peace’ in the region. It encourages the Indo-Pacific Strategy of defense — which involves the United States, Australia, Japan, Singapore South Korea and the Philippines — and notes the growth of the indigenous Taiwanese defense industry.

Taiwan, formally known as the Republic of China, is an island nation off the coast of China and is regarded by China as a breakaway province, eventually to return. Its 2019 defense budget of \$11.1 billion is dwarfed by China’s budget of \$167 billion, and China has increased its military activity in the Taiwan Strait, which separates the two countries...”

## Al-Qaeda leader calls for attacks on U.S. and Israeli targets

*September 12, 2019* Arutz Sheva 7 reported: “Al-Qaeda leader Ayman Al-Zawahiri on Wednesday called on Muslims to attack US, European, Israeli and Russian targets. The comments, quoted by the SITE Intelligence Group which tracks online activity of jihadist organizations, were made in a video statement released by Al-Qaeda on the 18th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terror attacks.

‘If you want Jihad to be focused solely on military targets, the American military has presence all over the world, from the East to the West,’ said Al-Zawahiri in the video.

‘Your countries are littered with American bases, with all the infidels therein and the corruption they spread,’ he added...”

## Russia warns against annexing Jordan Valley on eve of Netanyahu-Putin meet

*September 12, 2019* ynet.com reported: “Russia warned on Wednesday that Benjamin Netanyahu’s pledge to annex the West Bank’s Jordan Valley could escalate tensions as the Israeli prime minister geared up to hold talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The Russian Foreign Ministry said it was concerned over Netanyahu’s plan, saying its implementation could lead to a ‘sharp escalation of tensions in the region (and) undermine hopes for the establishment of long-awaited peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors.’

Moscow pointed out that Netanyahu’s pre-election pledge drew a ‘sharp negative reaction’ in the Arab world and reiterated its call for direct talks between Israel and Palestinians.

Battling to win re-election in Sept. 17 polls, Netanyahu issued the deeply controversial pledge on Tuesday night, drawing firm condemnation from the Palestinians, Arab states, the United Nations and the European Union...”

## Abbas: All agreements with Israel will end

*September 11, 2019* Arutz Sheva 7 reported: “Palestinian Authority (PA) chairman Mahmoud Abbas threatened on Tuesday that all agreements signed with Israel and their resulting obligations would end if Israel annexes the Jordan Valley, the northern Dead Sea and any part of the ‘Palestinian territories occupied in 1967’, the PA’s official Wafa news agency reported.

His comments came in response to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu’s announcement that he would apply Israeli sovereignty over the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea area after the election.

‘We have the right to defend our rights and achieve our goals by all available means, regardless of the consequences, as Netanyahu’s decisions contradict with United Nations resolutions and international law,’ stated Abbas...”

## European Union warns Israel against annexation

*September 11, 2019* Arutz Sheva 7 reported: “The European Union warned Wednesday that Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu’s pledge to annex the Jordan Valley and Dead Sea area if he wins next week’s election undermines chances for peace in the region.

‘The policy of settlement construction and expansion... is illegal under international law and its continuation, and actions taken in this context, undermine the viability of the two-state solution and the prospects for a lasting peace,’ an EU spokesperson said in a statement to AFP...”



European Union

## North Korea again tests ‘super-large’ rocket launcher

*September 11, 2019* spacedaily.com reported: “North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has supervised a fresh test of a ‘super-large multiple rocket launcher’ system, state media said Wednesday — the latest in a series of provocations by Pyongyang.

South Korea’s military said Tuesday that the North had launched ‘unidentified projectiles’ from the Kaechon area in South Pyongan province. They flew approximately 330 kilometres (205 miles). The launch came shortly after Pyongyang said it was willing to hold working-level talks on denuclearisation later this month with the United States.

Kim ‘gave field guidance’ for Tuesday’s test, the Korean Central News Agency reported. The ‘super-large multiple rocket launcher’ was tested in an exercise observed by Kim about two weeks ago.

The KCNA report said the test was aimed at ‘measuring the time of combat deployment’ and implied another test could follow.

‘What remains to be done is running fire test which is most vivid character in terms of the power of multiple rocket launcher,’ KCNA said...”

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## **Iran slams European powers as nuclear deal unravels**

*September 10, 2019* spacedaily.com reported: "Iran's atomic agency chief hit out Sunday at European powers, saying their broken promises gave the Islamic republic little choice but to scale back its commitments under a nuclear deal.

Ali Akbar Salehi was speaking to reporters alongside Cornel Feruta, the acting head of the International Atomic Energy Agency who was on a one-day visit to Tehran.

The IAEA official's visit came less than 24 hours after Iran said it was firing up advanced centrifuges that enrich uranium at a faster rate — the latest blow to the landmark 2015 nuclear deal.

It was the third step in a strategy Iran implemented in May, reducing its nuclear commitments in a bid to force the deal's remaining parties to deliver on promises of relief from crippling US sanctions.

Britain, France and Germany have been trying to save the nuclear deal, which began unravelling last year when US President Donald Trump withdrew from it and began reimposing the punitive measures against Iran..."

## **U.S. says North Korea blocking resumption of nuclear talks**

*September 9, 2019* spacedaily.com reported: "North Korea must stop blocking nuclear talks with the United States before it is too late, the US special envoy to that country said amid a stalemate in the negotiations.

'If we are to succeed, North Korea must set aside its search for obstacles to negotiations and instead seek the opportunities for engagement while that opportunity lasts,' Stephen Biegun said Friday in a speech at the University of Michigan. The State Department released the text of his remarks on Saturday.

The two countries began a historic dialogue after President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un held a summit in Singapore in June 2018.

A second summit in Hanoi in February collapsed without an agreement. The pair met again in June in the Demilitarized Zone dividing North and South Korea, and agreed there to restart working-level dialogue, but those talks have yet to begin. In recent weeks North Korea has carried out a series of tests of short-range missiles. US officials have called these launches provocations, although Trump himself has avoided criticizing them..."

## **Putin rebukes officials over space delays**

*September 9, 2019* spacedaily.com reported: "President Vladimir Putin on Thursday gave a dressing down to space officials on a visit to Russia's long-delayed and corruption-tainted cosmodrome in the Far East.

The Vostochny cosmodrome was originally supposed to be running manned launches from last year but the grand project has been consistently behind schedule.

At a meeting with the head of the country's space agency Dmitry Rogozin and others, Putin asked for details on how close the spaceport is to completion.

'I expect a more responsible attitude from you and a dynamic pace when organising work,' Putin said in televised comments.

'All the infrastructure being built on the ground here must meet the latest demands and standards to ensure launches of our advanced rocket systems,' the president said..."

## **Syria war: Turkey warns Europe of new migrant wave**

*September 6, 2019* bbcnews.com reported: "Turkey has warned it may reopen the route for Syrian refugees to enter Europe if it does not get more international support for creating a safe zone in northern Syria. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan called for 'logistical support' to establish a safe zone in Syria's north-east.

'Either this happens, or we will be forced to open the gates,' he said. Turkey is hosting more than 3.6 million Syrians who have fled the civil war. The US backs the 'safe zone' plan. But the plan is controversial, because Syrian Kurdish forces are wary of Turkey moving many Syrians into the north-east who are not originally from that area.

The ethnic Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG), seen by Turkey as a terrorist group, do not want to make way for Turkish forces in that area.

The US military has backed the YPG against so-called Islamic State (IS) fighters, whose territory is now much diminished..."

## **Japan 'set to dump contaminated Fukushima water into ocean as storage runs out'**

*September 6, 2019* dailystar.co.uk reported: "Countries are gathering to prevent Japan dumping nuclear waste from the Fukushima power plant disaster into the ocean. The plant suffered a catastrophic meltdown when a 6.6-magnitude earthquake shook the region in 2011. A tsunami then swamped the nuclear reactors and triggered a massive radiation leak.

Tokyo Electric is currently running out of tank space at the plant used to store the water waste. It expects storage will be taken up by mid-2022 and is actively seeking alternatives – one of which is reportedly the ocean.

The South Korean government has now sent a letter to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in opposition to the move. The Ministry of Science and ICT in a press conference in Seoul on Thursday said it plans to "take joint measures with the international community to search for a safe way to handle radioactive water from the Fukushima plant"..."



*Fukushima Nuclear Plant*