



# PROPHETIC TIMES

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## **Hamas, Islamic Jihad agree to stand together in future fight with Israel**

**December 19, 2019** *JPost.com* *The Jerusalem Post* reports: "Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) and Hamas will join forces in the next round of fighting with Israel, PIJ Secretary-General Ziyad al-Nakhalah said on Thursday.

During the last flare-up between PIJ and Israel, Hamas mostly stayed out of the fighting in a move that drew criticism from several Palestinian factions and some PIJ officials.

The violence erupted after Israel assassinated senior PIJ military commander Baha Abu al-Ata on November 12.

Nakhalah, who is based in Lebanon, said that his group has reached agreement with Hamas 'to jointly respond to any [Israeli] aggression.' He warned that any Israeli military strike against the Gaza Strip won't pass without a response. Nakhalah repeated PIJ's commitment to the 'path of jihad (holy war) notwithstanding the challenges and sacrifices.'

Hamas and PIJ leaders met in Cairo recently as part of Egypt's effort to secure a long-term ceasefire between the Gaza-based factions and Israel..."

## **Erdogan allowing Hamas to plan attacks on Israel from Turkey**

**December 18, 2019** *Arutz Sheva* 7 reported: "The Turkish government is hosting Hamas terrorists on its soil and permitting them to plan terror attacks on Israeli targets, a report released by *The Telegraph* Tuesday night claims.

According to the report, transcripts of Israeli police interrogations of terrorists show that senior Hamas terrorists are using Istanbul as a center for the terror group's operations abroad. Terrorist leaders operating out of Turkey's largest city direct Hamas activities in Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria, the report added, including the foiled plot to assassinate the mayor of Jerusalem.

Senior Hamas terrorist Zacharia Najib plotted an assassination attack in Jerusalem, pressing 23-year-old terrorist Adham Muselmani, a Jerusalem Arab who had been recruited for the attack, to target either then-Mayor of Jerusalem Nir Barkat, then-MK Yehuda Glick (Likud), or then-Police Chief Roni Alsheich.

The plot was later foiled after Muselmani returned to Jerusalem and tried to purchase a pistol for the attack, only to be arrested by Israeli authorities.

While Israel has discussed Hamas' operations on Turkish soil with Turkey's government, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has refused to crackdown on Hamas terrorists in his country, or even to interfere with their plots against Israel..."

## **Russia's top general warns World War 3 is coming in chilling prediction**

**December 18, 2019** *dailystar.co.uk* reported: "Valery Gerasimov, the chief Vladimir Putin's general staff, has said he believes the West are preparing for a "large-scale military conflict". He was speaking at a senior briefing for the military – saying that the West has assigned "adversary status" to Russia. And the general pointed out NATO's summit in London wanted faster deployment to the "eastern flank".

NATO and Russia both have shipped tonnes of military hardware to their frontier in eastern Europe. Both regularly accuse the other of aggression over the build-up, and General Gerasimov warned this could accidentally start a war. Putin's war boss said: "Work continues on the deployment of US missile defence components in Europe.

"In the Baltic countries and Poland, the Black and Baltic seas, military activity is intensifying, the intensity of the bloc's military exercises is rising... Their scenarios point to NATO's targeted preparation for engaging its forces in a large-scale military conflict."

He accused the West of over-egging the "Russian military threat" amid the ongoing tension. General Gerasimov said both Moscow and the West must reduce the risk of clashes. It comes after a string of military incidents between the two sides, with warships and warplanes often "buzzing" each other in eastern Europe.

The general said: "The reduction of risks of dangerous military incidents should remain the most important area in the dialogue between Russia with the US and NATO.

"It is necessary to resume interaction between Russia and NATO in order to resolve the accumulated problematic issues..."

## **Jerusalem to remain united in "Deal of the Century" – Arab report**

**December 17, 2019** *jpost.com* reported: "Jerusalem will remain united under mostly Israeli control with some responsibilities shared with a Palestinian state including the West Bank and Gaza, according to a purported draft copy of US President Donald Trump's 'Deal of the Century' peace plan for the Middle East published by the Lebanese *Al-Mayadeen* TV channel on Monday.

The unconfirmed reported draft details the timetable and methods of the plan.

The parts that were released by the TV channel, which is based in Lebanon and affiliated with Hezbollah, discuss a trilateral peace agreement between the Palestinian Authority, Hamas and Israel in which a 'new Palestinian state' would be established in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, excluding the settlement blocs which would remain as a part of Israel.

Hamas and the Palestinian Authority are currently in talks to hold overarching elections for the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Jerusalem.

Jerusalem will not be split up in the agreement, but instead will be 'shared' between Israel and the Palestinian state, with the Arab population of the city becoming residents of the Palestinian state, according to the reported draft..."



## Second China Aircraft Carrier Enters Service



*December 17, 2019* [voanews.com](http://voanews.com) reported: "China's second aircraft carrier entered service on Tuesday, adding major firepower to its military ambitions as it faces tensions with self-ruled Taiwan as well as the US and regional neighbors around the disputed South China Sea.

The commissioning of the warship, named the *Shandong*, puts China in a small club of nations with multiple aircraft carriers, and the country is reportedly building a third.

China's first domestically built carrier was delivered to the People's Liberation Army navy in Sanya, on the southern island of Hainan, at a ceremony attended by President Xi Jinping, state media said.

China has one other carrier — the *Liaoning* — a repurposed Soviet vessel bought from Ukraine that went into service in 2012.

Around 5,000 people attended Tuesday's ceremony, singing the national anthem as the national flag was raised, state broadcaster *CCTV* said. Xi inspected an honor guard during the ceremony and met with service personnel on board the warship..."

## North Korea conducts 'crucial test' at Sohae launch site

*December 16, 2019* [spacedaily.com](http://spacedaily.com) reported: "North Korea has conducted another 'crucial test' at its Sohae satellite launch site, state media reported, as nuclear negotiations between Pyongyang and Washington remain stalled with a deadline approaching.

The announcement Saturday comes one day before US Special Envoy on North Korea Stephen Biegun is set to arrive in Seoul for a three-day visit, and after the United States tested a medium-range ballistic missile over the Pacific Ocean on Thursday.

North Korea's Chief of the General Staff Pak Jon Chon said his country was using recent tests to develop new technologies and strategic weapons.

In a case of 'acute confrontation', the United States 'and other hostile forces will spend the year-end in peace only when they hold off any words and deeds rattling us', he said in a statement carried by the government news agency *KCNA*..."

## US Space Policy: The United States Space Force

*December 16, 2019* [spacedaily.com](http://spacedaily.com) reported: The Trump Administration and United States Congress are currently in discussions regarding a proposal to create and fund a service branch within the U.S. Air Force that would assist in deterring conflict in space.

The Trump Administration and United States Congress are currently in discussions regarding a proposal to create and fund a service branch within the U.S. Air Force that would assist in deterring conflict in space. Called the United States Space Force, the branch would be part of the U.S. Air Force much the way the Marine Corps are part of the U.S. Navy.

Over time, the Space Force would evolve to become a stand-alone branch of the armed services. Scott Pace is Executive Secretary of the National Space Council. He explained why space is now considered what the Pentagon calls a "war-fighting domain":

"Some people say: are we going to militarize space? And the answer is space has really been a military domain since the Soviet Union launched Sputnik. They used, actually, a converted ICBM to do it. So space has been a realm of military activity really since the very beginning. It's been used for reconnaissance." ...

"The Space Force," said Vice President Mike Pence, "Will be a vanguard to defending our nation, defending our freedom, and defending the rights of all freedom-loving nations in the vast expanses of space." ..."

## Turkey's Erdogan threatens to close 2 US military bases

*December 15, 2019* [spacedaily.com](http://spacedaily.com) reported: Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Sunday threatened to close two strategic military bases used by the United States in Turkey, after Washington warned of sanctions over Ankara buying Russian arms.

"If necessary, we can close Incirlik and we can close Kurecik," Erdogan on the pro-government A Haber television channel. The two bases sit on Turkey's southwest coast, near the border with Syria. Erdogan has regularly raised this possibility in the past, at times of tension between the two countries.

The US Air force uses the airbase at Incirlik for raids on positions held by the so-called Islamic State group in Syria. The Kurecik base houses a major NATO radar station. Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu raised the issue of the bases last week. Responding to the US threat of fresh sanctions, he warned that their closure could be "put on the table." ..."

## US defense chief chides NATO 'free riders'

*December 13, 2019* [spacedaily.com](http://spacedaily.com) reported: "US Defense Secretary Mark Esper on Friday defended Washington's pressuring NATO allies to contribute more money toward their own defense, saying the Western alliance cannot permit "free riders."

Responding to questions at the Council on Foreign Relations about President Donald Trump's criticism of other NATO members, Esper said the United States was not being unreasonable to demand they spend more.

"Our alliances are not transactional ones. Rather, they are rooted in mutual respect, common values and a shared willingness to fight for them," Esper said.

"Much of the world looks to the United States as the global security partner of choice. Not only because of our superior military capabilities and equipment, but also because of our values."

He stressed it was an obligation to the alliance for countries to contribute more." ..."

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