



# PROPHETIC TIMES

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Weekly World News Briefs

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## **Abbas said to warn Netanyahu that West Bank on verge of 'explosion'**

*January 2, 2020 timesofisrael* reported: "Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas has reportedly sent a message to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warning him that Israel's decision to cut funds from Ramallah at the same time as it works toward a ceasefire with Hamas in Gaza is fueling mounting anger in the West Bank.

According to a *Chanel 13* news report on Wednesday, Abbas dispatched PA Civil Affairs Minister Hussein al-Sheikh to meet with Israeli Finance Minister Moshe Kahlon after the security cabinet announced on Sunday that Israel would withhold around NIS 149 million (\$43 million) in taxes it collects on behalf of the Palestinians over their payments to wounded Palestinian terrorists and other security prisoners and the families of slain attackers.



Abbas & Netanyahu

Israel forcefully opposes the payments, arguing that they incentivize violent attacks against Israelis. The Ramallah-based Palestinian leadership contends that they seek to provide social welfare to injured Palestinians and Palestinian families who have lost a breadwinner..."

## **President Rouhani Defiant: Iran Never Bows to Superpowers**

*January 2, 2020 breitbart.com* reported: "Iran is ready for talks with the world but will never 'bow to the pressures exerted by the superpowers, specially the U.S.," President Hassan Rouhani said Thursday. Rouhani made his proclamation while addressing a meeting in the north-western province of Ardabil, citing the Islamic Republic's divinity and need to oppose the U.S. while protecting Islam and its followers.

'How is it possible for us to bow to a superpower and sell our independence and freedom? It is not possible for us to lose the efforts that have been made for centuries,' Rouhani said, according to state *Fars* news agency.

'I am not the one to miss an opportunity, I hold talks, I speak, as we sat down for talks with six countries and reached an agreement. We are not to blame and we did not lie to the world and we told everyone the truth,' he added..."

## **North Korea's Kim warns of 'grave' economic challenge**

*December 31, 2019 spacedaily.com* reported: "North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has warned top ruling party officials of the 'grave situation' facing the nuclear-armed state's economy and called for urgent corrective measures.

His comments, reported Monday by state media, came on the second day of a key party meeting held ahead of a year-end deadline for Washington to shift its stance on stalled nuclear talks with Pyongyang. Kim, who chaired the meeting, said the time had come to bring about a 'decisive turn' in the North's economic development.

He presented the assembled officials with 'tasks for urgently correcting the grave situation of the major industrial sectors of the national economy,' the official *KCNA* news agency reported.

The North does not publish economic statistics of its own, leaving outside estimates as the only available figures for its financial performance..."

## **Pro-Iranian protesters target US embassy in Iraq, ambassador evacuated**

*December 31, 2019 jpost.com* reported: "In the wake of US airstrikes in Iraq that killed members of the Iranian-backed Kataib Hezbollah, Iran is seizing the opportunity to use its clandestine networks in Iraq to push the US to leave the country. The US has already left Iraq twice before, in the 1990s and in 2011. Iran wagers that it can leverage the airstrikes to mobilize people against the US in Iraq.

On Tuesday morning hundreds of protesters gathered outside the US Embassy in Baghdad. Along with well-known pro-Iranian politicians and militia leaders, such as Hadi al-Amiri, they then stormed the embassy compound and set fires. They raised the flag of Kataib Hezbollah, a militia that US airstrikes had targeted, on the embassy compound. US forces remained inside throughout the afternoon as the crowds swelled. The pro-Iranian protesters set up tents hoping to stay at the compound to evict the US. US diplomats were reportedly evacuated before the protest.

US President Donald Trump said early on Tuesday that Iran was 'orchestrating' an attack on the US embassy in Iraq and will be held responsible for it..."

## **Russia's Avangard hypersonic missile system has entered service**

*December 30, 2019 spacedaily.com* reported: "The Avangard is one of half-a-dozen new defence systems unveiled by Moscow in early 2018 as a means of restoring the global strategic nuclear balance amid NATO efforts to press up against Russia's borders and create elements of a ground-based missile shield in Romania and Poland.

The first Strategic Missile Forces regiment to be armed with the nuclear-capable Avangard hypersonic glide vehicle has entered combat duty, Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu has confirmed.

'I would like to congratulate every one of us and especially the Strategic Missile Forces. The Avangard strategic missile has been put on combat duty. On behalf of all of us, I congratulate everyone with this significant event for our country and for its armed forces,' Shoigu said, speaking in a conference call with President Vladimir Putin on Friday.

Russian Strategic Missile Forces commander Col-Gen Sergei Karakaev confirmed that the first Avangard-armed missile regiment has been stationed at the Yasnensky missile compound in Orenburg region, about 1,200 km southeast of Moscow..."

### **Allies join Space Force for multinational collaboration**

*December 30, 2019* spacedaily.com reported: "Allies are in the early stages of collaboration with the newly created U.S. Space Force, which has hosted its first 'five eyes' level briefing and authorized its first collaborative task order, the Air Force said Friday. According to an announcement by the U.S. Air Force, Group Captain Darren Whiteley, a Royal Air Force officer from Britain and the deputy director of the Combined Space Operations Center, recently signed the first combined tasking order for Space Force command units.

'Allied partnerships are critical to defending our assets at home and in the space domain,' Whiteley said. 'The threat is expanding and international collaboration is essential to strengthen deterrence against hostile actors. Through these partnerships we are able to expand the depth and multiply the effects we can have to those evolving threats.'

The task order is the first by a coalition partner under Operation Olympic Defender, a multinational effort intended to optimize space operations and share information between allies..."

### **Analysis: Iran hopes naval drill will show US is not a global power**

*December 30, 2019* jpost.com reported: "It wasn't exactly the largest naval exercise in the world, or even a very significant one in terms of firepower. But when Iran, Russia and China gathered ships at Chabahar in southeastern Iran on Friday, they were sending a message to the world.

Iranian photographers were on hand to capture the moment that ships from the three countries readied to go to sea. It was a big moment for Tehran in which it showed that US sanctions and attempts to isolate Iran are not working.

Acting-US Navy Secretary Thomas Modly said on Friday, in a statement that appeared timed to coincide with the naval drill, that Iran could conduct provocative actions in that region.

Since May, tensions have risen in the Gulf between the US and Iran. According to US assessments, Iran has attacked six oil tankers, as well as Saudi Arabia and downed a US drone. Iran continues to harass ships and even took control of a UK-flagged vessel in July. Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps fast boats continue to be a threat..."

### **Japan to send warship and planes to the Middle East**

*December 27, 2019* Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "Japan will send a warship and patrol planes to protect Japanese ships in the Middle East as the situation in the region, from which it sources nearly 90% of its crude oil imports, remains volatile, *Reuters* reported Thursday, citing a document approved by the cabinet.



Under the plan, a helicopter-equipped destroyer and two P-3C patrol planes will be dispatched for information-gathering aimed at ensuring safe passage for Japanese vessels through the region. If there are any emergencies, a special order would be issued by the Japanese defense minister to allow the forces to use weapons to protect ships in danger.

Tensions between Iran and the US have increased since last year, when President Donald Trump pulled the United States out of a 2015 international nuclear deal with Iran and re-imposed sanctions on it, crippling its economy..."

### **Boko Haram Jihadis Kill Seven in Nigeria on Christmas Eve**

*December 27, 2019* breitbart.com reported: "Islamist terror group Boko Haram, an affiliate of the Islamic State, attacked a largely Christian village new Chibok in northeastern Nigeria on Christmas Eve and killed seven people. A teenage girl was also reportedly abducted from the village. AFP quoted locals who said the jihadis emerged from Sambisa Forest, an area covering over 20,000 square miles where Boko Haram hides most of its forces. The attackers arrived in trucks and riding motorcycles.

Bloodshed was minimized by a timely warning to villagers from people new Sambisa who saw the attack force closing in. The jihadis are said to have stolen food from the village and burned a number of homes before returning to the forest with their captive.

The governor of Nigeria's Borno state, Babagana Zulum, confirmed the attack on Thursday and said there may have been two kidnapping victims. Zulum put the casualty count at six dead plus three injured..."

### **China to rewrite Bible and Quran to fit 'socialist values'**

*December 27, 2019* World Net Daily reported: "China plans to rewrite all translated 'classic religious books' to reflect the socialist values of the Communist Party of China. The order was given during a meeting in November that was organized by the Committee for Ethnic Affairs, which is responsible for all religious matters of the country.

While not directly referring to the Quran and the Bible, the committee plans a comprehensive review of the religious texts, which allegedly 'do not conform to the progress of the times' and need to be fitted to the 'era of President Xi Jinping.'..."

*Compiled by L. Jim Tuck, Pastor  
UCGIA Phoenix, Northern AZ, Show Low & Hawaii  
[ljt5053@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ljt5053@sbcglobal.net)*