



# PROPHETIC TIMES

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## Israel attacked Iranian post in Damascus area

**February 6, 2020** Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported overnight Wednesday that the Israel Air Force attacked Iranian militias in the Damascus area. Syria's official television reported that the country's air defense systems intercepted what was described as 'hostile targets' over the Syrian capital.

'Our air defenses confronted an Israeli attack' west of the capital, said the official Syrian news agency SANA, adding that the attack was carried out from 'occupied Syrian airspace in the Golan heights.'

Israel is not commenting on the reports..."

## Iran trains Shia militia proxies in Iraq to wage war on US

**February 5, 2020** jpost.com reported: "Iranian proxies in Iraq are training for war against the US and will continue to fire rockets at US forces in Iraq until the US leaves, a new report says. Iranian-backed militias such as Asaib Ah al-Haq, Kataib Hezbollah and the Badr Organization have also been using 'extreme measures to quell protesters, including opening fire on demonstrators,' the US said in a new report. The quarterly Lead Inspector General report for Operation Inherent Resolve pivoted in the last months to focus on Iran as the US is increasingly concerned about Iran's threats to US forces in Iraq.

The unusual focus on Iran's role in Iraq has been building over the last two years in these reports. The report draws on information from US Central Command, the Defense Intelligence Agency, State Department and other reports. The new report is unprecedented in focusing on Iran's role. A special diagram shows the main aspects of Iran's network of influence in Iraq through Qasem Soleimani. Soleimani was the IRGC Quds Force leader killed in a US airstrike on January 3. The US says that an Iraqi named Jamal Jaafar Ibrahim was also killed by US forces travelling with Soleimani in the same strike that killed Kataib Hezbollah leader Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis..."

## European Union won't recognize Israeli sovereignty over 'territories occupied since 1967'

**February 5, 2020** Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "The European Union (EU) will not support implementation of US President Donald Trump's 'deal of the century' peace plan, EU High Representative and Vice-President Josep Borrell said in a Tuesday statement.

In the statement, Borrell said: 'The European Union is fully committed to the transatlantic partnership and values all efforts to help find a peaceful resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The EU recalls its commitment to a negotiated two-State solution, based on 1967 lines, with equivalent land swaps, as may be agreed between the parties, with the State of Israel and an independent, democratic, contiguous, sovereign and viable State of Palestine, living side by side in peace, security and mutual recognition – as set out in the Council Conclusions of July 2014.'

'The US initiative, as presented on 28 January, departs from these internationally agreed parameters.'

In his statement Borrell also criticized the deal's suggestions on the issues of borders, Jerusalem, and its management of the 'refugee question.'..."

## U.S. submarine armed with 'low-yield' nuclear weapon, Pentagon says

**February 5, 2020** spacedaily.com reported: "The US Defense Department announced Tuesday that it has deployed a submarine carrying a new long-range missile with a relatively small nuclear warhead, saying it is in response to Russian tests of similar weapons. The move is a significant change in US defense posture that has raised concerns it could elevate the risk of a nuclear war.

Critics worry that small nukes would be more likely to be used because they cause less damage, thereby lowering the threshold for nuclear conflict.

But the Pentagon says it is crucial to deterring rivals like Moscow who might assume that, with only large, massively destructive nuclear weapons in its arsenal, the United States would not respond to another country's first use of a small, 'tactical' nuclear bomb..."



## ISIS claims responsibility for London stabbing attack, terrorist identified

**February 3, 2020** Arutz Sheva reported: "The terrorist shot and killed in south London Sunday after he stabbed three people has been identified as 20-year-old Sudesh Amman.

Amman, who according to the BBC had been released from prison in late January after serving half of his three-year sentence, had been an admirer of the ISIS terrorist organization, Reuters reported, praising ISIS founder Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi in a December 2017 message, saying 'The Islamic State is here to stay.'

In addition, Amman justified the ISIS practice of forcing Yazidi women into sexual slavery, claiming the Koran permitted raping them. Amman also reportedly told his girlfriend of his desire to carry out a terrorist attack, and even urged her to behead her own parents in the name of jihad.

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On Monday, the ISIS terrorist organization claimed responsibility for Amman's stabbing attack in London, declaring him a 'soldier' of ISIS..."

### **Iran's Quds Force to work with Hamas, Islamic Jihad against Trump deal**

*February 3, 2020* jpost.com reported: "The new leader of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Quds Forces phoned Ismail Haniyeh of Hamas and Islamic Jihad's Ziad Nakhleh to stress Iran's support for opposition to the American 'Deal of the Century' plan. The plan was announced on January 28 and Iran's Quds Force commander Esmail Ghaani is now moving to bolster Palestinian resistance against it.

The report at Iran's *Tasnim* and *Mehr News* media appears to be the first major act of Ghaani after he took over from Qasem Soleimani in early January. The US killed Soleimani in a January 3 airstrike in Iraq. Iran has appointed Mohammed Hejazi as Ghaani's deputy. Hejazi is an expert on trafficking precision-guided munitions to Hezbollah in Lebanon. Israel has expressed concern about Hezbollah's development of precision guidance.

Ghaani had separate calls with Islamic Jihad and Hamas. In November, Israel killed a leading Palestinian Islamic Jihad commander in Gaza. Iran is a major supporter of PIJ; Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif spoke to Nakhleh twice after the November fighting. In the phone calls, Iran emphasized 'firm support' for the Palestinians in their struggle against the Trump administration's deal. It is 'doomed to failure,' the IRGC says. The US views the IRGC as a terrorist group..."

### **Somalia declares emergency over locust swarms**

*February 3, 2020* bbc.com reported: "The country's Ministry of Agriculture said the insects, which consume large amounts of vegetation, posed "a major threat to Somalia's fragile food security situation". There are fears that the situation may not be brought under control before the harvest begins in April. The UN says the swarms are the largest in Somalia and Ethiopia in 25 years.

Meanwhile, neighbouring Kenya has not seen a locust threat as severe in 70 years, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

However, Somalia is the first country in the region to declare an emergency over the infestation." ..."

### **Spray planes combat the huge locust outbreak in East Africa**

*February 2, 2020* apnews.com reported: "As locusts by the billions — yes, billions — descend on parts of Kenya in the worst outbreak in 70 years, small planes are flying low over affected areas to spray pesticides in what experts call the only effective control. It is challenging work, especially in remote areas where mobile phone signals are absent and ground crews cannot quickly communicate coordinates to flight teams.

The ground crews are in "the most woeful terrains," Marcus Dunn, a pilot and the director at Farmland Aviation, said Saturday. "If there is no network, then the fellow on a boda boda (motorcycle), he has to rush off now and go and get a network."

Just five planes are currently spraying as Kenyan and other authorities try to stop the locusts from spreading to neighboring Uganda and South Sudan. The United Nations has said \$76 million is needed immediately to widen such efforts across East Africa. A fast response is crucial. Experts warn that if left unchecked, the number of locusts could grow by 500 times by June, when drier weather will help bring the outbreak under control.

The finger-length locusts swept into Kenya from Somalia and Ethiopia after unusually heavy rains in recent months, decimating crops in some areas and threatening millions of vulnerable people with a hunger crisis.

Somalia's agriculture ministry on Sunday called the outbreak a national emergency and major threat to the country's fragile food security, saying the "uncommonly large" locust swarms are consuming huge amounts of crops.

In swarms the size of major cities, the locusts also have affected parts of Sudan, Djibouti and Eritrea, whose agriculture ministry says both the military and general public have been deployed to combat them." ..."

### **Can wearing a face mask protect you from the new coronavirus?**

*February 1, 2020* livescience.com reported: "Can wearing a medical face mask protect you against the new coronavirus? It's a question many people, including pet owners who are putting canine face masks on their dogs, are asking.

If it's a regular surgical face mask, the answer is "no," Dr. William Schaffner, an infectious-disease specialist at Vanderbilt University in Tennessee, told Live Science.

A more specialized mask, known as an N95 respirator, can protect against the new coronavirus, also called 2019-nCoV. The respirator is thicker than a surgical mask, but Schaffner doesn't recommend it for public use, at least not at this point." ..."

