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## **Hamas official calls for 'intifada' against Israel**

**February 20, 2020** Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "Khalil al-Hayya, a member of the Hamas political bureau and one of the organization's senior leaders in the Gaza Strip, is calling for a national action plan to combat the so-called 'Deal of the Century'."

Speaking at a conference in Gaza, al-Hayya said that the plan to fight the proposal should be based primarily on stopping the security coordination with Israel and canceling the Oslo Accords. He stressed the importance of convening the PLO leadership to discuss the fight against the 'Deal of the Century'.

"If there is no dialogue, there will be no escape from the establishment of a new representative body with wide national participation, with the participation of Hamas, which will pave the way to 'solving the Palestinian issue,'" he said..."

## **Russia warns against Turkey operation in Syria**

**February 20, 2020** spacewar.com reported: "Turkey and Russia exchanged warnings on Wednesday after President Recep Tayyip Erdogan threatened an 'imminent' operation in Syria to end the regime's brutal assault on the last rebel enclave."

Syrian aid workers called urgently for a ceasefire and international help for nearly a million people fleeing the regime onslaught in the country's northwestern Idlib province — the biggest wave of displaced civilians in the nine-year conflict.

Turkey, supporter of some rebel groups in Idlib, has been pushing for a renewed ceasefire in talks with Russia, which backs the Syrian regime. Ankara is eager to prevent another flood of refugees into its territory adding to the 3.7 million Syrians it already hosts.

The Syrian NGO Alliance said displaced people are 'escaping in search of safety only to die from extreme weather conditions and lack of available resources'.

"We have hundreds and thousands of people who are fleeing... not just from bombardments but from lack of insulation, from the weather, a lack of heating. It feels like doomsday," Razan Saffour, of the Syrian Expatriate Medical Association, told *AFP* at the press conference in Istanbul..."

## **'Israeli missile is only guarantee of survival from potential Iran nukes'**

**February 19, 2020** jpost.com reported: "In the face of a potential Iranian nuclear weapon, 'only the Arrow missile-defense system guarantees Israeli survival,' Dov Raviv, former head of the Arrow project at Israel Aircraft Industries, said Tuesday."

"We cannot dismiss a leader of a country who says it will destroy Israel... Iran has said this explicitly," he said at a conference of the Association for Israeli Military History on the occasion of the publication of a new book by another stalwart of Israel missile defense, Uzi Rubin.

While Israel has many military and diplomatic tools to try to stop Iran's drive to obtain a nuclear weapon, if it does not succeed, missile defense will be its last line of defense, Raviv said.

Earlier at the conference, former IDF missile-defense commander Brig.-Gen. (ret.) Eitan Yariv said: 'Some of the authority judging whether we can use our offense [capabilities against adversaries] is sitting in Washington, DC, and some in Moscow.'

He was referring to the fact that Israel often restrains itself from using military force in Syria, Iraq or other countries based on the wishes of the US and Russia..."

## **'Over in under a minute': commander divulges how quickly Moscow's defences can thwart missile attack**

**February 18, 2020** spacewar.com reported: "The Russian capital's air and missile defence system is one of the most sophisticated in the world, and includes a dense layer of anti-aircraft missile launchers, interceptor systems, and a unique tetrahedral truncated pyramid radio-radar station so powerful it can detect space debris."

In the event of an enemy attack, Moscow's air defences would intercept and destroy enemy missile targets in the space of less than a minute, missile defence forces commander Maj. Gen. Sergei Grabchuk has revealed.

In an interview with *Krasnaya Zvezda*, the officer explained that, in the first place, Russia's global missile launch detection network would calculate enemy missiles' projected targets, taking account of warheads and potential dummy warheads. 'Such a complex ballistic target moves toward the defended object at speeds of up to seven kilometers per second,' he noted.

'The fact of the missile launch is recorded by the space-based echelon of our missile attack warning system, with further tracking of the complex ballistic target is carried out by radar stations, which comprise the second, ground-based echelon of the missile attack warning system, located along the borders of our country,' Grabchuk continued..."

## **Huge locust outbreak in East Africa reaches South Sudan**

**February 18, 2020** Yahoo News reported: "The worst locust outbreak that parts of East Africa have seen in 70 years has reached South Sudan, a country where roughly half the population already faces hunger after years of civil war, officials announced Tuesday."

Around 2,000 locusts were spotted inside the country, Agriculture Minister Onyoti Adigo told reporters. The country will try to control the outbreak, he added.



The locusts have been seen in Eastern Equatoria state near the borders with Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda. All have been affected by the outbreak that has been influenced by the changing climate in the region.

The soil in Eastern Equatoria has a sandy nature that allows the locusts to lay eggs easily, said Meshack Malo, country representative with the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization.”...

The number of locusts could grow up to 500 times by June, when drier weather begins, experts have said. Until then, the fear is that more rains in the coming weeks will bring fresh vegetation to feed a new generation of the voracious insects.”

### **US plans to deploy space weapons would destroy security balance warns Moscow**

*February 18, 2020* spacedaily.com reported: “Washington is trying to use allegations that a Russian inspector satellite was ‘chasing’ a US reconnaissance satellite as an excuse to fuel an arms race in space, which could lead to the destruction of the existing security balance in space, the Russian Foreign Ministry said Monday.

‘We would like to point out that the movement of our spacecraft did not pose a threat to the US satellite and, most importantly, did not violate any norms and principles of international law,’ the ministry said in a comment to Sputnik.

‘This provocative step is another attempt by the United States to justify the US plans to deploy weapons in space, shifting to others the responsibility for destabilizing the situation in space security,’ the ministry said. The ministry stressed that the implementation of US military plans in space would cause irreparable damage to the existing space security system...”

### **China Begins Disinfecting Cash in an Attempt to Contain Coronavirus**

*February 17, 2020* Yahoo News reported: “China is now cracking down on dirty money as it works to contain the coronavirus outbreak.



On Friday, the Chinese government announced in a press release that banks can only release money back into the public after undergoing a disinfectant treatment intended to eliminate the coronavirus.

The initiative specifies that cash withdrawn from hospitals and other high-risk areas be “specially treated and sealed separately.” Treatment may include high temperatures or an ultraviolet light to disinfect the currency, which must then be stored for no less than 14 days before going back on the market.

According to the World Health Organization, it is unknown how long the coronavirus can survive on surfaces, though “preliminary information suggests the virus may survive a few hours or more.”

“Simple disinfectants can kill the virus making it no longer possible to infect people,” says WHO, also noting the importance of thorough hand-washing.” ...”

### **Did coronavirus originate in Chinese government laboratory?**

*February 16, 2020* dailymail.co.uk reported: “Chinese scientists believe the deadly **coronavirus** may have started life in a research facility just 300 yards from the Wuhan fish market.

A new bombshell paper from the Beijing-sponsored South **China** University of Technology says that the Wuhan Center for Disease Control (WHCDC) could have spawned the contagion in Hubei province.

‘The possible origins of 2019-nCoV coronavirus,’ penned by scholars Botao Xiao and Lei Xiao claims the WHCDC kept disease-ridden animals in laboratories, including 605 bats. It also mentions that bats - which are linked to coronavirus - once attacked a researcher and ‘blood of bat was on his skin.’

The report says: ‘Genome sequences from patients were 96% or 89% identical to the Bat CoV ZC45 coronavirus originally found in *Rhinolophus affinis* (intermediate horseshoe bat).’

It describes how the only native bats are found around 600 miles away from the Wuhan seafood market and that the probability of bats flying from Yunnan and Zhejiang provinces was minimal. In addition, there is little to suggest the local populace eat the bats as evidenced by testimonies of 31 residents and 28 visitors. Instead the authors point to research being carried out within a few hundred yards at the WHCDC.

One of the researchers at the WHCDC described quarantining himself for two weeks after a bat’s blood got on his skin, according to the report. That same man also quarantined himself after a bat urinated on him.” ...”

### **Iranian commander: We’re ready to strike the US and Israel**

*February 14, 2020* Arutz Sheva 7 reported: “The head of Iran’s Revolutionary Guard on Thursday warned that Iran is ready to strike the United States and Israel if they give it any reason to do so.

‘If you make the slightest error, we will hit both of you,’ Major General Hossein Salami said in a speech at a ceremony marking the 40th day since the death of top commander Qassem Soleimani, according to *Reuters*.

Soleimani, who was head of the Quds Force, a branch of the Guards responsible for operations outside Iran, was killed in a US drone strike in Baghdad on January 3 along with Iraqi militia commander Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis.

Earlier on Thursday, a spokesman for the Revolutionary Guards said the killing of Soleimani will lead to the liberation of Jerusalem.

‘The cowardly and craven assassination of commander Soleimani and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis by the Americans will lead to the liberation of Jerusalem, by the grace of God,’ the spokesman, Ramezan Sharif, said, according to *Reuters*...”

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