



PROPHETIC TIMES

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Russia's Zircon hypersonic missile to be test-launched from underwater

March 12, 2020 spacewar.com reported: "The Zircon, a scramjet-powered maneuverable anti-ship cruise missile capable of accelerating to speeds of up to 11,100 km an hour, is one of half-a-dozen or so strategic systems being developed by Russia's military to help ensure global strategic stability.

The 3M22 Zircon hypersonic cruise missile will undergo testing from aboard the K-560 Severodvinsk submarine, a source in the military industry has told Russian media.

The source did not mention a date when testing is expected to begin, but said it would take place once three-to-four more test launches from the Admiral Gorshkov frigate are completed. The test launch is expected to take place from an underwater firing position. The Russian military has not yet commented on the veracity of the reports.

The Zircon was test-launched from the Admiral Gorshkov in January in the Barents Sea, home to Russia's Northern Fleet. In December, Russian President Vladimir Putin revealed that a ground-based version of the Zircon was in development..."

Coronavirus vs. Constitution: What can government stop you from doing in a pandemic?

March 12, 2020 sacbee.com reported: "Public closures, a ban on gatherings, quarantine notices and orders for isolation have become increasingly common as the coronavirus continues to spread across the United States.

Officials in Washington state and San Francisco are limiting the number of people allowed to attend public gatherings. The governor of California joined them on Thursday in urging the cancellation of all events with more than 250 people in attendance.

The governor of Kentucky, a Bible belt state, has asked churches and other religious institutions to temporarily cancel services. But if it seems these actions are infringing on individual freedoms guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution, think again.

Hodge is the director of the Center for Public Health Law and Policy at Arizona State University, an affiliate of the Network for Public Health Law. As the number of COVID-19 cases climbs, he said, the types of "aggressive measures" taking place in some parts of the country will be used elsewhere.

As of Thursday, more than a dozen states from California to North Carolina have declared a state of emergency to try and stop the spread of the coronavirus. Hodge said those declarations help shape how public health officials can respond at the state and local level, enabling them to act fast while instituting forms of social distancing — "which is one of the only tools we have available to us" during a public health crisis like the coronavirus pandemic, he said.

Officials typically have to go through legal processes to close an establishment or shut down public gatherings, Hodge said. But under a state of emergency, everything is expedited.

"It's not that we don't have time for First Amendment interests, it's that we must act fast," he said. "What was opened today can be closed tomorrow."

But there are circumstances under which a voluntary recommendation can become involuntary.

A man in Missouri left quarantine to attend a father-daughter dance at a nearby hotel, McClatchy reported, prompting county health officials to warn "he must remain in his home or they will issue a formal quarantine that will require him and the rest of his family to stay in their home by the force of law."

When someone opts to evade such recommendations, Hodge said, public health authorities can seek a court order mandating their compliance.

"Some of those basic liberties are going to be truncated for a brief period," he said..." ..."

Islamic State, Al-Qaida 'On the March' in Africa

March 11, 2020 voanews.com reported: "Western-backed efforts to counter terror groups across Africa are falling short, increasing the chances one or more affiliates of Islamic State or al-Qaida could try to carve out their own caliphate on the continent, according to the latest assessment by a top U.S. commander.

The stark warning, shared with lawmakers Tuesday, builds on previous intelligence showing Africa-based groups have been growing more ambitious and more capable, with some increasingly bent on targeting the West.

'Western and international and African efforts there are not getting the job done,' Gen. Stephen Townsend, commander of U.S. Africa Command, told lawmakers regarding developments in West Africa and the Sahel..."



PA arrests Palestinians for spreading fake news about coronavirus

March 10, 2020 jpost.com reported: “The Palestinian Authority has begun cracking down on Palestinians for allegedly spreading fake news about the coronavirus in the West Bank.

In Hebron, the PA General Intelligence Service arrested two Palestinians on suspicion they were behind an audio message about the discovery of coronavirus cases in the city.

In Bethlehem, the PA Preventive Security Service arrested a Palestinian also on suspicion of spreading fake news about the virus.

A third Palestinian was arrested in Nablus by PA security forces after he reportedly posted a fake comment on his Facebook page claiming 12 new coronavirus cases have been detected in the city. The fake claim caused panic in Nablus and its surrounding villages.

A Palestinian official in Ramallah threatened that the PA security forces would employ an ‘iron-fist’ policy against anyone who spreads fake news or rumors about the coronavirus.

Tarek al-Haj, commander of the PA Police in Bethlehem, told the Palestinian news agency *Wafa* that ‘rumors are a ‘lethal weapon that affects the morale of the people.’ He said the PA security forces have received instructions to arrest anyone who spreads rumors about the virus and causes a state of panic among Palestinians...”

Streets deserted as Italy imposes unprecedented coronavirus lockdown

March 10, 2020 reuters.com reported: “Shops and restaurants closed, hundreds of flights were canceled and streets emptied across Italy on Tuesday, the first day of an unprecedented, nationwide lockdown imposed to slow Europe’s worst outbreak of coronavirus.

The government has told all Italians to stay at home and avoid all non-essential travel until April 3, dramatically widening steps already taken in much of the wealthy north, which is the epicenter of the spreading contagion.

“Our civic duty is the only thing that can save us,” said Marzio Tonilo, 35, a teacher from the northern town of San Fiorano, which was placed under quarantine last month.

The move shocked many small businesses, which feared for their future. Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte unexpectedly expanded the so-called red zone to the entire country on Monday night, introducing the most severe controls on a Western nation since World War Two.

“It looks like an apocalypse has struck, there is no one around,” said Mario Monfreda, who runs Larys restaurant in a smart Rome residential area. Under the government order, all bars and restaurants will now have to close at 6.00 p.m.” ...

However, the prosperous northern region of Lombardy, centered on Italy’s financial capital Milan, called on the government to introduce even more stringent measures.

“I would shut down all the shops. I would certainly close down public transport and I would seek out all businesses that could be shut without creating excessive damage to the economy,” said Lombardy Governor Attilio Fontana.

Italy has registered 9,172 cases of coronavirus and 463 deaths since Feb. 21, with Lombardy and neighboring Emilia-Romagna bearing the brunt.” ...”

Europeans at UN condemn North Korea’s latest weapons test

March 9, 2020 reuters.com reported: “European members of the UN Security Council, joined by Britain for the first time since Brexit, on Thursday denounced North Korea’s latest ballistic missile tests.

Belgium, Britain, Estonia, France and Germany said in a joint statement they were ‘deeply concerned’ by Monday’s firings, Pyongyang’s first weapons test for months.

‘We condemn such provocative actions. They undermine regional security and stability, as well as international peace and security, and are in clear violation of unanimously adopted UN Security Council resolutions,’ they said.

South Korea said the North launched two short-range ballistic missiles — which the nuclear-armed North is banned from testing under the UN measures...”



Public School’s Gender-Neutral Bathroom Closed After Student Arrest for Sexual Assault

March 4, 2020 Breitbart.com reported: “An 18-year-old Wisconsin high school student was arrested Thursday for fourth-degree sexual assault, child enticement, and exposing his genitals to a child in the school’s gender-neutral bathroom.

According to WSAW-TV, the Oneida County Sheriff’s Office said Austin Sauer of Rhinelander High School in Wisconsin was arrested, but has not been charged. The sex of the child was not reported.

State statute defines fourth-degree sexual assault as ‘sexual contact with a person without the consent of that person.’

WAOW News reported Sunday that Sauer was released on a \$1,500 signature bond.

Captain Terri Hook said the school’s gender-neutral bathroom has been closed and an investigation is underway.” ...”

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