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Trump Vetoes Resolution Seeking to Limit Actions Against Iran

May 7, 2020 voanews.com reported: "U.S. President Donald Trump has vetoed a congressional resolution calling for him to halt the use of U.S. forces against Iran unless authorized by Congress.

In a message explaining his veto, Trump called the resolution 'very insulting' and said it would have 'greatly harmed the President's ability to protect the United States, its allies, and its partners.'

Lawmakers backed the resolution during a time of escalated tensions between the United States and Iran, expressing their desire to ensure the power to declare war remains solely in the hands of Congress.

Trump ordered a January U.S. airstrike that killed Iranian General Qassem Soleimani. Days later, Iran retaliated with a ballistic missile attack against U.S. forces in Iraq that left more than 100 U.S. service members with diagnosed traumatic brain injuries..."

Report: Suicide Rise from Lockdowns to Kill More than Coronavirus in Australia

May 7, 2020 breitbart.com reported: "The rise in the suicide rate caused by lockdowns in Australia is predicted to exceed deaths from the Wuhan coronavirus by a factor of ten, the *Australian* reported Thursday.

Researchers from Sydney University's Brain and Mind Centre forecast a 50 percent rise in the national suicide rate because of the economic and social impact of government responses to the virus, which would drive deaths to as much as ten times higher than those causes by the coronavirus itself.

Already this year global deaths by suicide are significantly higher than those attributed to the coronavirus. According to the respected Worldometers running tallies, there have already been 374,225 suicides since the start of 2020, whereas the Wuhan coronavirus has claimed 251,898 lives, Johns Hopkins University reveals.

If the Australian research holds up for other nations as well, the global suicide rate could end up far outpacing the death toll from COVID-19.

The uptick in Australian suicides will be felt over a number of years, the Australian scholars suggest, and the coronavirus response could produce 'a generational mental health crisis' resulting in an extra 1500 deaths each year"..."

Air Force, Marines train near China amid heightened tensions

May 7, 2020 spacewar.com reported: "The Air Force and Marines have both reported engaging in training maneuvers in the East and South China Sea in recent weeks amid escalating tensions in the region.

Earlier this week the Pacific Air Forces and U.S. Air Force announced on Twitter that the Air Force had conducted a training mission in the in the East China Sea 'in support of the National Defense Strategy objectives of being strategically predictable and operationally unpredictable.'

Last week the Chinese military expelled the guided-missile destroyer USS Barry from the Paracel Island chain in the South China Sea, saying U.S. forces were intruding into waters around the islands without permission.

The U.S. Marine Corps on Wednesday announced that the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit in mid-April conducted training exercises in the South China Sea aboard the amphibious assault ship USS America near a standoff between China and Malaysia..."

Committee Calls for U.S. Special Envoy to Nigeria to Stop the 'Silent Slaughter' of Christians

May 6, 2020 breitbart.com reported: "The International Committee on Nigeria (ICON) has called for the appointment of U.S. Special Envoy to Nigeria, asserting that the country is failing to provide freedom of religion and basic protections for its citizens.

As 'a nonprofit working to secure a future for all Nigerians,' ICON released a statement following the release of the 2020 Annual Report from the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), which designates Nigeria as a 'Country of Particular Concern' for its egregious violations of religious freedom.

In a statement sent to *Breitbart News*, ICON said that terrorist groups like Boko Haram have perpetrated 'unspeakable violence' against unarmed and undefended Christian communities over the past decade, and the persecution has gone from bad to worse, resulting in a 'silent slaughter.'

'Tens of thousands of innocent lives have been lost, the vast majority of them women and children,' the group said. 'Thousands of churches have been torched. Entire communities, villages, and towns have been devastated. Millions have been kidnapped or displaced from their homes following persecution.'



'In an especially disgusting demonstration of brutality, the same terrorists that have operated unchecked for the last decade are now exploiting this time of crisis,' the committee said. 'According to reports, more than 200 innocent lives have been taken already this month. That's four times more than the number of lives lost to COVID-19...'

China launches new rocket as it eyes moon trip

May 5, 2020 spacedaily.com reported: "China on Tuesday successfully launched a new rocket and prototype spacecraft, state media said, in a major test of the country's ambitions to operate a permanent space station and send astronauts to the Moon.

The Long March 5B rocket took off from the Wenchang launch site in the southern island of Hainan and eight minutes later an unmanned prototype spaceship successfully separated and entered its planned orbit, according to the Xinhua news agency. A test version of a cargo return capsule also successfully separated from the rocket, Xinhua added.

The spaceship will one day transport astronauts to a space station that China plans to complete by 2022 -- and eventually to the Moon. It will have capacity for a crew of six.

The mission will test its "key technologies", including the control of its re-entry into the atmosphere, its heat shielding and recovery technology, Yang Qing of the China Academy of Space Technology and designer of the spaceship was quoted as saying by Xinhua in March.

The United States is so far the only country to have successfully sent humans to the Moon. But Beijing has made huge strides in its effort to catch up, sending astronauts into space, satellites into orbit and a rover to the far side of the Moon.

The successful maiden flight of the 54-metre Long March 5B -- which has a takeoff mass of about 849 tonnes -- should reassure China, following failures of the 7A model in March and 3B model in April.

"The new spaceship will give China an advantage in the area of human spaceflight over Japan and Europe," said Chen Lan, an independent analyst at GoTaikonauts.com, which specialises in China's space programme.

The US no longer has its own spaceship since retiring the space shuttle in 2011 and relies on Russia to send astronauts to the International Space Station.

Beijing has launched several spacecraft since 1999 and the previous vessel, the Shenzhou, was modelled after Russia's Soyuz." ..."

Syria claims Israel carried out air strike

May 5, 2020 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "Syrian media reported on Monday evening that Israeli aircraft carried out an air strike in the city of Aleppo. According to the reports, some of the missiles were intercepted by the country's air defense system. According to Lebanese media, the attack targeted a scientific research center in the al-Safira Defense complex.

Last Thursday, Syrian media reported that Israeli aircraft had attacked multiple targets in southern Syria with missiles. A radio station affiliated with the Syrian regime said that the attack had taken place in the Quneitra area, on the Syrian side of the Golan Heights, near the border with Israel.

Subsequent reports said that the air strikes targeted members of the Lebanon-based Hezbollah terrorist organization operating on the Israeli border..."

Iran warns of nuclear deal 'death' if arms embargo extended

May 5, 2020 SpaceWar.com reported: "A top Iranian official on Sunday warned that a nuclear deal the US withdrew unilaterally from would 'die forever' if an arms embargo on Tehran is extended.

The United States is campaigning to extend the ban on selling conventional weapons to Iran, which is set to be progressively lifted as of October.

The ban's lifting is part of a 2015 United Nations Security Council resolution that blessed the nuclear accord reached between Iran and world powers.

Ali Shamkhani, the secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, on Sunday tweeted that the nuclear deal 'will die forever' by 'circumventing 2231 Resolution & continuing Iran's illegal weapons sanction'. He also questioned what would Iran's EU partners to the deal do in such a case..."

US, China block UN resolution in spat over WHO handling of pandemic

May 1, 2020 SpaceWar.com reported: "The United States and China remained at loggerheads Thursday over a UN Security Council draft resolution calling for a 90-day humanitarian pause in conflicts worldwide in the face of the coronavirus pandemic.

The stalemate — over a mention of the World Health Organization — leaves little hope of a quick vote as the Security Council struggles to find a response to the global crisis, remaining largely mute since the once-in-a-century pandemic began killing tens of thousands of people and shutting down economies across the world.



'It's a major stalemate, nobody's moving,' one diplomat told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity." ..."

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