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## Netanyahu hints Israel won't shy away from military action against Iran

*December 23, 2020* jpost.com reported: "Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hinted that Israel would not shy away from military action against Iran when he spoke at the graduation ceremony for IDF pilots on Wednesday.

'We will not allow Iran to acquire nuclear weapons,' Netanyahu said.

'We do not take lightly the threats made against us, nor do we shy away from them,' Netanyahu said.

'Our policy is clear and consistent: whoever tries to harm us will suffer a crushing blow. In the face of danger, the Air Force is ready to act forcefully – in any range, in any arena and in any target,' Netanyahu stated. He promised that Israel would stand firm against Iran's nuclear program and its entrenchment in Syria.

'We will continue to act against attempts by Iran and its proxies to establish military bases in Syria. We will not compromise on this issue,' he said..."



Prime Minister Netanyahu

## Top Pakistani cleric: Islam teaches us that Israel belongs only to the Jews

*December 23, 2020* Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "A senior Pakistani Islamic cleric and former lawmaker has called for the recognition of the State of Israel, and urged Muslims around the world to accept the Jewish state.

Maulana Muhammad Khan Sherani, who served as Chairman of Pakistan's Council of Islamic Ideology – a body which advises the government and parliament on Islamic law – and as a lawmaker in the National Assembly for the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam party until 2018, announced over the weekend that according to Islamic theology, the historic Land of Israel 'belongs only to the Jews'.

According to a report by British-Pakistani writer Noor Dahri, on Saturday, Sherani endorsed formal recognition of the State of Israel, and said Muslims are obliged to acknowledge Jewish rights to the area..."

## Turkey Poised for Reset in Relations with Israel

*December 23, 2020* voanews.com reported: "Relations between Israel and Turkey could be on the verge of a breakthrough, with a Turkish presidential adviser confirming bilateral talks and that full diplomatic relations could be restored by March. Relations between the once close allies all but collapsed with Turkey withdrawing its ambassador in 2017, amid escalating tensions.

'If Israel comes one step, Turkey maybe can come two steps,' the Turkish presidential adviser on foreign affairs, Mesut Casin, said in reference to ongoing talks with Israel.

'If we see a green light, Turkey will open the embassy again and return our ambassador. Maybe in March, we can restore full diplomatic relations again. Why not.'

'Establishing peace and security is very important to Israel and Turkey. After Mavi Marmara, we don't want another accident with Israel,' added Casin..."

## Experts Warn of Food Insecurity in South Sudan That Could Lead to Famine

*December 21, 2020* voanews.com reported: "Three U.N. organizations are calling for immediate humanitarian access to parts of Pibor County in South Sudan's Jonglei state, where people have run out of food and are facing catastrophic levels of hunger, according to a report on food insecurity in the country.

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) report, released Friday, identified Pibor County as one of the areas experiencing a crisis level of food insecurity because of widespread flooding and insecurity, which have prevented aid agencies from delivering food.

The IPC report indicates that in the coming year, an estimated 5.8 million people in South Sudan will likely face IPC Phase 3, which is classified as acute food insecurity.

The IPC analysis estimates that by mid-2021, an estimated 7.24 million people, or 60 percent of the South Sudanese population, including about 1.4 million children under age 5, are expected to be acutely malnourished, the highest number in three years, according to the United Nations...”

### **Iran's Rouhani expects US to resume commitments under nuclear deal**

*December 18, 2020* spacewar.com reported: “Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on Thursday voiced confidence that President-elect Joe Biden will resume US commitments under the nuclear deal which Donald Trump pulled out of.

Tensions between Tehran and Washington soared during Trump's presidency, especially after 2018 when he withdrew Washington from the landmark nuclear deal and reimposed punishing unilateral sanctions on Iran.

Biden, who defeated Trump at the ballot box in November, has signaled a willingness to return to diplomacy with Iran.

And Rouhani's government has repeatedly signaled its openness to the incoming US administration and called on Washington to return to the 2015 nuclear deal and lift sanctions.

‘I have no doubt that the perseverance of the Iranian people during these past three years will force the new US government to succumb and resume its commitments,’ Rouhani said in televised remarks.

‘The sanctions will be broken,’ he added...”

### **U.S. maritime forces to focus on China, Russia, new strategy doc says**

*December 18, 2020* spacewar.com reported: “The Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard will continue to focus on China and Russia ‘due to their increasing maritime aggressiveness,’ according to a new tri-service maritime strategy Thursday.

The strategy document, titled ‘Advantage at Sea,’ directs the three services to deepen integration, aggressively modernize and continue cooperating with allies and partners.

The strategy's forward, signed by Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Michael M. Gilday, Marine Corps Commandant Gen. David H. Berger, and Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Karl L. Schultz, said that U.S. military actions and planning now ‘will shape the maritime balance of power for the rest of this century.’

‘Our integrated Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard must maintain clear-eyed resolve to compete with, deter, and, if necessary, defeat our adversaries while we accelerate development of a modernized, integrated all-domain naval force for the future,’ said the forward...”

### **Spain's Lower House of Parliament Approves Bill to Make Euthanasia Legal**

*December 18, 2020* voanews.com reported: “Lawmakers in the lower house of Spain's parliament approved a bill Thursday, amid ongoing protests, that would allow people to lawfully end their lives if they suffer from serious or incurable diseases.

The bill, which is awaiting Senate approval, passed 198-138, in the face of staunch opposition from the conservative People's Party, its supporters and religious groups. Many of the protesters who gathered outside parliament Thursday held banners that read ‘Government of death.’

‘The euthanasia law is a defeat for civilization and a victory for the culture of death, for those who believe that some lives are more worthy than others,’ far-right Vox leader Santiago Abascal said in a video on social media...”

### **USAF makes history with first flight using artificial intelligence**

*December 18, 2020* spacedaily.com reported: “The U.S. Air Force referred to its first military flight using artificial intelligence as a working air crew member as a major achievement on Wednesday.

An AI algorithm controlled the sensor and navigation systems of a U-2 Dragon Lady reconnaissance plane during a training flight at Beale Air Force Base, Calif., on Tuesday, the Air Force said in a press release.

The Air Force officials regard the first known use of AI aboard a U.S. military aircraft as a ‘major leap forward for national defense in the digital age.’

The aircraft used in the test is assigned to the 9th Reconnaissance Wing at the air base. Air Combat Command's U-2 Federal Laboratory researchers developed the AI program to execute specific in-flight tasks, notably sensor employment and tactical navigation, that otherwise would be done by the pilot...”



*Iran President Rouhani*

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