

PROPHETIC TIMES

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PA calls for international pressure on Israel

January 21, 2021 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "Nabil Abu Rudeineh, the official spokesman for Palestinian Authority (PA) chairman Mahmoud Abbas, on Wednesday condemned the Israeli government's decision to build more than 2,500 new housing units in 'occupied Palestinian lands.'

Abbas' spokesman stressed that the Israeli decision, which is contrary to international legitimacy, including UN Security Council Resolution 2334, calls for a firm international stance and a shift from condemnation to effective pressure on the Israeli government to stop challenging international law and the decisions of international institutions.

'The continuation of settlement policy and the theft of Palestinian land by the Netanyahu government and the support and biased position of the [outgoing] US administration will not lead to security and stability,' Abu Rudeineh said..."

Iranian president calls on Biden to return to nuclear deal

January 20, 2021 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on Wednesday called on incoming President Joe Biden to bring the US back into the Iran nuclear deal – and to drop sanctions on Tehran imposed during the Trump administration.

In a televised cabinet meeting Wednesday morning, Rouhani urged Biden to have the US rejoin the nuclear deal, and vowed that if the US did re-enter the deal and lift sanctions, Iran would 'respect' its commitments in the agreement.

'The ball is in the U.S. court now. If Washington returns to Iran's 2015 nuclear deal, we will also fully respect our commitments under the pact,' Rouhani said..."

750 reportedly dead after attack on Ethiopia church

January 20, 2021 christiantoday.com reported: "A Belgium-based peacebuilding non-profit is reporting 750 people killed in an attack on Ethiopia church.

The attack was detailed in the January 9 'Situation Report' of the Europe External Programme with Africa (EEPA).

The non-profit said people who were hiding in the church were brought out and shot in the square in front of the building.

The attack happened at the Maryam Tsiyon Church in Aksum, also known as the Church of Our Lady Mary of Zion.

The church is located in Tigray, a region in the north that is home to many churches and monasteries but also beset by conflict.

The church is part of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church, which has around 36 million members..."

Biden State pick calls for extending New START with Russia

January 20, 2021 spacewar.com reported: "Antony Blinken, President-elect Joe Biden's nominee for secretary of state,

said Tuesday the incoming administration would seek to extend New START, the last US arms pact with Russia, which expires February 5.

'I think we're going to seek an extension,' Blinken said in response to a question at his Senate confirmation hearing.

'I know we will be coming to you very quickly, almost immediately, to discuss that,' Blinken said of the Senate.

Antony Blinken

Russian President Vladimir Putin last year proposed a one-year extension on New START, which caps the number of nuclear warheads between the two powers..."

Alleged US airstrike was ISIS attack on power lines: Iraqi officials

January 19, 2021 jpost.com reported: "An attack by ISIS militants on power transmission towers south of Baghdad caused the explosions mistakenly reported by regional media as US airstrikes on sites belonging to pro-Iranian militias in Jurf al-Sakhar south of Baghdad on Monday night, Iraq's Security Media Cell confirmed on Tuesday morning.

On Monday night, the Hezbollah-affiliated Al-Mayadeen news, as well as Al-Hurra and Al-Arabiya, reported that explosions were heard near Jurf al-Sakhar overnight after airstrikes targeted sites in the area. While Al-Mayadeen claimed that US airstrikes had targeted sites belonging to the Iraqi Armed Forces, *Al-Hurra* and *Al-Arabiya* claimed that the sites allegedly targeted belonged to the pro-Iranian Kataib Hezbollah militia, with multiple deaths and injuries reported in the alleged incident.

Iraq's Security Media Cell denied that Iraqi security forces in the area had been targeted by any strikes on Monday night, calling on the media and bloggers to be careful about transmitting information and not to broadcast rumors..."

Undeterred by US Sanctions, China Expected to Continue Development in Disputed Asian Sea

January 19, 2021 voanews.com reported: "U.S. curbs against Chinese officials and companies suspected of helping Beijing extend its reach in a disputed, resource-rich Asian sea will do little to reduce China's maritime influence and could indirectly increase it, analysts believe.

The government of outgoing U.S. President Donald Trump on Thursday announced a ban on travel to the United States by officials in the military, the ruling Communist Party and major state-owned enterprises. Washington believes they have used coercion on countries with claims to the 3.5 million-square-kilometer South China Sea..."

Russia says leaving Open Skies military treaty

January 18, 2021 spacewar.com reported: "Russia on Friday said it was withdrawing from the Open Skies treaty, undermining a post-Cold War defence accord that allows its signatories to carry out unarmed surveillance flights over each other's territories.

Citing 'lack of progress' on maintaining the functioning of the treaty after the United States withdrew from it last year, the Russian foreign ministry said in a statement it was beginning 'domestic procedures for the Russian Federation's withdrawal from the Open Skies treaty.'

The agreement was signed soon after the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1992 and came into force in 2002. It allowed its nearly three dozen signatories to carry out short-notice flights over one another's territory to monitor potential military operations.

Members include countries across Europe, the former Soviet Union and Canada..."

Israel increases efforts to expose the Iranian threat to global security

January 15, 2021 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, Gilad Erdan, sent an official letter to the Security Council on Thursday noting all of Iran's rogue activities and demanded that the council discuss its aggression, including the transfer of weapons to terrorist organizations, systematic violations of the nuclear agreement and its repeated calls for Israel's destruction.

Ambassador Erdan's letter is part of a diplomatic effort he has been leading in recent months against Iran at the UN and within the diplomatic community. As part of this campaign, he recently presented a '5-point plan' to combat global terrorism to the Security Council, which included calling for condemnations against countries that fund terrorist organizations.

In his letter, Ambassador Erdan highlighted Iran's current efforts to enrich uranium to 20%, in clear violation of the nuclear agreement and another step that clearly demonstrates its ambitions to develop a nuclear program for military purposes. The letter also mentions a recent bill proposed by the Iranian Parliament calling for the destruction of Israel by the year 2041..."

North Korea displays new ballistic missile

January 15, 2021 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "North Korea displayed what appeared to be a new submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) at a parade on Thursday, *Reuters* reported, citing state media.

The country's leader, Kim Jong Un, smiled and waved as he oversaw the parade in Pyongyang's Kim Il Sung Square, photos by state media showed. The parade featured rows of marching soldiers, as well as a range of military hardware including tanks and rocket launchers, according to *Reuters*.



North Korean SLBM

At the end, a number of what analysts said appeared to be new variants of short-range ballistic missiles and SLBMs rolled into the square on trucks.

'The world's most powerful weapon, submarine-launch ballistic missiles, entered the square one after another, powerfully demonstrating the might of the revolutionary armed forces,' the country's news agency *KCNA* reported..."