



# PROPHETIC TIMES

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## Philippines Deploys Ships, Aircraft to South China Sea amid China Threat

*April 22, 2021* breitbart.com reported: "The Philippine military recently deployed nearly a dozen ships and five aircraft to protect Manila's assets from ongoing encroachments by Beijing in the disputed South China Sea, a Philippine government task force said Wednesday.

'We are exhausting all means possible to protect our territory and EEZ [exclusive economic zone],' the Philippines' National Task Force for the West Philippine Sea (NTF-WPS) said in a statement on April 21.

Seven ships from the Philippine Navy, two vessels from the Philippine Coast Guard, and two more boats from the Philippine Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources were recently positioned throughout the Philippines' EEZ, including near the Philippines' Julian Felipe Reef, recently invaded by China.

'Five aircraft from the Philippine Air Force and Philippine Navy are also in Palawan to conduct aerial patrols,' the *Philippine Inquirer* reported on Wednesday..."

## Low rainfall leaves Mexico City residents delivering water by donkey

*April 22, 2021* Reuters reported: "Unusually low rainfall around Mexico City has left aquifers and reservoirs depleted, leaving some residents without tap water and reverting to older ways of distributing water - transporting containers on donkeys' backs.

The Mexican capital, situated in a high-altitude valley, relies mostly on water pumped from its underground aquifers and reservoirs dozens of miles away to meet water demand in the wider metropolitan area, home to more than 20 million people.

But reservoirs in the Cutzamala System, which provide one-quarter of the capital's water, are at 49% capacity this year, well below average, according to the water regulator.

As water levels drop, authorities have responded by reducing the flow from the reservoirs, disrupting tap water supplies.

"Because we live on the hill, there is no drinking water," explained Karina Ortega, a 29-year-old mother who makes a living delivering water to her neighbors using donkeys in Mexico City's Xochimilco neighborhood.

Piped water was only good for washing clothes and bathing, she said.

"The water that we get on the donkeys, that's used for food because it is cleaner. But we do struggle a lot with this," she added, as she filled up jerry cans with water and strapped them to her donkeys." ..."

## Saudi Arabia: Iran should avoid escalation

*April 21, 2021* Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "Saudi Arabia on Tuesday called on Iran to engage in the ongoing negotiations over the 2015 nuclear agreement, avoid escalation, and not expose the region's security and stability to more tension.

In a statement quoted by *Reuters*, the Saudi Cabinet said in a statement that the international community needs to 'reach an agreement with stronger and long-lasting determinants with the implementation of monitoring and control measures to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and from developing the necessary capabilities for that.'

Iran has gradually scaled back its compliance with the 2015 deal in response to former US President Donald Trump's withdrawal from the agreement in May of 2018..."

## Israel, Greece Sign Record Defense Deal

*April 20, 2021* voanews.com reported: "Israel and Greece have signed their biggest ever defense procurement deal, which Israel said Sunday would strengthen political and economic ties between the two countries as their air forces launched a joint exercise.

The agreement includes a \$1.65 billion contract for the establishment and operation of a training center for the Hellenic Air Force by Israeli defense contractor Elbit Systems over 22 years, Israel's defense ministry said.



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The training center will be modeled on Israel's flight academy and will be equipped with 10 M-346 training aircraft produced by Italy's Leonardo, the ministry said.

Elbit will supply kits to upgrade and operate Greece's T-6 aircraft and also provide training, simulators and logistical support..."

### **EU: Russian Troop Buildup Along Ukraine, Crimea Highest Ever**

*April 20, 2021* voanews.com reported: "The European Union says roughly 150,000 Russian troops are massed along the border of Ukraine and in Crimea — calling it the highest such military deployment.

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell described Russia's military buildup on the Ukraine border and annexed Crimea as very worrying.

'The military deployment of Russian troops, with all kinds of materials — deploying campaign hospitals and all kinds of warfare — has been continuing. I cannot tell you where this figure comes from, but it is my reference figure. It is the highest military deployment of Russian army in Ukrainian borders ever,' he said.

But Borrell said for now — and despite separate accusations by the Czech Republic that Russia was behind explosions in 2014 at an ammunition depot — the 27-member bloc is not planning more sanctions against Moscow.

'At the time being there is no move on the field of more sanctions to Russia. Things can change, but the situation is the way I am explaining,' he said..."

### **Bloodbath: Al-Qaida urges 'lone wolf' terrorists to exploit U.S. civil unrest**

*April 19, 2021* World Net Daily reported: "An al-Qaida-promoting magazine called *Wolves of Manhattan* is urging supporters in Western nations to exploit the civil unrest in America and carry out lone-wolf attacks during protests.

Published April 14 by the pro-al-Qaida publisher Jaysh Al-Malahim Al-Electroni (Electronic Battle Army), the magazine features an article titled 'The Lone Wolf and The Protests,' according to the Middle East Media Research Institute.

The article provides tips on which kinds of protests are easier and more effective to infiltrate. And it says a lone wolf should choose a 'massive chaotic protest,' preferably at night, that take places daily and continues for a long time..."

### **'Laugh now, Zionists – soon you'll be wiped out'**

*April 19, 2021* Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "The commander-in-chief of the Iranian military said Israel would soon 'disappear', while touting Iran's efforts to bolster the Hezbollah terrorist organization's 'plan to defeat the Zionist regime'.

Major General Hossein Salami, the commander of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, addressed mourners at the funeral of Mohammed Hejazi, deputy commander of the Quds Force, Monday morning.

Brigadier General Hejazi died Sunday of a 'heart condition' the Iranian military said, without providing additional details. Hejazi was appointed deputy commander of the Quds Force in January 2020, following the assassination of Quds Force chief Qassem Soleimani.

According to a report by Iran's *Fars* agency, Salami eulogized Hejazi Monday, dubbing him a 'martyr', amid speculation Hejazi's death may have been the result of a targeted assassination..."

### **Five rockets fired at Iraqi airbase hosting US soldiers**

*April 19, 2021* Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "Five rockets targeted an Iraqi airbase hosting US soldiers Sunday, wounding two foreign contractors and three Iraqi soldiers, *AFP* reports.

Two of the rockets fired at Balad airbase, north of Baghdad, crashed into a dormitory and a canteen of US company Sallyport, a security source told the news agency.

Two foreign contractors and three Iraqi soldiers were wounded, the source added.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but the United States routinely blames Iran-linked Iraqi factions for such attacks on its troops and diplomats..."



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