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'The new Auschwitz': Russians accused of burning bodies to hide Mariupol atrocities

April 7, 2022 timesofisrael.com reported: "Russia has turned the city of Mariupol into a Nazi-style death camp, burning bodies and blocking humanitarian convoys to hide evidence of mass killings and other atrocities there, Ukrainian officials said Wednesday.

Mariupol Mayor Vadym Boichenko said more than 5,000 civilians — including at least 210 children — had been killed during weeks of Russian bombardment and street fighting in the southern Ukrainian city, which has been held under a devastating siege. He said Russian forces bombed hospitals, including one where 50 people burned to death.

Mariupol city officials said in a message posted to Telegram those mobile crematoria were being operated by Russian officials to burn the bodies of those that had been slaughtered, imagery that raised the specter of the 20th century's greatest crime.

'The world has not seen the scale of the tragedy in Mariupol since the Nazi concentration camps,' Boichenko said in the statement. 'The [Russians] have turned our whole city into a death camp.'

'This is no longer Chechnya or Aleppo. This is the new Auschwitz or Majdanek,' he said, imploring the international community to act..."



Second Successful Flight for DARPA Hypersonic Air-breathing Weapon Concept (HAWC)

April 6, 2022 spacewar.com reported: "DARPA and its U.S. Air Force partner recently completed a free flight test of the Lockheed Martin version of the Hypersonic Air-breathing Weapon Concept (HAWC). The vehicle, after release from a carrier aircraft, was boosted to its Aerojet Rocketdyne scramjet engine ignition envelope. From there, it quickly accelerated to and maintained cruise faster than Mach 5 (five times the speed of sound) for an extended period of time. The vehicle reached altitudes greater than 65,000 feet and flew for more than 300 nautical miles.

This is the second successful flight in DARPA's HAWC program. Last September, a different vehicle configuration from another contractor team also reached hypersonic flight.

'This Lockheed Martin HAWC flight test successfully demonstrated a second design that will allow our warfighters to competitively select the right capabilities to dominate the battlefield,' said Andrew 'Tippy' Knoedler, HAWC program manager in DARPA's Tactical Technology Office. 'These achievements increase the level of technical maturity for transitioning HAWC to a service program of record.'

Air-breathing vehicles utilize air captured from the atmosphere to achieve sustained propulsion. The speed and maneuverability of such hypersonic cruise missiles allow both evasion of defenses and quick strikes. Their kinetic energy can effectively destroy targets even without high explosives..."

Israel concerned over Iranian takeover of Syrian Golan

April 6, 2022 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "With the end of Syria's civil war, the IDF has identified a new threat brought about by the demographic change and significant growth of the Alawite and Shiite population in Syria.

According to *Israel Hayom*, the concern is that Iran and Hezbollah will utilize the current situation to enlist supporters and activists from among the Shiite population, similar to what they have done in Lebanon.

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, who won the decade-long civil war, is now trying to regain complete independence for his country.

In the past one-and-a-half years, Assad seems to have been 'born again': He controls over 60% of the original territory he had prior to 2011, with the rest of the area split between the Turks, Kurds (with US support), and rebels, who still have a significant stronghold in Idlib..."

Violence against Christians in Nigeria 'warrants a state of emergency'

April 5, 2022 christiantoday.com reported: "Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) has called on the Nigerian government 'to do far more to counter the alarming surge in violence' by Islamist terrorists against Christians in the north-central state of Kaduna.

CSW has just issued a report detailing a string of terror attacks in March. The report has been sent by Roman Catholic peer Lord Alton to the UK Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion, Fiona Bruce MP, and Africa Minister Vicky Ford for consideration.

CSW's Founder President Mervyn Thomas said the situation in Kaduna 'warrants a state of emergency'.

'To all intents and purposes Kaduna state is under a comprehensive siege by a significant number of armed non-state actors who appear to be coordinating their activities, heightening the vulnerability of civilians. Residents cannot travel safely by road, air or train, and are not even safe in their own homes.

'The significant rise in abductions for ransom are particularly worrying, as they indicate an effort to raise funds illicitly for unknown malign purposes. The situation in Kaduna warrants a state of emergency,' he said..."

Iran could be planning a 'surprise' for Israel in Jerusalem

April 5, 2022 jpost.com reported: "Israel is concerned about an incident in Jerusalem, and it could be planning a 'major operation in a sensitive area near al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied Jerusalem,' Iran's *Tasnim News Agency* reported.

Iran termed this an 'unexpected event.' This is language coming from senior Iranian media sources close to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. The IRGC backs Hamas.

Hamas and other extremist groups have encouraged Palestinian tensions with Israel in Jerusalem during Ramadan. There were clashes and Palestinian media incitement against Israel's foreign minister and other leaders on Sunday night.

The familiar cycle of accusing Israelis of 'storming' the Old City of Jerusalem is imminent. Hamas incitement claiming it has a 'right' to fire rockets will soon begin. The goal is another war with Israel like last year, a conflict orchestrated by Iran to test new rockets and drones..."

China carried out massive cyberattack operation on Ukraine

April 4, 2022 jpost.com reported: "China launched a massive cyber operation against the Ukrainian military and its nuclear facilities before Russia began its invasion, according to UK intelligence reports obtained by *The Times*.

The British reports were backed up by Ukraine's national security service, the SBU, which claimed China coordinated thousands of cyberattacks and hacking attempts on official Ukrainian government sites.

Some of the sites targeted include over 600 websites belonging to Kyiv's defense ministry, a statement released by SBU claimed. China's goal in the attacks was to steal data and explore ways to shut down Ukrainian defenses and civilian infrastructure, the SBU further claimed..."

Erdogan to urge Putin, Zelensky to take steps on Crimea, Donbas

April 1, 2022 jpost.com reported: "Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said on Friday he will tell his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin in a phone call later that he and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky need to take a step to address issues over Ukraine's Donbas region and Crimea.

Speaking to reporters in Istanbul, Erdogan said he will hold the phone call with Putin at 1300 GMT and renew an offer to host the Russian and Ukrainian leaders for peace talks, which he said Zelensky was warm towards after their call on Thursday. Earlier, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said his country would be grateful to Turkey if it could help organize a meeting between the Russian and Ukrainian leaders..."

China: Xi Jinping Encourages World to Embrace Taliban

April 1, 2022 breitbart.com reported: "Chinese dictator Xi Jinping praised the 'sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity' of Afghanistan in a message to a foreign ministers' meeting featuring a Taliban representative on Thursday, encouraging neighboring countries to 'do their best' to support the 'Afghan people.'

China is currently hosting a two-day summit in Anhui province of regional leaders to discuss the future of Afghanistan. Taliban 'Foreign Minister' Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi arrived on Wednesday and is participating in conversations with China and other top diplomats.

No state actor has yet recognized the Taliban jihadist organization as the formal government of Afghanistan, but China has referred to the group as an 'interim' or 'caretaker' government and encouraged cooperation with it on alleged humanitarian grounds. Chinese officials have encouraged business leaders to invest in Afghanistan and America, specifically, to fund the success of the Taliban..."



China President Xi Jinping