



Israel must prepare for war with Iran without US help, former NSA chief says

April 13, 2023 timesofisrael.com reported: "Former national security adviser Yaakov Amidror said Thursday that war with Iran is increasingly likely and Israel needs to gear up to attack without US assistance.

'We need to prepare for war. It's possible that we will reach a point where we have to attack Iran even without American assistance,' Amidror, a hawkish former general who served as Nation Security Council chief under Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in 2011-2013, said in an interview with *Radio 103 FM*.

Amidror was discussing a flareup over the Passover holiday that saw rockets fired at Israel from Gaza, Lebanon, and Syria by groups largely seen as Iranian proxies.

'Iran is more sure of itself. It has managed to sign a number of agreements with Arab states. The world is starting to look different,' he said, referring to the recent agreements by the UAE and Saudi Arabia to restore diplomatic ties with Tehran..."

Iran reopens embassy in Saudi Arabia for first time in years

April 12, 2023 jpost.com reported: "Iran's embassy in Saudi Arabia reopened its gates on Wednesday for the first time in seven years, a Reuters witness said, under a deal to re-establish ties that could ease a long-standing rivalry that has helped fuel conflicts around the Middle East.

The heavy gates of the Iranian embassy's compound were open in Riyadh with a team inspecting its premises, a *Reuters* reporter said. A white truck was seen arriving at the gate.

The diplomatic mission opened hours after the Iranian foreign ministry said a technical delegation arrived in the kingdom.

"The Iranian delegation will take the necessary measures in Riyadh and Jeddah to set up the embassy and consulate general," Iranian foreign ministry spokesman, Nasser Kanaani, said in a statement..."

Taiwan detects Chinese warships, planes around island after drills end

April 11, 2023 spacewar.com reported: "Chinese warships and aircraft were still operating around Taiwan on Tuesday, the island's defence ministry said, a day after Beijing declared an end to its massive war games.

China launched three days of military exercises around self-ruled Taiwan on Saturday that saw it simulate targeted strikes and practice a blockade of the island.

The show of force from Beijing, which claims the island as part of its territory, was a response to Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen's meeting with US House Speaker Kevin McCarthy last week, an encounter it had warned would provoke retaliatory measures.

Taiwan's defence ministry said it had detected nine Chinese warships and 26 aircraft around the island as of 11:00 am (0300 GMT) on Tuesday.

China "organized military aircraft this morning and crossed the median line from the north, the centre, and the south", the ministry said, referring to the unofficial but once largely adhered-to border that runs down the middle of the Taiwan Strait.

On Monday, the final day of the drills, the ministry said it had detected 12 Chinese warships and 91 aircraft around the island, with 54 planes crossing into Taiwan's southwestern and southeastern air defence identification zone (ADIZ). The ADIZ incursions were the highest recorded in a single day since October 2021..."

Report: Egypt planned to supply thousands of rockets to Russia amid Ukraine war

April 11, 2023 timesofisrael.com reported: "Egypt, a major US ally and recipient of American military and economic aid, was preparing to covertly supply Russia with thousands of rockets for its ongoing war in Ukraine, according to a leaked top-secret Pentagon document cited by The Washington Post on Monday.

A portion of the document, dated February 17, was said to describe conversations between Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi and senior Egyptian military officials on the production of some 40,000 rockets for Russia, as well as the provision of artillery rounds and gunpowder.



Former Israel National Security Advisor
Yaakov Amidror

In it, the Egyptian leader reportedly instructed an official referenced as Salah al-Dinto to keep the plan secret ‘to avoid problems with the West,’ to which the latter — believed to be Mohamed Salah al-Din, the minister of state for military production — said he would tell workers the rockets were for the Egyptian army.

Salah al-Din, the report said, told Sissi that supplying Russia with the weapons was ‘the least Egypt could do to repay Russia for unspecified help earlier,’ though the details of any earlier collaboration were not mentioned.

Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has significantly harmed Egypt’s access to Ukrainian wheat, which the north African country relied on for 80 percent of its imports. Subsequently, Cairo has turned to Moscow for help, perhaps indicating a strengthening in relations between the two countries at a time when Russia faces significant isolation from the West...”

Jordan: The entire area of the Temple Mount belongs only to Muslims

April 10, 2023 israelnationalnews.com reported: “The Jordanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Sunday published a statement condemning the visits by Jews to the Temple Mount during Passover, calling them ‘the frequent invasions of Al-Aqsa Mosque’ which are carried out ‘under heavy security by the Israeli occupation police in a manner that constitutes a violation of the historical and legal situation existing at the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque and a violation of the sanctity of the holy places.’

Sinan al-Majali, a spokesperson for the Jordanian Foreign Ministry, said that the entire area of Al-Aqsa Mosque, which includes 144 dunams (meaning the entire area of the Temple Mount) is a place of worship exclusively for Muslims.



Muslim clerics claim that the entire area of Al-Aqsa Mosque also includes the Western Wall and belongs exclusively to Muslims. They also completely deny the fact of the past existence of the Holy Temple on the Temple Mount.

Al-Majali declared in his statement that the Jordanian Department of Endowments is the only entity that is authorized to manage the affairs of Al-Aqsa Mosque and regulate the visit to the place...”

Muslim world must unite against Israel, Erdogan says to Iran's Raisi

April 7, 2023 jpost.com reported: “Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan told his Iranian counterpart Ebrahim Raisi over the phone that the "Islamic world should be united against Israel's attacks in Palestine," Turkish media reported.

The two world leaders also discussed the incidents at the al-Aqsa mosque and Iranian-Turkish relations, the report said. The Turkish president also noted the importance to preserve the status of holy areas and emphasized "reasonable thinking" in order to prevent further escalation of violence in Israel and the Palestinian territories, sources said.

Israeli foreign minister Eli Cohen then told his Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu the same day that the IDF will respond to any attempt to terrorize civilians. The incident came during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan and on the eve of the Jewish Passover.

Erdogan condemned the Israeli police's actions at the al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem on Wednesday, calling such acts in the mosque compound a "red line" for Turkey.

"I condemn the vile acts against the first qiblah of Muslims in the name of my country and people, and I call for the attacks to be halted as soon as possible," he said.” ...”

China sends warships and aircraft around Taiwan for second day

April 7, 2023 breitbart.com reported: “China sent warships and aircraft near Taiwan for a second day on Friday and said the island remains ‘an inseparable part of China’, after President Tsai Ing-wen angered Beijing by meeting with US House Speaker Kevin McCarthy.

Three Chinese warships sailed in waters surrounding the self-ruled island, while a fighter jet and an anti-submarine helicopter also crossed the island’s air defence identification zone (ADIZ), Taiwan’s defence ministry said.

Hours before her meeting with McCarthy in Los Angeles on Wednesday, China sent its Shandong aircraft carrier through Taiwan’s southeastern waters on its way to the western Pacific.

Beijing said earlier Friday that “Taiwan is an inseparable part of China”, after repeatedly warning against the Tsai-McCarthy meeting.

“China’s sovereignty and territorial integrity will never be divided,” foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said at a regular press briefing.

“The future of Taiwan lies in reunification with the motherland.” ...”

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