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Saudis say Palestinians must be part of Israel peace deal, says Blinken

September 14, 2023 *jpost.com* reported: "Saudi Arabia has let the Biden administration know that resolving Palestinian issues is critical for any normalization deal with Israel, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Wednesday.

'It is also clear from what we hear from the Saudis that if this process is to move forward the Palestinian piece is going to be very important too,' he said in an interview with the podcast 'Pod Save the World.'

He spoke as the Biden administration has been increasingly public about its pursuit of a security pact with Saudi Arabia that would include a normalization deal with Israel. It's expected that Israel would have to make concessions to the Palestinians as part of the deal.

Such a deal would come on top of the US-backed 2020 Abraham Accords, in which Israel agreed to suspend the annexation of West Bank settlement in exchange for normalization deals with four Arab countries: the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Morocco, and Sudan..."

Iranian President: We'll Spend Money from Prisoner Swap How We Want

September 13, 2023 *breitbart.com* reported: "During an interview aired on Tuesday's broadcast of 'NBC Nightly News,' Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi stated that the money that will be unfrozen under Iran's prisoner swap with the United States 'belongs to the Islamic Republic of Iran, and naturally, we will decide, the Islamic Republic of Iran will decide to spend it wherever we need it.'



Host Lester Holt asked, 'You believe this money was wrongfully taken from Iran, but what is your expectation of its use? We're told that it's for humanitarian purposes, food and medicine. Do you believe you have the right to use that money in any way that you see fit?'

Speaking through an Iranian government-provided translator, Raisi responded, 'This money belongs to the Islamic Republic of Iran, and naturally, we will decide, the Islamic Republic of Iran will decide to spend it wherever we need it.'..."

Ayatollah Khamenei Marks \$6 Billion 9/11 with Speech Celebrating America's Demise

September 13, 2023 *breitbart.com* reported: "Iranian dictator Ayatollah Ali Khamenei celebrated the demise of 'the arrogant power of America' in a speech in Tehran on Monday, the 22nd anniversary of the September 11 attacks on the U.S. homeland by radical Muslim terrorists.

Khamenei's remarks, in which he celebrated that America 'has weakened and will become weaker,' preceded a report by the *Associated Press* claiming on Monday that leftist American President Joe Biden agreed to waive sanctions on third-party countries to allow the transfer of \$6 billion in frozen funds to Iran out of banks in South Korea – a further concession as part of a prisoner swap first reported in early August...

Khamenei's remarks on Monday did not mention the reported \$6 billion agreement, nor did they dwell on the September 11, 2001, attacks. The 'supreme leader' instead warned Iranians to fear alleged American 'plots' to undermine the Islamic 'revolution' but claimed such schemes were the last gasps of a dying power.

'The arrogant power of America and some European countries has weakened and will become weaker,' Khamenei said, according to Iran's *PressTV* state propaganda outlet. Khamenei claimed the world was in the process of 'transformation' away from the era of America being the world's dominant superpower..."

Chinese Warships Gather in Sign of Major Naval Exercises

September 12, 2023 *wsj.com* reported: "A Chinese aircraft carrier and around two dozen other Chinese warships were gathering in the western Pacific, according to authorities in Taiwan and Japan, an unusually large group suggesting Beijing may be planning major naval exercises.

The movement follows a flurry of U.S. military activity in the region, and comes as efforts by Washington and Beijing to improve relations appear to have lost momentum.

China has made no announcement about coming naval drills, but it has condemned a transit of the Taiwan Strait by a U.S. destroyer and Canadian frigate on Saturday. The U.S. held other naval exercises near China involving allies such

as Japan and the Philippines in recent weeks. The Chinese aircraft carrier Shandong sailed toward the western Pacific Ocean to the southeast of Taiwan on Monday for training, Taiwan's military said. It also said it identified 20 Chinese warships around Taiwan, without giving further details.

Japan's military said six Chinese destroyers and two Chinese frigates were spotted on Monday morning close to Japan and monitored as they sailed southeast between the Japanese islands of Okinawa and Miyako into the Pacific Ocean.

On Wednesday morning, China sent at least 35 warplanes out on sorties near Taiwan, with some joining the Shandong for training exercises, Taiwan's Defense Ministry said.

"The Shandong undoubtedly poses a new threat" to Taiwan, Gen. Huang Wen-chi, the assistant deputy chief of general staff for intelligence for Taiwan's military, said at a Tuesday news conference in Taipei, noting that the aircraft carrier has been paired with new large destroyers..."

Mossad director warns Iran: 'Harm to Israelis will lead to strike in heart of Tehran'

September 11, 2023 israelnationalnews.com reported: "Mossad Director David Barnea, during a conference at Bar Ilan University in Herzliya on Sunday, revealed that Iran intended to sell Russia short and long-range missiles, but the deal was shut down.

'They intend to sell additional arms, which will be shut down as well. Our fear is that in return, the Russians will transfer advanced weaponry to the Iranians that would certainly threaten our wellbeing and even our existence here,' he stated.

According to him, 'Tehran continues trying to get the status of an enlightened country. They hide behind a story. As Iran's self-confidence grows, so do its efforts to spread terrorism around the world since it feels that it won't pay a high price.

We see a significant rise in attempts to harm Jews and Israelis around the world. In the past year, we foiled, together with our partners, 27 terror attacks worldwide,' he added.

Barnea declared that 'until now, we only hit the commanders, the time has come that we take a different toll on Iran. Harm to an Israeli or a Jew, in any way, would lead to action deep in Iran and even in the heart of Teheran, from the executive level to the decision-makers'..."

Azerbaijan Pursues 'Elimination of the Entire Christian Population and Its Churches' in Nagorno-Karabakh

September 8, 2023 breitbart.com reported: "The congressional Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, chaired by Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ), held a hearing Wednesday to discuss the plight of Armenian Christians trapped by an Azerbaijani blockade in the contested Nagorno-Karabakh region. The commission heard testimony from experts who said Azerbaijan's actions clearly constituted genocide, with complicity from Turkey and the Islamist forces it has dispatched into the region..."

Testifying before the commission on Wednesday was Luis Moreno Ocampo, a former prosecutor for the International Criminal Court (ICC) who published a report in August about the Lachin Corridor blockade. Ocampo's report said the blockade was Azerbaijan's attempt to use 'starvation as a means of genocide.'

'There are no crematories and there are no machete attacks. Starvation is the invisible genocide weapon. Without immediate dramatic change, this group of Armenians will be destroyed in a few weeks,' Ocampo warned in August..."

North Korea announces new 'tactical nuclear attack submarine'

September 8, 2023 israelnationalnews.com reported: "North Korea announced it had built a 'tactical nuclear attack submarine' as part of its effort to strengthen its naval force, *AFP* reported, citing state news agency *KCNA*.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un presided over the unveiling ceremony on Wednesday, saying the new sub was part of a 'push forward with the nuclear weaponization of the Navy in the future', according to *KCNA*.

The launching of the submarine, named the Hero Kim Kun Ok, 'heralded the beginning of a new chapter for bolstering up the naval force of the DPRK', the *KCNA* report said, referring to the country by the abbreviation of its formal name.

During the festive ceremony, Kim stressed 'the strategic and tactical plan to continuously enhance the modernity of underwater and surface forces and push forward with the nuclear weaponization of the Navy in the future', *KCNA* said..."



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