



PROPHETIC TIMES

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Iran warns against proposed US-backed Red Sea force – ISNA

December 14, 2023 jpost.com reported: “Iran’s Defense Minister Mohammad Reza Ashtiani warned that a proposed US-backed multinational task force to protect shipping in the Red Sea would face ‘extraordinary problems,’ official Iranian media reported on Thursday.

Ashtiani’s comments came after the United States said last week it was in talks with other countries to set up a task force following a spate of attacks by the Iran-backed Houthis in Yemen on ships in the Red Sea.

‘If they make such an irrational move, they will be faced with extraordinary problems,’ Ashtiani told the official Iranian Student News Agency (ISNA) in comments it published on Thursday.

‘Nobody can make a move in a region where we have predominance,’ he said, referring to the Red Sea...”



Iran Defense Minister Ashtiani

Putin: No Peace in Ukraine Until Russia Achieves Goals

December 14, 2023 voanews.com reported: “Russian President Vladimir Putin said Thursday there will be peace in Ukraine when his country achieves its goals, and that those aims remain unchanged.

Two months shy of the two-year anniversary of Russia launching its full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Putin reiterated that Russia is seeking ‘de-Nazification, de-militarization and a neutral status’ of Ukraine as he gave his end-of-the-year news conference.

Russia has asserted that Ukraine’s government is heavily influenced by radical nationalist and neo-Nazi groups, which Ukraine and its Western allies have dismissed as a baseless pretext for the invasion.

Putin has also demanded that Ukraine not join the NATO alliance. NATO has repeatedly said it is up to individual countries, and not Russia, to decide whether they want to join. Russia’s invasion prompted two countries – Sweden and Finland – to launch membership bids. Finland was admitted in April while Sweden’s accession is awaiting final approval from Turkey and Hungary...”

Israel Responds to Biden: IDF ‘Making Efforts That No Army in History Has Made ... to Protect Civilians’

December 14, 2023 breitbart.com reported: “Israel responded Wednesday to President Joe Biden’s claim Tuesday that Israel was engaged in ‘indiscriminate bombing’ of Gaza, saying it was taking extraordinary measures to protect Palestinian civilians, even as Hamas used them as human shields.

Biden made the accusation, without evidence, at a private fundraiser with donors in Washington, DC, on Tuesday. He also claimed that Israel is losing support around the world, and that the Israeli government has to eject right-wing political parties.

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) is ‘making efforts that no army in history has made in order to protect civilians’ in a counter-terrorism operation in urban areas, said Eylon Levy, an Israeli government spokesman, at a press conference on Wednesday...”

Gallant: Hamas battalions once ‘considered invincible’ now ‘on verge of collapse’

December 13, 2023 timesofisrael.com reported: “Hamas battalions in the Jabaliya and Shejaiya neighborhoods in the northern Gaza Strip were on the verge of collapse Monday, said Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, amid ongoing heavy fighting in and around the terror stronghold of Khan Younis in southern Gaza, and rocket fire on central Israel during the day.

‘We have encircled the last strongholds of Hamas in Jabaliya and Shejaiya, the battalions that were considered invincible, that prepared for years to fight us, are on the verge of being dismantled,’ Gallant said at a press conference Monday.

He said hundreds of Hamas operatives had surrendered to Israeli troops in recent days, which ‘shows what is happening’ to the terror group.

The military and the Shin Bet said Monday that forces have arrested more than 500 terror operatives in the Gaza Strip in the last month. They have been taken for questioning by the IDF Military Intelligence Directorate's Unit 504 and the security agency..."

One in five young Americans believes the Holocaust is a myth, poll finds

December 12, 2023 timesofisrael.com reported: "One-fifth of US citizens between the ages of 18 and 29 believe that the Holocaust is a myth, according to a new poll from the Economist/YouGov.

The poll was conducted between December 2 and December 5, and among other issues, examined the beliefs held by US citizens on Israel, Jewish people and the Holocaust.

In response to the statement 'The Holocaust is a myth,' 20 percent of participants between the ages of 18 and 29 said that they agreed with it, and an additional 30% said that they did not agree or disagree.

In comparison, 8% of people between the ages of 30-44 agreed with the statement, as did 2% of people aged 45-64. However, of those over the age of 65 who were surveyed, 0% agreed with the statement and just 2% said that they neither agreed nor disagreed.

Overall, 7% of Americans believe that the Holocaust is a myth..."

Hamas Warns It Could Kill All Hostages Unless Israel Meets Demands

December 12, 2023 breitbart.com reported: "A Hamas spokesman suggested Sunday that the terror organization could kill all of the presumed 137 hostages in its custody if Israel does not accede to its demands.

Abu Obeida, a familiar spokesman for Hamas who had not been seen for several weeks, released a video in which he made the threat clear.

'Neither the fascist enemy and its arrogant leadership... nor its supporters... can take their prisoners alive without an exchange and negotiation and meeting the demands of the resistance,' he said, according to the *Times of Israel*.

It is not clear if Hamas would deliver on that threat. The hostages are the only leverage that Hamas has over Israel, and it uses them as human shields. The Hamas leaders in exile — in luxurious accommodation in Doha, Qatar — would also likely to preserve the hostages alive to ensure that Israel negotiates with them, rather than killing them (as it has promised to do, eventually) ..."

Tehran warns of 'explosion' if war continues

December 12, 2023 jpost.com reported: "The continuation of the Gaza war will lead to a regional explosion, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian told the Doha Forum on Monday, as he explained that the scope of the conflict had already expanded to include Lebanon and Yemen.

'At any moment there is a possibility of a big explosion in the region, one not controllable by any party,' he said as he spoke through an English language translator in a virtual interview conducted by CNN's Becky Anderson.

The foreign minister pointed to attacks against US bases in Iraq and Syria, Houthi attacks on ships in the Red Sea, and the violence on Israel's northern border as proof that regional violence had expanded beyond the Gaza border..."

Defense Minister Gallant: 'Hamas underestimated Israel's response to attack'

December 11, 2023 israelnationalnews.com reported: "Minister of Defense Yoav Gallant said in an interview with the *British Daily Mail* that Hamas underestimated Israel's response to the October 7th attack.

'It's hard to bring democracies to fight wars, but once we are in one, we are much stronger because we are fighting to defend our values,' Gallant stated.

'In the northern region of Gaza, Hamas is suffering massive losses, and we are achieving our military goals. Hamas terrorists have two options: die or surrender,' he explained.

Gallant claimed in the interview that Hamas propaganda is spreading across universities. 'Hamas propaganda is influencing universities and protests, and money is being poured in, which is activating terror networks around the world,' Gallant told the newspaper.

'This is a collision course between civilizations. Hamas represents a medieval phenomenon,' he added..."



*Israel Defense Minister
Yoav Gallant*