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Shocking: Freed Israeli Hostages Say Hamas Used U.N. Facilities to Hide Them

January 23, 2025 *breitbart.com* reported: “Outrage is intensifying after Israeli hostages recently freed from Gaza revealed they were held in U.N. facilities during their captivity, with critics calling UNRWA a ‘front for Hamas’ that must be ‘disbanded’ immediately.

Last weekend, three Israeli women — Romi Gonen, Emily Damari, and Doron Steinbrecher — were released in a high-stakes prisoner swap, which saw Israel free 90 Palestinian detainees, including convicted terrorists.

The women, who endured nearly a year and a half of harrowing captivity under the terrorist group Hamas, described being detained in United Nations facilities, including tent camps and humanitarian zones administered by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), Israel’s *Channel 13 News* reports...



Syria’s new leaders turn to Islamic law in effort to rebuild Assad’s police

January 23, 2025 *reuters.com* reported: “Syria’s new authorities are using Islamic teachings to train a fledgling police force, a move officers say aims to instill a sense of morality as they race to fill a security vacuum after dismantling ousted president Bashar al-Assad’s notoriously corrupt and brutal security forces.

Police they brought into Damascus from their former rebel enclave in the northwestern region of Idlib are asking applicants about their beliefs and focusing on Islamic sharia law in the brief training they offer recruits, according to five senior officers and application forms seen by Reuters.

Ensuring stability and winning the trust of people across Syria will be crucial for the Sunni Muslim Islamists to cement their rule. But the move to put religion at the centre of policing risks seeding new rifts in a diverse country awash with guns after 13 years of civil war and alienating foreign governments they have been trying to woo, regional analysts warn...”

Rubio says US committed to Philippines in call about China’s ‘dangerous’ actions

January 23, 2025 *voanews.com* reported: “New U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio discussed China’s ‘dangerous and destabilizing actions in the South China Sea’ with his Philippine counterpart on Wednesday and underscored the ‘ironclad’ U.S. defense commitment to Manila.

‘Secretary Rubio conveyed that (China’s) behavior undermines regional peace and stability and is inconsistent with international law,’ the U.S. State Department said in a statement on the call with Foreign Minister Enrique Manalo.

The Philippines has been embroiled in wrangles at sea with China in the past two years and the two countries have faced off regularly around disputed features in the South China Sea that fall inside Manila’s exclusive economic zone.

Rubio’s call came after he hosted counterparts from Australia, India and Japan in the China-focused ‘Quad’ forum on Tuesday, the day after President Donald Trump returned to the White House. The four recommitted to working together. Quad members and the Philippines share concerns about China’s growing power and analysts said Tuesday’s meeting was designed to signal continuity in the Indo-Pacific and that countering Beijing would be a top priority for Trump.

In the call with Manalo, Rubio ‘underscored the United States’ ironclad commitments to the Philippines’ under their Mutual Defense Treaty and discussed ways to advance security cooperation, expand economic ties and deepen regional cooperation, the statement said...”

Hamas vows to ‘rise again,’ fight until Israel is destroyed

January 21, 2025 israelnationalnews.com reported: “The Hamas terrorist organization vowed to ‘rise again’ and to continue fighting until Israel is destroyed in a statement issued today (Monday), the second day of the ceasefire agreement with Israel, *AFP* reported.

‘Gaza, with its great people and its resilience, will rise again to rebuild what the occupation has destroyed and continue on the path of steadfastness until the occupation is defeated,’ the terrorist organization stated.

‘Over the course of 471 days, the systematic crimes of the occupation have failed to dissuade our people and their valiant resistance from clinging to the land and confronting the aggression,’ it added...”

Iran Guards unveil underground naval base

January 20, 2025 newsweek.com reported: “The Iranian navy revealed a new underground naval base at an undisclosed location in the Persian Gulf on January 18. State TV showed Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Chief Commander Hossein Salami visiting the facility during war games, saying it is meant for vessels capable of launching long-range missiles. The new naval base was revealed just days prior to U.S. President-elect Donald Trump's inauguration, after which tensions between Washington and Iran are expected to increase.

Iran's unveiling of a new naval base is significant as it indicates that they are preparing for direct conflict with regional enemies, and possibly ones abroad. Moreover, the fact that the naval base is meant to house vessels capable of launching long-range missiles signifies that Tehran is planning to conduct more long-distance strikes. The announcement of this new base just before Trump's inauguration is also important to note, as it appears to be Iran's way of sending a message to the incoming administration regarding relation between the two countries...

The Islamic Republic of Iran Navy, headquartered at Bandar Abbas on the southern coast of the country, has previously boasted about its weapons stock amid increasing tensions with the U.S. During Trump's first term, Iran's navy said its missile-equipped fleet of fast attack craft could take out advanced U.S. warships, although some have dismissed these claims....”

Israel intercepts missiles fired from Yemen

January 18, 2025 spacewar.com reported: The Israeli military said it intercepted two missiles fired from Yemen on Saturday, a day before a ceasefire is set to take effect in war-battered Gaza. The military activated air raid sirens in Jerusalem and in parts of central and southern Israel ahead of the interceptions during the day, with the first projectile shot down in the morning.

Yemen's Iran-backed Huthi rebels claimed the morning attack, hours after the Israeli military intercepted the incoming missile. The Huthis "carried out a specific military operation targeting the so-called Ministry of Defence of the Israeli enemy... using a ballistic missile" in central Israel, the rebels said in a statement. The morning attack had triggered explosions over Jerusalem as the military intercepted the missile, *AFP* journalists reported...”

Khamenei’s Rep. Mocks Trump, Warns Iran Will ‘Turn the White House into a Shi’ite Islamic Center’

January 17, 2025 Breitbart.com reported: “The Islamic Republic of Iran ‘will turn the White House into a Shi’ite Islamic center,’ Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei’s representative and cleric in the Fars Province, Lotfollah Dezhkam, pledged in recent remarks. Dezhkam warned that ‘the godless American officials should know that this promise will turn into reality’ and that incoming President Donald Trump ‘will not be able to do a damn thing.’



Lotfollah Dezhkam

In his Friday sermon in Shiraz, Iran, on January 10, Dezhkam expressed his belief that global power is shifting in favor of Islam, stating that ‘the future is not far’ and ‘tomorrow is ours,’ envisioning the eventual transformation of the White House into a ‘Shi’ite Islamic center.’...”

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