

*“And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up,  
and lift your heads, for your redemption draweth nigh” - Luke 21:28*

# CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

## **France: Anti-Christian attacks rise 245 percent**

February 8, 2017 -- *Breitbart.com* reports: “While racist, anti-Muslim, and anti-Semitic attacks have seen a huge fall since 2008, those on Christian places of worship more than doubled in this period of time, France’s interior ministry reported last week.

Having documented a record number of anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim attacks in 2015, the French government spent €100 million on a huge anti-populist campaign to reduce Islamophobia, racism, and anti-Semitism.

Subsequently, racist, anti-Semitic, and anti-Muslim attacks fell sharply in 2016 with the former seeing a decline of 58.5 percent and the latter a drop of 57.6 percent. These attacks are defined as being fires, violence, degradation, and threats — comments, inscriptions, insulting letters.

In this year, attacks on Christian places of worship have increased by 17.4 percent in 2016 compared to 2015. Racist attacks, meanwhile, dropped by

23.7 percent (608 versus 797)...” (*“If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own; but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember the word that I have said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. But all these things will they do unto you for my name’s sake, because they know not him that sent me. If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloak for their sin. He that hateth me hateth my Father also. If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father. These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended. They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service. And these things will they do unto you, because*

*they have not known the Father, nor me” – John 15:18 – 24; 16:1 - 3. See the next report.)*

## **Christian persecution seen in more locations across the globe, new report shows**

February 2, 2017 -- *Fox News* reports: “In the past year, the persecution of Christians has not only increased, but it has also spread to more corners of the globe – with incidents occurring on every continent, according to a new report.

The advocacy group Open Doors USA recently released the latest edition of its annual World Watch List, which ranks countries based on the treatment of their Christian populations. The group said the increase in incidents considered persecution was alarming and only getting worse.

‘It is appalling that Open Doors has to report that persecution has increased again in 2016 and we are still at the worst levels of persecution in modern times,’ David Curry, president and CEO of Open Doors USA, said to *Fox*

News. “The spread of persecution has gotten worse, now hitting nearly every continent in the world. There were 23 Christians killed in Mexico specifically because of their faith.”

The report comes on the heels of another study by the Center for Studies on New Religions that showed nearly 90,000 Christians were killed for their faith in 2016 and that as many as 600 million were prevented from practicing their faith through intimidation, forced conversions, bodily harm or even death...” (Jesus, as was noted in the Scriptures following the first report stated the reason for the persecution of Christians worldwide. It is because the world hates Him. Why? *“If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloak for their sin... If I had not done among them the works that none other man did, they had not had sin...”* – John 15:22, 24. Before Jesus came to the earth, mankind could look at each other and say “I’m not as bad as that person is, I’ve never murdered, I’ve never stolen, much like the Pharisee did in Luke 18:10 – 14 – *“I thank thee that I am not as other men...”* Once Jesus came to the earth, those rationalizations were no longer valid. As a result, the world strikes out against God, and against Christians.

**Jesus also stated in Matthew 5:10 – 12: *“Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.”***

### **Preacher locked up, charged with hate crime for quoting Bible to gay teen**

February 7, 2017 -- *Breitbart.com* reports: “A Christian street preacher was locked up and charged with a hate crime for quoting from the Book of Genesis in response to a gay teenager’s questions on how God views homosexuals.

Gordon Larmour, 42, spent a night in custody and faced a six-month ordeal over the charges before they were finally thrown out in a hearing last month.

The father-of-one, who has been street preaching for seven years following his conversion to Christianity, was handing out leaflets in his home town of Irvine, Ayrshire, last June when a group of young men passed him, *The Telegraph* has reported.

He told the men: ‘Don’t forget Jesus loves you and He died for your sins.’

One asked Mr. Larmour, ‘What does your God say about homosexuals?’ He responded by referring to the Book of Genesis, stating that God had created Adam and Eve to produce children.

The two men argued and Mr. Larmour claims that he was chased by the young man. However, it was he who was arrested and frogmarched to the police van before being held in police custody overnight, charged with threatening or abusive behavior aggravated by prejudice relating to sexual orientation...” (How sad that merely quoting the Bible can be classified as a ‘hate crime’. It is because it shines the light of God’s perfection on the thoughts and acts of sinful mankind. Jeremiah 23:29 states: *“Is not my word like as a fire? saith the Lord; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?”* And Hebrews 4:12 states: *“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”*)

# ISLAMIC ATROCITIES

## **CBS Poll: Two-Thirds of Democrats say Islam, Christianity equally violent**

February 7, 2017 -- *Breitbart.com* reports: “Almost seven out of 10 Democrats believe Islam ‘encourages violence... about the same as other religions,’ according to a new CBS poll.

The trusting attitude towards Islam is revealed in the February 2017 poll follows 17 tumultuous years of attacks against Americans motivated or shaped

by Islamic ideology throughout the United States—from the 9/11 atrocity to the Pulse nightclub attack in Florida committed by an observant, orthodox Muslim man from a Muslim family.

Merely one-in-seven Democrats believe that Islam is more violent than other religions, such as Christianity, Mormonism, Judaism, and Buddhism. One-in-ten Democrats believe that Islam is less violent than other religions, according to the poll of 1,019 adults,

which was taken Feb. 1 and Feb. 2.

In contrast, Republicans have a far colder view of Islam. Sixty-three percent of Republicans view Islam as aggressive compared to other religions, and only two percent view Islam as more pacific than other faiths...” (Dr. Michael Brown in his column *“In The Line of Fire”* for *Charisma News* wrote an article entitled *“Verses of Violence: Comparing the Bible and Quran”* in which he brought out three points:

*“1. The violent verses in the Bible were for a specific time and place; the violent verses in the Quran are spoken in general terms. 2. For Christians, the Old Testament is the foundation on which the New Testament is built and so the New Testament contains the final revelation. Significantly, there are no verses in the New Testament in which believers are called on to kill their enemies. For Muslims, the Quran is the final revelation. 3. The ultimate example for Christians is Jesus. For Muslims, Muhammad is the perfect man and the model to be followed. Jesus was crucified and ordered His followers not to defend Him from His fate. Muhammad, who began his mission as a preacher rather than a soldier, led pillaging raids (to get money for his followers); fought aggressive, offensive wars to subdue his enemies; and on one famous occasion, beheaded his Jewish captives.” See the next four reports.)*

### **Islamic State using brainwashed Yazidi children to conduct suicide attacks**

February 17, 2017 -- *Breitbart.com* reports: “The Islamic State (ISIS/ISIL) is taking a page from the book of its Boko Haram branch and brainwashing kidnapped children from the Yazidi minority group into carrying out suicide attacks.

Instances of child suicide bombings are occurring against the U.S.-led coalition operations against the jihadist group in Iraq and Syria.

Rudaw reports:

The [autonomous] Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) [in northern Iraq] has urged the international community to help children who have been subjected to years of brainwashing and military training by ISIS after the extremist group released a propaganda video claiming to depict two Yazidi suicide bombers.

The United States and the United Nations have officially acknowledged that the Yazidis, Christians, and other ethnoreligious minorities in Iraq and Syria have been victims of genocide at the hands of ISIS.

‘To our knowledge, more than 1,000 Yazidi children are being trained by ISIS. They indoctrinate them in the Islamic Sharia and Jihad theoretically and practically. And they also teach them the means of killing and how to carry out suicide attacks practically,’ revealed Khairi Botani, head of the KRG’s Yazidi affairs office...’

### **Muslim mob rapes 15 Christian women in ‘revenge attack’ for conversions**

February 2, 2017 -- *Breitbart.com* reports: “In a recent attack, some 90 Muslims stormed a Christian church in eastern Uganda, beating and tying up the men present before raping 15 of the Christian women.

The assault was reportedly a ‘revenge attack’ against the pastor of the Katira church for allegedly converting Muslims to Christianity. Along with the violence perpetrated against the congregation, the mob also carried off the pastor, the Rev. Moses Mutasa, and severely damaged the church property.

According to a member of the congregation who escaped from the church, one of the attackers shouted, ‘Away with the pastor who is converting our Muslims to Christianity.’ After the attack, church members also found leaflets accusing the pastor of converting Muslims and threatening more attacks.

The event occurred on the evening of January 15, but has just now come to the attention of international media. Now, two weeks after the attack, the church’s pastor is still missing, along with eight other Christians from his congregation who were kidnapped with him...’

### **Underground Christian ministry details horrors of life under Islam**

February 12, 2017 -- *WND.com* reports: “The issue of what Muslims believe and how they influence society is much in the news right now as critics of President Trump badger him for what they call a ban on Muslim immigrants, even though the ban contains no reference to Muslims or Islam.

His ban centers on the threat of terrorists entering the U.S. from nations that have been known promoters of terrorism.

But few of those critics have experienced first-hand the wrath of Muslims, as has Pastor Paul Ciniraj and members of his Christian ministry.

His Bibles for Mideast is an underground work that deals daily with those consequences. What’s known is that the group collects and distributes Bibles to people in the nations of the Middle East.

Many other details are kept confidential for the safety of the missionaries, those who want Bibles and those to whom the agency delivers help.

But it’s clear that the ministry knows well the atrocities being perpetrated by Muslims against those who reject their beliefs...’

### **Islamist rebels execute Christian pastor, torch churches in Central African Republic**

February 15, 2017 -- *Breitbart.com* reports: “Muslim rebels brutally stabbed to death a Christian pastor in the Central African Republic (CAR), then proceeded to burn his church to the ground.

In what is being reported as a revenge attack for military operations against the Islamist militia, jihadists attacked Pastor Jean-Paul Sankagui of the Church of Christ in the capital city

of Bangui on Feb. 7, stabbing him to death and then torching his church as well as two other Christian churches in the area.

CAR military together with UN peacekeepers recently attempted to capture local Muslim militia leader

Youssef Sy, but the operation failed and Sy and one of his men were killed in the incident.

During the operation, Sy and his men opened fire on the security forces and killed two passers-by, a man and a woman, at which point the military

returned fire and killed Sy and another militiaman.

According to World Watch Monitor, Sy's supporters went on a 'rampage' in retaliation for the operation, attacking people and destroying property..."

# RUSSIA AND THE KINGS OF THE EAST

## **Putin's Russia in biggest Arctic military push since Soviet fall**

**January 31, 2017 -- Reuters reports:** "The nuclear icebreaker Lenin, the pride and joy of the Soviet Union's Arctic great game, lies at perpetual anchor in the frigid water here. A relic of the Cold War, it is now a museum.

But nearly three decades after the Lenin was taken out of service to be turned into a visitor attraction, Russia is again on the march in the Arctic and building new nuclear icebreakers.

It is part of a push to firm Moscow's hand in the High North as it vies for dominance with traditional rivals Canada, the United States, and Norway as well as newcomer China.

Interviews with officials and military analysts and reviews of government documents show Russia's build-up is the biggest since the 1991 Soviet fall and will, in some areas, give Moscow more military capabilities than the Soviet Union once had..." **(Russia in Bible prophecy is the main instigator of death and suffering during Armageddon – Revelation 16:16. Ezekiel chapters 38 & 39, which I have proclaimed for sixty years, aided by Oriental and Islamic nations, bring total chaos and atomic devastation upon the world. Worse yes, it's just ahead of us. Every nation I included in World War III is**

**forming this global blood bath exactly as taught six decades ago. The only good news is that the Rapture precedes Armageddon – "Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth" – Revelation 3:10. Then our deliverance as believers – Revelation 4:1 and our joy because of missing Armageddon. See the next two reports.)**

## **U.S. warns Russia amid reports of new cruise missile**

**February 15, 2017 -- SpaceDaily.com reports:** "The United States warned Russia to respect its arms control treaty obligations on Tuesday amid reports that Moscow has deployed a new cruise missile that may breach them.

According to the *New York Times*, Moscow has secretly deployed an operational ground-launched cruise missile unit of a type that contravenes a 1987 U.S.-Russia arms control treaty.

The U.S. State Department would not directly confirm the report, but expressed concern that Russia was in any case already in breach of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty.

'We do not comment on intelligence matters,' acting State Department spokesman Mark Toner said of the report.

But, citing a 2016 U.S. treaty compliance report, Toner said Russia 'remains in violation of its INF Treaty obligations.'..."

## **Cold War redux? U.S.-Russian missile spat in Europe**

**February 17, 2017 -- SpaceDaily.com reports:** "The United States and Russia may be on the verge of a new arms race in Europe, decades after the missile crisis that shook the Old Continent in the waning years of the Soviet Union.

President Donald Trump has repeatedly said he would like to build warmer ties with Moscow, but in Europe tensions have been high since Russia annexed Crimea and began to foment separatism in Ukraine.

NATO has deployed reinforcements to the Baltic States and Poland on its eastern flank, and the United States and European Union have imposed sanctions on Russians implicated in the unrest.

Now, according to the *New York Times*, Moscow has secretly deployed an operational ground-launched cruise missile unit of a type that contravenes a 1987 U.S.-Russia arms control treaty.

U.S. officials have not confirmed the anonymously-sourced report, but the State Department expressed concern that Russia was in any case already in breach

of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty.

If confirmed, the move would be a flagrant violation of the treaty negotiated by President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev that banned intermediate-range missiles from U.S. and Russian arsenals, and led to the destruction of 2,700 missiles...”

### **North Korea slams UN condemnation of missile launch**

**February 16, 2017 -- SpaceDaily.com** reports: “North Korea defended its latest ballistic missile launch and slammed UN Security Council condemnation in a defiant statement Wednesday, as tensions escalate over the reclusive state’s recent behavior.

The communique from the North’s foreign ministry came as investigators in Malaysia probe the shock assassination of Kim Jong-Un’s half-brother Monday.

The North’s leader has been trying to strengthen his grip on power in the face of growing international pressure over his country’s nuclear and missile programs.

The United Nations Security Council, which includes the North’s only major ally China, sharply castigated Pyongyang on Monday for the missile test a day earlier, describing it as a ‘grave violation’ of UN resolutions and threatening ‘further significant measures’.

The rocket launch was the first since U.S. President Donald Trump came to power and was seen as a challenge to the new American leader, who has vowed a strong response to the provocation.

The country is barred under UN resolutions from carrying out ballistic missile launches or nuclear tests...” **(The Kings of the East move towards the Middle East united with Russia and Iran – Revelation 16:12; Ezekiel 38 & 39; Revelation 9:14 – 18. See the next report.)**

### **China steps up opposition to U.S. missile defense system**

**February 1, 2017 -- Voice of America News** reports: “China is stepping up its efforts to stop South Korea from deploying a U.S. missile defense system on its soil, turning up the pressure on the economic front, while warning of the impact on diplomatic relations if the system is put in place this year.

The missile system and China’s objections are likely to be a hot topic this week during newly appointed U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis’ first trip to Asia.

Although U.S. and South Korean officials have long stressed that the key aim of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense System (THAAD) is to counter North Korea’s nuclear and ballistic missile capabilities, Beijing argues that in the long run it could do much more than that...”

### **Mattis warns North Korea of ‘overwhelming’ response to nuclear use**

**February 3, 2017 -- BBC News** reports: “The U.S. Defense Secretary James Mattis has said any use of nuclear weapons by North Korea would be met with an ‘effective and overwhelming’ response.

Mr. Mattis spoke in South Korea, where he had been reaffirming U.S. support, before flying to Tokyo.

He also reconfirmed plans to deploy a U.S. missile defense system in South Korea later this year.

North Korea’s repeated missile and nuclear tests and aggressive statements continue to alarm and anger the region...” **(South Korea out of devotion and love to America for our nation’s protection and love shown to this nation will undoubtedly stick with America. Also, while North Korea is a haven for Communism,**

**South Korea has become a Christian nation because of America’s love and missionary outreach and ministry to these precious people. See the next report.)**

### **U.S. pledges nuclear defense for Japan, South Korea after North Korea missile launch**

**February 17, 2017 -- SpaceDaily.com** reports: “U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson on Thursday pledged that Washington would use the full range of its arsenal, including nuclear weapons, to defend allies Japan and South Korea against North Korea if needed.

‘The United States remains steadfast in its defense commitments to its allies, the Republic of Korea and Japan, including the commitment to provide extended deterrence, backed by the full range of its nuclear and conventional defense capabilities,’ Tillerson said in a joint statement after meeting the foreign ministers in Bonn.

North Korea has carried out repeated missile launches despite UN sanctions and last year conducted two nuclear tests in a bid to develop a weapons system capable of hitting the U.S. mainland.

Pyongyang said the latest missile tested on Sunday could carry a nuclear warhead.

Seoul said the rocket travelled some 500 kilometers (300 miles) before it came down in the Sea of Japan (East Sea).

The joint statement said Tillerson, South Korea’s Yun Byung-Se and Japan’s Fumio Kishida ‘condemned in the strongest terms’ the test which was carried out in ‘flagrant disregard’ for multiple UN Security Council resolutions.

The three countries would work together to ensure that further violations would be ‘met with an even stronger international response,’ it said, demanding that Pyongyang abandon its nuclear and missile programs...”

# NEWS FROM ISRAEL AND THE MIDDLE EAST

## **Iran continues to call for Israel's destruction despite nuclear deal**

**February 16, 2017** -- *The Jerusalem Post* reports: "Iranian leaders' calls for Israel's destruction have not abated at all in the 20 months since the Iranian nuclear deal was signed, meaning that those who claimed the deal would moderate Iranian attitudes were completely wrong, former Foreign Ministry director-general Dore Gold said on Wednesday.

Gold's comments came as the think tank he heads, the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, put out a compilation of poisonous statements made by Iranian leaders, including Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei, since the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action was signed in July 2015.

"There is absolutely no indication of one iota of moderation by the Iranian elite in their hostile intentions toward Israel since the conclusion of the Iran nuclear agreement. Iranian policy in this regard is driven by the Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps," Gold said.

"In September 2015, Khamenei himself said that the nuclear agreement would not change the destruction of Israel in 25 years," he added. "Those who asserted that the Iran nuclear agreement would lead to a moderation of Iranian attitudes were completely wrong."

Leading what could be termed a 'greatest hits parade' of Iranian anti-Israel comments since the regime was Khamenei himself, who in September of 2015, just three months after the deal was signed, said: 'You [Zionist regime] will not see 25 years from today! By Allah's favor and grace, nothing called the 'Zionist regime' will exist by 25

years from now.'..." (Israel will never be destroyed. God has declared His love for Israel from its very beginning: *"And as for thy nativity, in the day thou wast born thy navel was not cut, neither wast thou washed in water to supple thee; thou wast not salted at all, nor swaddled at all. None eye pitied thee, to do any of these unto thee, to have compassion upon thee; but thou wast cast out in the open field, to the lothing of thy person, in the day that thou wast born. And when I passed by thee, and saw thee polluted in thine own blood, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, Live; yea, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, Live... Then washed I thee with water; yea, I thoroughly washed away thy blood from thee, and I anointed thee with oil" – Ezekiel 16:4 – 6; 9. Deuteronomy 7:6-8 states: "For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God: the Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth. The Lord did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: But because the Lord loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the Lord brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt." Despite the rantings and ravings of the world: "...let us cut them off from being a nation, that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance" – Psalm 83:4, God has promised: "...I will give them [Israel] an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off" – Isaiah 56:5. See the next two reports.)*

## **Nasrallah warns: We can hit Israel's nuclear reactor in Dimona**

**February 17, 2017** -- *Israel National News* reports: "The Hezbollah terrorist organization warned Israel it could strike anywhere in the country, and threatened to hit the nuclear reactor in Dimona in southern Israel.

Speaking on Thursday, Hezbollah chairman Hassan Nasrallah boasted that his group was capable of hitting any strategic target in the Jewish state, including the nuclear research facility in Dimona – one of Israel's most sensitive sites.

'We invite the Israeli enemy to empty not just the ammonia tanks in Haifa,' mocked the Hezbollah leader, 'but also to dismantle the nuclear core in Dimona,' claiming that 'it is in our power to threaten any part of Israel.'

The address was made as part of an event marking the 38th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution in Iran which brought the Ayatollah Khomeini to power and enabled the establishment of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah group..."

## **Iranian official threatens Tel Aviv**

**February 6, 2017** -- *Israel National News* reports: "A senior Iranian official threatened that his country would immediately strike Israel if the United States 'makes a mistake', *i24news* reported Sunday.

Mojtaba Zonour, a senior member of Iran's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission and a former Revolutionary Guards official, made the comments on Saturday, and reportedly said that 'only 7 minutes is needed for

the Iranian missile to hit Tel Aviv.’

Zonour also said a United States base in Bahrain would be ‘razed to the ground’ in the event of an attack.

The threats came after President Donald Trump’s administration imposed new sanctions on 25 individuals and companies connected to Iran’s ballistic missile program and those providing support to the Revolutionary Guard Corps’ Quds Force.

The sanctions came in response to a ballistic missile test conducted by Iran last week, in violation of UN Resolution 2231, which bars Iran from conducting ballistic missile tests for eight years and which went into effect after the nuclear deal between Iran and the six world powers was signed...”

### **Iran calls Israel ‘biggest threat’ to world peace**

**February 16, 2017 -- Israel National News** reports: “Iran said Thursday that Israel’s atomic arsenal is the biggest danger to world peace, a day after U.S. President Donald Trump vowed to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon.

Israel is the ‘biggest threat to the peace and security in the region and the world,’ Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Ghasemi said, quoted by state news agency *IRNA*.

Trump had warned Wednesday after meeting Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu in Washington that the ‘threat of Iran’s nuclear ambitions’ was one of the major security challenges facing Israel.

The U.S. president told reporters that he would do ‘more to prevent Iran from ever developing — I mean ever — a nuclear weapon’.

But Ghasemi dismissed Trump and Netanyahu’s comments as ‘nonsense’.

‘The bitter truth is that these

unjust claims are being repeated by the Zionist regime that doesn’t abide by any international laws and has hundreds of warheads in its atomic arsenal,’ Ghasemi said, referring to Israel...” **(What blatant hypocrisy coming from Iran. The United States has recently rightfully called Iran the “biggest state sponsor of terrorism” and that “ISIS is the greatest threat globally.” Iran had better tread carefully. In 2014 Business Insider reported that Israel has the most powerful military in the Middle East stating “In addition to being battle-tested against a variety of enemies, the Israel Defense Forces has a qualitative edge over all other militaries in the region, as well as a highly-capable air force...” Israel is extremely capable of defending herself. See the next two reports.)**

### **Islamic State Jihadist on Eilat rocket attack: ‘The Jewish enemy should anticipate more’**

**February 10, 2017 -- Breitbart.com** reports: “Wednesday’s rocket fire on the Israeli resort city of Eilat was ‘a natural reaction’ to alleged Israeli involvement with the Egyptian army’s clampdown on Sinai militants, Abu Baker Almaqdesi, a Gaza-based jihadist who fought for the Islamic State, told *Breitbart Jerusalem* in an interview...”

Using anti-Semitic language, Almaqdesi, who spoke to *Breitbart Jerusalem* in Arabic, claimed that ‘the Jewish entity’ – referring to Israel – ‘never stopped assisting the Egyptian army of infidels in their war against the mujahedeen, and tonight’s salvo on Umm Rashrash [Eilat’s Arabic name] was a natural reaction to those crimes.’

The jihadist claimed the Eilat rocket attack wasn’t a precedent. ‘Earlier this month, we fired at the Elojah crossing [between Egypt and Israel]. Our brothers are determined to continue to react to the

crimes of the Jews, and we’ll continue to launch rockets at Israel despite their airborne operations and despite the strain of the Egyptian army of infidels.’...

The Islamic State Sinai Province on Thursday released a statement taking credit the Eilat rocket attack: ‘A military squad fired a number of Grad rockets at communities of Jewish usurpers in the town of Eilat.’

The group said the rocket attacks were meant ‘to teach the Jews and the crusaders a proxy war will not avail them of anything.’

‘The future will be more calamitous with Allah’s permission,’ the statement said...”

### **Islamic Jihad blames Israel for Gaza escalation**

**February 8, 2017 -- Israel National News** reports: “The Islamic Jihad terrorist group on Monday evening blamed Israel for the latest tensions in Gaza, and called on Israel to ‘stop its aggression’.

‘What is happening in Gaza is cruel aggression for which Israel bears full responsibility,’ said Islamic Jihad leader Daoud Shihab, according to *Walla! News*.

‘We are not interested in an escalation nor do we seek it, but we will not allow the occupation to continue attacking Gaza. Israel must stop its attacks and stop using lies in order to apply aggressive policy. We are monitoring the events on the ground and are ready for any scenario,’ he added.

The IDF on Monday attacked Hamas positions and infrastructure in Gaza in four separate strikes, in retaliation for a rocket attack on southern Israel.

The latest air strike was carried out in the evening, with three Hamas installations in northern and southern Gaza being hit...”

# IRAN VS. AMERICA

## **Khamenei to Trump: No enemy can paralyze Iran**

February 7, 2017 -- *The Jerusalem Post* reports: “Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei dismissed U.S. President Donald Trump’s warning to Tehran to stop its missile tests, and called on Iranians to respond to Trump’s ‘threats’ on Friday’s anniversary of the 1979 revolution.

‘No enemy can paralyze the Iranian nation,’ Khamenei was quoted as saying by his website in a meeting with military commanders in Tehran.

‘Trump says ‘you should be afraid of me’. No! The Iranian people will respond to his words on Feb. 10, (the anniversary of revolution) and will show their stance against such threats.’

In his first speech following Trump’s inauguration, Khamenei also charged that Trump has shown America’s ‘real face’ by proving Iranian allegations about American government corruption.

‘We are thankful to Trump for making our life easy as he showed the real face of America,’ he said.

‘During his election campaign and after that, he confirmed what we have been saying for more than 30 years about the political, economic, moral and social corruption in the U.S. ruling system,’ he added...” **(More bragging and blustering from Iran. In 2016 the Global Firepower list puts the United States as the number 1 military power in the world. Israel ranks as number 16, and Iran is ranked as number 21. In early February President Trump tweeted: “Iran is playing with fire – they don’t appreciate how ‘kind’ President Obama was to them. Not me!” See the next three reports.)**

## **Iranian official: ‘Newcomer’ Trump would suffer ‘unprecedented defeat’ if he crossed Iran**

February 14, 2017 -- *Breitbart.com* reports: “A senior Iranian official goaded President Donald Trump on Sunday, insisting the U.S. would suffer an ‘unprecedented defeat’ at the hands of an ‘iron dam’ like Iran.

Ali Akbar Velayati, head of the Expediency Council’s Strategic Research Center, told the semi-official *Tasnim* news agency that a ‘calculating newcomer’ like Trump wouldn’t dare confront Iran, which is far more powerful than other countries the U.S. has come up against.

Velayati was responding to Trump’s veiled warning on Friday to Iranian President Hassan Rouhani in which he said Rouhani ‘better be careful’ about threatening the U.S.

‘We are by no means worried about Trump’s comments,’ Velayati said, adding that despite Trump’s public rhetoric, the president is a calculating politician. Furthermore, the Iranian official told *Tasnim*, the opposition Trump faces at home among the media, judiciary and influential politicians will prevent him from doing what he wants with Iran.

Velayati, who also served as Iran’s foreign minister, said the Islamic Republic was not seeking war against any country, but would not waste a moment defending itself if necessary...”

## **Iranian VP: Those who threaten us will lose**

February 7, 2017 -- *Israel National News* reports: “Iranian officials continue to threaten the United States, following the Trump administration’s announcement of new sanctions against the Islamic Republic.

On Monday, Iran’s Vice President Eshaq Jahangiri said that the ‘ultimate losers’ are those who result to the language of force in dealing with Iran.

Speaking upon his arrival at the country’s Abadan airport and quoted by the *IRNA* news agency, Jahangiri said Iran is never intimidated by threats, adding that governments or individuals who address Iran with the language of force will be the final losers.

‘The Islamic Republic of Iran always welcomes interaction but those rude who employ language of force will be the ultimate losers,’ he declared.

‘The Americans have chosen a wrong path these days and we hope that they will revise their approach and practice interaction,’ added Jahangiri...”

## **Pence warns Iran: Don’t test us**

February 5, 2017 -- *Israel National News* reports: “Vice President Mike Pence warned the Iranian regime against provoking the United States, advising the country’s Islamist government to halt all ‘hostile and belligerent actions’ towards America and its allies.

Speaking with *ABC News*’ George Stephanopoulos on Sunday, Pence suggested military options were on the table should Iran continue to provoke the United States and flagrantly violate restrictions on ballistic missiles tests.

‘Iran would do well not to test the resolve of this new president,’ said Pence, adding that Iran should ‘think twice about their continued hostile and belligerent actions.’

‘Iran should be standing up and be essentially working with the world community. But instead, what we see is this kind of belligerent and hostile behavior, defiant behavior to the world community.’

Should Iran continue to violate restrictions on its ballistic missile program and provoke the U.S., said Pence, the Trump administration would consider harsher measures, including military options, against Iran.

‘The President said everything is on the table,’ continued Pence...”