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## **Russia sends nuclear-capable bombers on mission near South Korea, Japan**

*August 24, 2017* Reuters reported: "Russian nuclear-capable strategic bombers have flown over the Pacific Ocean, the Sea of Japan, the Yellow Sea and the East China Sea, prompting Japan and South Korea to scramble jets to escort them, Russia said on Thursday.

Russia's Defence Ministry said in a statement the Tupolev-95MS bombers, code named 'Bears' by NATO, flew over neutral waters and were accompanied by Russian Sukhoi-35S fighter jets and A-50 early warning and control aircraft. It gave no details about the overall number of aircraft that had taken part in what it called a pre-arranged flight and did not say when or why the mission took place..."

## **In photos, North Korea signals a more powerful ICBM in the works**

*August 24, 2017* Reuters reported: "With photographs obliquely showing a new rocket design, North Korea has sent a message that it is working on an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) more powerful than any it has previously tested, weapons experts said on Thursday. If developed, such a missile could possibly reach any place on the U.S. mainland, including Washington and New York, they said.

North Korea's state media published photographs late on Wednesday of leader Kim Jong Un standing next to a diagram of a three-stage rocket it called the Hwasong-13.

Missile experts, who carefully examine such pictures for clues about North Korea's weapons programs, said there is no indication that the rocket has been fully developed. In any case, it had not been flight tested and it was impossible to calculate its potential range, they said.

However, a three-stage rocket would be more powerful than the two-stage Hwasong-14 ICBM tested on two occasions in July, they said. South Korean and U.S. officials and experts have said the Hwasong-14 possibly had a range of about 10,000 km (6,200 miles) and could strike many parts of the United States, but not the East Coast..."

## **North Korea chemical weapons said intercepted en route to Syria**

*August 23, 2017* timesofisrael.com reported: "Two shipments of North Korean chemical weapons bound for Syria have reportedly been intercepted by United Nations member states in the past six months.

The shipments bound for the Syrian government agency responsible for the country's chemical weapons program were detailed in a confidential UN report on North Korean sanctions violations submitted to the Security Council earlier this month, Reuters reported Monday.

'The panel is investigating reported prohibited chemical, ballistic missile and conventional arms cooperation between Syria and the DPRK (North Korea),' a panel of independent UN experts wrote in their 37-page report.

'Two member states interdicted shipments destined for Syria,' the experts said, adding that another member state had since informed the panel they believed the weapons were part of an arms contract between Damascus and North Korea's primary arms dealer, which has been subject to international sanctions since 2009.

'The consignees were Syrian entities designated by the European Union and the United States as front companies for Syria's Scientific Studies and Research Center (SSRC), a Syrian entity identified by the Panel as cooperating with KOMID in previous prohibited item transfers,' the experts wrote in their report to the Security Council..."

## **'We will not give up one grain of Al-Aqsa'**

*August 22, 2017* Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "The Supreme Islamic Council in Jerusalem is denying any religious or historical connection of the Jewish People to the Temple Mount, now calling the entire compound the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

A statement issued by the Council on Monday declared that the area of the Al-Aqsa Mosque covers 144 dunams and belongs exclusively to Muslims, according to the decision of Allah, since Muhammad's ascension to heaven and until judgment day.

'The Muslims will not give up one grain of the land (of the Al-Aqsa Mosque) because it is part of the faith of two billion Muslims worldwide, and without Muslims there is no connection to Al-Aqsa in the past or in the future, and there is no recognition of any right the Jewish people have to it,' the statement said.

'Al-Aqsa is more supreme than the decisions of the courts, governments, and the Zionist Knesset, and it is not subject to negotiations, bargaining, concessions or understandings of any kind,' the senior Muslim officials declared..."

## **Pakistani Christian boy faces death penalty for burning Quran**

*August 21, 2017* ChristianToday.com reported: "A Pakistani Christian boy faces a death sentence after he was arrested and charged with burning pages of the Quran. Asif Massih, 18, was taken into custody on August 12 after an alleged incident took place in Jam Kayk Chattha village, near the town of Wazirabad, in central Punjab province.

Police confirmed Massih is being charged under section 295-B of Pakistan's constitution that deems anyone who damages or desecrates the Quran punishable by death.

'He is in jail now,' local police official Muhammad Asghar at the Alipur Chattha police station told Al Jazeera.

'When the police took the suspect into custody and brought him to a police check-post, a crowd of around 200 men gathered outside... demanding the culprit be handed over to them,' another police official Pervaiz Iqbal told AFP news agency.



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### **'We will turn Afghanistan into American graveyard'**

*August 22, 2017* Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "The Taliban terror organization appeared unfazed after US President Trump's speech Monday night in Fort Myers, Virginia, where he outlined a new US strategy with respect to Afghanistan and South Asia.

While Trump acknowledged that his original instinct was to pull US forces out of Afghanistan, he said that he now realizes that the US cannot repeat in Afghanistan the same mistake it made in Iraq.

Calling terrorists 'losers,' he emphasized that he instead intended to employ a 'fight to win' strategy which would include ratcheting up the fight against the Taliban in Afghanistan.

'I've said many times how counterproductive it is for the United States to announce in advance the dates we intend to begin, or end, military operations. We will not talk about numbers of troops or our plans for further military activities,' he had said, stressing that 'Conditions on the ground, not arbitrary time tables, will guide our strategy from now on.'

'We will fight to win,' he asserted. 'From now on, victory will have a clear definition: attacking our enemies, obliterating ISIS, crushing al-Qaeda, preventing the Taliban from taking over the country, and stopping mass terror attacks against Americans before they emerge.'

In response, the Taliban released a statement indicating that it was undeterred, threatening to turn Afghanistan into a 'graveyard' for the US.

'If America doesn't withdraw its troops from Afghanistan, soon Afghanistan will become another graveyard for this superpower in the 21st century,' Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid said on Tuesday..."

### **Europe's cities face threat of 'sleeper' extremists**

*August 20, 2017* SkyNews.com reported: "Europe's cities have had to get used to the fact that, of late, the terror threat they face has increased both in size and complexity. The atrocities in Barcelona and Cambrils are the latest examples of this.

The continent's police and security agencies have long known that the demise of the so-called Islamic State would signal an increase in the tempo of attacks, and definitely not an end to the threat of Islamist extremists.

Three attacks in the UK in as many months were the first indication of the nightmare scenario they feared; that the leaders of this rapidly disintegrating so-called caliphate would compel their footsoldiers to launch attacks across the West.

After all, the model for this kind of scenario played out more than a decade ago, when the most feared terror group at that time, al Qaeda, felt the full wrath of coalition airstrikes and ground operations.

Al Qaeda's leaders urged their followers to strike back – and they duly did, launching attacks in London in 2005 and here in Spain in the capital, Madrid, a year earlier.

For the security services, the complicating factor this time around is not just that IS has fully trained killing machines who have trodden the battlefields of Syria and Iraq.

The terror group has an even larger army of 'sleeper' extremists in towns and cities across the European continent and beyond. Most of these radicalised individuals – 3,500 in the UK alone – have never even been to the Middle East. They learned their deadly craft online..."

### **Hamas camp trains children for 'liberation of Palestine'**

*August 20, 2017* Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "Hamas held a closing ceremony in Gaza on Friday for 120,000 boys and girls attending the terrorist group's summer schools, AFP reports. The ceremony, for some 1,000 students who took part in camps in the southern city of Khan Yunis, was framed as part of the group's plan to continue its armed conflict with Israel.

Boys between 15 and 18 years of age were put through military drills at the week-long camp, including shooting with live ammunition and training in scouting skills. Hamas official Ashraf Abu Zayed said the training came within the framework of 'preparing for the liberation of Palestine'.

'We are trying to invest the younger generation and guide them towards the liberation project,' he told AFP, referring to armed struggle against Israel.

Hamas's so-called 'military wing', the Izz Al-Din Al-Qassam Brigades, regularly trains children at its camps on military skills, such as use of weapons, and also simulates the kidnapping of Israeli soldiers..."

### **North Korea warns of 'merciless strike' ahead of US-South Korea drills**

*August 20, 2017* CNN reported: "North Korea warned Sunday that the upcoming US-South Korea military exercises are 'reckless behavior driving the situation into the uncontrollable phase of a nuclear war.'

Pyongyang also declared that its army can target the United States anytime, and neither Guam, Hawaii nor the US mainland can 'dodge the merciless strike.'

The messages in Rodong Sinmun, the official government newspaper, come a day before the US starts the Ulchi Freedom Guardian military exercises with South Korea..."

