



# PROPHETIC TIMES

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## **PA officials: We defeated Israel over Al-Aqsa**

*July 27, 2017* Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "Palestinian Arabs are celebrating Israel's removal of security measures on the Temple Mount as a 'victory.' On Monday night, the Security Cabinet decided to remove the metal detectors from the Temple Mount and the detectors were subsequently taken down, along with the existing security cameras on the Mount.

The Cabinet declared that it would instead install 'smart check' monitoring technology, which doesn't require physical checks, on the Mount within the next six months, and allocated a budget of up to 100 million shekels for this purpose.

On Wednesday night, newly-installed railings and scaffolding where cameras were previously mounted were removed from the entrance to the compound. The removal of the railings was one of the demands raised by the Waqf, the Jordanian trust which manages Muslim sites on the Temple Mount, to end the crisis..."

## **Violence breaks out in Jerusalem as Muslim worshippers throw stones at Western Wall**

*July 27, 2017* dailymail.co.uk reported: "Israeli police fired tear gas, rubber bullets and stun grenades at Palestinians following a dispute over a holy site in Jerusalem. Muslim worshippers retaliated by throwing stones at the Western Wall following days of intense violence in Jerusalem's Old City.



Fighting erupted shortly after Palestinians rushed to pray at the Al-Aqsa Mosque, which was reopened following an 11-day boycott by Muslims over Israeli security measures.

The head of the Arab League warned Thursday that Israeli attempts to control highly sensitive religious sites in Jerusalem by force risk igniting a 'religious war'.

The Red Crescent said tensions rose when Israeli troops closed one of the gates to the Haram al-Sharif compound, known to Jews as Temple Mount, as large numbers of worshippers tried to enter. The aid charity went on to say 37 Palestinians were wounded, including some by rubber bullets and beatings, and that several people suffered broken bones.

The mosque had been at the center of an Israeli-Palestinian standoff over recent Israeli security installations including metal detectors and surveillance cameras, which Israel has since removed. Israel installed the new security devices at the shrine after Israeli Arabs shot and killed two police officers from within the site.

Palestinians viewed the move as an attempt by Israel to assert further control over the site, which houses the revered Al-Aqsa mosque and the Dome of the Rock. They had been praying in Jerusalem's streets outside the shrine to protest the security measures taken since the July 14 attack.

Israel is 'playing with fire and will only ignite a religious war and shift the core of the conflict from politics to religion,' warned Arab League chief Ahmed Abul Gheit..."

## **Erdogan urges all Muslims to 'visit' and 'protect' Jerusalem**

*July 26, 2017* Arutz Sheva 7 reported: Israel National News reports: "Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Tuesday urged all Muslims to 'visit' and 'protect' Jerusalem.

'From here I make a call to all Muslims. Anyone who has the opportunity should visit Jerusalem, Al-Aqsa mosque,' Erdogan said in Ankara. 'Come, let's all protect Jerusalem.'

'They are attempting to take the mosque from Muslim hands on the pretext of fighting terrorism. There is no other explanation,' Erdogan said in a speech to ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) lawmakers in parliament. He said Israel's legitimacy rested on the extent of the respect it showed to Palestinian Arabs and their rights..."

## **Sweden plans large joint military exercise with NATO**

*July 25, 2017* spacedaily.com reported: "The Swedish military has released a statement announcing plans to hold its largest joint military exercise in years with NATO members this September. The exercise will be labeled Aurora 17 and will involve land, air, and sea elements of the Swedish military and participating NATO members. It will count over 19,000 Swedish personnel and 40 government agencies, 1,435 troops from the U.S. and smaller contingents from France, Finland, Denmark, Norway, Lithuania and Estonia.

"Through frequent and extensive training and exercise, especially with other defense forces, Sweden is strengthening its deterrence effect and makes it more credible," the statement said..."

Since the Russia intrusion into Crimea and meddling in other countries in the region there has been an increasing need for Sweden's involvement in NATO.

## **World Council of Churches Sends Message of Support For Palestinian 'Campaign For Jerusalem'**

*July 25, 2017* Breitbart.com reported: "The World Council of Churches (WCC) officially endorsed the Palestinian 'campaign for Jerusalem,' saying that Israel's recent move installing additional security measures at the Temple Mount following a terror attack there was a 'corrosive act in the midst of an already-fragile peace.'



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'Keeping the historical status quo and supporting equal rights for Christians, Muslims and Jews at these holy sites is vitally important to maintaining peace and de-escalating violence,' said Fr. Ioan Sauca, acting general secretary of the WCC.

'Denying access to holy sites for thousands of people who have traveled far to pray is not only a violation of the rights of those individuals, but also a corrosive act in the midst of an already-fragile peace,' Fr. Sauca said.

Far from 'denying access' to the Temple Mount, Israel decided to install metal detectors at the entrance to the holy site after Arab terrorists smuggled guns there on July 14 and embarked on a shooting spree that claimed the lives of two Druze-Israeli police officers. The Palestinian leadership, however, claimed the additional security measures were part of an Israeli attempt to change the status quo on the Temple Mount and called on all Muslims to take to the streets and riot..."

### **North Korea could cross ICBM threshold next year, U.S. officials warn in new assessment**

*July 25, 2017* The Washington Post reported: "North Korea will be able to field a reliable, nuclear-capable intercontinental ballistic missile as early as next year. U.S. officials have concluded in a confidential assessment that dramatically shrinks the timeline for when Pyongyang could strike North American cities with atomic weapons.

The new assessment by the Pentagon's Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), which shaves a full two years off the consensus forecast for North Korea's ICBM program, was prompted by recent missile tests showing surprising technical advances by the country's weapons scientists, at a pace beyond which many analysts believed was possible for the isolated communist regime.

The U.S. projection closely mirrors revised predictions by South Korean intelligence officials, who also have watched with growing alarm as North Korea has appeared to master key technologies needed to loft a warhead toward targets thousands of miles away.

The finding further increases the pressure on U.S. and Asian leaders to halt North Korea's progress before it can threaten the world with nuclear-tipped missiles. President Trump, during his visit to Poland earlier this month, vowed to confront Pyongyang "very strongly" to stop its missile advances.

The DIA has concluded that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un will be able to produce a "reliable, nuclear-capable ICBM" program sometime in 2018, meaning that by next year the program will have advanced from prototype to assembly line, according to officials familiar with the document. Already, the aggressive testing regime put in place in recent months has allowed North Korea to validate its basic designs, putting it within a few months of starting industrial production, the officials said.

One of the few remaining technical hurdles is the challenge of atmospheric "reentry" — the ability to design a missile that can pass through the upper atmosphere without damage to the warhead. Long regarded as a formidable technological barrier for impoverished North Korea, that milestone could be reached, beginning with new tests expected to take place within days, U.S. analysts said. U.S. officials have detected signs that North Korea is making final preparations for testing a new reentry vehicle, perhaps as early as Thursday, a North Korean national holiday marking the end of the Korean War.

"They're on track to do that, essentially this week," said a U.S. official familiar with the intelligence report who, like others, insisted on anonymity to discuss sensitive military assessments."..."

### **Iran, Iraq vow to boost military ties**

*July 24, 2017* timesofisrael.com reported: "Iran and Iraq on Sunday signed deals aimed at boosting military cooperation during a visit by Baghdad's Defense Minister Irfan al-Hayali to Tehran. In a memorandum of understanding signed by Hayali and his Iranian counterpart Hossein Dehghan, the neighbors agreed on a 'wide range of military and defense cooperation' including the 'fight against terrorism and extremism,' state news agency IRNA reported.

Hayali, who was leading a military delegation, also met separately with parliament speaker Ali Larijani and Ali Shamkhani, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council. Larijani and Shamkhani emphasized the importance of 'unity.'

'Iran supports the unity of all groups and ethnicities in Iraq,' the state broadcaster's website quoted Larijani as telling Hayali..."

### **In Jerusalem, some Muslims warn religious war is imminent, others say it's begun**

*July 24, 2017* timesofisrael.com reported: "As if they were in a mosque, thousands of men and women sitting along the walls of the Old City of Jerusalem took their shoes off late Friday morning. Others kept them on.

Squished into the narrow space between the Lions Gate and the entrance to the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, they would not dare cross through the metal detectors placed there by Israel last week, following a shooting attack at the holy site, in which three Arab Israelis emerged from the compound and shot dead two policemen who were on duty here.

A week later, since Israel had barred men below 50-years-old from entering the Old City, only a few young men roamed through the crowd — overwhelmingly locals of the walled city — handing out cold water. Women of all ages were allowed in...

Until this Friday, Jerusalemite Abid Alfkawi, 72, didn't think the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians had slipped into a battle between religions. But Israel's installation of metal detectors at the Temple Mount compound — a change to the status quo, say Muslim leaders; a self-evidently necessary security measure, says Israel — has changed that, he said. Now he believes the conflict is entering a new chapter."..."

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