



PROPHETIC TIMES

January 1998

The Weekly Reader of World News

December 14, 2024

Report: Syrian Rebels Execute Opponents, Impose Sharia, Threaten Kurds

December 12, 2024 **breitbart.com** reported: Syrian rebels who overthrew the dictatorship of Bashar al-Assad on Sunday are reportedly executing their opponents, imposing Islamic *sharia* law, and threatening non-Muslim minorities, including the Kurdish population in the north.

Videos are circulating on social media showing Syrian rebels killing people associated with the regime — some of whom may have been part of the state security services, and others who appear to have been ordinary employees...

One video also shows thousands of smashed bottles of liquor at the duty-free store of the Damascus airport, where Islamist rebels apparently enforced the Islamic ban on alcohol by force, as Islamists did in Lebanon in the 1980s. In addition, Islamist rebels, backed by Turkey, have been threatening Kurdish communities, backed by the U.S..."

Britain, France and Germany urge Iran to halt 'nuclear escalation'

December 11, 2024 **spacewar.com** reported: "Britain, France and Germany on Tuesday pressed Iran to 'immediately halt its nuclear escalation' after the UN nuclear watchdog reported Tehran had sharply stepped-up uranium enrichment activity.

'We, the governments of France, Germany and the United Kingdom, condemn Iran's latest steps... to expand its nuclear programme,' the three countries said in a joint statement.

Iran has revamped an enrichment plant at Fordo, south of Tehran, according to an International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) report seen by AFP. The changes would 'significantly increase the rate of production of uranium enriched up to 60 percent', the IAEA said — on its way to the 90 percent needed to make a nuclear weapon.

Berlin, London and Paris, who along with the United States have held talks with Iran said they 'strongly urge Iran to reverse these steps, and to immediately halt its nuclear escalation'.

They recalled that their diplomats had met the Iranians in Geneva last week to discuss the country's nuclear programme 'and reiterated their commitment to dialogue and constructive behaviour'. Iran insists on its right to nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and has consistently denied any ambition of developing weapons capability..."

Russia could deploy hypersonic missiles in Belarus, Putin says

December 10, 2024 **spacewar.com** reported: "Russia could deploy its newly developed hypersonic Oreshnik missiles in Belarus next year as it begins to ramp up their production, President Vladimir Putin said on Friday.

Putin unveiled the nuclear-capable weapon last month after using it to strike the city of Dnipro in central Ukraine, sharply escalating tensions in the almost three-year-long conflict.

'As for the possibility of deploying, to put it bluntly, such formidable weapons as Oreshnik on Belarusian territory... it will become possible, I think, in the second half of next year,' Putin said in a televised meeting with Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko in Minsk.

He said this would happen as 'serial production' of the missile is 'ramped up in Russia'. Russia had already deployed tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus in 2023.

Experts believe the new missile flies at 10 times the speed of sound and may be able to strike targets up to 5,500 kilometres (3,400 miles) away..."



Taiwan military on high alert as China warships sail near island

December 8, 2024 spacewar.com reported: “Taiwan said its military was on high alert as Chinese warships sailed near the island on Monday, preparing for a strong response from China to President Lai Ching-te’s stopovers in the United States. Taiwan said it had also detected Chinese coast guard vessels and that Beijing’s People’s Liberation Army (PLA) had restricted the airspace off the Chinese coast.

‘In response to these actions by the PLA, the MND has initiated combat readiness drills, factoring in enemy threats, weather conditions, and tactical positioning,’ the Ministry of National Defense in Taipei said in a statement. It added that military units were on ‘high’ alert.

The ministry said its forces had ‘identified PLA Eastern, Northern, and Southern Theater Command naval formations, along with Coast Guard vessels, entering areas around the Taiwan Strait and the Western Pacific’.

There has been intense speculation about the possibility of China launching military drills in response to Lai’s trip to the Pacific that included stopovers in Hawaii and Guam.

There was no immediate public announcement by the PLA or Chinese state media about increased military activity around Taiwan.

However, a foreign ministry spokeswoman in Beijing said China would ‘firmly defend’ its sovereignty in response to the Taiwanese drills...”

Assad offered asylum in Russia after rebels topple Syria regime

December 8, 2024 telegraph.co.uk reported: “Bashar al-Assad, the butcher of Damascus, fled to Moscow and was granted asylum on “humanitarian grounds” after rebels took control of the Syrian capital in a lightning offensive. Russian state media said Assad and his family had arrived in the capital on Sunday night after his palace was looted and thousands of his prisoners liberated in a swift end to his family’s decades of rule.

In Assad’s wake, Israel seized territory on the border and bombed military targets amid fears over the growing power of the Islamist rebels now controlling large parts of Syria.

Damascus, the Syrian capital, fell to an alliance led by the rebel group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) in the early hours of Sunday morning, ending a 13-year civil war that has killed more than half a million people.

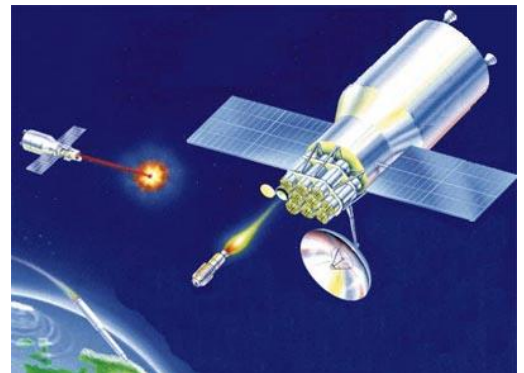
Mohammad al-Jolani, the leader of HTS, said he would work with Assad’s former prime minister to ensure an orderly transition of power, before proclaiming victory in a speech at the city’s ancient mosque. World leaders welcomed the fall of Assad but expressed caution about HTS. Assad has not been seen since, but Russian agencies reported that Moscow’s special forces had evacuated him on a military aircraft.

“Assad and members of his family have arrived in Moscow,” a source told the Tass news agency. “Russia granted them asylum on humanitarian grounds...”

US Military Alarmed by Russian Nuclear Weapon Platform in Orbit

December 7, 2024 futurism.com reported: “A Russian spacecraft launched higher than most satellites has long had the Pentagon worried — and new revelations about what it contains have made those concerns all the greater.

Launched in February 2022 just a few weeks before Ukraine was invaded, Russia's Cosmos 2553 spacecraft is nominally built to test out "newly developed onboard instruments and systems." According to new reporting from the *New York Times*, however, the mysterious satellite system contains a "dummy warhead" — a precursor of what could come should the Russians decide to arm the craft for real. As scary as the concept of a space nuke sounds, it wouldn't necessarily harm life on Earth — unless you consider eliminating all satellites in its vicinity harm, in which case the people down on the planet below would be seriously screwed...”



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