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US approves \$11.1 billion arms package for Taiwan, largest ever

December 18, 2025 **jpost** reported: “The United States on Wednesday approved \$11.1 billion in arms sales to Taiwan, the largest ever US weapons package for the island, which is under increasing military pressure from China.

The Taiwan arms sale announcement is the second under US President Donald Trump’s current administration, and comes as Beijing ramps up its military and diplomatic pressure against Taiwan, whose government rejects Beijing’s sovereignty claims.

The proposed arms sale covers eight items, including HIMARS rocket systems, howitzers, Javelin anti-tank missiles, Altius loitering munition drones, and parts for other equipment, Taiwan’s defense ministry said in a statement.

‘The United States continues to assist Taiwan in maintaining sufficient self-defence capabilities and in rapidly building strong deterrent power and leveraging asymmetric warfare advantages, which form the foundation for maintaining regional peace and stability,’ it added...”

Former IDF commander calls for preemptive strikes to prevent future threats

December 17, 2025 **israelnationalnews** reported: “Former IDF Major General Noam Tibon, ex-commander of Judea and Samaria and the Northern Corps and currently a member of the Yesh Atid party, spoke this morning (Wednesday) on *Radio 103FM* about Israel’s security policy.

‘The security approach I have long advocated is simple: since October 7, we cannot pursue a policy of containment,’ Tibon said. He criticized the government’s approach, arguing that ‘Netanyahu’s reckless policy allowed Iran to build a ring of fire around us. What threatens us must be struck.’

Tibon stressed that if Iran resumes activity that endangers Israel, the country must act preemptively. ‘If Iran becomes active in a way that threatens the State of Israel, it must be attacked before it becomes a direct threat,’ he said. He called for adopting a strategy of preventive war to stop threats from gaining strength near Israel’s borders. ‘The security concept I promote must include preventive action, to prevent monsters from growing next to our border and to ensure that nothing like October 7 ever happens again,’ he explained...”



Major General Noam Tibon

‘Iran will go nuclear as soon as it gets the chance’ Mossad Chief Barnea warns

December 17, 2025 **jpost.com** reported: “Mossad Director David Barnea said on Tuesday that Iran ‘has not abandoned its aspiration to destroy the State of Israel,’ speaking at a Mossad excellence awards ceremony at the President’s Residence in Jerusalem on Tuesday night. He warned that Tehran would ‘surge forward’ the moment circumstances allow and cautioned against attempts to advance another ‘bad’ nuclear agreement.

‘The ayatollahs’ regime woke up in a moment to discover that Iran is exposed and thoroughly penetrated, yet Iran has not given up its aspiration to destroy the State of Israel,’ Barnea said. He spoke during a ceremony honoring Mossad employees for their unique contributions and exceptional work for Israel’s security. ‘Iran believes it can deceive the world again and realize another bad nuclear agreement,’ he continued...”

Hezbollah violated ceasefire nearly 2,000 times in past year

December 16, 2025 **israelnationalnews.com** reported: “The Hezbollah terrorist organization violated the ceasefire with Israel 1,925 times over the past year, including 350 violations that went unanswered by both the IDF and the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF), Galei Tzahal military correspondent Doron Kadosh reported on Tuesday.

The violations included the establishment of ammunition storage facilities, weapons manufacturing activities, and operational efforts by terrorists aimed at strengthening and rebuilding Hezbollah’s military capabilities.

Israel submitted 875 enforcement requests to the US-led ceasefire enforcement mechanism. The LAF addressed approximately two-thirds of those cases, handling 575 violations, a level of enforcement Israel considers insufficient. In addition, the IDF independently responded to 90 violations that were not addressed by the LAF..."

40 countries to discuss international force in Gaza, without Israel

December 16, 2025 israelnationalnews.com reported: "The United States Central Command (CENTCOM) will hold a special conference on Tuesday in Qatar to formulate a list of countries that will make up the International Stabilization Force (ISF), which will operate in the Gaza Strip as part of the second stage of President Donald Trump's peace plan. Representatives of 40 nations, mostly military officials, will participate in the meeting.

Kan News reported that the conference will be attended by countries that have already expressed willingness to send troops to Gaza and those that are still on the fence. Among the expected participants: Indonesia, Pakistan, Azerbaijan, Egypt, Turkey, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, as well as several European nations. The meeting will also discuss defining the ISF's mission and whether the forces will operate in Hamas-controlled territories to disarm the terror organization or only in areas controlled by Israel..."

Sydney gunmen identified as father and son, reportedly possessed ISIS flag

December 15, 2025 timesofisrael.com reported: "The gunmen in the terror attack that targeted a Hanukkah celebration at Sydney's Bondi Beach, killing at least 15, have been identified by authorities as Naveed Akram, 24, and his father Sajid, 50. The son was investigated in 2019 — reportedly over ties to ISIS — but was cleared after six months, officials said.

The two men's identities and histories were publicized as Australia, its Jewish community and the wider Jewish world continued to grapple with the fallout from the attack, which was one of Australia's bloodiest shootings in history and the deadliest antisemitic massacre outside Israel since October 7, 2023. According to Australia's *ABC* outlet, both gunmen are believed to have pledged allegiance to the ISIS terror group.

An official from the country's Joint Counter Terrorism Team told the outlet that an ISIS flag had been found in their car close to the attack, and police said Sunday that an improvised explosive device was found in a car linked to one of the attackers..."

NATO chief says a joint plan to end Ukraine war would 'test' Putin



NATO Chief Mark Rutte

December 15, 2025 spacewar.com reported: "NATO chief Mark Rutte said Thursday that if the United States and Europeans could agree on a plan to end the war in Ukraine, this would be a 'test' of whether Russia 'really wants peace'.

'So far, (Russian President Vladimir) Putin has only played the peacemaker when it suits him, to buy time to continue his war,' Rutte said in a speech in Berlin. US President Donald Trump 'wants to end the bloodshed now' and is 'the only one who can get Putin to the negotiating table', Rutte said. 'So, let's put Putin to the test. Let's see if he really wants peace, or if he prefers the slaughter to continue.'

Ukrainian officials on Wednesday said they had sent Washington an updated plan for ending Russia's invasion, building on a 28-point proposal made by US President Donald Trump last month. The original plan, which involved Ukraine surrendering land that Russia has not captured, was seen by Kyiv and its European allies as caving into too many of Russia's hardline demands..."

UK's new military chief to stress Russian threat in speech

December 15, 2025 spacewar.com reported: "The new head of Britain's armed forces will call for 'national resilience' in the face of growing threats, particularly Russia's stated determination to destroy NATO, the defence ministry said Sunday. 'The situation is more dangerous than I have known during my career and the response requires more than simply strengthening our armed forces,' Richard Knighton, chief of the defence staff, is expected to say in a speech Monday, according to a ministry statement.

'A new era for defence doesn't just mean our military and government stepping up — as we are — it means our whole nation stepping up.' To that end, he will announce pound 50 million (\$67 million) in funding for new 'Defence Technical Excellence Colleges' to help defence employers train up staff. Knighton is also expected to speak about Russia's invasion of Ukraine and its threat to NATO..."

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