



PROPHETIC TIMES

January, 1998

Weekly Reader of World News

August 8, 2020

Radical cleric: Al-Aqsa will return to Muslims

August 5, 2020 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: “Sheikh Raed Salah, the leader of the Islamic Movement in Israel, said on Tuesday that despite the painful situation of the Islamic nation, he is convinced that it will soon rise, stand on its feet and shout: ‘We respond to the call of the Al-Aqsa Mosque.’”



Al-Aqsa Mosque

In a videotaped message on the occasion of the Muslim Eid al-Adha holiday, Sheikh Salah said that the Al-Aqsa Mosque sends calls for help to the Islamic Nation. ‘When will the shouts of praise to Allah for patience (in the fight) become the shouts of praise to Allah for the victory that heralds the departure of the occupation?’ Salah asked.

Sheikh Salah added that, despite the difficult situation, there are also positive signs, chief among them the return of sovereignty over the Hagia Sophia mosque in Turkey, which means that Muslim sovereignty over the Al-Aqsa Mosque will also return.

Salah has been arrested by Israel several times in the past on charges of incitement. The radical cleric served a nine-month jail sentence after being convicted of encouraging violent attacks and inciting racism in a 2007 sermon...”

Beirut explosion: Dozens still missing as death toll rises

August 4, 2020 jpost.com reported: “Over 100 people have died and 4,000 people were injured as search and rescue efforts continued on Wednesday after a massive explosion at a warehouse at Beirut’s port shook Lebanon’s capital on Tuesday.

The death toll is expected to rise as dozens of people are still missing in rubble throughout the city.

Multiple videos from the area showed a plume of smoke rising near the coastline and then a large blast and shock wave that shattered windows and damaged buildings and vehicles throughout the capital.

Video and pictures from the scene show windows blown out and debris strewn in buildings and streets throughout Lebanon’s capital. Some buildings in the area collapsed and emergency forces rushed to rescue those trapped in the rubble. Electrical outages were reported throughout the city, hampering search and rescue efforts.

‘What we are witnessing is a huge catastrophe,’ the head of Lebanon’s Red Cross George Kettani told broadcaster Al-Mayadeen. ‘There are victims and casualties everywhere – in all the streets and areas near and far from the explosion.’

Hospitals in the capital were overwhelmed with the injured and began treating people in hallways and transferring other wounded people to locations outside of Beirut. Fatalities, injuries and damage were reported on streets and in buildings throughout Beirut...”

UN report: North Korea pressing on with its nuclear program

August 4, 2020 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: “North Korea is pressing on with its nuclear weapons program and several countries believe it has ‘probably developed miniaturized nuclear devices to fit into the warheads of its ballistic missiles,’ according to a confidential UN report seen by the *Reuters* news agency on Monday.

The report by an independent panel of experts monitoring UN sanctions said the countries, which it did not identify, believed North Korea’s past six nuclear tests had likely helped it develop miniaturized nuclear devices. Pyongyang has not conducted a nuclear test since September 2017.

The interim report was submitted to the 15-member UN Security Council North Korea sanctions committee on Monday, according to *Reuters*.

‘The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea is continuing its nuclear program, including the production of highly enriched uranium and construction of an experimental light water reactor. A Member State assessed that the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea is continuing production of nuclear weapons,’ the report said...”

Israel strikes Syria in response to attempted terrorist attack

August 4, 2020 jpost.com reported: “The IDF carried out airstrikes against targets belonging to the Syrian military in southern Syria on Monday night, in response to an attempted terrorist attack that was thwarted along the Syrian border the night before.

IDF aircraft, including fighter jets and helicopters, carried out the strikes, according to the IDF Spokesperson's Unit. The targets hit in the strikes included lookout points, intelligence gathering mechanisms, anti-aircraft weapons and means of control and command at Syrian military bases.

'The IDF sees the Syrian regime as responsible for all operations carried out in its territory and will continue to act with determination against all attacks on the sovereignty of the State of Israel,' the IDF said in a statement.

Syrian air defenses responded to 'enemy targets' southwest of Damascus on Monday night, according to Syrian state news agency SANA..."

Jordan reiterates to Israel; Al-Aqsa is a place for Muslim worship only

August 3, 2020 jpost.com reported: "The Kingdom of Jordan has requested that Israel 'respect the sanctity' of the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem and the status quo, after it recently reopened to Muslim worshippers following a two-month hiatus amid coronavirus lockdowns.

According to Jordan's official news agency Petra, 'the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates has sent Israel, via diplomatic channels, a memo calling on Tel Aviv as an occupying power to respect the sanctity of Al-Aqsa Mosque/Al Haram Al Sharif, and end all provocations and violations there.'

The ministry's spokesperson Deifallah al-Fayez condemned the 'continued Israeli violations,' the most recent example given being the 'Israeli occupation forces allowing hundreds of Jewish extremists to storm the mosque' on Tisha B'Av..."

Senior official: 'If Hezbollah attacks, we'll see unusual action from IDF against Lebanon'

July 31, 2020 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "Defense Minister Benny Gantz (Blue and White) on Thursday ordered the IDF to prepare a response targeting Lebanon, in case Hezbollah harms IDF soldiers or Israeli citizens, *Israel Hayom* reported.

According to the report, the IDF was ordered to destroy Lebanon's infrastructure in the case of a Hezbollah attack on Israel.

A senior security source told *Israel Hayom*: 'The instruction was given during internal discussions held by Gantz yesterday, in which IDF Chief of Staff Aviv Kochavi and top IDF commanders participated.'

'In these discussions, Kochavi presented the IDF's stance on the issue, according to which the responsibility for Hezbollah's expected response and for its consequences should be placed not just on the organization, but also on the country of Lebanon and its government.'

'If the terror organization attempts to carry out an additional attack, we will see unusual actions on the part of the IDF, against [Hezbollah] and the country of Lebanon.'..."

India uses arrival of new fighter jets to warn China

July 31, 2020 spacedaily.com reported: "The first five Rafale fighter jets bought from France in a multi-billion-dollar deal landed in India on Wednesday, and the defence minister used their arrival to launch a veiled warning to neighbouring China over territorial tensions.

A water-cannon guard of honour greeted the five jets when they landed at the Ambala air base in Haryana state.

India has bought 36 Rafale fighters from France in a deal estimated to be worth \$9.4 billion. All are scheduled to be delivered by the end of 2021.

An intense nationwide spotlight on the combat jets has been sharpened by a deadly border standoff with China.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed the jets with a tweet in Sanskrit: 'There is no sacrifice like the national defence; there is no good deed like the national defence; there is no practice like national defence.'

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said the arrival of the fighter jets marked 'the beginning of a new era in our military history'.

The jets will make the Indian Air Force 'much stronger to deter any threat that may be posed on our country', he added in a series of tweets..."



French Rafale Fighter

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