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NASA chief warns of Chinese military presence in space

April 18, 2024 voanews.com reported: “China is bolstering its space capabilities and is using its civilian program to mask its military objectives, the head of the U.S. space agency said Wednesday, warning that Washington must remain vigilant.

‘China has made extraordinary strides especially in the last 10 years, but they are very, very secretive,’ NASA administrator Bill Nelson told lawmakers on Capitol Hill.

‘We believe that a lot of their so-called civilian space program is a military program. And I think, in effect, we are in a race,’ Nelson said.

He said he hoped Beijing would ‘come to its senses and understand that civilian space is for peaceful uses,’ but added: ‘We have not seen that demonstrated by China.’

Nelson’s comment came as he testified before the House Appropriations Committee on NASA’s budget for fiscal 2025...”

Jordan says won’t become ‘theatre of war’ between Israel and Iran

April 17, 2024 spacewar.com reported: “When Iran attacked Israel at the weekend, Jordan intercepted multiple missiles and drones, but King Abdullah II has stressed his country must not become ‘the theatre of a regional war’.

If the Gaza war raging since October 7 has created tough challenges for Jordan, it now faces the additional threat of being literally stuck in the middle of a widening Israel-Iran conflict.

Jordan, about half of whose population is of Palestinian origin, is also a close US ally and signed a peace treaty with neighbouring Israel 30 years ago.

Amid the half-year-old Gaza war, Jordan’s king has repeatedly voiced strong criticism of Israel and directed his military to fly daily food airdrops to help besieged Palestinians.

A strong supporter of the Palestinian cause, the monarch has described Jordan’s relationship with Israel as a ‘cold peace’.

Then, last weekend, Jordan was among a group of nations, also including the United States, Britain and France, that helped Israel shoot down missiles, rockets and attack drones launched by Iran and its allies at Israel.

Jordan stressed its aim was to safeguard its own sovereignty rather than defend Israel...”

Iran-Russia alliance deepens as Moscow backs Tehran’s attack on Israel

April 17, 2024 ynetnews.com reported: “While many Western leaders rushed to issue statements supporting Israel and condemning Iran’s unprecedented attack, Russia took the opposite approach, justifying the massive attack on several occasions. President Vladimir Putin remained silent on the attack, but Russia’s ambassador to the United Nations, Vasily Nebenzya, justified the Iranian action, criticized Israel and used the entire issue to accuse Western countries of ‘bias.’

Maria Zakharova, a spokeswoman for the Russian Foreign Ministry, harshly attacked Israel’s ambassador in Moscow, Simona Halperin, for demanding Russia condemn the Iranian attack on Israel. In recent days, Russia’s state media outlets have expressed strong criticism against Israel and expressed support for Iran.

One media personality, Sergey Mardan, said on a program aired on Russian state radio that ‘Russia supports the Iranian attack on Israel because the Iranians are military partners of Russia.’

He also expressed hope that Iran would succeed in shooting down Israeli fighter jets. All of this is not just happening randomly, but serves as a demonstration of the significant importance Russia currently places on its relations with Tehran, with a focus on strengthening security and military ties...”

‘No longer a shadow war’: Iran says attack on Israel marks strategic shift

April 16, 2024 spacewar.com reported: “Iran’s missile and drone barrage against Israel was the first act of a tough new strategy, Tehran says, warning arch foe Israel that any future attack will spark ‘a direct and punishing response’.



NASA Administrator Bill Nelson

This spells a dramatic shift from past years in which the Islamic republic and Israel have fought a shadow war of proxy fights and covert operations across the Middle East and sometimes further afield.

Iran from late Saturday launched hundreds of drones and missiles, including from its own territory, directly at Israel, to retaliate for a deadly April 1 strike on Iran's consulate in Damascus.

Israel's military said it intercepted 99 percent of the aerial threats with the help of the United States and other allies, and that the overnight attack caused only minor damage.

Iran said it had dealt 'heavy blows' to Israel and hailed the operation as 'successful'.

'Iran's victorious... operation means that the era of strategic patience is over,' the Iranian president's political deputy, Mohammad Jamshidi wrote on X..."

Hezbollah flag flies, US flag burns as calls for death to US sound at NYC protest

April 16, 2024 jpost.com reported: "The US flag was set on fire to calls of 'Death to America' during the pro-Palestinian worldwide protest in New York City on Monday, according to footage released by journalists, activists, and pro-Palestinian organizations.



The American flag of a counter-protester was set on fire and had to be put out by nearby police officers, according to footage published by the independent journalist going by the handle Luis Documents.

Moments after the fire was extinguished, a masked man emerged from the crowd to scream 'Death to America.' The same man has also been seen in a Frontlines Turning Point USA video shouting 'Death to America, death to Israel.'

A protester burned another American flag in front of Borough Hall as demonstrators chanted 'Shut it down,' according to a video published by journalist Katie Smith..."

'Al-Quds will be in the hands of the Muslims' – Ayatollah Khamenei tweets in Hebrew

April 15, 2024 jpost.com reported: "Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Hussein Khamenei, wrote a message in Hebrew saying, 'Holy Al-Quds will be in the hands of the Muslims, and the Muslim world will celebrate the liberation of Palestine,' on his X account on Sunday.

The tweet in Hebrew was written by the supreme leader of Iran above footage of missiles and drones that were intercepted in the sky over Temple Mount in Jerusalem. In the documentation, dozens of interceptions of missiles launched from Iran are seen last night and an alarm sound can be heard in the background.

The tweet comes following Iran's historic barrage against Israel, ending a four-decade long shadow war between the two countries. The barrage contained around 350 drones and missiles..."

IDF Spokesman Hagari: 'Iran launched 60 tons of warheads and explosives at Israel'

April 15, 2024 israelnationalnews reported: "IDF Spokesman Daniel Hagari held a press conference on Sunday during which he discussed the Iranian attack on Israel and the continuation of the war in Gaza.

'Last night a defense coalition of Israel and its international partners successfully thwarted a large-scale attack from Iran,' Hagari opened his statements.

'Iran and its proxies launched approximately 350 suicide drones, cruise missiles, and ballistic missiles and rockets from Iran, Iraq, Yemen, and Hezbollah in Lebanon towards Israel, with approximately 60 tons of warheads and explosive materials. But the threat from Iran was met with the aerial, operational, technological, and intelligence superiority of a united defensive coalition of international allies led by the United States, together with Great Britain, France, and other partners.

Together, we intercepted 99% of the threats toward Israel. Together, we thwarted Iran's attack. Iran's unprecedented attack was met with an unprecedented defense. This was the first time that such a coalition worked together against the threat of Iran and its proxies in the Middle East', he noted..."

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