

*“And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up,
and lift your heads, for your redemption draweth nigh” - Luke 21:28*

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

Christian Girl Leah Sharibu Turns 16 as Boko Haram Hostage After Rejecting Islam

May 15, 2019 -- *Breitbart.com* reports: “Leah Sharibu – the last girl from Dapchi, Nigeria, kept in Boko Haram captivity after a mass abduction in 2018 – will turn 16 Tuesday as a hostage after refusing to convert from Christianity to Islam.

Activists seeking more effective government action against Boko Haram have organized events honoring Sharibu on Tuesday in Nigeria and in front of Nigerian embassies internationally.

Boko Haram, an affiliate of the Islamic State, released the other 109 girls kidnapped from the northern Nigerian town in February 2018 after forcing them to recite the shahada, the Muslim declaration of faith. The freed girls told authorities and Sharibu’s parents that Leah refused to do so and the jihadists have thus refused to release her until she changes her mind...

Sharibu was attending Dapchi’s Government Girls Science and Technical College on February 19, 2018, when Boko Haram jihadists stormed the school and abducted 110 girls. The jihadist group, whose

name means ‘Western education is sin,’ typically targets girls’ schools for attack, kidnapping the students and turning them into slave-wives. Escaped captives say the terrorists routinely rape them, force them to cook and clean for them, and otherwise help the group survive in the dense Sambisa forest of northern Nigeria...” (On her 15th birthday, her parents, Nathan and Rebecca Sharibu, told *USA Today* that the terrorists will not release her until she converts to Islam.

‘My daughter is alive, but they wouldn’t release her because she is a Christian. They told her they would release her if she converted, but she said she will never become a Muslim. I am very sad, but I am also overjoyed because my daughter did not denounce Christ,’ Nathan told the newspaper...” “*Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life*” – Revelation 2:10. Jesus said in the Beatitudes: “*Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you” – Matthew 5:10 – 12.)

Islamist Intent on Killing Asia Bibi Claims He Is in Canada to ‘Send Her to Hell’

May 15, 2019 -- *Breitbart.com* reports: “An Islamist filmed a message making the rounds on the Internet this week saying he is in Canada to slay Pakistani Christian Asia Bibi, who was recently released from prison in Pakistan after spending nearly a decade on death row over false blasphemy allegations.

‘This message is for all the enemies of Islam and to the Jew government who helped her get out of Pakistan,’ the unidentified man declared, according to a translation provided by the British Pakistani Christian Association (BPCA).

‘To give Asia Bibi a terrible death and to send her to hell I also reached Canada last night,’ he said, adding, ‘I am ready to die for the respect of Prophet Mohammed, and I will show that.’

The man also sings an Islamic chant honoring Muhammad and pledging to kill Bibi.

He sings, ‘The enthusiasm to die for the Prophet Mohammad will stay alive forever.’...’” **(Killing is rewarded in Islam. Not only do they receive 72 virgins as righteous and martyred godly men, but what even more shocking is they get to choose 70 relatives and friends to go to heaven. Their plan of winning the lost is a sick one and against God’s plan which is: “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” – John 3:16.)**

Iran summons Christians to explain why they converted from Islam

May 8, 2019 -- *ChristianToday.com* reports: “Iran’s intelligence minister, Mahmoud Mahmoud Alavi, openly expressed concern last weekend about the spread of Christianity in the Islamic republic and said that some converts to Christianity were ‘summoned’ to explain why they have converted.

The 65-year-old Alavi gave a speech before Shia clerics on Saturday, the day before the beginning of Ramadan.

According to the *International Shia News Association*, Alavi blamed ‘evangelical propaganda’ for the increase in Iranian Muslims converting to Christianity in certain areas of the country.

Despite Christianity being criminalized in a country where the government is entangled with hardline Islam, the nation is experiencing one of the fastest evolving underground church movements in the world.

According to *Radio Farda*, Alavi told the clerics that the Intelligence Ministry and Qom Seminary, the country’s largest Islamic seminary, have dispatched individuals and institutions that are active in ‘countering the advocates of Christianity’ to areas where Muslims

are being converted.

‘People tend to become Christians who are ordinary people of the community, for example, their sandwich shops and the like, and they became a Christian family,’ he was quoted as saying.

Alavi also said that in a city like Hamadan province in northwestern Iran, the government was given no choice but to summon Muslim converts to Christianity to ask why they have embraced the religion over Islam...’ **(In 2015 Rexella had a guest on television, Walid Shoebat, who testified that in Islam you kill to get to heaven, while in Christianity, Christ died for our sins. Isaiah 53:4 – 7 tells us “Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.”)**

‘Nobody Will Go Back’: Christians Flee Middle East After Fall of Islamic State

April 30, 2019 -- *Breitbart.com* reports: “The number of Christians in the birthplace of their faith, the greater Middle East, continues to plummet months after the Islamic State, which waged a genocidal campaign against Christians, lost its ‘caliphate’ in Iraq and Syria, *Breitbart News* learned from various experts, including an archbishop.

‘Unfortunately, it can be stated that the Islamic State group’s anti-Christian campaign was very successful in Iraq, and to a certain extent, successful in Syria,’ John Hajjar, the co-chair of the American Mideast Coalition for

Democracy (AMCD) and co-director of the Middle East Christian Committee (MECHRIC), told *Breitbart News*.

‘I think we have no more hope,’ Archbishop Vicken Aykazian, the diocesan legate in America’s capital and ecumenical director for the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Orthodox Church of America, also told *Breitbart News*, referring to the future of Christianity in its Middle East cradle. ‘Middle East Christians have no nation that protects them openly.’

The number of Christians in Middle East-North Africa (MENA), as a component of the overall Muslim-majority population, has dropped substantially — from about ten percent in 1900 to between two and four percent now...’ **(The Lord Jesus Christ predicted persecution and death for His faithful followers preceding His return to earth – “...when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held” – Revelation 6:9 and “...I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years” – Revelation 20:4.)**

Christian Charity: Average of 345 Christians Killed Per Month Globally

April 24, 2019 -- *Breitbart.com* reports: “Christians have become one of the most persecuted religious groups in the world according to figures from charity Open Doors which claims that per month on average around 345 Christians are murdered globally because of their beliefs.

The Christian charity, which is based in the United States, has revealed that per month at least 105 churches or places

of worship are vandalized or set on fire and approximately 219 Christians are put on trial or sent to prison for expressing their faith in the Christian Gospels, Italian newspaper *Il Giornale* reports.

Open Doors is not the only organization to highlight the growing persecution of Christians. Vatican-linked Aid to the Church in Need (ACS) has also noted that up to one in seven Christians lives in countries where they could meet the threat of violence or even be put on trial and face prison sentences or even death for professing Christian beliefs.

According to a report by Open Doors released earlier this year, a total of 245 million Christians face some sort of persecution and the group claimed that in 2018, 4,136 Christians were killed because of their religious convictions...” *(“If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own; but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember the word that I have said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep your also. But all these things will they do unto you for my name’s sake, because they know not him that sent me. If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloak for their sin. He that hateth me hateth my Father also. If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father. These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended. They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service. And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me” – John 15:18 – 24; 16:1 – 3. See the five reports.)*

105 Christian churches a month become target of ‘hate’

April 23, 2019 -- WND.com reports: “Several churches in Sri Lanka were attacked on Easter Sunday by what authorities believe to be Muslim extremists. The suicide bombers killed about 300 and injured hundreds more.

Just a week earlier, Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, which has stood for nearly 900 years, was the site of a catastrophic fire that turn its wooden roof to ash. Authorities have floated the explanation that a ‘computer glitch’ caused the blaze.

But Islam critic Pamela Geller, under the headline ‘Notre Dame Cathedral inferno ‘intentionally set,’ cited Time columnist Christopher J. Hale writing: ‘A Jesuit friend in Paris who works in #NotreDame told me cathedral staff said the fire was intentionally set.’

Geller noted France has been hit with a string of fires at Catholic churches, some of which occurred alongside desecration of sacred objects and acts of vandalism.

Michael Snyder, writing for *InfoWars*, cited statistics from the Christian ministry Open Doors counting an average of 105 attacks a month on churches...”

Archbishop Says Christians Slaughtered ‘Like Chickens’ in Nigeria

May 1, 2019 -- Breitbart.com reports: “A Nigerian archbishop has decried the slaughter of Christians in his country and the media silence surrounding it, declaring that ‘Christians are being killed like chickens.’

Archbishop Matthew Man-oso Ndagoso told *LifeSiteNews* said that in the Muslim-dominated northwest of the country people live in constant fear, especially in the state of Kaduna where he resides.

‘It is one of the states where everybody walks around afraid. There are kidnappers and bandits and they are killing people. Villages are being

burned down,’ Archbishop Ndagoso said in an article published Monday.

‘In other parts of the country if something happens, the president shows up. But here people are being killed and nothing is being done about it,’ he said...”

Jihadists Bomb Christian School in Syria, Killing Four Children

May 15, 2019 -- Breitbart.com reports: “Jihadists bombed the Syria Christian village of Al-Sekelbiya (Suqaylabiyah) Sunday, killing at least four children during a catechism lesson along with their teacher and leaving another six children injured, according to local media.

The Islamists who launched the missiles belong to the terror group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, which was previously affiliated with the al Qaeda, reported *Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA)*.

The Pontifical Foundation Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) reported that four catechism students between the ages of six and ten years — Jessica, Bashar, Angy, and Suheir — died in the missile attack, which targeted the catechetical school of Al-Sekelbiya.

Other reports have placed the number of children who died at five.

Franciscan Father Hanna Jallouf, parish priest of the Latin church of Knaye, in Idlib, said that ‘rebels bombed the Christian city of Al-Sekelbiya. They hit the catechetical center killing 5 children and their catechist.’...”

Jihadists kill pastor, four others in Burkina church attack

April 30, 2019 -- Breitbart.com reports: “Gunmen killed four worshippers and a pastor in the first jihadist attack on a church in Burkina Faso, security and local sources said Monday, in the latest violence to rock the formerly peaceful west African nation.

Sunday’s raid took place in the small northern town of Silgadji near Djibo, the capital of Soum province.

‘Unidentified armed individuals have attacked the Protestant church in

Silgadji, killing four members of the congregation and the main pastor,' a security source told *AFP*.

'At least two other people are missing,' the source added.

It was the first attack on a church since jihadist violence erupted in Burkina Faso in 2015.

Former colonial ruler France has deployed some 4,500 troops in Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger and Chad in a mission codenamed Barkhane to help local forces try to flush out jihadist groups.

'The attack happened around 1:00 pm, just as the faithful were leaving the church at the end of the service,' a

member of the church who did not want to be identified told *AFP*.

'The attackers were on motorbikes. They fired in the air before aiming at the members of the congregation,' the witness added...'

Gunmen Kill Six, Burn Down Catholic Church in Burkina Faso

May 12, 2019 -- *Breitbart.com* reports: "Gunmen killed a priest and five church-goers during mass on Sunday (May 12) in an attack on a Catholic church in Dablo, northern Burkina Faso, security sources and local official said.

'Towards 9am, during mass, armed individuals burst into the Catholic church,' the mayor of Dablo, Mr.

Ousmane Zongo, told *AFP*.

'They started firing as the congregation tried to flee.'

The gunmen managed to trap some of the worshippers, he added.

'They killed five of them. The priest, who was celebrating mass, was also killed, bringing the number of dead to six.'

The attackers set fire to the church, several shops and a small cafe before heading to the local health centre, which they looted and burnt the chief nurse's vehicle, said Mr. Zongo.

A security source said between 20 and 30 gunmen carried out the attack...'

THE KINGS OF THE EAST

Pentagon warns on risk of Chinese submarines in Arctic

May 3, 2019 -- *Reuters* reports: "Deepening Chinese activities in the Arctic region could pave the way for a strengthened military presence, including the deployment of submarines to act as deterrents against nuclear attack, the Pentagon said in a report released on Thursday.

The assessment is included in the U.S. military's annual report to Congress on China's armed forces and follows Beijing's publication of its first official Arctic policy white paper in June.

In that paper, China outlined plans to develop shipping lanes opened up by global warming to form a 'Polar Silk Road' – building on President Xi Jinping's signature Belt and Road Initiative.

China, despite being a non-Arctic state, is increasingly active in the polar region and became an observer member of the Arctic Council in 2013. That has prompted concerns from Arctic states over Beijing's long-term strategic objectives, including possible military deployments..." **(China will**

become a basic partner with Russia for the rapidly approaching battle of Armageddon – Revelation 16:16. **Russia will lead invasion number one – Ezekiel 38 & 39. China will lead invasion number two – Revelation 16:12; Revelation 9:14 – 16. Then all nations will come against Jerusalem for the final invasion at which point Jesus will return to stop the bloodshed and set up his eternal kingdom upon earth – "[He gathers] all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken... Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south" – Zechariah 14:2 – 4. Then Psalm 2:6 occurs as God the Father says: "...I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion [Jerusalem]." See the next four reports.)**

Satellite images show China is building its third and largest aircraft carrier

May 7, 2019 -- *FoxNews.com* reports: "Images released by a Washington-based think-tank show construction on China's third and largest aircraft carrier, activity analysts believe could eventually challenge U.S. strategic superiority in East Asia.

The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington released images from April that reveal construction on China's third aircraft carrier in the Jiangnan Shipyard in Shanghai over the past six months, *Reuters* reported.

China has not confirmed it is building a third carrier. But the Pentagon said last week that work had begun on a vessel that would 'probably be larger than the first two and fitted with a catapult launch system to accelerate aircraft during takeoff.'

The CSIS images support the Pentagon's claims. The satellite photographs show China's Type 002 aircraft carrier is slightly smaller than U.S. carriers but larger than France's Charles de

Gaulle, analysts said. It remains unclear whether the vessel would have nuclear capability...”

Pentagon expects China to add international military bases

May 3, 2019 -- *SpaceDaily.com* reports: “The U.S. Defense Department expects China to add military bases around the world to protect its investments in its ambitious One Belt One Road global infrastructure program, according to an official report released Thursday.

Beijing currently has just one overseas military base, in Djibouti, but is believed planning others, including possibly Pakistan, as it seeks to project itself as a global superpower.

‘China’s advancement of projects such as the ‘One Belt, One Road’ Initiative (OBOR) will probably drive military overseas basing through a perceived need to provide security for OBOR projects,’ the Pentagon said in its annual report to Congress on Chinese military and security developments.

‘China will seek to establish additional military bases in countries with which it has a longstanding friendly relationship and similar strategic interests, such as Pakistan, and in which there is a precedent for hosting foreign militaries,’ the report said...”

China to enhance international space cooperation

April 25, 2019 -- *SpaceDaily.com* reports: “China will promote aerospace development, strengthen international cooperation and contribute Chinese wisdom, plans and strength in man’s peaceful utilization of outer space, said an official with China National Space Administration (CNSA) on Wednesday. Zhao Jian, deputy director of the Department of System Engineering of CNSA, said at a press conference that the ‘Forum on Space Solutions: Realizing the Sustainable Development Goals’ will be held in Changsha, capital of central China’s Hunan Province, from April 24 to 27.

The forum, co-organized by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and the CNSA, aims to bring together space application users and solution providers to forge new partnerships, enhance international space cooperation and contribute to the attainment of the sustainable development goals, according to Zhao...”

Coast Guard plans to add resources in Arctic to counter Russia, China

April 25, 2019 -- *SpaceDaily.com* reports: “The U.S. Coast Guard wants

to add resources to the Arctic because ‘dramatic changes in the physical environment’ of the region have allowed China and Russia to become more competitive there.

The military branch has proposed upgrading ships, aircraft, unmanned systems and communications systems in a 48-page Arctic Strategic Outlook, which was released Monday.

‘Since the release of the Coast Guard Arctic Strategy in 2013, the resurgence of nation-state competition has coincided with dramatic changes in the physical environment of the Arctic, which has elevated the region’s prominence as a strategically competitive space,’ the report says. ‘America’s two nearest-peer powers, Russia and China, have both declared the region a national priority and made corresponding investments in capability and capacity to expand their influence in the region.’

Because of Russia and China’s ‘persistent challenges to the rules-based international order around the globe,’ there is concern of ‘similar infringement to the continued peaceful stability of the Arctic region.’...”

THE RELIGION OF PEACE?

Children at Muslim School in Philadelphia Sing Jihadist Songs

May 5, 2019 -- *Breitbart.com* reports: “The Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI) reported Friday that the Muslim American Society Islamic Center in Philadelphia (MAS Philly) had uploaded a video of children wearing Palestinian attire and singing jihadist songs.

The video, which was uploaded to the center’s Facebook page on April 22, appears to be one of several videos

uploaded in celebration of ‘Ummah Day.’ (The word ‘ummah’ refers to the worldwide Muslim community.) The center uploaded several other videos to its Facebook page, each featuring children making presentations that represented other Muslim countries. However, the Palestinian video now appears to have been deleted.

In the video, which MEMRI reposted with subtitles, the children are shown singing jihadist or terrorist songs, praising the ‘blog of martyrs,’ a reference to suicide bombing. They

also sing ‘Our Palestine must return to us,’ and recite speeches praising suicide bombers: ‘They compete with one another to reach Paradise.’ They add: ‘We will chop off their heads, and we will liberate the sorrowful and exalted Al-Aqsa Mosque ... and we will subject them to eternal torture.’ One child wears a t-shirt showing a map of Palestine on which Israel has been eliminated...” **(Proverbs 22:6 states: “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” This is seen in the New Testament in the life of**

Timothy. Paul writes in II Timothy 1:5: *“When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which first dwelt in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded in thee also.”* Islam also believes in training up a child – but not to follow the Lord. The Islamic State refers to them as “Cubs of the Caliphate” and has released training videos showing them murdering helpless prisoners. How warped can these barbarians be? Jesus said in Matthew 19:14: *“...Suffer the little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.”* And in Matthew 18:6 He stated: *“But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.”*)

‘Jihad Is the Best Part of Worship’: Taliban, Islamic State Gear Up for Ramadan

May 5, 2019 -- *Breitbart.com* reports: “Terrorist groups such as the Islamic State (ISIS/ISIL) and the Taliban in recent days made their annual call to arms as Ramadan approaches, claiming Allah exceptionally rewards martyrdom during the holy month.

This year, the holiest month for Muslims is expected to run from the evening of May 5 to June 5, depending on the phases of the moon.

On April 29, days after ISIS claimed to have carried out the wave of suicide bombings primarily targeting Christians in Sri Lanka, the group’s elusive leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, resurfaced in his first video in five years. He urged Muslims to carry out more attacks and pledged to continue the crusade against ISIS enemies, particularly those who demolished the so-called caliphate.

“Our battle today is one of attrition

and stretching the enemy. They should know that jihad is ongoing until the day of judgment,” al-Baghdadi proclaimed.

In March, U.S.-backed Kurdish forces pushed ISIS out of its last sliver of territory in northern Syria’s Baghouz region, dealing a final blow to the group’s territorial caliphate...” **(Ramadan, the holiest time in Islam is a time to kill for Allah. When they slaughter and behead thousands of Jews, Christians, and non-Muslims for their god, they are awarded a total of 72 buxom, sex laden Muslim women for all the sex they want in a Muslim heaven. But our God does not work that way: “Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God” – I Corinthians 6:9, 10.)**

BANGING THE WAR DRUMS

Iran Cleric Warns U.S. Persian Gulf Fleet: ‘One Missile Will Destroy You’

May 12, 2019 -- *Breitbart.com* reports: “A U.S. Navy force gathering in the Persian Gulf could be entirely destroyed with just one missile, an Iranian cleric warned late Friday.

‘Their billion [-dollar] fleet can be destroyed with one missile,’ Ayatollah Yousef Tabatabai Nejad was quoted as saying by the *ISNA* news agency after Friday prayers in Isfahan, according to *Reuters*.

‘If they attempt any move, they will... [face] dozens of missiles because at that time [government] officials won’t be in charge to act cautiously, but instead things will be in the hands of our beloved leader [Ayatollah Ali Khamenei]’ added Nejad, who is the supreme leader’s

representative in Isfahan.

The threat comes after the White House announcement last Sunday it would send the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier strike group and B-52 bombers into the Persian Gulf to counter Tehran. The Lincoln on Thursday passed through the Suez Canal on its way to its new assignment, as *Breitbart News* reported...” **(More bragging and blustering from Iran. In 2016 the Global Firepower list puts the United States as the number 1 military power in the world. Israel ranks as number 16, and Iran is ranked as number 21. On May 19, 2019 President Trump tweeted: “If Iran wants to fight, that will be the official end of Iran. Never threaten the United States again!” See the next three reports.)**

U.S. sending B-52s to Middle East against Iran ‘threat’

May 8, 2019 -- *SpaceDaily.com* reports: “The U.S. Air Force is deploying massive B-52 Stratofortress bombers to the Gulf in response to an alleged possible plan by Iran to attack American forces in the region, the Pentagon said Tuesday.

Several nuclear-capable B-52s are heading to the region along with an aircraft carrier task force following what the Defense Department called ‘recent and clear indications that Iranian and Iranian proxy forces were making preparations to possibly attack U.S. forces.’

‘The deployment of the USS Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group and a bomber task force are considered a prudent step in response to indications

of heightened Iranian readiness to conduct offensive operations against U.S. forces and our interests,' said acting Pentagon spokesman Charles Summers in a statement.

'We emphasize the White House statement that we do not seek war with the Iranian regime, but we will defend U.S. personnel, our allies and our interests in the region.'..."

U.S. sends naval strike group as tensions rise with Iran

May 12, 2019 -- *SpaceDaily.com* reports: "The United States is deploying an amphibious assault ship and a Patriot missile battery to bolster an aircraft carrier and B-52 bombers already sent to the Gulf, ratcheting up pressure Saturday on archfoe Iran.

In response to alleged threats from Iran, the USS Arlington, which transports marines, amphibious vehicles, conventional landing craft and rotary aircraft, and the Patriot air defence system will join the Abraham Lincoln carrier group, the Pentagon announced Friday.

The carrier and a B-52 bomber task force were ordered towards the Gulf, as Washington reiterated that intelligence reports suggested Iran was planning some sort of attack in the region.

CENTCOM, the U.S. forces for the Middle East and Afghanistan, said Friday on Twitter that the B-52 bombers arrived at the area of operations on May 8, without saying where they had landed.

U.S. President Donald Trump's national security advisor John Bolton has said the deployment aimed to send a 'clear and unmistakable' message to Iran about any attack against the U.S. or its partners in the region..."

'U.S. won't dare attack Iran'

May 10, 2019 -- *Israel National News* reports: "Iran will not engage in talks with the U.S., a senior Iranian official said Friday, adding that the United States would never 'dare' to attack the Islamic republic.

Yadollah Javani, the deputy leader of Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps' political bureau, told the Iranian *Tasnim* outlet that Iran will not negotiate with the U.S., according to a report released Friday.

'We will not negotiate. There will be no negotiations on any issue with the U.S.,' Javani said, adding 'and the U.S. will not dare to attack Iran.'

'We will not surrender.'

Javani went on to say that Iran was not suffering the kind of 'internal disarray' he suggested the U.S. believed would set in following its restoration of sanctions on Tehran..."

Steinitz: Iran may attack Israel if U.S. standoff escalates

May 12, 2019 -- *The Jerusalem Post* reports: "Iran could fire missiles at Israel or activate its proxies Hezbollah or Islamic Jihad against Israel if the current Iranian-U.S. tensions continue to escalate, Energy Minister Yuval Steinitz said on Sunday.

Steinitz's words in a *Ynet* television interview come amid mounting tensions between Washington and Tehran that in recent days has led to increased U.S. economic and military pressure to get Iran to return to the negotiation table and re-negotiate the nuclear deal, while Iran has said it will increase its uranium enrichment and continues to rattle its own saber against the U.S.

'Things are undoubtedly heating up, and Iran – over the last few weeks – has come under 'atomic' pressure,' said Steinitz, a member of the security cabinet. 'The economic sanctions are breaking the neck of the Iranian economy and there is now an additional, even more powerful wave of American sanctions. We are starting to see the Iranians lose their balance.'

Up until Steinitz's comments, senior Israeli officials have remained silent over the last week as the situation between Iran and the U.S. escalated, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's only reference to the

situation being at a Remembrance Day ceremony last Wednesday when he said Israel would not let Iran get nuclear weapons..." **(Israel will never be destroyed. God has declared His love for Israel from its very beginning: "And as for thy nativity, in the day thou wast born thy navel was not cut, neither wast thou washed in water to supple thee; thou wast not salted at all, nor swaddled at all. None eye pitied thee, to do any of these unto thee, to have compassion upon thee; but thou wast cast out in the open field, to the lothing of thy person, in the day that thou wast born. And when I passed by thee, and saw thee polluted in thine own blood, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, Live; yea, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, Live... Then washed I thee with water; yea, I thoroughly washed away thy blood from thee, and I anointed thee with oil" – Ezekiel 16:4 – 6; 9. Deuteronomy 7:6-8 states: "For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God: the Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth. The Lord did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: But because the Lord loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the Lord brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt."** Despite the rantings and ravings of the world: "...let us cut them off from being a nation, that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance" – Psalm 83:4, God has promised: "...I will give them [Israel] an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off" – Isaiah 56:5. See the next two reports.)

Report: Israel won't join U.S.-Iran war unless attacked

May 20, 2019 -- *Israel National News* reports: "Israel will not join a war against Iran unless attacked by Iran or its regional proxies, *Israel Hayom* reported.

The site quoted an *Independent Arabia* report noting that Israeli security officials met with their U.S. counterparts to discuss the recent tensions between the U.S. and Iran and to share sensitive intelligence, including on Iran's nuclear weapons program.

At the meeting, the Israelis emphasized that their country would only join an Iran-U.S. war if they were attacked by either Iran or its proxies..."

'Israel won't let Iran get nuclear weapons'

May 8, 2019 -- *Israel National News* reports: "Israel will prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons, Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said Wednesday in Jerusalem.

The Prime Minister made the comments during his address at the annual Yom HaZikaron Israeli memorial day ceremony at the central military cemetery on Mount Herzl in Jerusalem Wednesday morning.

"This morning, on my way here, I heard that Iran intends to pursue its nuclear program," Netanyahu said. "We will not allow Iran to achieve nuclear weaponry. We will continue to fight those who would kill us."

Netanyahu's comments came after Iran's foreign minister, Javad Zarif, said Tuesday that his country would reduce some 'voluntary' commitments within its nuclear deal..."

Islamic Jihad: We are preparing rockets

May 9, 2019 -- *Israel National News* reports: "Abu Hamza, spokesman for the Islamic Jihad's 'military wing', the

Al-Quds Brigades, said on Wednesday that the Palestinian 'resistance organizations' would start from the point at which the last round of the conflict ended should the 'enemy' refuse to implement the understandings. He stressed that the Palestinian 'resistance organizations', headed by the Al-Quds Brigades, are closely following the implementation of the understandings by the 'enemy' and that their hand is always on the trigger.

Abu Hamza added that immediately after the ceasefire, the military production units began working to replenish their rocket arsenal.

"The enemy wanted to reach, through the Cairo negotiations, a situation of calm in exchange for calm, but the leadership of the resistance organizations refused to do so," Abu Hamza said, adding that the rocket and anti-tank missiles forced Israel to accept the Palestinian conditions for a ceasefire..." **(The nations may say: "...Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance" – Psalm 83:4. It won't work. God declares: "... I will give them [Israel] an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off" – Isaiah 56:5. See the next two reports.)**

Islamic Jihad leader predicts war this summer

May 8, 2019 -- *Israel National News* reports: "Islamic Jihad leader Ziad al-Nakhala said on Tuesday that he believed that a war would break out between Israel and Gaza this summer because of the intention to 'disarm the resistance in Gaza.'

He made the comments in an interview with the Lebanese *Al-Mayadeen TV*, translated by *Channel 13 News*.

"We decided to fire at an IDF officer and a female soldier last Friday in cooperation with Hamas, in response

to the killing of the demonstrators at the return marches," said Nakhala. "The Egyptians did not like the fact that this was happening while we were in Cairo. I, together with Yahya Sinwar, decided to continue the response. I say that the last round of escalation was only an exercise in live ammunition ahead of the larger battle to take place soon."

The Islamic Jihad leader further claimed that if the previous round of escalation had continued, rocket fire on Tel Aviv would have taken place 'within hours.'..."

Hamas, Islamic Jihad: 'We're close to open war with Israel'

May 5, 2019 -- *The Jerusalem Post* reports: "Defiant Hamas and Islamic Jihad officials said on Sunday that they don't rule out the possibility that the current round of fighting in the Gaza Strip could lead to an all-out war with Israel.

The warning came as leaders of the two Palestinian groups continued their discussions in Cairo with senior Egyptian intelligence officials on ways of ending the current round of fighting with Israel.

Unconfirmed reports on Sunday evening claimed that Hamas has indicated its readiness for a ceasefire with Israel. Hamas officials in the Gaza Strip did not comment on the reports.

Islamic Jihad spokesperson Musab al-Braim said that the 'resistance was on the threshold of a new phase in repelling the [Israeli] aggression that could lead to an open war.' He said that light of the continued 'aggression on our people and the targeting of children, houses and the implementation of the policy of assassinations, we are on the threshold of this phase, and we will not have mercy on this enemy.'..."