



SIGNS OF THE TIMES

News Articles for Episode 323

[Iran Pours Weapons Into Sudan in Push for Naval Base - Africa Defense Forum \(adf-magazine.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #iran, #sudan, #weapons, #navy base

Jul 30, 2024

For the past six months, Iran has supplied the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) with weapons, a strategy some analysts believe is designed to pave the way for an Iranian naval presence on Sudan's Red Sea coast.

To date, Sudan has refused the request for an Iranian helicopter carrier on its coast. However, observers believe the SAF may soften that position as its war with the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) grinds on.

“We think that Khartoum will not be able to withstand Iranian pressure,” analysts with the Robert Lansing Institute for Global Threats and Democracies Studies wrote recently.

Iranian Mohajer-6 drones have been vital to the SAF's success in retaking parts of Omdurman and driving the RSF out of areas west of Khartoum, the Lansing Institute experts noted.

The Iranian drones are effective at identifying targets and require minimal training for users, according to experts.

The Lansing Institute analysts report that Iranian authorities have rented 17 apartments in Port Sudan, where SAF chief and Sudan's de facto leader Gen. Abdel Fattah al-Burhan relocated his government soon after fighting broke out in April 2023.

“Iran is looking for a foothold in the region,” Suliman Baldo, who publishes the Sudan War Monitor, told the BBC. “If they find geostrategic concessions, they will certainly provide more advanced and numerous drones.”

In October 2023, Sudan and Iran reestablished diplomatic relations that were broken off in 2016 after an Iranian attack on the Saudi embassy in Tehran. The 2023 decision renewed ties between Sudan and Iran that date back decades.

A few months later, Iranian military planes began arriving in Port Sudan, and Iranian drones began targeting RSF fighters. Al-Burhan received the new Iranian ambassador in Port Sudan on July 21, formalizing relations.

A foothold in Sudan would put Iran's military in the middle of one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world, one that its Houthi allies in Yemen have spent months

disrupting with attacks on commercial ships. Experts say Iran has used a ship in the Gulf of Aden to feed intelligence to the Houthis.

A naval base in Sudan also would put Iranian forces within 320 kilometers of Saudi Arabia, Iran's regional rival for influence across the Islamic world. Saudi Arabia remains an important SAF ally.

Allowing Iran to establish a base could open Sudan up to attacks from other countries. When Iran docked naval vessels in Sudanese ports more than a decade ago, Sudan became the target of foreign airstrikes targeting Iran's Revolutionary Guard.

Further complicating Iran's position with Sudan is the influence of Russia, which also is supplying the SAF with weapons and pressing for its own naval presence on the Red Sea.

Malik Agar, vice president of Sudan's Sovereignty Council, visited Russia in early June and told Russian leaders that Sudan was committed to permitting a Russian logistical support center on the Red Sea. Experts say that is a likely precursor to a full-scale naval installation.

Analysts say Iran's influence on the war between the SAF and RSF is evolving.

"Although Iran's support could have an impact, it might not shift the course of the war immediately and decisively," Robert Bociaga wrote in an analysis for the Arab News. "But its influence could grow more substantial over time, depending on the extent of assistance."

[Iran tells Hungary it intends to attack Israel - The Jerusalem Post \(jpost.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #iran, #israel, #hungary

Aug 5, 2024

Iran's message was delivered to Israel via Hungary's Foreign Minister who called Katz directly to relay the information.

Iran has decided to attack Israel, [Foreign Minister Israel Katz](#) said amid an intense diplomatic push to avoid any further military action that could spark a direct war between the Islamic Republic and the Jewish state.

Iran's message was delivered to Israel though Hungarian Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó, who called Katz directly to explain that he had received this information from acting [Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri](#).

"Iran has informed us that it intends to attack Israel," Katz said on Monday, adding that "The world should exact a price from Iran for any aggressive action it carries out."

In a conversation Bagheri held with his Bahraini counterpart Abdullatif bin Rashid Alzayani, he spoke of his country's determination to respond to the assassination of [Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh](#) in Tehran last week.

Israel has not claimed responsibly for the attack, but is widely presumed to have carried it out.

"Silence toward the expanding evil acts of the Zionist regime will be detrimental to the regional stability, adding that indifference to its recent moves is tantamount to giving the regime an incentive," Bagheri said in a post on X.

The United States believes that an Iranian attack could come as soon as the next 48 hours. There is a fear that Iran could coordinate that attack with its proxy groups, including Hezbollah in Lebanon, the Houthis in Yemen, and other proxy groups in Syria and Iraq.

Israel has claimed responsibility for the attack last week that killed Hezbollah commander Fuad Shukr in Beirut.

Biden set to meet with national security team

US President Joe Biden is set to meet with his national security team to discuss the situation in the afternoon while US CENTCOM Commander Gen. Michael Erik Kurilla visited Israel and met with Defense Minister Yoav Gallant and IDF Chief of Staff Herzl Halevi.

Gallant said that the visit was “a direct translation of U.S. support for Israel into action. The relationship between Israel and the United States is unshakeable.

”We discussed the coordination of defense activities and ways to expand the international coalition facing aggressive actions by Iran and its proxies.”

In April five armies — the United States, Israel, Jordan, the United Kingdom, and France— had taken to the skies to defend Israel from a direct Iranian attack. Saudi Arabia lent tacit support to the coalition.

It’s presumed that the US is attempting to coalesce these same five armies even as it is scrambling to thwart an attack or at the very least limit its scope.

Saudi Arabia, according to media reports, has said it won’t allow Iranian missiles or drones to move through its airspace.

Jordan, according to media reports, has said it wants its airspace to remain neutral. Biden and King Abdullah spoke Monday about regional tensions.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken spoke to Qatari Prime Minister Al Thani, and Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty about the regional tensions. This followed his conversation with his counterparts in the G7 countries on Sunday as well as with Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' Al Sudani.

“The Secretary has delivered a consistent message in all of these engagements,” US State Department Matthew Miller told reporters in Washington.

"We are at a critical moment for the region. It is important that all parties take steps over the coming days to refrain from escalation and calm tensions.

“Escalation is in no one's interest. It's not in the interest of any one country. It's not in the interest of the region, and it's certainly not in the interest of the millions of civilians who just want to live their lives free from violence and conflict,” Miller said.

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian told a senior ally of Kremlin leader Vladimir Putin on Monday that Tehran was determined to expand relations with its "strategic partner Russia," Iranian state media reported.

Sergei Shoigu, the secretary of Russia's security council, met Iran's president and top security officials as the Islamic Republic weighs its response to the killing of a Hamas leader.

"Russia is among the countries that have stood by the Iranian nation during difficult times," Pezeshkian told Shoigu in a meeting, Iranian state media reported.

The president said that shared positions between Iran and Russia "in promoting a multipolar world will certainly lead to greater global security and peace."

Russia has condemned the killing of Ismail Haniyeh, leader of the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas, in Iran last week and called on all parties to refrain from steps that could tip the Middle East into a wider regional war.

In further comments reported during the meeting with Shoigu, Pezeshkian said Israel's "criminal actions" in Gaza and the assassination of Haniyeh "are clear examples of the violation of all international laws and regulations."

Shoigu was Russia's defense minister before being moved to the Security Council in May. He was shown earlier by Russia's Zvezda television meeting Rear Admiral Ali Akbar Ahmadian, a senior Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps commander who serves as secretary of the Supreme National Security Council.

Though Putin has yet to comment in public on the recent escalation of tensions in the Middle East, senior Russian officials have said that those behind the killing of Haniyeh were seeking to scuttle any hope of peace in the Middle East and to draw the United States into military action.

Russia has cultivated closer ties with Iran since the start of its war with Ukraine and has said it is preparing to sign a wide-ranging cooperation agreement with the Islamic state.

Reuters reported in February that Iran had provided Russia with a large number of powerful surface-to-surface ballistic missiles.

In Washington, State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller referred to Shoigu's talks in Tehran, saying the United States had no expectation that Russia would play a productive role in easing Middle East tensions.

[During Tehran visit, Russia's top defense official offers 'full cooperation' with Iran ahead of possible war with Israel | All Israel News](#)

#bibleprophecy, #iran, #israel, #russia

Aug 6, 2024

Iran requests advanced air defense systems from Russia in preparation for retaliatory strike on Israel

The Secretary of Russia's Security Council, Sergei Shoigu, visited Tehran on Monday, where he met with **newly-elected** Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and pledged “full cooperation with Iran.”

During the meeting, Pezeshkian told Shoigu that the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, which Iran blames on Israel, was a blatant violation of international laws and regulations.

Israel has not claimed or denied responsibility for the assassination of Haniyeh.

The regime-controlled media quoted Pezeshkian as saying: “The Islamic Republic of Iran is in no way seeking to expand the scope of war and crisis in the region, but certainly this (Zionist) regime will receive a response for its crimes and audacity.”

According to Iranian media, Shoigu described Iran as a key strategic ally of Russia in the region, and told Pezeshkian, “We are ready for full cooperation with Iran on regional issues.”

Shoigu, the former defense minister of Russia, visited Tehran to meet Pezeshkian, the commander of the Iranian Armed Forces, Brig.-Gen. Mohammad Bagheri, and the secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC).

#BREAKING *Sergei Shoigu, the Secretary of Russia's National Security Council, met his Iranian counterpart Ali-Akbar Ahmadian in Tehran, as Iran prepares for a retaliatory attack on Israel. pic.twitter.com/5QU9X1HX6G*

— *Iran International English (@IranIntlEn) [August 5, 2024](#)*

According to the Secretariat of the SNSC, Shoigu's visit aimed to strengthen political and security ties and discuss regional and international issues. However, the timing of the visit, just as Iran has threatened to attack Israel, is cause for concern.

During Shoigu's meeting with Iranian Armed Forces Chief of Staff, Maj-Gen. Mohammad Baqeri, they spoke about the shift in global power dynamics away from U.S. dominance.

“The United States is well aware that the era of unipolar power is over,” Baqeri said, according to state media.

Russia and Iran have been increasingly cooperating since Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine. Iran has become the primary supplier of drones to Russia, and the two countries recently [agreed](#) to extend their military and intelligence cooperation.

According to The New York Times, Iran recently requested advanced Russian air-defense systems as part of its preparations for a conflict with Israel.

In February, Reuters reported that Iran had provided Russia with a large number of ballistic missiles.

The Times reported that analysts believe Russia, heavily dependent on Iranian drones for its Ukraine campaign, cannot afford to reject Iran's request.

Last week, following the [assassination of Haniyeh](#), Russia Today quoted Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov saying that Russia “strongly condemns this attack that resulted in the death of Haniyeh.”

“Such actions are aimed against attempts to establish peace in the region and can significantly destabilize the already tense situation,” Peskov stated.

[Iran could rethink Israel attack amid strong diplomatic pressure from US - report | The Times of Israel](#)

#bibleprophecy, #iran, #israel, #united states

Aug 7, 2024

Show of US military strength could play role in Tehran lessening its threat, report claims, alongside Iran's understanding that bomb that killed Hamas leader detonated remotely

White House officials believe that intensive diplomatic efforts to temper Iran's retaliation for the killing of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran last week may be having an effect, the Washington Post said on Tuesday, while also reporting that the Biden administration was enraged by the timing of the assassination.

The Middle East has been bracing for a possible new wave of attacks by Iran and its allies following Haniyeh's death, along with the killing of top Hezbollah military commander Fuad Shukr in an Israeli strike in Beirut hours earlier. While Israel has not commented publicly on Haniyeh's death, Tehran has blamed Jerusalem and vowed that it must be made to pay the price.

A blitz of diplomatic efforts in recent days has seen the US — along with its allies in the West and the Middle East — push both Iran and Israel to cool tensions and prevent the region from erupting into all-out war.

Commenting on the efforts, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Tuesday that Washington had communicated to both Israel and Iran that conflict must not escalate.

“It's urgent that everyone in the region take stock of the situation, understand the risk of miscalculation, and make decisions that will calm tensions, not exacerbate them,” the top diplomat said at the end of a meeting with Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong and Defense Minister Richard Marles. “We've been engaged in intense diplomacy with allies and partners, communicating that message directly to Iran. We've communicated that message directly to Israel.”

While the risk of an Iranian attack is still high, White House officials told [The Washington Post](#) that the American efforts may be starting to pay off and that there was a possibility that Iran would reconsider its position.

According to the officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, Tehran has privately concluded that Haniyeh was killed not by a precision missile but by a bomb

that had been previously smuggled into the room he was staying in and detonated remotely, as [reports](#) have suggested.

This understanding could lead Tehran to step down from its threat to attack Israel, the officials said, adding that Iran itself has carried out similar attacks in foreign countries in the past.

Washington's willingness to flex its military muscles in the region may also be causing Iran to think twice, according to one senior Biden administration official, who told the Post that Iran "understands clearly that the United States is unwavering in its defense of our interests, our partners and our people."

US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin has laid out several US military steps in recent days to help defend Israel from possible attacks by Iran and its proxies, and to safeguard US troops, including the deployments of additional fighter jets. He also said the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier will replace the USS Theodore Roosevelt in the region "later this month."

According to a US official, about a dozen F/A-18 fighter jets and an E-2D Hawkeye surveillance aircraft from the USS Theodore Roosevelt flew from the Gulf of Oman to a military base in the Middle East on Monday.

The Navy jets' land-based deployment is expected to be temporary because a squadron of Air Force F-22 fighter jets is en route to the same base from their home station in Alaska. The roughly dozen F-22s are expected to arrive in the Middle East in the coming days, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss troop movements.

It's not clear how long all of the aircraft will remain together at the base, and that may depend on what — if anything — happens in the next few days.

"What I've been focused on is making sure that we're doing everything we can to put measures in place to protect our troops and also make sure that we're in a good position to aid in the defense of Israel, if called upon to do that," Austin said on Tuesday during a press conference following the meeting with the Australian leaders.

The moves made good on the promise that US President Joe Biden made to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu last week, which was issued despite the president being [reportedly enraged](#) over the killing of Haniyeh.

Israel informed the US that it was behind the assassination of Haniyeh — a matter it has not commented on publicly — immediately after the event, sources familiar with the White House's thought process told the Post.

The anger stemmed from concern that the assassination may have doomed the months-long negotiations for a ceasefire and hostage release deal between Israel and Hamas, according to the sources.

They added that the US is also frustrated over the timing of the Beirut strike that took out Hezbollah's Shukur, which took place just hours before Haniyeh was killed. It believes that both assassinations were "tactically brilliant but strategically unwise," the Post alleged.

However, a US official speaking to The Times of Israel rejected the Post's characterization of Washington's reaction, saying the White House was not outraged at Israel.

The US official stressed that Haniyeh was a Hamas leader who celebrated the October 7 onslaught, so there is no remorse or mourning over his killing.

The official acknowledged that the Biden administration was surprised and concerned about the timing of the assassination and the manner in which it was carried out.

Israel has long told the US that it would try and take out every Hamas leader, but the operation inside Iran was highly provocative, the US official said.

Despite concerns that the negotiations to halt the ten-month-old war in Gaza — which began with the October 7 Hamas terror onslaught in southern Israel — were in jeopardy, Blinken said on Tuesday that they were in their final stage and should end very soon.

Meanwhile, Iranian officials denied reports that the country was expecting a shipment of new Russian Sukhoi Su-35 fighter jets, Radio Free Europe reported.

The report that Iran would be receiving the fighter jets had been published by sources close to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, RFE said, but was later retracted following a discussion with the Iranian defense ministry.

No tolerance for attacks on US troops

As Israel and the US gird for an Iranian attack that could overshadow the unprecedented April assault — during which more than 300 drones and missiles were launched at Israel — Austin warned that the US would not hesitate to also respond to a Monday attack on US forces in Iraq by an Iranian-backed militia.

Seven US personnel were injured in the attack.

"Make no mistake, the United States will not tolerate attacks on our personnel in the region," Austin told reporters at a press conference, "and we remain ready to deploy on short notice to meet the evolving threats to our security, our partners or our interests."

He said an "Iranian-backed Shia militia group" conducted the attack, but officials are still trying to determine which one.

US officials speaking on the condition of anonymity released more details about the attack on the al-Asad airbase, which they said injured five US troops and two contractors.

The officials said five of those injured were being treated at the airbase and two were evacuated, but all seven were in stable condition. They did not provide details on who was evacuated.

The rocket attack is the latest in what has been an uptick in strikes on US forces by Iranian-backed militias. It is not believed to be connected to the Hezbollah and Hamas killings.

In recent weeks, Iranian-backed Iraqi militias have resumed launching attacks on bases housing US forces in Iraq and Syria after a lull of several months, following a strike on a base in Jordan in late January that killed three American soldiers and prompted a series of retaliatory US strikes.

Between October and January, an umbrella group calling itself the Islamic Resistance in Iraq had regularly claimed attacks that it said were in retaliation for Washington's support of Israel in its war against Hamas in Gaza and were aimed at pushing US troops out of the region.

Until now, the Iraqi militias have been loosely organized, but a report from Israel's Channel 12 on Tuesday indicated that this may soon change.

According to the report, Iran has begun consolidating the militias into one unified Iraqi militant group it is calling the Qassem Soleimani Forces.

The Iran-backed group will have around 10,000 fighters, Channel 12 reported, and its numbers will be bolstered by around 1,600 Houthi militants from Yemen.

[With Middle East on edge, US sends warships but launches diplomatic offensive to prevent escalation & save hostage negotiations | All Israel News](#)

#bibleprophecy, #middle east, #warships, #war

Aug 1, 2024

At least 12 American warships are concentrated in the region

With [Israel bracing for potential retaliation](#) from Iran and its proxies after two [assassinations in Beirut and Tehran](#), the United States is scrambling forces to prepare for an escalation that threatens to engulf the Middle East.

At the same time, the U.S. is launching a diplomatic offensive aimed at preventing a regional conflict and returning Israel and Hamas to the negotiating table regarding a hostage release and ceasefire deal.

A U.S. Pentagon official told the Washington Post on Thursday that at least 12 American warships were concentrated in the eastern Mediterranean and the Arab Gulf at the moment. This includes the carrier strike group of the USS Theodore Roosevelt, and several destroyers and other vessels, some of which were transferred there from the U.S.-led task force defending shipping lanes against [attacks by the Yemeni Houthi](#) terrorists in the Red Sea.

The U.S. was reportedly informed beforehand of the Israeli strike in Beirut that killed Hezbollah's [military chief Fuad Shukur](#). U.S. officials told Politico that while the U.S. saw the strike as a legitimate response to the Majdal Shams attack, the assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran came as a surprise.

U.S. State Secretary Antony Blinken confirmed this on Thursday, saying: "This is something we were not aware of or involved in."

The Biden administration has since launched a diplomatic offensive to lessen the fallout of the [surprise assassination in Iran's capital](#), with the ultimate goal of resuming hostage deal negotiations between Israel and Hamas.

According to Ynet News, Israel has transferred a message to Iran's main proxy Hezbollah through Western and regional officials, stressing that the IDF was only targeting military targets and advising Hezbollah to do the same. A massive attack on civilians would mean all-out war, the Israeli officials emphasized.

“Everyone since last night is putting pressure on Tehran to not respond and to contain this,” a Western diplomat told the Financial Times. According to the newspaper, Western diplomats were holding urgent discussions to prevent a larger war.

The same report noted that Enrique Mora, chief of staff to the European Union’s senior diplomat, Josep Borrell, held talks in Tehran on Wednesday, while the Biden administration’s senior Middle East envoy, Brett McGurk, was in Saudi Arabia.

The U.S. continues to view a hostage release and truce deal as the best way to end Israel’s conflict with both Hamas and Hezbollah, and to restabilize the region after nearly 10 months of war.

Speaking with The Wall Street Journal, U.S. officials said they were caught off guard by the [killing of Haniyeh](#), which they said has made it more difficult to achieve a ceasefire, though negotiations have not been entirely derailed.

U.S. National Security Council Spokesman John Kirby said reaching a deal “was always complicated. It remains complicated,” he said. “We don’t believe escalation is inevitable.”

Another official said that discussions restarted immediately following the strike in Tehran to salvage a deal. Those discussions involved representatives from Israel, Qatar, Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

On Thursday, Blinken warned that the Middle East was on a path “toward more conflict, more violence, more suffering, more insecurity, and it is crucial that we break this cycle.”

“That starts with a ceasefire that we’ve been working on,” he said during a visit to Mongolia.

“And to get there, it also first requires all parties to talk, to stop taking any escalatory actions. It requires them to find reasons to come to an agreement.”

[Stock market today: Live updates \(cnbc.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #global market, #stocks, #recession, #financial

Aug 5, 2024

U.S. stocks fell sharply on Monday as part of a global market sell-off centered around U.S. recession fears.

The [Dow Jones Industrial Average](#) dropped 896 points, or 2.3%. The [Nasdaq Composite](#) lost 2.7%, and the [S&P 500](#) slid 2.5%. The blue-chip Dow earlier fell as much as 1,200 points.

Fears of a U.S. recession were the main culprit for the global market meltdown after Friday's [disappointing July jobs report](#). Investors are also concerned that the Federal Reserve is behind in cutting interest rates to bolster an economic slowdown, with the central bank choosing instead to keep rates at the highest in two decades last week.

Investors are continuing to sell off megacap tech stocks and the once-hot artificial intelligence trade. Tech shares were among the worst performers Monday:

- [Nvidia](#) tumbled 6.5% Monday after going into the session already down more than 23% from its recent high.
- [Apple](#) cratered nearly more than 4% after Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway [cut its stake in the iPhone maker in half](#).
- Other losers included [Tesla](#), down 3.9%, and [Super Micro Computer](#), down 3.2%.

[In Asia overnight, Japan stocks confirmed a bear market](#) as Asia-Pacific investors had their first chance to react to the sour jobs figures in the U.S. from Friday. The 12.4% loss on the Nikkei, which closed at 31,458.42, was the worst day for the index since the "Black Monday" of 1987 hit Wall Street. The loss of 4,451.28 points on the index was also the largest in terms of points in its entire history. The Dow lost more than 22% in a single day on Black Monday.

Other global markets were also severely affected:

- U.S. Treasury yields tumbled on the recession fears and as investors flooded into bonds for a global safe haven. Bond prices move inversely to yields. The benchmark 10-year note on Monday [yielded 3.76%](#), its lowest level since June 2023.
- Bitcoin [tumbled](#) from nearly \$62,000 on Friday to around \$52,000 on Monday.

- Europe's Stoxx 600 [was off](#) by 2.4%.
- The [Cboe Volatility Index](#) was last trading at 46, after reaching as high as 53, its highest level since the early days of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020.

There is also chatter about the unwind of yen “carry trade” adding fuel to the global market decline after the Bank of Japan raised interest rates last week, reducing the interest rate differential between Japan and the U.S. That has contributed to the yen rising in value versus the dollar, ending a practice of traders borrowing in the cheap currency to buy other global assets.

“The market was whistling past the graveyard. I think people were basically lulled into a sense of security, yet the market itself was very vulnerable to a correction — and the weaker than expected economic and employment data provided that catalyst for correction,” said Sam Stovall, chief investment strategist at CFRA Research. The S&P 500 is currently around 8% off from its recent high.

Chicago Fed President [Austan Goolsbee](#), while avoiding commitment to a specific course of action, indicated on CNBC's “Squawk Box” on Monday that interest rates at their current level may be too “restrictive.”

If economic conditions meaningfully deteriorate, the central bank will “fix it,” Goolsbee added.

'Knife in every Jew's throat': Belgian columnist's chilling words highlight escalating global hatred towards Jews | All Israel News

#bibleprophecy, #jews, #anti-semitism, #hatred, #global

Aug 7, 2024

Herman Briusselmans, a prominent Flemish novelist and columnist, has ignited controversy with a deeply antisemitic column published in Belgium's HUMO magazine. In his writing, Briusselmans accuses Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of murdering children and pushing the world towards a third world war.

Most alarmingly, he expresses violent intentions toward Jewish people.

"I am so angry that I want to push a sharp knife in the throat of every Jew I come across," he wrote.

This shocking statement has drawn immediate condemnation from Jewish organizations and public figures. The Union of Jewish Organizations in Europe (EJA) has called for Briusselmans' arrest on charges of incitement to murder and demanded his suspension from the magazine.

Israel's ambassador to Belgium, Idit Abu Rosenzweig, noted that such rhetoric crosses a dangerous line, especially in a country where Jews already report feeling unsafe.

The incident is part of a broader trend of rising antisemitism across Europe and worldwide. Recent reports from various organizations highlight the alarming increase in antisemitic incidents, particularly since Oct. 7, 2023.

- **In Germany, the antisemitism monitoring group RIAS reported an 80% increase in antisemitic incidents in 2023**, with the total number rising to 4,782 from 2,616 in 2022. A significant spike occurred after October 7, with 2,787 incidents recorded post-attack.

- **France saw a dramatic increase from 436 antisemitic incidents in 2022 to 1,676 in 2023**, while the United Kingdom experienced a rise from 1,662 to 4,103 incidents over the same period.

- Other European countries also reported substantial increases, including the Netherlands (from 69 to 154), Italy (from 241 to 454), and Austria (from 719 to 1,147).

- **The United States recorded a record high of 8,873 antisemitic incidents in 2023**, marking a 140% increase from the previous year, according to the Anti-Defamation League (ADL).

This escalation of antisemitism is not confined to a single ideological group. While historically associated with far-right extremism, recent years have seen antisemitic rhetoric emerging from the extreme left and radical Islamic groups as well. The normalization of such language in public spaces, including mainstream media, is particularly concerning to Jewish communities.

Jewish leaders emphasize the importance of distinguishing between legitimate criticism of Israel and antisemitism. They often refer to the "3D test" articulated by Natan Sharansky: demonization, double standards, and delegitimization of Israel. When criticism crosses these lines, it enters the realm of antisemitism.

The surge in antisemitic incidents is attributed to various factors, including the war in Gaza against the Hamas terrorist organization, the normalization of hate speech, and increasing political and social tensions. This climate of fear has led to increased concern among European Jews, with reports suggesting that in some countries, like Belgium, **up to 70% of Jews fear for their safety**.

Jewish organizations are calling for stronger action from European governments to combat antisemitism, including better education about Jewish history and culture, stricter enforcement of hate speech laws, and more robust protection for Jewish institutions and individuals.

As Europe and the world grapple with this resurgence of antisemitism, the challenge remains to address its root causes and foster a climate of tolerance and understanding. The dramatic rise in antisemitic incidents serves as a stark reminder of the work that needs to be done to ensure that Jewish communities feel safe and valued in their homes, whether in Europe or elsewhere.

The global Jewish community watches these developments with growing concern, emphasizing the need for concerted efforts from governments, civil society, and individuals to combat antisemitism in all its forms. As the situation evolves, the response to this rising tide of hatred will be crucial in shaping the future of Jewish life in Europe and around the world.

[Texas hit by 120 earthquakes in one week... biblical sign? - Israel365 News](#)

#bibleprophecy, #texas, #earthquakes, #state of emergency

Aug 7, 2024

West Texas declared a state of emergency last week after it was hit by a swarm of over 120 earthquakes in one week. The sequence began with an M4.9 at 03:38 UTC on July 23, peaked with an M5.1 on July 26, the sixth-strongest earthquake in Texas history, and finally calmed on July 29. Four earthquakes registered magnitude 4.0 or higher.

According to Texas Railroad Commission, the [earthquakes](#) happened recently in the Camp Springs region along the Fisher-Scurry County line. The area is sparsely populated and no injuries or damage were reported.

Last week, [Scurry County Judge Dan Hicks officially declared a disaster](#) as a result of the quakes and urgently requested assistance from the state.

Scurry County, Texas, has experienced over 100 earthquakes over the last 9 days, according to USGS. Twelve of those 3.0 or greater magnitude.

— Texas Storm Chasers ⚡ (@TxStormChasers) [August 1, 2024](#)

The state is not a seismically active part of the country, but this area of West Texas has seen a significant increase in earthquake activity since 2019. USGS scientists believe this is linked to enhanced recovery techniques used in depleted oil fields to economically extract the most difficult-to-get oil and natural gas.

“We can say with confidence that these are related to oil and gas extractions,” said Justin Rubinstein, a geophysicist with the USGS in Menlo Park, California.

“Say you have 100 wells in one oil and gas reservoir,” said Rubinstein. “You take half of the field out of production, inject a bunch of water into those wells and the water pushes the oil over to the other side where it can be extracted.”

“We think that most of the earthquakes there are induced by secondary recovery and enhanced recovery,” he said. “We can’t say for certain what caused these earthquakes but it’s highly likely.”

Officials in Scurry County in west Texas declared a state of emergency after more than 100 earthquakes rocked the area. <https://t.co/la1a8tRhUp>

— Times Record News (@timesrecordnews) [July 30, 2024](#)

The Bible frequently referred to earthquakes as a sign of God's power or displeasure being expressed through nature.

You have made the land quake; You have torn it open. Mend its fissures, for it is collapsing. [Psalms 60:4](#)

The earth is swaying like a drunkard; It is rocking to and fro like a hut. Its iniquity shall weigh it down, And it shall fall, to rise no more. [Isaiah 24:20](#)

For thus said the lord of Hosts: In just a little while longer I will shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land; [Haggai 2:6](#)

Rabbi Yosef Berger told Israel365 News that the War of Gog and Magog will include the forces of nature and soldiers of flesh and blood.

“Ezekiel describes a simple war of man-versus-man,” Rabbi Berger explained. “But it would be incorrect to envision Gog and Magog as a war. Zechariah describes a conflict in which nature plays an active role. Earthquakes wrack the land, the sun and the moon change, water flows in different manners, and disease will play a major role. God will take an active role in the war and thunder and lightning will announce His presence.”

[Scientists in Japan warn of possible 'major earthquake' in wake of magnitude 7.1 quake](#) [| Fox Weather](#)

#bibleprophecy, #japan, #earthquakes, #tsunami

Aug 8, 2024

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, the magnitude 7.1 earthquake struck off the island of Kyushu in southwestern Japan around 4:42 p.m. local time (3:42 a.m. ET) at a depth of about 15.5 miles.

TOKYO – A powerful magnitude 7.1 [earthquake](#) rocked parts of Japan on Thursday, prompting officials to issue a [Tsunami](#) Advisory that forced residents to flee to higher ground for [safety](#), and scientists are now warning that an even bigger earthquake could occur in the same region in the coming days.

Officials in Japan held an emergency meeting in the wake of Thursday's [earthquake](#) and tsunami threat and urged residents to be [prepared](#) to take immediate action should a major earthquake occur.

According to information from the [Japan Meteorological Agency](#) (JMA), out of 1,437 earthquakes of magnitude 7.0 or larger that struck between 1904 and 2014, there were six cases in which a magnitude 8.0 or larger occurred in the same region within seven days.

That data, the JMA said, includes a magnitude 7.0 earthquake that struck two days before a catastrophic magnitude 9.0 earthquake and Pacific-wide tsunami that rocked the region in March 2011.

The JMA said that in global cases, the frequency of a magnitude 8.0 or larger earthquake occurring within the same region within seven days after a magnitude 7.0 earthquake is "about once in several hundred times."

"For these reasons, it is believed that the possibility of a large-scale earthquake occurring in the expected focal area of the Nankai Trough is relatively higher than usual," the JMA said on its website.

Thursday's earthquake occurred off the southern coast of the island of Kyushu, shaking communities across the region and sending tsunami waves nearly 2 feet high onshore.

The Tsunami Advisory that was issued has since been lifted, but the JMA said there could still be slight sea-level changes as a result of the earthquake.

After the earthquake, scientists met to discuss the relationship between this quake and whether it had impacted the Nankai Trough, which sits about 560 miles offshore.

"Nankai Trough earthquakes are diverse, and the focal area of a large-scale earthquake may be limited to the area around (Thursday's) earthquake, or it may extend to the entire Nankai Trough," the JMA said.

If a major earthquake occurs, the JMA said strong shaking would be expected over a large area of Japan from the Kanto Region to the Kyushu Region and would be capable of producing a "large tsunami" along the Pacific coast from the Kanto Region to the Okinawa Region.

"Please take [disaster](#) prevention measures in accordance with future calls from the government and local government," the JMA said. "The Japan Meteorological Agency will continue to carefully monitor the progress of crustal activity along the Nankai Trough."

[A surprise from Yemen: Former Muslim believer in Jesus is determined to replace cursing of Israel with blessing | All Israel News](#)

#bibleprophecy, #muslim, #salvation, #gospel, #conversion

Aug 6, 2024

Going on pilgrimage to Mecca is a duty most Muslims aspire to, but John Ghanim was unprepared for what happened to him during the Hajj. Ghanim, who has since changed his Muslim name to John after the beloved disciple of Jesus, was excited about going to Mecca, but found waves of confusion engulfed him as he circled the kaaba. He said he lost his faith in Allah entirely.

Ghanim grew up in an extremist Muslim environment in Yemen, and had been roped into helping the [Houthis](#) distribute their message: “God is the greatest! Death to America, death to Israel! Curse on the Jews, victory to Islam!” The young men of his village had been putting up signs and posters with the radical rallying cry, and the message seeped deep into his soul. He hated America, Israel, and all Jewish people. But all that would soon change.

Ghanim was sincere in his quest to find God: “I wanted to know the One who created me, who designed me. I took these questions to the leaders, the Imams, asking about how to be sure we’d get to heaven and was told that even they weren’t sure. They said nobody could be sure if they were going to heaven, so we have to do good deeds and work hard all our lives to earn salvation.”

He was eager to see if his pilgrimage to Mecca would provide the answers he was looking for. However, while making his way around the black cube of the kaaba, new questions arose: “Are we really worshiping God? Or this black stone?” He was appalled to find himself concluding they were not worshiping God at all. This led to a dark period of agnosticism and rejection by his family and community. He wasn’t sure what to believe anymore but was certain about one thing: Islam was not for him.

Later, Ghanim was in Greece when he encountered a Syrian man with a cross tattoo on his hand. He asked about the tattoo, and his new friend told him about Jesus, the Savior of the world. Ghanim had come across the version of Jesus in the Quran, but when offered the opportunity to come to a Bible study to learn more, Ghanim leapt at the chance.

His first encounter with Christians was bewildering: “What are they doing?” he marveled, as he watched the worship. “I felt there was secret power in that place. The

atmosphere was different. I started to feel jealous—why are they so confident to worship in this way? My curiosity levels were raised higher and higher.” He started to attend church meetings more regularly and learned about God’s love, and how Jesus died for the sins of the world.

“I was listening and I had never heard anything like it before, although I still didn’t have faith at that time.” Ghanim was given a New Testament in Arabic, and was amazed to find that God spoke to people in the pages of the Gospels. “I started to read Matthew and came across the story of how Jesus was baptized and a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased’. The God of Heaven speaks!”

“It came like water into my spirit. I can’t explain the joy I had. This is what I’ve been looking for! This is the God I didn’t know! This is the God I want to follow! As I continued to read it answered all my questions about prayer and fasting, I was so excited to go back to the church the following Sunday.”

Ghanim was ready to accept Jesus, and prayed with the pastor at the end of the service. “When I opened my eyes, everything seemed so beautiful all of a sudden, all the people around me, everything! There was great joy and peace inside.” Soon afterwards, Ghanim was [baptized](#).

Since that moment, Ghanim has been courageously open about his new faith in Jesus, at great cost. His life is in constant danger as an apostate, but he is not afraid.

“God gave me boldness in my faith. I wanted to share my faith with everyone – on social media.”

He shared his story on different platforms, and his videos have been watched millions of times. “I knew I would experience persecution but I didn’t care. One of my videos went viral, gaining over 16 million views, and my family saw it. The Imams saw it. Everyone saw it. It was very painful for my family.”

If it wasn’t bad enough that he left Islam to follow Jesus, Ghanim was about to take the situation from bad to worse. He decided to read the whole Bible from beginning to end and soon came across God’s promise to Abraham in Genesis 12. He started to see God’s love for Israel, and it challenged him deeply.

“I started to feel guilty. We have cursed the descendants of Abraham over and over as the Yemeni people. I read about the 400 years of slavery in Egypt and about the Exodus. I saw that God was with them – even when they rebelled, He was still with them.”

Ghanim's new love for Israel has led to him taking a bold stand with the Jewish people. “I do believe that according to the Bible, God is the same yesterday, today and forever. His promises are all still there for the nation of Israel. It’s an ancient nation, but God is still with them.”

Today, Ghanim is determined to replace all the cursing of Israel with blessing. “I feel deeply sorry for all the years I hated Israel, I am sorry for the Yemeni people that they have hatred for the people of Israel, and I know that to heal the land of Yemen we need to turn these curses into blessings”.