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"Let us be alert to the season in which we are living. It is the season of the Blessed Hope, calling for us to cut our ties with the world and build ourselves on this One who will soon appear. He is our hope—a Blessed Hope enabling us to rise above our times and fix our gaze upon Him." Tozer

24 World Leaders Call For More Globalism In Wake Of Pandemic

Health crisis used to tout “global community” as replacement for “nationalism”



characterdesign / Getty Images

Twenty four world leaders have signed a letter calling for more globalism to combat future pandemics, citing the the coronavirus outbreak as an opportunity to consign nationalism to the dustbin of history.

UK prime minister Boris Johnson, German chancellor Angela Merkel, and French president Emmanuel Macron are the leading figures behind the pledge, with 21 other heads of state signing the letter. It states that “nobody is safe until everyone is safe,” and that a “global community” must be further implemented in order to combat ‘inevitable’ future pandemics.

“At a time when Covid-19 has exploited our weaknesses and divisions, we must seize this opportunity and come together as a global community for peaceful cooperation that extends beyond this crisis,” the letter states.

"Building our capacities and systems to do this will take time and require a sustained political, financial and societal commitment over many years," it adds.

The letter compares the situation to the aftermath of the Second World War, and urges an end to "isolationism and nationalism".

The pledge calls for a strengthening of the World Health Organisation's infrastructure, despite the global health body's documented failures in regards to the pandemic, and continued charges that it has facilitated the communist Chinese government's lies and deceptions.

WHO director general Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus also signed the letter, having repeatedly slammed nations including Britain and the US for putting their own populations first when it comes to recovery.

The letter specifically calls for a global treaty on pandemics to be signed to establish international 'rules and norms' for vaccine production and distribution, as well as coordination on 'alert systems, data-sharing and research'.

Presumably any global treaty would also address restrictions to be put in place under future pandemics, although that is not made clear in the letter.

Health ministers of nations are set to meet in May at the World Health Assembly, and could discuss a global treaty there.

Below is the full Letter signed by 24 world leaders:

'The Covid-19 pandemic is the biggest challenge to the global community since the 1940s. At that time, following the devastation of two world wars, political leaders came together to forge the multilateral system. The aims were clear: to bring countries together, to dispel the temptations of isolationism and nationalism, and to address the challenges that could only be achieved together in the spirit of solidarity and cooperation: namely, peace, prosperity, health and security.'

'Today, we hold the same hope that as we fight to overcome the Covid-19 pandemic together, we can build a more robust international health architecture that will protect future generations. There will be other pandemics and other major health emergencies. No single government or multilateral agency can address this threat alone. The question is not if, but when. Together, we must be better prepared to predict, prevent, detect, assess and effectively respond to pandemics in a highly coordinated fashion. The Covid-19 pandemic has been a stark and painful reminder that nobody is safe until everyone is safe.'

'We are, therefore, committed to ensuring universal and equitable access to safe, efficacious and affordable vaccines, medicines and diagnostics for this and future pandemics. Immunisation is a global public good and we will need to be able to develop, manufacture and deploy vaccines as quickly as possible. This is why the Access to Covid-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) was set up in order to promote equal access to tests, treatments and vaccines and support health systems across the

globe. ACT-A has delivered on many aspects but equitable access is yet to be achieved. There is more we can do to promote global access.

'To that end, we believe that nations should work together towards a new international treaty for pandemic preparedness and response. Such a renewed collective commitment would be a milestone in stepping up pandemic preparedness at the highest political level. It would be rooted in the constitution of the World Health Organisation, drawing in other relevant organisations key to this endeavour, in support of the principle of health for all. Existing global health instruments, especially the International Health Regulations, would underpin such a treaty, ensuring a firm and tested foundation on which we can build and improve.'

'The main goal of this treaty would be to foster an all-of-government and all-of-society approach, strengthening national, regional and global capacities and resilience to future pandemics. This includes greatly enhancing international cooperation to improve, for example, alert systems, data-sharing, research, and local, regional and global production and distribution of medical and public health countermeasures, such as vaccines, medicines, diagnostics and personal protective equipment.'

'It would also include recognition of a 'One Health' approach that connects the health of humans, animals and our planet. And such a treaty should lead to more mutual accountability and shared responsibility, transparency and cooperation within the international system and with its rules and norms.'

'To achieve this, we will work with heads of state and governments globally and all stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector. We are convinced that it is our responsibility, as leaders of nations and international institutions, to ensure that the world learns the lessons of the Covid-19 pandemic.'

'At a time when Covid-19 has exploited our weaknesses and divisions, we must seize this opportunity and come together as a global community for peaceful cooperation that extends beyond this crisis. Building our capacities and systems to do this will take time and require a sustained political, financial and societal commitment over many years.'

'Our solidarity in ensuring that the world is better prepared will be our legacy that protects our children and grandchildren and minimises the impact of future pandemics on our economies and our societies. Pandemic preparedness needs global leadership for a global health system fit for this millennium. To make this commitment a reality, we must be guided by solidarity, fairness, transparency, inclusiveness and equity.'

Boris Johnson, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom; Emmanuel Macron, president of France; Angela Merkel, chancellor of Germany; Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, director-general of the World Health Organisation and 21 other world leaders.

NATO scrambles jets 10 times to track Russian military planes across Europe

By [Barbara Starr](#),

Tue March 30, 2021



Norwegian F-16s intercepted two Russian Tu-95 bombers of the type shown here.

(CNN)NATO scrambled fighter jets 10 times Monday to track and intercept an unusually "rare peak" of Russian bombers and fighters flying over the North Sea, Black Sea and Baltic Sea, according to a NATO official.

"NATO aircraft intercepted six different groups of Russian military aircraft near alliance airspace in

less than six hours," the organization said in a statement.

The Russian activity across an unusually wide area of European skies came on the same day North American Aerospace Defense Command said it tracked Russian aircraft off the coast of Alaska.

None of the Russian aircraft entered the national airspace of NATO nations in Europe and the intercepts were considered safe, but an alliance statement detailed the activity.

Norwegian F-16s scrambled after radars detected two groups of Russian military aircraft near Norway's coastline. The Norwegians intercepted two Tu-95 Bear bombers which flew south over the North Sea. That prompted the United Kingdom to send up Typhoon aircraft and Belgium to deploy F-16 fighters. The Norwegian F-16s later intercepted two Tu-160 bombers over international waters nearby.



Classified US military war game set to take place as concerns about threats posed by China and Russia increase

Separately, NATO radars detected three Russian military aircraft near allied airspace over the Black Sea which were tracked by Turkish, Romanian and Bulgarian fighters aircraft until they left the area.

Next Hezbollah-Israel War Only A Matter Of Time

Despite a collapsing Lebanese economy and considerable political turmoil, Hezbollah continues to threaten Israel. These threats must be taken seriously, given that Hezbollah -- the Iranian-backed proxy army -- has an incredible stockpile of long-range, medium range, and short-range missiles that can reach every square inch of Israel.

I spoke last Friday with the Middle East Forum about the worst-case scenarios for a conflict between Israel and Hezbollah. The possibilities include a surprise attack by Hezbollah, an Israeli pre-emptive strike, an unplanned escalation, and a multi-front war against Israel. The situation is a powder keg, and one false move could set any of these scenarios in motion.

Israelis understood the surprise attack possibility in 2019, when they discovered several well-built tunnels that started more than a half mile inside of Lebanon, but crossed into Israel. Hezbollah could have used them to attack northern Israeli communities, trying to kill as well as take Israeli civilians hostage. This kind of terrorist attack would have sparked a full-blown war.

Israel already lives under constant threat from Hezbollah's missile arsenal, much of which has been smuggled into Lebanon and retrofitted with advanced GPS guidance systems.

A multi-front war against Israel appears more possible now that Iraqi militias can use Iranian-supplied missiles, which can strike inside Israel. From the south, Yemeni Houthis now have projectiles capable of reaching Israel's port city of Eilat along the Red Sea. In Syria, Hezbollah has battle-tested forces capable of attacking, and there are Iranian and Russian weapon systems ready to strike.

Finally, Gaza is home to Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad, two terrorist groups that have been firing rockets at Israeli civilian communities for years. If they all acted together, a five-prong multi-front war against Israel is the worst-case scenario.

In 2019, Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah went on Hezbollah's Al Manar television station with his list of Israeli strategic targets that he wants destroyed during the next war with Israel. These strategic targets include Ben Gurion Airport near Tel Aviv, power plants, water desalination plants, nuclear sites, seaports, gas production facilities and natural gas rigs, petro-chemical production facilities near Haifa, IDF Headquarters/Ministry of Defense in Tel Aviv, air bases, naval bases, army bases, military industries, and important financial and commercial centers.

The 2006 war between Israel and Hezbollah was started after Hezbollah kidnapped two Israeli reservists and killed three others in an unprovoked cross-border raid Hezbollah. This is a perfect example of a war that neither side wanted, but still took place.

During the 34-day war, Hezbollah launched more than 100 rockets per day -- for a total of about 4,000 of its estimated 10,000 total rockets and missiles at the time. In the next war, Hezbollah could launch a minimum of 2,000 rockets a day from its 150,000 estimated inventory, a senior IDF official told a Jerusalem conference on March 15.

Hezbollah's arsenal is believed to include 130,000 short range rockets that can travel less than 70 km, about 500 medium range rockets (greater than 70 km and less than 250 km), and about 100 long range rockets (greater than 250 km) missiles.

According to a 2018 report from the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs (JINSA), "Hezbollah now possesses more firepower than 95 percent of the world's conventional militaries, and more rockets and missiles than all European NATO members combined."

Analysts believe that Hezbollah has between 500-1,000 precision guided munitions outfitted with enhanced GPS guidance systems that can hit every square inch of Israel, with devastating accuracy.

With long range advanced GPS Scud B warheads carrying as much as 2,200 pounds of high grade explosives, these missiles could easily destroy top strategic targets in Israel such as the Dimona nuclear power plant, Ben Gurion Airport, Israeli power plants, Israeli military bases, and sites that could cause massive civilian carnage -- all targets that Nasrallah has personally threatened to attack in the next war with Israel. (For comparative damage assessments, the unguided Qassam rockets launched by Hamas carry a payload of only 12 pounds of explosives.)

Additionally, Hezbollah reportedly has several dozen anti-ship missiles, such as the three C-802 anti-ship missiles that they fired at the Israeli Navy ship Hanit during the 2006 war, killing four Israeli sailors.

In response to the Hezbollah threat, Israel has a three-tiered system to protect its citizens and its strategic assets. These three tiers include: missile defense, bombing by Israeli Air Force (IAF) fighter aircraft, and civilian bomb shelters.

The missile defense tier is a multi-layered missile defense system that includes missile intercept systems like Iron Dome, PATRIOT, David's Sling, Arrow 2, and Arrow 3 (see graphic for estimated numbers, ranges, type of warhead, targets, range, and the date when the system became operational).

The second tier is the IAF's fighter jets, which would attack Hezbollah missile launch and storage sites. The IAF has more than 425 fighter aircraft, which including almost 50 new F-35s, 50 F-15s, 25 F-15Es, and 300 F-16s. If war does break out, Israel believes it can hit 3,000 Hezbollah targets per day.

Finally, the third layer of Israeli defense would be the civilian bunkers that are in many Israeli homes or part of local city and village infrastructures. In addition to the massive Hezbollah rocket and missile threat, the Gaza-based terrorist groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad also could attack Israel with their estimated 15,000-20,000 rockets and missiles.

The map showing ranges and flight times from Lebanon and from Gaza provide an idea of how much time someone in Tel Aviv has to reach shelter once the alarm system detects an incoming rocket. For example, a rocket launched by Hezbollah in Lebanon takes about 75 seconds to hit Tel Aviv, whereas a rocket fired from Gaza takes only 30 seconds. People living close to the northern border of Israel and near the Gaza Strip have only 10-15 seconds to react during a rocket attack.

In response, Israel's Iron Dome missile defense system would target those rockets heading toward population centers and strategic targets. David's Sling, with hundreds of interceptors, would target the longer-range rockets and missiles. But, despite their sophistication, those systems would be overwhelmed in a war in which 2,000 missiles were launched into Israel each day.

In May 2019, Hamas and Islamic Jihad launched around 690 rockets and mortars at Israel, with Iron Dome shooting down approximately 240 projectiles. This means that unguided munitions launched from Gaza were about a third on target, or happened to be on target.

Using the same percentages, and assuming the same capabilities, 2,000 Hezbollah rockets per day launched from Lebanon would require about 660 Iron Dome interceptors and an unknown number of David's Sling interceptors. In the meantime, the IAF would be destroying launchers and missile storage and assembly locations throughout Lebanon.

Therefore, the rate of Hezbollah rocket and missile fire would probably decrease over time, especially those with longer ranges. This would force Hezbollah to fire more of its shorter-range rockets, with less effect on strategic targets.

With approximately one-third of all Israelis having bomb shelters in their homes or apartments, the rest would go to local city bomb shelters or to their neighbors' shelters. In 2006, Israel did not have a missile defense system that would intercept short and medium range missiles and rockets.

The fact that the IAF can strike 3,000 targets per day offers a strong deterrent message to Hezbollah about what a preemptive attack by the IAF could do. If Hezbollah tried to launch a surprise attack against Israel, in addition to rocket and missile fire, the Iranian-terror proxy could attempt a ground attack to kill or capture Israelis living along the border with Lebanon.

Most estimates put the number of active Hezbollah combatants rising from 14,000 in 2006 to 25,000 today, with a reserve force of 20,000-30,000. Nasrallah has said that he is not interested in a war with Israel at this time. He said that he would not have instigated the 2006 war if he knew the tremendous damage that would be done to Lebanon's infrastructure. However, Iran could have different plans for Hezbollah. Beyond missiles and rockets, Hezbollah's capabilities have increased since 2006. Its fighters helped the Syrian army fight for almost a decade, growing more proficient in combat.

The question is whether the new Israeli tank active protection system (called Trophy), that the US Army is purchasing, can protect tanks against the Hezbollah arsenal of a variety of approximately a thousand Russian anti-tank systems (AT-3,4, 5, 13, and 14).

Any escalating conflict would cause significant casualties and a lot of destruction on both sides. The damage from a 34-day war in 2006, when Hezbollah had a fraction of the firepower it can unleash today, makes this reality clear.

There is reason for skepticism that deterrence can work with actors like Nasrallah or Hamas. As for Hezbollah's ultimate goal, Hezbollah's stated goal is the same as Iran's -- the destruction of the Zionist state.

The only thing stopping Hezbollah right now is that the Israelis have a more powerful military and can inflict more damage against Lebanese infrastructure, for which Hezbollah will be blamed.

Today, Lebanon is suffering the worst economic debacle in its history. The Lebanese currency has been devalued by up to 90 percent in just the last year. Hezbollah is being blamed by much of the Lebanese population for the massive corruption that has led to this unprecedented economic crisis. A war could do further damage to it.

CAN'T FEEL AT HOME?

Can't Feel at Home?

By Hal Lindsey

In 1936, a man named Albert Brumley wrote a song called, "This World is Not My Home." The chorus and every verse ends with the words: "I can't feel at home in this world anymore." I know how he felt. Maybe you do, too. And that's a good thing. This world is temporary. So are its pleasures and pains. But our citizenship is in heaven. Our joys in Christ are eternal.

As followers of Jesus, it makes sense that we feel uncomfortable in a world filled with violence and debauchery. The ache you feel when you watch the news should be normal for Christians. We're living at the end of Romans chapter one. We live in a time when men and women intentionally "suppress the truth in unrighteousness." (Romans 1:18) By this, they "became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools." (Romans 1:21-22) "They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator." (Romans 1:25)

It's all summed up in Romans 1:28-32. "Just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; and, although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them."

That's the world we live in... but it's not our home. Philippians 3:20-21 says, "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory."

In every way heaven is better than earth. Jesus said to pray, "'Our Father who art in heaven.'" (Matthew 6:9) That tells us something magnificent about heaven. God the Father lives there! The scripture we just looked at in Philippians is one of many telling us that Jesus lives there now in His resurrected body. Psalms 16:11 says, "In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever."

1 Corinthians 2:9-10 tells us, "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

Unlike the pleasures of earth, the joys of heaven neither dim nor die. 1 Peter 1:4 calls it, "An inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away."

No wonder Colossians 3:2 admonishes all of us to, "Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth." The songwriter mentioned above, Albert Brumley, is best known for the song, "I'll Fly Away." "Some glad morning when this life is over, I'll fly away. To a home on God's celestial shore, I'll fly away."

Those words are right in line with scripture. Psalms 90:10 says that when "the days of our life" are gone, "we fly away." Our future does not consist of living in a deteriorating society and in deteriorating bodies. Soon, we'll fly away — either at the rapture or when we die. Either way, it will be glorious and good. No matter what you face, keep Jesus and heaven in mind. Then, go on your way rejoicing with the full knowledge that some glad morning, you'll fly away!