

# NEWSBYTES

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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

## Israeli Warplanes Target Iranian Officials Meeting In Damascus

By [TV7](#) February 24, 2023



*A 19 February rocket attack in Damascus attributed to Israel targeted an installation where Iranian officials were meeting to advance drone or missile development by Tehran's proxies in the Arab Republic, sources told Reuters.*

"The strike hit the center where they were meeting as well as an apartment in a residential building. One Syrian engineer and one Iranian official – not high-ranking – were killed," said a source close to the Syrian government with knowledge of Sunday's attack.

According to initial reporting by Syrian state media, Israeli warplanes carried out air strikes shortly after midnight on Sunday against several areas of the Syrian capital, causing five deaths and injuring 15 others.

The targeted building was located in the Damascus neighborhood of Kafr Sousa, a heavily policed area where residents say several Iranian security agencies and an Iranian cultural center are located. At the time, two Western intelligence sources identified the target was a logistics center operated by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). Top Hezbollah Commander Imad Moughniyeh was killed in 2008 during a bombing in the same neighborhood. Israel denied the terror group's allegations it was behind the assassination.

A second source, who spoke to Syrian security personnel briefed on the Sunday strike, said Iranians were attending the meeting of technical experts at an Iranian military installation in the basement of a residential building inside a security compound. He said one of those killed was a Syrian Armed Forces civil engineer who worked at Syria's Military Scientific Studies and Research Center. Western identification of the SSRC as a military institution that has produced missiles and chemical weapons is denied by Damascus.

A regional intelligence official familiar with the strike said the target was part of an IRGC covert guided missile production, while another said an IRGC engineer involved in the missile program was seriously injured and transferred to a hospital in Tehran, although two other mid-ranking IRGC members at the meeting were unharmed.

Yet another informant with knowledge of the strike and its target, said officials from Iran and Hezbollah had been targeted. The Lebanese terror group, which fought a five-week war with Israel in 2006, has sent fighters to help Syrian President Bashar al-Assad drive back rebels who once nearly encircled Damascus during his country's 12-year civil war.

Military experts say the latest attack of a series of others on infrastructure of the Syrian army and its allies reflect an escalation of what has been a low-intensity conflict geared at slowing down Iran's growing entrenchment in country.

Western intelligence officials say the Islamic Republic has stepped up aerial weapons shipments to its terrorist proxies, including Hezbollah, in attempts to evade IDF strikes on overland ground convoys. Strikes on Syrian airports and air bases have intensified in recent months.

The IDF generally refuses to comment on alleged operations against suspected Iranian-sponsored weapons transfers and personnel deployments.

An Israeli military official declined to confirm or deny involvement in the most recent incident, but did say that some of the casualties were caused by errant Syrian anti-aircraft fire.

Although officials rarely acknowledge responsibility for specific operations, Israel has acknowledged mounting hundreds of attacks on Iranian-linked targets in Syria – where the Islamic Republic's forces and proxy have become entrenched in deployments aimed at attacking the Jewish State for almost a decade. Research centers for weapons development and munitions depots operated by IRGC have particularly been in the IDF's crosshairs.

Israeli political and defense leaders have repeatedly stated that Iran's presence just over the northern frontier will not be tolerated.

The Ayatollah regime has been a major backer of Assad's since civil war erupted in 2011. Its support for Syria and Hezbollah has drawn regular Israeli air strikes meant to curb Tehran's extraterritorial military power. The Syrian leader has never publicly acknowledged that Iranian

forces have operated on his behalf in the war, claiming Tehran has only military advisers on the ground.

The United States and Israel have been increasingly concerned about Iran's manufacturing of armed unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs, drones), and the possibility it would pass on those capabilities to regional proxies such as the heavily armed Hezbollah.

Iran's proxy militias, led by Hezbollah, now control large areas of eastern, southern and northern Syria and in several suburbs around the capital.

Last week US forces shot down what they said was an Iranian-made drone flying over a base hosting American personnel in northeastern Syria.

Although many may simply view Israeli strikes in Syria as a regular occurrence in the region, Christians take particular notice when discussing military actions in the country's capital. That is because Damascus, which is the longest continually inhabited city in the world, has its future end detailed in Scripture.

Jack Hibbs, the senior pastor of Calvary Chapel Chino Hills, after an Israeli strike near Damascus last year, explained the city's Biblical significance: "For those of us who know our Bibles, it's always an attention-getter whenever we hear about Damascus being involved in any form of warfare," Hibbs described. "The book of Isaiah chapter 17 tells us that there will be an utter and total devastation that comes to the city of Damascus."

Isaiah 17:1 reads, "The burden of Damascus. Behold, Damascus is taken away from being a city, and it shall be a ruinous heap."

"With all that's going on in the world right now, keep your eye on the news with your Bible open," Pastor Hibbs underscored. "It may be that such an event will trigger either a regional or world war..."

According to Hibbs and many other Bible Prophecy students, Damascus' future destruction may also be the catalyst for "the Ezekiel 38 battle" in-which Russia, Iran, Turkey, and others come together from the north, with weaponry supplied by Russia, to attack the Jewish State.

## **The Unraveling of the American Mind**

By Hal Lindsey

In 1987, Allan Bloom, then a professor at the University of Chicago, published *The Closing of the American Mind*. The book was hailed by conservatives and liberals alike. The New York Times wrote that it "hits with the approximate force and effect of electroshock therapy." The Washington Post called it, "Rich and absorbing... A grand tour of the American mind."

Bloom showed how the relativism taught at universities leads to closed minds. He lamented "parents' loss of control over the children's moral education at a time when no one else is seriously concerned

with it." The book was influential, but I wish its influence had been even greater. The Closing of the American Mind was like a sandcastle trying to hold back a rising tide.

Over time, the entertainment, political, media, and religious establishments joined the educational establishment in pushing the deadly ideas Bloom warned against. Today in America, the establishment has imprisoned the nation's young within walls of closedmindedness, superstition, and paganism. The results have been devastating.

According to a new study released by the CDC, one in three high school girls admits to considering suicide in the last year. 57% of high school girls and 29% of high school boys say they experience persistent feelings of sadness and hopelessness. Almost half of LGBTQ+ students have considered suicide and 37 percent of them have formed a suicide plan.

These numbers are staggering. What's going on? Relativism, though a huge problem, is really the symptom of a bigger problem. You'll find the real problem laid out in Romans 1:18-32. Those verses speak of human beings "who suppress the truth in unrighteousness" (vs 18, NASB). It says, "Professing to be wise, they became fools" (vs 22). "They exchanged the truth of God for a lie" (vs 25).

God's judgment is to allow his repudiators to have what they desire. "God gave them over to degrading passions" (vs 26). In Greek, the words translated "gave over to" carry the connotation of "surrender." In a sense, God simply lets go. Romans 1:28 is one of the saddest verses in the Bible. "Just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind." God surrenders them to the consequences of their own choices and desires.

Romans 1:29-31 gives us a taste of how depravity of mind manifests itself into the world. It leads people to "unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice." It goes on to say, "They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful."

We now live in that world. And we see the pain, sadness, loneliness, misery, and mental illnesses it causes. God remains all-powerful, but He allows us to choose whether we will push Him away or invite Him in. Americans as a whole have actively pushed God away for generations. We now see the sad, ugly results.

We should pray for a spiritual awakening in America and the world. But most of, let us pray for revival within ourselves and among our fellow Christians, so that we may effectively share God's light in a darkening world

## Iran unveils new 'Paveh' cruise missile that can reach Israel

*Top general says Tehran still wants to kill former US president Trump, Secretary Pompeo to avenge the assassination of Qassem Soleimani*

By **TOI STAFF** and **AGENCIES** 25 February 2023

A senior Iranian general unveiled a new cruise missile with a range of 1,650 km (1,025 miles) that could potentially reach Israel in an interview with state television on Friday, in which he also reiterated Tehran's desire to kill former US president Donald Trump.

“Our cruise missile with a range of 1,650 km has been added to the missile arsenal of the Islamic Republic of Iran,” said Amirali Hajizadeh, the head of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps aerospace force according to the Reuters news agency.

The television broadcast what it said was the first footage showing the new Paveh cruise missile, showing the missile launch, then flying low over terrain before hitting a target.

Beyond the range, Hajizadeh gave no further details of the missile.

The Guard in the past has said it has cruise missiles with ranges of 1,000 kilometers (620 miles). It also has missiles that range up to 2,000 kilometers (1,250 miles), more than enough to reach archenemy Israel and US military bases in the region.

Iran, which has developed a long list of homegrown weaponry, including drones, naval vessels, aircraft and electronic systems, has sparked mounting concern around the world with its supply of suicide drones to Russia for use in Ukraine and fears it could send other weapons systems to Moscow.

Israel has long warned against Tehran’s missile program saying it poses a threat to Israel, the region and Europe, not just for its conventional capabilities, but also because they could eventually be used to launch nuclear weapons should Iran acquire them.

In 2018, then-US president Donald Trump pulled the United States out of the Iran nuclear deal, claiming it was too weak and didn’t address Iran’s missile development.

He also re-imposed crushing sanctions on Iran. Tehran has since started enriching uranium up to 60% purity — a short technical step from the 90% needed to make an atomic bomb.

Speaking to State TV on Friday, Hajizadeh also reiterated Iran’s desire to kill Trump and former secretary of state Mike Pompeo for their role in the January 3, 2020, killing of Iran’s Quds Force commander Qassem Soleimani in an American drone strike in Baghdad.

“God willing, we are looking to kill Trump. Pompeo … and military commanders who issued the order (to kill Soleimani) should be killed,” Hajizadeh said in the television interview.

The report on the new cruise missile came hours after Iran said it will likely send air defense systems to Syria, a move apparently meant to protect against Israeli airstrikes.

“Syria needs to rebuild its air defense network and requires precision bombs for its fighter planes,” the Iranian state broadcaster said, according to Reuters.

“It is very likely that we will witness the supply by Iran of radars and defense missiles, such as the 15 Khordad system, to reinforce Syria’s air defenses,” it added.

The state TV report follows an airstrike in Damascus last weekend that was attributed to Israel, which the news agency on Wednesday said targeted a meeting of Syrian and Iranian officials involved with the manufacture of drones, as well as members of the Lebanese terror group Hezbollah.

Syria has said five people were killed and 15 wounded in the attack on Saturday night. The Israeli military has not commented on the strike, per its policy of not generally commenting on air raids in Syria, though it has acknowledged conducting hundreds of sorties against Iran-backed groups attempting to gain a foothold in the country over the last decade. Israeli officials have previously said the IDF does not target civilians and seeks to avoid damage to residential areas as much as possible.

Iran's foreign ministry condemned the strike on Sunday, but did not mention any Iranian casualties.

It was also denounced by Russia, which like Iran is a key backer of the Syrian regime in the over decade-long civil war, as a "flagrant violation" of international law.

Israel's need to coordinate with Russia — which largely controls Syrian airspace — to carry out strikes has been cited as a chief reason for Jerusalem's reluctance to supply Kyiv with weaponry amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Israel has found itself at odds with Russia as it increasingly supported Ukraine while seeking to maintain freedom of movement in Syria's skies.

Also Friday, the White House said Russia is considering sending fighter jets to Iran as part of an expanding military cooperation that has seen Tehran ship growing quantities of weaponry to Moscow for use in the invasion of Ukraine.

"We believe that Russia might provide Iran unprecedented defense cooperation, including on missiles, electronics and air defense. We believe that Russia might provide Iran with fighter jets," National Security Council spokesman John Kirby told reporters.

## Stupidocracy: The Narrative

By Bill Wilson

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The narrative is how propagandists cause people to believe only what they want to believe. Fear, pornography, and censorship of opposition are used to get people to do what the government wants.

And that has been the case with the COVID narrative. As more studies emerge, even the most believing of all things COVID have to take notice that things were just not what the government, news media, and big pharma said they were.

Notwithstanding, the narrative continues. Commercials are being funded by big pharma and the government to get even more people to take an mRNA shot that does not prevent COVID and has many after-effects that are dangerous. It's not safe and effective as advertised.

Some people are trying to wake up the public from their COVID stupor. Florida Surgeon General Dr. Joseph Ladapo sent a letter to the Food and Drug Administration citing Florida's 4,400 percent increase in reports of life-threatening conditions since the rollout of the mRNA COVID vaccines.

Ladapo wrote,

"We have never seen this type of response following previous mass vaccination efforts pushed by the federal government. Even the H1N1 vaccine did not trigger this sort of response. In Florida alone, we saw a 1,700 percent increase in reports after the release of the COVID-19 vaccine, compared to an increase of 400 percent in vaccine administration for the same period. The reporting of life-threatening conditions increased [by] 4,400 percent."

People are waking up to these vaccines being so unsafe in the long run that the risk far outweighs the benefit—which we need to remember is something that does not remotely prevent one from getting or spreading the many COVID strains.

This is what's likely behind Moderna pivoting its marketing plan from pricing doses from \$110-130 when the government stops paying for them. Now Moderna is saying that both the insured and uninsured will be able to get the serum at no cost through a Moderna assistance program.

A congressman friend of mine had an interesting saying, "What you get for nothing is worth nothing."

Obviously, Moderna can't give this stuff away. Yet, socialist senator Bernie Sanders (VT) is really concerned that no one can afford the vaccine. Well, maybe he is right if you consider the associated health risks.

Meanwhile, Republican state legislators in Idaho have introduced a bill that will make it illegal to give mRNA vaccines to people. House Bill #154 says, "a person may not provide or administer a vaccine developed using messenger ribonucleic acid technology for use in an individual or any other mammal in this state.... A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor."

They say it's unsafe. And Republicans control the Idaho House, so this might have some legs.

Meanwhile, back in Washington, Joe Biden is ignoring widespread grassroots opposition and is about to sign an agreement with the World Health Organization (WHO) to legally give the WHO policy authority over US healthcare during pandemics. How messed up is that?

Christ said in Matthew 24:4, "Take heed that no man deceive you."

This narrative is nothing short of... say it with me... Stupidocracy.

*Posted in The Daily Jot*