

# This Week's Developments

February 21 - 27, 2021

- US launches airstrikes against Iran militias in Syria
- Russia officials outraged at Joe Biden Syria strike
- Explosion strikes Israeli-owned ship amid tension
- Israeli defence alliance talks with Saudi, UAE, Bahrain
- IDF gets ready for Hezbollah along Lebanese border
- Israel issues 'unusual' gag order on investigation into disastrous oil slick
- *Additional & Supporting Articles*

# US launches air strikes against Iran-linked militias in Syria

Financial Times, February 26, 2021



## EVENT

The US has carried out air strikes against Iran-linked militia groups in eastern Syria in retaliation for recent attacks on American and coalition personnel in Iraq. The military action on Thursday was the first ordered by President Joe Biden since taking office and drew immediate criticism from some at home, although it was defended by John Kirby, Pentagon press secretary, as a proportionate response. “At President Biden’s direction, US military forces earlier this evening conducted air strikes against infrastructure utilised by Iranian-backed militant groups in eastern Syria,” Kirby said in a statement. He added that the US strikes had “destroyed multiple facilities located at a border control point used by a number of Iranian-backed militant groups”. A defence department official said it was believed that “up to a handful” of people had been killed in the operation. Shia militia groups have claimed responsibility for attacks on US facilities in Iraq in recent weeks. A rocket attack last week in Erbil killed a civilian contractor and injured several others, including a member of the US military.

## COMMENT

President Biden has authorised his first military attacks - and they were against Iran’s militia groups in Syria. This comes on the back of Iranian rockets fired at a US base in Iraq. Biden said yesterday that the US strikes were a warning for Iran “to be careful.” Iran wants sanctions lifted and the nuclear deal restored. Biden also wants the deal restored however he is insisting that Iran comes back into line first – Iran has itself broken parts of the deal since Trump pulled the US out of it in 2018. Biden also wants to renegotiate part of the deal in relation to Iran’s missile program. The Bible says that Iran has a key part to play in the time of trouble. The Medes are being stirred up.

## BIBLE QUOTE

Behold, I will stir up the Medes [Iran] against them, which shall not regard silver; and as for gold, they shall not delight in it. Their bows also shall dash the young men to pieces; and they shall have no pity on the fruit of the womb; their eye shall not spare children.

(Isaiah 13:17-18)

# Russia Officials Outraged at Joe Biden Syria Strike

Newsweek, February 26, 2021



## EVENT

Russian officials have expressed outrage after President Joe Biden approved airstrikes on Iranian-backed Iraqi militia fighters in Syria, in retaliation for a militia rocket attack on American troops in Iraqi Kurdistan earlier this month. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov told reporters Friday that Moscow is "naturally closely monitoring the situation on the ground," according to the state-run Tass news agency. "We are in permanent contact with Syrian colleagues," he added. But other officials were less restrained in their response to the airstrike, which Biden supporters have praised as a measured response to this month's deadly rocket attack on the Erbil International Airport in Iraqi Kurdistan by an Iranian-backed Iraqi militia group. Russia's state-run RIA Novosti news agency spoke to an unnamed source inside the Foreign Ministry who condemned the American strike as "an unacceptable violation of international law." Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Moscow was warned about the airstrike just before it occurred.

## COMMENT

Russia is not happy at all with the US striking Iranian militia in Syria. "We strongly condemn such actions and call for Syria's sovereignty and territorial integrity to be unconditionally respected," Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told reporters. Russia is in Syria at Syria's request and is helping support the Assad regime. Iran is there as well with Syria's support as the Iranian militia have helped Assad overcome the uprising against him. We are seeing here in Bible language the king of the north (Russia) v king of the south (US). We are told in Daniel 11:40 that the king of the south pushes (militarily provokes) the king of the north. It will happen.

## BIBLE QUOTE

He [Gog] will honour those who submit to him, appointing them to positions of authority and dividing the land among them as their reward. Then at the time of the end, the king of the south will attack the king of the north. The king of the north will storm out with chariots, charioteers, and a vast navy. He will invade various lands and sweep through them like a flood. (Daniel 11:39-40)

# Explosion strikes Israeli-owned ship in Mideast amid tension

Associated Press, February 27, 2021



## EVENT

An explosion struck an Israeli-owned cargo ship sailing out of the Middle East on Friday, an unexplained blast renewing concerns about ship security in the region amid escalating tensions between the U.S. and Iran. The crew and vessel were safe, according to the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations, which is run by the British navy. The explosion in the Gulf of Oman forced the vessel to head to the nearest port. The incident recalled the summer of 2019, when the same site saw a series of suspected attacks that the U.S. Navy blamed on Iran, which Tehran denied. Meanwhile, as President Joe Biden tries to revive nuclear negotiations with Iran, he ordered overnight airstrikes on facilities in Syria belonging to a powerful Iranian-backed Iraqi armed group. Dryad Global, a maritime intelligence firm, identified the stricken vessel as the MV Helios Ray, a Bahamian-flagged roll-on, roll-off vehicle cargo ship. Another private security official, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity to discuss intelligence matters, similarly identified the ship as the Helios Ray.

## COMMENT

Israeli officials believe Iran was behind a blast on an Israeli-owned cargo ship in the Gulf of Oman, according to Friday reports in Israel's press. Just as Biden sent a warning to Iran on Thursday by attacking Iranian militia in Syria, so this could be a warning to the US from Iran by attacking an Israeli owned ship. The message is surely that Iran will involve Israel if the US doesn't back down and remove sanctions. Both sides are flexing their military muscles but this then escalates tensions and increases the chance of conflict. The Gulf of Oman is the very area mentioned in Isaiah 21 where we are told that Elam and Media (Iran) will rise up and besiege. This causes a terrible conflict.

## BIBLE QUOTE

A grievous vision is declared unto me; the treacherous dealer dealeth treacherously, and the spoiler spoileth. Go up, O Elam: besiege, O Media; all the sighing thereof have I made to cease. Therefore are my loins filled with pain: pangs have taken hold upon me, as the pangs of a woman that travaileth: I was bowed down at the hearing of it; (Isaiah 21:2-3)

# Israeli in talks to establish 4 nation defence alliance with Saudi, UAE, Bahrain

i24News, February 25, 2021

**EXCLUSIVE!**  
**ISRAEL IN TALKS TO ESTABLISH 4-NATION DEFENSE ALLIANCE WITH SAUDI, UAE AND BAHRAIN**



## EVENT

Jerusalem does not have official diplomatic relations with Riyadh but is thought to have clandestine ties. Jerusalem is currently in talks with the kingdoms of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates in establishing a four-nation defence alliance, according to an exclusive i24NEWS report. While Jerusalem does not have official diplomatic relations with Riyadh, foreign media report that the two countries have long-standing clandestine ties. However, the UAE and Bahrain, signed a historic normalization deal with Israel in September 2020 known as the US-brokered Abraham Accords. The reported defence alliance talks likely come in response to the "growing Iranian threat" in the region, specifically regarding its budding nuclear program along with its expanding influence in the Middle East with countries like Syria and Iraq. News of the reported talks comes as the newly Biden administration sends signals to Tehran and world powers that it is ready to rejoin the 2015 Iranian nuclear deal, which Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vehemently opposed at the time.

## COMMENT

President Trump was extremely close to Netanyahu and Israel. President Biden is less so. Biden wants to distance himself from Trump's policies so is acting colder to Israel than perhaps he might have otherwise. Trump was very supportive of Saudi Arabia and did enormous military deals with them while he was in power. Biden on the other hand wants to step back from this to some extent. He also would like to restore the Iranian deal that Trump pulled out of. All this means Israel feels more isolated and therefore is looking to develop new defence relationships. Hence the report above. In Ezekiel 38 we are told that Sheba and Dedan are first on the list of nations that support Israel when Russia invades. Sheba and Dedan are Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain etc

## BIBLE QUOTE

Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof, shall say unto thee, Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil?

(Ezekiel 38:13)



# IDF gets ready for Hezbollah along the Israeli-Lebanese border

Jerusalem Post, February 25, 2021



**EVENT** The IDF has reorganized the way it responds to alerts and deploys troops along the border with Lebanon amid growing concern of a possible confrontation with Hezbollah, senior officers told The Jerusalem Post. The IDF changes — led by the 91st Galilee Division — were done in recent months, in which the unit carried out significant measures to step up its preparedness. The purview of the 91st Division, which consists of the 300th Brigade in the West and the 769th Brigade in the East, spans the entire Israeli-Lebanese border. As part of its preparation, the division rearranged the way it deploys its troops. It formed new tactical units of infantry, tanks, missile batteries, engineering corps, and others in order to increase its firepower capabilities, and to “exact a higher price” when it responds to an enemy attack. In order to more rapidly respond to incidents, the division recently created a new mechanism to tighten cooperation between different units, including the Navy and the Air Force units that operate in the area. This new deployment was practiced in the recent “Lightning Storm” division drill completed two weeks ago.

**COMMENT** As well as creating a possible new defence alliance with the Gulf Arab states Israel is also rapidly preparing for conflict on its northern border. Last week it conducted a huge military drill showing it could attack 3000 Hezbollah targets in one day. As the report says there is growing concern of a possible confrontation with Hezbollah. We know this will happen. There is an initial inner ring war coming soon around Israel. In fact we know as well it involves the north of Israel especially. In Isaiah 17 we read that when Damascus is completely destroyed and Syria as a nation fails, Ephraim (code for northern Israel) will become like a grainfield. Israel will overcome but at a cost...

**BIBLE QUOTE** The fortress also shall cease from Ephraim, and the kingdom from Damascus, and the remnant of Syria: they shall be as the glory of the children of Israel, saith the LORD of hosts. And in that day it shall come to pass, that the glory of Jacob shall be made thin, and the fatness of his flesh shall wax lean. And it shall be as when the harvestman gathereth the corn, (Isaiah 17:3-4)

# Israel issues 'unusual' gag order on investigation into disastrous oil slick

MSN, February 24, 2021



## EVENT

An investigation into a disastrous oil slick affecting Israel's entire 120-mile coastline, as well as other areas in the eastern Mediterranean, is the subject of an "extraordinary" seven-day gag order, preventing media from publishing details from the investigation, according to reports. Around 1,000 tonnes of tar from the oil spill is believed to have washed up, covering wildlife including baby turtles and fish which have been found covered in thick black oil, which conservationists have warned could take "decades" to clean-up. But on Monday, in what Israeli news outlets have described as "extraordinary" and an "unusual move", the country's environment ministry said a judge had issued a gag order on publishing any detail related to the investigation, including anything which could identify any suspects, the vessel involved, their destination, cargo or port of departure. According to Haaretz, the ministry said that "publications at this sensitive stage could harm a complex investigation with international aspects".

## COMMENT

A massive oil spill off the coast of Israel is being called the worst ecological disaster in the Mediterranean country's history. Over 70 tons of tar have been collected so far. Beaches have been shut down, and the sale of fish and other seafood from the area is now prohibited. Forbes said this week "This incident could highlight Israel's vulnerability and raise questions throughout the region and the world about weaponizing environmental threats." It is so sad to see God's land covered in pollution in this way. The land itself is crying out for the return of Jesus to restore all things.

## BIBLE QUOTE

Hear the word of the Lord, O people of Israel! The Lord has brought charges against you, saying: "There is no faithfulness, no kindness, no knowledge of God in your land. You make vows and break them; you kill and steal and commit adultery. There is violence everywhere— one murder after another. That is why your land is in mourning, and everyone is wasting away. Even the wild animals, the birds of the sky, and the fish of the sea are disappearing (Hosea 4:1-3 NLT)



TURKEY

IRAN

SYRIA  
AL BUKAMAL

IRAQ

US base in Arbil struck Feb 16, 2021 by Iran/Shia Missiles

Iran/Shia Missile base struck Feb 25, 2021 by US Air Force

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

1 day ago





## ADDITIONAL AND SUPPORTING ARTICLES

This Week's **DebkaFile Review** (world events through the bi-focals of Israeli military intelligence)

2021-01-16 - Iran Fires Test Missiles Over Indian Ocean Against Virtual Targets Within 100 Mi Of Nimitz-

Yossi Cohen - The Mossad Spy Chief Who Stole Iran's Secret Nuclear Archive

Meet the Man Netanyahu has Picked to Succeed Yossi Cohen to Lead Israel's Mossad after July 2021

Iran unveils new secret underground missile base filled with anti-ship weapons in Persian gulf - Daily Mail Online

Aleksei Navalny Protests Constitute Biggest Russian Dissent in Years - The New York Times

Why Russian Military Expenditure Is Much Higher Than Commonly Understood

Weapons of the weak- Russia and AI-driven asymmetric warfare

How artificial intelligence is transforming the world

The 'Great Reset,' world leaders' radical plan to transform the economy – The Hill

The 'Great Reset' – What Is It & What Does It Mean ?

U.S. Calls for 'Moratorium' on Nord Stream 2 Pipeline

Are we really ready for a World War III ?

What is Alexey Navalny's endgame- - Russia News - Al Jazeera