

Weekly Update

1. The Operation to Eliminate Deif: The Impact on the War and Effect on Sinwar

So far, the war has barely affected Syria because of Assad's reluctance to participate in the axis of resistance. But after Syria fired two missiles at the Golan Heights, the air force attacked a base in the village of Susa in Damascus and eliminated Qatarji.

Source: The Institute of National Security Studies

https://www.inss.org.il/social_media/deif-kobi/

2. Azerbaijan Re-opens Embassy in Iran After Over a Year

On July 15, the Azerbaijani Embassy in Iran resumed its activities. It was suspended after an armed attack on January 27, 2023. Then, as a result of the terrorist attack, the head of the security service of the diplomatic mission was killed and 2 more employees were injured. On February 5, 2024, the embassy attacker was sentenced to death.

Source: IranWire

<https://iranwire.com/en/news/131808-azerbaijan-re-opens-embassy-in-iran-after-over-a-year/>

3. From Restrictions To Arrests And Bloodshed: Shias Continue Their Struggle For Religious Freedom

As Afghanistan's Shia community celebrates Ashura, the Taliban say they have arrested several Kabul residents for tearing down Shia religious flags in the city. The men said they were not Taliban and in fact did so for financial reward from the resistance.

Source: Hasht e Subh Daily

<https://8am.media/eng/from-restrictions-to-arrests-and-bloodshed-shias-continue-their-struggle-for-religious-freedom/>

4. US-Israeli discussions address strategic security and cooperation

US Army Central Command (CENTCOM) commander General Michael Korila visited Israel this week as an official guest of Chief of Staff Herzl Halevi. During the visit, the CENTCOM commander and Chief of Staff held meetings and visited several units, where they met with other senior IDF commanders.

Source: al quds

<https://alquds.com/en/posts/128595>

5. Wang Yi Has a Phone Call with Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary Péter Szijjártó

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said during a phone conversation with his Hungarian counterpart Peter Szijjarto that China is ready to cooperate with Hungary to push the situation in Ukraine towards a political solution.

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/zxxx_662805/202407/t20240717_11455252.html

6. Why is Kenya's Ruto accusing the Ford Foundation of stoking protests?

Kenya is witnessing massive protests over proposed tax reforms. President William Ruto, a key US ally in Africa, has accused the Ford Foundation, a major US philanthropic organization, of funding the forces behind the unrest.

Source: Al Jazeera

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/7/18/why-is-kenyas-ruto-accusing-the-ford-foundation-of-stoking-tax-protests>

7. Von der Leyen loses court case in blow to her 2nd-term bid

Vaccine contract secrecy threatens von der Leyen's leadership. The EU's General Court ruled that the European Commission, headed by Ursula von der Leyen, withheld crucial information about Covid-19 vaccine purchase agreements with pharmaceutical companies during the pandemic.

Source: Politico

<https://www.politico.eu/article/eus-top-court-rules-against-european-commission-in-vaccine-contracts-transparency-case/>

8. Schumer calls for Menendez to resign his New Jersey seat following guilty verdict

From banning 'foreign agents' to working for them: The irony of Menendez's sentence. Menendez made a career out of banning Cuba, Russia and China, as well as others, as "foreign agents," yet he now faces up to 222 years in prison for working as an unregistered foreign agent for two Middle Eastern regimes, among other charges.

Source: nbc New York

<https://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/politics/chuck-schumer-bob-menendez-calls-for-resignation-senate-seat/5602405/>

9. Russia, Kazakhstan, Iran, Turkmenistan to develop eastern route of North-South corridor

Kazakhstan, Iran, Turkmenistan and the Russian Federation signed a roadmap to develop the potential of the North-South corridor. The first transport trade and export forum "North-South" is being held in the Kazakh city of Aktau, chaired by Deputy Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Zhumangarin.

Source: TASS

<https://tass.com/economy/1819073>

10. Israel strikes Yemen in response to Houthi drone attack on Tel Aviv

The attack on Yemen was preceded by several rounds of talks between Israel and US military representatives, Axios reported, citing an unnamed US government source. An Israeli official also told the publication that the attacks were carried out in coordination with the US and the international coalition formed to counter Houthi attacks.

*Source: **Axios***

<https://www.axios.com/2024/07/20/israel-yemen-houthis-tel-aviv-drone>