

DAILY TRACKER**NUCLEAR ISSUES**

1. US conventional deterrent strategy assumes no use of nuclear force. The United States has to strengthen its nuclear deterrent capability to ensure that threshold is never broken. Following two decades of counterterrorism and nation-building in Iraq and Afghanistan, there is understandably considerable debate in the United States about the needs of U.S. security. How big should the defense budget be? What nuclear deterrent strategy should the United States adopt? A security and nuclear posture review will examine both issues this year. Part of that effort is built on the hope that America has learned “lessons” from the Global War on Terrorism and redirect the means which we use to protect our country to more achievable objectives.

Source: <https://nationalinterest.org/feature/wanted-nuclear-deterrence-strategy-works-19481>

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2. North Korea has warned the U.N. Security Council against criticizing the isolated country’s missile program, in a statement Sunday that included unspecified threats against the international body. During an emergency closed-door meeting of the top U.N. body Friday, France circulated a proposed statement that expresses concern over North Korea’s missile launches and calls on it to fully implement council resolutions that ban its ballistic missile firings.

Source: <https://www.politico.com/news/2021/10/03/north-korea-issues-warning-to-un-security-council-514977> 04 October 2021

3. The Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for nuclear and missile defense policy, a Biden appointee who apparently was intent on challenging status quo ideas, recently was forced out of the Nuclear Posture Review process in a “reorganization.” The move led some to conclude that new ideas and innovative thinking are being excluded, some to have even sharper reactions, and inspired Sen. Edward Markey (D-Mass.) to fire off a letter to the president

asking eight pointed questions and expressing concern that the move “will result in a draft Nuclear Posture Review that reflects the Cold War era’s over-reliance on nuclear weapons.”

Source: <https://thehill.com/opinion/national-security/574383-why-we-need-a-fundamental-reappraisal-of-nuclear-weapons-policy> 04 October 2021

4. Israel's military intelligence believes that Iran still has a long way to go to acquire a functioning nuclear bomb that can threaten Israel, noting that the levels of enriched uranium are “disturbing.” Israel’s Military Intelligence head Maj-Gen Tamir Hayman told Walla News that Iran would not get a nuclear bomb soon, despite enriching uranium at unprecedented levels. Hayman said in an interview with Wallah, parts of which were published by the Jerusalem Post, that there is an enriched amount of uranium in volumes not seen before, and it is disturbing.

Source: <https://english.aawsat.com/home/article/3223421/israel-iran-far-acquiring-nuclear-bomb> 04 October 2021

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

1. Taliban's return to power, amid Pakistan's nuclear program alarms the international community. With the Taliban coming to power there has been an enthusiastic narrative among the conservative members of Pakistani society including the government establishments who are excited and motivated by this development author Ronald Jacquard said in an article published in the Global Watch Analysis. In a situation when the radicals are taken charge of Afghanistan the nuclear assets of Pakistan cannot anymore be considered remote by the international community. Thus, the international community has to watch Pakistan's nuclear program cautiously until some form of stability returns to Afghanistan in order to prevent the country's nuclear assets from landing in the hands of rogue elements, writes Jacquard.

Source: <https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/talibans-return-to-power-amid-pakistans-nuclear-program-alarms-international-community20211003133308> 04 October 2021

2. During an emergency closed-door meeting of the top UN body Friday, France circulated a proposed statement that expresses concern over North Korea's missile launches and calls on it to fully implement council resolutions that ban its ballistic missile firings. On Sunday, Jo Chol Su, a senior North Korean Foreign Ministry official, warned the UN council it “had better think what consequences it will bring in the future in case it tries to encroach upon the sovereignty” of North Korea. Jo also accused the UN body of a “double-dealing standard” because it doesn't equally take issue with similar weapons tests by the United States and its allies, according to the statement circulated by state media.

Source: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/north-korea-threatens-top-un-body-again-criticising-its-missile-program-101633252576566.html> 04 October 2021

3. The defence ministry said the planes entered the area in two waves, during the day and during the evening. It comes after 38 planes, including nuclear-capable bombers, entered the zone on Friday. China sees democratic Taiwan as a breakaway province, but Taiwan sees itself as a sovereign state. Taiwan has been complaining for more than a year about repeated missions by China's air force near the island. “China has been wantonly engaged in military aggression, damaging regional peace,” Taiwan Premier Su Tseng-chang told reporters on Saturday.

Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-58771369> 04 October 2021

MISSILES/BIO WEAPONS

1. But a terrifyingly large number of thermonuclear weapons have been lost over the years – and at least one is buried somewhere in the Arctic ice.
2. Warming temperatures mean it's only a matter of time before the warming climate releases the weapon's payload into the sea. US military parlance describes these lost weapons as “Broken

Arrow” incidents, but few of them have a tidy ending like John Woo’s 1996 movie. Perhaps the most mysterious “Broken Arrow” accident is the loss of a USAF B-47 Stratojet with the callsign Inkspot 59.

Source: <https://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/latest-news/nuclear-bombs-lost-transit--25118617>

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3. North Korea on Sunday slammed the UN Security Council for holding an emergency meeting over the country's latest missile tests, accusing the member states of toying with a "time-bomb". Pyongyang said Friday it had successfully fired an anti-aircraft missile, the latest in a series of tension-raising steps by the nuclear-armed state, which had until recently been biding its time since the change in US administrations in January. In September, it launched what it said was a long-range cruise missile, and earlier this week tested what it described as a hypersonic glide vehicle, which South Korea's military said appeared to be in the early stages of development.

Source: <https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/north-korea-slams-un-security-council-for-holding-emergency-meeting-on-missile-test-2562138>

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Source: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/north-korea-threatens-top-un-body-against-criticising-its-missile-program-101633252576566.html>

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5. North Korea denounced a closed-door UN Security Council meeting that found recent missile tests by the secretive nation were a violation of the UN resolution, saying it's an encroachment on the country's sovereignty. The missile tests were "conducted thoroughly in the territorial land, air and seas" of North Korea and in open seas and "never posed threats or harm" to the security of neighboring nations, Jo Chol Su, director of the Foreign Ministry's Department of International Organization, said in a statement via the state-run Korean Central News Agency on Sunday.

Source: <https://theprint.in/world/encroachment-on-sovereignty-north-korea-condemns-unscs-meeting-on-missile-tests/744447/> 04 October 2021

UN REFORMS

1. António Guterres arrived in the Caribbean island nation on Saturday and will be addressing the hybrid format UNCTAD15 conference which begins on Monday, under the theme, From inequality and vulnerability, to prosperity for all. Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta will be giving the opening remarks virtually, followed in the Barbados capital Bridgetown, by the event's host, Prime Minister Mia Mottley, and Secretary-General of UNCTAD, the UN Conference on Trade and Development, Rebeca Grynspan.

Source: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/10/1102042> 04 October 2021

2. Amidst a spike in the prices of food materials more than 1.5 million children are at risk of malnutrition and the conditions of severe poverty. The United Nations children's fund of UNICEF stated that more than 1.5 million children have already been affected by malnutrition in Afghanistan, as reported by Sputnik news agency. Across Afghanistan today, millions of children are in desperate need for health and nutrition services, around 14 million people in Afghanistan are suffering due to food insecurity today, among them, said Salam Al Janab-e communication specialist for the UNICEF in Afghanistan

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/south-asia/over-1-5-million-afghan-children-at-risk-of-malnutrition-un-agency/articleshow/86736088.cms> 04 October 2021

3. A U.N. convoy in Mali's northern Kidal region was attacked by improvised explosive devices, killing one peacekeeper from Egypt and seriously injuring four others, the United Nations said

Saturday. The attack on the convoy from the U.N. peacekeeping mission in Mali took place near Tessalit, U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said. U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called on Malian authorities “to spare no effort in identifying the perpetrators of these attacks so that they can be brought to justice swiftly,” reiterating that attacks against peacekeepers may constitute war crimes under international law, Dujarric said.

Source:<https://www.newindianexpress.com/world/2021/oct/03/un-peacekeeper-killed-at-least-four-others-injured-following-mine-explosion-in-northeastern-mali-2367042.html>

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4. United Nations secretary-general Antonio Guterres strongly condemned Saturday's improvised explosive device attacks against a convoy of the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Mali near Tessalit, Kidal region in which a peacekeeper from Egypt was killed and four others were seriously injured.

Source:<https://www.aninews.in/news/world/others/un-chief-condemns-attacks-on-peacekeepers-in-mali20211003131903/> 04 October 2021