

## **DAILY TRACKER**

### **NUCLEAR ISSUES**

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1. Over the weekend, critics slammed the editorial board of the Los Angeles Times for advocating that California's only major nuclear power plant should be shut down in the interest of doing even more to combat climate change. In a Sunday editorial, the board chastised those who argued that the plant should be kept open despite the plant's operator's decision to close it in 2018, and urged California's state government to put other renewable energy sources in place, such as wind and solar, to avoid an increase in natural gas use after the plant closes.  
Source: <https://www.foxnews.com/media/los-angeles-times-flamed-advocating-closure-california-nuclear-power-plant-climate-change>
2. According to a recent research, California's final nuclear power plant, which is set to close in 2025, might contribute in the battle against climate change, reduce energy costs, and give water to the parched state if allowed to remain open.  
Source: [https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-11-08/keep-california-s-last-nuke-to-save-cash-fight-warming-study?cmpid=socialflow-twitter-climate&utm\\_source=twitter&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_campaign=socialflow-organic&utm\\_content=climate](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-11-08/keep-california-s-last-nuke-to-save-cash-fight-warming-study?cmpid=socialflow-twitter-climate&utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=socialflow-organic&utm_content=climate)
3. During the first visit to Paris of new German Finance Minister Christian Lindner, the French and German finance ministers indicated discussions on the role of nuclear energy in European power markets would be challenging, even if they agreed on most other topics.  
Source: [https://www.reuters.com/markets/europe/french-german-ministers-say-nuclear-power-difficult-subject-2021-12-13/?taid=61b7c972a20ea20001887388&utm\\_campaign=trueAnthem:+Trending+Content&utm\\_medium=trueAnthem&utm\\_source=twitter](https://www.reuters.com/markets/europe/french-german-ministers-say-nuclear-power-difficult-subject-2021-12-13/?taid=61b7c972a20ea20001887388&utm_campaign=trueAnthem:+Trending+Content&utm_medium=trueAnthem&utm_source=twitter)
4. Friends of the Earth Australia has released a new analysis detailing the disastrous cost overruns associated with nuclear power projects. Despite mounting evidence suggesting nuclear power is less cost-effective than renewables, the nuclear industry and some of its supporters continue to argue the opposite.  
Source: <https://theecologist.org/2021/dec/13/nuclear-powers-economic-failure>
5. RWE, a German utility, has given Westinghouse a contract to dismantle two reactors at the Gundremmingen nuclear power plant. It has also hired a consortium made up of Framatome and Transnubel to decommission the Emsland plant's reactor.  
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/RWE-awards-German-reactor-dismantling-contracts>



6. Nuclear power is expected to be a key component of Canada's clean-energy mix, which will help the country drastically reduce carbon emissions. On a per-capita basis, Canada's carbon emissions are comparable to those of the United States, but higher than those of Russia, China, and India.  
Source: <https://www.wsj.com/articles/canada-embraces-nuclear-energy-expansion-to-lower-carbon-emissions-11614767403>

## MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS

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1. According to Rai Al-Youm, an American military installation in the Al-Omar Oil Field in eastern Syria was hit by rockets yesterday, but no one claimed credit. According to local accounts, the military base is located in the countryside of Syria's Deir Ez-Zor province. Syria's largest oil field is Al-Omar.  
Source: <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20211214-rockets-hit-us-base-in-syrias-deir-ez-zor-countryside/>
2. According to Anadolu News Agency, Turkish Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, built by Ankara-based Zyrone Dynamics, are ready to be exported after the business received foreign financing. According to the article, Zyrone Dynamics, a manufacturer of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) with superior technologies, is prepared to ship the first product to India.  
Source: <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20211213-turkey-is-ready-to-export-unmanned-aerial-vehicles-to-india/>
3. Raytheon Missiles & Defense, a Raytheon Technologies subsidiary, has successfully completed the latest phase of captive flight tests of the updated Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile under the Form, Fit, Function Refresh programme, known as F3R, in collaboration with the United States Air Force.  
Source: [https://www.raytheonmissilesanddefense.com/news/advisories/upgraded-amraam-completes-series-captive-flight-tests?utm\\_source=twitter&utm\\_medium=organic&utm\\_campaign=Air+Power&utm\\_content=&utm\\_id=60502046366050204638139&linkId=144256476](https://www.raytheonmissilesanddefense.com/news/advisories/upgraded-amraam-completes-series-captive-flight-tests?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=Air+Power&utm_content=&utm_id=60502046366050204638139&linkId=144256476)
4. On Monday, Australia and South Korea sealed a \$1 billion (\$716.5 million) defence contract, bolstering Seoul's ambitions to increase military exports.  
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/markets/commodities/australia-signs-717-million-defence-deal-with-south-koreas-hanwha-2021-12-13/>
5. Russia said on Monday that it may be forced to deploy nuclear missiles in Europe in response to what it sees as NATO's plans to do the same. According to Reuters, Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov told Russia's RIA news agency that if NATO did not better communicate with Moscow on how to de-escalate tensions, his country would be forced to take the aggressive action.  
Source: <https://thehill.com/policy/international/585540-russia-says-it-may-be-forced-to-deploy->



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6. President Vladimir Putin stated that Russia is the world leader in hypersonic missiles and that by the time other countries catch up, Russia will have created technology to counter these new weapons.  
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/russia-leads-world-hypersonic-missiles-tech-putin-says-2021-12-12/>
  
7. Following reports that China had launched multiple hypersonic missiles that circled the globe before missing their targets by a few kilometres in August, Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said Tuesday that India, too, must work toward producing hypersonic missiles to maintain credible deterrence.  
Source: <https://www.msn.com/en-in/news/newsindia/rajnath-singh-bats-for-development-of-hypersonic-missiles-in-india-months-after-china-tests-them/ar-AARNXLI?ocid=st>

## NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

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1. The situation near Ukraine's borders remains difficult, as Russia continues to reposition troops in the region to maintain tensions. "The Kremlin continues taking hybrid measures to destabilize the domestic political situation in Ukraine. The Russian Federation regularly demonstrates military force and intentions to use it. The situation around Ukraine's borders remains difficult. The Russian Federation periodically resorts to the practice of redeploying and amassing military units in order to maintain tensions in the region and put pressure on neighboring states," Deputy Defense Minister of Ukraine Hanna Maliar said, the Ministry's press service informs.  
Source: <https://www.ukrinform.net/rubric-defense/3368175-defense-ministry-russia-continues-amassing-troops-near-ukraines-border.html>
  
2. As the power plant's second reactor prepares to start up, two more rounds of international peer review have taken place at Belarus' Ostrovets nuclear power station. "An International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) mission found that Belarus has significantly strengthened its regulatory nuclear safety framework over the past five years," the agency announced today.  
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Safety-reviewed-at-Ostrovets-before-start-up-of-un>
  
3. The seawater pumping station for unit 1 of Turkey's Akkuyu nuclear power plant has commenced construction, and the control rod drive mechanism has been produced and tested in Russia. The VVER-1200 reactor is scheduled to go online in 2023.  
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Akkuyu-1-construction-and-components>

4. Vladimir Putin wants 'immediate' start of talks with NATO on Russia's security  
Source: <https://twitter.com/AFP/status/1470746779788402703>
5. According to an expert and satellite photographs, Iran looks to be preparing for a space launch as negotiations over its shattered nuclear deal with Western powers continue in Vienna.  
Source: <https://missiledefenseadvocacy.org/threat-news/satellite-images-expert-suggest-iranian-space-launch-coming/>
6. The chief of the UN nuclear watchdog, Rafael Grossi, has warned Tehran that there is no way past inspectors and that the world is only getting a 'blurred vision' of the country's nuclear programme at the moment. The 2015 nuclear deal is no longer enough for Iran's reality in 2022, according to the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency.  
Source: <https://www.timesofisrael.com/2015-nuclear-deal-no-longer-sufficient-for-reality-of-iran-in-2022-iaea-chief-says/>
7. Senior British, French, and German diplomats said on Monday that major nations and Iran have yet to get down to business in discussions to save the 2015 nuclear deal, which will soon become "an empty shell" if progress is not made.  
Source: [https://www.reuters.com/markets/commodities/iran-nuclear-deal-will-soon-be-empty-shell-european-diplomats-say-2021-12-13/?taid=61b8007fa20ea20001887df4&utm\\_campaign=trueAnthem:+Trending+Content&utm\\_medium=trueAnthem&utm\\_source=twitter](https://www.reuters.com/markets/commodities/iran-nuclear-deal-will-soon-be-empty-shell-european-diplomats-say-2021-12-13/?taid=61b8007fa20ea20001887df4&utm_campaign=trueAnthem:+Trending+Content&utm_medium=trueAnthem&utm_source=twitter)
8. The RIA news agency quoted Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov as saying that there was reason to expect some progress on the restoration of a 2015 nuclear deal with Iran, and that the chances of achieving an agreement had grown.  
Source: [https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/russia-expecting-progress-iran-nuclear-deal-ria-2021-12-13/?taid=61b70362c672dc0001d68b8d&utm\\_campaign=trueAnthem:+Trending+Content&utm\\_medium=trueAnthem&utm\\_source=twitter](https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/russia-expecting-progress-iran-nuclear-deal-ria-2021-12-13/?taid=61b70362c672dc0001d68b8d&utm_campaign=trueAnthem:+Trending+Content&utm_medium=trueAnthem&utm_source=twitter)
9. On Tuesday, Iran accused Western parties to the 2015 nuclear deal of "persisting in their blame game," a day after European officials warned that if efforts to resurrect the pact fail, it would soon be dead.  
Source: [https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/iran-accuses-western-parties-2015-nuclear-deal-blame-game-2021-12-14/?taid=61b832fe4bd3090001f0be4d&utm\\_campaign=trueAnthem:+Trending+Content&utm\\_medium=trueAnthem&utm\\_source=twitter](https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/iran-accuses-western-parties-2015-nuclear-deal-blame-game-2021-12-14/?taid=61b832fe4bd3090001f0be4d&utm_campaign=trueAnthem:+Trending+Content&utm_medium=trueAnthem&utm_source=twitter)

## UN REFORMS

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1. The Myanmar military junta, according to Human Rights Watch, is preventing "critically needed" humanitarian help from reaching millions of people in the South Asian country. It's worth noting that large protests have erupted across Myanmar since the military took control on February 1 this year. Hundreds of people, including children and women, have been slain thus far, according to reports.  
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/south-asia/myanmar-junta-blocking-life-saving-aid-from-reaching-millions-report-436704>
2. Since the Taliban assumed power in August, the United Nations has received reliable reports of more than 100 extrajudicial murders in Afghanistan, with "at least 72" carried out by the Taliban themselves.  
Source: <https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/united-nations-says-taliban-behind-at-least-72-extrajudicial-killings-in-afghanistan-2650856>
3. A mother in Afghanistan's southern city of Kandahar, has left her three children in the midst of a bazaar owing to poverty under the Taliban regime.  
Source: <https://twitter.com/MrDawodZai/status/1470520046623592452>
4. Since the Taliban took control of Kabul on August 15, there has been a continual stream of negative news for women and girls. Every day, new proof emerges that they are enacting a tremendous rollback of women's rights. Afghan women, on the other hand, are fighting back by turning to the streets and demonstrating, despite Taliban violence and attempts to restrict protests. Human Rights Watch supports Afghan women and keeps track of Taliban practises that violate their rights.  
Source: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/09/29/list-taliban-policies-violating-womens-rights-afghanistan>
5. The de facto authorities in Afghanistan must respect fundamental rights and freedoms if the country is to remain stable, according to the UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, who spoke in Geneva on Tuesday. Nada Al-Nashif explained before the UN Human Rights Council how Afghanistan's deep humanitarian situation is jeopardising basic rights, with women, girls, and civil society being among those most affected.  
Source: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/12/1107902>
6. A well-respected scientific journal has retracted a paper based on DNA samples from nearly 38,000 Chinese men, including Tibetans and Uyghurs who almost certainly did not give their consent. The journal's rare retraction comes after a two-year battle by a Belgian scientist to persuade publishers to probe research that he and others claim is complicit in human rights breaches. The authors of the article analysed genetic variance across and within ethnic groups using DNA samples from all throughout China. The paper was retracted by the journal's editors due to concerns regarding the informed consent process.  
Source: <https://theintercept.com/2021/12/13/china-uyghur-dna-human-genetics-retraction/>

7. The United States House of Representatives enacted legislation aimed at punishing China for its treatment of Uyghur Muslims in the country's far western Xinjiang region, a move that is guaranteed to enrage Beijing and heighten tensions between the world's two largest economies.  
Source: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-12-08/house-passes-bill-to-punish-china-over-oppression-of-uyghurs>
8. Two Tibetan students shackled themselves to the Olympic rings outside the International Olympic Committee's Swiss offices on Saturday, demanding an international boycott of the Winter Olympics next year. They were both involved in the most recent protest against the 2022 Olympic Games in Beijing, which was held in reaction to Beijing's human rights breaches and persecution of minorities.  
Source: <https://tfiglobalnews.com/2021/12/13/an-anti-china-spark-lights-up-in-calm-switzerland/>
9. An independent tribunal based in London has ruled that China committed genocide against Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities in its western Xinjiang region, accusing China's senior leadership, including President Xi Jinping, of "primary responsibility" for the atrocities committed against Muslim minorities.  
Source: <https://edition.cnn.com/2021/12/09/china/uyghur-tribunal-judgment-intl/index.html>

