

**DAILY TRACKER****NUCLEAR ISSUES**

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1. On Friday, Germany will turn off three of its final six nuclear power plants, taking another step toward completing its nuclear power phase-out as it shifts its focus to renewables.

Source: [https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/germany-pull-plug-three-its-last-six-nuclear-plants-2021-12-30/?taid=61cdeb76ef2b770001e46b31&utm\\_campaign=trueAnthem:+Trending+Content&utm\\_medium=trueAnthem&utm\\_source=twitter](https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/germany-pull-plug-three-its-last-six-nuclear-plants-2021-12-30/?taid=61cdeb76ef2b770001e46b31&utm_campaign=trueAnthem:+Trending+Content&utm_medium=trueAnthem&utm_source=twitter)

2. On December 27, the South Korean government said that between 2022 and 2026, it will invest 2.7 trillion won in innovative small modular reactor (SMR) development, overseas nuclear power plant building, decommissioning, and spent nuclear fuel management.

Source: <https://www.businesskorea.co.kr/news/articleView.html?idxno=84883>

**MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS**

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1. Japan is conducting an all-out economic war against the rogue nation of Russia. To make matters worse, Tokyo has devised a new strategy. Last month, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said that Japan's economic security will be a top concern for his administration. Now, China is poised to suffer greatly as a result of the Japanese government's determination.

Source: <https://tfiglobalnews.com/2021/12/27/japans-billion-dollar-plan-to-keep-china-deprived-of-advanced-military-and-nuclear-technology/>

2. According to state news outlet TASS, the Generalissimus Suvorov ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) was launched this week at Russia's Sevmash Shipyard in the far-eastern city of Arkhangelsk.

Source: <https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/missiles-deep-russia-just-launched-new-ballistic-missile-submarine-198661>

3. Russia has offered India "new areas of work," including creating new armoured vehicles based on the T-14 Armata tank chassis, bringing the Military-Technical Cooperation (MTC) between the two countries to a new level. The Inter-Governmental Commission on Military and Military-Technical Cooperation met in New Delhi on December 6 to discuss the creation of exclusive equipment based on the Indian military's specifications.

Source: <https://www.sentinelassam.com/topheadlines/after-s-400-missiles-russia-offers-india-armata->



4. People familiar with the development said on Thursday that India and the Philippines are expected to formally complete a government-to-government BrahMos agreement soon, ending years of negotiations for the sale of a batch of the supersonic cruise missiles for the Philippine navy.  
Source: [https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/india-philippines-set-to-conclude-brahmos-missile-deal-report-121123001122\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/india-philippines-set-to-conclude-brahmos-missile-deal-report-121123001122_1.html)
5. China's hypersonic missile weapon test appears to have alarmed US specialists. According to American news sources, China has tested a hypersonic gliding missile unit with an intercontinental range and a speed that none of the US missiles have yet. According to the American press, the Chinese hypersonic missile is capable of crossing over the South Pole in the middle of its flight, circumventing American missile defence. It can glide to the target from practically any direction at great speeds, making it impossible to identify and defeat with current weapons.  
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/lasers-shoot-down-chinese-hypersonic-missiles-deflate-usa/>
6. Based on the pattern of increased sorties in recent years and imminent significant political events, Taiwan expects more intrusions by Chinese warplanes into its air defence identification zone (ADIZ) in 2022. According to data from the Ministry of National Defense, there have been roughly 950 intrusions into the ADIZ by military planes of the People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF) since January of this year. This represents a 60% increase over the 380 sorties reported in 2020.  
Source: <https://www.taiwannews.com.tw/en/news/4393206>
7. In response to India's Rafale planes, Pakistan stated that it has ordered 25 J-10C aircraft, a capable workhorse of the Chinese air force.  
Source: <https://www.firstpost.com/india/pakistan-acquires-25-china-made-fighter-jets-to-counter-india-a-comparison-of-j-10c-with-rafale-10246691.html>
8. Serbia's Air Force is considering purchasing Rafale fighter jets from France and has informed the president, according to Defense Minister Nebojsa Stefanovic. Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic stated earlier this month that the country's 1.1 billion euro defence budget will be increased by 500 million euros (\$566 million) in 2022 to fund new equipment and weaponry.  
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/rafales-bumper-sales-serbia-says-planning-dassault-fighter-jets/>

## NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

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1. A Beijing official warned on Wednesday that if Taiwan advances toward formal independence, China will take "drastic measures."  
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/china/china-warns-drastic-measures-if-taiwan-provokes-independence-2021-12-29/>

2. South Korea's ruling party presidential candidate has stated that he will seek US help for the development of nuclear-powered submarines to better confront North Korean threats, as well as proactively seek to revive stalled denuclearization talks between Pyongyang and Washington.  
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/skoreas-ruling-party-presidential-candidate-pushes-nuclear-powered-submarines-2021-12-30/>
3. The White House announced that US President Joe Biden and Russian President Vladimir Putin will speak on Thursday as Washington works out a common response to Russia's military buildup along Ukraine's border with European allies.  
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/biden-talk-russias-putin-thursday-white-house-2021-12-29/>
4. According to a Russian envoy, top US and Russian officials for Iran met in Vienna on Wednesday, and delegates from both sides claimed Moscow and Washington were working in an effort to save the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.  
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/iran-sends-3-research-payloads-into-space-tasnim-2021-12-30/>
5. Iran practised missile strikes against Israel's Dimona nuclear power complex. Furthermore, discussions on the nuclear deal in Vienna will resume on Monday. Last week, Iran's Revolutionary Guards organized a five-day exercise. Iran's Revolutionary Guards tested short-range and long-range ballistic missiles during the exercise. The Iranian military also released photographs of exercises with rocket launchers and tanks.  
Source: <http://www.newscast-pratyaksha.com/english/iran-conducts-exercises-attack-israel/>
6. Maj. Gen. Mohammad Bagheri, the Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, warned Israel's major Dimona nuclear plant will be "a prime target" if the two archenemies go to war. According to Bagheri, Iran has the know-how and technology to carry out such an attack in the heart of Israel's Negev Desert, using "several paths" and shooting choices to neutralise Israel's powerful anti-missile system, known as the Iron Dome.  
Source: <https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/12/iran-vows-blow-israels-dimona-first-if-war-breaks-out#ixzz7GRPEuLmz>
7. The foreign ministers of Germany, France, the United Kingdom, and the United States met on Wednesday to discuss the situation on the Ukrainian border and planned dialogue formats with Russia, according to Germany's foreign ministry.  
Source: [https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/germany-france-britain-us-discuss-ukraine-crisis-iran-nuclear-talks-2021-12-29/?taid=61cd0a6def2b770001e4443c&utm\\_campaign=trueAnthem:+Trending+Content&utm\\_medium=trueAnthem&utm\\_source=twitter](https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/germany-france-britain-us-discuss-ukraine-crisis-iran-nuclear-talks-2021-12-29/?taid=61cd0a6def2b770001e4443c&utm_campaign=trueAnthem:+Trending+Content&utm_medium=trueAnthem&utm_source=twitter)

## UN REFORMS

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1. The UN, which was established to "reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights," is backing China in its ruthless efforts to eradicate the Uyghurs by assisting the CCP in covering its tracks. This was the conclusion of a recent piece in Le Monde about UN human rights officer-turned-whistleblower Emma Reilly's efforts. According to Reilly, China has demanded the identities of Uyghur and other Chinese dissidents slated to speak at UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) sessions in recent years. Despite the UN's own laws prohibiting it, Reilly claims that the UN has made it a habit of sharing this information with Chinese authorities, who use it to harass dissidents' relatives who remain in China.  
Source: <https://www.newsweek.com/united-nations-giving-names-uyghur-dissidents-china-opinion-1649060>
2. The Chinese government is aiming to exterminate a thousands-year-old minority through continual monitoring, torture, sterilisation, forced labour, "reeducation," and the destruction of thousands of mosques and holy sites. Since 2017, almost one million Uyghurs have been detained in internment camps, with millions more facing systematic persecution.  
Source: <https://forward.com/opinion/480190/uyghur-genocide/>
3. Experts say China's change of leadership in Xinjiang could signal a stronger focus on economic development in the area, however the security crackdown on minority Muslims is unlikely to shift significantly. Chen Quanguo, whose heavy-handed security effort in the far-western province prompted international penalties, was replaced after five years, according to the official Xinhua News Agency.  
Source: <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2021/12/30/asia-pacific/politics-diplomacy-asia-pacific/new-xinjiang-chief-policies-economic-focus/>
4. The police raid on Stand News in Hong Kong early yesterday morning, followed by the forced shutdown of the media outlet, is yet another blow to Hong Kong's press freedom. Indeed, if the closing of Apple Daily six months ago was the funeral of press freedom in the city, the assault on Stand News could be considered its burial. Among those arrested were several journalists and editors, and the popular singer Denise Ho and prominent lawyer Margaret Ng, who had both previously served on the media outlet's board.  
Source: <https://www.ucanews.com/news/world-cannot-ignore-the-latest-attack-on-hong-kongs-rights/95547#>
5. On Wednesday, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken called on Chinese and Hong Kong authorities to free staff members of the pro-democracy media outfit Stand News who were imprisoned after the magazine was shut down by police.  
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/business/media-telecom/us-calls-china-hong-kong-release-stand-news-employees-2021-12-30/>
6. According to media reports, a court in Myanmar's military-ruled country sentenced three prominent showbiz figures to three years in prison apiece on Thursday for their roles in rallies against a February coup.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/myanmar-court-jails-celebrities-who-supported-democracy-protests-2021-12-30/>

7. Four people were killed by Sudanese security forces during nationwide protests on Thursday, according to a doctors' committee, as tens of thousands of people marched against military authority.  
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/internet-services-disrupted-sudanese-capital-ahead-protests-reuters-witnesses-2021-12-30/>
8. Ethiopia's finance ministry announced on Thursday that it plans to pass a supplementary budget of 122 billion birr (\$2.5 billion) to help finance programmes to rehabilitate war-torn areas and deliver humanitarian relief.  
Source: [https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/impoverished-ethiopia-seeks-extra-25-bln-rebuild-war-2021-12-30/?taid=61cdedcea4e5640001cdfd66&utm\\_campaign=trueAnthem:+Trending+Content&utm\\_medium=trueAnthem&utm\\_source=twitter](https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/impoverished-ethiopia-seeks-extra-25-bln-rebuild-war-2021-12-30/?taid=61cdedcea4e5640001cdfd66&utm_campaign=trueAnthem:+Trending+Content&utm_medium=trueAnthem&utm_source=twitter)
9. Mexican officials dismantled a temporary migrant camp near the Guatemalan border in the country's south on Thursday, according to government sources and Reuters witnesses.  
Source: [https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/mexico-disbands-makeshift-camp-with-thousands-migrants-2021-12-31/?taid=61ce793ca4e5640001ce141a&utm\\_campaign=trueAnthem:+Trending+Content&utm\\_medium=trueAnthem&utm\\_source=twitter](https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/mexico-disbands-makeshift-camp-with-thousands-migrants-2021-12-31/?taid=61ce793ca4e5640001ce141a&utm_campaign=trueAnthem:+Trending+Content&utm_medium=trueAnthem&utm_source=twitter)
10. Residents of Paktika said that though people starve to death, but Taliban is collecting tithes and zakat from them forcibly.  
Source: <https://twitter.com/SalehaSoadat/status/1476653522515111941>
11. Talibani abducted former army officer Zabih O Siirt and his cousin Mukhtar Yousefi from a wedding reception in the village of Deh Maskin in the Bagram district of Parwan province yesterday and took them to an unknown place.  
Source: <https://twitter.com/SalehaSoadat/status/1476644631324598278>
12. An Afghan child grabs a slice of bread to survive because he is hungry. The Taliban apprehended the boy and thrashed him like a criminal.  
Source: <https://twitter.com/SalehaSoadat/status/1476013453940830208>
13. Taliban kidnapped Shah Gul from Kalat in Zabul yesterday and he is still missing. On a daily basis, dozens of Afghan citizens are kidnapped, arrested, tortured, and slaughtered by the Taliban, with little response from the international world or human rights organisations.  
Source: <https://twitter.com/MrDawodZai/status/1476285503733391365>