

# ECONOMIC TIMES / CHATTER

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# GLOBAL/NEWS/INFO

Today in History: Jan. 4, 2020

[https://qconline.com/news/today-in-history/today-in-history-jan/article\\_c5b862fa-dcb4-5306-a2fe-8c76f957087f.html](https://qconline.com/news/today-in-history/today-in-history-jan/article_c5b862fa-dcb4-5306-a2fe-8c76f957087f.html)

Ten Things You Need to Know Today: Saturday 4 Jan 2020

<https://latest-today-news.com/2020/01/04/ten-things-you-need-to-know-today-saturday-4-jan-2020/>

5 things you need to know now

<https://theweek.com/5things>

## **Four sure-fire ways to spot a con artist—and what to do when you see them**

Anthony Gignac was born in Colombia and raised in Michigan. Yet somehow, over the course of 30 years and multiple scams, he managed to convince dozens of important people that he was a Saudi prince.

Normally savvy investors forked over nearly \$8 million in hopes of gaining access to what they thought was Gignac's untold wealth.

Read in CNBC: <https://apple.news/AxdMlIpZiRWqtE83Ov3LZUw>

## **How to secure your financial future in 2020**

If you're ready for a new year full of financial progress, you can start by taking note of what you've done right over the past year — and how your actions and the overall economic climate both contributed to your results.

Read in CNBC: [https://apple.news/AYd5-XU\\_tRlSezvMJmsWjvw](https://apple.news/AYd5-XU_tRlSezvMJmsWjvw)

## **Wayne T. Essex Essex and Associates Inc.**

The Internal Revenue Service, on December 31, 2019, issued the 2020 optional standard mileage rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes.

Beginning on January 1, 2020, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be:

57.5 cents per mile driven for business use, down one half of a cent from the rate for 2019,

17 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes, down three cents from the rate for 2019, and

14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations.

**The business mileage rate decreased one half of a cent for business travel driven and three cents for medical and certain moving expense from the rates for 2019. The charitable rate is set by statute and remains unchanged.**

**It is important to note that under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, taxpayers cannot claim a miscellaneous itemized deduction for unreimbursed employee travel expenses. Taxpayers also cannot claim a deduction for moving expenses, except members of the Armed Forces on active duty moving under orders to a permanent change of station.**

**The standard mileage rate for business use is based on an annual study of the fixed and variable costs of operating an automobile. The rate for medical and moving purposes is based on the variable costs.**

**Taxpayers always have the option of calculating the actual costs of using their vehicle rather than using the standard mileage rates.**

**A taxpayer may not use the business standard mileage rate for a vehicle after using any depreciation method under the Modified Accelerated Cost Recovery System (MACRS) or after claiming a Section 179 deduction for that vehicle. In addition, the business standard mileage rate cannot be used for more than five vehicles used simultaneously.**

**Most people, because they do not what miles are tax deductible, under claim their mileage deductions. With rates going down and lack of tax deduction knowledge, you may overpay your taxes. Talk to a tax pro to learn what miles are tax deductible.**

# COMMODITIES/ENERGY

## Gold's Outlook For 2020

In the absence of foreign demand for new US Treasuries and of a rise in the savings rate, the US budget deficit can only be financed by monetary inflation. A combination of the turn of the credit cycle towards its regular crisis phase and Trump's tariff war has already hit international trade badly. At the core of current market distortions is a combination of interest rate suppression and banking regulation. Perhaps we are already beginning to see the fiat currency system beginning to unravel,

Read in Seeking Alpha: <https://apple.news/A1iYPFIUdO5K3HriMc8ho9A>

## Gold Glitters, But Silver Shines

At year's end, gold bugs were pretty happy. They had every right to be. SILJ's portfolio tracks a diverse universe of small-cap mining and exploration companies. For silver fans and momentum believers, the lower breakeven of the SILJ buy-and-write is pretty compelling.

Read in Seeking Alpha: <https://apple.news/A1Rs4MOrBPbqKkwm5lheVFA>

## Gold surges after Iranian general killed by US

US airstrikes in Iran send investors into gold.

Read in Fox Business: [https://apple.news/AtFYDTtIKSVSs\\_PvDf0Vbjw](https://apple.news/AtFYDTtIKSVSs_PvDf0Vbjw)

## Gold nears six-year high, miners rally on Middle East turmoil

Precious metals and mining stocks (NYSEARCA:GDX) are poised for a strong showing, as gold futures break out toward six-year highs following the U.S. air strike in Baghdad that killed top Iranian general Qassim Soleimani. February Comex gold +1.1% to \$1,545.70/oz.; March silver +0.6% to \$18.15/oz. Among major metals names: HMY +4.9%, IAG +4.3%, AU +2.9%, KGC +2.9%, AUJ +2.8%, GFI +2.4%, FSM +2.2%, SBGL +2.1%, AG +2.1%, EXK +2.1%, GOLD +1.7%, FNV +1.7%, NEM +1.4%, PAAS +1.3%, WPM +1.3%. "Today's

Read in Seeking Alpha: <https://apple.news/AX6NjV1AxMZC7nmTYk4yerw>

## Precious Metals And Cryptocurrencies - Q4 2019 Review

Precious metals are the best performing sector in 2019 and all members move higher in Q4. Double-digit percentage gains for all precious metals in 2019. Palladium is the leader in Q4 with another double-digit percentage gain for the quarter; rhodium continues to roar. Gold and silver remain strong going into 2020. Another ugly quarter for digital currencies as China cracks down.

Read in Seeking Alpha: <https://apple.news/AWB7EthKIMOupiCUx1qTn3g>

## Oil gains from Iran tensions could be capped by US output: Expert

Paul Hickin, associate director for oil at S&P Global Platts, discusses the impact of U.S.-Iran tensions on oil markets.

Read in CNBC: <https://apple.news/AembYVeNwSjmZsqJZ-pZ1FQ>

### **Oil names on the move as Middle East tensions soar**

Shares of major oil and gas companies are broadly higher pre-market following the U.S. strike in Baghdad that killed top Iranian general Qassem Soleimani. Energy Select SPDR ETF XLE +1.2%; XOM +1.4%, CVX +0.8%, BP +0.6%. With traders fearful of retaliatory attacks from Iran on Middle Eastern energy infrastructure, Brent crude futures have climbed as much as 4.9% to \$69.43/bbl, the highest since the September drone attacks on key Saudi Arabian oil facilities, and WTI jumped 4.5% to \$64.02/bbl,

Read in Seeking Alpha: [https://apple.news/AM1XFraO\\_NhOmJ35zR6AUqQ](https://apple.news/AM1XFraO_NhOmJ35zR6AUqQ)

## **BANKS/BANKING/CREDIT**

### **2019: The Year Of Repo**

The year 2019 should be remembered as the year of repo. In finance, what happened in September was the most memorable occurrence of the last few years. Rate cuts were a strong contender, the first in over a decade, as was overseas turmoil.

Read in Seeking Alpha: [https://apple.news/A4Ld\\_MLVpOniglEIRO935A](https://apple.news/A4Ld_MLVpOniglEIRO935A)

### **Europe Central Bank Proposes ‘Unattractive’ Rates for Digital Currency**

The European Central Bank (ECB) remains open to the idea of a digital euro equivalent but would want to stop citizens holding too much of it. That was the conclusion of a fresh working paper on so-called central bank digital currencies (CBDCs) by Ulrich Bindseil, the bank's Director General of Market Infrastructure and Payments, on Jan. 3. ECB would need to “control volume” of CBDC The paper deals with the prospect of issuing a CBDC for the European Union, and also touches on the differences

Read in Cointelegraph: <https://apple.news/A0z7YE4x8SnC3DLYFQ5T2eg>

### **These are the winning strategies for AI in banking**

Artificial intelligence (AI) applications are estimated to save banks \$447 billion by 2023, and front- and middle-office AI improvements could represent more than 90% of these savings. Leveraging AI tools like chatbots, voice assistants, and personalized insights can transform the customer experience by enabling frictionless, 24/7 interactions. Additionally, in middle-office banking, AI can be used to improve anti-money laundering efficiency and payments fraud prevention. A recent OpenText

Read in Business Insider: <https://apple.news/AS8lggEBLSMivwqT5N0piog>

### **The best thing you can do for a financially strong 2020**

If you're ready for a new year full of financial progress, you can start by taking note of what you've done right over the past year — and how your actions and the overall economic climate both contributed to your results.

Read in CNBC: <https://apple.news/ADQySXDbRSIWaW8Cs3nBDKw>

# TREASURIES / STOCKS / BONDS

## Preparing For 2020

Momentum is clearly in an uptrend, with value sectors like financials (VFH) breaking out. Con: Valuation of the S&P 500 (SPY) is extended, near peak levels of 2018. Don't run for the hills just yet, but a rotation to emerging markets (EEM) could make sense here.

Read in Seeking Alpha: <https://apple.news/Aw4xENc6yO06Kqdm-upu81Q>

## Yen, gold and Treasury bonds jump after Trump's airstrike kills Iran official

The Pentagon said General Qasem Soleimani was killed at Baghdad airport on Friday morning.

Read in CNBC: [https://apple.news/AARwJb5KyQ7W7JiwcmZb\\_Tw](https://apple.news/AARwJb5KyQ7W7JiwcmZb_Tw)

## Oil Is Surging, Gold Is Up, and the Dow Is Dropping After U.S. Airstrike

Shares of oil producers are up, but stock in airlines is falling.

Read in Barron's: <https://apple.news/AJ9DTAxHnQ-SQgbrbzbPLeg>

## VIX on the move after attack on Iran

The long VIX ETF charts have been strictly "down and to the right" ever since the markets pulled out of their late-2018 panic. Bulls are seeing some rare green today, however, after the U.S. last night took out one of Iran's top generals, and Iran has vowed "severe retaliation." Equity markets are down only modestly (no doubt helped by surging energy shares), but oil, gold, and even Bitcoin are moving sharply higher. The VIX Short-Term Futures ETN (BATS:VXX) is higher by 6.4%. The 2X VIX Short-

Read in Seeking Alpha: <https://apple.news/AZVpOIDv0OOyLfGYmEV54hg>

## Dow set to tumble more than 300 points on US-Iran clash

A version of this story first appeared in CNN Business' Before the Bell newsletter. Not a subscriber? You can sign up right here.

Read in CNN Business: [https://apple.news/AQ5CD8WFYT5aAEBAQcru1\\_Q](https://apple.news/AQ5CD8WFYT5aAEBAQcru1_Q)

# CRYPTO / DIGITAL CURRENCIES

## Bitcoin the new gold? Price jumps after attack on Iran

After sliding below \$7K to start off the year, Bitcoin (BTC-USD) has jumped more than 5% to \$7,353 in the hours following the U.S. taking out one of Iran's top generals in an airstrike in Baghdad. The move has the bulls particularly excited as it shows the crypto performing nicely as a safe-haven asset.

Read in Seeking Alpha: [https://apple.news/AQEz83oK7M3G3Qx\\_-jYLLg](https://apple.news/AQEz83oK7M3G3Qx_-jYLLg)

## **Altcoins Enter 25th Month of Bear Market, When Altcoin Season?**

Altcoins have not fared well, especially those belonging to smaller projects or late arrivals. The bulk of assets has been sliding since the start of 2018, entering the 25th month of a worsening bear market. Skepticism Still in the Air In 2020, there are fears that “the dumping” will continue, and more value will be erased from the altcoin market. For previously hot assets, activity has seemingly diminished, with volumes slowing down to a trickle. 25th month <https://t.co/4pKCGKVgKw> — moon (@

Read in Bitcoinist.net: [https://apple.news/Anp2X0y47Mgm\\_W5hPrAPykw](https://apple.news/Anp2X0y47Mgm_W5hPrAPykw)

## **Cryptocurrency Exchanges Take A Step Away from Traditional Exchanges**

As Bitcoin is quickly entering the mainstream, a large number of people want to acquire the coin and trade it. However, they have to go through specialized cryptocurrency exchanges as traditional brokers still shy away from digital assets. Bitcoin traders flock to cryptocurrency exchanges People interested in trading Bitcoin or other digital currencies use platforms known as cryptocurrency exchanges. These platforms are designed to let users deposit, trade, and withdraw cryptocurrencies or fiat

Read in InsideBitcoins: <https://apple.news/AEICBkww4P8-rifELvA60OQ>

## **South Korea Drafting Legislation To Tax Individual Crypto Profits**

Cryptocurrency and taxation laws are creating a great deal of confusion in South Korea. On Dec. 30, South Korea's government stated that under current law, it cannot impose income taxes on individuals' profits from transactions of cryptocurrency. This, however, contrasts with the National Tax Service's recent imposition of an 80 billion won (\$68.9 million) tax bill on local crypto exchange Bithumb Korea. On Dec. 29, The Korea Herald reported that South Korea's local tax agency received 80

Read in Cointelegraph: <https://apple.news/A8JI1U88nSI-ySCbEI9qd1Q>

## **Bitcoin and Oil Rally as US Kills Iran's Top General in Air Strike**

In a stunning turn of events, Bitcoin (BTC) price swiftly reversed course and rallied 6.4%, reclaiming ground lost over the last 24-hours and briefly topping \$7,288 before pulling back to \$7,200. Global oil prices have also rallied by nearly 3% in the wake of an airstrike at Baghdad's airport ordered by United States President Donald Trump that has reportedly killed the head of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards' elite Quds Force, General Qasem Soleimani. Cryptocurrency market daily overview.

Read in Cointelegraph: <https://apple.news/AxPb8x9mxSFqccUUaxRXxGQ>

## **Binance Debuts Euro Pairs as CZ Says 180 Fiat Currencies Set for 2020**

Cryptocurrency exchange Binance has confirmed it will offer euro (EUR) trading against six cryptocurrencies in the platform's latest fiat expansion. In a blog post on Jan. 3, Binance confirmed trading for EUR pairs would begin at 8am the same day. Users will be able to trade EUR against Bitcoin (BTC), Ether (ETH), XRP and Binance Coin (BNB). Binance will also support trading against two stablecoins: Tether (USDT) and its own U.S. dollar-backed token, Binance USD (BUSD). Euro not just for Binance

Read in Cointelegraph: <https://apple.news/AJG5ZAOIVTYGhuE7g6b7New>

### **Bitcoin Can Hit \$50K in 2020 'Very Easily' — Nexo CEO Tells Bloomberg**

Bitcoin (BTC) can “very easily” hit \$50,000 during 2020, the CEO of one cryptocurrency industry business has told mainstream media. In an interview with Bloomberg in Berlin on Jan. 3, Antoni Trenchev, head of Bitcoin lending platform Nexo.io, said Bitcoin price growth since its inception was almost unlike anything ever seen. Trenchev: Bitcoin is an “incredible asset” “It’s been an incredible asset uncorrelated to the overall market,” he told the network. Trenchev added Bitcoin’s journey to up to

Read in Cointelegraph: <https://apple.news/AP559WL7yQeml6UnzdsQ7qw>

### **Telegram Refusing to Tell SEC How It Spent \$1.7 Billion of ICO Cash**

The United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has filed a court order on Jan. 2 to compel the messaging platform Telegram into releasing details of how the funds raised in its initial coin offering, or ICO, have been spent. The SEC claims that the requested records are highly relevant to its ongoing case against Telegram, alleging that the \$1.7 billion raised selling Gram tokens constituted an unregistered securities sale. Request for information The filing requests both testimony

Read in Cointelegraph: <https://apple.news/AyRQKLlbeRB6BjeZ9RHKHRQ>

## **CURRENCIES**

### **Status Of U.S. Dollar As Global Reserve Currency Vs. Euro, Yen, Chinese Renminbi, And Others**

Total foreign exchange reserves in all currencies combined declined 0.6% in the third quarter from the second quarter to \$11.66 trillion, according to the IMF’s quarterly COFER data. US-dollar denominated exchange reserves - such as Treasury securities, US corporate bonds, etc. held by foreign central banks - ticked down 0.4% to \$6.51 trillion. But holdings denominated in other currencies fell faster, and the share of dollar-denominated reserves edged up to 61.8% of total exchange reserves.

Read in Seeking Alpha: <https://apple.news/A3BiwP2qeOAyf9MtrIAWPQQ>

### **Loonie may break out in 2020, but 2021 will be even better: economist**

Oil, U.S. dollar and bank rate all in play in determining near-term course

Read in Financial Post: <https://apple.news/A5uTKuOX9RRulxes8m23DuA>

### **AUD/JPY Could Fall With Bond Market Divergence**

AUD/JPY is currently making higher highs and lows in the short term (despite a recent fall into 2020). However, the bond market is pricing in a two-year yield spread that is on the contrary making lower highs and lows (presenting a divergence). Equities are also still on the rise, in spite of AUD/JPY itself falling most recently into the new year of 2020. Traders should therefore be cautious in the short term, as should AUD/JPY ultimately follow the bond market’s recent signalling, we could see

Read in Seeking Alpha: <https://apple.news/A98-iMEk0McSrZBK4I4Z4CA>



**Yen, gold and Treasury bonds jump after Trump's airstrike kills Iran official**  
The Pentagon said General Qasem Soleimani was killed at Baghdad airport on Friday morning.

Read in CNBC: [https://apple.news/AARwJb5KyQ7W7JiwcmZb\\_Tw](https://apple.news/AARwJb5KyQ7W7JiwcmZb_Tw)

**China's cut of US dollar weighting in key index will boost global fortunes of yuan, economists say**

China's decision to cut the weighting of the US dollar in a basket of foreign currencies used to determine the strength of the yuan will help Beijing's long-term efforts to weaken the international dominance of the American currency, economists said. The...

Read in South China Morning Post: <https://apple.news/AdhYegsksQ5atolA86XsCnQ>

## HEALTH / SCIENCE

**Will the next decade bring us life after death?**

We now have the opportunity to live post-death via griefbots or avatars, prompting us to examine the way we mourn and how this might continue to evolve

Read in Dazed: <https://apple.news/Ao2GsFLuWTyOfollSCPHGiQ>

**How I Deal with Having Multiple Chronic Conditions at All My Doctor Appointments**

'Even my regular doctors don't remember my history off the top of their heads. It's up to me to be constantly vigilant.'

Read in CreakyJoints: <https://apple.news/AOill0deGRJmzTbHJ9q5PrQ>

**Doctor Decoded: Disease vs. Syndrome**

Syndromes are the mysteries of the medical world. Irritable bowel syndrome. Chronic fatigue syndrome. Fibromyalgia syndrome. Dry eye syndrome. Sudden infant death syndrome. Metabolic syndrome. These are just a handful of common syndromes that afflict humans, but it's likely that you've never stopped to think about what the word actually means. (And no, syndrome isn't just a fancy synonym for disease.) Disease usually refers to a health problem with a known cause that tends to affect a specific

Read in HealthiNation: [https://apple.news/Aq41SR8K1RI2BFKR\\_75jbOw](https://apple.news/Aq41SR8K1RI2BFKR_75jbOw)

**Cases of mystery respiratory illness in China rise to 44**

The illness has been linked to a food market in central China.

Read in ABC News: <https://apple.news/Ajd6jd5GvR6iaonPBzK9d5A>

## **Student mental health is a major issue. So, what's the solution?**

In the UK, five times as many students are disclosing a mental health condition to their institution today compared with 2009, the number of students seeking mental health support has also risen by 50% between 2012 and 2017.

Read in World Economic Forum: <https://apple.news/A17C3Gkg2SuyEqktIP8UW3w>

## **3 Ways Exercise Reconfigures The Brain To Help You Find Joy & Purpose**

Kelly McGonigal, Ph.D., says mindful movement can literally reconfigure the brain.

Read in mindbodygreen: <https://apple.news/AdD2GXclmNXa5Hjg76Of-Cw>

# **USA / CANADA**

## **Oil Is Surging, Gold Is Up, and the Dow Is Dropping After U.S. Airstrike**

Shares of oil producers are up, but stock in airlines is falling.

Read in Barron's: <https://apple.news/AJ9DTAxHnQ-SQgbrbzbPBLeg>

## **U.S. strike in Iraq kills powerful Iranian commander**

Suleimani was planning attacks on Americans across the region, leading to an airstrike in Baghdad, the Pentagon statement said. Iran's supreme leader called for vengeance.

Read in The New York Times: <https://apple.news/ALL45vJqYQ8mcqDOzFC9wCg>

## **US and allies on high alert as Iran threatens retaliation**

US advises its citizens to leave Iraq after Iran vows 'severe revenge' for general's killing The US embassy in Baghdad has called on its citizens to leave Iraq in the wake of the assassination of Iran's top general, as Washington and its regional allies scrambled to protect themselves against a possible military response. "Due to heightened tensions in Iraq and the region, the US embassy urges American citizens to ... depart Iraq immediately," the embassy said in a statement. "US citizens should

Read in the guardian: [https://apple.news/Axj0pfHCQPa6\\_aglrUrYF8Q](https://apple.news/Axj0pfHCQPa6_aglrUrYF8Q)

## **Sen. Graham says he was briefed on Iran plot days ago**

Sen. Lindsey Graham said he was briefed on the Iran plot days before the strike in Baghdad took place.

Read in CNN Politics: [https://apple.news/Ah\\_Q3rbeyQZukn-NpLNb-3Q](https://apple.news/Ah_Q3rbeyQZukn-NpLNb-3Q)

## **Buckle up for a very tense year as US-Iran tensions rise, expert says**

Ellie Geranmayeh, a senior policy fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations, discusses intensifying geopolitical tensions between the U.S. and Iran.

Read in CNBC: <https://apple.news/AoFAvLi-WQ1Wn3bfjKtJlsQ>

**American businesses are warning the Trump administration against plans to tariff European wine and cheese. Here's what they're saying.**

FILE - In this Jan. 21, 2009, file photo, Bernard Roques, a refiner of Societe company, smells a Roquefort cheese as they mature in a cellar in Roquefort, southwestern France. The Trump administration is proposing tariffs on up to \$2.4 billion worth of French imports, from Roquefort cheese to handbags, retaliation for France's tax on American tech giants like Google, Amazon and Facebook. The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative says France's new digital services tax discriminates against U.S.

Read in Business Insider: <https://apple.news/AEX-nvRIwQESRWO-PfeafnA>

**Millions of Americans are getting a pay raise — and more of the week's good news**  
Five uplifting stories to kick off the weekend.

Read in Apple News Spotlight: <https://apple.news/Azch11p-nTDe93wXeHNNUTQ>

## EMERGING MARKETS

**Watch for opportunities in emerging markets in 2020, two strategists say**  
Simeon Hyman, head of investment strategy at ProShares, and Tony Zhang, chief strategist for OptionsPlay, join "Squawk Box" to discuss the markets as Wall Street gets ready to kick off the first trading day of the new year.

Read in CNBC: <https://apple.news/A-FL8wc4TRqW-dpwov7ISIQ>

**GLOBAL MARKETS-RPT-Stocks hit record as rally enters new year, dollar rebounds**  
(Recasts, adds U.S. market close; Repeats to additional subscribers; no change to headline or text)

Read in Reuters: [https://apple.news/ANO-vKLOmRM2\\_gXH2tTYJTg](https://apple.news/ANO-vKLOmRM2_gXH2tTYJTg)

**FEO: 9.7%-Yielding CEF Is Our 2020 Top Pick For Emerging Markets Exposure**  
FEO is a closed-end fund that invests in emerging markets through a combination of stocks and bonds. The fund has an impressive performance history favorably outperforming sector benchmarks over the past decade. We like the fund's income potential and balanced risk profile compared to emerging market equity-only funds. Improving macro environment and more positive outlook for global growth should represent more upside for the fund in 2020.

Read in Seeking Alpha: [https://apple.news/Ab8xFVm7pOYGbMbPc\\_Unrwg](https://apple.news/Ab8xFVm7pOYGbMbPc_Unrwg)

**Investor: We still have a bias for emerging markets**

Nicholas Ferres of Vantage Point Asset Management discusses three positive developments he sees in the global economy including central bank easing and the possibility of "significant" fiscal policy.

Read in CNBC: <https://apple.news/A7M-XLW4yQImPJfy92edbJg>

## **These Countries Had Bigger Stock-Market Gains Than the U.S. Here's Why – and Whether You Should Buy**

Lots of countries had amazing stock-market performances last year, and some still appear cheap. Adventurous investors may want to reserve small parts of their portfolios for them.

Read in Barron's: <https://apple.news/AtSuu717ZQSaJJHhnAHgO9w>

## **Bolsonaro says U.S. attack in Iraq will hit fuel prices, could impact Brazil**

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro said on Friday that a U.S. attack in Iraq that killed Qassem Soleimani, the head of Iran's elite Quds Force, would have an impact on international fuel prices that could impact Brazil.

Read in Reuters: <https://apple.news/AO6l1IojhTSSnZiFAqUhBFQ>

# **MIDDLE EAST**

## **Airstrike at Baghdad airport kills Iran's most revered military leader, Iraqi state television reports**

Mark Esper said the U.S. will act to preempt attacks on forces and interests in the region.

Read in The Washington Post: <https://apple.news/A60tfqKXvQw-Lbee30tgzYA>

## **Defiant Iranians mourn 'martyr' Soleimani**

Iranian state media mourn Qasem Soleimani, but anti-government social media users celebrate his death.

Read in BBC News: <https://apple.news/AW3XTsU9HT1yhIA9s6oYDDQ>

## **Iraq's president 'concerned' about war between U.S. and Iran**

Speaking with TODAY by phone on his way to the Middle East, NBC chief foreign affairs correspondent Richard Engel says that he has spoken to Barham Salih, president of Iraq, in the wake of the U.S. killing Iran's top general in an airstrike. Salih told Engel he is concerned about a proxy war between the U.S. and Iran taking place largely on Iraqi soil.

Read in TODAY: [https://apple.news/ArPB\\_EOfjQnKNCHuXDMBONg](https://apple.news/ArPB_EOfjQnKNCHuXDMBONg)

## **Assassination Of Iranian General Soleimani "A Game Changer," Experts Say**

Expect more violence in the middle east following the assassination of Iran's most prominent and proficient General.

Read in Forbes: [https://apple.news/AH9SbVN8TSD2AhS-WF\\_S1ow](https://apple.news/AH9SbVN8TSD2AhS-WF_S1ow)

# AFRICA

## **Uganda Economy Gets Positive Reviews Even As Firms Struggle to Stay Afloat**

Despite Uganda's economy getting positive reviews from the Central Bank and some economists in 2019, the limited impact of loose monetary actions on business activity, significant tax collection challenges and huge monies owed to local suppliers by government institutions dominated public conversations. The Bank of Uganda (BoU) projected a growth rate of 5.5 to six per cent for the 2019/2020 financial year based on steady monetary easing by the bank. However, observers warn that widespread signs

Read in AllAfrica: [https://apple.news/Af1FmOxAHOse52weOV\\_LuHg](https://apple.news/Af1FmOxAHOse52weOV_LuHg)

## **Nigeria: #WarningSigns: Seven States Over-Dependent on Mineral Revenue**

(Photo: Dataphyte) Abuja The greatest joy of a mother lies in the ability to see her children grow up to become responsible adults who can generate enough income to take care of their needs. Little wonder a good mother always ensures to imbue her children with the necessary life skills that will prepare them to become independent individuals. Now, let us imagine Nigeria as a mother and the thirty-six federating states as her children. When the country's successive governments split up the

Read in AllAfrica: <https://apple.news/A3EN-ugExO1iSbpaZfIGMjA>

## **Zimbabwe: Chinese Company Denies Paying Workers in Rejected Bond Coins**

(Photo: The Financial Gazette) Norton-based Sunny Yi Feng Tiles Zimbabwe Chinese company executives have denied social media reports that they are paying their workers' salaries using local coins. Bond coins have of late been rejected by most retailers and public bus operators rendering them useless. A trending 45-second video recorded secretly, shows a Chinese national assisted by a local man, weighing coins and handing them over to the workers waiting patiently in a queue. However, responding

Read in AllAfrica: <https://apple.news/AFFK-o0paOJql8sKTuJib2w>

## **Zimbabwe: 2020 - Striking Junior Doctors Hope to Bury Hatchet and Resume Work**

HUNDREDS of Zimbabwe public hospital junior doctors who are on strike over better salaries and working conditions, remain hopeful that government will finally engage them for meaningful dialogue to end the four-month impasse between the parties. Junior doctors downed their tools in September 2019, demanding that their salaries be pegged in US dollars, better working conditions and for government to provide the country's hospitals with new equipment and medicines. In response to the doctors'

Read in AllAfrica: <https://apple.news/AzquUokIkNBWcHprAqDbwfQ>

## **Malawi Govt to Launch Universal Pension Scheme - 500 000 to Benefit**

About half a million Malawian pensioners are expected to benefit from a government scheme whose purpose is--to a greater extent--aid their day-to-day lives for the better hotly due to their diminished revenues. MP Chikalimba : most people struggle greatly once they retir Zomba Chingale MP John Chikalimba of Peoples Party (PP), who is spearheading the move in parliament, said once instituted--most probably this year--men and women, most living at over sixty years, will substantially benefit.

Read in AllAfrica: <https://apple.news/AViBnohCsPUCFASklHJWw>

## **Can Africa really benefit from Brexit?**

In August 2018, then-Prime Minister Theresa May became the first British leader in five years to visit sub-Saharan Africa, making a three-day trip that included meetings with the presidents of South Africa, Nigeria and Kenya. May was on the continent to boost post-Brexit trade and convince African leaders that the United Kingdom's exit from the European Union would provide their nations with new and lucrative trade and investment partnerships with the UK. In a speech in Cape Town, she pledged

Read in Al Jazeera: <https://apple.news/ALjnlGeirOPuv8JftMPKTpA>

# **ASIA**

## **South Korea Is Still Behind China and India in Terms of Fintech Adoption: Ernst & Young**

South Korea's government aims to continue to support the development of its Fintech industry. The nation's authorities have launched regulatory sandboxes and are assisting internet-based banks in establishing their operations. However, a recent survey reveals that South Korea still needs to make significant improvements in... Read More The post South Korea Is Still Behind China and India in Terms of Fintech Adoption: Ernst & Young appeared first on Crowdfund Insider.

Read in Crowdfund Insider: [https://apple.news/Ae8TzJcg7NsqCEJLk51q\\_RA](https://apple.news/Ae8TzJcg7NsqCEJLk51q_RA)

## **Australia urges people to flee as fires set to surge at weekend**

Authorities urged Australians on Friday to evacuate parts of the eastern states of Victoria and New South Wales to escape bushfires they fear are set to burn out of control this weekend.

Read in Reuters: [https://apple.news/AFU\\_zh\\_E2R-OQiVoRFGhqfA](https://apple.news/AFU_zh_E2R-OQiVoRFGhqfA)

## **Trade War 2020: China 'Decouples' As Central Bank Injects More Money Into System**

The first sign that China hard liners will take a leave of absence from Western capital markets if the Communist Party is embarrassed came this week.

Read in Forbes: <https://apple.news/AxxUMXENARpip3cWcsJoNtA>

## **US air strike killing Iranian military leader weighs on trading sentiment in Hong Kong**

A US air strike that killed a top Iranian military commander weighed on investor sentiment, while boosting gold and oil stocks in Hong Kong and mainland China. The Hang Seng Index finished Friday with a decline of 0.3 per cent at 28,451.50. ...

Read in South China Morning Post: <https://apple.news/AyClADtSSQNSK6qFcvFCriA>

## **China calls for calm after top Iranian military leader killed in US air strike**

Beijing called on all sides, especially Washington, to exercise restraint as tensions rise in the Middle East, with Iran vowing harsh revenge after its top military commander was killed in a US air strike on Friday. The escalating rift between Iran and...

Read in South China Morning Post: <https://apple.news/Ajt8YnVxGTiGlzuthH9qEBJA>

## **HSBC to suspend ATM services in some protest-hit areas on weekend nights, public holidays**

HSBC said on Friday that it would suspend service on weekend nights and during public holidays at more than a dozen automated teller machines (ATM) and express service centres in protest-hit parts of Hong Kong Island and Kowloon. The city's largest bank...

Read in South China Morning Post: <https://apple.news/AMf5qfSg8QhuRSq4n7nVxSQ>

# **EUROPE**

## **Uncharted Brexit waters: UK's Boris Johnson faces 2020 tests**

Prime Minister Boris Johnson is poised to take Britain out of the European Union at the end of this month but he faces the enormous task of forging a new trade agreement with the EU

Read in ABC News: <https://apple.news/Aj3-UJVZVTIGurLAUIEp7ew>

## **Brexit news – live: Labour seeking two-year extension with EU to avoid no-deal, as Tory MPs demand Big Ben chimes to mark exit**

Jeremy Corbyn has tabled an amendment to Boris Johnson's EU Withdrawal Bill seeking a two-year delay to the implementation period after Brexit – an attempt by Labour to avoid a no-deal crash-out at the end of 2020 if a trade deal cannot be done in time.

Read in The Independent: <https://apple.news/AXeHH6no1RvWMMFBMhQ9hrw>

## **Tory election win exacerbated Brexit uncertainty, analyst says**

Richard Mylles, political analyst at Absolute Strategy, discusses U.K. politics.

Read in CNBC: <https://apple.news/AOrDx4WFAR3ytGj51GBVBDw>

## **US trade deals with EU, Japan go into effect**

The first phase of the Chinese trade deal will also be signed in the coming weeks.

Read in MEAT+POULTRY: <https://apple.news/A9NEVeITIPQObDwdiSjy9MA>

## Can China and the EU put aside their differences and find common ground?

There was no shortage of geopolitical events in 2019. While sprawling US-China tensions occupied most of the year's headlines, the European Union also adjusted its strategic stance on China, in a move which is expected to shape the narrative of...

Read in South China Morning Post: <https://apple.news/A2yF3xQQURxawzjbbOo37OQ>



FRI, JAN 03, 2020

## EVENING BRIEF

AS OF FRI, JAN 03, 2020 • 04:09 ET

**DJIA** 28634.88



**S&P 500** 3234.85



**NASDAQ** 9020.77



### Most Active

#### DOW

NAME	LAST	CHG	%CHG
------	------	-----	------

AAPL	297.43	-2.92	-0.97%
------	--------	-------	--------

MSFT	158.62	-2.00	-1.25%
------	--------	-------	--------

XOM	70.33	-0.57	-0.80%
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#### S&P 500

#### NASDAQ

NAME	LAST	CHG	%CHG
------	------	-----	------

AMD	48.60	-0.50	-1.02%
-----	-------	-------	--------

AAPL	297.43	-2.92	-0.97%
------	--------	-------	--------

SIRI	7.09	-0.04	-0.56%
------	------	-------	--------



NAME	LAST	CHG	%CHG
GE	11.97	+0.04	+0.34%
AMD	48.60	-0.50	-1.02%
BAC	34.90	-0.74	-2.08%

## EDITOR'S NOTE

[Stocks fell](#), bond yields dipped and oil surged Friday after a U.S. airstrike in Baghdad killed Iran's top military commander.

Iran has promised revenge and the Middle East is now as volatile as ever.

[CNBC's Jesse Pound took a look](#) at what happens to financial markets following major crises in the Middle East. Predictably, oil posts solid returns, but stocks recover and score returns as well.

### Oil, stocks are winners following Middle East crises

Market reactions to 20 Middle East crisis events over the past two decades, according to a CNBC analysis using Kensho

**Bought one day before crisis, sold one month after**

Commodity	Trades Positive	Avg. Return
Oil (WTI)	84%	5.9%
Gold	70%	1.5%
S&P 500	65%	0.9%
US Dollar Index	55%	0.1%
10-Year T-Note	50%	-0.3%

**Bought one day before crisis, sold three months after**

Commodity	Trades Positive	Avg. Return
Oil (WTI)	74%	9.1%
S&P 500	75%	2.8%
Gold	50%	0.0%
US Dollar Index	50%	-0.3%
10-Year T-Note	45%	-0.8%

SOURCE: Kensho, CNBC analysis



[Oil prices climbed 4%](#) as strategists pondered possible Iranian responses, which could involve another attack on a major oil facility, like the assault on a Saudi oil processing plant last September.

**“One of the things that can derail a bull market is a spike in oil prices that can cause a recession,” said Paul Hickey, co-founder of Bespoke Investment Group. “When you have higher oil prices, that’s going to impact a key cost for a lot of different businesses.”**

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## **TOP NEWS**



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**Dow drops the most in a month after US airstrike on Iran’s top military leader spooks investors**

**Here's what typically happens to the financial markets after major Middle East crisis events**

**Oil prices surge after US kills Iran’s top commander in airstrike, Brent crude nears \$70 a barrel**

**Spiking oil prices have led to recessions in the past,  
and that's why the stock market is on edge**

**Even this oil spike can't lift the worst performing  
sector of the last decade**

**Trump says US does not seek war or regime change  
in Iran**

**Sales of Manhattan's priciest apartments plunge  
almost 40% in fourth quarter**

**Some Fed members worried that keeping rates low would encourage too much risk-taking, minutes show**

**Private equity's record \$1.5 trillion cash pile comes with a new set of challenges**

**Airline stocks tumble as oil prices soar on US airstrike that killed Iran's top general**

## **TOP VIDEO**



**Why BMW is losing its top spot to Mercedes-Benz**

## CNBC PRO



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**Two major analysts just got more bullish on Apple**

## SPECIAL REPORTS



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**AMD just hit its first record high in two decades.**  
**Here's what's next**

**Retail wreck rolls on, but these names could hedge**  
**against weakness**

# WORD ON THE STREET 01/04/20

## Forex Rates:

[http://forex.tradingcharts.com/quotes/custom\\_forex\\_quotes.html?sQSyms=USDIQD%2CUSDVND%2CUSDCNY%2CUSDKWD%2CGBPUSD%2CUSDIRR%2CUSIDR&btnFinished=Finished%3A+Display+Favorite+Quotes](http://forex.tradingcharts.com/quotes/custom_forex_quotes.html?sQSyms=USDIQD%2CUSDVND%2CUSDCNY%2CUSDKWD%2CGBPUSD%2CUSDIRR%2CUSIDR&btnFinished=Finished%3A+Display+Favorite+Quotes)

<a href="#">USD/IQD</a>	↓ 1188.0000	↑ 1193.0000	1192.6000	1191.2000	1191.6000	↑ 0.2000	08:45
<a href="#">USD/VND</a>	↑ 23165.0000	↑ 23185.0000	23149.5700	23142.2100	23142.2100	↑ 11.9700	14:55
<a href="#">USD/CNY</a>	↓ 6.9645	↑ 6.9665	6.9743	6.9630	6.9633	↑ 0.0013	09:32
<a href="#">USD/KWD</a>	↓ 0.3028	↑ 0.3034	0.3031	0.3027	0.3029	↑ 0.0000	14:53
<a href="#">GBP/USD</a>	• 1.3075	↑ 1.3076	1.3160	1.3053	1.3135	↓ -0.0061	15:29
<a href="#">USD/IRR</a>	↓ 0.0000	↓ 0.0000	42097.5000	42097.5000	42097.5000	↑ 97.5000	00:00
<a href="#">USD/IDR</a>	↓ 13933.0000	↑ 13942.0000	13959.0000	13875.0000	13883.0000	↑ 52.0000	15:28

## CNBC Link:

<http://www.cnbc.com/markets/>

## CNBC Morning Squawk Link:

No link on weekends

## DC NY Iraq Articles:

**Who is Abu Mahdi, the engineer who was killed with Soleimani?**

[https://translate.googleusercontent.com/translate\\_c?depth=1&hl=en&rurl=translate.google.com&sl=ar&sp=nm4&tl=en&u=https://www.alsumaria.tv/news/%25D9%2585%25D8%25AD%25D9%2584%25D9%258A%25D8%25A7%25D8%25AA/330405/%25D9%2585%25D9%2586-%25D9%2587%25D9%2588-%25D8%25A3%25D8%25A8%25D9%2588-%25D9%2585%25D9%2587%25D8%25AF%25D9%258A-%25D8%25A7%25D9%2584%25D9%2585%25D9%2587%25D9%2586%25D8%25AF%25D8%25B3-%25D8%25A7%25D9%2584%25D8%25B0%25D9%258A-%25D9%2582%25D8%25AA%25D9%2584-%25D9%2585%25D8%25B9-%25D8%25B3%25D9%2584%25D9%258A%25D9%2585%25D8%25A7%25D9%2586%25D9%258A%25D8%259F&xid=17259,15700021,15700186,15700191,15700256,15700259,15700262,15700265,15700271,15700283&usg=ALkJrhgEQIR9a\\_f1nCXBcJ5F8WV2-MwvyA](https://translate.googleusercontent.com/translate_c?depth=1&hl=en&rurl=translate.google.com&sl=ar&sp=nm4&tl=en&u=https://www.alsumaria.tv/news/%25D9%2585%25D8%25AD%25D9%2584%25D9%258A%25D8%25A7%25D8%25AA/330405/%25D9%2585%25D9%2586-%25D9%2587%25D9%2588-%25D8%25A3%25D8%25A8%25D9%2588-%25D9%2585%25D9%2587%25D8%25AF%25D9%258A-%25D8%25A7%25D9%2584%25D9%2585%25D9%2587%25D9%2586%25D8%25AF%25D8%25B3-%25D8%25A7%25D9%2584%25D8%25B0%25D9%258A-%25D9%2582%25D8%25AA%25D9%2584-%25D9%2585%25D8%25B9-%25D8%25B3%25D9%2584%25D9%258A%25D9%2585%25D8%25A7%25D9%2586%25D9%258A%25D8%259F&xid=17259,15700021,15700186,15700191,15700256,15700259,15700262,15700265,15700271,15700283&usg=ALkJrhgEQIR9a_f1nCXBcJ5F8WV2-MwvyA)

03-01-2020 | 05:37

**Abu Mahdi, the engineer who was assassinated by the American army with Qasim Soleimani at dawn today near Baghdad airport, is Jamal Ja`far Muhammad Ali Al Ibrahim, and in Iran he is called Jamal Ibrahimi, and Washington accuses him of terrorism.**

**The engineer was born in the mid-fifties in Basra and entered the University of Technology in the Department of Civil Engineering in 1973 and obtained a Bachelor's degree in Engineering in 1977, before completing his studies in political science and obtaining a Bachelor's degree in political science and studying for a doctorate in the same specialty as he studied the premises of the scientific estate of the Shi'ite reference Mohsen al-Hakim in Basra.**

**Jamal Ibrahimi, who is married to an Iranian, joined the Islamic Dawa Party while he was in high school. After the Rajab events in 1979, many students were arrested and the engineer became one of the most wanted men in the Revolutionary Court. After Saddam Hussein took power in Iraq**

**in 1979 and the killing of the authority, Muhammad Baqir Al-Sadr, the engineer was forced to leave. From Iraq in 1980.**

**In 1985 he became a member of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq and practiced currency as a politician in the council and a military in the Badr Corps and then commander of the Badr Corps until the late 1990s.**

**During the fall of Saddam Hussein's rule a month ago, he abandoned his leadership in Badr and in the Supreme Council and worked as an independent person, maintaining his relations with all.**

**In 2003 he played an important role in the political process, and he had several important roles that he himself led, including the formation of the United National Alliance and the Iraqi National Alliance and then the current ruling Shiite National Alliance.**

**The engineer is one of the wanted individuals of the Kuwaiti and American judicial authorities and the international police, after he was accused of bombing the American and French embassies in the 1980s.**

**At that time the engineer and his group were sentenced to death but managed to escape from Kuwait using a Pakistani passport bound for Iran.**

**Western intelligence charged him with trying to hijack a Kuwaiti Airlines plane in 1984 and attempting to assassinate the Emir of Kuwait, Jaber Al-Sabah.**

**The Dawa party had adopted those bombings at the time, in an attempt to strike Kuwaiti support for Iraq in its war with Iran during the eight-year war.**

**After the popular crowd was formed, the engineer was chosen as the deputy commander of the commission, and he has always participated in the field in the battles**



**Religious reference: Iraq is going through the most dangerous turns, and the country is entering a very dangerous stage, and we are calling for restraint**

[http://translate.googleusercontent.com/translate\\_c?depth=2&hl=en&rurl=translate.google.com&sl=ar&sp=nm4&tl=en&u=http://www.alliraqnews.com/modules/news/article.php%3Fstoryid%3D85759&xid=17259,15700023,15700124,15700149,15700186,15700190,15700201&usg=ALkJrhjmRW8ciKEfJil9hCDuLDmX\\_XJB\\_Q](http://translate.googleusercontent.com/translate_c?depth=2&hl=en&rurl=translate.google.com&sl=ar&sp=nm4&tl=en&u=http://www.alliraqnews.com/modules/news/article.php%3Fstoryid%3D85759&xid=17259,15700023,15700124,15700149,15700186,15700190,15700201&usg=ALkJrhjmRW8ciKEfJil9hCDuLDmX_XJB_Q)

**Editing Date: 1/3/2020 13:00 • 8 times read**

**[Karbala-where]**

**The Supreme Religious Authority condemned the attack, which it described as Al-Ghasham near Baghdad International Airport last night, as it represented a flagrant violation of Iraqi sovereignty and a violation of international conventions, and led to the martyrdom of a number of the heroes of the battles of the victory over the ISIS terrorists.**

**In the text of the second sermon delivered by the representative of the Supreme Religious Authority Sheikh Abd al-Mahdi al-Karbalai today, Friday: We read to you the text of what we received from the office of His Eminence Sayyid (may God rest his soul) in Najaf, in the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful:**

**Events accelerate and aggravate crises, and the country is going through the most dangerous junctures. From the sinful aggression to which the Iraqi forces' positions were in the city of Al-Qa'im and led to the martyrdom and wounding of dozens of our fighters, to the unfortunate incidents in Baghdad during the past days, to the brutal attack near its international airport last night Represented by a flagrant violation of Iraqi sovereignty and a violation of international conventions, and a number of the heroes of the battles of the victory over the ISIS terrorists were martyred.**

**He added, "These and other facts warn that the country is heading towards very difficult conditions, and as we call on the parties concerned to exercise restraint and act wisely, we raise our prayers to God, the Most High, the Almighty, to pay off Iraq and its people the evil of the wicked and the evil of the ungodly."**

The statement concluded by saying, "Oh God, I led the hearts and stretched their necks and diagnosed eyes and quoted feet and Ondat chilling, God told the innermost Aelchenan and stirred Alodgan boilers, Oh God, we complain to you the dispersion of prejudice, and the large number of our enemy and the lack of our numbers, Vfarag us, O Lord, open you Tjlh And a victory from you will comfort him, with your mercy, O mercy of those who are merciful, faithful to the Lord of the Worlds.

Khazali calls on his supporters to be ready, vowing that the entire US military presence in Iraq will eventually cease and Israel will cease to exist

[http://translate.googleusercontent.com/translate\\_c?depth=2&hl=en&rurl=translate.google.com&sl=ar&sp=nm4&tl=en&u=http://www.alliraqnews.com/modules/news/article.php%3Fstoryid%3D85757&xid=17259,15700023,15700124,15700149,15700186,15700190,15700201&usg=ALkJrhhnLoh\\_rG8MmXWo9\\_mFq0uqujWtrQ](http://translate.googleusercontent.com/translate_c?depth=2&hl=en&rurl=translate.google.com&sl=ar&sp=nm4&tl=en&u=http://www.alliraqnews.com/modules/news/article.php%3Fstoryid%3D85757&xid=17259,15700023,15700124,15700149,15700186,15700190,15700201&usg=ALkJrhhnLoh_rG8MmXWo9_mFq0uqujWtrQ)

Editing Date: 1/3/2020 12:03 • 44 times read

[Baghdad-where]

On Friday, Qais Khazali, Secretary General of the Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq movement, issued a directive to all his supporters in preparedness, vowing the demise of all the American military presence in exchange for the blood of "the engineer" and the demise of Israel in exchange for the blood of Soleimani, as he put it.

Khazali said in the message obtained by Digital Media NRT today (January 3, 2020): "The demise of Israel from the presence and the demise of all the American military presence in Iraq in exchange for the blood of Soleimani and the engineer."

And he added: "To all the Mujahideen who are ready and ready to fight, the next thing we have must open is a victory and a great victory."

## **Calls to fortify the Iraqi sovereign decision and fears of international isolation**

[https://translate.googleusercontent.com/translate\\_c?depth=1&hl=en&rurl=translate.google.com&sl=ar&sp=nmt4&tl=en&u=https://aawsat.com/home/article/2062471/%25D8%25AF%25D8%25B9%25D9%2588%25D8%25A7%25D8%25AA-%25D9%2584%25D8%25AA%25D8%25AD%25D8%25B5%25D9%258A%25D9%2586-%25D8%25A7%25D9%2584%25D9%2582%25D8%25B1%25D8%25A7%25D8%25B1-%25D8%25A7%25D9%2584%25D8%25B3%25D9%258A%25D8%25A7%25D8%25AF%25D9%258A-%25D8%25A7%25D9%2584%25D8%25B9%25D8%25B1%25D8%25A7%25D9%2582%25D9%258A-%25D9%2588%25D9%2585%25D8%25AE%25D8%25A7%25D9%2588%25D9%2581-%25D9%2585%25D9%2586-%25D8%25B9%25D8%25B2%25D9%2584%25D8%25A9-%25D8%25AF%25D9%2588%25D9%2584%25D9%258A%25D8%25A9&id=17259,15700002,15700023,15700186,15700191,15700256,15700259,15700262,15700265,15700271,15700283&usq=ALkJrhgo2KCOHqwjBHeqxljD902X\\_Fhs4A](https://translate.googleusercontent.com/translate_c?depth=1&hl=en&rurl=translate.google.com&sl=ar&sp=nmt4&tl=en&u=https://aawsat.com/home/article/2062471/%25D8%25AF%25D8%25B9%25D9%2588%25D8%25A7%25D8%25AA-%25D9%2584%25D8%25AA%25D8%25AD%25D8%25B5%25D9%258A%25D9%2586-%25D8%25A7%25D9%2584%25D9%2582%25D8%25B1%25D8%25A7%25D8%25B1-%25D8%25A7%25D9%2584%25D8%25B3%25D9%258A%25D8%25A7%25D8%25AF%25D9%258A-%25D8%25A7%25D9%2584%25D8%25B9%25D8%25B1%25D8%25A7%25D9%2582%25D9%258A-%25D9%2588%25D9%2585%25D8%25AE%25D8%25A7%25D9%2588%25D9%2581-%25D9%2585%25D9%2586-%25D8%25B9%25D8%25B2%25D9%2584%25D8%25A9-%25D8%25AF%25D9%2588%25D9%2584%25D9%258A%25D8%25A9&id=17259,15700002,15700023,15700186,15700191,15700256,15700259,15700262,15700265,15700271,15700283&usq=ALkJrhgo2KCOHqwjBHeqxljD902X_Fhs4A)

**03 January 2020 AD Issue number [15010]**

**Baghdad: Hamza Mustafa**

The "violent and violent behavior" carried out by Iraqi armed factions loyal to Iran, stormed the American embassy in Baghdad the day before yesterday, and erected open sit-in tents, which were considered by the leaders and political forces in Iraq: "unacceptable behavior", and may expose Iraq to international isolation. Some of these leaders called for the political decision to be immunized and removed from any side effects. Despite the withdrawal of the demonstrators after invitations from the leaders of the factions, as well as large military reinforcements from the Marines, and their deployment on the roofs of the embassy, and their warnings of being authorized to shoot, the political repercussions that resulted from this incident embarrassed the Iraqi government and its resigned president, Adel Abdul Mahdi, who received A long call from US President Donald Trump, and Iraqi President Barham Salih, who issued a strongly worded statement against the storming operation. In the context of this, he called the former Prime Minister and leader of the

**"National Coalition" Iyad Allawi, to the importance of fortifying the Iraqi sovereign decision, and away from any side effects. Allawi said in a statement yesterday, Wednesday, that he refuses «categorically rejected that Iraq be the scene of a conflict of influence and external interests of the agency, and that its children be a victim of that conflict». He also called for the speedy amendment of the agreement on the presence of foreign forces in Iraq, or its abolition, and the organization of a new security agreement if necessary, provided that all of these forces are under the management and leadership of the Iraqi state. Allawi warned that "the failure to form a strong army away from quotas means that Iraq will remain subject to external forces, and will not be able to stand against terrorism and extremism."**

**Both of my chiefs: The Republic Barham Salih, and Parliament Muhammad al-Halbousi, have announced their rejection of the storming of the US embassy. Saleh said in a statement, "Iraq is facing serious challenges at the level of threatening its security, sovereignty and the future of its people," usually trying to "storm the American embassy in Baghdad, in violation of the international contexts and agreements binding on the Iraqi government."**

**Saleh added that «peaceful protest is a legitimate and guaranteed right according to the constitution; but exposure to diplomatic missions accredited in Iraq is a blow to Iraq's interests and international reputation, as a sovereign country that respects its obligations and agreements, and protects diplomatic missions within its borders. This is targeting Iraq and its sovereignty, before it is targeting any other party. "**

**As for Parliament Speaker Mohammed Al-Halbousi, he considered the storming operation in a tweet, "Unacceptable behavior that would harm the interests of Iraq." Al-Halbousi added that "this act is inconsistent with international norms and agreements."**

**For his part, Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Ali al-Hakim counted that "the message of the protesters in front of the American embassy in Baghdad has arrived." Al-Hakim added in his tweet on Twitter, "The protection of diplomats, diplomatic missions and their embassies remains the responsibility of Iraq, which he undertook by agreeing to the Geneva Convention." He announced that he "spoke with the Prime Minister, Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces, Adel Abdel Mahdi, about ending the protests in front of the US embassy, and the safety of employees and facilities."**

**A source close to the Shiite leader Muqtada al-Sadr warned that the demonstrations in front of the American embassy in the Green Zone are intended to end the people's reform demonstrations. "I invite my revolutionary brothers to stand firm, to continue to be peaceful, not to be**

in contact with them, and do not be sad or let down if you see (the green) open to them and closed to your face," Mohammed Saleh al-Iraqi, close to al-Sadr, said in a press statement. He addressed the demonstrators in the demonstration squares in Baghdad and the provinces: «Today you are on its walls (the Green Zone) and tomorrow the people will be in it, through the early elections called by the wise and wise people, and the people will write an introduction to end corruption and partisanship». He added: "Enter it from the doors of the elections safely, as corruption breathes its mouth."

In this context, Iraqi politician Haider Al-Mulla, a former member of the Iraqi parliament, asserted to Asharq Al-Awsat that "what happened in front of the American embassy in Baghdad is an acting war because the Iranians are smarter than they enter into a direct confrontation with the United States of America; but they used Their strategic depth in Iraq, in order to do this, by confronting America ». He added, "The logic of history confirms that any attack like the one that occurred will not go unnoticed; but the fear remains that the next conflict will be inside the Iraqi arena, because the fragile situation of Iraq does not tolerate any stampede of this kind."

Al-Mulla explained that "what was expected was that the leaders of Shiite political Islam in Iraq that are the decision-makers are smarter than engaging Iraq in this conflict, or that Iran is working to employ them in its conflict with the Americans", indicating that "what actually happened is a dangerous turning point, It will have repercussions for the future of the political process. The title of this juncture is the loss of balance through demonstrations, as well as the American supporter who is the backbone of building the democratic process in Iraq. Therefore, we will witness serious repercussions in the near future. "

For his part, Iraqi political researcher Farhad Alaaddin sees, in a statement to Asharq Al-Awsat, that "the United States had warned against the consequences of exposure to its military bases in the Iraqi lands where the international coalition forces are located, and therefore the warnings of the Americans against targeting their interests and forces in Iraq is clear and does not accept interpretation. " Aladdin added that "it is no secret to anyone that the ongoing conflict between Washington and Tehran has become the most intense conflict in the region, and in Iraq in particular, although it is not the main square, and that the escalation between the two sides crossed the borders of Iraq, to include the Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz, Yemen, Lebanon and Syria But the main difference here is that Iraq includes joint operating bases in which there are some American forces, which are almost easy targets; being in the range of Iranian forces directly,

or by the Iraqi armed factions loyal to them, which are also able to reach them when needed »

**Deputy: The new election law will bring in "space" representatives**

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**03-01-2020 Baghdad - news**

Parliament member, Kazem Al-Sayyadi, confirmed today, Thursday, that the new election law for the parliament will bring space representatives.

In a tweet to him on Twitter, Al-Sayyadi said: "The new election law will produce space representatives."

He added: "This is due to the determination of the number of deputies according to population proportions."

It is noteworthy that the Iraqi Council of Representatives, voted on the 24th of last December, unanimously to pass the new election law by the individual candidacy system, and to win for those who obtain the highest percentage of votes, a law that was a major demand from the demands of the protests taking place in Iraq since last October.

**Pompeo» discusses by phone with the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, the President of Iraq and the President of the Kurdistan Government, developments of the situation after the killing of «Soleimani»**

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**04/01/2019**

**Michael Pompeo, the US Secretary of State, discussed by phone with Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Iraqi President Barham Salih and Masrour Barzani, President of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, developments of the situation after the recent American strike that led to the killing of the commander of the Quds Force of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard near Baghdad Airport, Friday.**

**US State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortagos said that Pompeo discussed with Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, the recent decision of President Trump to take decisive defensive measures to protect American individuals abroad by killing Qasim Soleimani in response to threats to American lives.**

**She added that the minister discussed by phone with Iraqi President Barham Salih President Trump's recent decision, noting that President Saleh agreed with Pompeo on the need to reduce tensions in the region, pointing out that her country remains committed to stopping the escalation and to an independent and sovereign Iraq. Pompeo also discussed with the President of the Kurdistan Regional Government Masrour Barzani the latest developments, and thanked Barzani for his partnership with the United States.**

**Soleimani planned attacks on U.S. personnel in Iraq, Lebanon, Syria: official**

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**04/01/2019**

**Iranian guards hold a picture of the late Iranian Major-General Qassem Soleimani, during a protest against the killing of Soleimani, head of the elite Quds Force, and Iraqi militia commander Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, who were killed in an air strike at Baghdad airport, in front of United Nation office in Tehran, Iran January 3, 2020. WANA (West Asia News Agency) / Nazanin Tabatabaee via REUTERS**

**WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Qassem Soleimani, Tehran's most prominent military commander who was killed in a US strike, was planning imminent attacks on US diplomats and troops in Iraq, Lebanon, Syria and elsewhere in the Middle East, a senior US official said on Friday .**

**A US strike in Baghdad on Friday killed Soleimani, a 62-year-old general who headed the overseas arm of the Revolutionary Guards and was seen as the second most powerful figure in Iran after Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.**

**Speaking to a small group of reporters on condition of anonymity, U.S. officials cast their decision to kill Soleimani as an act of self-defense.**

**“Soleimani was planning imminent attacks against American diplomats and armed forces members in Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, and in the region,” the**



senior official said on condition of anonymity. “This was an action taken in self defense, and the United States has the inherent right to defend itself, if it is faced with an attack.”

While acknowledging the possibility of Iranian retaliation - which Tehran has promised - senior U.S. officials argued that Soleimani’s killing deprived Iran of one of its most ingenious commanders and could deter future attacks.

“We cannot promise that we have broken the circle of violence,” said a second official. “What I can say from my experience with Qassem Soleimani is it is less likely that we will see this now than it was before and, if we do see an increase in violence, it probably will not be as devilishly ingenious.”

Reporting by Arshad Mohammed, David Brunnstrom and Daphne Psaledakis; Editing by Chris Reese and Leslie Adler

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U.S. to designate Iran-backed Iraqi militia as foreign terrorist organization

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04/01/2019

**WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The United States plans to designate an Iranian-backed Iraqi militia as a foreign terrorist organization, the State Department said on Friday, accusing the Asaib Ahl al-Haq group of being a violent proxy of Tehran.**

**The announcement in a statement from the agency followed a US air strike early on Friday in Baghdad that killed Iran's most prominent military commander, Qassem Soleimani. The attack was a dramatic escalation of tensions between Washington and Tehran, for which Iran has promised vengeance.**

**The State Department also said on Friday that it had designated Qais al-Khazali, leader of Asaib Ahl al-Haq, and his brother Laith al-Khazali, another leader of the group, as specially designated global players.**

**U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in the statement that the militia group and its leaders “use violence and terror to further the Iranian regime’s efforts to undermine Iraqi sovereignty.”**

**The designations freeze any U.S.-related assets of the group and the two leaders, generally prohibit Americans from doing business with them and makes it a crime to provide support or resources to Asaib Ahl al-Haq.**

**The State Department said the Asaib Ahl al-Haq militia is “extensively funded and trained” by Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Quds Force, which was commanded by Soleimani, and has claimed responsibility for more than 6,000 attacks against the United States and coalition forces since its creation in 2006.**

**The designations reinforce sanctions imposed on the two militia leaders last month. The U.S. Treasury Department sanctions froze any of their U.S. assets and prohibited Americans from doing business with them, over their alleged roles in killings of anti-government protesters in Iraq.**

**Who is Abu Mahdi, the engineer who was killed with Soleimani?**

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**04-01-2020 | 05:37**

**Abu Mahdi, the engineer who was assassinated by the American army with Qasim Soleimani at dawn today near Baghdad airport, is Jamal Ja`far Muhammad Ali Al Ibrahim, and in Iran he is called Jamal Ibrahimi, and Washington accuses him of terrorism.**

**The engineer was born in the mid-fifties in Basra and entered the University of Technology in the Department of Civil Engineering in 1973 and obtained a Bachelor's degree in Engineering in 1977, before completing his studies in political science and obtaining a Bachelor's degree in political science and studying for a doctorate in the same specialty as he studied the premises of the scientific estate of the Shi'ite reference Mohsen al-Hakim in Basra.**

**Kauaihn Iraq Articles:**

## **The Soleimani assassination is a step towards war between Iran and America**

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**January 4, 2020**

**A A Amr Hosni - The German magazine, "Der Spiegel" reported that the killing of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards commander is a first step for the war between Washington and Tehran, so that the conflict between the two countries will take a new direction after 4 decades of tension between the two countries. The magazine noted that escalation has become imperative because Iran is to stand idly by in front of the American attack and will respond with an attack, and here war will erupt between the two sides. She made it clear that this process made the negotiations undertaken by French President Emmanuel Macron to resolve the Iranian nuclear program crisis from the past because the Iranian side will not back down from its position. Iranian skirmishes began with the seizure of American ships in the Gulf and the destruction of cards belonging to Gulf countries. Iran has not claimed responsibility for the accident, but all indications are that it is behind these events. Iran will not make the assassination of Soleimani go unnoticed because it is its strongest man who was managing his forces and operations in the Middle East, especially in Syria, Yemen and Lebanon. The magazine expected that Iraq will witness a proxy war between Iran and the United States, which invaded Iraq 17 years ago. The killing of Soleimani is a major blow to the Iranian leadership, which is now putting pressure on rapid violent retaliation to show how Iran deals with its powerful men after their death.**

**Barham Saleh calls for restraint and the voice of reason to prevail and Washington calls on its citizens to leave Iraq and send reinforcements to its embassy in Baghdad**

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**The Iraqi Ministry of Oil announced the departure of a number of American employees working in the sector. Archive**

**Date: January 04, 2020**

**Yesterday, the United States of America called on its citizens to leave Iraq immediately, a few hours after the commander of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps Qassem Soleimani was killed by an American bombing in Baghdad, as was the killing of the leader of the Popular Mobilization, Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, in the same operation. While Iraqi President Barham Salih called on the Iraqis to show restraint, the Iraqi army said that targeting the engineer is a clear departure from the specific tasks of the American forces.**

**In details, the embassy said in a statement: "Given the escalation of tensions in Iraq and the region, the US embassy urges all citizens to comply with the travel instructions in January 2020, and to leave Iraq immediately. American citizens must leave by air if possible, and if this is not possible, they must travel to other countries by land. "**

**In connection, the Iraqi Oil Ministry announced yesterday the departure of a number of American employees working in the oil sector of the country, according to the request of their country's embassy to leave Iraq "immediately". "Many American employees left Iraq in response to the request of their government," said ministry spokesman Asim Jihad.**

**And in Baghdad, Iraqi President Barham Saleh yesterday called on the Iraqis to show restraint against the background of the killing of Qassem**

**Soleimani and Abu Mahdi Al-Muhandis in a US air raid at Baghdad International Airport.**

**Saleh said in a press statement, "We condemn this aggression, which affected security leaders belonging to the Iraqi establishment, and which undoubtedly will have security implications and repercussions in Iraq and the region."**

**He added: "We call for restraint, to prevail over the voice of reason and wisdom, to present the supreme interest, adhere to our unity, overcome differences, and protect the sovereignty and security of Iraq." For his part, the speaker of the Iraqi parliament, Muhammad al-Halbousi, condemned the American air strike and considered it a violation of sovereignty.**

**He said in a statement, "What took place in the vicinity of Baghdad International Airport to target a military commander belonging to the Iraqi military establishment is a flagrant violation of sovereignty, and a violation of international conventions."**

**He called for "to keep Iraq from being a battleground or a party to any regional or international conflict."**

**For its part, the Iraqi army condemned the air strike carried out by the American forces on Baghdad airport, and said it was a clear departure from the specific tasks of the American forces.**

**"We confirm that what happened is a flagrant violation of the sovereignty of Iraq and a clear departure from the tasks of the specific American forces to combat (ISIS), and to provide support and support to the Iraqi forces," the army said in a statement.**

**In connection with the strike, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo posted on Twitter a video recording that he said Iraqis "dance on the street", to celebrate the death of Qassem Soleimani. Pompeo wrote in a tweet attached to the recording showing a crowd running in a street raising Iraqi flags and signs reading "Iraqis": "Iraqis are dancing in the street for freedom, expressing their gratitude that General Soleimani is no longer present." On the other hand, a US military official confirmed, yesterday, the arrival of "American military reinforcements to secure" the American embassy in Baghdad, after it was attacked by Iraqi militias last week. The US military official said that about 750 American soldiers began to arrive at the Washington embassy in Baghdad to secure it.**

**The Dawa Party calls on the government to reconsider Iraq's relationship with America**

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**January 4, 2020 | 12:07 pm**

**On Friday, the Islamic Dawa Party called on the Iraqi government to take the available steps to deal with this dangerous event, calling for a review of its relations with America after it officially recognized the assassination of Engineer and Soleimani.**

**A statement of the invitation said, "At a time when the region is living in turbulent and disturbing security conditions, the American forces proceeded with orders from the White House with great foolishness and an unaccounted crime, the results of the assassination of Major General Qassem Soleimani, the deputy head of the Popular Mobilization Authority martyr Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis and a group of the PMF in Baghdad. Today morning".**

**He added that "this heinous act clearly reveals the arrogant, systematic approach that US policy pursues in implementing its ambitions and project aimed at controlling."**

**"The Islamic Dawa Party condemns and denounces this hideous American crime, and affirms that the aggressive American approach and the disregard for the capabilities of the peoples of the region will widen the circle of confrontation and push the situation into serious repercussions and make the regional reality live on a hot plate."**

**He stressed that "this terrorist crime clearly demonstrates America's lack of respect for Iraqi sovereignty and does not find any embarrassment in front of the bloodshed of Iraqis and those who stand with them, and that American forces behave as if Iraq is still under its hateful occupation."**

**The Dawa Party called on the "Iraqi government to take the available steps to deal with this dangerous event and to reconsider its relations with America after it officially admitted that it committed the crime."**

**He continued: "The Islamic Dawa Party also calls on the children of the decent Iraqi people and their political spectrum to be at a high level of awareness and bear the legitimate responsibility in preserving Iraq, its security, sovereignty and stability, and to seize this tragic incident of rapprochement and unify the situation and not the diaspora, to miss the opportunity on the enemies of Iraq and its people."**

**Iranian commander Soleimani had been in Pompeo's sights for years**

[https://translate.googleusercontent.com/translate\\_c?depth=1&hl=en&rurl=translate.google.com&sl=ar&sp=nmt4&tl=en&u=https://www.jpost.com/Middle-East/Iranian-commander-Soleimani-had-been-in-Pompeos-sights-for-years-613043&xid=17259,15700023,15700186,15700191,15700256,15700259,15700262,15700265,15700271,15700283&usg=ALkJrhItCtBn1j05uUhJsPFk6oZQw4QHlw](https://translate.googleusercontent.com/translate_c?depth=1&hl=en&rurl=translate.google.com&sl=ar&sp=nmt4&tl=en&u=https://www.jpost.com/Middle-East/Iranian-commander-Soleimani-had-been-in-Pompeos-sights-for-years-613043&xid=17259,15700023,15700186,15700191,15700256,15700259,15700262,15700265,15700271,15700283&usg=ALkJrhItCtBn1j05uUhJsPFk6oZQw4QHlw)

**After hearing via Iranian media that Soleimani refused to open the letter, Pompeo added: "Didn't break my heart to be honest with you."**

**By REUTERS JANUARY 4, 2020 00:12**

**Secretary Mike Pompeo in Jerusalem**

**Long before US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo went on television and Twitter on Friday to make the case for the US decision to kill top Iranian general Qassem Soleimani , he had the powerful military commander squarely in his sights.**

**Back in 2015, when Pompeo was a congressman for Kansas advocating regime change in Iran while the Obama administration pursued**



engagement, he accused Soleimani, considered the second most powerful person in Iran, of having "the blood of hundreds of American service members on his hands , "a refrain he repeated on Friday after the US air strike in Baghdad.

In July 2017, by which time he had become director of President Donald Trump's Central Intelligence Agency, Pompeo's stance on regime change may have been less overt, but when asked at the Aspen Security Forum whether regime change in Iran was a realistic or viable option, he replied: "The folks who are causing the mischief - Qassem Soleimani and his gang - weren't elected. Those are the folks that we are deadly focused on making sure don't continue to maintain capacity and power."

Later that year, Pompeo announced he had sent a letter to Soleimani and other Iranian leaders over Iran's threatening behavior in Iraq, warning the United States would hold both them "accountable for any attacks on American interests in Iraq by forces that are under their control . "

"We wanted to make sure he and the leadership in Iran understood that in a way that was crystal clear," Pompeo told the Reagan National Defense Forum in Southern California.

After hearing via Iranian media that Soleimani refused to open the letter, Pompeo added: "Didn't break my heart to be honest with you."

As secretary of state, a position he took up in the first part of 2018, Pompeo pursued a notably more hawkish approach to Iran than his predecessors and frequently named Soleimani in speeches and interviews.

When Trump pulled the United States out of the 2015 landmark nuclear deal between Iran and world powers, negotiated by the Obama administration, Pompeo was one of the most vocal proponents of the "maximum pressure campaign" that saw the re-imposition of US agreement in 2018.

US officials said Friday's "decisive action" had been threatened since Sept. 11 of 2018, when the White House put out a statement after attacks on US diplomatic facilities in Iraq.

A senior administration official said statements from both Trump and Pompeo in the past year and a half, including one from Pompeo on Dec. 13, had warned that if Iran or its proxies conducted armed attacks that hurt US personnel or interests, there would be such decisive action.

"They met the condition, and so then we then fulfilled the consequence," the official told reporters, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Pompeo said on Friday the strike that killed Soleimani in Baghdad was aimed at disrupting an "imminent attack" that would have endangered Americans in the Middle East.

In interviews on Fox News and CNN, Pompeo declined to discuss details

of the alleged threat but said there was "an intelligence based assessment" that Soleimani was plotting action in the Middle East region "that would have put dozens if not hundreds of American lives at risk. " In a tweet, Trump said Soleimani had "killed or badly wounded thousands of Americans over an extended period of time, and was plotting to kill many more."

## **Kurdistan President Urges Iraq to Protect US Embassy**

<http://www.basnews.com/index.php/en/news/kurdistan/571232>

**BasNews 04/01/2020 - Published in [Kurdistan](#)**

The Kurdistan Region has been "deeply" concerned over the recent attack on the US Embassy compound in Baghdad, calling on Iraqi authorities to protect the foreign diplomatic facilities in the country.

In response to the US airstrikes on the Kataib Hezbollah, the supporters of the pro-Iranian militia groups stormed the US embassy building on Tuesday and set fire to one of the facility's outposts.

Kurdistan Region President Nechirvan Barzani said in a statement on Wednesday that "peaceful gathering and demonstration is a constitutional right, but the use of violence and assaults and the irresponsible action of targeting embassies and diplomatic missions is an alarming development."

"We consider the recent events and the attack on the US Embassy in Baghdad deeply concerning, which is unequivocally unacceptable and it will endanger Iraq's interests," he added.

The Kurdish president further pointed out that the US forces are the ally of Iraq and the Kurdistan Region, reminding that the troops of the foreign country were the main partners in the fight against the Islamic State (IS).

"The Americans are the ally and friends of Iraq and the Kurdistan Region and were the main partner in the liberation of Iraq and the victory over al-Qaeda and ISIS terrorists. To confront the dangers of terror and to

safeguard its interests, Iraq and the Kurdistan Region still need the support and the cooperation of the United States and the international coalition."

"Other countries' missions and diplomats are guests in Iraq and should be protected and treated with respect. We urge the responsible authorities to undertake their duties in protecting them and prevent attacks on embassies, institutions and diplomatic missions," he concluded.

**The Dawa Party calls on the government to reconsider Iraq's relationship with America**

[http://translate.googleusercontent.com/translate\\_c?depth=2&hl=en&rurl=translate.google.com&sl=ar&sp=nm4&tl=en&u=http://aynaliraqnews.com/index.php%3Faa%3Dnews%26id22%3D128613&xid=17259,15700021,15700124,15700149,15700186,15700190,15700201,15700214&usg=ALkJrhjqmMFwzLDSoyQuVJmtHLDyDY7Q7A](http://translate.googleusercontent.com/translate_c?depth=2&hl=en&rurl=translate.google.com&sl=ar&sp=nm4&tl=en&u=http://aynaliraqnews.com/index.php%3Faa%3Dnews%26id22%3D128613&xid=17259,15700021,15700124,15700149,15700186,15700190,15700201,15700214&usg=ALkJrhjqmMFwzLDSoyQuVJmtHLDyDY7Q7A)

**Friday, January 3, 2020 | 12:07 pm**

On Friday, the Islamic Dawa Party called on the Iraqi government to take the available steps to deal with this dangerous event, calling for a review of its relations with America after it officially recognized the assassination of Engineer and Soleimani.

A statement of the invitation said, "At a time when the region is living in turbulent and disturbing security conditions, the American forces proceeded with orders from the White House with great foolishness and an unaccounted crime, the results of the assassination of Major General Qassem Soleimani, the deputy head of the Popular Mobilization Authority martyr Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis and a group of the PMF in Baghdad. Today morning".

He added that "this heinous act clearly reveals the arrogant, systematic approach that US policy pursues in implementing its ambitions and project aimed at controlling."

**"The Islamic Dawa Party condemns and denounces this hideous American crime, and affirms that the aggressive American approach and the disregard for the capabilities of the peoples of the region will widen the circle of confrontation and push the situation into serious repercussions and make the regional reality live on a hot plate."**

**He stressed that "this terrorist crime clearly demonstrates America's lack of respect for Iraqi sovereignty and does not find any embarrassment in front of the bloodshed of Iraqis and those who stand with them, and that American forces behave as if Iraq is still under its hateful occupation."**

**The Dawa Party called on the "Iraqi government to take the available steps to deal with this dangerous event and to reconsider its relations with America after it officially admitted that it committed the crime."**

**He continued: "The Islamic Dawa Party also calls on the children of the decent Iraqi people and their political spectrum to be at a high level of awareness and bear the legitimate responsibility in preserving Iraq, its security, sovereignty and stability, and to seize this tragic incident of rapprochement and unify the situation and not the diaspora, to miss the opportunity on the enemies of Iraq and its people."**

**Three rockets landed near a camp within the approaches of Baghdad Airport**

**[http://translate.googleusercontent.com/translate\\_c?depth=2&hl=en&rurl=translate.google.com&sl=ar&sp=nm4&tl=en&u=http://www.ikhnews.com/index.php%3Fpage%3Darticle%26id%3D206055&xid=17259,15700022,15700124,15700149,15700186,15700190,15700201,15700237,15700242&usg=ALkJrhgkTJBgVy0-ymKzgANLtOFQDf8Dg](http://translate.googleusercontent.com/translate_c?depth=2&hl=en&rurl=translate.google.com&sl=ar&sp=nm4&tl=en&u=http://www.ikhnews.com/index.php%3Fpage%3Darticle%26id%3D206055&xid=17259,15700022,15700124,15700149,15700186,15700190,15700201,15700237,15700242&usg=ALkJrhgkTJBgVy0-ymKzgANLtOFQDf8Dg)**

**3/1/2019 Baghdad - news**

**A security source said today, Friday, that three rockets landed near Baghdad International Airport.**

The source told "Al-Ikhbaria," that "three rockets landed near a camp within the approaches of Baghdad airport."

He added: "Until now, there were no human casualties as a result of the accident," stressing that "the air traffic is normal inside the airport."

Home » Security » F16 planes destroy three ISIS tunnels and kill those inside in Kirkuk

[https://translate.googleusercontent.com/translate\\_c?depth=3&hl=en&rurl=translate.google.com&sl=ar&sp=nmt4&tl=en&u=https://sngiq.net/wordpress/%3Fp%3D193510&xid=17259,15700023,15700186,15700191,15700256,15700259,15700262,15700265,15700271,15700283&usg=ALkJrhgVK9YIkhFk2Aljo9BGiGsoEB0Tng](https://translate.googleusercontent.com/translate_c?depth=3&hl=en&rurl=translate.google.com&sl=ar&sp=nmt4&tl=en&u=https://sngiq.net/wordpress/%3Fp%3D193510&xid=17259,15700023,15700186,15700191,15700256,15700259,15700262,15700265,15700271,15700283&usg=ALkJrhgVK9YIkhFk2Aljo9BGiGsoEB0Tng)

F16 planes destroy three ISIS tunnels and kill those inside in Kirkuk

On security January 3, 2020 8 visit

Baghdad / SNG-

The Security Media Cell announced today, Friday, that the F16 planes carried out air strikes targeting three ISIS tunnels in the Zab Al Sagheer area of Kirkuk Governorate.

The cell said in a statement, / SNG / received a copy of it, that "Iraqi F\_16 aircraft carried out air strikes, during which they targeted three tunnels used by ISIS terrorist gangs, in the small Zab region of Kirkuk Governorate."

She added that "the strikes resulted in the destruction of these tunnels and the killing of terrorist elements."

**The targeting of Iraqi activists continues .. He survived an assassination with a silencer**

[https://translate.googleusercontent.com/translate\\_c?depth=1&hl=en&rurl=translate.google.com&sl=ar&sp=nmt4&tl=en&u=http://www.alarabiya.net/ar/arab-and-world/iraq/2020/01/03/%25D8%25A7%25D8%25B3%25D8%25AA%25D9%2587%25D8%25AF%25D8%25A7%25D9%2581-%25D9%2586%25D8%25A7%25D8%25B4%25D8%25B7%25D9%258A-%25D8%25A7%25D9%2584%25D8%25B9%25D8%25B1%25D8%25A7%25D9%2582-%25D9%2585%25D8%25B3%25D8%25AA%25D9%2585%25D8%25B1-%25D9%2586%25D8%25AC%25D8%25A7-%25D9%2585%25D9%2586-%25D8%25A7%25D8%25BA%25D8%25AA%25D9%258A%25D8%25A7%25D9%2584-%25D8%25A8%25D9%2583%25D8%25A7%25D8%25AA%25D9%2585-%25D8%25B5%25D9%2588%25D8%25AA.html&xid=17259,15700021,15700186,15700191,15700256,15700259,15700262,15700265,15700271,15700283&usg=ALkJrhjCA3cSKR4oqida3X44DoRP-LKkog#](https://translate.googleusercontent.com/translate_c?depth=1&hl=en&rurl=translate.google.com&sl=ar&sp=nmt4&tl=en&u=http://www.alarabiya.net/ar/arab-and-world/iraq/2020/01/03/%25D8%25A7%25D8%25B3%25D8%25AA%25D9%2587%25D8%25AF%25D8%25A7%25D9%2581-%25D9%2586%25D8%25A7%25D8%25B4%25D8%25B7%25D9%258A-%25D8%25A7%25D9%2584%25D8%25B9%25D8%25B1%25D8%25A7%25D9%2582-%25D9%2585%25D8%25B3%25D8%25AA%25D9%2585%25D8%25B1-%25D9%2586%25D8%25AC%25D8%25A7-%25D9%2585%25D9%2586-%25D8%25A7%25D8%25BA%25D8%25AA%25D9%258A%25D8%25A7%25D9%2584-%25D8%25A8%25D9%2583%25D8%25A7%25D8%25AA%25D9%2585-%25D8%25B5%25D9%2588%25D8%25AA.html&xid=17259,15700021,15700186,15700191,15700256,15700259,15700262,15700265,15700271,15700283&usg=ALkJrhjCA3cSKR4oqida3X44DoRP-LKkog#)

**03 January 2020**

**It appears that the series of assassinations, kidnappings and attacks on activists in Iraq continues indefinitely, the new today that sources confirmed that the director of the Social Welfare Department in Karbala province, Samer Al-Mayali, survived an assassination attempt with unknown weapons by unknown gunmen in the district of Toureej, east of the province.**

**Subject you care about**

**On Thursday, US Defense Secretary Mark Esber disclosed that he believed that the Iraqi Hizballah Brigades might carry out another provocative act. He said "The ...**

**America to the Iraqi Hezbollah, you will regret any provocative act America to the Iraqi Hezbollah Hezbollah: You will regret any provocative act America**

**The sources added the kidnapping of the civil activist Ahmed Hassan Hashim, after he left Tahrir Square.**

**It is noteworthy that Iraq has been witnessing a period of kidnappings and enforced disappearances, assassinations of civilian activists, and journalists supporting the opposition movement in the country.**

**In turn, the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Iraq announced a few days ago, that the total statistics of kidnapping and loss officially documented by its offices amounted to 68 accidents, since the protest movement began in early October.**

**The Commission also indicated that the number of those whose fate has not been revealed to date has reached 56, after the release of the 12 Karbala activists two weeks ago.**

**Militia**

**The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights accuses "militias" of carrying out a wide campaign of kidnappings and assassinations of demonstrators and activists in the popular movement in Iraq.**

**From the Iraq protests From the Iraq protests**

**In addition, intimidation, kidnappings and killings of protesters campaigns increased in Iraq, which has witnessed since the first of October a wave of widespread protests that started from Baghdad, to expand to the southern provinces, calling for "the toppling of the quota system and corruption." These demonstrations have killed more than 400 people and injured more than 20,000.**

**Kurdistan President Urges Iraq to Protect US Embassy**

**<http://www.basnews.com/index.php/en/news/kurdistan/571232>**

**BasNews 03/01/2020 - Published in [Kurdistan](#)**

**The Kurdistan Region has been "deeply" concerned over the recent attack on the US Embassy compound in Baghdad, calling on Iraqi authorities to protect the foreign diplomatic facilities in the country.**

**In response to the US airstrikes on the Kataib Hezbollah, the supporters of the pro-Iranian militia groups stormed the US embassy building on Tuesday and set fire to one of the facility's outposts.**

**Kurdistan Region President Nechirvan Barzani said in a statement on Wednesday that "peaceful gathering and demonstration is a constitutional**

right, but the use of violence and assaults and the irresponsible action of targeting embassies and diplomatic missions is an alarming development."

"We consider the recent events and the attack on the US Embassy in Baghdad deeply concerning, which is unequivocally unacceptable and it will endanger Iraq's interests," he added.

The Kurdish president further pointed out that the US forces are the ally of Iraq and the Kurdistan Region, reminding that the troops of the foreign country were the main partners in the fight against the Islamic State (IS).

"The Americans are the ally and friends of Iraq and the Kurdistan Region and were the main partner in the liberation of Iraq and the victory over al-Qaeda and ISIS terrorists. To confront the dangers of terror and to safeguard its interests, Iraq and the Kurdistan Region still need the support and the cooperation of the United States and the international coalition."

"Other countries' missions and diplomats are guests in Iraq and should be protected and treated with respect. We urge the responsible authorities to undertake their duties in protecting them and prevent attacks on embassies, institutions and diplomatic missions," he concluded.

**CBI & ISX, :**

**CBI Update:**

<http://www.cbi.iq/>

Closed on Friday and Saturday

**ISX Update:**

[www.isx-iq.net/isxportal/portal/homePage.html](http://www.isx-iq.net/isxportal/portal/homePage.html)

Closed Friday and Saturday



**Shares Traded:**

**Value Traded:**

**ISX ended in Green**

**Catnip:**

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**ARTICLE 1-A (from PM Mahdi's website; posted only on Arabic side, not on English side)**

**The National Security Council holds a meeting chaired by the Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Adel Abdel Mahdi**

**The National Security Council held a meeting, on Friday evening, chaired by the Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Mr. Adel Abdul-Mahdi.**

**The Council discussed developments in the security situation and issues in the country after the attack, which led to the martyrdom of a number of leading figures.**

**The National Security Council affirmed its support for the position of the Commander in Chief of the armed forces in denouncing and condemning the violation of the sovereignty of Iraq and rejecting the aggression and its departures from the role and conditions of the presence of the American forces, and for the call he made to the House of Representatives to hold an**

**extraordinary session in order to organize and unify the Iraqi official position and take the necessary measures and decisions to preserve dignity, security and sovereignty Iraq.**

**Media office of the Prime Minister**

**January 3, 2020**

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**ARTICLE 1-B (from PM Mahdi's website; posted only on Arabic side, not on English side)**

**The funeral of the martyrs, the heroes of the victory battles, tomorrow morning, Saturday**

**With sad, patient and faithful hearts in God, a funeral will be held on Saturday morning for the heroes of the battles of the victory over ISIS, who were martyred in the sinful attack that took place on Friday morning at Baghdad Airport, which will start from Al-Hassanein Square at exactly ten o'clock in the morning, asking Al-Bari, the Exalted, the Majestic He crammed them (with those who were blessed by God from the prophets, the righteous, the martyrs, the righteous, and the good of those companions) and that Iraq and its people be protected from all evil.**

**We belong to Allah and to Him we shall return.**

**Media office of the Prime Minister**

**January 3, 2020**

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**ARTICLE 1-C (from PM Mahdi's website; posted only on Arabic side, not on English side)**

**Statement**

**In the Name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful**

**“Among the believers are men who believe what God has promised to them among them are those who have spent their love and some of them who are waiting for it.”**

**We condemn with the utmost condemnation and condemnation the American administration's assassination of the two martyrs, Haji Abi Mahdi, the engineer, Hajj Qassem Soleimani, and other Iraqi and Iranian personalities. The two martyrs were great symbols in achieving victory against the terrorist ISIS. The assassination of an Iraqi military commander holding an official position is an aggression against Iraq, the state, the government, and the people. Carrying out liquidation operations against Iraqi leadership figures or from a brotherly country on Iraqi soil is a flagrant violation of Iraqi sovereignty, a blatant attack on the dignity of the country and a dangerous escalation that ignites a devastating war in Iraq, the region and the world. It is a flagrant violation of the conditions for the presence of the American forces in Iraq and its role, which is limited to training Iraqi forces and fighting ISIS within the international coalition forces and under the supervision and approval of the Iraqi government.**

**We have sent a formal invitation to hold an extraordinary session of the House of Representatives based on the provisions of Article 58 of the Constitution in order to regulate the Iraqi official position and take the necessary legislative and appropriate measures in a manner that preserves the dignity, security and sovereignty of Iraq.**

**May God have mercy on the martyrs, and make them dwell in spacious gardens, and I belong to God, and to Him we shall return**

**Adel Abdul-Mahdi**

**Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces**

**Baghdad 3/1/2020**

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**ARTICLE 1-D (from PM Mahdi's website; posted only on Arabic side, not on English side)**

**Prime Minister Adel Abdel-Mahdi receives a phone call from the French Minister of Foreign Affairs**


**The Prime Minister Adel Abdel-Mahdi received, today, Thursday, a phone call from French Foreign Minister, Jean-Yves Le Drian, during which he thanked the efforts of the Iraqi government to release the two French journalists who were kidnapped on 12/31/2019, appreciating its position in dealing with sensitive circumstances. The discussion dealt with the importance of coordination between the two countries, the necessity of continuing cooperation in the battle against ISIS, building efforts, and strengthening of close relations between the two countries.**

**Media office of the Prime Minister**

**January 2 - 2020**

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**ARTICLE 2 (from Government of Iraq twitter account)**

1.  [Government of Iraq - الحكومة العراقية](#) **Verified**  
[account @IraqiGovt](#) 1-3-2020 around 3:45 pm Eastern  
The National Security Council condemns the US attack, and considers it a violation of Iraq's sovereignty and of the conditions governing the presence of US forces in Iraq. The Council also reviewed several measures to protect Iraq's stability, security and sovereignty.
2.  [Government of Iraq - الحكومة العراقية](#) **Verified**  
[account @IraqiGovt](#) 1-3-2020 around 3:45 pm Eastern  
Commander-in-Chief PM [@AdilAbdAlMahdi](#) chairs a meeting in Baghdad of the National Security Council to discuss the latest developments following the assassination by US forces of Iraqi and Iranian figures on Iraqi soil.
1.  [Government of Iraq - الحكومة العراقية](#) **Verified**  
[account @IraqiGovt](#) 1-3-2010 around 5:45 am Eastern  
PM [@AdilAbdAlMahdi](#): We have today requested that the Council of Representatives (Parliament) holds an emergency session to take the appropriate legislative measures in a manner that preserves the dignity, security and sovereignty of Iraq.
2.  [Government of Iraq - الحكومة العراقية](#) **Verified**  
[account @IraqiGovt](#) 1-3-2020 around 5:45 am Eastern  
PM [@AdilAbdAlMahdi](#): The assassinations violate the conditions governing the presence of US forces in Iraq whose role is to train Iraqi forces and assist in the fight against Daesh as part of the Global Coalition, subject to the supervision and approval of the [@IraqiGovt](#).
1.  [Government of Iraq - الحكومة العراقية](#) **Verified**  
[account @IraqiGovt](#) 1-3-2020 around 5:45 am Eastern  
PM [@AdilAbdAlMahdi](#): Carrying out operations to assassinate Iraqi figures and figures from another country on Iraqi soil is a flagrant violation of Iraqi sovereignty and a dangerous escalation.
2.  [Government of Iraq - الحكومة العراقية](#) **Verified**  
[account @IraqiGovt](#) 1-3-2020 around 5:45 am Eastern  
PM [@AdilAbdAlMahdi](#): The assassination of an Iraqi military commander holding an official position is an act of aggression against Iraq, and the Iraqi people.

3.  [Government of Iraq - الحكومة العراقية Verified account @IraqiGovt](#) 1-3-2020 around 5:45 am Eastern PM [@AdilAbdAlMahdi](#): We condemn in the strongest terms the assassination by US forces of Iraqi and Iranian figures who were symbols of the victory against Daesh.
  4.  [Government of Iraq - الحكومة العراقية Verified account @IraqiGovt](#) 1-3-2010 aroiund 5:45 am Eastern Commander-in-Chief PM [@AdilAbdAlMahdi](#) issues a statement on the developments in Iraq.
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### ARTICLE 3

Parliament presidency reveals the reason for not holding the emergency session tomorrow  
1/3/2020 21:23

[Baghdad-where]

The Presidency of the House of Representatives revealed the reason for not holding the emergency session to discuss the American aggression against Iraqi sovereignty tomorrow, Saturday.

The Presidency Council statement stated that the All Iraq News Agency received [where] a copy of it, "In view of the commitment of the deputies and political forces to the funeral and central funeral ceremony that will take place tomorrow, Saturday, which starts from Baghdad to Najaf, the special and ad hoc session to discuss the American aggression against Iraqi sovereignty will be held on Sunday, corresponding to 5 1/220 one o'clock in the afternoon. "

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### ARTICLE 4

Tight security measures in Baghdad and the complete closure of the Green Zone

1/3/2020 9:59

[Baghdad-where]

Security forces took strict security measures in the capital, Baghdad, and at the entrances and exits of the Green Zone.

Sources stated that "the leaders of the popular crowd and [the resistance factions] held a high and urgent meeting" to discuss the repercussions of the assassination of America for the leader of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards, General Qassem Soleimani, and the deputy head of the Popular Mobilization Organization, Abu Mahdi Al-Muhandis, at dawn today in the vicinity of Baghdad International Airport with an air raid.

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## CHATTER

**MilitiaMan** ...we found that the currency supply decreased by 975% real close and the CBI clearly shows charts to prove they did in fact did do it. By decreasing the money supply (note count) the common denominator is a value increase based of supply and demand. They will have a liquidity issue going forward if they don't raise the rate soon...The reduction in currency wasn't found until around the 23rd - 26th era December 2019, but it was in fact reported to have occurred on 12/08/2019 by the CBI and whereby, the movement of that money value from the reduction in currency showed up around on the commercial side of banking on

12/29/2019 real close. imo. So, we can see that timing is of extreme importance now. With normal accounting behaviors, this time is very sensitive. I have a very good feeling about the window we are in.

**Jeff** Article "The current year will witness the passage of controversial laws" ...all the controversial laws are dependent on the rate change. Oil and gas. Federal court. Article 140...they're waiting on the rate change. They cannot amend these laws and add them to the constitution until after the rate change. It's that simple..."this year will witness a passage of controversial laws."

**Bruce** ...Fortunately for you and for me we have some – really good ones [sources] and I can tell you I've got a timeline that takes us all the way through Tuesday...I mentioned this...if we did not get started by the weekend we're probably looking at a Monday/Tuesday start...Now, could we get a surprise on Saturday? It's possible...I believe this time we have...absolute plans to complete this pretty much in the timeframe I've outlined...I'm excited about it – I think we are good to go... January 1st, all rates were off all screens globally for 24 hours...And then the rates repopulated on the screens – Now, there will be new rates repopulating on the screen by 9:30 PM Sunday night...So we will have all brand new rates on the screens including not only the Dinar...they've got a lot of the other currencies – the one they're working on and finalizing and it should be



finalized over the weekend is the Viet Dong...

**MarkZ** We are still in about the same place we were yesterday. Our banking side here in the Us seem to think we will see it at any moment. The Iraqi side is still looking at the 5th or 6th. Military sources agree with after the 5th. Through the 15th.

[So do you think the death of Sulemani will have any effect on our investment?]

I do expect a couple of rocky days which is why I am looking toward the 6th-ish...rather than right away even though my banking sources still swear its now. I think they need to see if there is any fallout from this. Keep in mind that Soleimani is key to the infiltration of Iran's reach into Iraq. He also whipped up the attack on the US Embassy. I think him being gone is a good thing.

**BobTheTaxMan** ...We are here. We are really really knocking on the door of this thing coming to fruition...I know the CBI is a little difficult to understand...there happen to be a graph that's showed up...that thing is a SHOCKER! ...the graphic changes that is going on inside the CBI really denotes the major shift that is happening and is on it's way...that graph is really dramatic...I haven't seen anything so far that shows such a drastic change. This is official. This is coming out of the CBI itself...

**tman23** Word is Solemani was in Iraq to operate a coup, the plan was to take over the Iraq government and arrest Iraqi president Sahlim Barham...Hadr Ameri, leader of the Badr corps is said to have been arrested by US authorities...so now we hear on major outlets for an emergency session for Parliament ...should hear about Ameri being arrested in next day or so...going to be an interesting weekend...

**chattels** [as far as that 50 trillion to 5 trillion,I would certainly love some clarification on it's true meaning. I have seen differences in opinions.] Let's just wait for the next report. If it was an error then it likely will be corrected. If it stays the same then maybe there is something to it all. I do think that Iraq needs greater buying power because they are an import nation. Greater value for the dinar improves their buying power, but I have never thought that Iraq could successfully unilaterally declare a value to their currency. For their currency to be worth more in the marketplace with imports then other nations must accept that value for the dinar. I could certainly be wrong.

**Kaperoni** There is a rumor...that the CBI reduced the money supply from 45 trillion or so to around 5 trillion. This is not possible on many fronts. Though the CBI reports website shows such a chart - it is not possible. 1. the CBI continues the currency auctions. And the auctions are based on a "balance" of dinar to dollars. Offsetting that would create substantial demand for the currency.

2. the CBI has come out on numerous occasions that 70% or so of the currency in circulation is "chunky" meaning it is outside the banking system. In homes, under mattresses etc. If the money is outside the banking system as stated the CBI would not have access to it to reduce it. So one can conclude that the chart is wrong.

Enorrste and I agree, the next 30-60 days in Iraq could decide the fate of the dinar investment.

#### **TNT CC NOTES – FRIDAY 3 JANUARY**

<https://www.blogtalkradio.com/rayren98/2020/01/03/tntsuperfantastic-conference-call--friday-january-3-2020.mp3>

TR: We're ready to get this party started THIS YEAR!

Iraq is all set to go. People got paid yesterday and are getting paid today.

There is an article out this morning in Iraq that they will be paid their salaries at the increased rate next week.

People in Iraq are excited. The plan was for dinar to be listed at the new rate on the 5th. If that is still the plan I

don't know. Our banks are not going back until next week.

How does the chaos in Iraq affect us? The demonstrators did exactly what we wanted – keeping the pressure on.

**The U.S. killed the top TWO Iranian generals. Do they go with the plan?  
The question is who is going to take**

**charge? A new prime minister is to be named in the next 48 hours.**

**They are saying nobody wants war. Anything could happen. We are hoping  
that they simmer down and there is**

**no war.**

**It is 2020, it IS going to be our year. Everything is set to go. Some people  
are with wealth managers today. They thought it would be over today, they  
scheduled things to happen.**

**This morning the militants started shooting the demonstrators, so the  
demonstrators put out a statement**

**criticizing the U.S. for violating Iraqi sovereignty.**

**The U.S. has taken over the entire Green Zone, arresting Iraqi government  
officials who support Iran.**

**Q&A**

**TR: Iran put out seven qualifications for a new Iraq PM. Iran gets \$40B  
from smuggling U.S. dollars out of Iraq.**

**Iran cannot survive if this is cut off. Their people are starving, their economy is collapsing. Iran has the option of attacking the U.S. in Israel instead of shooting themselves in the foot by attacking the U.S. in Iraq.**

**Iran's first three conditions for a new PM: Don't stop the currency auctions; don't stop the payments for electricity; don't close the border. The first thing to happen after the RV is to stop the currency auctions. It is all about who is going to be in control of the money, who will be making the rules.**

**All the reforms the people want are in the budget, including the rate change, except the corruption in the**

**government. The currency auctions must stop. This is the one thing that Iran doesn't want.**

**TR: They are not at the call centers.**

**CLOSING**

**A LOT GOING ON IN IRAQ TODAY**

**TRYING TO FIND OUT THE NEXT MOVE**

**MY GUYS IN IRAQ SAY IT IS A CHESS GAME**

**WAITING FOR THE NEXT MOVE**

**RIGHT NOW IT IS IRAQ'S MOVE**

**WHAT THEY WILL DO COME SUNDAY**

**DON'T THINK IRAN WILL DO ANYTHING BY SUNDAY -COULD SURPRISE US –**

**AND SEE HOW IT AFFECTS THINGS**

**MONDAY WILL BE A GOOD MORNING**

**EVERYTHING GOOD**

**BANK PEOPLE DON'T GO BACK TILL MONDAY, AND HOPE THEY GO TO THE EXCHANGE CENTERS**

**PEOPLE MEEING WITH WEALTH MANAGERS TODAY**

**ANYTHING SUPER EXCITING - WILL TWEET IT OUT**

**ENJOY YOUR WEEKEND**

**RR: ALL EYES ARE FOCUSED ON SUNDAY MORNING WHEN THE BANKS OPEN - WILL GIVE US SOME DIRECTION RE MONDAYS CALL - KEEP BELIEVING -**

**"Central Bank Required Re-boot" by Ron Giles -**

**They had it all planned out. Control the money source and you control everything of value; Governments (Congress, Politicians, Law enforcement agencies), Stock Markets (controlled legal gambling scheme), Main Stream Media outlets (MSM), housing markets, Sports, Pharmaceuticals, GMO Food production, Manufacturing (jobs), Power Distribution (PG&E), Mining and Mineral Production, Vaccinations (CDC), and perhaps the most pernicious, Organized Religion. When you control the money, you control people's lives making them Debt Slaves, by design. Damn, they did it all, how do we get out of this mess?**

**The Central Bank (CB) banking system is a cancerous growth that has metastasized into every facet of our society. It eats at the very root of civilization without care or concern for who it affects, nor the damage it**

causes in the lives of the people it says it serves. Our money system is not supposed to be this way. It is supposed to support society not destroy it. Financial systems are changing.

While the faces of the real Central Bank banking system are not public, their puppets are public and are doing the work of these puppet masters. We elect compromised politicians who support the CB while finding it easy to become rich while in their offices and they game the system to be sure they are well kept even after their stint in office.

The CB has a useful half-life that lasts by causing wars where they finance and sell their war machines to both sides to see who wins and then embark on a path to destabilize and destroy the winners. The puppets are given large sums of money and when they are no longer needed, they "committed suicide," or some other untraceable or traceable demise, (Seth Rich) so the trail of knowledgeable individuals is eliminated and no longer at risk of being found out. It is re-enacted so many times in the public eye and the sheeple still don't get a clue of their atrocities. Keep the sheeple asleep with sports and entertainment, so we don't have people snooping around behind the curtain finding out what is going on. Damn those Toto type investigators, keep them away from the curtain.

The CB money system has to be rebooted every so often so the men behind the curtain are not found out. The call goes out to the compromised CIA agents or puppets to start another war, this time bigger and better than the last. Which country is next on the list of targets now? Is it North Korea, Iran, Iraq again, Ukraine, any country will do as long as the groundwork has been done by the CIA to destabilize the government having compromised their leaders; Libya, Syria, Yemen, most African countries, and the list goes on. It doesn't matter who, it just matters, who is next.

If the leader of a country won't give in to their bankrupt morality, then make them look bad, kill them and take over their country. (Libya) Any war will do as long as it lasts a long time. The reboot can happen many times until it is ended by people who have awakened to their scheme and who

will make a stand to fight them until the end. So here we are, the end is in sight.

So, Ron Giles, why are you preaching to the choir? Is there a point in this post? The answer is yes, there is.

There will be no wars, there will be no reboot to the CB system, there will be no continuing CB banking system the cancer of which is being surgically removed from the earth. The bad guys are being terminated. There is no place for them to continue their masked charade, they have been found out and the results of their whole scheme against we humans is ending. What does that mean?

It means that all things Central Bank banking systems are being replaced. It is only a matter of time before their MK Ultra experiment is finished and we have no more banking institutions. Once we fully awaken from our lethargy, we will take back our countries and our money supply and begin the new way of living. The CB system is the enemy of the people and is being destroyed. Why do gurus keep talking about banks as being relevant? Are they ignorant or is there more sinister activity behind their diatribe? You get to be your own judge.

Much has been talked about how the Quantum Financial System (QFS) will be implemented but implemented it will be. There will be a transition from the old to the new to allow people to wake up to the new better way of being alive. No longer will the Satanists have their way with us and our children, nor with our money supply.

The absolute truth that one can plan on is that all RV funds will be deposited into the new Quantum Financial System, QFS. The QFS has been working in parallel with the Central Bank's SWIFT transfer system for close to two years now. This is a fact that the present Politicians did not know about. Their illegally gotten funds have been traced from colluded sources to their bank accounts wherever they are. They will be confronted at the appropriate time and the hammer of justice will fall on them and destroy their money milking schemes. Un-audited Foreign aid has been used for decades to pad their banking accounts for these career politicians. Quid-Pro-Quo is the name of their game. Kickbacks are a way



of life for them. This will end. No wonder they hate Trump cleaning the swamp. Their very existence is threatened; they are cornered animals lashing out for their lives, far beyond hatred or political partisanship.

The QFS then is the repository for ALL RV funds. Gurus can talk all they want about the banks are going to do this and banks are going to do that, but the banks are going bankrupt and this system of finance is going down. Depositing money in any CB Bank account is giving them ownership of your money. Check out the deposit slip. That's why banks will not be used for the deposit of redemption or exchange funds. They will steal it. Transfer a small amount of money to them if you want for convenience's sake but never put significant amounts of money in a bank, it is subject to be confiscated. The QFS is safe and secure and supports the humanitarian cause for which the money was intended.

Traditionally, bank wealth managers have a job to make you money on your money. The major mandate for all currency holders, especially Zim Bonds holders, is that the money is not to be used to make money on your money. PERIOD. Your humanitarian activities should be designed for a net loss for yourself, with any profits going to the persons you helped get into the business. The structured quarterly interest payment is your return on your money, beyond that, it is just plain greed. Keep in mind that those interest payments are funds that need to be put into society without a profit incentive and that will be a major job all by itself. If you have an intent to make money on your money, you will be restricted on the rates you will receive. Complain about this if you want, you will be the loser. Wealth managers may be useful but not in their traditional role as managers of your wealth. Never turn your funds over to someone else to manage your funds. It's your stewardship, not theirs. The money is not to be used to build up a personal financial dynasty. The money managed to make money will rot like the manna from heaven if it is not used appropriately. This is a fair warning. Mend your thinking to be in harmony with the funds you will receive.

One of the best ways to determine if a guru is worth his/her salt is to listen to their talk about banks. If they talk about the banks being used to deposit RV funds, they are not talking about the QFS where your funds will be kept safe. If they just simply talk about banks or a banker as a source of their

information, they are probably a shill or at the very least, are RV ignorant prognosticators. If they are wrong about dates and/or rates, then question all of their information as being suspect and probably not true. Listen to them if you want but don't come on IDC with your complaining posts saying they gave us a date and it didn't happen, again. Duh!!!!. If you listen and believe in them, you get what you deserve; frustration and bad information. At what point do you stop listening to them? Is it the first 5 times they are wrong or are you going to wait for the hundredth time to say to hell with them? Again, if you continue with them then, don't come on IDC with your crankiness and complaining because we'll just question your brain functions and your capacity to beat your head on the wall and complain because it hurts every time. Heads were not made to bang on walls. You'll continue until you get tired and quit listening to them.

The bottom line about banks is this: there will be no profit in banking. The QFS is totally free to use. The banks will transition into full bankruptcy and the whole system will fail. Zim Benefactors will take over the assets and the liabilities and create Financial Centers to accommodate the Financial Industry. Banks will be no more, Financial Centers will be the future of the financial industry. If guru talk does not include this scenario, they are out of bounds and their info is suspect. Always remember that at your redemption and exchanged Appointment, your funds will be deposited in the QFS, and never, ever in a bank, unless you decide to go outside of the secure RV redemption and exchange at a bank that is not a contracted agent bank of the QFS.

**NOTE:** If you are following a person who talks to you about a Social Score or the Chinese equivalent to the US FICO credit score, as a factor in getting a priority for your redemption appointment, you may be talking to a Charlatan who is adopting part of the Chinese Communist Party's Social Engineering activity. I suggest you Disassociate yourself from this Social Engineering activity ASAP, you have already been chalked and if you continue, you may be disqualified from redeeming or exchanging currencies. This person who has adopted this form of manipulations and control is out of bounds and is being inappropriate. Sovereigns would never put up with this type of control over others. Enough said!!!

These are the end times of the waiting period. The time to repair the holes in your boat is coming to an end. If your boat floats and keeps your

belongings dry then you have prepared well. Keep a tight ship. Good luck on getting to your humanitarian destination and enjoy the journey.

**Sam Oliver :** There is good reason why we are in a Gold Standard Era and at this time in history. Take a look at the three driving forces creating the momentum for gold to rise in the next decade(s) and longer per most analysts you read and listen to daily. There is a huge disconnect between what is going on with Wall Street and the Streets. Credit is being given to the Markets sending their numbers to all time highs while retail centers are closing their doors. This inflation is deflating the dollar, and we are seeing less and less countries wanting to trade with the dollar. This will drive the interest rates on the economy to lower and lower levels. It is a perfect path for gold to rise. On top of this, we will have gold, silver, and copper miners gauging the precious metal supply giving us indicators on how scarce these commodities are and will become over time sending it's price indexes through the roof. Eventually and coming sooner than many know, you will see the price gap between Wall Street and the Streets close. At this point, we will see purchasing power movements in the economy happen dramatically or gradually. This reset and revaluation of purchasing power when attached to gold in a levelled off economy of currencies having values based on merit, and not, a perceived value will govern the world economy in a way that gives authenticity and trust among nations again. Presently, you are noticing a restructuring of the world's financial system in a profound way. Be ready for a volatile market in the days and months ahead. Some things take a little time when you are moving mountains, but gold has never failed us yet. Never.

## **MarkZ and Michael Cottrell Friday Morning Chat 1-3-2020**

**MarkZ Friday Update - Some highlights by PDK-Not verbatim**

**MarkZ Disclaimer: Please consider everything on this call as my opinion. People who take notes do not catch everything and its best to watch the video so**

**that you get everything in context. Be sure to consult a professional for any financial decisions**

**MZ: We are still in about the same place we were yesterday. Our banking side here in the US seem to**

**think we will see it at any moment.**

**MZ: The Iraqi side is still looking at the 5th or 6th.**

**MZ: Military sources agree with after the 5th. Through the 15th.**

**MZ: I am hearing some very good things on package deliveries... I hear the plan is to release them this weekend starting late tonight.**

**I am staying home so I monitor potential deliveries.**

**Member: Once initiated cmkx should be a done deal. Been preparing it for nearly 20 years.**

**Member: Here's an interesting stat 5% of bank failure in China will require 20% of they're GDP. Their banking system is double the size**

**of US and 483 banks are in free fall!**

**MZ: They are in complete freefall... which means they have to force this reset. We are already seeing**

**banks fail in Europe... and they are trying to hide the statistics here. ...chase is on very rocky ground**

right now.

**Q: So do you think the death of Sulemani will have any effect on our investment?**

**MZ: I do expect a couple of rocky days which is why I am looking toward the 6th-ish... rather than right**

**away even though my banking sources still swear its now. I think they need to see if there is any fallout**

**from this. Keep in mind that Soleimani is key to the infiltration of Iran's reach into Iraq. He also**

**whipped up the attack on the US Embassy. I think him being gone is a good thing.**

**Member: Iraqis were running in the street with Iraq's Flag and USA flags. Chanting USA.**

**Member: Yeah... Trump poked the bear with that last air strike. Fortunately it's only a koala bear & our military is full of GRIZZLIES! If**

**Iran tries anything, I'm afraid we will have to CRUSH them!**

**Member: FISH ROTS FROM THE HEAD DOWN. SOLEIMANI WAS THE HEAD. THE REST WILL FALL. CLEAR**

**SHOT FOR AN RI IMO**

**Member: Trump did great keeping quiet what he was doing and the media found out as we did! Lol**

**Member: The dead of Qassem is a statement that say any escalation will be on the leaders who planed/organize/lead an attack to USA**

**and not to the people**

**Member: Not only did we kill the #1 man but we got the #2 man as well.**

**Member: Breaking News: Iran commander: Maj. Gen. Qassim Suleimani, who led powerful Quds Force, Islamic Revolutionary Guards**

**Corps, killed by American MQ-9 Reaper drone missiles fired at convoy leaving Baghdad airport. IMO Hurts Iran efforts to control Iraq.**

**Member: POTUS said Jan. National Human Trafficking Prevention Month...Ending with National**

**Freedom Day, Feb. First!!!**

**Member: CHINESE CALENDAR FROM JANUARY 25 TO FEBRUARY 8,THE YEAR OF RAT.RV DATE**

**Member: When we hear major arrests have occurred then we will RV.**

**Q: is there a source to see when arrests are made? there isn't much on the news channels.**

**MZ: When the big arrests happen it will be everywhere... imo it will be so big even the MSM cannot**

**hide it anymore.**

**Mr. Cottrell joins the stream about minute 15:00. Please listen to the replay for all the details on**

**George Bush Sr. trying to assassinate his own son George W. in 2004... more than once, the death of Soleimani, his phone being**

**tapped right now, arrests, rats and much more.**

**MZ: I will be close to home watching for potential package deliveries this weekend. If anything**

**happens I will tweet and do a stream... Have a great weekend.**

**DAVE WORKED FOR PRESIDENT REAGAN FOR 8 YEARS. DAVES NEWS**

TO HELP EVERYONE. Dave's  
news <https://t.me/joinchat/JrH1jhR6uiXQH6r...> Living  
room <https://t.me/joinchat/JrH1jhMQAiszut...>

THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THE STREAM IS IN MARKZ OPINION -  
INFORMATION PROVIDED IS

BY VETTED CONTACTS - INFORMATION CAN AND MAY CHANGE AT ANY  
TIME WITH OR WITHOUT NOTICE

Mod: THANK YOU, SNAKE, PLANNING  
QUESTIONNAIRE: <https://www.mmbb.org/docs/FinancialPlanningQuestionnaire.pdf>

Your straw man (Strawman) is an artificial person <http://freedom-school.com/aware/your-straw-man-is-an-artificial-person.html>

MZ: Video on PP's and Farm claims: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sAL0exvL45Y>

Mod: Dr Shabibi answering questions <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ol8wve53-ME>

MZ: Watch the Video "The end of the road" by Monkey films on Amazon  
Prime....End of the  
Road: [https://tubitv.com/movies/451883/end\\_of\\_the\\_road](https://tubitv.com/movies/451883/end_of_the_road)

You can share links like these one's to those who don't believe:  
theoriginalmarkz: <https://www.slideshare.net/ahmeddinargate/the-history-of-iraqi-dinar-exchange-rate>

IF THE INTERNET GOES DOWN MARKZ NEW NUMBER Emergency  
number (712) 770-5028 Code:648989 Playback number

(712) 770-5066

MarkZ [theoriginalmarkz@gmail.com](mailto:theoriginalmarkz@gmail.com) Website <https://www.theoriginalmarkz.com>

Mark Coffee and Chat ...Monday through Friday 10:00 AM EST EDT ...Chats live or recorded <https://www.twitch.tv/theoriginalmarkz>

ONLY SPECIAL NEWS tweeted out <https://twitter.com/originalmarkz>

Markz WELCOME TEAM WILL GREET YOU CLICK THE ENTRANCE DOOR LINK 2) <https://t.me/joinchat/JrH1jI0e9REFsFnwexWHJw>

Note: Please listen to the replay for all the details... both Mr. C and MarkZ speak very fast

Twitch: <https://www.twitch.tv/theoriginalmarkz>

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cOjGx0K6ADg>

**Judy Note:** All indications were that the Internet Group would begin exchange/redemption by Tues. 7 Jan; the General Public would begin on Wed. 15 Jan (at which time the Contract Rates may no longer be available) and all would be completed by Fri. 31 Jan.

**WARNING – DON'T BE SCAMMED:** There have been continuous complaints about certain group leaders who promised to give sovereign rates and/or said you could be part of a humanitarian project if you allowed them to exchange for you, gave them identification numbers of your currency or bonds and/or placed your redemption monies into an Irrevocable Trust. They were also advising not to call the 800#s, even claiming that there would be no 800#s and therefore you should put your personal and currency information onto certain websites.

Such tended to signify that you were dealing with a Scam Artist who was after your monies. In the recent past several so-called group



leaders have been arrested for doing the same. If you felt you have been taken in by such a person be sure to do your own exchange and turn over the person's identity to authorities at that exchange.

**Stay in Control of Your Own Monies:** By calling the 800#s and obtaining your own appointment at a licensed Redemption Center during the ten or so days we were allowed Contract Rates, you likely could be awarded those rates just by asking for them, redeem bonds without having a humanitarian project, keep control of your own monies by placing them in a Skeleton Trust set up for you at that exchange and later at your own discretion, hiring your own Money Management Team, the information for which would be provided at your exchange.

## SEEKING ALPHA

- [Middle East worries, weak U.S. economic data weigh stocks](#)
  - The S&P 500 and Dow Jones benchmarks posted their biggest one-day losses since early December in the wake of the U.S. airstrike that killed Iran's top military commander, lifting oil prices and escalating Middle East tensions.
  - But the major averages recovered some ground later in the day as oil prices came off their lows, with WTI crude settling 3.1% higher at \$63.05 per barrel after spiking as much as 4.8%.
  - The key question for investors is what steps Iran might take: There's the obvious potential to snarl shipments in the Persian Gulf or attack energy infrastructure in the Middle East, but Iran could also attack soft targets on U.S. allies elsewhere or launch cyberattacks against the U.S. itself.
  - Additionally, risk sentiment was dimmed by the weakest reading for the ISM Manufacturing Index since June 2009, which raised concerns of slowing economic growth.

- For the week, the Dow finished down less than 0.1%, the S&P slipped 0.2% and the Nasdaq Composite added 0.2%.
  - Today's retreat was led by the S&P 500 materials (-1.6%), financials (-1.1%) and information technology (-1.1%) sectors, while the defensive oriented real estate (+0.8%) and utilities (+0.1%) groups ended in positive territory.
  - Despite today's jump in crude oil prices, the broader energy sector (-0.3%) ended with mixed results.
  - U.S. Treasury prices rose, weighing the two-year yield by 6 bps to 1.51% and the 10-year yield by 9 bps to 1.79%.
  - Finally, the FOMC minutes from the Dec. 10-11 meeting went largely unnoticed, as the Fed committee viewed policy as appropriate unless the economic outlook changes.
    - [Trump says U.S. took action to 'stop a war'](#)
  - The U.S. isn't seeking a regime change in Iran, President Trump said [in a television address](#) less than 24 hours after the U.S. launched a "flawless, precision strike" that killed Iran's top general, Qassem Soleimani.
  - "What the United States did yesterday should have been done long ago," Trump said, adding Soleimani was "plotting imminent and sinister attacks on American diplomats and military personnel, but we caught him in the act and we terminated him."
  - Trump said Iran's Revolutionary Guard and Quds force, led by Soleimani, "targeted, injured, and murdered hundreds of American civilians and servicemen."
  - "We took action last night to stop a war," Trump said.
  - Iran's clerical and military leaders [have threatened](#) to retaliate.
  - The Nasdaq and S&P 500 **fall 0.7%** and the Dow **slides 0.8%** in late trading.
  - Crude oil **+3.0%** to \$63.03 per barrel; gold **gains 1.5%** to \$1,550.40 per ounce.
  - 10-year Treasury yield falls 8 basis points to 1.79%.
  - The Japanese yen **rises 0.4%** to 108.07 per dollar.
  - The U.S. Dollar Index is roughly flat at 96.88.
- 
- [Some Fed members concerned low rates might encourage risk-taking](#)
    - A few FOMC participants raised the concern that low interest rates low over a long period "might encourage excessive risk-taking, which could exacerbate imbalances in the financial sector," according the the [minutes of the Fed's December meeting](#).
    - Among other details from the meeting: "While many saw the risks as tilted somewhat to the downside, some risks were seen to have eased over recent months."
    - A "number of participants" pointed to resilience of the U.S. economy in the face of "headwinds from global developments."

- Furthermore, statistical models suggested that the likelihood of a recession in the medium term had "fallen noticeably in recent months.
  - Still, new uncertainties had emerged regarding trade policy with Argentina, Brazil, and France, as well as persisting political tensions in Hong Kong.
  - On inflation, which has stubbornly remained below the Fed's 2% target, the FOMC members "generally expected" that inflation would return to the 2% goal "as economic expansion continued and resource utilization remained high."
  - The signaling that interest rates are likely to stay where they are for some time was reinforced by the minutes: "Participants regarded the current stance of monetary policy as likely to remain appropriate for a time as long as incoming information about the economy remained broadly consistent with the economic outlook."
  - The minutes don't appear to be having any major effect on stocks, the Nasdaq is **down 0.7%**, the S&P 500 **falls 0.6%**, and the Dow **declines 0.8%** — all are smaller declines than the session lows.
  - The fixed income rally continues; 10-year Treasury yield falls almost 8 basis points to 1.80%.
    - [Stocks stage early retreat after U.S. strike on Iranian general](#)
  - Stocks open with a sharp pullback following the U.S. drone strike that killed Iran's top general; Dow **-0.6%**, S&P 500 **-0.7%**, Nasdaq **-0.8%**.
  - Worries about Iranian retaliation spark knee-jerk selling in stocks that has coincided with gains in WTI crude oil (**+3.5%** to \$63.30/bbl) and gold futures (**+1.3%** to \$1,548.20/oz.).
  - "There's a reason, finally, for caution in the stock market," [says](#) Greg Valliere, chief U.S. policy strategist at AGF Investments, adding that "global oil markets will be volatile for weeks to come."
  - But stocks are slightly improved from their initial lows, and it will be interesting to see if investors are buying the dip.
  - European bourses also are lifting off early losses, with Germany's DAX **-1.2%** but France's CAC **-0.1%** and U.K.'s FTSE trading flat; in Asia, Japan's Nikkei was closed on holiday while China's Shanghai Composite ended **-0.1%**.
  - In the U.S., nine of the 11 S&P 500 sectors are lower, led by financials (**-1.2%**) and healthcare (**-0.8%**), while the oil-sensitive energy (**+0.4%**) and rate-sensitive utilities (**+0.3%**) sectors are on the rise.
  - U.S. Treasury prices are higher, sending the two-year yield down 3 bps to 1.54% and the 10-year yield 5 bps lower to 1.83%; U.S. Dollar Index **+0.1%** to 96.96.
  - Still ahead: ISM manufacturing index, construction spending, EIA petroleum inventories
- 
- [ISM Manufacturing drops to weakest in more than 10 years](#)

- [December ISM Manufacturing Index](#): 47.2 vs. 49.1 consensus, 48.1 prior. That's the weakest read since June 2009.
  - New Orders fell to 46.8 from 47.2.
  - Production at 43.2 fell from 49.1, and was the lowest print since April 2009.
  - Prices paid rose to 51.7 from 46.7.
  - Also on the rise was Supplier Deliveries to 54.6 from 52.0.
- 
- [Tesla +1% after topping Q4 deliveries expectations](#)
    - Tesla (NASDAQ:[TSLA](#)) says it produced almost 105K vehicles in Q4 and delivered ~112K vehicles to top the consensus mark of 106.1K.
    - The deliveries count for the quarter included 92,550 Model 3 cars and 19,450 Model S and X vehicles.
    - The company says it continues to focus on expanding production in both the U.S. and at the newly launched facility in Shanghai, which has demonstrated production run-rate capability of greater than 3K units per week.
    - Source: [Press Release](#)
    - Shares of Tesla are **up 1.42%** in premarket trading to \$436.86.
      - [XLE](#)

#### [Oil names on the move as Middle East tensions soar](#)

- Shares of major oil and gas companies are broadly higher pre-market following the [U.S. strike in Baghdad](#) that killed top Iranian general Qassem Soleimani.
  - Energy Select SPDR ETF [XLE](#) **+1.2%**; [XOM](#) **+1.4%**, [CVX](#) **+0.8%**, [BP](#) **+0.6%**.
  - With traders [fearful of retaliatory attacks](#) from Iran on Middle Eastern energy infrastructure, Brent crude futures have climbed as much as 4.9% to \$69.43/bbl, the highest since the September drone attacks on key Saudi Arabian oil facilities, and WTI jumped 4.5% to \$64.02/bbl, the highest level since May.
  - Among other XLE active components: [MRO](#) **+3.6%**, [OXY](#) **+3%**, [HAL](#) **+2.1%**, [COP](#) **+2%**, [SLB](#) **+1.7%**, [NBL](#) **+0.8%**.
  - Also: [CHK](#) **+7.5%**, [RRC](#) **+4.2%**, [SWN](#) **+3%**, [DVN](#) **+2.5%**, [CXO](#) **+2.3%**, [EOG](#) **+2.1%**, [PXD](#) **+1.7%**.
  - ETFs: [XLE](#), [XOP](#), [VDE](#), [OIH](#), [ERX](#), [GUSH](#), [BGR](#), [GASL](#), [XES](#), [DRIP](#), [FCG](#), [FENY](#), [ERY](#), [DIG](#), [FIF](#), [NDP](#), [IYE](#), [DUG](#), [GASX](#), [IEO](#), [IEZ](#), [CRAK](#)
- 

- [TLT](#)

## Fixed-income rallies after attack on Iran

- The [major escalation in tensions](#) with Iran has oil and gold rallying, and stocks lower. That's sending money into the bond market, with the U.S. 10-year Treasury yield down 5.5 basis points to 1.822%.
- 10-year yields are off similarly across Western Europe.
- "Iran never won a war, but never lost a negotiation," [tweets](#) Donald Trump.
- [TLT](#) **+1.1%**, [TBT](#) **-2.2%** premarket
- Related  
ETFs: [PCI](#), [PTY](#), [TBT](#), [PDI](#), [BND](#), [AGG](#), [PKO](#), [PCN](#), [BOND](#), [TMV](#), [EDV](#), [RCS](#), [BIT](#), [SCHZ](#), [EVV](#), [TMF](#), [BTZ](#)



January 3, 2020

Bahia Beach, Puerto Rico

Are you ready for this week's absurdity? Here's our Friday roll-up of the most ridiculous stories from around the world that are threats to your liberty, your finances, and your prosperity.

### **Professor Blames Private Property for California Wildfires**

A public takeover of utility companies is not enough, according to Kian Goh, Professor of Urban Development at UCLA.

In order to combat California wildfires, we need to abandon "aspirations of home ownership, and belief in the importance of private property."

Fueled by cheap energy-- and of course the ever-present racism of the white middle-class-- people expanded beyond cities, building little tinder-box neighborhoods into the forests.

Goh says that, "Expansionist, individualist, and exclusionary patterns of housing became synonymous with freedom and self-sufficiency."

**Ah yes, it's not so hard to link the desire for freedom and self-sufficiency with every known evil on earth. You're even responsible for burning down California.**

**But Urban Planners like Kian Goh would be happy to step in, and tell us how our lives should be designed.**

**For the greater good, we must collectivize and live on communal (i.e. government controlled) land.**

**Just a reminder-- parents across the country pay top dollar each year so people like Professor Goh can teach their children.**

**[Click here to read the original article.](#)**

**Update: New York Man finally has his hemp back**

**In Early November, Oren Levy had his shipment of legal hemp [confiscated by the New York Police](#). They even bragged about the “drug bust” on social media.**

**Too bad it was perfectly legal. Levy even had the documentation to prove it, included in every box of the shipment.**

**But police still lured Levy's brother to the department under the guise that he could pick up the shipment, and arrested him.**

**After almost two months, and nearly destroying Levy's perfectly legal CBD oil business, charges were dropped. The shipment was returned-- though in a dry and deteriorated condition.**

**Levy is now suing the NYPD, the City of New York, and possibly FedEx for alerting the authorities in the first place.**

Levy broke the good news [in a Tweet](#) and [Instagram post](#).

### **Congress has a New Year's Resolution: Destroy Facebook's Libra Token**

Two bills that the US Congress will consider this year seem aimed specifically at preventing Facebook from rolling out its digital token Libra.

One is called the “Keep Big Tech Out Of Finance Act.” It would ban “large platform utilities” from being, or being affiliated with, a financial institution.

It would also not allow large platforms to create or “operate a digital asset that is intended to be widely used as medium of exchange, unit of account, store of value, or any other similar function.”

Violators would be fined \$1 million per day.

The other bill is called the “Managed Stable Coins are Securities Act.”

Libra is intended to be a “stable coin” which is a digital currency tied to the value of existing currencies.

This bill would make it law that Libra would be considered a security, like a stock or bond, as opposed to a currency, like the dollar or Swiss franc.

Sounds like the US government doesn't want any competition with their Federal Reserve Notes.

Click [here](#) and [here](#) to see the bills.

### **Gig workers' big win in California? Being fired.**

In September 2019, the media company Vox ran the [headline](#), *Gig workers' win*

*in California is a victory for workers everywhere.*

**They were referring to a new law in California which classified gig workers and contractors as employees.**

**The story was that by classifying workers as contractors instead of employees, companies like Uber and Lyft got away with not providing employee benefits required under California law.**

**Then, just before Christmas, Vox showed us what the law really meant when it fired 200 California-based freelance writers.**

**Vox helped sell the public the lie that laws like these force companies to absorb freelancers as employees. But in reality, it means they get fired.**

**[Click here to read the full story.](#)**

To your freedom,