

Opinion / Editorial

JOE KENT'S MISGUIDED TRUST OF IRANIAN REGIME COMES CRASHING DOWN ON THE GROUND

By Bill Connor

This past week, the Director of the National Counterterrorism Center, Joe Kent, publicly resigned from his position making shocking allegations. In his resignation letter, Kent claimed Iran was not an "imminent threat". He then went on to accuse Israel of "manufacturing" the prior war with ISIS and dragged Trump into the Iran war against his will. A day after resigning, Kent went on Tucker Carlson's podcast. He made a slew of accusations against Israel, including of Israel purposely putting Trump and his family in fear of assassination. With Iran, Kent told Tucker he did not believe the regime to be an imminent threat due to a 2004

Iranian Fatwa (religious ruling) against creating nuclear weapons. Kent's position on Tucker went against what he had previously claimed about the danger of Iran. Then came the irony of the Iranian regime's lies and imminent threat only a few days after the Tucker interview.

As described by author and "mission command" expert Don Vandergriff: "Iran launched two intermediate range ballistic missiles (IRBMs, ~4,000 km range) toward the joint US-UK military base (on Diego Garcia) on or around March 20, 2026, in the ongoing Iran-US-Israel conflict. Neither missile hit the target: one failed in flight, and the other was intercepted (or at least engaged) by a US warship using



Attorney Bill Connor
BILL CONNOR LAW FIRM, LLC
1408 RUSSELL STREET, SUITE 11,
ORANGEBURG SC 29115
P 803-937-5571

an SM-3 missile. Iran framed the attempt as a demonstration of longer-range capability (double its publicly admitted 2,000 km limit) and a warning to the US and UK.... Iran had publicly insisted its missiles were capped at 2,000 km (partly to avoid alarming Europe). Firing at a ~4,000 km target proved otherwise — potentially putting parts of Europe in theoretical range — but did so in the worst possible way: through a failed public test. This gives the US, UK, Israel, and Gulf states clearer intelligence for missile-defense upgrades, preemptive planning, and sanctions pressure. Revealing a new threat without being able to use it effectively is a classic strategic blunder." <https://donvandergriff.substack.com/p/why-iran-just-committed-a-dramatic> This missile attack was a failure, with one missile malfunctioning and another intercepted, but a wakeup call to the world.

Important with this Iranian missile strike is exposure of the level of deception by the Iranian regime. When it came to Iran's nuclear capability, virtually no serious Western diplomat believed Iran was following the 2004 Fatwa. Both parties in the United States did not believe Iran had given up their quest for nuclear weapons to destroy Israel and reach the US. Even European leaders didn't believe the regime had stopped the drive towards nuclear weapons. The Obama administration and European "Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action" (JCPOA) with Iran functioned to provide Iran money and sanctions relief in exchange for Iran halting uranium enrichment. Most on the right did not believe the JCPOA would work as Iran couldn't be trusted and the left didn't trust the 2004 Fatwa, or they would not have felt it necessary to even attempt the JCPOA. Both sides admitted the JCPOA was, at best, kicking the "nuclear" can down the road a few years. Unlike with nuclear capability, the left generally believed Iran's assertions about missile ranges. That has evaporated.

This Iranian missile attack changes the strategic landscape. Up until now, many Europeans have viewed the Iranian missile threat as solely an Israel problem due to the alleged 2000-kilometer restricted range. According to the Iranian regime, their missiles with only this range were "defense" against Israel. Now it is clear much of Europe at risk of Iranian nuclear strikes. Combined with the threat of Iranian nuclear weapon capability, Europe now has an existential threat from Iran that it must face now.

Europeans denied the US any help at the start of this conflict. That included even allowing US basing rights. That was predicated on Europe's assumption this was solely a threat to Israel. Now that Iranian missiles are known to be in range, the European coalition to help Trump open the Strait of Hormuz will quickly come together. We should expect to see more progress from Europe and from Asia as well. This comes as the US and Israel are winning and continue to go deeper in targeting against Basij and IRGC

Family & Marriage

Easter Is Coming

"They, then, who are destined to die, need not be careful to inquire what death they are to die, but into what place death will usher them." – Augustine

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." – Bible (John 3:16)

Most of us look forward to Easter, for a variety of reasons. For many, it's a time for families to get together and enjoy good food and fellowship, perhaps with people we haven't seen in a while. Maybe we have an Easter egg hunt inside the house and out in the yard, with the younger members of the family, and sometimes with everyone joining in, hopefully excluding those who hid the eggs earlier. If those who hid the eggs are like me, it doesn't matter – I can't remember where I hid them, anyhow. Cleaning the house or mowing the lawn, I may find a few eggs several months later that nobody else found. Attendance at church usually picks up, with many people coming to church for the first time in the year (and not again until Christmas). At least here in the south it's the "traditional" thing to do. We dress up special in our Easter clothing, go to a church somewhere, maybe to one that entertain us with a special Easter program. We must be careful not to sit in someone else's pew. Then afterwards we go out to eat. Restaurants are usually busy so we may have to leave church a little early. Easter follows soon after Good Friday, which is a

holiday, so we enjoy the time off from work. All the above is good, time with family and friends, the good feelings that we have because we have gone to church, etc.

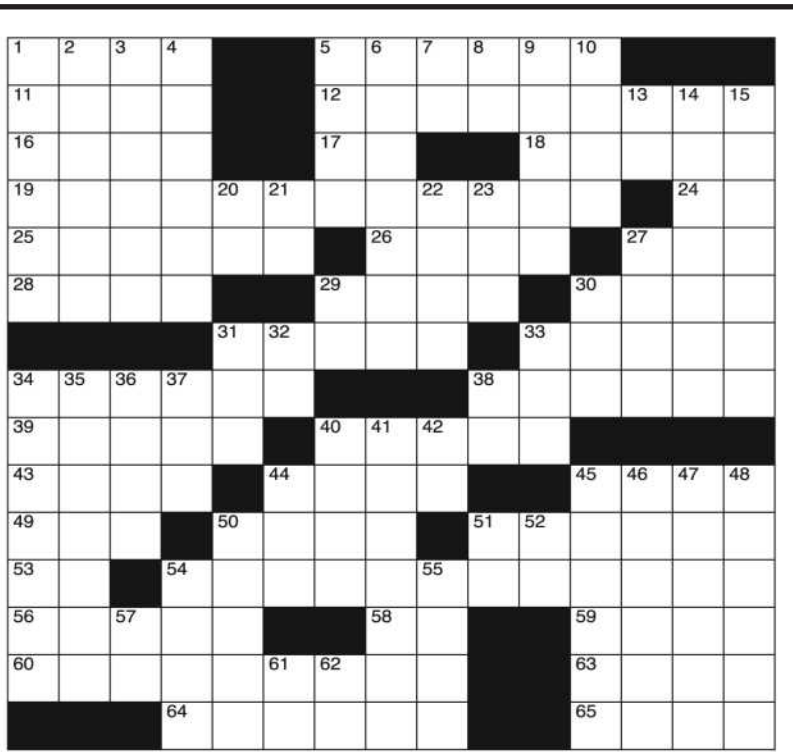
But if that's all there is to Easter for us, we are missing the key element. Why is Good Friday called "good?" The Farmer's Almanac says "One explanation lies in belief: that Christ's death, though tragic, led to redemption and new life. Others point to older uses of the word 'good,' which once carried meanings closer to 'holy' or 'sacred.' Whatever its origin, the name has endured – holding the contradiction at the heart of the day." Easter Sunday follows Good Friday. The Encyclopedia Britannica gives us the following information about Easter. "Easter, principal festival of the Christian church, which celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus Christ on the third day after his Crucifixion. The Resurrection is a central doctrine of Christianity and forms the basis of salvation and the hope of eternal life. As its feast, Easter is a joyful affirmation of the belief that through Christ's conquering of death all Christians will subsequently share in his victory over 'sin, death, and the Devil.'" In all the feasting and fun and family events during the Easter weekend, do we sincerely remember what Good Friday and Easter are really all about? Easter is a time to recognize what God did for us through the death and resurrection of Jesus. William Barclay (the Daily Study



Roger Rollins,
Family and Marriage Coalition

Bible Series) says, "Take away the thought of a life to come and this life loses its values. Take

away the idea that this life is a preparation for a greater life to follow and the bonds of honor and morality are loosened." Although we may try to be "good" for a (short) while, again quoting Barclay, "The fact remains that the man who believes that this is the only world tends to live as if the things of this world are all that matter." As we recognize the events of this coming weekend, let's take the time to recognize what it's really all about. It's painful for me to think upon what Christ suffered for me and all of us on the cross. But I rejoice knowing that He didn't stay there long. Nor did He stay in the grave long. He is risen. Hallelujah! To Thine Be The Glory! Amen. Family and Marriage Coalition of Aiken (FAMCO) was created to provide resources for you to succeed in your marriage and families. Roger Rollins, Executive Director, FAMCO, 803-640-4689. Let us know how we can help.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. "Bird of Paradise" constellation
- 5. Red Sox WS winner Bronson
- 11. Whirl
- 12. The State Dept. has a notable one
- 16. Energy, style and enthusiasm
- 17. Part of the mind
- 18. Mountainous country
- 19. Type of beverage
- 24. Atomic #109
- 25. Opposite of falsities
- 26. Female sheep
- 27. Rocky peak
- 28. Sensitive information sharing environment
- 29. Ethnic group of Thailand
- 30. Patron saint of Rome Philip
- 31. Psychedelics
- 33. Japanese pine
- 34. Have an impact on
- 38. Violent disorder
- 39. A French river
- 40. Early Mesoamerican civilization
- 43. Messenger ribonucleic acid
- 44. Musician Clapton
- 45. Ancient Greek sophist
- 49. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
- 50. Valley
- 51. A way to unwind
- 53. Atomic #93
- 54. Recommending
- 56. Indigo bush
- 58. Larry and Curly's pal
- 59. Off-Broadway theater award
- 60. Fencers
- 63. Small Eurasian deer (pl.)
- 64. Relating to songbirds
- 65. A way to assign

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Some are "secret"
- 2. Intestinal openings
- 3. Distant planet
- 4. Assembly possessing high legislative powers
- 5. Genus of typical owls
- 6. One with distinctively colored hair
- 7. Red cross
- 8. An alternative
- 9. Abominable snowmen
- 10. About ear
- 13. The opening letters
- 14. Feeling of regret
- 15. Atomic #39
- 20. Luteinizing hormone
- 21. Atomic #55
- 22. Carries a debt
- 23. Albanian monetary unit
- 27. Semitic abjad letter
- 29. Yes
- 30. Negative
- 31. Earn a perfect score
- 32. Connecticut
- 33. Partner to cheese
- 34. Snack nuts
- 35. Quadruped's body part
- 36. Locate
- 37. Pitching statistic
- 38. "... myself and I"
- 40. Utah city northwest of Provo
- 41. Football players in the trenches
- 42. One who runs the show
- 44. Wood
- 45. Performing artists
- 46. Slang for a cut
- 47. More breathable
- 48. Most crafty
- 50. Provokes into action
- 51. University of Dayton
- 52. Sodium
- 54. Large fish of the mackerel family
- 55. Not one
- 57. ... and behold
- 61. Sports highlight show
- 62. "The Great Lakes State"

PUZZLE SOLUTION

A	P	U	S		A	R	R	O	Y	O					
G	Y	R	E		S	E	C	R	E	T	A	R	Y		
E	L	A	N		I	D		T	I	B	E	T			
N	O	N	A	L	C	O	H	O	L	I	C	M	T		
T	R	U	T	H	S		E	W	E	S		T	O	R	
S	I	S	E		S	A	E	K		N	E	R	I		
					A	C	I	D	S		M	A	T	S	U
A	F	F	E	C	T					M	A	Y	H	E	M
L	O	I	R	E		O	L	M	E	C					
M	R	N	A		E	R	I	C			A	B	A	S	
O	E	D		G	L	E	N		U	N	C	O	I	L	
N	P		C	O	M	M	E	N	D	A	T	O	R	Y	
D	A	L	E	A		M	O			O	B	I	E		
S	W	O	R	D	S	M	E	N			R	O	E	S	
					O	S	C	I	N	E		S	O	R	T



units. Kent's attempt to "blame Israel" and claim Iran was not a threat has quickly unraveled. Kent knew Tucker Carlson constantly claims Israel (and any American supporter of Israel whom Tucker lambasts as "Christian Zionists") to be our greatest threat. Much of the political left is already openly against Israel, so the small element on the right, including Tucker, Candace Owens and Kent, finds a common ground with the left that puts America in danger. It's appropriate to note that Joe Kent was a Bernie Sanders supporter as late as 2020. The only real connection with Sanders is the antipathy to Israel.

As Operation Epic Fury continues in success, we are experiencing the desperation from the Iranian regime. That includes self-destructive missile attacks, like those against Gulf state neighbors and now showing their 4000-kilometer range going after Diego Garcia. The Gulf States and Europe are now going to have to help.

In 2 Timothy 4, Paul wrote "I have fought the good fight, finished the race, kept the faith". Let us remain steadfast with Operation Epic Fury until we finish the job for good.

SUDOKU

					2			
	1			5				
3	9		1	4		6		
6							1	
	4							
		1	3	6		8		5
	7	9		8				4
				3				
	5					9		8

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

8	7	9	1	6	9	7	5	2
3	4	1	6	3	4	1	6	9
4	8	7	3	9	1	5	2	6
1	7	2	6	5	8	3	4	9
9	2	1	3	6	4	8	5	7
8	4	7	5	9	1	3	2	6
6	3	5	8	4	2	7	1	9
3	9	8	1	2	4	5	6	7
7	1	2	6	5	8	4	9	3
5	6	4	9	7	3	2	8	1

ANSWER: