



POTOMAC INSTITUTE FOR POLICY STUDIES
INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR TERRORISM STUDIES
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Daily Terrorism Weather Online

10 April 2013

Middle East

[Syria group 'pledges allegiance' to al-Qaeda](#)

Al Jazeera, 10 April 2013

“A man claiming to be the head of a key group fighting the Syrian government has purportedly pledged allegiance to al-Qaeda, but also distanced his group from earlier claims it had merged with the Iraq branch of the armed network...”

[Qatar offers Egypt \\$3bn lifeline](#)

BBC, 10 April 2013

“Egypt has been offered an economic lifeline by Qatar, which will buy \$3bn worth of its bonds...”

[Saudi Arabia builds giant Yemen border fence](#)

BBC, 10 April 2013

“Saudi Arabia is building a giant border fence to seal off its troubled frontier with Yemen, Saudi border authorities have told the BBC...”

[In Syria, some brace for the next war](#)

Washington Post, 10 April 2013

“As this remote corner of northeastern Syria fast slides out of government control, many Syrians are bracing for what they fear will be another war, between the relatively moderate fighters who first took up arms against the government and the Islamist extremists who emerged more recently with the muscle and firepower to drive the rebel advance...”

[Kerry promises to help Palestinian economy](#)

Al Jazeera, 10 April 2013

”US secretary of state John Kerry has wrapped up three days of high-level Middle East diplomacy on a positive note, saying he held "very constructive talks" with Israeli and Palestinian leaders but offering few specifics...”

[47 Salafi jihadists on hunger strike in Hamas' prisons](#)

Long War Journal, 10 April 2013

”A leading Salafi jihadist in the Gaza Strip has said that 47 Salafi jihadists are currently on hunger strike in Hamas' prisons in Gaza...”

[AQAP indicates deputy emir Said al Shihri may be alive](#)

Long War Journal, 9 April 2013

“On Jan. 24, the Yemeni government issued a statement claiming that Said al Shihri, al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula's deputy emir, had died "after succumbing to wounds received in a counter terrorism operation" late last year...”

Central Asia



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ISAF kills, captures 2 IMU facilitators in Takhar

Long War Journal, 9 April 2013

“Two days ago, special operations forces launched two operations against the al Qaeda-linked Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan in Afghanistan's northern province of Takhar...”

U.S. troops kill Afghan civilian

UPI, 10 April 2013

”At least one Afghan civilian died and another was injured Wednesday when U.S. troops attacked a civilian bus in Herat province, officials said...”

South Asia

Malaysian general elections set for 5 May

BBC, 10 April 2013

“A general election will be held in Malaysia on 5 May, the Election Commission said, in what is seen as a major test for Prime Minister Najib Razak's ruling coalition...”

Protests after India West Bengal minister Amit Mitra assault

BBC, 10 April 2013

“Protest rallies are being held in India after West Bengal state Finance Minister Amit Mitra was beaten up by protesters in Delhi on Tuesday. Mr Mitra's boss - West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee - was also heckled by communist students...”

Pakistan police officer guarding polio workers killed

BBC, 10 April 2013

“A police officer who was escorting a polio vaccination team in Pakistan has been shot dead, officials say...”

U.S. issues alert for Pakistan

UPI, 10 April 2013

“Terrorist groups working in Pakistan may look for an opportunity to target areas where U.S. citizens convene, a U.S. State Department advisory said...” ”

Pakistan successfully test-fires Hatf-IV ballistic missile

Dawn, 10 April 2013

“Pakistan on Wednesday conducted a successful launch of intermediate range ballistic missile Hatf-IV (Shaheen-1)...”

East Asia

N Korea urges foreigners in South to evacuate

Al Jazeera, 10 April 2013

”North Korea has warned that the Korean peninsula was headed for "thermo-nuclear" war and advised foreigners in South Korea to consider evacuation...”

South Korea raises military alert status

Al Jazeera, 10 April 2013

”South Korea has raised its military alert status, a senior military official has said, as tensions remain high on the Korean peninsula...”



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[China anger at Japan-Taiwan disputed island fishing deal](#)

BBC, 10 April 2013

"Japan and Taiwan have signed a deal allowing Taiwan to fish near a group of disputed islands, prompting China to express "extreme concerns"..."

[South Korea blames North for bank and TV cyber-attacks](#)

BBC, 10 April 2013

"South Korea has accused North Korean spies of masterminding a series of high-profile cyber-attacks last month..."

[Chinese army colonel says avian flu is an American plot against China](#)

Washington Post, 9 April 2013

"Colonel Dai Xu of the People's Liberation Army wrote online that the new strain of bird flu hitting China, known as H7N9, is an American "bio-psychological weapon" meant to destabilize China..."

[China pledges \\$548 million in aid to ally Cambodia](#)

Reuters, 10 April 2013

"China has pledged another \$548 million in aid to Cambodia for infrastructure and irrigation systems, extending assistance that some critics say has bought it Cambodia's diplomatic support..."

Africa

[UN peacekeepers killed in South Sudan ambush](#)

Al Jazeera, 10 April 2013

"Five Indian peacekeepers escorting a United Nations convoy in South Sudan have been killed in an ambush by rebels, according to the Indian foreign ministry..." "

[Libya PM's aide Mohamed al-Ghattous freed by kidnappers](#)

BBC, 10 April 2013

"An aide to Libya's Prime Minister Ali Zeidan has been freed after being kidnapped nine days ago, officials say..."

[Nigeria police bodies found in Niger Delta after ambush](#)

BBC, 10 April 2013

"Nigeria's security forces have recovered the bodies of 11 of the 12 policemen killed in the oil-rich Niger Delta on Friday, police have said. Some of the bodies had been mutilated and burnt beyond recognition, AFP news agency quoted witnesses as saying..."

[Zimbabwe's Tsvangirai rules out joining another unity government with Mugabe](#)

Washington Post, 9 April 2013

"Zimbabwean Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai has ruled out another unity government with President Robert Mugabe and is optimistic that he will win an election due to be held later this year, ending more than 30 years of Mugabe rule in the southern African state..."

[Libya arms fueling conflicts in Syria, Mali and beyond: U.N. experts](#)



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Reuters, 9 April 2013

“Weapons are spreading from Libya at an "alarming rate," fueling conflicts in Mali, Syria and elsewhere and boosting the arsenals of extremists and criminals in the region, according to a U.N. report published on Tuesday...”

Kenya's VP issues call for unity

UPI, 10 April 2013

“The government of Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta will work to overcome the divisions seen during March elections, Vice President William Ruto said...”

Europe

Brussels warns on Spanish and Slovenian 'imbalances'

BBC, 10 April 2013

“The European Commission has warned that Spain and Slovenia must quickly tackle the imbalances in their economies...”

Russian MPs back harsher anti-blasphemy law

BBC, 10 April 2013

“Russian MPs have given initial approval to an anti-blasphemy law with tougher jail terms or fines for anyone found guilty of offending religious feelings...”

Russian vote watchdog among thousands of NGOs facing fines, closure

Reuters, 9 April 2013

“Russia's main independent election watchdog and thousands of other non-governmental groups face fines or closure, the justice ministry said on Tuesday, in what activists call a campaign to silence criticism of President Vladimir Putin by rights groups...”

EU says Korea crisis does not justify pulling diplomats out

Reuters, 10 April 2013

“The European Union told North Korea on Wednesday the increasing tensions on the Korean peninsula did not justify pulling out EU states' diplomats...”

Russia says G8 nations reject "bellicose" North Korea

Reuters, 9 April 2013

“Russia said on Tuesday the G8 was in agreement in rejecting North Korea's recent provocative behavior and urged all sides to pursue diplomacy to calm the increasingly tense situation in northeast Asia...”

Germany gives Japan its backing as N Korea tensions rise

Japan Today, 10 April 2013

“Japan can count on German solidarity in the face of escalating tensions on the Korean peninsula, German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle said on Tuesday, as North Korea stepped up its saber-rattling...”

US & Canada

White House signs off on new aid for Syrian rebels

CNN, 9 April 2013



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“President Barack Obama has signed off on a new package of nonlethal aid for Syrian rebels, U.S. officials tell CNN, signaling his administration is cautiously wading further into the conflict. Officials said the White House approved the package at a meeting of the National Security Council last week...”

Sequester: US Air Force grounds combat planes

BBC, 9 April 2013

“The US Air Force has begun grounding about a third of its combat aircraft in response to deep budget cuts that began to take effect in March...”

Bin Laden 'aide' trial delayed by US budget row

BBC, 9 April 2013

“A terrorism trial for Osama Bin Laden's son-in-law will be held next year, a New York judge has said, a day after hearing budget cuts had hit the case...”

New Navy laser can shoot down drones, is headed for the Persian Gulf

Washington Post, 9 April 2013

“The Web and the defense community are abuzz over a video of the U.S. Navy’s new laser weapon system (LaWs), which shows a destroyer-mounted laser dramatically shooting a drone out of the sky...”

Pa. man charged with making bomb threat at White House; no explosives found in truck

Washington Post, 10 April 2013

“A Pennsylvania man has been arrested after police say he made a bomb threat outside the White House. D.C. police spokesman Araz Alali says the man approached an officer at the White House gates Wednesday morning and warned that a bomb would detonate in a truck parked nearby...”

Senate aides: Bipartisan deal reached on gun background checks

Washington Post, 10 April 2013

“A bipartisan group of senators has struck a deal to expand gun background checks to all commercial sales — whether at gun shows, via the Internet or in any circumstance involving paid advertising, according to Senate aides familiar with the talks...”

Senators urge engaging China in North Korea effort

Washington Post, 10 April 2013

“The United States is capable of responding to an attack from North Korea, but Washington and its allies must work hard to “preserve the peace,” the American commander overseeing operations on the Korean Peninsula said Tuesday as U.S. senators urged him to engage China more forcefully in that effort...”

South and Central America and the Caribbean

Colombians march in support of Farc peace talks

BBC, 9 April 2013

“Tens of thousands of people in Colombia have taken part in marches to support the continuing peace talks between the left-wing Farc rebels and government negotiators...”



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[Analysis: Capriles needs late surge to win Venezuela vote](#)

Reuters, 10 April 2013

“After beating Venezuelan opposition leader Henrique Capriles in last year's presidential election, Hugo Chavez telephoned him and courteously quipped: "You made me get out and work hard!"”