



**POTOMAC INSTITUTE FOR POLICY STUDIES**  
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### Daily Terrorism Weather

Date: 7 September 2013

#### Policy in Washington

##### The strategic interests at play in US debate over Syria

*Author/Source: Douglas A. Ollivant, Al Jazeera*

“As President Barack Obama looks to Congress to approve military strikes against Bashar al-Assad’s regime, many different and conflicting interests and issues have been raised in media commentary and public debate...”

##### Pentagon adjusts plans for more intense attacks on Syria

*Author/Source: David S. Cloud, LA Times*

“The Pentagon is preparing for a longer bombardment of Syria than it originally had planned, with a heavy barrage of missile strikes followed soon after by more attacks on targets that the opening salvos missed or failed to destroy, officials said...”

##### Here’s Michele Bachman thanking the Egyptian military for the coup and crackdowns

*Author/Source: Max Fisher, The Washington Post*

“Three U.S. lawmakers who have generated controversy for their statements about Islam and Muslim Americans released a video Saturday praising the Egyptian military and thanking it for staging the July 3 and subsequent crackdowns against their “common enemy,” the Muslim Brotherhood...”

#### Afghanistan

##### Pakistan releases Taliban prisoners in bid to ease Afghan peace process

*Author/Source: Al Jazeera*

“Pakistan has announced the release of seven senior Taliban figures to facilitate a peace process aimed at reaching a political resolution to the war in neighboring Afghanistan, the foreign ministry said...”

##### In Pakistan's Punjab area, militants plan for next Afghanistan war after foreign troops leave<sup>7</sup>

*Author/Source: Fox News*

“Militants in Pakistan's most populous province are said to be training for what they expect will be an ethnic-based civil war in neighboring Afghanistan after foreign forces withdraw in 16 months, according to analysts and a senior militant...”

#### Iraq

##### We wring our hands over Syria, but not the massacre of 52 Iranians

*Author/Source: The Telegraph*

“Last Sunday, while the eyes of the world were on the brouhaha that had followed the killing of 1,400 Syrians with poison gas, rather less attention was paid to an incident in neighbouring Iraq, where hundreds of Iraqi and Iranian troops burst into the remains of the once-neat little desert town of Ashraf to murder 52 unarmed Iranian dissidents in cold blood – many of them were handcuffed and shot in the back of the head...”



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### **Middle East**

#### **Syrian government shelling near Damascus kills 16 as debate on US military action intensifies**

*Author/Source: Washington Post*

“Heavy government shelling of rebel positions near the Syrian capital killed 16 people on Saturday, activists said, as U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry lobbied European allies to back Washington’s proposed military action against the ruling regime...”

### **South Asia**

#### **The new terror outfit**

*Author/Source: Muhammad Nurul Huda, The Daily Star*

“THE all-pervasive fear and uncertainty emanating from the raging controversy over the restoration of caretaker government to oversee ensuring general election have perhaps deflected our attention from the mischievous activities of yet another terrorist organisation that has taken root in Bangladesh...”

#### **Police foils terror plot in Islamabad**

*Author/Source: Xinhua*

“Police in Pakistan's capital of Islamabad foiled a possible terror plot Saturday by arresting two suspected militants and seizing huge quantity of arm, local media reported...”

### **Do Lali**

*Author/Source: The Economist*

“ANOTHER week, another arrest. On September 4th Indian security forces nabbed a commander of Hizbul Mujahideen, one of five militant groups at large in Kashmir, a region run by India but claimed by Pakistan...”

### **Africa**

#### **Nigerian army says 50 Boko Haram members killed in operation**

*Author/Source: Al Jazeera*

“Nigeria's military said Friday it had killed 50 members of the armed group Boko Haram in an operation launched in response to a recent attack by the group in which at least 15 villagers were gunned down, in the latest violence to hit the region...”

#### **Egypt army strike in Sinai kills 9**

*Author/Source: Al Jazeera*

“At least nine people were killed and more injured Saturday, when the Egyptian army mounted a large-scale offensive against armed groups in North Sinai, security officials said...”

#### **Car bomb in Somali capital kills at least 18, authorities say**

*Author/Source: Al Jazeera*

“Somali militants attacked a restaurant near Mogadishu's seat of government for the second time in less than a year Saturday, detonating two large blasts that killed at least 18 people and wounded nearly two dozen, an official said...”



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### **Europé**

#### **UK drone use triples in Afghanistan since 2008: Report**

*Author/Source: Global Security*

“The UK has tripled the use of drones for missions in Afghanistan between 2008 and 2012, new official figures shows...”

### **International Organizations**

#### **OIC wants terrorism defined**

*Author/Source: Arab News*

“The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) says the world needs a clear-cut definition of terrorism to remove any ambiguity and maintain strong consensus on the issue...”

### **Maritime**

#### **Al Furqan Brigades claim 2 attacks on ships in Suez Canal, threaten more**

*Author/Source: David Barnett, Long War Journal*

“A video uploaded to YouTube on Sept. 4 appears to show two men firing rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs) at a container ship crossing the Suez Canal...”