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Daily Terrorism Weather

22 October 2013

Policy in Washington

Kerry: Syrian opposition not yet committed to negotiations with Assad to end civil war

By: Associated Press

22 October 2013

Cross Reference: Middle East

Moderate opposition leaders seeking to oust Syrian President Bashar Assad from power have not yet committed to negotiations to create a new government, America's top diplomat said Tuesday, casting new doubt on flagging hopes to end the civil war as quickly as possible.

A refusal by the Syrian National Coalition to participate in the diplomatic talks would further delay attempts by most of Syria's regional neighbors and the West to stop the bloodshed that has so far killed 100,000 people over the last 2½ years. It also could boost the legitimacy of Assad, who after stonewalling has told allies he is prepared to negotiate — despite a near-certainty that he would be removed from power as a result of the talks.

Source: The Washington Post

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/us-diplomats-say-assad-showing-new-strength-against-fractured-opposition-but-must-resign/2013/10/22/29e52712-3ae8-11e3-b0e7-716179a2c2c7_story.html

Afghanistan says differences remain on U.S. security pact

By: Hamid Shalizi and Jessica Donati

21 October 2013

Cross Reference: South Asia, Afghanistan

Source: Reuters

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/21/us-afghanistan-usa-idUSBRE99K19T20131021>

Al-Qa'ida

O.C. man was to train Al Qaeda fighters for December attack, feds say

By: Adolfo Flores

22 October 2013

Cross Reference: Homegrown, US and Canada

An Orange County security guard accused of plotting to become an Al Qaeda operative had been enlisted to train terrorist fighters for an ambush on coalition forces in a planned December attack, federal prosecutors alleged in court Monday.

Sinh Vinh Ngo Nguyen, who was arrested this month boarding a Mexico-bound bus in Santa Ana, planned to make his way to Pakistan and reemerge as Hasan Abu Omar Ghannoum,



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authorities said. Nguyen, who lived with his family in Little Saigon, told agents he was set to train about 30 Al Qaeda fighters for an attack.

Source: The LA Times

<http://www.latimes.com/local/la-me-1022-al-qaeda-fighter-20131022,0,3738878.story>

Afghanistan

Afghan businessman accused of channeling aid money to insurgency

By: Jessica Donati and Mirwais Harooni

22 October 2013

Cross Reference: Finance, Legal Issues

U.S. inspectors are on the trail of a successful Afghan businessman they believe has channeled millions of dollars in aid to the al Qaeda-linked Haqqani network, one of the deadliest insurgent groups in Afghanistan, but still has donor-funded reconstruction contracts around the country.

The investigation, detailed in a trove of documents obtained by Reuters, comes at a crucial time for Afghanistan and its foreign allies, who have poured billions of dollars into leaving behind a stable, viable state when most NATO-led combat troops pull out next year.

Source: Reuters

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/22/us-afghanistan-funding-haqqanis-idUSBRE99L09F20131022>

Afghanistan says differences remain on U.S. security pact

By: Hamid Shalizi and Jessica Donati

21 October 2013

Cross Reference: South Asia, Policy in Washington

Afghanistan and the United States have not yet agreed on several issues in a bilateral security pact, a senior Afghan spokesman said, raising the prospect that Washington could pull out all its troops from the war-ravaged nation next year if the differences could not be ironed out.

Two years ago, the United States ended its military mission in Iraq with a similar "zero option" outcome after the failure of bilateral talks with Baghdad.

Source: Reuters

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/21/us-afghanistan-usa-idUSBRE99K19T20131021>

Iraq

Iraq gets Russian arms shipments under landmark \$4.4B deal

By: UPI Online

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Cross Reference: Middle East, Europe, Finance

As Iraq's government grapples with a rising al-Qaida insurgency in which thousands have been killed, officials say the military has started taking delivery of Russian arms as part of a landmark \$4.3 billion contract signed in October 2012.

They did not specify which systems have arrived in Iraq or when, but Iraqi sources say it's understood they include 10 fully armed Mil Mi-28NE Night Hunter attack helicopters, platforms that could be a major boost to the counterterrorism efforts by the government of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki. Russia's RIA Novosti news agency quoted Maliki's close aide Ali Musawi as saying "implementation of one of the contract's stages has begun" and systems involved were "mainly for anti-terrorist operations."

Source: UPI

http://www.upi.com/Business_News/Security-Industry/2013/10/21/Iraq-gets-Russian-arms-shipments-under-landmark-44B-deal/UPI-37601382369825/

Israeli-Arab Conflict

Israeli forces kill Palestinian bomb suspect in West Bank shoot-out

By: Al Jazeera Online

22 October 2013

Cross Reference: Middle East

Israeli forces killed a Palestinian man in the West Bank they accuse of having helped plan a bus bombing in Tel Aviv last November, Israel's Shin Bet security service said.

Israeli forces accompanied by large numbers of military vehicles, raided an area north of Ramallah early Tuesday morning, between the villages of Bil'in and Kafr Nima, to detain Mohamed Assi, a 27-year-old member of armed resistance group Islamic Jihad

Assi was killed after a shoot-out with Israeli forces that lasted for hours after seeking cover in a cave. Israel has accused him of playing a role in the November 2012 bus bombing in Tel Aviv that wounded 29 people.

Source: Al Jazeera

<http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2013/10/22/israeli-forces-killpalestinianmanaftershootout.html>

Middle East

Qatar to provide \$150m in debt relief to Palestinian Authority

By: Al Arabiya Online

22 October 2013

Cross Reference: Finance

Qatar has agreed to provide \$150 million in debt relief to the Palestinian Authority. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry announced on Monday, as talks between Israel and the



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Palestinians were intensifying. The Secretary of State has praised Qatar's move to provide the "urgently needed" debt relief for Palestinians saying that he was "confident" that other Arab countries would follow in its steps, according to Agence France-Presse.

Qatar's Foreign Minister Khaled al-Attiyah meanwhile said the Arab League was "concerned about the environment" surrounding the peace talks, referring to the expansion of Israeli settlements and the isolation of the Gaza strip.

Source: Al Arabiya

<http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2013/10/22/Qatar-to-provide-150-m-in-debt-relief-to-Palestinian-Authority.html>

Egypt says insurgent attack on military convoy in Sinai kills soldier, civilian

By: Associated Press

22 October 2013

Insurgents ambushed an army convoy in northern Sinai early Tuesday killing a soldier and a civilian, the local government and the military said, the latest in a rising wave of attacks in Egypt's volatile peninsula.

Military spokesman Col. Ahmed Mohammed Ali said the attackers targeted two buses transporting soldiers, detonating three explosive devices and spraying the vehicles with gunfire as they drove down a main road linking the border town of Rafah with el-Arish, the capital of northern Sinai.

Source: The Washington Post

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/egyptian-official-roadside-bombing-kills-soldier-wounds-7-in-volatile-sinai-peninsula/2013/10/22/c5b33bda-3b00-11e3-b0e7-716179a2c2c7_story.html

Rights groups challenge U.S. on drone strikes in Pakistan, Yemen

By Jethro Mullen

22 October 2013

Cross Reference: South Asia, US and Canada, Legal Issues

The villagers had congregated at the tent, as they often did at the end of the workday, to sit and chat. Among them were men who sold vegetables or wood. Others mined or traded minerals used to make alloys like stainless steel. They were husbands and fathers, brothers and sons...

The report provides detailed information on nine out of 45 drone strikes it says were carried out by the United States in North Waziristan between January 2012 and September 2013. In some of the attacks, it says, the victims weren't members of militant groups like al Qaeda or the Taliban, but just ordinary civilians, like the workers in Zowi Sidgi.

Source: CNN

http://edition.cnn.com/2013/10/22/world/asia/us-drone-strikes-reports/index.html?hpt=hp_t1



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Iraq gets Russian arms shipments under landmark \$4.4B deal

By: UPI Online

22 October 2013

Cross Reference: Finance, Iraq, Europe

Source: UPI

http://www.upi.com/Business_News/Security-Industry/2013/10/21/Iraq-gets-Russian-arms-shipments-under-landmark-44B-deal/UPI-37601382369825/

Central Asia

Azerbaijani Hackers Claim to Have Breached Armenia's National Security Service

By: Eduard Kovacs

22 October 2013

Cross Reference: Cyber and Technology

Azerbaijani hackers of the Anti-Armenia Team have defaced several commercial Armenian websites. In addition, they've leaked over 1,100 documents allegedly stolen from the systems of Armenia's National Security Service. According to HackRead, the hackers have published a total of 1,191 documents on imgur.com. However, since they're all written in Armenian, it's difficult to tell if they've been taken from the systems of the National Security Service.

Source: Softpedia

<http://news.softpedia.com/news/Azerbaijani-Hackers-Claim-to-Have-Breached-Armenia-s-National-Security-Service-392918.shtml>

South Asia

Rights groups challenge U.S. on drone strikes in Pakistan, Yemen



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By Jethro Mullen
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Cross Reference: Middle East, US and Canada, Legal Issues

Source: CNN

http://edition.cnn.com/2013/10/22/world/asia/us-drone-strikes-reports/index.html?hpt=hp_t1

Pakistan emerging place to invest in, says Sharif

By: Dawn Online

22 October 2013

Cross Reference: Finances

Source: Dawn

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1050961/pakistan-emerging-place-to-invest-in-says-sharif>

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Source: Reuters

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/21/us-afghanistan-usa-idUSBRE99K19T20131021>

Southeast Asia

Myanmar claims no disruption to peace process due to bombings

By: Mizzima Online

22 October 2013

Myanmar Defense Services has claimed that the recent series of bombings in some cities of the country had no disruption to the domestic peace process between the government and rebel ethnic armed groups, official media quoted an announcement of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of the Defense Services as reporting Tuesday.

"The recent incidents of bombings cannot hamper the peace process being implemented by Union Peace-Making Work Committee and ethnic armed groups, and great stride will be made in translating the peace process into a success," the announcement said.

Source: Mizzima

<http://mizzima.com/mizzima-news/politics/item/10385-myanmar-claims-no-disruption-to-peace-process-due-to-bombings>

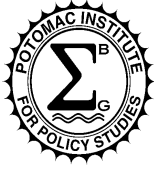
East Asia

Japan Mulls Security Reform, Prompting Chinese Anger

By: Henry Ridgwell

22 October 2013

Japan's government says it plans to allow its self-defense forces to play a greater role in global security. Currently Japan's 'pacifist' constitution, written under American supervision after



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World War II, allows the country's armed forces to be used only for defensive purposes to preserve national security. Tokyo's current plans have prompted anger in China, however, which is engaged in a heated territorial dispute with Japan.

On Friday under the glare of the media, a group of more than 100 Japanese lawmakers visited Tokyo's Yasukuni shrine, which honors Japan's war dead, including several convicted war criminals.

Source: Voice of America

<http://www.voanews.com/content/japan-mulls-security-reform-prompting-chinese-anger/1774128.html>

Africa

Concern as tensions flare up in Mozambique

By: News24 Online
22 October 2013

Mozambique ex-rebel group Renamo has declared the end of a peace deal signed 21 years ago after the army seized its military base. A spokesman for Renamo, Mozambique's main opposition party, accused the army of trying to kill the group's president Afonso Dhlakama, and said the deal that ended the country's 16-year civil war was over. "Today, around 1300 hours, the Frelimo government used troops and heavy artillery to attack the residence of the Renamo president, Afonso Dhlakama, to kill him in cold blood," said Fernando Mazanga.

"This irresponsible attitude of the commander-in-chief of the country's security forces [President Armando Guebuza] signals the end of the Rome Peace Accords."

Source: News24

<http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/Concern-as-tensions-flare-up-in-Mozambique-20131022>

Angola denies DRC invasion

By: News 24 Online
22 October 2013

Angola's Foreign Minister Georges Chikoti said on Monday that Congo Republic soldiers had got lost and stumbled across the border, contradicting Congolese accusations that Angolan forces had invaded its territory and seized its soldiers.

A senior Congolese government official on Sunday said a group of his country's soldiers had been freed after troops who had crossed from Angola's oil-rich enclave of Cabinda seized them. Chikoti denied this was the case.

Source: News 24

<http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/Angola-denies-DRC-invasion-20131021>



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NATO sets up small defense adviser group to strengthen Libya's security apparatus

By: Associated Press

21 October 2013

Cross Reference: International Organizations

NATO says it is setting up a small team of experts to advise Libya in building the country's defense institutions. Carmen Romero, a spokeswoman for the defense alliance, said ambassadors from NATO's 28 member countries on Monday granted the request first made by Libyan authorities in May. She says the team won't have a permanent base in Libya but will operate from Brussels and comprise "no more than 10 people."

Source: The Washington Post

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/nato-sets-up-small-defense-adviser-group-to-strengthen-libyas-security-apparatus/2013/10/21/045aeaa0-3a56-11e3-b0e7-716179a2c2c7_story.html

Europé

Suicide bomb on bus in Russia kills five ahead of Sochi Olympics

By: Roland Oliphant

21 October 2013

Cross Reference: Suicide

The explosion that ripped through a passenger bus in the southern city of Volgograd around 2 pm on Monday afternoon killed at least five and injured 20, the country's Investigative Committee said on Monday afternoon. While initial reports suggested the explosion may have been caused by a hand grenade, investigators said Monday afternoon that they were working on the "preliminary" assumption that the attack was carried out by a suicide bomber.

Source: The Telegraph

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/russia/10394109/Suicide-bomb-on-bus-in-Russia-kills-five-ahead-of-Sochi-Olympics.html>

Eastern European Banking Systems Targeted by Hackers in Apollo Campaign

By: Eduard Kovacs

22 October 2013

Cross Reference: Finance, Technology and Cyber

One of the attacks analyzed by experts starts with a fake email purporting to come from the Ukrainian government. The notifications carry a maliciously crafted Word document that's designed to exploit an old Microsoft Office vulnerability in order to push a .exe file onto the targeted computer. The executable is actually a customized version of Zeus. Once it infects a device, the malware waits for the victim to visit certain online banking websites. When one of these sites is accessed, the threat starts logging keystrokes and capturing screenshots in an



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effort to harvest sensitive information which the attackers can later use to reach their goals.

Source: Softpedia

<http://news.softpedia.com/news/Eastern-European-Banking-Systems-Targeted-by-Hackers-in-Apollo-Campaign-393332.shtml>

Iraq gets Russian arms shipments under landmark \$4.4B deal

By: UPI Online

22 October 2013

Cross Reference: Middle East, Iraq, Finance

Source: UPI

http://www.upi.com/Business_News/Security-Industry/2013/10/21/Iraq-gets-Russian-arms-shipments-under-landmark-44B-deal/UPI-37601382369825/

US & Canada

O.C. man was to train Al Qaeda fighters for December attack, feds say

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Cross Reference: Homegrown, Al Qaeda

Source: The LA Times

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Rights groups challenge U.S. on drone strikes in Pakistan, Yemen

By Jethro Mullen

22 October 2013

Cross Reference: Middle East, South Asia, Legal Issues

Source: CNN

http://edition.cnn.com/2013/10/22/world/asia/us-drone-strikes-reports/index.html?hpt=hp_t1

Latin America and the Caribbean

Gangs Are the New Law in Urban Trinidad & Tobago

By: Erika Johnson

21 October 2013

Recent incidents of intense violence in Trinidad & Tobago's capital, Port-of-Spain, have drawn attention to the nation's rampant gang problem. On September 11, the ruthless beheading of a man—reported by the police as a warning from gang members—exemplified a recent increase in the already significant brutality of gang activity in Port-of-Spain. There is now a trend towards this so-called "South American method of warfare," in which beheadings and other extreme forms of violence are the norm in dealing with rival gangs and in which only 14.3 percent of Trinidad & Tobago's youth is confident in its satisfaction with the police force.

Source: Insight Crime



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<http://www.insightcrime.org/news-analysis/gangs-are-the-new-law-in-urban-trinidad-tobago>

Venezuela shoots down two 'hostile' planes

By: BBC Online

21 October 2013

Cross Reference: Aviation, Narcoterrorism

Venezuela says two light aircraft have been shot down after entering the country's airspace over the weekend. These were the first mid-air attacks by fighter jets since a bill authorising such action against illegal planes was approved earlier this month, the Bolivarian Armed Forces said. The aircraft were allegedly smuggling drugs from Central America and refused to follow the military pilots' orders. Another 11 unauthorised planes have been disabled on the ground this year. Venezuelan security forces say more than 35 tonnes of drugs have been found this year.

The head of Venezuela's Strategic Operational Centre, General Vladimir Padrino Lopez, told the country's state television that a plane had been targeted after "all other means of persuasion had been exhausted" in the early hours of Saturday.

Source: BBC

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-24618087>

Technology and Cyber

Google launches Project Shield cybersecurity initiative for 'free expression'

By: NDTV Online

22 October 2013

Google Inc will begin to shield news organizations and human rights groups from cyberattacks as part of a new package of services designed to support "free expression" on the Web, the internet giant said Monday. At a presentation in New York, the company also unveiled a new technology called uProxy that allows citizens under some regimes to bypass government censorship or surveillance software to surf the Web. The software will be available for Google's Chrome browser and Firefox but not for rival Microsoft Corp's Internet Explorer, at least initially. The world's No. 1 search engine presented the two services - as well as a new map that highlights cyberattacks taking place around the world in real time - as some of the most significant software products to emerge from Google Ideas, a think-tank established by the company in 2010.

Source: Reuters via Gadgets (NDTV)

<http://gadgets.ndtv.com/internet/news/google-launches-project-shield-cybersecurity-initiative-for-free-expression-435467>

Azerbaijani Hackers Claim to Have Breached Armenia's National Security Service

By: Eduard Kovacs



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Cross Reference: Central Asia

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22 October 2013

Cross Reference: Homegrown, Al Qa'ida

Source: The LA Times

<http://www.latimes.com/local/la-me-1022-al-qaeda-fighter-20131022,0,3738878.story>

Finances

Pakistan emerging place to invest in, says Sharif

By: Dawn Online

22 October 2013

Cross Reference: South Asia

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif told a gathering of US investors on Monday that Pakistan was ready to privatise Pakistan Steel, PIA and a number of other industries. During a brief Q & A session, a US businessman asked the prime minister why the Pakistani currency continued to fall. Mr Sharif asked the finance minister to respond and he assured the prospective investors that the government had already taken steps to arrest the decline.

“And very soon, the rupee will stabilise at less than 100 to a dollar,” Mr Dar said. Earlier in his address to the US-Pakistan Business Council, the prime minister urged them to invest in Pakistan.

Source: Dawn

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1050961/pakistan-emerging-place-to-invest-in-says-sharif>

Afghan businessman accused of channeling aid money to insurgency

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International Organizations

NATO sets up small defense adviser group to strengthen Libya's security apparatus

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Cross Reference: Africa

Source: The Washington Post

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Cross Reference: Aviation, Latin America and the Caribbean

Source: BBC

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-24618087>

Suicide

Suicide bomb on bus in Russia kills five ahead of Sochi Olympics

By: Roland Oliphant

21 October 2013

Cross Reference: Europe

Source: The Telegraph

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