



POTOMAC INSTITUTE FOR POLICY STUDIES
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Daily Terrorism Weather

Date: 28 October 2013

Policy in Washington

NSA spying claims: Five things you need to know

Author/Source: Elise Labott and Catherine Shoichet, CNN

“It's not as sexy as a spy novel, but things are heating up after the latest reports of espionage by the U.S. National Security Agency...”

Benghazi witnesses grilled in secret on Capitol Hill

Author/Source: Richard A. Serrano, LA Times

“Two of the Justice Department's key witnesses in last year's terrorist attack on the U.S. mission in Benghazi, Libya, were summoned to Capitol Hill this month and grilled for hours in separate legal depositions...”

Department of Homeland Security is quietly considering lifting ban on Libyans coming to US

Author/Source: Judson Berger, Fox News

“The Department of Homeland Security is quietly considering lifting a long-standing ban on Libyans coming to the U.S. for training in the aviation and nuclear fields, according to an internal document, raising red flags for lawmakers who say Libya is still a security threat...”

Al-Qa'ida

Car bomb kills scores in Baghdad, in sign of crisis in Iraq

Author/Source: Ben Van Heuvelen, Washington Post

“Nearly two years after the U.S. troop withdrawal, Iraq is in the midst of a deepening security crisis as an al-Qaeda affiliate wages a relentless campaign of attacks, sending the death toll soaring to its highest level since 2008...”

Afghanistan

Afghanistan tragedy: Bomb kills 18 civilians on way to wedding

Author/Source: Hashmat Baktash and Mark Magnier, LA Times

“A roadside bomb in Afghanistan's eastern Ghazni province killed 18 people and wounded five on their way to a wedding when the minivan they were riding in Sunday triggered the explosion, officials said...”



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Israeli-Arab Conflict

Israel announces names of Palestinians to be freed in next stage of prisoner release

Author/Source: Jerusalem Post

“The Israel Prison Service publicized the names late Sunday of the 26 Palestinians to be released from Israeli jails, the second batch of pre-Oslo inmates convicted of terrorism who are to be freed as part of the ongoing peace negotiations between Jerusalem and the Palestinian Authority...”

Palestinian arrested for attempting to stab Israeli Border Police

Author/Source: Xinhua

“A Palestinian youth was detained on Sunday for allegedly attempting to stab Israeli Border Police guards who were manning a security checkpoint in the West Bank...”

Middle East

Syria envoy in Damascus, but prospects for peace talks dim

Author/Source: Erika Solomon, Reuters

“International envoy Lakhdar Brahimi held talks in Damascus on Monday at the end of a Middle East tour to promote a Syrian peace conference, but regional tensions have cast a pall over his mission..”

In Syrian civil war, emergence of Islamic State of Iraq and Syria boosts rival Jabhat al-Nusra

Author/Source: Loveday Morris, Washington Post

“While the emergence of al-Qaeda’s Islamic State of Iraq and Syria as a major force in the Syrian civil war has caused deep concern for many rebels, one group’s fighters claim its presence has given them a popularity boost...”

Syrian troops retake Christina town after pushing out al Qaeda rebels

Author/Source: Fox News

“Syria's state media say government forces have retaken a Christian town north of Damascus after a week of clashes with al Qaeda-linked fighters who had recently captured key parts of it...”

South Asia

Police: Suspect pins Indian blast on terror group

Author/Source: Miami Herald

“Authorities are investigating an outlawed Islamic group that has been blamed for ordering a series of deadly bomb blasts near an Indian opposition rally by a Hindu nationalist leader, police said Monday in a grim prelude to national elections next spring..”

No country has ended terrorism in three years, says Rajapaksa

Author/Source: First Post

“Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa on Sunday said his government ended a 30-year campaign of terrorism in just three years which “no country has been able to achieve”. ..”



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Southeast Asia

Thai ex-PM to be indicted for protest killings

Author/Source: Miami Herald

“Prosecutors in Thailand on Monday said they will seek an indictment against a former prime minister and his deputy for their alleged roles in the deaths of demonstrators during a 2010 crackdown on anti-government protests, officials said...”

East Asia

Japan, EU vow to promote ties in multiple areas

Author/Source: Xinhua

“Japan and European Union (EU) on Monday confirmed that the two sides should promote bilateral cooperation on economy and regional affairs, as well as security issues, according to local media...”

Africa

Egypt security forces fire teargas at pro-Mursi student protest

Author/Source: Reuters

“Security forces fired teargas to disperse hundreds of students protesting against Egypt's military-installed government at Cairo's al-Azhar university on Monday, a week before ousted Islamist President Mohamed Mursi is due to face trial...”

2 senior al-Shabab extremists reportedly killed in Somalia

Author/Source: Fox News

“A member of the Somali Islamic extremist group al-Shabab and a Somali government intelligence official say a military strike, possibly a drone attack, killed at least two senior al-Shabab rebels...”

In Libya's east, a former rebel commander tests Tripoli

Author/Source: Ulf Laessing and Ghaith Shennib, Reuters

“For Libyan militia leader Ibrahim al-Jathran, shutting down half the country's oil production with an armed militia is not a crime, it is the start of a just battle for a fair share of the country's petroleum wealth...”

Special Report: As Egypt's Brotherhood retreats, risk of extremism

Author/Source: Michael Georgy and Tom Perry, Reuters

“In Egypt's second city, medical student Ahmed Nabil lives in fear that the police may come and arrest him any day. As a member of the Muslim Brotherhood, he is part of a movement facing an onslaught by the security forces which toppled Islamist President Mohamed Mursi in July...”

Europe

Greece says can't take any more austerity, will not be 'blackmailed'

Author/Source: George Georgiopoulos, Reuters

“Greece's president used an annual commemoration of the country's stand against fascism in World War Two on Monday to warn that Athens would not yield to pressure from foreign lenders to impose more austerity...”



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Spain warns US of breakdown in trust after new NSA revelations

Author/Source: Paul Hamilos, The Guardian

“The Spanish government has warned the US that revelations of widespread spying by the National Security Agency could, if confirmed, “lead to a breakdown in the traditional trust” between the two countries...”

US & Canada

ND town Oks building ban to deter Aryan enclave

Author/Source: Miami Herald

“Leaders in a small southwestern North Dakota town have approved a moratorium on any new construction — a move a white supremacist who is trying to take over says unfairly targets him and his aspirations...”

Technology and Cyber

Cyber-terrorism Shut Down Israel’s Carmel Tunnel

Magazine

Author/Source: Info Security Magazine

“When the Carmel Tunnel, a six-mile road tunnel through the Carmel mountain directly under the city of Haifa, was closed in September, officials initially blamed a malfunction with traffic control. Now it appears to be the work of hackers...”

International Organizations

UN deputy chief says not to discuss Kenyatta case

Author/Source: All Africa

“U.N. Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson says the Security Council will not discuss Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta's request to defer his trial on crimes against humanity...”