



POTOMAC INSTITUTE FOR POLICY STUDIES
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Daily Terrorism Weather

17 December 2013

Middle East

Syrian fighter defects to Qaeda-linked group

Author/Source: Basma Atassi, Al Jazeera

“In a farmhouse in eastern Syria, a group of men sat around a teapot observing it jiggle over a pile of burning paper bills...”

Six U.S. troops killed in helicopter crash in Afghanistan

Author/Source: CNN staff

“Six U.S. troops were killed Tuesday in a helicopter crash in southern Afghanistan after what appears to be an engine failure, a U.S. defense official said...”

Israeli soldier killed at border with Lebanon

Author/Source: Nick Paton Walsh and Michael Schwartz, CNN

“An Israeli soldier was killed Sunday in a shooting along the Israel-Lebanon border, according to the Israel Defense Forces...”

Dozens of Iraqis Killed in Attacks

Author/Source: Duraid Adnan, NY Times

“More than 70 people were killed in a string of attacks across Iraq on Monday, including 37 Shiites preparing for an annual pilgrimage, among them a group who were pulled out of a bus and shot dead on the roadside, the police said...”

Syria Activists Say Dozens Killed in Aleppo Air Assault

Author/Source: Mohammad Ghannam and Rick Gladstone, NY Times

“Syrian antigovernment activist groups on Monday reported what appeared to be a major escalation of the military’s prolonged siege of Aleppo, with video and witness accounts of a helicopter gunship attack in which crews dropped explosive barrels filled with TNT and shrapnel on more than 13 rebel-held neighborhoods...”

Two ex-Guantanamo inmates return to Saudi

Author/Source: AFP, Google News

“Two Saudi inmates from the US prison at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba have arrived in their home country following a US transfer, authorities in Riyadh said on Tuesday...”

Drone strikes must end, Yemen's parliament says

Author/Source: Hakim Almasmari, CNN

“Yemen's parliament Sunday called for an end to drone strikes on its territory after a U.S. missile attack mistakenly struck a wedding convoy, killing more than a dozen people...”



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South Asia

India removes U.S. mission security barriers as anger grows over arrest

Author/Source: Shyamantha Asokan, Reuters

“Indian authorities removed security barriers in front of the U.S. embassy in New Delhi on Tuesday apparently in retaliation for the arrest and alleged heavy-handed treatment of an Indian diplomat in New York...”

David Cameron declares 'mission accomplished' in Afghanistan

Author/Source: Georgia Graham, The Telegraph

“British troops are coming home from Afghanistan because it is "mission accomplished" in the country, David Cameron has said...”

East Asia

US backs Philippines, warns China over air zone

Author/Source: Jason Gutierrez, ABS-CBN

“US Secretary of State John Kerry warned China Tuesday against any move to declare an air defense zone in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea), as he affirmed defense ties with long-time ally the Philippines...”

Africa

At least 26 dead in South Sudan fighting: official

Author/Source: AFP, Daily Nation

“At least 26 people have been killed in clashes between rival army factions in South Sudan's capital Juba, an official said Tuesday...”

Ex-senior security official surrenders after Congo gunbattle

Author/Source: Sadio Kante and Christian Tsoumou, Reuters

“Republic of Congo's former deputy intelligence chief was arrested on Monday following an intense gun battle that killed at least seven people in the capital Brazzaville, a senior police official and a witness said...”

West Africa: Gulf of Guinea - the New Flashpoint of Piracy in Africa?

Author/Source: Alex Benkenstein, All Africa

“Somalia-based piracy attacks have decreased significantly in the course of 2013. As international efforts to combat Somali-based piracy begin to deliver results, however, there is growing concern over the marked increase in piracy incidents in the Gulf of Guinea...”

Nigeria Boko Haram emergency: 'More than 1,200 killed'

Author/Source: BBC Online

“The UN says more than 1,200 people have been killed in Islamist-related violence in north-east Nigeria since a state of emergency was declared in May...”

A Political Deal in a Deeply Divided Tunisia as Islamists Agree to Yield Power

Author/Source: Carlotta Gall, NY Times

“Compromise has been in short supply since Tunisia sparked the Arab Spring nearly three



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years ago...”

Europé

[Russian Hackers Reportedly Stole Personal Details of 54 Million Turkish Citizens](#)

Author/Source: Eduard Kovacs, Softpedia

“According to reports, Russian hackers might have stolen the personal details of around 54 million Turkish citizens. The Hurriyet Daily News reports that the general manager of a research company called KONDA has revealed that the ID numbers, addresses and fathers’ names of 54 million voters have been stolen from political parties...”

US & Canada

[U.S. family accuses Israel of bowing to Chinese pressure in anti-terrorism case](#)

Author/Source: Haaretz

“Lawyers for the family of an American teenager killed in a 2006 suicide bombing in Tel Aviv urged a U.S. court on Tuesday to reject an attempt by Israel to muzzle a witness in an anti-terrorism case, court documents showed...”

[Alabama terrorism defendant seeks leniency; sentencing set for Friday](#)

Author/Source: Brendan Kirby, AL

”Throughout their prosecution of a pair of terrorism defendants, federal authorities have offered dozens of passages from recorded conversations purporting to demonstrate the men’s nefarious intent...”

Latin America and the Caribbean

[2012 Bogota bomb attack ringleader killed: Defense Minister](#)

Author/Source: Andrew Wight, Colombia Reports

The mastermind behind a 2012 Bogota bomb attack targeting an ex-minister has been killed in a Colombian army operation in the south of the country said the Ministry of Defense late on Sunday...”

[In Honduras, rival gangs keep a death grip on San Pedro Sula](#)

Author/Source: Tracy Wilkinson, LA Times

“Edgardo seems to think it best that people see who we are as we drive in, that we are clearly not a rival gang. This is the Chamelecon barrio of San Pedro Sula, part of a network of turfs on the city's south side that are the realm of vicious gangs...”

[Iran Official Says Final Nuclear Deal Is Possible](#)

Author/Source: Nasser Karimi, ABC News

“A top adviser to Iran's supreme leader said Tuesday Tehran is ready for a final nuclear deal with world powers over its disputed atomic program, a strong signal of interest after it pulled out of expert-level talks to protest the U.S. targeting of companies it says evaded current sanctions...”