

POTOMAC INSTITUTE FOR POLICY STUDIES
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Daily Terrorism Weather Online

Date: 20 December 2013

Middle East

[On Iran, senators defy White House, threaten new sanctions](#)

20 December 2013

Source: The Washington Post

“A bipartisan group of 26 senators introduced legislation Thursday that threatened new sanctions against Iran, dismissing warnings from the White House that such a move could scuttle efforts to peacefully resolve the dispute over Iran’s nuclear program...”

[Egyptian soldier killed in gun battle with militants](#)

20 December 2013

Source: Reuters

“An Egyptian soldier was shot dead in the Sinai Peninsula on Friday while the army was conducting a raid to arrest al Qaeda-linked militants, security sources said...”

[West increasingly wary of Assad ouster by Islamists: Russia](#)

20 December 2013

Source: Reuters

“Western diplomats are increasingly saying that President Bashar al-Assad keeping power is a better option for Syria than his overthrow by Islamist militants, Russia's foreign minister was quoted as saying on Friday...”

[Suicide bombers kill 36 Shi'ite in Iraq: police](#)

20 December 2013

Source: Reuters

“Suicide bombings in Iraq killed at least 36 people on Thursday in attacks targeting Shi'ite pilgrims ahead of a major holy day next week, police said...”

Central Asia

South Asia

East Asia



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[China behavior in South China Sea ship encounter 'irresponsible': U.S.](#)

20 December 2013

Source: Reuters

“China's behavior in a narrowly averted naval collision in the South China Sea was both ‘unhelpful’ and ‘irresponsible,’ U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said on Thursday, warning against incidents that could escalate U.S.-Chinese tension...”

[North Korea threatens, via fax, to 'strike mercilessly' against South Korea](#)

20 December 2013

Source: UPI

“North Korea threatened in a fax message to strike ‘mercilessly’ against South Korea in response to recent protests in Seoul, South Korean officials said.”

Africa

[U.N. base in S. Sudan attacked, peacekeeper deaths reported](#)

20 December 2013

Source: UPI

“Helicopters were dispatched to rescue personnel from a U.N. base in South Sudan that came under a deadly attack, officials said Friday...”

[Militia attack Muslims in Central African Republic's capital](#)

20 December 2013

Source: Reuters

“Heavy arms fire and gunshots rang out across the capital of the Central African Republic on Friday as Christian militia forces attacked Muslim neighbourhoods, sending residents fleeing...”

[African mediators seek to push South Sudan towards peace](#)

20 December 2013

Source: Reuters

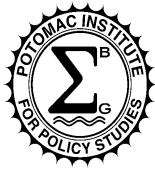
“African mediators said they held productive talks on Friday with South Sudan's President Salva Kiir as they seek to prevent an almost week-long conflict plunging Africa's newest nation into a civil war along ethnic faultlines...”

[Uganda passes law meaning life in prison for some homosexual acts](#)

20 December 2013

Source: Reuters

“Uganda's parliament passed a law on Friday that makes some homosexual acts punishable by life in prison, a move that raised alarm among gays who are already afraid to express their



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sexuality openly...”

[Nigerian navy boosts camera surveillance against pirates](#)

20 December 2013

Source: Reuters

“Nigeria's navy has installed eight automated, camera-equipped surveillance towers in the waters just off its coast, in an effort to tackle a surge in pirate attacks and crude oil theft that have blighted Africa's top energy producer this year...”

Europe

[Hundreds flee partial roof collapse in historic London theater](#)

20 December 2013

Source: UPI

“Buses were pressed into service as ambulances and a neighboring theater into a first-aid station after a roof collapse Thursday at the Apollo in London...”

[Russian man kills only other inhabitants in village](#)

20 December 2013

Source: UPI

“Police in Russia said a man allegedly killed the only two other inhabitants in his hamlet in the Kostroma region because they refused to drink with him...”

[British government says it will help destroy Syria weapons stockpile](#)

20 December 2013

Source: Reuters

“Britain has agreed to destroy part of Syria's chemical weapons stockpile at a commercial facility, the British government said on Friday...”

[Germany says Khodorkovsky has landed in Berlin](#)

20 December 2013

Source: Reuters

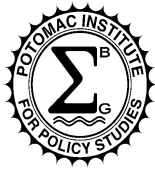
“Former Russian oil tycoon Mikhail Khodorkovsky has landed in Berlin following his release from a Russian jail earlier on Friday, the German foreign ministry said...”

[Turkish PM purges police, facing biggest threat of his rule](#)

20 December 2013

Source: Reuters

“Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan pressed a widening purge of the police command on Friday, tackling the biggest challenge of his rule from what he describes as a foreign-backed



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conspiracy to undermine him and create a ‘state within a state’.”

[Spanish police raid ruling party HQ in graft probe](#)

20 December 2013

Source: Reuters

“Spanish police searched the headquarters of the ruling People's Party (PP) for 14 hours on Thursday and Friday as part of a corruption investigation that earlier this year threatened to destabilize the government of Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy...”

[Russian regulator to ground regional airline following deadly crash](#)

20 December 2013

Source: Reuters

“Russia's airline regulator said on Friday it is grounding regional carrier Tatarstan Airlines after an investigation into a crash that killed 50 people last month revealed some of its pilots and personnel were overworked and inadequately trained...”

[Ukraine to free protestors detained in pro-EU demonstrations](#)

20 December 2013

Source: UPI

“Ukrainian lawmakers have voted to free all protestors arrested in recent pro-European Union demonstrations, officials say...”

[China behavior in South China Sea ship encounter 'irresponsible': U.S.](#)

20 December 2013

Source: Reuters

“China's behavior in a narrowly averted naval collision in the South China Sea was both ‘unhelpful’ and ‘irresponsible,’ U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said on Thursday, warning against incidents that could escalate U.S.-Chinese tension...”

Maritime

[Nigerian navy boosts camera surveillance against pirates](#)

20 December 2013

Source: Reuters

“Nigeria's navy has installed eight automated, camera-equipped surveillance towers in the waters just off its coast, in an effort to tackle a surge in pirate attacks and crude oil theft that have blighted Africa's top energy producer this year...”