



**POTOMAC INSTITUTE FOR POLICY STUDIES**  
**INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR TERRORISM STUDIES**  
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### **Daily Terrorism Weather Online**

1 May 2015

#### **Middle East**

##### **Special ops chief concerned about al Qaeda in Yemen**

*Author/Source: Kristina Wong, The Hill*

“The chief of U.S. special operations forces said Friday there is ‘great concern’ about the disruption of the counterterrorism efforts against al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP)...”

##### **Jailed Islamic State militant still longs for martyrdom**

*Author/Source: Isabel Coles, Reuters*

“The airstrike obliterated its target in northern Iraq and sent the men scattering...”

##### **Militants hand over two bodies to Lebanese army**

*Author/Source: Sylvia Westall, Business Insider*

“Militants have handed over to the Lebanese army the corpses of a civilian and a soldier that had been in the possession of hardline Islamic State fighters, LBC television reported on Friday...”

##### **Air strikes kill civilians in Yemeni capital**

*Author/Source: Mohammed Ghobri, Reuters*

“Warplanes from a Saudi-led coalition struck a residential district of the Yemeni capital Sanaa overnight, killing eight to 10 civilians, residents said on Friday...”

##### **Monitor says strike by U.S.-led forces kills 17 civilians in Syria**

*Author/Source: Reuters*

“An air strike by U.S.-led forces on the northern Syrian province of Aleppo on Friday killed at least 17 civilians including two children, and wounded dozens more, a group monitoring the Syrian conflict said...”

##### **Ethiopian Israelis decry alleged police racism**

*Author/Source: Al Jazeera*

“Clashes have broken out in Jerusalem as more than 1,000 Ethiopian Israelis staged a protest, demanding an investigation into alleged police racism and violence...”

##### **Saudi Arabia to restructure Aramco, separate it from oil ministry: Arabiya TV**

*Author/Source: Rania El Gamal and Reem Shamseddine, Reuters*

“Saudi Arabia's Supreme Economic Council has approved a restructuring of state oil company Saudi Aramco [SDABO.UL] that includes separating it from the oil ministry, Al Arabiya television channel reported on Friday, citing sources...”

##### **Yemen crisis: Saudi Arabia 'repels Houthi border attack'**

*Author/Source: BBC*

“Three Saudi troops and "dozens" of Houthi rebels were killed as Saudi forces repelled a



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major attack from inside Yemen, Saudi officials say...”

### **Oil falls from 2015 highs, Iraq exports hit record**

*Author/Source: Robert Gibbons, Reuters*

“Oil prices eased off 2015 highs on Friday after Iraq said its crude oil exports hit a record in April, and prices were pressured also by a stronger dollar...”

### **Five car bombs kill at least 21 people in Baghdad**

*Author/Source: Al Arabiya*

“Shortly after the European Union’s humanitarian aid department on Thursday warned that the situation in Iraq is deteriorating, five car bombs exploded across Baghdad on Thursday evening, killing at least 21 people...”

## **Central Asia**

### **Fitch Affirms Kazakhstan at 'BBB+'; Outlook Stable**

*Author/Source: Reuters*

“May 01 (Fitch) Fitch Ratings has affirmed Kazakhstan's Long-term foreign and local currency Issuer Default Ratings (IDR) at 'BBB+' and 'A-', respectively...”

## **South Asia**

### **Pakistani military fires rare criticism at political leader**

*Author/Source: Syed Raza Hassan, Reuters*

“The Pakistani military on Friday lashed out at the leader of one of the country's biggest political parties, in rare censure of a civilian politician for his sharp criticism of the army...”

### **Clashes in Maldives as protesters call for ex-president's release**

*Author/Source: Tom Miles, Reuters*

“Clashes broke out in the Maldives on Friday after thousands of supporters of the tropical archipelago's jailed former president took to the streets to call for his release...”

### **Afghan delegation heads to Qatar for talks with the Taliban**

*Author/Source: The Guardian*

“An Afghan government delegation is heading to Qatar for “open discussions” with representatives of the Taliban aimed at ending Afghanistan’s long war, officials have said...”

### **Nepal quake: 1,000 EU citizens still unaccounted for, says envoy**

*Author/Source: BBC*

“Officials are struggling to find 1,000 EU citizens who are unaccounted for in Nepal, six days after an earthquake that killed more than 6,000 people...”

### **TTP claims Karachi attack that killed DSP, two others**

*Author/Source: Mohammad Raza, Dawn*

“At least three policemen, including a deputy superintendent of police (DSP), were killed on Friday when armed men opened fire on their vehicle in Karachi's Gulshan-i-Hadeed area...”



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### **Peace committee member killed in Bajaur**

*Author/Source: Dawn*

“A peace committed member was killed on Friday in an improvised explosive device (IED) blast in northwestern Pakistan's Bajaur tribal region, security sources said...”

### **Southeast Asia**

### **Thai junta reforms to fail without better charter - former PM**

*Author/Source: Channel News Asia*

“Any achievements by Thailand's ruling junta while in power will be lost without significant changes to the country's draft constitution, Democrat Party leader and former Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva said on Friday...”

### **Myanmar rebel chief says peace deal not possible amid Kokang fighting**

*Author/Source: Aung Hla Tun, Reuters*

“A ceasefire deal to end Myanmar's long-running ethnic insurgencies is not possible as long as fighting persists, the leader of the country's largest rebel group said on Friday...”

### **East Asia**

### **U.S. says China's activity in South China Sea won't help peace**

*Author/Source: Emily Stephenson, Reuters*

“The U.S. State Department said on Friday that China's activities building on reclaimed land in the South China Sea do not contribute to peace in the region, regardless of how the facilities are used...”

### **North Korea says Japan's NY abduction summit bid to deceive world**

*Author/Source: Michelle Nichols, Reuters*

“North Korea condemned on Friday plans by Japan to hold a summit in New York on the abduction of Japanese citizens by Pyongyang decades ago, saying the issue had been resolved and accusing Tokyo of escalating a human rights campaign against North Korea...”

### **Africa**

### **Ghana Seeks to Transform Its Power Sector**

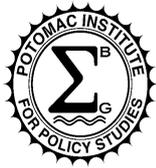
*Author/Source: Kim Lewis, Ghana Business News*

“President John Dramani Mahama on Friday called on workers in the power sector to exhibit a high sense of professionalism and fairness that would satisfy Ghanaians in the current energy challenges...”

### **Benin president's party loses seats in parliamentary vote**

*Author/Source: Allegresse Sasse, Reuters*

“The ruling alliance of Benin President Thomas Boni Yayi lost seats in a parliamentary election last week, initial results showed, weakening his ability to push through a constitutional reform plan...”



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### **Rocket attack kills three at Benghazi medical center in Libya**

*Author/Source: Ayman al-Warfalli, Reuters*

“A rocket hit a medical center in Libya's eastern Benghazi on Friday, killing three people, medics said...”

### **Soldier killed as Burundi hit by more violent protests**

*Author/Source: News 24*

“A Burundi soldier was shot dead by an intelligence officer while at least nine protesters were hurt in renewed clashes in the capital Thursday over a bid by the president to stand for a third term...”

### **Burundi students of closed university camp out at US embassy**

*Author/Source: BBC*

“Hundreds of students in Burundi have spent the night in front of the US embassy after their university was closed amid anti-government protests...”

### **Niger urges evacuation of Lake Chad over Boko Haram attacks**

*Author/Source: News 24*

“Niger authorities have urged people living on islands in Lake Chad to leave to avoid new attacks by Boko Haram, after an assault by the Islamists last weekend left at least 74 dead...”

## **Europe**

### **Chemical weapons watchdog: Team ready to probe attack claims as soon as Syria allows visit**

*Author/Source: Fox News*

“The global chemical weapons watchdog says a team stands ready to visit Syria to investigate recent claims of chemical weapon attacks against civilians as soon as the government gives approval...”

### **Macedonian prosecutor indicts opposition leader in wiretap scandal**

*Author/Source: Kole Casule, Reuters*

“The Macedonian state prosecutor formally indicted the country's top opposition politician late on Thursday over his role in a surveillance scandal that challenged the nine-year rule of Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski...”

### **Two Ukrainian serviceman killed in past 24 hours in east: military**

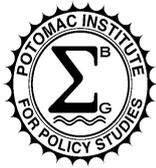
*Author/Source: Alessandra Prentice, Reuters*

“Two Ukrainian serviceman have been killed and two wounded in separatist attacks on government forces in eastern Ukraine despite the Minsk ceasefire agreement, Interfax news agency quoted the Ukrainian military as saying on Friday...”

### **German police foil Islamist attack ahead of Frankfurt cycle race**

*Author/Source: Peter Maushagen, Reuters*

“German police said on Thursday they had thwarted a planned Islamist attack, detaining a couple with suspected Salafist militant links, and cancelled a Frankfurt May Day cycle race after they had been seen along the route...”



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### **Italian police clash with protesters at Milan Expo**

*Author, Source: The Irish Times*

“Italian police have fired tear gas at demonstrators as protests overshadowed the start of the Milan Expo, a global food fair that Italy’s government hopes will help to put a new face on the country after years of economic decline...”

### **Russia beefs up anti-piracy laws**

*Author/Source: BBC*

“Russia is beefing up the law it uses to tackle online piracy...”

### **May Day demos staged around the world; Turkey square blocked**

*Author/Source: Yahoo News*

“Left-wing groups, governments and trade unions were staging rallies around the world Friday to mark International Workers Day...”

### **EU Parliament recommends antiterrorism training mission in Kenya**

*Author/Source: Aggrey Mutambo, The Daily Nation*

“Kenya’s fight against terrorism received a boost on Thursday after the European Parliament recommended training and equipment support to Kenyan security agencies...”

## **US & Canada**

### **Data breach hits UC Berkeley**

*Author/Source: Elise Viebeck, The Hill*

“The University of California’s flagship school was hit with a data breach that might have exposed students’ Social Security numbers, the college said Thursday...”

### **Navy escorts U.S. cargo ships near Iran**

*Author/Source: Barbara Starr, CNN*

“U.S. Navy warships accompanied four U.S.-flagged vessels through the Strait of Hormuz Thursday, beginning a new military operation to offer armed protection from potential harassment by Iran’s navy, a U.S. defense official told CNN...”

## **South and Central America and the Caribbean**

### **Military helicopter shot down as drug violence surges in western Mexico**

*Author/Source: Joshua Partlow, The Washington Post*

“Gunmen shot down a Mexican military helicopter Friday in the western state of Jalisco, killing three soldiers, and set fire to buses, blocked roads, and attacked banks and gas stations in a sharp escalation of violence against the government...”

### **Cuba-Britain Business Forum Produces Deals Worth \$400 Million**

*Author/Source: The Latin American Herald Tribune*

“Cuba and Britain signed investment accords in tourism, energy and agriculture valued at approximately \$400 million during a business forum held this week in Havana, the state-run Web site Cubadebate reported Thursday...”