



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

31 May 2015

#### **Middle East**

##### **Al-Qaeda claims two attacks against UN in Mali – report**

*Author/Source: News 24*

“Al-Qaeda's North Africa arm has claimed responsibility for two attacks against the United Nation's Minusma peacekeeping mission in Mali this week, the Mauritanian Al-Akhbar news agency reported on Sunday...”

##### **Taliban offensive tests Afghanistan-Pakistan intelligence-sharing deal**

*Author/Source: Naila Inayat & Shirzad Ashoori, Washington Times*

“A landmark intelligence-sharing pact between traditional rivals Afghanistan and Pakistan is facing a quick and severe test as the Taliban step up their traditional spring offensive and score some early military successes in Afghanistan’s north...”

##### **Iraq’s Sunni Muslims trapped between IS and government**

*Author/Source: BBC News*

“Thousands of families in Iraq are trapped by fighting between Islamic State extremists and government forces...”

##### **Islamic State drives back Syria insurgents near Turkey**

*Author/Source: Reuters*

“Islamic State fighters advanced against rival insurgents in northern Syria on Sunday, capturing areas close to a border crossing with Turkey and threatening their supply route to Aleppo city, fighters and a group monitoring the war said...”

##### **Exclusive: Six powers agree way to restore U.N. sanctions in push for Iran deal – sources**

*Author/Source: Louis Charbonneau & John Irish & Parisa Hafezi, Reuters*

“Six world powers have agreed on a way to restore U.N. sanctions on Iran if the country breaks the terms of a future nuclear deal, clearing a major obstacle to an accord ahead of a June 30 deadline, Western officials told Reuters...”

##### **Western Officials Alarmed as ISIS Expands Territory in Libya**

*Author/Source: Suliman Ali Zway & David Kirkpatrick, The New York Times*

“The branch of the Islamic State that controls Surt has expanded its territory and pushed back the militia from the neighboring city of Misurata, militia leaders acknowledged Sunday...”

##### **Suicide bombing claimed by Islamic State in western Libyan city kills five: official**

*Author/Source: Ahmed Elumami & Ulf Laessing & Ahmed Tolba, Reuters*

“Five people were killed and eight wounded in a suicide bombing claimed by Islamic State outside the Libyan city of Misrata on Sunday, security officials said ...”



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### **[Arab war planes bomb Yemen; exiles report U.S.-Houthi talks](#)**

*Author/Source: Sami Aboudi & Noah Browning*

“Aircraft from a Saudi-led coalition bombed Yemen's Houthi outposts throughout the country on Sunday, residents said, while Yemen's government in exile said the militia was in talks with the United States in Oman...”

### **[State Department Working to Free Americans Held in Yemen](#)**

*Author/Source: NBC News*

“State Department officials on Sunday confirmed reports that they are trying to secure freedom for various Americans being detained in restive Yemen...”

### **[Netanyahu slams Palestinians over Israel boycott campaign](#)**

*Author/Source: CBS News*

“Israel faces an ‘international campaign to blacken its name’ aimed at delegitimizing its very existence no matter what its policies are, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Sunday...”

### **[Benjamin Netanyahu ‘committed to’ two-state solution for Israel, Palestine](#)**

*Author/Source: Maria Khan, International Business Times*

“Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said that he is ‘committed’ to a two-state solution for the Israel Gaza conflict calling on Palestinians to return to negotiations on 31 May...”

## **Central Asia**

### **[Russia President Vladimir Putin shut out from G-7 meeting](#)**

*Author/Source: The Economic Times*

“Russia's Vladimir Putin won't be on the guest list when President Barack Obama and other world leaders assemble in Germany next week, as part of the punishment for alleged Kremlin-supported aggression in Ukraine...”

## **South Asia**

### **[Nepal quake: Damaged schools re-open in Kathmandu](#)**

*Author/Source: BBC News*

“Thousands of schools damaged during April's devastating earthquake in Nepal have begun to re-open...”

### **[Giant cross rises in Pakistan, home to a Christian minority](#)**

*Author/Source: Adil Jawad, Yahoo News*

“Now towering over this violent port city in Pakistan, where Islamic militant attacks and gangland shootings remain common, is an uncommon sight in this Muslim-majority country: a 42-meter (140-foot) Christian cross...”



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### **India to buy only 36 French Rafale fighter jets: minister**

*Author/Source: Yahoo News*

“India will only buy 36 Rafale fighter jets as they are "way too expensive", the defence minister said Sunday, dashing lingering French hopes of a larger deal that has been years in the making...”

## **Southeast Asia**

### **15 Wounded in Philippines Mosque Attack**

*Author/Source: Pakistan Observer*

“Fifteen people including 10 police officers were wounded in an attack on a police camp mosque on a remote island in Philippines long plagued by Islamic militancy, officials said Saturday...”

### **Myanmar navy detains journalists covering boat people ‘rescue,’ says all on board Bangladeshis**

*Author/Source: Fox News*

“Myanmar's navy has briefly detained journalists who tried to reach a remote island where more than 700 migrants were being held after their ship was found drifting off the country's southwestern coast...”

## **East Asia**

### **Drought-hit North Korea seen able to avoid food crisis**

*Author/Source: Jack Kim & James Pearson, Reuters*

“North Korea has updated farming methods and switched crops that could help soften the blow of drought and avert a disastrous food shortage, an aid worker and an analyst said on Sunday, after a U.N. official warned of another ‘huge food deficit’ ...”

### **Singapore Police Fatally Shoot Man Near Regional Security Forum**

*Author/Source: Voice of America*

“Police in Singapore say they fatally shot one man and detained two others when they crashed their car through barricades early Sunday near the venue of a high-level regional security forum...”

### **China, U.S. tone down rhetoric but far from South China Sea solution**

*Author/Source: Raju Gopalakrishnan & Rachel Armstrong, Reuters*

“After a months-long row over Beijing's island-building in the South China Sea, the United States and China were relatively restrained at Asia's top security forum this weekend, but no closer to any solution...”



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## **Africa**

### **Officials: Militants blow up natural gas pipeline in Egypt**

*Author/Source: Ashraf Sweilam, The Daily Star*

“Security officials in Egypt say suspected Islamic militants have blown up a natural gas pipeline outside el-Arish, the provincial capital of North Sinai...”

### **Blast injures 4 in Nigerian city, day after attacks kill 30**

*Author/Source: Fox News*

“A bomb in a market tore off a man's arm and injured three other people in Maiduguri on Sunday, a day after the northeast Nigerian city was hit by dozens of rocket-propelled grenades and a suicide bombing which together killed 30 people...”

### **East Africa nations to meet on Burundi crisis, minus Pierre Nkurunziza**

*Author/Source: The Economic Times*

“East African officials were to meet in Tanzania on Sunday for a summit on the crisis in Burundi sparked by a divisive bid by President Pierre Nkurunziza to stand for a third term...”

### **Suma sings Nigeria's praises at Buhari's inauguration**

*Author/Source: Carien du Plessis, News 24*

“President Jacob Zuma has praised Nigeria's democratic transition to a new government with the swearing in of its new president, Muhammadu Buhari...”

### **Fresh 4,200 migrants from Africa rescued in Mediterranean**

*Author/Source: The News Nigeria*

“The Italian coast guards said in Rome on Sunday that more than 4,200 migrants trying to reach Europe have been rescued from boats in the Mediterranean in the last 24 hours...”

### **South Africa to Tackle Islamic State Recruitment**

*Author/Source: Luke Coleman, Bas News*

“An Al Jazeera investigation has revealed that at least 23 South Africans have left the country to join Islamic State (IS) militants in Iraq and Syria...”

### **Ethiopian politician call for probing 'poll fraud'**

*Author/Source: World Bulletin*

“Veteran Ethiopian politician Merera Gudina has called for launching an inquiry into alleged irregularities during the latest elections...”

### **Probes of child abuse in Central African Republic should intensify: UN rights chief**

*Author/Source: i24 News*

“The United Nations human rights chief on Saturday urged several countries to intensify their investigations of alleged sexual abuse of young children in the Central African Republic by French and African soldiers posted in the conflict-torn nation...”



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## Europe

### [European Union anger at Russian travel blacklist](#)

*Author/Source: BBC News*

“The European Union has responded angrily to Russia's entry ban against 89 European politicians, officials and military leaders...”

### [Greek Leader Discusses Bailout Deal With Hollande, Merkel](#)

*Author/Source: Demetris Nellas, ABC News*

“Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras on Sunday spoke with the leaders of France and Germany in their second conference call in three days to discuss progress in the talks between Athens and its lenders, Greek officials said...”

## US & Canada

### [U.S. citizen Mohamed Soltan freed from Egyptian prison](#)

*Author/Source: Fox News*

“An Egyptian-American who had been sentenced to life in prison in Egypt and had been on a hunger strike for more than a year before being freed has arrived back in the United States...”

### [Anti-Islam event planner going into hiding, report says](#)

*Author/Source: Fox News*

“The man who organized an anti-Islam rally outside a Phoenix mosque Friday is reportedly planning to go into hiding...”

### [Israel Day Parade faces Jewish anti-Israel protestors](#)

*Author/Sources: Yahoo News*

“Marchers in the Israel Day Parade up Fifth Avenue faced some dissonant spectators: Orthodox Jews who don't believe Israel should exist...”

## South and Central America and the Caribbean

### [Venezuela Parliamentary Chief: I Will Sue Spanish, U.S. Newspapers](#)

*Author/Source: Latin American Herald Tribune*

“The head of the Venezuelan Parliament, Diosdado Cabello, announced on Sunday that he will sue Spanish daily ABC and U.S. daily The Wall Street Journal for publishing stories “without presenting evidence” that he allegedly has links to drug trafficking and money laundering...”

### [Was it a Massacre? Evidence of Torture at Mexican Mass Killing](#)

*Source: Telesur*

“Mexico's national security commissioner, Monte Alejandro Rubido, bets on his job that no massacre took place at the El Sol ranch in Michoacan state...”