



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

30 May 2015

#### **Middle East**

##### **At least 4 Americans held by Yemen's rebels**

Author/Source: CBS News

“At least four Americans are being held in Yemen by rebels who toppled the U.S. backed government...”

##### **Islamic State's Saudi branch calls for clearing Arabian Peninsula of Shi'ites**

Author/Source: Reuters

“Saudi Arabia's branch of militant group Islamic State has said it wants to clear the Arabian Peninsula of Shi'ite Muslims and urged young men in the kingdom to join its cause...”

##### **Mohamed Soltan, U.S. Citizen Imprisoned in Egypt, Is Released**

Author/Source: The New York Times

“Mohamed Soltan, an American citizen who spent nearly two years in an Egyptian prison on charges that he supported an Islamist protest, has been released by the Egyptian authorities...”

##### **U.S., allies conduct 22 air strikes against Islamic State militants: combined joint task force**

Author/Source: Reuters

“U.S.-led forces targeted Islamic State militants in Iraq with 16 air strikes from Friday morning through Saturday morning and conducted another six strikes against the group in Syria...”

##### **Pro-Iran militias take upper hand after U.S.-backed forces crumble in Anbar**

Author/Source: The Washington Post

“Iraqi forces have seized from Islamic State militants a string of hamlets and villages in the dust-choked desert southeast of Ramadi in recent days, closing in on the key city for a counteroffensive.”

##### **ISIS blows up notorious prison complex in Syria's Palmyra**

Author/Source: Haaretz

“Islamic State blew up a major prison complex in the central Syrian city of Palmyra on Saturday, according to a group monitoring the war, destroying an important symbol of government control in the jihadist-held city...”

##### **Regime barrel bombs kill 71 Syria civilians – IS razes notorious prison in Palmyra**

Author/Source: Kuwait Times

“Barrel bombs dropped from regime helicopters Saturday killed more than 70 civilians in Syria's Aleppo, while government forces in neighboring Iraq retook an area west of the jihadist-controlled city of Ramadi...”



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### **[Six powers agree way to restore U.N. sanctions in push for Iran deal](#)**

Author/Source: 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...”

### **[At least 4 Americans held by Yemen's rebels](#)**

Author/Source: CBS News

“At least four Americans are being held in Yemen by rebels who toppled the U.S. backed government...”

### **[Ex-Hamas minister: Gaza road paved in preparation for right time to attack](#)**

Author/Source: Liad Osmo, Ynet

Former Hamas interior minister Fathi Hamad said Friday that a new dirt road the terror organization's military wing is paving along the Gaza-Israel border is preparation for a "window of opportunity to attack..."

## **Central Asia**

### **[Ex-Georgian president, wanted at home, becomes governor in Ukraine](#)**

Author/Source: RT

“Georgia's former President Mikhail Saakashvili, wanted by his country's prosecutors for embezzlement, abuse of power and politically-motivated attacks, has been appointed governor of Ukraine's Odessa region...”

### **[OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Dačić to visit Armenia](#)**

Author/Source: OSCE

“OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and Serbia's Foreign Minister Ivica Dačić will visit Armenia on 3 June 2015...”

### **[Tehran to host Caspian Sea special working group meeting](#)**

Author/Source: Trend News Agency

“The 40th meeting of the working group on determining the legal status of the Caspian Sea at the level of deputy foreign ministers will be held in Tehran on June 1...”

## **South Asia**

### **[Gunmen kill 22 bus passengers in Pakistan attack](#)**

Author/Source: Gul Yousufzai, Reuters

“Gunmen disguised as members of the Pakistani security forces killed at least 22 passengers on Friday night after forcing them off buses traveling from the western city of Quetta to Karachi on the southern coast...”



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### [UAE pledges to equip Afghan forces](#)

Author/Source: Afghanistan Times

“This comes at a time that the Vice President Abdul Rashid Dostum during an official trip to the UAE has recently urged the country to support Afghan forces.” Source: Afghanistan Times...”

## **East Asia**

### [Carter vows U.S. will continue, even step up operations over disputed South China Sea island](#)

Author/Source: Fox News

“Defense Secretary Ash Carter on Saturday urged China to stop trying to convert artificial reefs in the South China Sea into a military airfield but also made clear the U.S. has no intentions of ending air-and-sea operation in that region...”

### [U.S. to bring Japan under its cyber defense umbrella](#)

Author/Source: Tim Kelly, Reuters

“The United States will extend its cyber defense umbrella over Japan, helping its Asian ally cope with the growing threat of online attacks against military bases and infrastructure such as power grids...”

## **Southeast Asia**

### [Myanmar lands seized migrant boat on island](#)

Author/Source: Reuters

“A boat packed with more than 700 "boat people" seized off Myanmar's coast was stopped on a small island on Saturday, as officials gave mixed signals about its final destination...”

### [Singapore police kill man near conference attended by U.S. defense secy](#)

Author/Source: Reuters

“Singapore police said on Sunday they shot one person dead and detained two others early in the morning after the car they were traveling in crashed past police barricades near a hotel where a high-level regional security meeting is being held...”

### [Myanmar lands seized migrant boat on island](#)

Author/Source: Thomson Reuters Foundation

“A boat packed with more than 700 "boat people" seized off Myanmar's coast was stopped on a small island on Saturday, as officials gave mixed signals about its final destination...”

## **Africa**

### [Burundi election body's vice president has fled country](#)

Author/Source: Deutsche Welle

“Spes-Caritas Ndironkeye left the central African nation on a flight for neighboring Rwanda on Friday evening...”



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### **[Nigeria's Maiduguri city hit by deadly bomb, overnight attack](#)**

Author/Source: Lanre Ola, Reuters

“A suspected suicide bomber blew himself up inside a mosque in Nigeria's Maiduguri city on Saturday afternoon killing at least 18 people...”

## **Europe**

### **[Russian aircraft head off U.S. destroyer in Black Sea: RIA](#)**

Author/Source: Jason Bush, Reuters

“Russian military aircraft were scrambled to head off a U.S. warship that was acting "aggressively" in the Black Sea...”

### **[Russia's travel ban against EU officials sparks fury](#)**

Author/Source: Monica Sarkar, CNN

“Russia's travel ban against 89 European politicians and military leaders from 17 countries has sparked an angry reaction from the EU...”

### **[Bulgaria Foreign Ministry: Iliyan Vasilev on list of citizens barred from Russian Federation](#)**

Author/Source: FOCUS News Agency

“Bulgaria’s Foreign Ministry was informed by the Bulgarian Embassy in Moscow on Friday, May 29, 2015, about a list of citizens of EU member states who are barred from the Russian Federation...”

### **[Six powers agree way to restore U.N. sanctions in push for Iran deal](#)**

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...”

## **US & Canada**

### **[U.S. Removes Cuba From State-Sponsored Terrorism List](#)**

Author/Source: Julie Herschfeld Davis, The New York Times

“The Obama administration on Friday removed Cuba from a list of state sponsors of terrorism, a crucial step in President Obama’s push to normalize ties between Washington and Havana...”

### **[Anti-Islam protest at Phoenix mosque under close police watch](#)**

Author/Source: Ynet News

“About 500 protesters gathered outside a Phoenix mosque as police kept two groups sparring about Islam far apart...”



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### **US and Iran resume 'substantive' nuclear talks in Geneva as deadline looms**

Author/Source: The Guardian

“A month out from a nuclear deal deadline, top US and Iranian diplomats gathered in Geneva on Saturday in an effort to bridge differences over how quickly to ease economic sanctions on Tehran and how significantly the Iranians must open up military facilities to international inspections...”

### **Carter vows U.S. will continue, even step up operations over disputed South China Sea island**

Author/Source: Fox News

“Defense Secretary Ash Carter on Saturday urged China to stop trying to convert artificial reefs in the South China Sea into a military airfield but also made clear the U.S. has no intentions of ending air-and-sea operation in that region...”

### **FBI struggling with surge in homegrown terror cases**

Evan Perez and Shimon Prokupecz, CNN

“The New York Police Department and other law enforcement agencies around the nation are increasing their surveillance of ISIS supporters in the U.S...”

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

### **Guatemalan Protesters Demand President Quit Over Corruption**

Author/Source: The New York Times

“Guatemalans angry over corruption scandals protested on the capital's main square Saturday, pressing their demands that President Otto Perez Molina resign...”

### **Venezuela's Opposition Supporters Protest Government**

Author/Source: Ezequiel Minaya, Wall Street Journal

“Tens of thousands of antigovernment protesters marched in this politically divided country Saturday to back a jailed opposition leader...”