



POTOMAC INSTITUTE FOR POLICY STUDIES
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Daily Terrorism Weather Online

13 May 2015

Middle East

[ICC Urges Israel to Give Material for Preliminary Gaza Probe](#)

Author/Source: Edith M. Lederer, ABC News

“The prosecutor of the International Criminal Court warned Israel Tuesday that if it doesn't provide reliable information for her preliminary probe into possible war crimes in Palestinian territories she may be forced to decide whether to launch a full-scale investigation based on Palestinian allegations...”

[Iran Vows End of June Nuclear Talks Deadline](#)

Author/Source: The Daily Star

“Tehran's top nuclear negotiator said Tuesday he hoped diplomacy resuming this week will yield results before a self-imposed end-June deadline for a final deal to curtail Iran's atomic...”

[Iraq Says ISIS Demolishes Ruins to Cover Up Looting Operations](#)

Author/Source: Al-Sharq Al-Awsat

“The videos of Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) militants destroying ancient artifacts in Iraq's museums and blowing up 3,000-year-old temples are chilling enough, but one of Iraq's top antiquities officials is now saying the destruction is a cover for an even more sinister activity—the systematic looting of Iraq's cultural heritage...”

[Jabhat al-Nusra Launches War Against IS in Qalamoun](#)

Author/Source: Abdallah Suleiman Ali, Al-Monitor

“Jabhat al-Nusra's emir in Qalamoun, Abu Malek al-Talli, turned against his previous convictions regarding his relationship with “the advocates of the same ideology” in the Islamic State (IS) whom he had refused, until recently, to describe as Kharijites...”

[ISIS Makes a Fortune From Smuggling Migrants Says Report](#)

Author/Source: Vivienne Walt, TIME

“The movement of migrants across the Middle East and Africa towards Europe has generated up to \$323 million for the Islamic State in Iraq and Greater Syria (ISIS) and other jihadist groups, a new report has revealed...”

[After Jewish Bookstore Plot, Spain Arrests ISIS Recruiters](#)

Author/Source: Arutz Sheva

“Spanish police on Tuesday arrested two Moroccan men accused of using the Internet to recruit Islamic State group (ISIS) supporters, the latest in a string of operations in Spain against backers of the jihadist terrorist group...”

[ISIS Deputy Leader Abu Alaa al-Afri Killed by Airstrike: Iraq Military](#)

Author/Source: Alexander Smith, James Novogrod, and Paul Ziad Nassar, NBC News

“The deputy leader of ISIS has been killed in an airstrike by the U.S.-led coalition, Iraq's



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government announced Wednesday...”

[Iraqi Refinery May be Destroyed in Battle to Save it from ISIS](#)

Author/Source: Haaretz

“Islamic State militants have dug trenches around natural gas and hydrogen tanks at Iraq's largest refinery, raising the stakes in a battle where the price of victory may be the refinery itself...”

[Vatican to Recognize Palestinian State in Treaty](#)

Author/Source: BBC News

“The Vatican is to formally recognise Palestinian statehood in a treaty that will be signed shortly, officials say...”

[UN Nuclear Watchdog Says Can Push for Access to Iran Military Sites under New Deal](#)

Author/Source: Haaretz

“The UN nuclear watchdog can push for access to Iranian military sites under the terms of a preliminary deal with Tehran, the head of the body told the Associated Press in an interview...”

[Al-Qaeda's Jabhat al-Nusra Shows Captured ISIS Child Soldiers in New Video](#)

Author/Source: Alessandria Masi, International Business Times

“Al Qaeda's branch in Syria has captured two Syrian children allegedly fighting for the Islamic State group...”

[Gulf Allies, Worried About Iran, Show More Muscle with U.S.](#)

Author/Source: Elise Labott, CNN

“When President Barack Obama welcomes America's Persian Gulf allies to the White House and Camp David this week, he will be confronting a group of countries that are assertively strengthening their own alliance as a counterweight to Iran and staking out a new status quo with the United States...”

[U.S. Says Assad Caught With Sarin. Again.](#)

Author/Source: Josh Rogin and Eli Lake, Bloomberg

“The U.S. government was informed months ago that an international monitoring body found traces of chemical weapons that President Bashar al-Assad had promised to turn over, including sarin gas – a clear violation of the deal he struck with President Obama after crossing the administration's "red line" two years ago...”

[Israeli General Sees Common Interests with Hamas](#)

Author/Source: The Daily Star

“Israel and Hamas share common interests, and the Palestinian Islamists must stay in power in the Gaza Strip to prevent the enclave descending into chaos, an Israeli general was quoted as saying Tuesday...”



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Some Fighting after Yemen Cease-fire: Officials

Author/Source: Ahmed Al-Haj, The Daily Star

“With cargo ships poised to launch a desperately needed aid operation in embattled Yemen, a five-day humanitarian cease-fire began Tuesday night, just hours after Saudi-led coalition warplanes struck against Shiite rebels and their allies...”

Roadside Bomb Kills Three Civilians in Egypt’s Sinai

Author/Source: Al-Arabiya

“A roadside bomb killed three civilians Wednesday in the Sinai Peninsula where Egyptian forces are fighting an Islamist insurgency, police and medics said...”

ISIS Gains More Territory in Syria

Author/Source: FOX News

“Syrian activists say the Islamic State group has seized more territory in the central province of Homs amid intense clashes with government forces...”

Central Asia

Stress Tests for Kazakhstan

Author/Source: International Crisis Group

“Actions in Ukraine have altered how Kazakhstan views Russian intent in the former Soviet Union and increased its sense of vulnerability...”

More Trouble on the Kyrgyz-Uzbek Border

Author/Source: Catherine Putz, The Diplomat

“Tuesday, in southern Kyrgyzstan’s Batken region, Uzbek border guards reportedly killed a Kyrgyz citizen — identified by Uzbek officials to Interfax as 22-year old Mansur Makhmudjon Uulu — when he attempted to “smuggle ten tons of potatoes and five tons of dried apricots” out of Sokh district, an exclave of Uzbekistan surrounded completely by Kyrgyz territory...”

South Asia

‘Six killed’ in Militant Siege on Afghan Mosque

Author/Source: Daily Mail

“Two heavily armed Taliban gunmen stormed a mosque in southern Afghanistan Wednesday, officials said, killing at least six people in a fight with security forces that lasted several hours and ended with their deaths...”

Dozens Killed as Armed Men Open Fire on Bus in Pakistan

Author/Source: Asad Hashim, Al-Jazeera

“At least 43 people have been killed and many more have been wounded in an attack on a bus in the Pakistani city of Karachi, officials told Al Jazeera...”



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NATO Plans Civilian-Led Mission in Afghanistan After 2016

Author/Source: Emre Peker, The Wall Street Journal

“The North Atlantic Treaty Organization on Wednesday formally announced plans to retain a small troop presence in Afghanistan after 2016 to help strengthen Afghan security forces as they struggle against a resilient Taliban insurgency...”

Pakistani Leader Rebukes Taliban in Show of Afghan Support

Author/Source: Margherita Stancati and Saeed Shah, The Wall Street Journal

“Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif delivered an unusually strong condemnation of the Afghan Taliban on a visit to Kabul, signaling a continued rapprochement between the two countries...”

Southeast Asia

Bangladesh Rescues Malaysia-bound Illegal Migrants from Boat

Author/Source: Serajul Quadir, Reuters

“A Bangladesh coastguard and navy team rescued 116 Malaysia-bound migrants on Tuesday, including several children, from a boat that had been abandoned by its crew in the Bay of Bengal, the coastguard said...”

Pentagon Weighs Sending Planes, Ships Near Disputed South China Sea Reefs

Author/Source: Phil Stewart and David Brunnstrom, Reuters

“The Pentagon is considering sending U.S. military aircraft and ships to assert freedom of navigation around rapidly growing Chinese-made artificial islands in the disputed South China Sea, a U.S. official said on Tuesday...”

Japan, Philippines Hold Joint Naval Drills in South China Sea

Author/Source: Yuka Hayashi, The Wall Street Journal

“Japan and the Philippines conducted Tuesday a joint naval exercise in the South China Sea, in the latest attempt by the two countries to build closer security ties to respond to China’s aggressive maritime behavior...”

Budget 2015: Cash Boost Underlines Threat Posed by Islamic State

Author/Source: Cameron Stewart, The Australian

“The growing threat of terrorism at home and abroad has catapulted national security and defence into a first order budget priority with new money being lavished across a range of areas...”

East Asia

North Korean Defense Minister Executed by Antiaircraft Fire, South Says

Author/Source: Jeyup S Kwaak, The Wall Street Journal

“North Korea’s defense minister has been executed by antiaircraft fire for disloyalty and showing disrespect to dictator Kim Jong Un, senior officials from Seoul’s National Intelligence Service told South Korean lawmakers in a closed hearing Tuesday...”



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India's Modi Visits China Amid Strained Ties

Author/Source: Samantha Subramanian

“As Narendra Modi’s first state visit to China begins on Thursday, the Indian prime minister is grappling with a host of concerns: fractious border issues, a vast trade deficit, Beijing’s proximity to India’s arch-rival Pakistan, and signs of strain Sino-Indian ties...”

Africa

Reports of Coup Attempt in Burundi

Author/Source: AllAfrica

“A column of armed troops, trailed by a crowd of jubilant protesters, was heading for downtown Bujumburu after an apparent coup attempt, a local news outlet reported from the city on Wednesday...”

Nigeria: Boko Haram – 11,000 Nigerian Refugees Return from Niger Republic

Author/Source: Ejike Ejike, AllAfrica

“The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) has so far registered a total of 11, 449 Nigerian returnees from the Republic of Niger at the transit camp in Geidam, Yobe State and transported about 7, 000 of them to their various states as at yesterday...”

Migrant Crisis: EU Plan to Strike Libya Networks Could Include Ground Forces

Author/Source: Patrick Kingsley, The Guardian

“European plans for a military campaign to smash the migrant smuggling networks operating out of Libya include options for ground forces on Libyan territory...”

Europe

NATO, Ukraine Concerned by Russian Comments on Nuclear Weapons in Crimea

Author/Source: Adrian Croft, Reuters

“NATO and Ukraine voiced concern on Wednesday about Russian statements on the possible future stationing of nuclear weapons in Ukraine's Crimea region, which has been annexed by Moscow...”

Thousands Take Part in Estonia's War Games

Author/Source: Sam Jones, Financial Times

“For more than a week now, the birch forests and heaths across Estonia have echoed with gunfire, explosions and the heavy crump of artillery...”

Top German Spy Says No Evidence of Industrial Espionage by the U.S.

Author/Source: Thorsten Severin, Reuters

“Germany's domestic intelligence agency (BfV) has no evidence that the United States carried out industrial espionage in Europe, its chief said on Wednesday...”



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[Russia Plans Army Training Exercises with China, India](#)

Author/Source: Denis Dyomkin, Reuters

“Russian land forces will join troops from China, India, Mongolia and Belarus in a series of joint military training exercises during the second half of this year, President Vladimir Putin's office said on Wednesday...”

[Poland Fight for Coal, but Russia May Benefit](#)

Author/Source: Jan Cienski, Politico

“When he was Poland's prime minister, European Council President Donald Tusk called coal “the strategic foundation” of his country's energy security, and Polish diplomats have acquired a reputation as some of the EU's toughest negotiators, doing battle in summit after summit to minimize restrictions on its use...”

[Kerry Fills In NATO Allies Gathering in Turkey on Putin Meeting](#)

Author/Source: Matthew Lee, Associated Press

“A day after lengthy talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry was filling in allies during a gathering of NATO foreign ministers in the southern Turkish town of Antalya...”

US & Canada

[Lawyers Give Closing Arguments in Boston Marathon Bomber's Trial](#)

Author/Source: Denise Lavoie, Washington Times

“It's the last chance for prosecutors and lawyers to make a case for life in prison or the death penalty for Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev when they present their closing arguments to the jury...”

[US Congress to Vote on Bill Banning NSA from Bulk-Collecting Phone Calls](#)

Author/Source: Spencer Ackerman and Sabrina Siddiqui, The Guardian

“Less than a week after a US appeals court delivered a stinging legal rebuke to the National Security Agency's bulk collection of US phone data, the House of Representatives is set to vote on the most domestically controversial of Edward Snowden's revelations...”

[Search Continues for Missing U.S. Helicopter in Nepal](#)

Author/Source: Joint Task Force 505, U.S. Department of Defense

“The search is continuing for a U.S. Marine Corps UH-1Y Huey helicopter reported missing in Nepal with six U.S. Marines and two Nepalese service members aboard, Joint Task Force 505 officials reported today...”

[US Defense Budget Already Counting on Japan Self-Defense Plan](#)

Author/Source: Erik Slavin, Stars and Stripes

“The latest 2016 U.S. defense bill assumes Japan will adopt government-backed proposals on defending its allies, even though Japanese lawmakers have yet to vote on them...”



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Five Arrested in ‘Major Drug Trafficking Ring’ out of Osceola County

Author/Source: David Harris, Orlando Sentinel

“A two-year investigation by several agencies resulted in the arrest of drug dealers involved in trafficking large amounts of heroin through central Florida...”

U.S. Air Force Kicks Off First Satellite Launch Tender in Over Decade

Author/Source: Andrea Shalal, Reuters

“The U.S. Air Force on Wednesday kicked off its first major satellite launch competition in over a decade, issuing a draft request for proposals for the launch of a next-generation Global Positioning System satellite...”

South and Central America and the Caribbean

Drug Traffickers Shoot Down Plane in Northern Mexico, Kill 6 People

Author/Source: Latin American Herald Tribune

“Six people were killed when suspected drug traffickers shot down a small plane in Urique, a city in the northern Mexican state of Chihuahua, state officials said Wednesday...”

LatAm Unemployment Expected to Climb to 6.2 Percent

Author/Source: Latin American Herald Tribune

“The unemployment rate in the Western Hemisphere outside the United States and Canada will increase 0.2 percent this year to 6.2 percent, according to the latest forecast from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the International Labor Organization...”

Venezuela’s Unofficial Exchange Rate Weakens to 300 Bolivars per Dollar

Author/Source: Carlos Rawlins, Reuters

“Venezuela's unofficial exchange rate fell below 300 bolivars per U.S. dollar on Wednesday, according to a widely used website, as rigid currency controls fail to satiate demand for greenbacks in the crisis-hit economy...”

Cuba Negotiating with Florida Bank to Open Account in U.S.

Author/Source: Latin American Herald Tribune

“The Cuban Interests Section in Washington is studying opening a bank account in Florida after Havana was left without banking abilities in the United States in 2014, a local media outlet reported Wednesday...”