



POTOMAC INSTITUTE FOR POLICY STUDIES
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Daily Terrorism Weather Online

27 May 2015

Middle East

[Another al Qaeda veteran reportedly killed while leading Jund al Aqsa in Syria](#)

Author/Source: Thomas Joscelyn, The Long War Journal

“Said Arif, an al Qaeda veteran who trained in Afghanistan in the 1990s, has reportedly been killed in Syria while leading Jund al Aqsa’s forces...”

[Al Qaeda operative pleads guilty to terrorism charges in Brooklyn federal court](#)

Author/Source: Fox News

“An al-Qaeda operative has pleaded guilty to terrorism charges...”

[Islamic State suicide attacks in Iraq's Anbar kill 17](#)

Author/Source: Boston Herald

“Islamic State extremists unleashed a wave of suicide attacks targeting the Iraqi army in western Anbar province, killing at least 17 troops in a major blow to government efforts to dislodge the militants from the sprawling Sunni heartland, an Iraqi military spokesman said Wednesday...”

[Afghanistan conflict: Four Taliban die in Kabul attack](#)

Author/Source: BBC

“Four gunmen have been killed after trying to storm a guesthouse in a diplomatic area of the Afghan capital, Kabul, police say...”

[Hamas blasts 'unfair' Amnesty report alleging war crimes in Gaza](#)

Author/Source: Khaled Abu Toameh, Jerusalem Post

“Hamas on Wednesday dismissed as “unfair and unprofessional” a report by Amnesty International that accused its security forces of killing and torturing Palestinians during last year’s Operation Protective Edge...”

[Israel asking US for 50% increase in next defense package](#)

Author/Source: Times of Israel

“Israel reportedly wants the US to increase its annual defense assistance package by half, to an average \$4.5 billion...”

[Nearly 100 people killed in Saudi-led aerial assault on Yemen](#)

Author/Source: Zaid Al-Alayaa and Laura King, LA Times

“Thunderous airstrikes hit Yemen’s capital, a Red Sea naval port and a border province Wednesday, killing nearly 100 people and injuring more than 270 others, officials and residents said...”

[Islamic State shoots dead 20 in Palmyra amphitheatre; monitor](#)

Author/Source: Reuters

“Islamic State militants shot dead around 20 men in an ancient amphitheatre in the Syrian city



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of Palmyra on Wednesday, accusing them of being government supporters, a group monitoring the conflict said...”

[Syria: Isis releases footage of Palmyra ruins intact and 'will not destroy them'](#)

Author/Source: Kareem Shaheen, The Guardian

“Ancient ruins are not statues and so will be spared, Isis commander reportedly tells radio station amid new humanitarian crisis in the area...”

[Iran claims US cyber attack on its oil ministry systems was foiled](#)

Author/Source: Vasudevan Sridharan, International Business Times

“Iran has said they have foiled cyber-attack attempts originating from the US which targeted its oil ministry systems...”

Central Asia

[From Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation](#)

Author/Source: Azerbaijan State News Agency Azertac

“I note with satisfaction the high level of Russian-Azerbaijani relations, which are based on strong traditions of friendship, good neighbourliness and mutual respect...”

South Asia

[Axact Chief Executive Arrested in Pakistan Over Fake Diplomas Scandal](#)

Author/Source: Saba Imtiaz and Declan Walsh, New York Times

“Pakistani investigators arrested the chief executive of Axact, a software company accused of running a global diploma mill, early Wednesday after discovering a storage room filled with blank fake degrees...”

[Bangladesh plans to relocate Rohingya refugee camps to Hatiya Island](#)

Author/Source: Daily Star

“Bangladesh plans to relocate thousands of Rohingya who have spent years in refugee camps near the Myanmar border to a southern island, an official said Wednesday...”

[Migrants Rescued From the Sea Face Uncertainty in Indonesian Camps](#)

Author/Source: Joe Cochrane, New York Times

“Mohammed Salim sat on a straw mat in an open-air tent, trying to avoid the stifling midday heat...”

East Asia

[Beijing brushes off South China Sea complaints, adopts aggressive military stance](#)

Author/Source: Guy Taylor, Washington Times

“U.S. officials pushed back Tuesday against China’s attempt to justify its construction of artificial islands and naval bases in the contested South China Sea — and expressed wariness over a new Chinese Defense Ministry policy paper that analysts say is the most assertive military document issued to date by Beijing...”



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Israel, China to boost trade with new tax agreement

Author/Source: Jerusalem Post

“Israel and China on Wednesday signed a roadmap agreement laying out policies that are expected to significantly boost trade...”

US and Allies to Tie North Korea's Rights Record to Nuclear Talks

Author/Source: Choe Sang-Hun, New York Times

“The top nuclear envoys of the United States, South Korea and Japan agreed on Wednesday to ratchet up pressure on North Korea, including a more effective and creative enforcement of sanctions on the impoverished country...”

Africa

Madagascar president challenges impeachment count

Author/Source: Lovasoa Rabary, Reuters

“Madagascar President Hery Rajaonarimampianina challenged on Wednesday an impeachment vote against him in parliament, where critics say he has dragged religion into politics and failed to deliver on his promises...”

Nigeria: Boko Haram Kills 37 in Borno Vilage, Burns Hundreds of Houses

Author/Source: Abdullahi Umar, Winifred Ogbobo, and Kareem Haruna, All Africa

“The renewed attacks and killings have come after the army killed several Boko Haram militants in an operation in Sambisa forest, a major Boko Haram stronghold...”

Ethiopia's ruling party sweeps parliament in early vote results

Author/Source: Aaron Maasho, Reuters

“Ethiopia's ruling party and its allies have won a big majority in parliament, election officials said on Wednesday, based on an early count in a weekend election in which the opposition complained of harassment...”

Europe

European Union Asks Member Countries to Accept Quotas of Migrants

Author/Source: James Kanter, New York Times

“The European Union authorities appealed to the bloc’s member states on Wednesday to accept quotas of migrants to relieve the burden on southern states like Italy and Greece that are the main landing points for the surging numbers of people crossing the Mediterranean Sea...”

Experts from Greece and creditors 'drafting loan deal'

Author/Source: Bangkok Post

“Technical experts representing Greece and its creditors are to start drafting Wednesday a long-awaited agreement that would release much needed bailout loans for the struggling eurozone country, a Greek government source said...”



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Germany Outpaces US in economic 'wellbeing' index

Author/Source: Financial Times

“Germans are benefiting more from their country’s economic rebound than Americans are from the US recovery thanks to greater investment in education and infrastructure...”

Swiss accord to end banking secrecy, curb tax evasion

Author/Source: Bangkok Post

“The European Union and Switzerland signed a major accord Wednesday that will end banking secrecy for EU residents and prevent them from hiding undeclared income in Swiss banks, the European Commission said...”

US & Canada

Obama administration issues new rules to protect water

Author/Source: Reuters

“The Obama administration on Wednesday issued new rules to protect streams and wetlands under the Clean Water Act, a step it said would help keep drinking water safe, but farmers and industry groups argued the regulation will be costly...”

The US-EU trade treaty that could let corporations sue governments

Author/Source: Danielle Mackey, Al Jazeera America

“A proposed system between the United States and the European Union that would allow corporations to sue governments has Europeans up in arms...”

Russia, US close to deal on Iran 'snap-back' sanctions

Author/Source: Times of Israel

“Moscow and Washington are close to agreement on a formula that bridges differences over US demands to quickly re-impose UN sanctions on Iran if Tehran violates its commitments under a nuclear deal, officials told The Associated Press Tuesday...”

Georgia man charged with trying to help ISIS

Author/Source: Will Hager, Atlanta Sun Times

“A Georgia man has been charged with attempting to provide material support to ISIS and is expected to appear in court this afternoon...”

US accuses Soccer Officials of Decades of 'Rampant, Systemic, and Deep-Rooted' Corruption

Author/Source: TIME

“In a cascading explosion of events that sent the soccer world into shock on Wednesday, U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch said that officials of the International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) — the world’s most powerful and lucrative sporting body — had engaged in decades of criminal actions in which they pocketed millions of dollars in bribes over more than two decades...”



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South and Central America and the Caribbean

Mexican, Brazilian presidents sign bilateral agreements in Mexico

Author/Source: Xinhua

“Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto and his Brazilian counterpart Dilma Rousseff take part in a joint press conference at the end of a signing ceremony of bilateral agreements in the National Palace, in Mexico City, capital of Mexico, on May 26, 2015...”

US dollar rises on second day of banking strike

Author/Source: Buenos Aires Herald

“On the second day of a 48-hour strike staged by banking workers, the official dollar rate was half a cent higher in banks and exchange agencies at 8.995 pesos, getting closer to the 9-peso mark...”

Mexican crime cartel creates its own CCTV network to track government security agencies

Author/Source: Mary Papenfuss, International Business Times UK

“At least one Mexican crime cartels has gone high-tech, creating their own CCTV surveillance network to protect its nefarious operations...”