



POTOMAC INSTITUTE FOR POLICY STUDIES
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Daily Terrorism Weather Online

26 May 2015

Middle East

[Al Qaeda's Syrian Arm Shifts Tactics in War](#)

Author/Source: Wall Street Journal

“When a Muslim cleric criticized the Nusra Front last year for taking over his Syrian city and raising its menacing black flags, a representative of the jihadist group took to Facebook to send him an ominous message...”

[Deadly Taliban raids hit Afghan security forces](#)

Author/Source: Al Jazeera English

“Taliban fighters have attacked a police headquarters in southern Afghanistan, killing 20 security personnel and seizing three army checkpoints, Al Jazeera has learnt...”

[Taliban and Afghan Peace Officials Have Secret Talks in China](#)

Author/Source: Edward Wong and Mujib Mashal, The New York Times

“A peace envoy from Afghanistan met in western China last week with former Taliban officials with close ties to Pakistan’s intelligence agency, in an attempt to keep open the possibility of formal Afghan peace talks, officials said Monday...”

[70 people wounded in Afghanistan suicide bombing](#)

Author/Source: Euronews

“Afghan police say a Taliban suicide bomber wounded 70 people when a truck laden with explosives was detonated in the south of the country...”

[Iraq starts operation to drive Islamic State from Anbar](#)

Author/Source: BBC

“The announcement was made by a spokesman for the Popular Mobilisation (al-Hashd al-Shaabi), a volunteer force comprising dozens of Shia militias...”

[Palestinians reject Netanyahu's proposal to discuss settlement borders](#)

Author/Source: Jack Khoury and Barak Ravid, Hareetz

“PLO executive committee member Saeb Erekat says that the Palestinian stance on settlements is clear: That they are illegitimate and discuss about their borders is irrelevant...”

[Israel Launches Airstrike on Gaza After Rocket Attack](#)

Author/Source: Hasani Gittens and Paul Goldman, NBC News

“Israeli aircraft struck a handful of targets in Gaza early Wednesday morning (local time) in retaliation for a rocket attack Tuesday...”



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Syrian air strikes target ISIL in Palmyra

Author/Source: Ryan Rifal, Al Jazeera English

“Syrian fighter jets have carried out a series of strikes against the Islamic State of Iraq and Levant (ISIL) group in and around the ancient city of Palmyra, according to a military source...”

Yemen conflict: Rebels 'driven out of southern city'

Author/Source: BBC

“Militiamen allied to Yemen's exiled government are reported to have driven Houthi rebels out of a southern city...”

Egyptian Army kills 12 suspected terrorists in Sinai

Author/Source: Ariel Ben Solomon, Jerusalem Post

“The Egyptian Army killed 12 suspected terrorists on Monday night during raids in northern Sinai...”

Iran to hold 'closed-door' trial of US Journalist

Author/Source: Al Jazeera English

“The trial of an American journalist who has been held by Iranian authorities since July last year, will be closed to the public when it starts on Tuesday, his family has said...”

Central Asia

UNHCR regional project enhanced by capacity of the asylum system in Armenia

Author/Source: AmenPress

“The two and a half year project, funded by the European Union and co-funded and implemented by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, was designed to strengthen the protection of...”

Lawmakers who traveled to Azerbaijan urged action benefiting state oil company that funded trip

Author/Source: Russ Choma, Open Secrets

“Several lawmakers caught up in an investigation of their participation in a lavish overseas trip introduced legislation that would benefit the alleged host of their spring 2013 junket – the state-owned Azerbaijani oil company...”

South Asia

Nasscom task force to make India hub for cyber security research

Author/Source: The Economic Times

“IT industry lobby group Nasscom on Monday launched 'Nasscom Cyber Security Task Force', which aims to make India the hub for cyber security related research, training and products...”



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Southeast Asia

Migrant Crisis in Southeast Asia Shows Signs of Ebbing

Author/Source: Michael Forsythe, The New York Times

“No boats of Southeast Asian migrants have landed since the last one washed ashore in Indonesia a week ago...”

Hong Kong Student Activist Barred From Malaysia

Author/Source: Wall Street Journal

“Joshua Wong, the teenage face of Hong Kong’s pro-democracy student movement, was refused entry to Malaysia where he was scheduled to attend a series of forums relating to the 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown...”

Meth seizures quadruple across much of Asia-Pacific: UN

Author/Source: Bangkok Post

“Methamphetamine seizures across much of the Asia-Pacific region have quadrupled over five years, the UN said Tuesday, citing rising wealth as one reason for a boom in production and consumption...”

Before Myanmar seized migrant boat, Rohingya whisked away

Author/Source: Timothy McLaughlin and Antoni Slodkowski, Reuters

“When the Myanmar navy seized a boat used by people smugglers last week, it announced that the 200 people found aboard were mostly Bangladeshis seeking better economic prospects in Southeast Asia...”

East Asia

China to extend military reach, build lighthouses in disputed waters

Author/Source: Megha Rajagopalan, Reuters

“China outlined a strategy to boost its naval reach on Tuesday and held a groundbreaking ceremony for two lighthouses in disputed waters, developments likely to escalate tensions in a region already jittery about Beijing's maritime ambitions...”

Japan to join US, Australia war games amidst China tensions

Author/Source: Matt Siegel, Reuters

“Japan will join a major U.S.-Australian military exercise for the first time in a sign of growing security links between the three countries as tensions fester over China's island building in the South China Sea...”

North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un hails recent launch of missile from submarine as a miracle

Author/Source: The Straits Times

“North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has hailed the recent test of a submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) - which was viewed with wary scepticism outside the reclusive state - as a miraculous leap forward...”



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Africa

[Boko Haram in deadly raid on Nigeria town](#)

Author/Source: News 24

“Boko Haram fighters killed several people and destroyed dozens of in a raid on a town in northeast Nigeria's Borno state, local residents, a vigilante and the military said on Sunday...”

[At least 20 Kenyan police killed in suspected Shabaab attack](#)

Author/Source: News 24

“At least 20 Kenyan police officers have been killed in an ambush by suspected al-Shabaab gunmen in a village in the eastern county of Garissa, Kenyan media reported on Tuesday...”

[Solider in Tunis Fires on Colleagues in Deadly Attack](#)

Author/Source: Carlotta Gall, The New York Times

“A Tunisian soldier opened fire on fellow troops inside the central army barracks in the capital on Monday morning, killing seven soldiers and wounding 10 others, the Tunisian Defense Ministry said. The soldier was killed in an exchange of fire...”

[Africa: China Plays Important Role in Africa's Development-AU Chief](#)

Author/Source: All Africa

“African Union (AU) Commission Chairperson Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma said on Thursday that Africa expects China to help build "the Africa we want...”

Europe

[Austria boy guilty of Vienna terror plot](#)

Author/Source: BBC

“A 14-year-old boy has been convicted of terrorism offences in Austria, including a potential plot to bomb a railway station in the capital, Vienna...”

[David Cameron takes hit as France and Germany agree closer EU ties](#)

Author/Source: Ian Traynor and Frances Perraudin, The Guardian

“Germany and France have forged a pact to integrate the eurozone without reopening the EU's treaties, in a blow to David Cameron's referendum campaign...”

[UK and Russia to resume talks over Syria Conflict](#)

Author/Source: BBC

“Senior British and Russian officials are to resume efforts to find a solution to the crisis in Syria, David Cameron and Vladimir Putin have agreed...”

[Greece pledges to meet June debt repayments](#)

Author/Source: BBC

“Greece intends to keep repaying its debt, a government spokesman said, days after Interior Minister Nikos Voutsis warned it had run out of funds...”



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US & Canada

Congress Pursues Deal on Phone Data Collection in Rare Talks During Recess

Author/Source: Jonathan Weisman, The New York Times

“National Security Agency’s dragnet of phone records, with time running out on some of the government’s domestic surveillance authority...”

White House: Iraqi 'lack of will' a longstanding problem

Author/Source: Kevin Liptak, CNN

“The White House largely stood by Defense Secretary Ash Carter on Tuesday after his comments to CNN that Iraqis "lacked the will" to fight ISIS in Ramadi...”

NATO Secretary General begins visit to the United States

Author/Source: NATO News

“NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg has arrived in Washington D.C. to begin a week-long visit to the United States...”

US-bound flights subject of anonymous threats

Author/Source: BBC

“Two US fighter jets have escorted an Air France airliner bound for New York City, one of a number of US-bound flights that was the subject of anonymous threats...”

US Stocks fall the most in three weeks

Author/Source: Tanya Agrawal, Reuters

“U.S. stocks recorded their steepest fall in three weeks in morning trading on Tuesday as positive economic data added to the gains in the dollar and sent it soaring to a one-month high...”

South America, Latin America, and the Caribbean

ELN rebels support FARC in resuming attacks against Colombian state

Author/Source: Torkan Omari, Colombia Reports

“The ELN, Colombia’s second largest rebel group, said on Monday that it supports fellow-rebel group FARC in suspending a unilateral ceasefire after an army attack killed 26 alleged FARC guerrillas...”

Region's trade with China set to drop

Author/Source: Buenos Aires Herald

“Bilateral trade between China and Latin America has been growing over the past decade, but the honeymoon is coming to an end, warned the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) yesterday...”