



POTOMAC INSTITUTE FOR POLICY STUDIES
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Daily Terrorism Weather Online

20 May 2015

Middle East

Iraqi Forces Say Thwart Islamist Attack Near Ramadi

Author/Source: Reuters

“Iraqi forces said they fought off an overnight attack by Islamic State militants near the city of Ramadi, which the insurgents overran at the weekend in the most significant setback for the government in a year...”

Ramadi Battle: Iraq Calls for Volunteers for IS Fight

Author/Source: BBC

“Iraq's government has called for volunteers to fight against Islamic State and help retake the city of Ramadi...”

Iranian Official Says UN Will Inspect Yemen-Bound Iranian Aid Ship in Djibouti

Author/Source: Fox News

“Iran's deputy foreign minister says an Iranian aid ship will be first inspected by the United Nations in Djibouti, before it's allowed to proceed to Yemen's shores...”

White House Reaffirms Strategy in Iraq Despite Fall of Ramadi

Author/Source: David Cloud, Los Angeles Times

“President Obama huddled with his top security advisors Tuesday at the White House to consider U.S. strategy in Iraq two days after Islamic State fighters routed government forces and took control of a major provincial capital, a sharp setback for U.S. interests...”

IMF Says Postwar Reconstruction in Gaza Moving Slower than Expected

Author/Source: U.S. News and World Report

“The International Monetary Fund says that reconstruction of the Gaza Strip is going "far more slowly than expected" after a devastating war between Israel and the Hamas militant group last year...”

PA Close to File ICC Reports on Israeli Activities in Gaza, West Bank

Author/Source: Jack Khoury, Haaretz

“The Palestinians are in the process of completing reports on building in the settlements and last summer's war in Gaza for submission to the International Criminal Court in the Hague, Fatah central committee member Muhammad Ashtayya said on Wednesday...”

Islamic State Seizes Ancient Palmyra City from Syrian Forces

Author/Source: Sylvia Westall and Tom Perry, Reuters

“Islamic State insurgents stormed the historic Syrian city of Palmyra on Wednesday, fighting off pro-government forces who withdrew after evacuating most of the civilian population, state television said...”



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Iranian Aid Ship to Enter Red Sea on Thursday, Captain Says

Author/Source: Reuters

“The captain of an Iranian cargo ship which Iran says is carrying thousands of tonnes of aid to Yemen expects to enter the Bab al-Mandeb strait linking the Gulf of Aden with the Red Sea on Thursday morning, state news agency IRNA reported...”

Iranian Leader Rejects Probe of Alleged Nuke Weapons Work

Author/Source: George Jahn, Associated Press

“The U.S. may have to soften demands that any nuclear deal with Iran give U.N. experts a free hand to investigate possible past nuclear arms works by Tehran, after Iran's supreme leader stridently ruled out cooperation Wednesday...”

Central Asia

Russia Flexes Central Asia Military Muscle

Author/Source: Daily News

“Russia has deployed hundreds of troops for drills in Central Asia with its ex-Soviet allies in a show of force as anxiety grows over a surge in fighting in neighbouring Afghanistan...”

Unrest Tilts Georgia Towards Russia

Author/Source: Rayham Demytrie, BBC

“As Georgian leaders head to the Eastern Partnership summit in Riga, they will find it hard to hide their disappointment...”

South Asia

Pakistan Arrests Suspects in Attack that Killed 47 Shiites

Author/Source: The Daily Star

“Pakistan's interior minister says police have made a breakthrough in the case of last week's Karachi bus attack that killed 47 Shiites, and arrested the suspected mastermind and several gunmen...”

Hamid Karzai Demands Scrapping of Deal with ISI

Author/Source: Outlook India

“Former Afghan President Hamid Karzai today demanded the immediate scrapping of a key accord signed between Pakistan's ISI and Afghanistan spy agency to share intelligence, asking the unity government not to ink such deals which went against the country's national interests...”

Afghan Official: Huge Blast in Kabul, Casualties Expected

Author/Source: The Daily Star

“An Afghan official says a huge explosion has taken place near a busy shopping district of the capital, Kabul...”



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Southeast Asia

Indonesia and Malaysia Agree to Care for Stranded Migrants

Author/Source: Joe Cochrane, The New York Times

“Indonesia and Malaysia agreed on Wednesday to take in thousands of migrants stranded at sea until they can be sent home or resettled in a third country, in the first official action by Southeast Asian nations to try to resolve a crisis well into its second week...”

East Asia

Asia-Pacific Militaries Seek to Develop Amphibious Skills

Author/Source: Audrey McAvoy, The Washington Times

“Japanese Maj. Gen. Jiro Hiroe turned to numbers to explain to his counterparts from other nations why Japan is developing the skills to move troops from sea to shore: his nation has 6,852 islands and 6,414 of them are uninhabited...”

North Korea Claims It Has Built Small Nuclear Warheads

Author/Source: Choe Sang-Huin, The New York Times

“North Korea said on Wednesday that it had already built nuclear weapons small enough to be carried by missiles, even as a senior American general questioned the country’s recent claim that it had successfully tested a submarine-launched ballistic missile...”

North Korea Modified Submarine Missile Launch Photos, says U.S. Official

Author/Source: James Pearson, Reuters

“Photographs showing a North Korean missile launched from a submarine were manipulated by state propagandists and the country may be years away from developing such technology, analysts and a top U.S. military official said on Tuesday...”

Europe

EP Members Voice Support for European Future of Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova

Author/Source: Interfax Ukraine

“About a hundred members of European Parliament (MEPs) addressed heads of government of EU member states to support the European perspective of Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine at this week’s Eastern Partnership (EaP) Summit in Riga, Latvia...”

E.U.’s Migrant Plan Strikes Many as Another Barrier

Author/Source: Somini Sengupta, The New York Times

“A ship is stranded at sea. The faces of passengers stare out from the portholes. Three countries refuse to let them come ashore. That was 1939, the ship was called the St. Louis, and the roughly 900 passengers, mostly German Jews fleeing the Nazis, were not allowed into Canada, Cuba or the United States...”



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Latvian Region Has Distinct Identity, and Allure for Russia

Author/Source: Andrew Higgins, The New York Times

“On a continent of fractured loyalties, a kaleidoscope of separatist passions extending from Scotland to eastern Ukraine, Piteris Locs, the 70-year-old champion of an obscure and, at least officially, nonexistent language, has a particularly esoteric cause...”

Cameron to Propose Stricter Immigration Rules in Britain

Author/Source: Stephen Castle, The New York Times

“Amid rising concern across Europe over immigration, Prime Minister David Cameron will unveil a plan on Thursday that seeks to cut the numbers of migrants coming to Britain and make it harder for foreigners to work here illegally...”

After Bloodletting, UKIP Says United to Push for EU Exit

Author/Source: Andrew Osborn, Reuters

“The leader of the UK Independence Party said on Wednesday it was united and ready to campaign for Britain to leave the European Union as he tried to draw a line under a period of post-election turmoil...”

Report: French UN Resolution Sets 18-Month Deadline for Israeli-Palestinian Deal

Author/Source: Barak Ravid, Haaretz

“A draft of the proposed French United Nations Security Council resolution on the Israel-Palestinian conflict was published by the French newspaper Le Figaro on Wednesday...”

Foreign Secretary: Video Footage Exposes Assad’s Lies on Barrel Bombs

Author/Source: Foreign and Commonwealth Office, UK

“New video footage has emerged of aircrew on a Syrian regime helicopter lighting and dropping a barrel bomb, proof that the indiscriminate weapons are being used against civilians in spite of frequent and public denials by President Assad...”

Africa

1 Dead in Burundi Unrest; Leader Delays Parliamentary Vote

Author/Source: The New York Times

“Burundi police fired live bullets, tear gas and tossed a grenade Wednesday to disperse hundreds of protesters angry over the president's bid for a third term in office...”

Islamic State’s Egypt Affiliate Urges Attacks on Judges: Recording

Author/Source: Michael Georgy and Stephen Kalin, Reuters

“Islamic State's Egypt affiliate on Wednesday urged followers to attack judges, declaring a new front in an Islamist militant insurgency in the world's most populous Arab state...”

Boko Haram Crisis Could Fuel Rise in Child Marriages – Activists

Author/Source: Emma Batha, Reuters

“The Boko Haram crisis in northern Nigeria could fuel child marriage as parents pull their daughters out of school following mass abductions by the militants, campaigners warned on Wednesday...”



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[France Says Troops Killed Qaeda Commander in Mali](#)

Author/Source: Rukmini Callimachi, The New York Times

“On Nov. 2, 2013, two French journalists were grabbed in the troubled northern Malian town of Kidal. Hours later, their bodies were found on a dirt track, lying near their kidnapper’s car, which had a broken steering wheel...”

[Nigeria: Suicide Bomber Kills 10 in Adamawa Cattle Market](#)

Author/Source: AllAfrica

“No fewer than ten people are feared dead in Garkida town of Gombi local government area of Adamawa State on Tuesday following a bomb blast carried out by a suicide bomber at the busy cattle market in the area...”

US & Canada

[Watchdog Faults Pentagon for \\$36M White Elephant in Afghanistan](#)

Author/Source: Dave Boyer, The Washington Times

“A government watchdog said Wednesday that the Defense Department squandered \$36 million to build a single command facility in Afghanistan that was never used, and recommended disciplinary action against three officers for their roles in the boondoggle...”

[DEA Raids Clinics, Pharmacies in Drug Crackdown](#)

Author/Source: Al-Jazeera America

“Federal drug agents raided medical clinics, pharmacies and other locations across the South on Wednesday, wrapping up what a federal official called a long-running crackdown on prescription drug abuse...”

[Obama Admin: NSA Spying Will Begin Shutting Down This Week](#)

Author/Source: Dustin Volz, National Journal

“The Patriot Act provisions that have allowed the National Security Agency to vacuum up Americans' phone records officially expire on June 1...”

[Obama Calls Climate Change an ‘Indisputable’ Reality that Threatens American National Security](#)

Author/Source: Nancy Benac, U.S. News and World Report

“President Barack Obama has argued for action on climate change as a matter of health, environmental protection and international obligation. On Wednesday, he added national security...”

[Waco Biker Shootout: Police Say 320 Weapons, Not 1,000, Found](#)

Author/Source: Tom Dart, The Guardian

“Texas police on Wednesday night said they had recovered about 320 weapons – not the figure of 1,000 they earlier released – from the Waco restaurant where nine bikers were killed during a mass fight between rival motorcycle gangs, police said on Wednesday...”

[Ten Nabbed in Canada’s Fight Against Radicalized Youth](#)



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Author/Source: Agence France-Presse

“With a combination of new anti-terror measures and appeals to parents, Canada is striving to keep its youths from joining Islamist extremist groups and leaving to fight in Syria...”

South and Central America and the Caribbean

Cuban Government Opens Account at Florida Bank

Author/ Source: Latin American Herald Tribune

“The Cuban Interests Section in the United States opened an account at the Stonegate Bank in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, after in 2014 it was left without banking services here, local media reported Wednesday...”

Exxon Mobil says Oil Discovery off Guyana is ‘Significant’

Author/Source: CNBC

“Exxon Mobil Corp. confirmed Wednesday that it has made what it calls a "significant" oil discovery off Guyana in waters also claimed by Venezuela as part of a long-running border dispute between the South American countries...”

Palestine Calls Venezuela Its Most Important Ally

Author/ Source: Latin American Herald Tribune

“Palestine thanked Venezuela, its “most important ally” in the world, for representing and fighting for the Palestine cause at the UN Security Council...”

SOUTHCOM Kelly: Central American Criminal Networks Growing in Sophistication

Author/Source: John Grady, U.S. Naval Institute

“The existing criminal networks that bring drugs and people from Central American are growing in sophistication and the criminal enterprises are earning the gross domestic product of a small country, the head of Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) said on Tuesday...”