



POTOMAC INSTITUTE FOR POLICY STUDIES
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Daily Terrorism Weather Online

25 May 2015

Middle East

Iraqi, Syrian Forces Strike Back at ISIL in Captured Cities

Author/Source: Al Jazeera

“Forces in Iraq and Syria on Monday bolstered their offensives in the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) group, in a bid to retake key cities in both countries...”

Airstrikes Against ISIL Targets Continue in Syria, Iraq

Author/Source: DOD

“U.S. and coalition military forces have continued to attack Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant terrorists in Syria and Iraq, Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve officials reported today...”

Army Chiefs Plan for Proposed Joint Arab Force in Mideast

Author/Source: Maggie Michael, Military Times

“Army chief of staff of Arab countries have drafted a protocol for a new joint force to intervene in Middle East hot spots on missions ranging from fighting Islamic militants to Iran-backed groups—despite lingering disagreements on some details, including where to base the force’s headquarters...”

Netanyahu Proposes Talk in Borders of Settlement Blocs

Author/Source: Barak Ravid, Haaretz

“Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told the European Union’s top foreign policy official last week that he wants to resume talks with the Palestinians, with his goal being to reach understanding on the borders of settlement blocs that Israel would annex under any peace agreement...”

Taliban-IS Clashes Leave at Least 27 Dead in Afghanistan

Author/Source: Latin American Herald Tribune

“Ongoing clashes between Taliban and Islamic State combatants in western Afghanistan have left at least 27 insurgents dead and another 20 people injured, officials told Efe on Monday...”

Taliban Besieges Police Compound

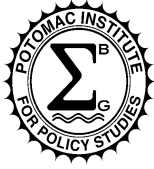
Author/Source: The Washington Post

“Taliban gunmen surrounded a police compound in Afghanistan’s southern Helmand province after killing 19 police officers and seven soldiers in an ongoing siege, the senior police officer said Monday...”

Taliban Truck Bomb Hits Government Offices in Southern Afghanistan, Wounds Dozens

Author/Source: Reuters

“A Taliban suicide bomber in a truck loaded with explosives struck a provincial government neighborhood in Zabul in southern Afghanistan on Monday, wounding nearly 70 people,



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officials said..."

[Hezbollah Captures Hilltops from Al-Qa'ida's Syrian Wing: Al-Manar TV](#)

Author/Source: Reuters

"Hezbollah fighters have captured two hilltops from al Qaeda's Syrian wing Nusra Front in areas close to the Lebanese border and have killed dozens of enemy combatants, Hezbollah-run al-Manar television reported on Monday..."

[Al-Qa'ida Nearly Gone from Southern Syria, Opposition Says](#)

Author/Source: Elhanan Miller, The Times of Israel

"While Islamic State forces have been gaining control of territory in northern and central Syria, the US terror-listed group al-Nusra Front has all but disappeared from the southern provinces of the country, an opposition spokesman said Monday..."

[In Endless Sunni-Shiite Battles, Blood Keeps Flowing as the Pendulum Swings](#)

Author/Source: Avi Issacharoff, The Times of Israel

"There seems to be no end in sight for the religious war going on in the Middle East..."

[Middle East Updates/ Turkey, U.S. Agree 'In Principle' to Provide Air Cover for Syrian Rebels Battling ISIS](#)

Author/Source: Haaretz

"Turkey and the U.S. have agreed in "principle" to provide air protection to Syrian rebels being trained and equipped to fight Islamic State militants, once they enter Syrian territory for battle, Turkey's foreign minister said..."

[Biden Calls Iraqi PM to Calm Outcry over Carter Remarks on Fight Against ISIS](#)

Author/Source: Kareem Saheen, The Guardian

"US vice-president Joe Biden on Monday spoke to the Iraqi prime minister, Haider al-Abadi, to reassure him of US support, a day after controversial remarks by the defense secretary, Ash Carter, sparked an argument over the recent military successes of Islamic State..."

[Iraqi, Syrian Forces Strike Back at ISIL in Captured Cities](#)

Author/Source: Al Jazeera

"Forces in Iraq and Syria on Monday bolstered their offensives on the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) group, in a bid to retake key cities in both countries..."

[Ex-Israeli PM Sentenced to More Jail Time for Corruption](#)

Author/Source: China Daily

"Former Israeli prime minister Ehud Olmert was sentenced to eight months in prison on Monday following his recent conviction in a Jerusalem District Court for corruption..."

[Trial of Washington Post Journalist Set to Open in Iran](#)

Author/Source: Times of Israel

"The trial of the Washington Post's Tehran correspondent Jason Rezaian, in custody for 10 months and accused of espionage, will open in Iran on Tuesday, a senior judicial official said. Judiciary spokesman Gholamhossein Mohseni-Ejeie, quoted Monday by the ISNA news agency, said Rezaian's lawyer and an interpreter would be present in court but declined to



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give further details...”

Iran Hopes Sanctions will be Lifted by December

Author/Source: The Daily Star

“Iran's deputy oil minister said Monday he hoped for a total lifting of international sanctions later this year if a nuclear deal is struck with world powers by June 30...”

Yemeni Politicians say UN Peace Talks Indefinitely Postponed

Author/Source: YNet

“Three senior Yemeni politicians say a United Nations peace conference set to take place at the end of the month has been indefinitely postponed...”

Central Asia

Syrian Opposition Groups Meet in Kazakhstan's Capital

Author/Source: Altair Nurbekov, Astana Times

“Today, the whole world is anxiously watching the events taking place in the Middle East,” the Foreign Ministry said in its announcement...”

South Asia

Militants Kill Five, Target Telecoms in India Kashmir Attacks

Author/Source: Fayaz Bukhari, Reuters

“Militants killed four Indian soldiers and an employee of a mobile phone shop in Indian Kashmir on Monday, in a spate of attacks in the disputed region...”

Attack on Pakistan President's Son Leaves 3 Dead and 14 Injured

Author/Source: Latin American Herald Tribune

“At least three people were killed and 14 injured in a bomb attack in southern Pakistan, allegedly targeting the son of Pakistani President Mamnoon Hussain, police sources informed Efe on Monday...”

IT Chief at Bangladesh Coca-Cola Unit Arrested as ISIS Suspect

Author/Source: Ruma Paul and Serajul Quadir, Al Arabiya

“An IT manager at a subsidiary of Coca-Cola Co was one of two men arrested in Bangladesh on suspicion of planning to fight for the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), police and company sources said on Monday...”

Southeast Asia

Southeast Asia Maritimes Build-Up Accelerates, Raising Risks in Disputed Seas

Author/Source: Siva Govindasamy, Reuters

“Southeast Asian nations are prioritizing spending on their navies and coastguards amid rising tensions in the South China Sea, but as their capabilities grow, so does the risk that any confrontation in the contested waterway will be harder to contain...”



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Japan to Join U.S., Australia War Games Amid Growing China Tensions

Author/Source: Matt Siegel, Reuters

“Southeast Asian nations are prioritizing spending on their navies and coastguards amid rising tensions in the South China Sea, but as their capabilities grow, so does the risk that any confrontation in the contested waterway will be harder to contain...”

East Asia

Vessel Completes First Patrol in South China Sea

Author/Source: Global Security

“A newly commissioned vessel in China's southernmost city of Sansha completed its first patrol in the waters around the nation's Zhongsha Islands...”

Chinese Media Say Military Confrontation Over South China Sea 'Inevitable' if US Tries to Stop Island Reclamations

Author/Source: Duncan Hewitt, International Business Times

“Chinese state media have sent another sharply worded message to the United States, amid continuing tensions over China's reclamation of land around islands it says are part of its territory in disputed waters in the South China Sea -- as China's foreign ministry said it had lodged a formal complaint with Washington over U.S. surveillance flights over the islands...”

Africa

United States Calls for Peaceful Resolution to Crisis in Burundi

Author/Source: Marie Harf, U.S. State Department

“The United States strongly condemns the May 23 killing of the leader of the opposition party Union for Peace and Development (UPD), Zedi Feruzi, and his bodyguard...”

Opposition Breaks off Burundi Peace Talks over Killing Opposition Leader

Author/Source: Clement Manirabarusha and Goran Tomasevic, Reuters

“Burundi's opposition boycotted peace talks with the government on Monday in protest at the killing of an opposition leader, despite U.N.-led calls for dialogue to end a month of protests and violence in the east African country...”

Tunisian Soldier Shoots Seven Dead at Tunis Barracks

Author/Source: BBC

“A Tunisian soldier has been shot dead after he killed seven of his colleagues at a military barracks in Tunis, according to the defense ministry...”

'We Want the Truth!' Burkina Faso Exhumes Graves Marked for Ex-Leader Sankara, His Followers

Author/Source: Brahim Ouedraogo, U.S. News & World Report

“Nearly 30 years after President Thomas Sankara was killed in a coup as he strived to make his West African country an egalitarian one, his purported grave is being dug up to answer lingering questions about his death...”



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Sudan Security Seizes Print-Runs of Ten Newspapers, Suspends Four

Author/Source: All Africa

“Agents of the National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS) halted the distribution of ten newspapers today. Four newspapers were suspended indefinitely...”

Somalia: Puntland Expresses Concern Over Yemen Violence

Author/Source: Abdirazack Mohamud Tuuryare, All Africa

“Somalia's semi-autonomous Puntland President, Dr. Abdiweli Mohamed Ali has expressed concern about Yemen violence that between the country's army and Houthi militias...”

Somalia: Repatriation of Somali Refugees from Dadaab Camp Set to Continue

Author/Source: All Africa

“The repatriation of Somali refugees from the Dadaab camp will resume this week. The relocation was suspended due to heavy rains that affected roads, according to the Commissioner for Refugee Affairs Haron Komen...”

Europe

France Works to Restart Talks Toward Israeli-Palestinian Peace

Author/Source: Uri Savir, Al Monitor

“According to the May 8 London daily Al-Quds al-Arabi, a senior Palestinian official said the United States and the European Union are urging the Palestinian Authority to resume peace negotiations with Israel...”

Ukrainian Military Denounces Escalation of Pro-Russian Separatist Attacks

Author/Source: Latin American Herald Tribune

“The Ukrainian military command denounced on Monday the intensification of pro-Russian attacks along the line of separation of forces eastern Ukraine, in direct violation of the cease-fire agreed upon just over three months...”

Fears Over Jihad Chemical Attack on British Soil

Author/Source: Camilla Turner, The Telegraph

“Counterterrorism police are focusing on the “growing threat” of a chemical weapons attack by British jihadists returning from Iraq and Syria...”

US & Canada

Threats to 6 International Flights Cause Scare

Author/Source: New York Times

“Anonymous telephone threats against commercial airlines on Monday, possibly from the same source, caused a scare involving flights at airports in New York, New Jersey, and Massachusetts...”



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Owner of Pressure Cooker in Washington Bomb Scare Apologizes

Author/Source: John Clarke, Reuters

“A Virginia man who triggered a bomb scare on Sunday near the U.S. Capitol apologized and explained the suspicious device was a pressure cooker used for his food truck business, local news reported on Monday...”

Plane Safe? Hacker Case Points to Deeper Cyber Issues

Author/Source: Jeremy Wagstaff, Reuters

“Security researcher Chris Roberts made headlines last month when he was hauled off a plane in New York by the FBI and accused of hacking into flight controls via his underseat entertainment unit...”

Mexican Cartel's Cocaine Washes Ashore on Texas Beach: Cops

Author/Source: Doyle Murphy, New York Daily News

“A lost load of a Mexican drug cartel’s cocaine washed up on a Texas beach, authorities said. Lifeguards discovered the 66-pound bundle on Monday while patrolling the Galveston shoreline, police said...”

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

Author/Source: Jonathan Weisman, New York Times

“Senior lawmakers are scrambling this week in rare recess negotiations to agree on a face-saving change to legislation that would rein in the National Security Agency’s dragnet of phone records, with time running out on some of the government’s domestic surveillance authority...”

South and Central America and the Caribbean

White House Expected to Remove Cuba from State Sponsor of Terrorism List

Author/Source: Sara Hassan, Al Jazeera

“The White House is expected to remove Cuba from the United States’ state sponsor of terrorism list later this week. Despite progress during the talks between the two countries, negotiators have failed to reach an agreement on exchanging ambassadors...”

Argentine President Receives Another Threat from the Islamic State

Author/Source: Latin American Herald Tribune

“Argentine police and prosecutors are investigating a threatening email sent to Argentine President Cristina Fernandez allegedly from jihadist group Islamic State, Clarin reported Sunday...”

Government Denies Gunmen were Executed after Shootout in Western Mexico

Author/Source: Latin American Herald Tribune

“Federal Police officers did not execute any of the gunmen involved in a shootout last week in the western Mexican state of Michoacan that left 42 suspected criminals and a law enforcement agent dead, officials said Monday...”