



POTOMAC INSTITUTE FOR POLICY STUDIES
INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR TERRORISM STUDIES
901 North Stuart Street Suite 200 Arlington, VA 22203
Tel. 703-562-4513, 703-525-0770 ext. 237 Fax 703-562-1000
icts@potomac institute.org www.potomac institute.org

Daily Terrorism Weather Online

5 May 2015

Middle East

US Congress bill on Iraq and Iraqi Kurdistan

Author/Source: Robert Olson, Today's Zaman

“The first days of May brought forth yet more differences between the executive branch (White House) and the US Congress, both known for their increasing dysfunction...”

Iraqi commander slams US Congress bill to split Iraq

Author/Source: PressTV

“A high-ranking Iraqi military figure has strongly dismissed a controversial US Congress bill which proposes the division of Iraq into three states and allows the Kurdish forces and the Sunni tribesmen to be armed directly without Baghdad’s approval, Press TV reports...”

Rewards for Justice - Reward Offers for Information on Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) Terrorists

Author/Source: Office of the Spokesperson, U.S. Department of State

“The U.S. Department of State's Rewards for Justice Program is offering rewards for information on four key leaders of the terrorist group Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)...”

Competition with ISIS is transforming Al Qaeda

Author/Source: Lee Keath and Maggie Michael, Associated Press

“When al-Qaida overran the Yemeni port city of Mukalla last month, the group's commanders immediately struck a deal to share power with the area's tribesmen...”

Clashes Erupt on Lebanon Border Between Hezbollah and Al-Qaeda

Author/Source: Dana Khraiche, Bloomberg

“Fighting between Hezbollah and Sunni Islamist militants broke out on Tuesday on Lebanon’s eastern border with Syria, a local television channel said...”

Iraq Sends Troops To Key Oil Refinery Amid Heavy Clashes With ISIS

Author/Source: Sinan Salaheddin, Associated Press

“Reinforcements are being rushed to the key Beiji refinery in northern Iraq amid heavy fighting with Islamic State militants who have been trying to capture the facility for months, Iraqi officials said Tuesday...”

Five dead, 25 injured in Baghdad blasts

Author/Source: World Bulletin / News Desk

“At least five people were killed and 25 others injured Tuesday in multiple attacks in the Iraqi capital, a police source said...”



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Israel Accuses Palestinians of Politicizing in FIFA Call

Author/Source: Associated Press

“Israel's Football Association said Tuesday that Palestinians football officials are "injecting politics into sports" by calling on FIFA to suspend the Jewish state from world football...”

Palestinians protest Israel's ongoing blockade on Gaza

Author/Source: The Journal of Turkish Weekly

“Dozens of Palestinians on Monday staged a demonstration near the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel to protest the latter's ongoing siege on the beleaguered enclave for the eighth consecutive year...”

Israel Detains 21 Palestinians in West Bank Unceasing Arrests

Author/Source: Palestinian News & Info Agency

“Israeli forces detained early Tuesday 21 Palestinians from multiple West Bank districts, said security sources. Israeli forces detained two Palestinians from Jenin district and two others from Hebron and Bethlehem districts...”

Israel clears police of guilt in killing of Palestinian

Author/Source: Agence French Presse

“Israeli authorities have closed an investigation into a policeman who shot dead a young Palestinian during an arrest operation in November, the justice ministry said Monday...”

Islamic State massacres 300 Yazidi prisoners

Author/Source: Michael Dozier, Examiner

“At least 300 Yazidi prisoners were killed by the Islamic State in a camp near Mosul in Iraq on Sunday...”

'US, allies conduct 13 air strikes in Syria, Iraq against Islamic State'

Author/Source: Reuters

“The US-led military coalition launched 12 air strikes in Iraq and one in Syria against Islamic State militants since Monday, the Combined Joint Task Force said in a statement...”

IMF May Agree On \$800M Loan To Iraq

Author/Source: Reuters

“Iraq has requested financial assistance from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and agreement may be reached within weeks on a loan of about \$800 million, a senior IMF official said...”

Central Asia

Azerbaijan cracks down on human rights before hosting European Games

Author/Source: Isabel Gorst, Irish Times

“After Azerbaijan was nominated to host the inaugural European Games in 2015, Rasul Jafarov began planning the “Sports for Rights” campaign to draw international attention to political repressions in the oil-rich Caspian Sea country...”



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South Asia

[Local al Qaeda claims February murder of U.S. citizen in Bangladesh: SITE](#)

Author/Source: Reuters

“The leader of al Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) claimed responsibility for the murder of a U.S. citizen hacked to death in Bangladesh in February and the deaths of other “blasphemers” in the region, SITE Intelligence Group reported on Sunday...”

[With Western forces gone, opium production booms in Afghanistan](#)

Author/Source: Mirwais Khan and Lynne O’Donnell, The Star

“It’s the cash crop of the Taliban and the scourge of Afghanistan — the country’s intractable opium cultivation...”

Southeast Asia

[Indonesia reacts angrily to execution of two maids](#)

Author/Source: AFP

“Indonesia will stop sending maids to 21 Middle Eastern countries, after the recent execution of two Indonesian women in Saudi Arabia angered Jakarta...”

[Critically endangered cockatoos stuffed into plastic bottles by Indonesia smugglers](#)

Author/Source: Tom Phillips, Telegraph

“Indonesian police have intercepted and saved two-dozen critically endangered cockatoos that wildlife traffickers were trying to smuggle of the country in plastic bottles...”

[Thailand graves: Two skeletons found at camps in Phang Nga](#)

Author/Source: BBC

“Thai officials say they have found two skeletons possibly linked to people smuggling, days after the discovery of 26 bodies in a mass grave...”

East Asia

[China fails to convince Taliban to speak to Afghanistan](#)

Author/Source: Anchal Vohra, IBN Live

“After China offered to broker stalled talks between Afghanistan and Taliban, it seems that attempt has failed...”

Africa

[Kerry on surprise trip to Somalia: 'I'm glad to be here'](#)

Author/Source: Nick Gass, Politico

“Secretary of State John Kerry made a surprise stop in Somalia on Tuesday, becoming the first top American diplomat to visit the war-torn country...”



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Europe

[Hungarian troops to leave for Iraq in late May](#)

Author/Source: Hungary Matters

“Just over 100 Hungarian troops ready to join the international coalition fighting against the Islamic State (IS) will soon leave for Erbil, Iraq, Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó said...”

[Germany destroys 370 tons of Syria’s chemical weapons](#)

Author/Source: SyndiGate.info

“Germany has destroyed 370 tons of Syria’s chemical weapons, the country’s Foreign Ministry announced late on Monday...”

[Dozens feared dead in new migrant boat tragedy](#)

Author/Source: Associated Press

“Migrants frantically shimmied up ropes dangling from a towering cargo ship and others jumped into the water grasping at lifesavers...”

US & Canada

[Obama is nominating a Marine general who led the Afghanistan war coalition as the next Joint Chiefs chairman](#)

Author/Source: Lolita Baldor, Associated Press

“President Barack Obama is choosing a widely respected, combat-hardened commander who led the Afghanistan war coalition during a key transitional period during 2013-14 as the next chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff...”

[Isis claims responsibility for Texas art exhibit attack](#)

Author/Source: Erika Solomon, FT

“A radio programme linked to Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (Isis) said the world’s most notorious jihadi group has claimed responsibility for an attack on a ‘Muhammad art exhibit’ in Texas...”

[Exclusive: Pentagon Admits Anti-ISIS Strikes Killed Civilians](#)

Author/Source: Nancy A. Youssef, The Daily Beast

“For months, officials have said a relentless bombing campaign in Iraq and Syria isn’t killing innocents...”

[Breaches prompt lobbying surge behind cyber bill](#)

Author/Source: Cory Bennett, The Hill

“Corporations across a wide array of industries are lobbying hard in favor of a major cybersecurity bill, enlisting a slew of K Street firms as part of an increasingly intense push for a measure expected to reach the Senate floor as soon as this month...”

[Workers Injured In Nuclear Weapons Lab Accident](#)

Author/Source: Sky News

“Nine workers have been injured in an accident at the nuclear weapons research facility at Los Alamos National Laboratory...”



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US Trying to Free Ship Seized by Iran 'Diplomatically'

Author/Source: Ari Yashar, Arutz Sheva

“After refusing to condemn the Iranian act of opening fire on and seizing a Marshall Islands ship in international waters last Tuesday, US State Department spokesperson Jeff Rathke revealed on Monday that the US is trying to free the ship ‘diplomatically.’ ...”

South and Central America and the Caribbean

Venezuela’s Economy Suffers as Import Schemes Siphon Billions

Author/Source: William Neuman and Patricia Torres, New York Times

“The weed whackers were \$12,300...”

Cartel Gunmen Ambush And Kidnap Mexican Police Near Texas Border

Author/Source: Ildefonso Ortiz, Breitbart

“Cartel gunmen killed a Mexican police officer and kidnapped the rest of his squad following a brazen ambush near the Texas border on Sunday...”

Total War In Mexico As Cartel Shoots Down Army Helicopter

Author/Source: Blake Neff, Daily Caller

“The Mexican government has promised an all-out offensive against a rising drug cartel after the cartel demonstrated its power by shooting down a military helicopter...”

Drug cartel attacks in Mexico prompts warning for Canadian tourists

Author/Source: The Canadian Press

“Canada’s embassy in Mexico has issued a warning to tourists following a wave of recent attacks by a drug cartel in the western state of Jalisco...”