



POTOMAC INSTITUTE FOR POLICY STUDIES
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Daily Terrorism Weather Online

10 March 2016

Middle East

Syrian troops kill 70 al Qaeda-linked militants

Author/Source: Zee News

“Syrian troops on Thursday killed over 70 militants from the Al-Qaeda-linked Nusra Front in the country’s central province of Hama, state-run SANA news agency reported...”

Saudi Arabia, Iran must shape 'cold peace,' Obama says

Author/Source: Susan Heavey, Reuters

“Wars and chaos in the Middle East will not end until Saudi Arabia and Iran can find a way to “share the neighborhood” and make some kind of peace, U.S. President Barack Obama said in a magazine interview released on Thursday...”

VP Biden meets with Jordan’s king

Author/Source: Arab News

“Vice President Joe Biden held talks Thursday with Jordan’s King Abdullah II, a key US military ally in the region, including in the battle against Daesh extremists...”

Israel Condemns Iran’s Firing of Ballistic Missiles

Author/Source: Latin America Herald Tribune

“Israel condemned on Thursday the firing of Iranian ballistic missiles during recent military maneuvers, Israeli foreign ministry said in a statement...”

Syrian Kurds accuse Turkey of aiding sarin gas delivery to rebels after fresh chemical attacks

Author/Source: RT

“In an interview with RT, a spokesman for the Kurdish YPG militia accused Turkey of providing a clear transit route for the chemical weapons that were deployed against them near the city of Aleppo on Tuesday...”

Soldier released in Houthi prisoner swap; border calm

Author/Source: Arab News

“Saudi Arabia released seven Yemenis in exchange for one of its soldiers, the SPA reported Wednesday. It marked the first announced prisoner swap since a Saudi-led coalition of Arab countries went to war against Yemen’s Shiite rebels nearly a year ago...”

IS commander Shishani 'survived US air strike in Syria'

Author/Source: BBC News

“A monitoring group says a top commander of so-called Islamic State was badly wounded but not killed in a recent US air strike in north-eastern Syria...”



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Syria air strikes target Islamic State in ancient Palmyra

Author/Source: Tom Perry, Reuters

“Russian warplanes were said to have launched heavy strikes on the Islamic State-held city of Palmyra on Thursday in what may be a prelude to a Syrian government bid to recapture the historic site lost to the jihadist group last May...”

Central Asia

UN Expert Concerned Over Freedom Of Expression In Tajikistan

Author/Source: Radio Free Europe

“The UN special rapporteur on the right to freedom of opinion and expression has expressed "grave" concern over the situation faced by civil-society groups, independent media, and political opposition in Tajikistan...”

Georgia, Azerbaijan have perfect relations, says president

Author/Source: Anakhanum Khidayatova, Trend

“Georgia and Azerbaijan have perfect relations and today’s meeting with Azerbaijan’s President Ilham Aliyev proved it once again, Georgian President Giorgi Margvelashvili told reporters in Baku March 10...”

Armenia violates ceasefire with Azerbaijan over 120 times in 24 hours

Author/Source: Trend

“Over the past 24 hours, Armenian armed forces 124 times violated the ceasefire on various parts of the contact line between the troops of Azerbaijan and Armenia, said Azerbaijan’s Defense Ministry March 10...”

Azerbaijan, Iran mull security cooperation along borders

Author/Source: Farhad Daaneshvar, Trend

“Commander of Iran's Border Police Brigadier-General Qasem Rezaei and Azerbaijan’s Interior Minister Colonel-General Ramil Usubov have discussed expansion of bilateral ties between two neighboring countries at a meeting in Baku...”

Azerbaijan, Switzerland commit themselves to respect territorial integrity principle

Author/Source: Azad Hasanli, Trend

“Azerbaijan and Switzerland will expand cooperation in industry, trade, investment, agriculture, energy and tourism sectors...”

South Asia

Pakistan Arrests 14 Afghan Taliban Insurgents

Author/Source: Voice of America

“Authorities in Pakistan say security forces have arrested 14 suspected militants linked to the Afghan Taliban in the southwestern city of Quetta...”



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[Dozens killed in clashes between rival Taliban factions in Afghanistan](#)

Author/Source: The Guardian

“Dozens of militants have been killed during clashes between rival Taliban factions in the latest outbreak of an insurrection against the group’s leader, Mullah Akhtar Mansoor, which flared up last year when the movement’s founder, Mullah Mohammad Omar, was announced dead...”

[Philippines to lease Japanese planes to patrol disputed sea](#)

Author/Source: Arab News

“President Benigno Aquino III said Wednesday his country will lease five aircraft from Japan to help the Philippine navy patrol Manila’s territory in the disputed South China Sea...”

[Australia Sends Migrants Back On Fishing Boat](#)

Author/Source: Sky News

“Six Bangladeshi migrants caught entering Australian waters have been sent back to Indonesia on a fishing boat, according to an Indonesian official...”

East Asia

[North Korea fires missiles, to 'liquidate' South Korean assets](#)

Author/Source: Jack-Kim and Ju-Min Park, Reuters

“North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles into the sea on Thursday in defiance of U.N. Security Council resolutions, as South Korean and U.S. forces conducted massive war games...”

[A Chinese official wants to turn a disputed South China Sea island into an offshore banking hub](#)

Author/Source: Emily Rauhala, The Washington Post

“A Chinese official has a novel plan for Woody Island, a tiny, tropical and very much contested speck in the South China Sea...”

[South China Sea Controversy: Japan’s Expanding Role With Aid To Philippines, Raises China’s Ire](#)

Author/Source: Lydia Tomkiw, International Business Times

“The Chinese government criticized Japan’s growing role in the South China Sea region Thursday amid calls for Tokyo to expand its patrols in the contested waters to aid American patrols...”

[North Korea claims to have nuclear warheads that can fit on missiles](#)

Author/Source: Steve Almasy and Euan McKirdy, CNN

“North Korea claims to have miniaturized nuclear warheads to fit on ballistic missiles, the state-run Korean Central News Agency reported...”



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Africa

Resurgent al-Shabaab puts African Forces on back foot

Author/Source: John Aglionby, Financial Times

“When a US air strike destroyed an al-Shabaab training camp in northern Somalia last weekend, reportedly killing 150 of the al-Qaeda-linked group’s fighters, it was hailed as an important tactical victory in the struggle against the Islamist militants...”

New Islamic State leader in Libya says group 'stronger every day'

Author/Source: Reuters

“A senior Islamic State militant has said in an interview identifying him as the new leader of the jihadists' Libyan offshoot that the extremist organization is getting "stronger every day" in the north African country...”

Tunisian Troops Kill Three Militants in Libyan Border Town

Author/Source: Reuters

“The Tunisian military said it killed three militants on Thursday in an operation to clear them out of a border town where more than 50 people died on Monday...”

African Union considers Mali counter-terrorism force

Author/Source: Reuters

“The African Union will send a mission to northern Mali in the next few weeks to look into setting up a counter-terrorism force to support vulnerable U.N. peacekeepers, sources familiar with the matter said...”

With U.S. Aid, Senegal Readies to Repel Terrorists

Author/Source: Yaroslav Trofimov, The Wall Street Journal

“As soon as the white van crossed the river, Senegalese troops sprang from their hideout along the road, pulling out the driver and passenger...”

Uganda: US Slaps New Sanctions On LRA, Freezes Kony's Assets

Author/Source: Frederic Musisi, All Africa

“The United States government on Tuesday announced a new set of economic and financial sanctions against rebel group, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and its elusive leader Joseph Kony, who is also on the world's most wanted list...”

Europe

French navy spots Russian nuclear-armed submarine off coast: Obs magazine

Author/Source: Reuters

“The French navy detected a Russian submarine carrying nuclear missiles in the Bay of Biscay in January, Obs magazine reported on Thursday, citing a senior French official...”

Somali imam arrested in Italy for planning attack on Rome’s main train station

Author/Source: RT

“A Muslim cleric from Somalia who came to Italy as a refugee has been detained by police for allegedly planning an attack on Rome’s central Termini train station...”



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West ‘hypocritical’ on Russian embassy attack in Kiev – Lavrov

Author/Source: RT

“German Chancellor Angela Merkel has blamed European nations for "unilaterally" shutting the Balkan route for migrants...”

Migrant crisis: Merkel condemns closure of Balkan route

Author/Source: BBC News

“German Chancellor Angela Merkel has blamed European nations for "unilaterally" shutting the Balkan route for migrants. She said this had put Greece in a "very difficult situation" and such decisions should be taken by the whole of the EU...”

Romania sends Moldova 200 tons of sugar, emergency aid

Author/Source: Fox News

“Moldovan authorities say nine trucks carrying 200 tons of sugar have arrived from Romania and will be distributed to the most vulnerable people in the impoverished nation...”

Russia-Ukraine Conflict Update: EU Extends Sanctions Against Moscow Amid Calls To Free Ukrainian Pilot

Author/Source: International Business Times

“Perhaps taking a cue from the U.S., the European Union decided Thursday to extend its sanctions against individuals and companies over Russia’s annexation of Crimea in 2014 and ensuing war in eastern Ukraine for another six months...”

US & Canada

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on US state visit

Author/Source: BBC News

“He has been welcomed by President Barack Obama with a red-carpet ceremony at the White House...”

Senators Introduce Resolution To Store ISIS Detainees In Gitmo

Author/Source: Daily Caller

“The Obama administration is committed to only detaining high-level Islamic State officials in the short-term, but a group of senators wants them placed in Guantanamo Bay, the facility the White House thinks should be closed down...”

Situation Report: U.S. general says more needed against ISIS, Afghanistan in trouble; three more B-52s to Pacific; al Shabab rises; ISIS names being named; and lots more

Author/Source: Paul McLeary with Adam Rawnsley, Foreign Policy

“As U.S. Special Operations forces begin their long-awaited kill or capture missions against Islamic State leadership, President Barack Obama’s nominee to lead the nation’s wars in the Middle East appears to be laying the groundwork for more troops, and a longer stay in Afghanistan...”



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[First Female Navy SEALs Could Get Assignments in 2017, Plans Show](#)

Author/Source: Military.com

“The first female enlisted Navy SEALs could be assigned to units next fall, and the first female SEAL officers could be in place by 2018, a newly approved Navy implementation plan shows...”

South and Central America and the Caribbean

[Prosecutors file charges against Brazil ex-leader Lula](#)

Author/Source: BBC News

“Brazilian prosecutors are filing charges against ex-President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva in a money laundering probe, officials say...”

[Colombian activist murders create unease amid Farc peace talks](#)

Author/Source: The Guardian

“As Colombia moves closer to ending half a century of war with Farc rebels, a string of murders across the country has offered a grim reminder of the persistent dangers faced by leftwing activists...”

[Venezuela Withdraws Top Diplomat in Washington](#)

Author/Source: NBC News

“President Nicolás Maduro on Wednesday announced that Venezuela's top diplomat in Washington would be called back to Caracas to protest the decision to renew a U.S. decree imposing sanctions on several top officials from the South American country...”