



POTOMAC INSTITUTE FOR POLICY STUDIES
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Daily Terrorism Weather Online

4 March 2016

Middle East

[Four Al-Qaeda Fighters Killed in U.S. Airstrike in Yemen](#)

Author/ Source: Latin American Herald Tribune

“At least four suspected terrorists of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula were killed in a bombing carried out by a U.S. drone in Yemen’s southern Shabwah province, security officials told EFE...”

[Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula hosts large rally in Mukallah](#)

Author/ Source: Thomas Joscelyn, Long War Journal

“A media group run by Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) has released dozens of new images from the city of Mukallah, the capital of Yemen’s eastern province of Hadramout...”

[Thousands rally across Iraq in support of Shiite cleric](#)

Author/ Source: The Associated Press

“Iraq’s influential Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr has reiterated calls for government reform as thousands rallied across the country in his support...”

[Syrian rebels seize Iraq border crossing from Islamic State: monitor](#)

Author/ Source: Lisa Barrington, Reuters

“Syrian rebel fighters seized a border crossing with Iraq from Islamic State on Friday, Britain-based war monitor the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said...”

[U.N. team calls destruction in Iraq’s Ramadi ‘staggering’](#)

Author/ Source: Joseph Kalin & Andrew Roche, Reuters

“Destruction in Ramadi is “staggering” and worse than anywhere else in Iraq, a U.N. team concluded this week after making the first assessment visit to the city since its recapture from Islamic State...”

[15 Jihadists, 2 Kurdish Soldiers Killed in IS Attacks near Mosul](#)

Author/ Source: Latin America Herald Tribune

“At least 15 members of the Islamic State and two Kurdish Peshmerga soldiers died on Friday morning in attacks launched by the jihadists northwest of the northern Iraqi city of Mosul...”

[Biden Won’t Focus on Israeli-Palestinian Conflict While in Mideast, White House Official Says](#)

Author/ Source: Haaretz

“U.S. Vice President Joe Biden leaves on a five-day trip to the Middle East late Saturday, but no major breakthroughs on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict are expected during his visit, a White House official said on Friday...”



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Reports: Israeli security forces close off major Palestinian city after attack

Author/ Source: i24 News

“The attacker, a 14-year-old girl, was arrested The Israeli army on Thursday sealed off Nablus, a major Palestinian city in the northern West Bank, following a stabbing attack in the West Bank on Wednesday night, according to *Ma'an*...”

Court: Nazareth men planned ISIS-style shooting attacks on Israelis

Author/ Source: Israel Hayom

“Two Israeli Arab men from Nazareth are accused of contacting Islamic State group operatives in Syria and of planning to carry out a series of shooting attacks against Israeli security forces...”

Israel military: Palestinian shot after driving into soldier

Author/ Source: Fox 25

“Israel's military says a Palestinian was shot and killed after she used her car as a weapon and drove it into a soldier in the West Bank...”

4 Catholic nuns, 12 others killed in Yemen retirement home

Author/ Source: Ahmed al-Haj, The Associated Press

“Gunmen in southern Yemen on Friday stormed a retirement home run by a charity established by Mother Teresa, killing 16 people, including four Catholic nuns, officials and witnesses said...”

U.S. leads 14 strikes against Islamic State in Iraq, Syria -U.S. military

Author/ Source: Reuters

“The United States and its allies conducted 14 strikes against Islamic State in Iraq and Syria on Thursday, the coalition leading the operations said...”

Denmark to expand military mission against Islamic State into Syria

Author/ Source: Teis Jenson, Annabella Nielsen, & Nikolaj Skydsgaard, Reuters

“Denmark's government will present proposals soon to expand its mission against Islamic State into Syria, including air strikes, Prime Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen's office said on Friday...”

High-Ranking IS Official Amr al-Absi Reported Dead

“High-ranking Islamic State (IS) official Amr al-Absi (AKA Abu al-Athir) was announced dead by users on social media...”

Jordan Test Ground for Large Jobs Program for Syria Refugees

Author/ Source: Karin Laub & Khetam Malkawi, The Associated Press

“A new trade deal with Europe, a rush of foreign investment and public works are to put 200,000 Syrian refugees to work in Jordan in what the international community has described as a radical new approach to tackling the biggest displacement crisis in decades...”



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Major busts in Syria, Lebanon shed light on drug trade

Author/ Source: Loyal Abou Rahal, Yahoo News

“A string of major drug busts in Syria and Lebanon has drawn new attention to the trade in captagon, an illegal substance that has flourished in the chaos of Syria's war...”

Central Asia

MP from Azerbaijan's ruling party accuses some parties of treason and financial fraud

Author/ Source: Mubariz Aslanov, APA News

“Siyavush Novruzov, MP, deputy executive secretary of the ruling New Azerbaijan Party, chairman of the parliamentary Committee on public associations and religious organizations, has accused some political parties of the country of treason and financial fraud...”

US states not entitled to recognize any territorial entity – Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry

Author/ Source: The Trend

“Recognition of any territorial entity is under the powers of the US Federal Government, according to the US law, Hikmet Hajiyev, Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry's spokesperson, told Trend March 4...”

South Asia

Iran-Afghanistan Bilateral Trade Hits \$1.8bln

Author/ Source: Tasnim News

“Khan Jan Alokozai, a senior official of the Afghan Chamber of Commerce, underlined the significance of Iran's specialized exhibitions in Kabul, saying that after the expos bilateral trade between the two neighboring countries has risen to \$1.8 billion...”

24 militants, 1 soldier killed in fresh military operations in Afghanistan

Author/ Source: Xinhua

“A total of 24 militants have been killed within one day during military operations in Afghanistan, the country's Defense Ministry said on Friday...”

Obama discusses Taliban peace talks with Afghan president: White House

Author/ Source: Eric Walsh & Mohammad Zargham, Reuters

“U.S. President Barack Obama, during a video conference with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani on Friday, noted Ghani's role in "working with Afghanistan's neighbors to deepen regional cooperation and advance the reconciliation process with the Taliban," the White House said...”

Landmark Pakistan women's protection bill challenged in sharia court

Author/ Source: Mehreen Zahra-Malik, Reuters

“A prominent Pakistani lawyer has filed a petition in the top sharia court seeking that it strike down a new law that gives unprecedented protection to female victims of violence...”



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BSF jawans shoot Pak intruder

Author/ Source: Times of India

“Border Security Force (BSF) shot one Pakistani intruder during the early hours of Friday near India-Pak international border...”

3 Indian security force personnel killed in fighting with leftwing rebels

Author/ Source: Xinhua

“Three Indian security force commandos were killed and over a dozen injured Thursday and Friday by suspected leftwing rebels in gunfights at the central state of Chhattisgarh, said local media...”

BSF chief in Jammu to review security after discovery of tunnel

Author/ Source: Zee News

“The BSF's new Director General K.K. Sharma on Friday arrived here to inspect a 50-metre long tunnel unearthed on Thursday that facilitated infiltration from the Pakistani side of the international border, an official said...”

Pakistan media attacked after blackout during execution of liberal governor's killer

Author/ Source: Russia Today

“Journalists and media outlets have been targeted in attacks by religious supporters of Pakistan's most infamous death row prisoner, Mumtaz Qadri, who was executed earlier this week...”

Bangladesh arrests Islamists over Hindu priest's murder

Author/ Source: Qantara

“Bangladesh has arrested three more Islamist militants over the murder of a top Hindu priest, the latest in a series of attacks on religious minorities in the Muslim-majority nation...”

Tiny Marshall Islands take on nuclear powers in court

Author/ Source: Thomas Escritt, Reuters

“A small chain of Pacific islands will face off against Britain, India and Pakistan in court next week to try and get an international ruling ordering them to start work on dismantling their nuclear arsenals...”

Thai cops shoot three armed Chinese involved in Bangkok robbery, another suspect arrested

Author/ Source: The Standard Hong Kong

“Police in Thailand said they arrested three men identified as Chinese citizens who were shot as they tried to rob a gun shop in Bangkok today. A fourth suspect was arrested later...”

IS-inspired militants on offensive in southern Philippines

Author/ Source: Qantara

“Militants fighting in the name of the Islamic State group are escalating attacks in the southern Philippines, analysts said, deepening fears for the volatile region after its main Muslim rebel group failed to seal a peace pact...”



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East Asia

N. Korea, on defensive after sanctions, makes nuclear threat

Author/ Source: Hyung-Jin Kim, The Associated Press

“North Korean leader Kim Jong Un ordered his military to be ready to launch nuclear strikes at any time, state media reported Friday, an escalation in rhetoric targeting Seoul and Washington that may not reflect the country's actual nuclear capacity...”

China orders 'blacklist' of 31 North Korean vessels: document

Author/ Source: Ruby Lian & Megha Rajagopala, Reuters

“Chinese maritime authorities must "blacklist" 31 boats operated by a North Korean firm that came under U.N. Security Council sanctions this week, according to a Ministry of Transport document reviewed by a signal that China is enforcing tough new curbs aimed at Pyongyang's banned nuclear program...”

Ailing Economy Slows China's Military Expansion

Author/ Source: Jeremy Page, Wall Street Journal

“China is increasing its armed forces budget at the slowest rate in six years, an early indication that the nation's economic slowdown is starting to hamper President Xi Jinping's military ambitions...”

Japan's Abe suspends construction at U.S. Marine base on Okinawa

Author/ Source: Anna Fifield, The Washington Post

“In a surprise move, Japan's prime minister agreed Friday to suspend construction work at a planned U.S. Marine air station on Okinawa, where opponents have battled to block the project...”

Africa

At least 25 die in S. Sudan UN camp attack: UN

Author/ Source: China Post

“At least 25 people were massacred and 120 wounded when gunmen in army uniforms attacked then torched a U.N. camp that was sheltering civilians in South Sudan last month, the U.N. said Friday...”

Boko Haram 'spiritual power base' destroyed in raid, 63 hostages rescued

Author/ Source: Russia Today

“The Nigerian Army says its soldiers have rescued 63 Boko Haram hostages and killed five militants during a raid on a “terrorist camp” established in the north east of the country...”

Libya violence: Italian workers freed

Author/ Source: BBC

“Two Italian construction workers kidnapped in Libya have been freed, a local military official has said...”

Death of Italians in Libya ramps up intervention pressure

Author/ Source: Nicole Winfield, The Associated Press



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[At least 10 Islamists killed in operation against IS in western Libya](#)

Author/ Source: Star Africa

“Military sources at the western Libyan city of Sebrata have affirmed that a local force belonging to operations against Islamist groups was able to eliminate a new group of the Islamic State entrenched south of the city, APA learns here Friday...”

[Seawater pipeline attack heralds fresh trouble in Nigeria's Delta](#)

Author/ Source: Ulf Laessing, Reuters

“A sophisticated attack on a sub-sea pipeline in Nigeria's Delta might herald a return to the kind of widespread militant violence that crippled the oil industry in Africa's top producer less than a decade ago...”

[U.N. chief Ban wants to revive talks to end Western Sahara conflict](#)

Author/ Source: Reuters

“U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon has said he will try to restart negotiations between Western Sahara's Polisario independence movement and Morocco to resolve their conflict and allow Sahrawi refugees to return...”

Europe

[Turkey car bomb attack kills two police, wounds 35: security sources](#)

Author/ Source: Seyhmus Cakan, Reuters

“A car bomb and rocket attack by Kurdish militants in Turkey killed two police officers and wounded 35 people in the southeastern province of Mardin on Friday, security sources said...”

[Croatian government moves to enable army to help control border](#)

Author/ Source: Igor Ilic & Hugh Lawson, Reuters

“Croatia proposed amending its border control and defense laws on Friday to enable the army to help police manage flows of migrants, as Western Balkan states effectively close their borders to those fleeing conflict or poverty in the Middle East...”

[Slovenia parliament passes law to quicken processing of asylum seekers](#)

Author/ Source: Marja Novak, Reuters

“The Slovenian parliament passed legislation late on Friday that is aimed at speeding up the processing of asylum seekers in a country that in recent months has been flooded with migrants on their way to Western Europe...”

[Turkish police raids opposition paper hours after take over](#)

Author/ Source: Suzan Fraser, The Associated Press

“Police, using tear gas and water cannons, on Friday raided the headquarters of Turkey's largest-circulation newspaper, hours after a court placed it under the management of trustees...”

[Serbian president dissolves parliament, calls for early vote](#)

Author/ Source: Dusan Stojanovic, The Associated Press

“Serbia's president on Friday dissolved Parliament and scheduled an early election for April 24 as the ruling conservatives try to cement power amid deep economic problems and tensions



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created by the transit of tens of thousands of migrants through the country...”

French Plane Evades Crashing into Drone

Author/ Source: Latin America Herald Tribune

“An Air France plane on the Barcelona-Paris route was about to crash last Feb. 19 into a drone during landing maneuvers at Charles de Gaulle airport...”

US & Canada

Government takes next step to deport Harkat

Author/ Source: Andrew Duffy, Ottawa Citizen

“The federal government has taken another step toward the deportation of Ottawa’s Mohamed Harkat, filing a confidential report that says the terror suspect should be sent back to Algeria despite facing some risk of torture...”

US Navy aircraft carrier group moves into contested South China Sea

Author/ Source: Asia Times

“The U.S. Navy has dispatched an aircraft carrier and several ships accompanying it into the South China Sea in the last few days, a deployment of thousands of U.S. sailors to a region a top U.S. admiral said last week is increasingly militarized by China...”

US elections 2016: Egyptian student faces deportation after posting threats about Donald Trump on Facebook

Author/ Source: The Independent

“An Egyptian flight student is expected to appear at a deportation hearing after he was investigated by federal agents for posting threatening comments on his Facebook page about Republican presidential hopeful Donald Trump...”

South and Central America and the Caribbean

Lula Targeted in Brazil’s Biggest-Ever Corruption Probe

Author/ Source: Latin America Herald Tribune

“Former Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who was detained for questioning Friday morning, became the latest target of the nation’s largest-ever corruption investigation...”

St. Lucia, Barbados Negotiate Maritime Boundaries

Author/ Source: Latin America Herald Tribune

“The governments of Barbados and St. Lucia are expected to conclude negotiations on Friday on a draft agreement to establish a maritime boundary between the two states...”

Death Toll in Guyana Prison Riot Reaches 17

Author/ Source: Latin America Herald Tribune

“The death toll climbed to 17 as the situation at Guyana’s Georgetown Prison worsened on Friday, with inmates setting new fires and threatening to detonate a cooking-gas cylinder and a tank containing gasoline...”



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Cuba Says Foreign Investment Won't Lead to Privatization

Author/ Source: Latin America Herald Tribune

“Rolling out the welcome mat for foreign investors does not imply the “privatization” of the Cuban economy, a senior official said in comments appearing in Friday’s edition of Communist Party daily Granma...”

Two Candidates Face Exclusion from Peru Presidential Race

Author/ Source: Latin America Herald Tribune

“A special electoral court ruled on Friday that candidates Julio Guzman – currently second in the polls – and Cesar Acuña should be barred from running in Peru’s April 10 presidential election...”