



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

20 March 2016

Middle East

[Syria peace talks grind toward pivotal Assad question](#)

Author/Source: Tom Miles and Pravin Char, Reuters

“Syrian government negotiators at Geneva peace talks are coming under unaccustomed pressure to discuss something far outside their comfort zone: the fate of President Bashar al-Assad...”

[Syria death toll from Russian airstrikes rises, say activists](#)

Author/Source: The Guardian

“The death toll from purported Russian airstrikes on the Islamic State-held city of Raqqa has climbed in the past 24 hours to at least 55, mostly civilians, Syrian opposition activists have said...”

[Iran's leader says U.S. still hostile after nuclear deal](#)

Author/Source: Sam Wilkin, Reuters

“The United States is still fundamentally hostile to Iran and its policies have undermined the benefits of sanctions relief, the Islamic Republic's hardline leader said on Sunday, warning Iranians not to trust their old enemy...”

[Israelis killed in Istanbul named: Yonathan Suher, Simha Dimri, Avraham Goldman](#)

Author/Source: The Times of Israel

“Turkish and American officials identified the Israelis killed in the Istanbul terror attack Saturday...”

Central Asia

[Kazakhstan's ruling party expects win in parliamentary vote](#)

Author/Source: The Washington Post

“Voters in the former Soviet republic of Kazakhstan headed to the polling stations Sunday for an election intended to confirm the ruling party's solid grip over parliament...”

[Azerbaijani, Turkish air forces holding joint tactical-flight exercises](#)

Author/Source: Trend News Agency

“2016 joint tactical-flight exercises are underway in Konya, Turkey, the Azerbaijani defense ministry said March 20...”

South Asia

[Bangladesh gets FBI help on bank heist; cyber-expert missing](#)

Author/Source: The Washington Post

“Police met an FBI official here in the capital of Bangladesh on Sunday to try to track down culprits behind an attempted \$951 million cyberheist from the country's central bank...”



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Fate of India-France Rafale Fighter Deal Uncertain

Author/Source: Ankit Panda, The Diplomat

“The government-to-government arrangement between India and France for the sale of 36 Dassault Rafale fighters to New Delhi may be running into insurmountable problems...”

26/11 Mumbai terror attack: Petition filed in Pakistani court to include post mortem reports of victims

Author/Source: First Post

“The prosecution in the Mumbai attacks case on Sunday filed a fresh petition in a Pakistani anti-terrorism court to amend charges against the seven accused of banned LeT by including the postmortem reports of the 166 victims of the 2008 terror attack...”

Australia, looking toward China, beefs up military

Author/Source: A. Odysseus Patrick, The Washington Post

“The United States has long pushed allies to rely less on its huge military forces and to spend more on their own defense...”

Russian held over aircraft bomb hoax

Author/Source: Bangkok Post

“Phuket International Airport authorities evacuated all passengers and crew from a flight bound for Moscow on Sunday after a Russian passenger made remarks which triggered emergency response procedures and a five-hour delay...”

Hospital raid weapons used in 25 previous attacks

Author/Source: Ayub Pathan, Bangkok Post

“A large number of shells recovered from Cho Ai Rong Hospital in Narathiwat province, which was raided by a group of about 50 insurgents and used as an outpost to attack an army ranger base on March 13, were found to have been fired from weapons used in at least 25 previous attacks going back to 2011, according to a report...”

Indonesian military chopper crashes, 13 aboard

Author/Source: Bangkok Post

“A military helicopter carrying 13 people crashed in central Indonesia on Sunday, with preliminary reports saying all people on board were killed, a spokesman said...”

Indonesia to summon China ambassador over fishing boat incident

Author/Source: Agustinus Beo Da Costa and Ben Blanchard, Reuters

“Indonesia will summon China's ambassador over an incident involving a Chinese fishing vessel in the Natuna Sea, a minister said on Sunday, as Beijing accused it of attacking the ship in traditional Chinese fishing grounds...”



East Asia

[North Korea conducts military landing drills](#)

Author/Source: The Japan News

“North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has inspected military landing and antilanding drills, the country’s state-run Korean Central News Agency reported Sunday...”

[Keep South China Sea row out of G-7 summit, China tells Japan](#)

Author/Source: The Straits Times

“China has pressed Japan not to broach Beijing's disputes with regional neighbours in the South China Sea at the Group of Seven (G-7) summit in Japan in May...”

Africa

[Kenyan Forces Kill 34 al-Qaeda Militants in Somalia Clashes](#)

Author/Source: Paul Richardson, Bloomberg Business

“Kenyan forces killed at least 34 suspected members of the al-Qaeda-linked al-Shabaab group in clashes in southern Somalia, the Ministry of Defense said...”

[Somalia: 13 More Al Shabaab Terrorists Killed By KDF in Somalia](#)

Author/Source: All Africa

“Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) announced Sunday that they had killed 13 more Al Shabaab militants during an ambush in Somalia, hours after 21 others were killed in Afmadhow...”

[Nigeria: Boko Haram Has Been Hobbled, Decimated, Says Mohammed](#)

Author/Source: All Africa

“Nigeria is on top of its security problems and Boko Haram has been hobbled and decimated ahead of elections in the oil-rich River State region, according to information minister, Alhaji Lai Mohammed...”

[Nigeria: Troops Ambush Boko Haram, Kill Seven](#)

Author/Source: All Africa

“The Nigerian army says troops of 7 Brigade on operation Zaman Lafiya Dole in the North East have ambushed and killed seven Boko Haram terrorists at Dawashi early this morning...”

[Nigeria: Army Announces Ambush of Suicide Bomber](#)

Author/Source: All Africa

“Troops of 25 Task Force Brigade ambushed and killed a Boko Haram terrorist suicide bomber at Kumala and Musafanari villages general area last night effectively saving lives and properties of innocent citizens...”

[Algerian army kills militants behind Krechba gas plant attack: source](#)

Author/Source: Lamine Chikhi, Patrick Markey and Raissa Kasolowsky, Reuters

“Algeria's army has killed four militants authorities believe were responsible for Friday's attack on the Krechba gas facility operated by state oil company Sonatrach with BP and Statoil, a security source said on Sunday...”



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Terrorist attack kills 13 Egypt policemen in Sinai

Author/Source: The Middle East Online

“A mortar attack on a checkpoint in Egypt's restive Sinai Peninsula killed 13 policemen on Saturday, the interior ministry said in a statement...”

Europe

Turkey blames ISIL for Istanbul attack

Author/Source: Al Jazeera

“Turkey's interior minister said on Sunday an Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant suicide bomber carried out the attack in Istanbul that killed five people and wounded more than 30 others...”

Salah Abdeslam 'changed his mind in suicide plan'

Author/Source: Al Jazeera

“Salah Abdeslam, the prime surviving suspect for the Paris attacks, has told investigators he planned to blow himself up at the Stade de France but then changed his mind, the Paris prosecutor said...”

About 875 new refugees arrived in Greece overnight, despite new deportation rules

Author/Source: The National Post

“Hundreds of mostly Syrian asylum-seekers continued to arrive in Greece by sea Sunday despite the start of an international agreement to send migrants back to Turkey...”

FlyDubai plane crashes in Russia, killing all on board

Author/Source: Al Jazeera

“At least 62 passengers and crew have died after a FlyDubai plane crashed during an attempted landing in the Russian city of Rostov-on-Don, Russian officials said...”

US & Canada

Biden defends Iran deal to pro-Israel group, says settlement are eroding peace prospects

Author/Source: Allie Malloy and Kevin Bohn, CNN

“Vice President Joe Biden Sunday defended last year's Iran nuclear deal in a speech to more than 18,000 pro-Israel activists, comments that did not seem to be met with much support from the audience...”

U.S., allies conduct 16 strikes against Islamic State in Iraq: U.S. military

Author/Source: Andrea Shalal and Hugh Lawson, Reuters

“The United States and its allies targeted Islamic State militants in Iraq with 16 strikes on Saturday, the U.S. military said on Sunday...”

France's Le Pen criticizes Canadian immigration, refugee policy

Author/Source: Ethan Lou, Marwa Siam-Abdou, and Richard Chang, Reuters

“French right-wing politician Marine Le Pen, who is touring the Canadian province of Quebec, said on Sunday the country's immigration policy was on the "wrong path," at an event where one of her bodyguards reportedly struck a protester...”



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2 Americans killed in suspected ISIS bombing in Turkey, U.S. official says

Author/Source: Hugh Naylor and Ruth Eglash, The Washington Post

“A suicide bombing at a popular shopping area in Istanbul that killed at least five people, including two Americans, and wounded dozens more Saturday, according to media reports...”

South and Central America and the Caribbean

Fidel Castro Meets Venezuela’s Maduro on Eve of Obama’s Arrival in Cuba

Author/Source: Latin American Herald Tribune

“Former Cuban President Fidel Castro received Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro for a meeting in Havana that came on the eve of the arrival on Sunday of U.S. President Barack Obama...”

ELN Rebels Release Kidnapped Colombian Soldier

Author/Source: Latin American Herald Tribune

“Army Cpl. Jair de Jesus Villar, who was kidnapped by Colombia’s National Liberation Army, or ELN, guerrilla group six weeks ago, was released on Sunday, the International Committee of the Red Cross said...”

Japan to Increase Loans to Latin America for Infrastructure

Author/Source: Latin American Herald Tribune

“The Japanese government plans to increase development loans to Latin America through a greater contribution to the Inter-American Development Bank, or IDB, especially to co-finance infrastructure...”

Obama arrives in Cuba in first for US president in 88 years

Author/Source: Julie Pace and Mike Weissenstein, The Times of Israel

“Stepping into history, President Barack Obama opened an extraordinary visit to Cuba on Sunday, eager to push decades of acrimony deeper into the past and forge irreversible ties with America’s former adversary...”

Police Officer Gunned Down in Upscale Section of El Salvador’s Capital

Author/Source: Latin American Herald Tribune

“A 31-year-old police officer was gunned down near an upscale section of the Salvadoran capital of San Salvador, raising the number of law enforcement agents murdered this year to 12, the Attorney General’s Office said...”

Army Seizes 762 Kilos of Cocaine in Southwestern Colombia

Author/Source: Latin American Herald Tribune

“Soldiers seized 762 kilos of cocaine belonging to the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, guerrilla group in a rural area outside Ipiales, a city in the southwestern Colombian province of Pasto, but no arrests were made, the army said...”