



POTOMAC INSTITUTE FOR POLICY STUDIES
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Daily Terrorism Weather Online

20 July 2017

Middle East

[Qatar 'informed' al-Qaeda bombers says UAE diplomat](#)

Source: BBC

“The United Arab Emirates (UAE) ambassador to Russia has said Qatar informed al-Qaeda of a military operation in Yemen, resulting in a suicide bomb attack that left Emirati troops injured...”

[Iraqi F-16 jet attacks IS posts in western Mosul](#)

Source: Xinhua

“Iraqi F-16 jet fighters carried out on Thursday airstrikes on suspected Islamic State (IS) posts in and near the IS-held town of Tal Afar in west of the newly-freed city of Mosul, the Iraqi military said...”

[Execution site discovered near Mosul's Old City](#)

Source: Al Jazeera

“An international rights monitor has reported the discovery of an execution site in the Iraqi city of Mosul, and given warning of a resurgence of violence if no one is held to account over the murder and torture of Iraqis in the battle against ISIL...”

[Palestinian Attempts to Stab IDF Troops in West Bank; Attacker Shot Dead](#)

Source: The Jerusalem Post

“A Palestinian assailant attempted to stab an IDF soldier stationed near the West Bank settlement of Tekoa on Thursday afternoon, the military confirmed...”

[Hamis warns Israel of al-Aqsa 'red lines' amid protest](#)

Source: Al Jazeera

“The Palestinian group Hamas has warned Israel against crossing a "red line" at the al-Aqsa Mosque compound, as residents of the Gaza Strip demonstrate for a second day in solidarity with Muslim worshippers protesting against the new security measures at the holy site...”

[Kuwait closes Iran cultural mission, expels diplomats](#)

Source: Al Jazeera

“Kuwait is closing the Iranian cultural mission and related offices in the Gulf Arab state and expelling a number of Iranian diplomats stationed in the country, according to the official news agency, KUNA...”

[Syrian rebel ambush kills 28 members of government forces near Damascus: monitor](#)

Author/Source: Gareth Jones, Reuters

“The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said that rebels had killed at least 28 members of Syrian government and allied forces east of the capital Damascus on Thursday...”



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[Abusive Saudi Prince arrested by order of King Salman](#)

Source: Arab News

“Riyadh Police have arrested a member of the Saudi royal family who abused citizens verbally and physically in a widely spread video that went viral over the past few days...”

Central Asia

[Armenia violates ceasefire 126 times](#)

Source: APA

“Military units of the armed forces of Armenia violated ceasefire 126 times throughout the day, using large-caliber machine guns, Defence Ministry told APA on July 20...”

South Asia

[Militants' attack kill 16 security personnel in southern Afghanistan](#)

Source: Xinhua

“Up to 16 security personnel were killed as Taliban militants attacked security checkpoints in Kandahar province in southern Afghanistan on Thursday, a local official said on condition of anonymity...”

[India ready for talks with China on border standoff](#)

Author/Source: Ashok Sharma, The Washington Post

“India said Thursday it is ready to hold talks with China if both sides pull back their forces to end a standoff along a disputed territory high in the Himalayan mountains...”

Southeast Asia

[Global drug rings target Indonesia after shifting from Philippines: BNN](#)

Source: The Jakarta Post

“Indonesia has become a target for international drug dealers who have shifted their attention from the Philippines after the country began meting out harsh punishments to suspected drug dealers under the leadership of President Rodrigo Duterte, the National Narcotics Agency (BNN) has said...”

[One killed in pipe bomb attack on police checkpoint](#)

Author/Source: Waedao Harai, The Bangkok Post

“Six pipe bombs were hurled at a police checkpoint in Bacho district Thursday morning, killing one policeman and seriously injuring another...”

East Asia

[Rights group identifies nearly 300 execution sites in North Korea](#)

Author/Source: Elizabeth Shim, United Press International

“A human rights group in South Korea has assembled a digital map of all known execution sites in North Korea, the culmination of hundreds of interviews conducted with defectors who fled the Kim Jong Un regime...”

[S Korea urges N Korea to accept military talks offer](#)

Source: Al Jazeera

“South Korea has urged North Korea to break its silence on an offer of military talks aimed at easing simmering tensions over the hermit state's nuclear ambitions...”



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Chinese military monitoring waters around China

Source: Xinhua

“China's naval forces are fully aware of any situation occurring in waters around China, said the Ministry of National Defense on Thursday...”

South Korea considers its nuclear options

Author/Source: Michael Marshall, United Press International

“South Korea has started thinking about its own nuclear options in response to the growing nuclear and missile threat from North Korea...”

Africa

Boko Haram suspects tortured in Cameroon, Amnesty says

Source: BBC

“Suspected Boko Haram fighters have been "brutally tortured" by security forces in Cameroon, a rights group says...”

UN to close five peacekeepers' bases in eastern DRC

Source: News 24

“Five UN peacekeepers' bases in the Democratic Republic of Congo are to close at the end of July, the UN mission there announced on Wednesday, describing it as a change in operational style...”

Moroccan police fire tear gas to disperse protests in north

Author/Source: Samia Errazzouki, Reuters

“Police fired tear gas and used truncheons to scatter hundreds of protesters in northern Morocco, a Reuters witness said on Thursday, part of the biggest wave of demonstrations in the kingdom since Arab Spring-inspired rallies in 2011...”

Polisario Front 'arrests 19 Moroccan drug smugglers'

Source: News 24

“The Polisario Front, which seeks independence for Moroccan-controlled Western Sahara, said on Wednesday it had arrested 19 drug traffickers from Morocco and accused Rabat of complicity...”

Europe

EU seeks U.N. alliance against torture trade, lethal drugs

Author/Source: Robin Emmott and Philip Blenkinsop, Reuters

“The European Union is rallying dozens of countries to stop the trade of torture equipment and lethal-injection drugs, which could make it harder for the United States to perform executions, a top EU official said on Thursday...”

European Human Rights Court Rejects Free Speech Defense of Extremist Videos

Source: VOA

“Europe's top human rights court ruled on Thursday that online videos considered by a Belgian court to be Islamist hate speech were not protected under free speech provisions...”



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[AlphaBay and Hansa dark web markets shut down](#)

Author/Source: Chris Baraniuk, BBC

“Two of the largest dark web marketplaces have been shut down following a ‘landmark’ international law enforcement investigation...”

[Moscow says in talks with U.S. to create cyber security working group: RIA](#)

Author/Source: Andrew Osborn, Reuters

“Moscow and Washington are in talks to create a joint cyber security working group, Russia's RIA news agency reported on Thursday, citing Andrey Krutskikh, a special presidential envoy on cyber security...”

[Germany indicts 5 suspects in IS recruitment ring](#)

Source: The Miami Herald

“German prosecutors filed terrorism charges Thursday against a suspected representative of the Islamic State group in Germany and four fellow suspects who are accused of running a recruitment network...”

[9/11 survivors urge May to publish UK terror funding report](#)

Author/Source: Jessica Elgot, The Guardian

“A group of September 11 attack survivors and bereaved relatives have urged Theresa May to publish a report into the funding of extremism in Britain, with ministers still facing questions as to whether the report highlights Saudi Arabia...”

[Ukraine Says Eight Soldiers Killed Amid Intense Shelling](#)

Source: Radio Free Europe

“Ukraine's Defense Ministry said on July 20 that eight Ukrainian soldiers were killed and 10 were wounded in the previous 24 hours as Russia-backed separatists stepped up shelling attacks on their positions in the country's east...”

US & Canada

[CIA no longer arming anti-Assad rebels, Washington Post reports](#)

Author/Source: Euan McKirdy and Laura Smith-Spark, CNN

“US President Donald Trump has ordered the CIA to discontinue a program of arming and training anti-Assad rebels in Syria, according to a report in the Washington Post which cites unnamed US officials...”

[U.S. to deploy officials in Qatar in counter-terrorism accord: sources](#)

Author/Source: Tom Finn and Sylvia Westall, Reuters

“The United States will post officials at the Qatari state prosecutor's office as part of a Qatari-U.S. agreement signed this month to fight the financing of terrorism, people familiar with the matter said...”

[US ends laptop ban on Middle East carriers](#)

Source: Al Jazeera

“The United States has ended a ban on passengers carrying laptops on board US-bound flights from certain airports in the Middle East and North Africa, bringing to an end one of the controversial travel restrictions imposed by President Donald Trump's administration...”



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[US accuses Lebanon's Hezbollah of weapons buildup](#)

Source: Al Arabiya

“US Ambassador Nikki Haley on Wednesday accused Lebanon’s Hezbollah of amassing weapons and said the world must turn its attention to the actions of the powerful paramilitary organization...”

[U.S. says 180 airlines implement boosted security measures](#)

Author/Source: David Shepardson, Reuters

“Some 180 airlines worldwide that fly directly to U.S. airports have complied with a first phase of enhanced security measures outlined in June and do not face any new restrictions, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security said on Thursday...”

South and Central America and the Caribbean

[Jamaica ranks number one for cybersecurity in Caribbean](#)

Source: Jamaica Observer

“Jamaica's efforts to boost cybersecurity have been given international recognition, according to the Ministry of Science, Energy and Technology, after the country was ranked number one in the Caribbean on the Global Cybersecurity Index...”

[Mexican marines kill 8 suspected gang members in shootout](#)

Author/Source: Danielle Haynes, United Press International

“At least eight suspected gang members died in a shootout with the Mexican marines in Mexico City on Thursday, the navy said...”