



**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@potomacinstitute.org www.potomacinstitute.org

### Daily Terrorism Weather Online

5 October 2017

#### **Middle East**

##### **[Hamas Elects Ex-West Bank Terror Commander Saleh Al-Arou as Political Chief's Deputy](#)**

*Source: The Jerusalem Post*

“ Hamas, the terror organization ruling in the Gaza Strip, announced Thursday that it has elected Saleh al-Arouri as deputy political chief who will act as second in command to Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh, Al-Jazeera, the Qatar-based broadcaster reported...”

##### **[Iraq Claims Victory in ISIS' Last Urban Stronghold](#)**

*Author/Source: David Zucchino and Rod Nordland, The New York Times*

“ Iraqi forces have driven Islamic State fighters from the northern city of Hawija, the militants' final urban stronghold in Iraq, three years after they seized control of nearly a third of the country, the Iraqi government said Thursday...”

##### **[Saudi king, Putin agree deals on historic Russia trip](#)**

*Source: Al Jazeera*

“ Saudi Arabia has signed preliminary agreements to buy S-400 air defence systems from Russia, officials said, on the sidelines of King Salman's "landmark" visit to Moscow...”

##### **[Iran warns nuclear deal “not renegotiable”](#)**

*Source: Press TV*

“ Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Ali Akbar Salehi says the 2015 nuclear deal reached between Iran and six world powers is not renegotiable...”

##### **[Jordan: 11 sentenced for promoting terror ideologies](#)**

*Source: The Middle East Monitor*

“ A court in Jordan sentenced 11 people to hard labour for promoting and trying to join terrorist groups, Assabeel newspaper reported yesterday...”

##### **[Saudi-led coalition back on UN blacklist for killing children in Yemen](#)**

*Source: The New Arab*

“ The Saudi Arabia-led coalition fighting in Yemen was on Thursday placed on a UN blacklist for killing and maiming children, drawing fresh calls from rights groups to step up pressure on Riyadh over the conflict...”

##### **[Saudi Arabia arrests 22 for spreading online videos](#)**

*Source: Al Jazeera*

“ Saudi Arabia has arrested 22 people, including a Qatari national, for "inciting against public order" on social media, authorities said, following a crackdown on dissent...”



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## **Central Asia**

### **[Uzbek, Kyrgyz Presidents reiterate Two Nations' Readiness to Cooperate](#)**

*Source: Radio Free Europe*

“Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoev and his Kyrgyz counterpart, Almazbek Atambaev, on October 5 reiterated the two neighboring Central Asian nations' readiness for closer cooperation...”

## **South Asia**

### **[At least 24 Afghan Forces Killed After Taliban Seige in Uruzgan](#)**

*Source: Ariana News*

“At least 24 Afghan soldiers have been killed after days of siege by the Taliban insurgents in southern Uruzgan province, the Defense Ministry confirmed Thursday...”

### **[UN Mission signed project document to support Afghan election](#)**

*Source: Xinhua*

“The UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) has signed a project document aimed at supporting and strengthening Afghan electoral institutions and their operations, the mission said in a statement Thursday...”

### **[Ghani Lays Out Reforms Progress at SOM](#)**

*Source: Tolo News*

“Addressing delegates attending the Senior Officials Meeting in Kabul on Thursday Ghani gave a run down on the current situation in the country and on progress that has been made, particularly regarding reforms...”

### **[Pakistan denies allegations of supporting armed groups](#)**

*Author/Source: Asad Hashim, Al Jazeera*

“The Pakistani military has responded to a charge of having links to armed groups in South Asia, arguing that it is the job of intelligence agencies to maintain such connections, but rejected the notion that Pakistan supported groups such as the Afghan Taliban...”

### **[Deadly blast hits shrine in Pakistan's Balochistan](#)**

*Author/Source: Hashim Baloch, Geo TV*

“At least 20 people were killed, including a police officer, while 33 were reported injured in a suicide blast at the Fatehpur shrine in Balochistan's Jhal Magsi district...”

## **Southeast Asia**

### **[Australia creates photo ID database to help track terror suspects](#)**

*Author/Source: Colin Packham, Reuters*

“Australian police will create a national photo database using existing identification records held by state authorities to identify terror suspects, Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said on Thursday, fanning privacy concerns among rights groups...”

### **[Duterte on 'war path' against Philippine justice system](#)**

*Author/Source: Ted Regencia, Al Jazeera*

“Congressional allies of President Rodrigo Duterte have moved forward with the impeachment case against the supreme court chief justice, while the Philippine leader himself



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has threatened to file a similar complaint against the government's top prosecutor..."

#### **Susi calls for actions to strengthen maritime security**

*Author/Source: Rendi A Witular, The Jakarta Post*

"Confronted with challenges to ensuring maritime security in the high seas, Indonesia has called on the international community to deliver a concerted policy directed at assuring sustainable and responsible fishing practices..."

#### **Alejano insists presence of Chinese ships near Pag-asa island 'dangerous**

*Source: ABS-CBN*

"Gary Alejano on Friday insisted that the presence of Chinese ships near the Philippines' Pag-asa island is 'highly suspicious' and 'dangerous' even after Chinese Ambassador Zhao Jianhua said it is only 'quite natural...'"

### **East Asia**

#### **China Gives Philippines More Weapons, Ammunition**

*Source: Latin American Herald Tribune*

"China donated 3,000 assault rifles and 3 million rounds of ammunition to the Philippines on Thursday..."

#### **US Customs vows to block imports made by North Korea workers**

*Author/Source: Martha Mendoza, ABC News*

"U.S. Customs and Border Protection says it is ready to block U.S. imports of seafood — as well as any other goods — produced by North Korean laborers who work in China..."

### **Africa**

#### **Attack in Mozambique leaves two police officers dead**

*Source: Anadolu Agency*

"Two police officers were killed Thursday when at least 30 armed men attacked police positions in northern Mozambique's Cabo Delgado province, authorities said..."

#### **Sudanese president vows peace, stability in Somalia**

*Author/Source: Zhou Xin, Xinhua*

"Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir said on Thursday that his country would exert utmost efforts for peace and stability in Somalia..."

#### **Niger-U.S. joint military operation to continue despite deadly attack: officials**

*Source: Africa News*

"Military operations were underway on Thursday near Niger's border with Mali the day after an attack by unidentified assailants which killed three members of the U.S. Army Special Forces and five Nigerien soldiers, security sources said..."

### **Europe**

#### **Spain's top courts blocks Catalan parliament's meeting**

*Source: Al Jazeera*

"Spain's top court has ordered the suspension of a planned session in Catalonia's parliament, in which regional leaders were expected to unilaterally announce a split from Spain..."



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### **[Europe's business heads aim to keep Iran nuclear deal despite US threat](#)**

*Source: The Guardian*

“EU business leaders have said they are prepared to do everything they can to salvage the Iran nuclear deal in the event of a US withdrawal, as the Danish credit agency extended export guarantees to Tehran in the run-up to a showdown with Donald Trump...”

### **[Macron offers mediation between Baghdad and Kurds](#)**

*Source: Al Jazeera*

“French President Emmanuel Macron has offered to mediate between the central government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), following Erbil's referendum decision to split from the rest of the country...”

### **[Turkish Prosecutors Order Arrest of 133 Officials for Coup Role](#)**

*Source: Latin American Herald Tribune*

“Turkish prosecutors ordered on Thursday the arrest of 133 government officials over their alleged link to last year's failed coup, according to Turkey's state-owned news agency...”

### **[Russian Airstrike cripples Al-Qaeda Leadership in Syria](#)**

*Author/Source: Brecht Jonkers, Al-Masdar News*

“The Russian Aerospace Forces have dealt a crippling blow to the command structure of Hayyat Tahrir al-Sham, the regional branch of Al-Qaeda in Syria, during a precision airstrike on Wednesday. This was reported on Thursday by Major-General Igor Konashenkov, spokesperson of the Russian Ministry of Defence...”

### **[Stop Repatriating Afghan Refugees, Amnesty International Urges Europe](#)**

*Source: Latin American Herald Tribune*

“Amnesty International urged European nations on Thursday to put an end to their policy of sending back Afghan refugees, which goes against international law...”

## **US & Canada**

### **[Trump plans to declare that Iran nuclear deal is not in the national interest](#)**

*Source/Author: Anna Gearan and Karoun Demirjian, The Washington Post*

“President Trump is expected to announce next week that he will “decertify” the international nuclear deal with Iran, saying it is not in the national interest of the United States and kicking the issue to a reluctant Congress, people briefed on the White House strategy said Thursday...”

### **[US drone strike kills Al-Qaeda 'commander' in Yemen](#)**

*Source: Hindustan Times*

“A US drone killed a “commander” of Al-Qaeda militants in Yemen in a strike on the central province of Baida, security sources said on Thursday...”

## **South and Central America and the Caribbean**

### **[Venezuelan president visits Belarus, discusses military ties](#)**

*Source: Associated Press*

“Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has visited Belarus, emphasizing plans to bolster military ties with the ex-Soviet nation...”



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**[Mexico warns U.S. against ‘protectionist war,’ peso weakens](#)**

*Source: Reuters*

“Mexican officials warned on Thursday that U.S. proposals in ongoing NAFTA negotiations would result in protectionism and higher prices rather than free trade, as concerns about the future of the deal helped drag the peso to four-month lows...”