



**POTOMAC INSTITUTE FOR POLICY STUDIES**  
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### Daily Terrorism Weather Online

18 May 2018

#### **Middle East**

##### [UN Votes to Send War Crimes Investigators to Gaza](#)

*Author/Source: Al Jazeera*

“The United Nations' top human rights body has voted to send a team of international war crimes investigators to probe the deadly shootings of Gaza protesters by Israeli forces...”

##### [‘11 Killed, Iranian Missiles Hit’ in Blasts at Syrian Airport, Reports Say](#)

*Author/Source: Haaretz*

“Explosions were heard near Hama airport in Syria on Friday, Syrian state media said, without giving details...”

##### [Coalition Strikes Target ISIS Terrorists in Syria, Iraq](#)

*Author/Source: The Department of Defense*

“Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve and its partners continued to strike Islamic State of Iraq and Syria targets in designated parts of Syria and Iraq between May 11-17, conducting 66 strikes consisting of 80 engagements, Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve officials reported today...”

##### [Egypt to Open Rafah Crossing with Gaza for Ramadan](#)

*Author/Source: Al Jazeera*

“Egypt's President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi has ordered the opening of the Rafah border crossing with Gaza Strip for the entire holy month of Ramadan, days after mass protests along the Gaza-Israel border in which more than 60 Palestinians were killed by Israeli forces...”

##### [Erdogan Calls on Muslim Countries to Unite and Confront Israel](#)

*Author/Source: Al Jazeera*

“Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has called on Muslim leaders to unite and confront Israel, days after scores of Palestinians were killed by Israeli snipers as they marked 70 years of Israeli occupation...”

##### [Cleric Moqtada Al-Sadr's Bloc Wins Iraq Election](#)

*Author/Source: Raya Jalabi and Michael Georgy, Reuters*

“A political bloc led by populist Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, a long-time adversary of the United States who also opposes Iranian influence in Iraq, has won the country's parliamentary election, the electoral commission said on Saturday...”

#### **Central Asia**

##### [Armenia Breaks Ceasefire with Azerbaijan](#)

*Author/Source: AzerNews*



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“Over the past 24 hours, Armenia’s armed forces have 85 times violated the ceasefire along the line of contact between Azerbaijani and Armenian troops, the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry said May 18...”

## **South Asia**

### **[Myanmar Wants Repatriation of 1,101 Verified Rohingyas](#)**

*Author/Source: The Daily Star*

“Myanmar has urged Bangladesh to start the repatriation of 1,101 verified Rohingyas out of 8,032 persons received from Bangladesh amid a very slow verification process of Rohingyas...”

### **[Pakistan-India Border Gunbattle Leaves Nine Dead](#)**

*Author/Source: Yahoo News*

“Indian and Pakistani forces exchanged fire across the tense, heavily militarised Kashmir border Friday, leaving eight civilians and an Indian soldier dead, officials said...”

### **[Over 300 Sri Lankan Government Websites Hacked by alleged LTTE Cyber Team](#)**

*Author/Source: Sri Lanka Guardian*

“First in 2017, now again, this year, unknown black hat hackers team named as Tamil Eelam Cyber Force claimed that they have hacked and taken control over 300 web portal operating by the Government of Sri Lanka and other private entities. List of the hacked websites released...”

### **[8 Dead, Dozens Injured from Explosions at Afghanistan Cricket Tournament](#)**

*Author/Source: Meghan Keneally, ABC News*

“Three explosions targeted a cricket tournament in Afghanistan today, leaving eight people dead and dozens injured, according to a government official...”

### **[Britain Prepares to Send 400 More Troops Back to Afghanistan to Counter Isil Threat](#)**

*Author/Source: Dominic Nicholls, The Telegraph*

“Britain is planning to send 400 more troops to Afghanistan to help tackle the growing threat posed by extremists - a number that could rise and be used for combat, a former army commander has said...”

### **[Dozen Afghan Security Personnel Killed in Taliban Attacks](#)**

*Author/Source: Radio Free Europe Radio Liberty*

“Afghan officials say Taliban militants have killed at least 14 members of the security forces in separate attacks across the country...”

## **Southeast Asia**

### **[Australia’s Third Air Warfare Destroyer Launched in Adelaide](#)**

*Author/Source: SBS News*

“Australia's third and final air warfare destroyer provides the defence force with "very serious capability", Defence Industry Minister Christopher Pyne says, completing a program that delivers the navy its most potent warships...”



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### **Cambodia Court Extends Detention of Radio Journalists**

*Author/Source: The Washington Post*

“A Cambodian court on Friday extended the pre-trial detention of two Radio Free Asia journalists who have been in prison for six months while espionage charges, which critics say are part of a crushing crackdown on independent media, are investigated...”

### **China Calls for Ceasefire in Myanmar Border Fighting**

*Author/Source: Reuters*

“China’s defense ministry has called on armed groups in northern Myanmar to show restraint and declare an immediate ceasefire after conflicts in the region killed three Chinese citizens...”

### **Death Penalty Sought for Key Suspect in 2016 Jakarta Bombings**

*Author/Source: ABS-CBN News*

“Indonesian prosecutors sought the death penalty on Friday for the leader of a local pro-Islamic State group accused of playing a key role in the January 2016 bombings in Jakarta that killed eight people, including four attackers...”

## **East Asia**

### **China Pledges \$200 Billion in U.S. Purchases by Overhauling Trade Rules**

*Author/Source: Ana Swanson and Jim Tankersley, The New York Times*

“American and Chinese officials made progress on Friday toward an agreement that could help avert a trade war, with China pledging to increase its purchase of American goods by at least \$200 billion by 2020, largely by lifting existing barriers that would make it easier for United States firms to sell and operate in China, according to a senior Trump administration official...”

### **Now Even Japan is Pushing Back Against Trump’s Tariffs**

*Author/Source: Motoko Rich, The New York Times*

“After months of taking hits from the United States over North Korea policy and trade, Japan has decided that it will only be pushed so far, and is threatening to punch back...”

### **U.S. and South Korea to Discuss North’s ‘Bright Future’**

*Author/Source: Choe Sang-Hun, The New York Times*

“When the South Korean president meets with President Trump in Washington next week, the two will discuss security assurances and economic incentives for a denuclearizing North Korea, following up on Mr. Trump’s reassuring words for the North’s young leader, a presidential aide in Seoul said on Friday...”

### **North Korea Supports Nuclear Weapons Ban Globally, Its Envoy Says 18 May 2018**

*Author/Source: Vaishnavi Vaidyanathan, International Business Times*

“North Korea has offered to join the international efforts for a total ban on nuclear tests, said Han Tae Song, its ambassador to the United Nations during the disarmament conference in Geneva on Tuesday...”



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## **Africa**

### **[High Risk of Ebola Spread in Congo, WHO Says](#)**

*Author/Source: Maggie Fox, NBC News*

“The Ebola virus could spread exponentially now that it’s reached a big city in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, World Health Organization officials said Friday...”

### **[UN Peacekeeper Killed, 8 Hurt as CAR Convoy Hit](#)**

*Author/Source: News24*

“A peacekeeper was killed and eight others were injured Thursday during an attack on a convoy in the Central African Republic, the UN's Minusca force and the Mauritanian army said...”

### **[U.S. Pledges \\$8 Million for Ebola Outbreak in Congo](#)**

*Author/Source: Lena H. Sun, The Washington Post*

“The United States has pledged to provide \$8 million to support the global response to the growing Ebola outbreak in Congo, officials said Tuesday...”

## **Europe**

### **[Ex-Spy Sergei Skripal Discharged after Poisoning](#)**

*Author/Source: BBC*

“The 66-year-old was found slumped on a park bench in the city on 4 March, with his daughter Yulia...”

### **[French Police Foil Ricin Terror Plot and Arrest Egyptian Brothers](#)**

*Author/Source: Egypt Independent*

“Police in France have foiled a suspected terror attack and arrested two brothers of Egyptian origin, French Interior Minister Gerard Collomb said on Friday...”

### **[Putin’s Powers Likely to be Extended for Three Consecutive Terms](#)**

*Author/Source: Pravda Report*

“Representatives of the Chechen parliament submitted amendments to the Constitution of the Russian Federation with a suggestion to extend the powers of the Russian president for three consecutive terms...”

### **[Rival Bosnian Police Forces in Standoff over Migrant Transfer](#)**

*Author/Source: Dado Ruvic, Reuters*

“A convoy of buses carrying 270 migrants in Bosnia to a refugee center was held up for hours on Friday in a standoff that exposed frictions between regional and national authorities in the multi-ethnic Balkan state...”

## **US & Canada**

### **[Trump Administration Ends Aid for Northwestern Syria](#)**

*Author/Source: CBS News*

“The Trump administration has withdrawn all assistance from Northwest Syria, according to



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administration officials...”

### **[10 Killed, 13 Injured in Santa Fe High School Shooting, Suspect in Custody](#)**

*Author/Source: Fox9*

“A shooter is in police custody and another suspect has been detained following a shooting that left multiple people dead and others injured at Santa Fe High School in Texas...”

### **[Hawaii Volcano Shoots Lava 300 Feet into Air](#)**

*Author/Source: Danielle Hayes, United Press International*

“Eruptions at Kilauea Volcano on Hawaii's Big Island sent columns of lava shooting up to 300 feet in the air Friday, the U.S. Geological Survey said...”

### **[Police Shoot Gunman at Trump Resort near Miami](#)**

*Author/Source: Susan McFarland, United Press International*

“A gunman was shot by police during a confrontation Friday at a South Florida resort owned by President Donald Trump, authorities said...”

### **[EU gets Tough with U.S. on Iran, Trade at Summit Meeting](#)**

*Author/Source: Ed Adamczyk, United Press International*

“European Union members meeting in Sofia, Bulgaria, prepared a united front against U.S. decisions to exit the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran and impose steel and aluminum tariffs...”

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

### **[More than 100 Killed in Fiery Cuban Airplane Crash near Havana](#)**

*Author/Source: Mimi Whitefield and Chabeli Herrera, Miami Herald*

“More than 100 people were killed after a Boeing 737-201 on a flight from Havana to Holguín crashed and exploded in a field Friday afternoon shortly after takeoff from José Martí International Airport...”

### **[Colombia, ELN Rebels Name Panel to Negotiate New Ceasefire](#)**

*Author/Source: Latin American Herald Tribune*

“Representatives from the Colombian government and the National Liberation Army (ELN) rebel group established a technical committee in Havana on Friday that will develop a new bilateral ceasefire agreement...”

### **[US Sanctions Venezuela Socialist Boss for Drug Trafficking](#)**

*Author/Source: Joshua Goodman, ABC News*

“The Trump administration has slapped sanctions on Venezuelan socialist party boss Diosdado Cabello, accusing him of drug trafficking and heading a major corruption network that siphoned off funds from state-run companies to accounts in Russia and other countries...”

### **[Juárez Cartel Reputed Leader 'El 80' Carlos Quintana Captured by Mexico Special Forces](#)**

*Author/Source: Daniel Borunda, El Paso Times*

“Mexican special forces have captured the reputed leader of the New Juárez Drug Cartel, officials said Thursday evening...”