



POTOMAC INSTITUTE FOR POLICY STUDIES
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Daily Terrorism Weather Online

4 April 2014

Middle East

[Israel cancels Palestinian prisoner release](#)

Source: BBC

“Israel has cancelled the release of a fourth group of Palestinian prisoners over the Palestinian leadership's pursuit of further UN recognition. . .”

[Turkish PM Erdogan criticises Twitter court ruling](#)

Source: BBC

“Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan has criticised a court ruling which lifted a ban on Twitter. . .”

[Former Guantanamo detainee killed while leading jihadist group in Syria](#)

Author/Source: Bill Roggio, The Long War Journal

“Ibrahim Bin Shakaran, a Moroccan who spent more than three years at the Guantanamo Bay detention facility before being released to Moroccan custody, has been killed while leading a jihadist group that fights Syrian government forces. . .”

[Assad's forces accused of new poison gas attack](#)

Source: Al Arabiya

“Syrian opposition activists again accused President Bashar al-Assad's forces of using chemical weapons near the capital Damascus on Thursday, publishing the video of an apparently unconscious man lying on a bed and being treated by medics. . .”

[Assad's forces deploy in Latakia to repel rebel offensive](#)

Source: Al Arabiya

“The Syrian regime was forced to withdraw some of its forces from the central cities of Hama and Idlib to bolster its presence in the more strategic coastal city of Latakia, which has come under heavy offensive by the opposition forces, Al Arabiya News Channel reported on Thursday, citing rebel sources. . .”

[Cleric Omar Bakri 'on the run' in Lebanon](#)

Source: BBC

“Omar Bakri Mohammad is on the run in Lebanon, officials say, after his house was raided as part of an operation to end the sectarian violence in Tripoli. . .”

[Militant group frees abducted Iran border guards](#)

Source: Washington Post

“A semi-official Iranian news agency is reporting that an al-Qaida-affiliated militant group operating in a lawless frontier area along the Pakistan-Iran border has released Iranian border guards abducted two months ago. . .”



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Million Syria refugees registered in Lebanon – UN

Source: BBC

“The number of refugees who have fled Syria and registered in Lebanon has surpassed the "devastating milestone" of one million, the UN says. . .”

5 soldiers killed in attack on army post in Yemen

Source: Washington Post

“Security officials in Yemen say four soldiers and an army officer have been killed in an attack on a military post in northern Yemen. . .”

Saudi Arabia convicts 18 of involvement in al Qaeda

Author/Source: Oren Adaki, The Long War Journal

“Today the Riyadh Criminal Court in Saudi Arabia convicted 18 defendants of involvement in al Qaeda and handed down prison sentences that ranged from 27 years to two months. . .”

Central Asia

Tajik, Kazakh, and Russian fighters killed in Syria

Author/Source: Bill Roggio, The Long War Journal

“Jihadists from Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, and Russia have recently been killed while waging jihad in Syria, according to Akhbar Sham, a Russian-language website that supports the Jaish al Muhajireen wal Ansar (Army of Emigrants and Supporters, or Muhajireen Army), a group of foreign fighters led by commanders from the Caucasus. . .”

Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan holds joint anti-terrorist exercises

Source: Cihan

“Joint anti-terrorist command-staff exercises of the competent authorities of Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan "East- Anti-Terror 2014" took place on the territory of Uzbekistan, the press service of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization reported on April 3. . .”

South Asia

Afghan policeman shoots two foreign journalists, one killed

Source: Reuters

“A veteran Associated Press photographer who had covered wars around the world was shot dead and another reporter was wounded on Friday when an Afghan policeman opened fire on them in eastern Afghanistan, the news agency said. . .”

Security measures make Kandahar a ghost town ahead of Afghan vote

Author/Source: Jessica Donati, Reuters

“Kandahar city, cradle of the Taliban insurgency, woke up a ghost town on Friday as police erected roadblocks as part of stringent security measures ahead of a presidential election that could mark Afghanistan's first democratic transfer of power. . .”



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Karzai Is Trying to Keep His Sway After Term Ends

Author/Source: *Mathew Rosenberg, NY Times*

“American officials have ignored him, and Afghanistan’s presidential contenders have tried to persuade voters that they will be different from him. But those hoping to see President Hamid Karzai slip into a quiet retirement may be disappointed in the months to come. . .”

Pakistan Taliban Extends Ceasefire

Source: *Voice of America*

The Pakistani Taliban has extended its month-long ceasefire.

Spokesman Shahidullah Shahid said Friday the ceasefire has been extended until April 10. . .”

Vietnam, Malaysia agree on strategic partnership

Source: *Xinhua*

“Vietnam and Malaysia agreed on Friday to consider upgrading bilateral ties to strategic partnership. . .”

Malaysia's Anwar accuses government of MH370 cover up

Source: *Jakarta Post*

“Malaysian opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim on Friday accused the government of hiding information on missing flight MH370, telling Britain's *Daily Telegraph* that the country's radar system would have detected any change of course. . .”

Underwater search for flight MH370 commences off coast of Perth

Source: *Xinhua*

“A subsurface hunt for missing Malaysia Airline flight MH370 started Friday as searchers are racing against time to locate its data recorders known as black box before the batteries run out of power. . .”

Philippine troops hunt militants behind Malaysia abductions

Source: *Channel News Asia*

“Philippine soldiers have been deployed to a remote southern island where suspected militants are believed to have taken two female hostages seized from a resort in neighbouring Malaysia, the military said Friday. . .”

East Asia

S.Korea, Japan, U.S. to hold talks on DPRK's nuke program soon

Source: *Xinhua*

”Top nuclear envoys of South Korea, Japan and the United States will hold tripartite talks next week in Washington to discuss the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)'s nuclear weapons program, Seoul's Foreign Ministry said Thursday. . .”



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[Thai PM's supporters head for huge Bangkok rally, rule out violence](#)

Author/Source: Amy Sawitta Leferve, Reuters

“Hundreds of thousands of Thai government supporters are expected to descend on Bangkok this weekend in a symbolic show of force after months of sometimes violent protests aimed at bringing down Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra. . .”

[South Korea Tests Missile That Can Strike Most of North](#)

Author/Source: Choe Sang-Hun, NY Times

“Amid rising military threats from North Korea, South Korea conducted its own missile test last week, successfully launching a newly developed ballistic missile capable of striking most of North Korea, its Ministry of National Defense said on Friday. . .”

Africa

[Egypt: Security Forces Disperse Protests Across Cairo](#)

Source: All Africa

“Egyptian security forces fired teargas on a march staged by dozens of protesters supporting the Muslim Brotherhood in Giza's Haram Street after they blocked it, reported the state news agency. . .”

[South Africa: Okah Moved to Another Jail – Report](#)

Source: All Africa

“Nigerian terrorist Henry Okah has been moved twice after failed prison escapes with inmates, The Star reported on Friday. In February, Okah and other inmates, including Sunday rapist Jaco Steyn, attempted to escape from Leeuwkop Prison in Midrand. . .”

[Ebola outbreak: Mali on alert](#)

Source: BBC

“Mali is on alert over the deadly Ebola virus after three suspected cases were reported near the border with Guinea, where 86 people have died. . .”

[Chad to pull peacekeepers from African Union CAR force](#)

Source: BBC

“Chad is to pull its peacekeepers from an African Union mission in the Central African Republic (CAR) in protest at claims that they aided rebels. . .”

[Liberia finds Ebola case unrelated to Guinea](#)

Source: Al Jazeera

“Liberia is dealing with its first suspected Ebola case, which is thought to be unconnected to the epidemic raging in Guinea and to have originated separately within its borders. . .”

[Egypt crisis: Police chief dies in Cairo bombings](#)

Source: BBC

“A police brigadier-general was killed and at least five people were injured when three bombs went off near Cairo university, officials said. . .”



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Kenya: Attacks meant to ignite sectarian violence

Source: News24

“Kenya's president says recent attacks in the country, blamed on Somali-based Islamic militants, are meant to provoke a sectarian war but it won't succeed. . .”

Egypt tightens security laws to counter terrorism

Source: Al Arabiya

“Egypt's cabinet introduced on Thursday legal amendments to toughen punishments for “terrorist” offenses and expanded the scope of crimes that fall under that category. . .”

Nigeria: Gunmen Kill 22, Burn Houses in Zamfara

Author/Source: Shehu Umar, All Africa

“Gunmen early yesterday invaded Maitaba village in Zurmi LGA of Zamfara State, killing at least 14 people. Witnesses said about 60 gunmen arrived on motorbikes, blocked all escape routes, firing at residents and saying they had come to retaliate the killing of one man suspected to be a cattle rustler by a mob some days ago. . .”

Nigeria: Soldiers Flush Out, Kill 30 Insurgents in Nasarawa

Author/Source: George Okoh, All Africa

“Days after the military was deployed to contain the recent attacks that have claimed over 200 lives and displaced thousands of residents in Nasarawa and Benue States, the security forces recorded a major victory yesterday when they flushed out and killed over 30 Fulani insurgents in Keana Local Government Area of Nasarawa State, following a gun duel. . .”

South Sudan Urgently Needs Help to Stave Off Famine, U.N. Warns

Author/Source: Nick Coming-Bruce, NY Times

“South Sudan needs \$230 million in international aid in the next 60 days or it will face the worst starvation in Africa since the 1980s, when hundreds of thousands of people died in Ethiopia's famine, the United Nations official coordinating humanitarian aid in South Sudan warned on Thursday. . .”

Europe

Russia: Troops on border to return to bases after drills

Source: Xinhua

“Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov says Russian troops along the border with Ukraine will return to their bases AFTER finishing military exercises. . .”

Russia accuses 25 Ukrainians of planning terror attacks

Source: BBC

Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) says it has detained 25 Ukrainians, accusing them of planning terrorist attacks at about the time of last month's Crimean referendum. . .”

U.S. Embassy in Brussels Caught Up In Violent Street Demo

Author/Source: Alastair Jamieson, NBC

“The U.S. Embassy in Brussels briefly went into a security lockdown Friday after it became caught up in violence at an anti-austerity rally in the Belgian capital.”



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US & Canada

[Kerry warns U.S. is evaluating role in Middle East peace talks](#)

Source: Reuters

“U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said on Friday Washington was evaluating whether to continue its role in Middle East peace talks, signaling his patience with the Israelis and Palestinians was running out. . .”

[Obama clears way for S Sudan sanctions](#)

Source: News24

”President Barack Obama is warning that the United States may levy sanctions on individuals and entities involved in stoking violence and instability in South Sudan. . .”

Maritime

[Navy contributes underwater technology to jet search](#)

Author/Source: Bart Janson, USA Today

“Two pieces of Navy equipment were added to the underwater search for the missing Malaysia Airlines jet Friday, one for sound and one for visual images. . .”