



**POTOMAC INSTITUTE FOR POLICY STUDIES**  
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**Middle East**

[Bergdahl Was in Unit Known for Its Troubles](#)

*Author/Source Richard A. Oppel Jr. and Eric Schmitt, New York Times*

“In the years since Sergeant Bergdahl’s capture by the Taliban, and even more since his release last week in a contentious prisoner exchange for five Taliban fighters, much has been written suggesting that he was a misfit soldier in something of a misfit platoon that stumbled through its first months in Afghanistan and might have made it too easy for him to walk away...”

[Across Iraq, Insurgents Show Reach in Attacks](#)

*Author/Source: Global Security.org*

“Iraqi security forces have launched an assault to free students and staff taken hostage by gunmen at the university campus in Ramadi...”

[Iraq: More than 60 people killed in wave of car bombs across Baghdad](#)

*Author/Source: The Jerusalem Post*

“More than 60 people were killed in a wave of car bombs across the Iraqi capital late on Saturday, security and medical sources said...”

[Iraqi troops repel ISIS assault on Mosul](#)

*Author/Source: The Long War Journal*

“Just one day after the Islamic State of Iraq and the Sham launched an assault on Samarra and briefly took control of five neighborhoods, the jihadist insurgent group attempted to seize Mosul...”

[Iraq militants seize hostages after storming university near Ramadi](#)

*Author/Source: The Guardian*

“Militants have stormed a university in western Iraq, holding dozens of students and staff hostage. The attack took place on Saturday morning when gunmen stormed Anbar University near the provincial capital Ramadi, said police and army officials...”

[Syria starts evacuating civilians from besieged Homs center](#)

*Author/Source: The Jerusalem Post*

“Syria began evacuating civilians from a besieged area of Homs on Friday while Russia announced that Syria’s warring parties had agreed a three-day ceasefire to allow humanitarian aid in to those who remain...”

[Behind the lines: Assad’s boasts](#)

*Author/Source: Jonathan Spyer, The Jerusalem Post*

“Syrian President Bashar Assad this week said he expects that major military operations in Syria will conclude by the end of 2014. Following this, all that will remain will be the need to deal with the ongoing problem of terrorists...”



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### **[U.S. admits supplying lethal aid to Syrian rebels](#)**

*Author/Source: Haaretz*

“Washington is providing both "lethal and non-lethal" support to members of the Syrian opposition, U.S. National Security Adviser Susan Rice said on Friday, according to Saudi-owned TV channel al-Arabiya...”

### **[Israeli-Arab attitudes toward the state remained stable in 2013, study shows](#)**

*Author/Source: Ariel Ben Solomon, The Jerusalem Post*

“The percentage of Israeli Arabs who recognize Israel’s right to continue to exist as a Jewish and democratic state rose in 2013, according to a study by Prof. Sammy Smooha of the University of Haifa...”

### **[US: Palestinian unity government not backed by Hamas](#)**

*Author/Source: The Jerusalem Post*

“Following the Israeli outcry against the United States' sanctioning of terrorism in their stated intention to establish ties with the Fatah-Hamas unity government, the US reiterated its position on the matter and insisted that the technocratic members of the interim Palestinian government were not affiliated with Hamas...”

## **Central Asia**

### **[US to offer financial assistance to Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia](#)**

*Author/Source: The Guardian*

“The United States pledged millions of dollars in additional aid to Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia on Saturday, deepening American support to the Western-leaning countries on Russia's border...”

## **South Asia**

### **[7 Bangladeshi sailors freed over 3 yrs after abduction](#)**

*Author/Source: The Daily Star*

“Somali pirates have released seven Bangladeshi sailors nearly three and a half years after their abduction from a ship. The crew members were kidnapped by the pirates on November 26 in 2010 when they were on board "MV Albedo", a Malaysian flagged-vessel...”

### **[Afghan election front-runner escapes assassination attempt](#)**

*Author/Source: Reuters*

“Abdullah Abdullah, front-runner in Afghanistan's presidential election, escaped assassination on Friday when two bombs blew up outside a hotel where he had just staged a rally, killing six people. The midday blasts, one caused by a suicide bomber, destroyed a car in Abdullah's convoy, police spokesman Hashmat Stanekzai said...”



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## **Southeast Asia**

### **[Phone tapping: Australia offers better protection than others](#)**

*Author/Source: The Guardian*

“Government tapping of people's phones is widespread around the world, with Australia among a long list of countries permitting access to phone networks. But Australia rates higher in protecting privacy than other countries...”

### **[Ciliwung riverbank residents protest eviction plan](#)**

*Author/Source: The Jakarta Post*

“Dozens of residents living along the riverbank of the Ciliwung in Condet, East Jakarta, are protesting the city's relocation program, saying they were not previously informed about the plan...”

## **East Asia**

### **[HK airlines on alert after bomb warning](#)**

*Author/Source: The Jakarta Post*

“Hong Kong's airlines and airport were on alert Friday after receiving a warning from Taiwan that a woman in mainland China may be planning to board a flight to the Asian financial hub with a bomb...”

### **[China commits 800,000 USD to Fiji's 2014 general election](#)**

*Author/Source: Xinhua*

“China has committed 800,000 U.S. dollars towards preparations for Fiji's 2014 general election following the signing of a memorandum of agreement (MoA) with the South Pacific island country, the Fijian government confirmed Saturday...”

## **Africa**

### **[Egypt court sentences 10 Muslim Brotherhood supporters to death](#)**

*Author/Source: The Jerusalem Post*

“An Egyptian court sentenced 10 supporters of the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood to death in absentia on Saturday, but postponed sentencing of the movement's leader and other senior members on trial in the same case, judicial sources said.”

### **[US to finance anti-militant TV channel in northern Nigeria](#)**

*Author/Source: Reuters*

“The United States is financing a new 24-hour satellite TV channel in northern Nigeria meant to counter insurgencies by the militant Islamist Boko Haram and other groups in the region...”

## **Europe**

### **[Rebels down Ukraine army plane on eve of Poroshenko's swearing-in](#)**

*Author/Source: Reuters*

“Pro-Russian separatists shot down a Ukrainian army plane as fighting raged in the eastern town of Slaviansk on Friday, a day before the inauguration of pro-European billionaire businessman Petro Poroshenko as Ukraine's president...”



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### **US and Iran to hold direct talks in Geneva over nuclear programme**

*Author/Source: The Guardian*

“The US announced on Saturday that it is sending two top negotiators to Geneva for direct talks with Iranian officials over Tehran's nuclear programme. The discussions involving deputy secretary of state William Burns and undersecretary of state for political affairs Wendy Sherman are set for Monday and Tuesday...”

### **Ukraine's new president vows to 'preserve the unity of the nation**

*Author/Source: JC Finley, United Press International*

“Petro Poroshenko was sworn in as the new president of Ukraine on Saturday during a morning filled with inauguration festivities, and hope for the future...”

## **US & Canada**

### **FBI: San Francisco bomb suspect sought toxins**

*Author/Source: Channing Joseph and Sudhin Thanawala, The Washington Post*

“A man charged with possessing explosive material at his San Francisco apartment also used an anonymous, Internet-based marketplace to try to buy biological agents and lethal toxins, the FBI said in documents unsealed Friday...”

### **US says active, aggressive diplomacy needed with Iran**

*Author/Source: Reuters*

“The United States believes that it needs to pursue active and aggressive diplomacy with Iran to determine whether a diplomatic solution on Tehran's nuclear program is achievable, a senior US administration official said on Saturday...”

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

### **Brazil: Clashes in Sao Paulo strikes ahead of World Cup**

*Author/Source: Katy Watson, BBC News*

“Police in Brazil have used tear gas to break up protesters on the second day of a metro strike that has left Sao Paulo's transport in chaos...”

### **Colombia's FARC declare poll ceasefire, take a swipe at Zuluaga**

*Author/Source: Peter Murphy, Reuters*

“Colombia's leftist FARC rebels declared a ceasefire on Saturday for a three-week period covering a tight presidential election race on June 15, campaigning for which has centered on how to end five decades of war with the guerrilla group...”