



POTOMAC INSTITUTE FOR POLICY STUDIES
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Prof. Yonah Alexander, Director

Daily Terrorism Weather

20 August 2014

Middle East

[Islamic State claims it executed American photojournalist James Foley](#)

Author/Source: Karen DeYoung and Adam Goldman, Washington Post

“The Islamic State militant group claimed Tuesday to have beheaded an American photojournalist in retaliation for U.S. airstrikes in Iraq...”

[Israeli Strike in Gaza Hits Family of Hamas Military Commander](#)

Author/Source: Jodi Rudoren and Fares Akram, New York Times

“Israeli airstrikes early Wednesday killed the wife and baby son of the top military commander of Hamas, the Islamist movement that dominates the Gaza Strip, hours after rocket fire from Gaza broke a temporary cease-fire and halted talks aimed at ending the six-week conflict collapsed in Cairo...”

[U.S. Airstrike Success Spurs Push for More Iraq Attacks](#)

Author/Source: Dion Nissenbaum and Matt Bradley, Wall Street Journal

“The U.S. military's recent success in weakening Islamic State extremists and pushing them away from a key dam in Iraq is creating momentum for a broader campaign that could take American air power to the militant group's heartland northwest of Baghdad...”

[Isis fighters show strength as they repel Iraqi army's attempt to retake Tikrit](#)

Author/Source: Matthew Weaver, The Guardian

“Islamic State (Isis) fighters have repelled an Iraqi army attempt to retake Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit in a battle that underlines the group's continuing strength despite losing control of the strategically important Mosul dam...”

[AQAP Announces Support for ISIL](#)

Author/Source: Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki, Yemen Times

“Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) published a statement on its Al-Manbar website on August 14 announcing support for the operations of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), which now calls itself the Islamic State, in Iraq...”

[‘ISIS is enemy No. 1 of Islam,’ says Saudi grand mufti](#)

Author/Source: Al-Arabiya

“Militants of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and al-Qaeda were blasted by Saudi Grand Mufti Sheikh Abdul Aziz al-Sheikh on Tuesday as ‘enemy number one’ of Islam...”

[ISIS reportedly outing Middle Eastern intelligence agents](#)

Author/Source: Catherine Herridge, Fox News

“The terrorist group ISIS is actively outing agents from Middle Eastern intelligence services -- as many as 30 in the last two months -- by posting their pictures and locations on social media, a counterterrorism source told Fox News...”



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In Retaking of Iraqi Dam, Evidence of American Impact

Author/Source: Azam Ahmed, New York Times

“The two bodies lay festering in the midday sun on Tuesday, some of the only remnants of the Sunni militant force that until Monday night controlled the strategically important Mosul Dam...”

U.N. airlifts aid into northern Iraq for desperate families fleeing militants

Author/Source: Laura Smith-Spark, CNN

“A plane carrying the first load of humanitarian aid as part of a multiday operation to help hundreds of thousands of displaced people in northern Iraq has landed in Irbil, the U.N. refugee agency said Wednesday...”

Militants attack major air base in eastern Syria

Author/Source: Associated Press via Washington Post

“Islamic extremists fired rockets and tank shells Wednesday at a major air base in northeastern Syria, kicking off a long-anticipated offensive to seize the last position held by the Syrian government in a province that is a stronghold of the Islamic State group, activists said...”

Moderate Iranian Science Minister Ousted By Parliament

Author/Source: Radio Free Europe

“Iranian lawmakers have dismissed the Islamic republic's science minister in a blow to moderate President Hassan Rohani...”

Iraqi Minorities Seek UN Emergency Session

Author/Source: Lisa Schlein, Voice of America

“An international coalition of activists is calling on the U.N. Human Rights Council to convene an emergency session on the plight of minority groups in Iraq, including the Yazidis and Christians...”

Nato can help UAE cyber security

Author/Source: Caline Malek, The UAE National

“Nato could provide assistance to countries such as the UAE to ward off future cyber attacks, says a former national security adviser to US president Barack Obama...”

South Asia

Pakistanis Protest in Capital, Seeking Prime Minister's Resignation

Author/Source: Salman Masood and Declan Walsh, New York Times

“Thousands of Pakistani opposition supporters, some armed with sticks and wire cutters, marched into a fortified zone in the center of Islamabad on Tuesday night to press their demands for the resignation of the prime minister...”

Afghanistan Orders 'Times' Reporter To Leave Within 24 Hours

Author/Source: Radio Free Europe

“A "New York Times" reporter has been given 24 hours to leave Afghanistan for not



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cooperating with an investigation, according to a statement from the attorney general's office..."

[Hundreds of Taliban fighters battle Afghan forces near Kabul: officials](#)

Author/Source: Ahmad Sultan, Reuters

"As many as 700 heavily armed Taliban insurgents are battling Afghan security forces in Logar, a key province near the capital Kabul, local officials said on Tuesday, in a test of the Afghan military's strength as foreign forces pull out of the country..."

[Obama Holds to Afghanistan Withdrawal Deadline](#)

Author/Source: Mark Landler, New York Times

"President Obama may have ordered American warplanes back to Iraq, but he has not changed his mind about his other big military withdrawal. Mr. Obama told advisers this week that delaying the pullout of American troops from Afghanistan would make no difference there as long as the country did not overcome its political rifts..."

[UN Condemns Clash Between Afghan Candidate's Team, Electoral Workers](#)

Author/Source: Radio Free Europe

"The United Nations' Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) has condemned a clash in Kabul between presidential candidate Abdullah Abdullah's campaign team and workers from Afghanistan's Independent Election Commission..."

[Irom Sharmila: India hunger striker freed](#)

Author/Source: BBC News

"Indian activist Irom Sharmila Chanu, who has been on a hunger strike for 14 years, has been freed following a court order..."

[Sri Lanka visa ban won't stop UN inquiry - Navi Pillay](#)

Author/Source: BBC News

"The United Nations has insisted its investigation into alleged war crimes in Sri Lanka will go ahead despite being told it will be denied visas..."

East Asia

[Uzbek, Chinese Presidents Hold Talks, Sign Deals](#)

Author/Source: Radio Free Europe

"Uzbek President Islam Karimov concludes a two-day visit to China on August 20 following talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping..."

Southeast Asia

[International Authorities Investigate Maritime Shooting Video](#)

Author/Source: Steve Herman, Voice of America

"Authorities in several countries are examining a graphic video posted online that shows five men floating amid bits of a small upturned boat and being shot by laughing crew members of a larger vessel..."



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Africa

[Death toll from Ebola tops 1,200 as food shortages grow in hard-hit areas](#)

Author/Source: Alan Cowell, New York Times via Boston Globe

“As West African nations grappled with the worst-ever outbreak of the Ebola virus, the World Health Organization said Tuesday that the death toll had exceeded 1,200 and announced increased efforts to forestall severe food shortages in areas isolated by quarantines...”

[Liberian Police Fire Tear Gas to Disperse Ebola Quarantine Protest](#)

Author/Source: Voice of America

“Police in Liberia's capital have fired tear gas at protesters who were upset that the government placed a quarantine on their neighborhood to fight the spread of Ebola...”

[Welcoming political progress, UN envoy warns of dire humanitarian situation in Central African Republic](#)

Author/Source: UN News Centre

“With a month left before the full deployment of the United Nations mission in the Central African Republic (CAR), the UN envoy for that country today said that while there have been pockets of improvements, the overall humanitarian and security situation in the country remains dire and ‘extremely volatile’...”

[Rockets fired into affluent Tripoli district; 3 reported dead](#)

Author/Source: Al-Jazeera

“Libyan armed groups fired rockets into an affluent district of Tripoli early on Tuesday, moving a battle with a rival armed faction closer to the center of the capital after fighters on one side came under air attack...”

[South Sudan Steps Up Guard Against Ebola](#)

Author/Source: Mugume Davis Rwakaringi, Voice of America

“Health officials in Juba have stepped up efforts to ensure the deadly Ebola virus does not spread to South Sudan...”

Europe

[Poland Says Are Signs Russia Is Extending Food Imports Ban to Transit](#)

Author/Source: Wiktor Szary, Reuters

“Poland is receiving information that Russia is trying to extend its embargo on imports of foodstuffs from the European Union to goods in transit through Russia, Deputy Prime Minister Janusz Piechocinski said on Wednesday...”

[Steinmeier considers arming Kurds in Iraq](#)

Author/Source: Deutsche Welles

“In an interview Tuesday, Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said Germany had a responsibility to stand by Kurds in their struggle against the self-proclaimed ‘Islamic State’ (IS), which has overrun Iraq's north. Last week, the European Union gave a green light to



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individual EU governments to supply arms and ammunition to Iraqi Kurds, and some countries have already pledged to do so...”

[Ukraine conflict: Fierce battle for town of Ilovaik](#)

Author/Source: BBC News

“Ukrainian government and rebel forces are both claiming control of the small town of Ilovaik in the Donetsk region after fierce fighting...”

[France seeks international meeting to tackle Islamic State: report](#)

Author/Source: The Globe and Mail

“French President Francois Hollande called on Wednesday for an international conference to discuss ways of tackling Islamic State insurgents who have seized control of territory in Iraq and Syria...”

[Qatar financing ISIS jihadists: German minister](#)

Author/Source: AFP via The Daily Star

“Germany's development aid minister, Gerd Mueller, Wednesday accused Qatar of financing the jihadist group Islamic State of Iraq and Greater Syria (ISIS) operating in Syria and Iraq. ‘A story like this always has a history,’ he said in an interview with public broadcaster ZDF...”

[9 Killed in Eastern Ukraine Violence](#)

Author/Source: Reuters via Voice of America

“Ukrainian forces fought street battles with separatist rebels in the eastern town of Ilovaik overnight into Wednesday as they sought to isolate rebel strongholds near the Russian border, an Interior Ministry official said...”

[Erdogan Allies Likely to Dominate Turkey's New Cabinet](#)

Author/Source: Reuters via Voice of America

“Turkish president-elect Tayyip Erdogan looks set to maintain his influence on daily politics after he is sworn in next week, with close allies likely to take on cabinet posts in a new government and his economic team expected to remain largely intact...”

[Russian Minister Says Western Food Ban Will Cost Billions](#)

Author/Source: Radio Free Europe

“Russia's agriculture minister says the country will have to spend billions of dollars in the coming years to ensure it has ample food supplies after banning a wide range of Western imports...”

[It Takes a Village To Find Ramzan Kadyrov's Phone](#)

Author/Source: Tom Balmforth, Radio Free Europe

“No one likes losing their cell phone. And Ramzan Kadyrov is no exception...”

[Russia Testing Air-Defense Systems In Southern Astrakhan Region](#)

Author/Source: Radio Free Europe

“Russia’s Defense Ministry said on August 20 that it is conducting more military exercises in



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southern Russia as fighting intensified in neighboring Ukraine between pro-Russian separatists and Ukrainian government forces...”

[Chaos In Kerch: Russia Struggles To Ferry Tourists To Crimea](#)

Author/Source: Farangis Najibullah, Radio Free Europe

“Since annexing Crimea from Ukraine in March, the Kremlin has said it is Russians' patriotic duty to spend their summer holidays at the peninsula's resorts...”

[Putin, Poroshenko To Meet In Minsk; Ukraine Fighting Intense](#)

Author/Source: Radio Free Europe

“As fighting continued between pro-Russian separatists and Ukrainian forces in the eastern Ukrainian city of Luhansk, Kyiv and Moscow announced that the presidents of Russia and Ukraine will meet in Minsk next week...”

Latin America and the Caribbean

[Argentina unveils debt plan to avoid US court ruling](#)

Author/Source: BBC News

“Argentina's president has announced plans for a debt swap to try to avoid a US court ruling that pushed Argentina into a second default...”

[Masked Gunmen Slay Family Collecting Body at Honduras Morgue, Kill Nine](#)

Author/Source: Gustavo Palencia, Reuters

“Masked gunmen attacked a family collecting a body from a morgue in the ultraviolet Honduran city of San Pedro Sula on Tuesday, killing nine people including four of the deceased's kin...”

[Ex-Guatemalan Drug Kingpin Pleads Guilty to US Charges](#)

Author/Source: Reuters via Voice of America

“The patriarch of a Guatemalan family linked by authorities to Mexico's Sinaloa drug cartel pleaded guilty on Monday to conspiring to import more than 450 kilograms (992 pounds) of Colombian cocaine into the United States...”

US & Canada

[Neither Obama Nor Congress Seems Eager for a Vote on Military Action in Iraq](#)

Author/Source: Julie Hirschfeld Davis, New York Times

“Mingling with Senate Democrats at the White House earlier this summer, President Obama had a tart comeback to the suggestion that he should seek a vote of Congress before deepening American military involvement in Iraq...”

[US Confirms American Journalist's Beheading](#)

Author/Source: Victor Beattie, Voice of America

“U.S. intelligence officials on Wednesday confirmed the authenticity of a grisly video showing the beheading of American freelance journalist James Foley by the Islamic State militant group...”



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Israeli-US relations tested once again in Gaza war

Author/Source: AP via Washington Post

“When Israel completes its damage assessment from its latest war with Hamas, it may conclude that one of the biggest casualties was its all-important relationship with the United States...”

Amid Missouri protests, Ban urges restraint, respect for right to peaceful assembly

Author/Source: UN News Centre

“As protests intensify over the killing of an American teenager in Missouri, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today urged all parties to exercise restraint and for authorities to respect the right to peaceful assembly...”

Russia, Iran and Egypt Heckle U.S. About Tactics in Ferguson

Author/Source: Robert Mackey, New York Times

“After St. Louis county police officers in full battle gear trained sniper rifles on peaceful protesters in the suburb of Ferguson last week, and then proceeded to douse the streets in tear gas and round up journalists, a Russia analyst named Mark Adomanis observed that images of a crackdown on dissent in the United States would make life easier for the man recently put in charge of propaganda for the Kremlin, Dmitry Kiselyov...”

AP Exclusive: US Changing No-Fly List Rules

Author/Source: Eileen Sullivan, AP via ABC News

“The Obama administration is promising to change the way travelers can ask to be removed from its no-fly list of suspected terrorists banned from air travel...”

US Attorney General to Visit Missouri Town Following Teen's Death

Author/Source: Voice of America

“U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder plans to be in Ferguson, Missouri on Wednesday, site of violent protests following the shooting death of an unarmed black teenager by a white police officer...”

Obama Condemns US Journalist's Beheading

Author/Source: Luis Ramirez, Voice of America

“President Barack Obama on Wednesday condemned the Islamic State militant group that beheaded an American journalist as a spreading "cancer" that must be eradicated...”

US sailors prepare for fresh legal challenge over Fukushima radiation

Author/Source: Suzanne Goldenberg, The Guardian

“\$1bn lawsuit accuses Tepco of failing to avoid the accident and of lying about radiation levels that have caused health problems to themselves and their families stationed in Japan...”