



**POTOMAC INSTITUTE FOR POLICY STUDIES
INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR TERRORISM STUDIES**

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Prof. Yonah Alexander, Director

Daily Terrorism Weather

25 August 2014

Middle East

[Syria says ready to cooperate in anti-terror fight](#)

Author/Source: Mariam Karouny, Reuters

“The Syrian government is ready to cooperate with international and regional efforts to fight terror but efforts must be coordinated with it, the Syrian foreign minister Walid al-Moualem said on Monday...”

[Gaza conflict: Erez crossing 'attacked' amid Israel raids](#)

Author/Source: BBC News

“Israel says it has closed the Erez crossing after it came under rocket fire from Gaza, wounding four people...”

[U.S. strikes targets in northern Iraq near Erbil, Mosul dam](#)

Author/Source: Al Arabiya

“The United States on Sunday used aircraft and drones to strike targets in northern Iraq to try to rein in militants belonging to the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS)...”

[Kidnappers free U.S. journalist missing in Syria since 2012](#)

Author/Source: Al Arabiya

“A young American who has been held hostage for two years by an Islamist rebel group in Syria has been freed, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said Sunday...”

[ISIS Tightens Its Grip With Seizure of Air Base in Syria](#)

Author/Source: Ben Hubbard, New York Times

“Extremist fighters from the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria seized a military base in northern Syria on Sunday from forces loyal to President Bashar al-Assad, further solidifying control inside their self-declared Islamic state spanning the Syria-Iraq border...”

[Response to Attack Reflects Iraq's Sectarian Divide](#)

Author/Source: Ben Hubbard, New York Times

“Iraq's politicians were struggling to meet the constitutional deadline to form a new government when, in an isolated village, two masked men stepped into a Sunni mosque and opened fire on Friday, killing dozens of worshipers...”

[Iran Says It Shot Down an Israeli Drone](#)

Author/Source: Thomas Erdbrink, New York Times

“Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps said Sunday that it had shot down an Israeli drone as it was heading toward the Iranian nuclear enrichment site in Natanz, local news media reported...”

[Israel Says Missile Strike Killed Hamas Official Handling 'Terror Funds'](#)



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Author/Source: Fares Akram and Isabel Kershner, New York Times

“An Israeli missile strike that killed a man riding in a car in Gaza City on Sunday afternoon ripped open the vehicle, revealing bags of American dollars inside and scattering currency on the street, some burned by the blast, according to a witness...”

[U.N. accuses Islamic State of mass killings](#)

Author/Source: Stephanie Nebehay and Ahmed Rasheed, Reuters

“The United Nations on Monday condemned "appalling, widespread" crimes by Islamic State forces in Iraq, including mass executions of prisoners that could amount to war crimes...”

[Israeli air strikes kill two Palestinians, 20 wounded](#)

Author/Source: Nidal Al-Mughrabi and Allyn Fisher-Ilan

“Israeli air strikes launched before dawn on Tuesday killed two Palestinians and destroyed much of one of Gaza's tallest apartment and office buildings, setting off huge explosions and wounding 20 people, Palestinian health officials said...”

[Syria Urges International Help in Fighting Islamic State](#)

Author/Source: Edward Yeranian, Voice of America

“Following the fall of a major Syrian government air base to Islamic State militants Sunday, Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem is urging the international community to cooperate with his government and demanding that neighboring states stop their alleged support for the jihadist group...”

[WH: No Ransom Paid for Kidnapped US Journalist](#)

Author/Source: Voice of America

“The White House says no ransom was paid to Islamic extremists to free kidnapped U.S. journalist Peter Theo Curtis...”

Central Asia

[Abkhazia elects opposition leader as president](#)

Author/Source: Polina Devitt and Jason Bush, Reuters

“Georgia's Russian-backed breakaway province of Abkhazia elected opposition leader Raul Khadzhimba as president on Sunday, the head of the region's election commission said...”

[Kyrgyz State Security Files Libel Lawsuit Against Journalist](#)

Author/Source: Radio Free Europe

“Kyrgyzstan's State Committee for National Security (UKMK) reportedly has filed a libel lawsuit against an independent journalist in the country's southern region of Osh...”

[Four Wounded In Tajik-Kyrgyz Border Shooting Incident](#)

Author/Source: Radio Free Europe

“Kyrgyz border guards have reportedly fired at a group of Tajik villagers protesting Kyrgyz plans to build a highway and a bridge in a disputed area, wounding four of them...”

South Asia



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[Afghan presidential inauguration delayed with candidates deep in conflict](#)

Author/Source: Jessica Donati, Reuters via Yahoo! News

“Afghanistan's next president was due to take over on Monday but an inauguration deadline has been pushed to September as rival candidates fail to agree on who won an election meant to mark the country's first democratic transfer of power...”

[Pakistan and India Trade Fire](#)

Author/Source: Hari Kumar, New York Times

“Indian and Pakistani forces exchanged heavy fire along the border in the region of Jammu early Saturday, resulting in reported deaths of civilians on both sides, and forcing villagers to flee their homes...”

East Asia

[China leaders discuss Hong Kong's political future](#)

Author/Source: BBC News

“China's top leaders meet this week for talks on Hong Kong's political future. The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress is holding a week-long session to discuss how Hong Kong picks its leader...”

[China Says 8 Executed in Western Region; Charges Stem From Separatist Attacks](#)

Author/Source: Chris Buckley, New York Times

“The authorities in Xinjiang, the ethnically divided region in far western China, said on Saturday that eight people had been executed on charges related to separatist violence, including an attack last year in which a car plowed through tourists near Tiananmen Square in Beijing and erupted in flames...”

Southeast Asia

[Philippine gov't maintains no Filipinos recruited by ISIS](#)

Author/Source: Xinhua

“Philippine military has denied reports that some Filipinos had been recruited and trained by Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), presidential spokesman Edwin Lacierda said on Monday...”

[Thailand indicts 26 on terrorism, arms charges](#)

Author/Source: Channel News Asia

“Twenty-six people accused of plotting an attack in Thailand have been indicted by a military court on charges including weapon possession and conspiring to commit terrorism, their lawyer said on Saturday (Aug 23)...”

Africa

[Libya torn between two parliaments](#)

Author/Source: Al Arabiya



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“Libya's former parliament, the General National Congress, named on Monday pro-Islamist figure Omar al-Hassi to form a ‘salvation government’, An-Nabaa television station reported, in a challenge to the authority of the turbulent country’s new legislature...”

[Boko Haram: Seized town part of Islamic caliphate](#)

Author/Source: News 24

“Boko Haram's leader said a northeast town seized by the insurgents earlier this month has been placed under an Islamic caliphate, in a video obtained by AFP on Sunday...”

[Niger detains minister over child trafficking](#)

Author/Source: News 24

“Niger's agriculture minister was remanded in custody on Saturday in a politically charged probe into suspected baby trafficking from neighbouring Nigeria, aides said...”

[Liberia’s President Calls for Probe of West Point Ebola Violence](#)

Author/Source: James Butty, Voice of America

“President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has called for creation of a board of inquiry to look into last week’s Ebola-related rioting and deadly shooting in the West Point slum of Liberia’s capital, Monrovia...”

[Cameroon: Ebola Epidemic - WHO Urges Stepped-Up Entry Point Checks](#)

Author/Source: Cameroon Tribune via All Africa

“The World Health Organisation, WHO, yesterday, August 19, 2014, advised countries affected by the Ebola outbreak to screen people departing at international airports, seaports and major land border points to help stop the virus from spreading, agency reports said. It dismissed the need for any further travel restrictions...”

[35 Nigerian police officers missing after insurgent attack](#)

Author/Source: Nana Karikari-apau and Greg Botelho, CNN

“Thirty-five Nigerian policemen are missing following an insurgent attack Saturday on a police training school in one of the most volatile parts of the African nation, police said...”

[DR Congo confirms first Ebola cases](#)

Author/Source: News 24

“The Democratic Republic of Congo confirmed its two first cases of Ebola this year, but claimed they were unrelated to the epidemic raging in four countries of West Africa...”

[Libya crisis: Militias challenge parliament](#)

Author/Source: BBC

“Islamist militias in Libya have challenged the legitimacy of the new parliament after announcing their seizure of Tripoli airport...”

[Egypt proposes new Gaza ceasefire deal](#)

Author/Source: Al Arabiya

“Egyptian mediators proposed on Monday a new ceasefire that would open the crossings of the blockaded Gaza Strip and allow in aid and reconstruction materials, a senior Palestinian



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official said, as the Israeli army continued its almost two-month long offensive on the enclave...”

Nigeria Denies Boko Haram 'Caliphate' Claim

Author/Source: Heather Murdock, Voice of America

“Nigerian militants have released a new video stating they have annexed a town and the surrounding countryside into what they call their ‘Islamic Caliphate’...”

Mozambique Government, Former Rebels Sign Peace Pact

Author/Source: Voice of America

“Mozambique's government and the former rebel Renamo movement have signed an accord to end two years of low-level fighting...”

AU, Somali Troops Take Key Town From al-Shabab

Author/Source: Voice of America

“African Union and Somali government troops have seized a key town from militant group al-Shabab in southwestern Somalia...”

Europe

Ukraine president calls snap election as he prepares for Putin meeting

Author/Source: Shaun Walker, AP via The Guardian

“Ukraine's president, Petro Poroshenko, has dissolved parliament and called for early elections in October as his country continues to battle a pro-Russia insurgency in its eastern regions, and Kiev again accused Russia of sending soldiers into its territory...”

Former Vatican ambassador stripped of immunity over sex abuse claims

Author/Source: The Guardian

“The Vatican City's former ambassador to the Dominican Republic has been stripped of his diplomatic immunity after being accused of sexually abusing young boys...”

Ukraine troops battled Russian armoured column, claims Kiev

Author/Source: The Guardian

“Kiev again accused Russia of sending soldiers into Ukrainian territory on Monday, a day before the presidents of the two countries are due to meet...”

Russia to send second aid convoy to eastern Ukraine

Author/Source: AP via The Guardian

“Russia has announced plans to send a second aid convoy to rebel-held eastern Ukraine, where months of fighting have left many buildings in ruins...”

France thrown into political turmoil after government dissolved

Author/Source: Anne Penketh, The Guardian

“France has entered uncharted political waters after the prime minister, Manuel Valls, presented his government's resignation amid a political crisis triggered by his maverick economy minister who called for an end to austerity policies imposed by Germany...”



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[Number of Ukrainian government forces killed fighting separatists rises to 722 - Ukraine defense council](#)

Author/Source: Natalya Zinets and Alessandra Prentice, Reuters

“The number of Ukrainian government forces who have been killed fighting separatist rebels in eastern Ukraine has reached 722, the national defense and security council said on Sunday...”

[All vehicles in Russia aid convoy have left Ukraine: OSCE](#)

Author/Source: Reuters via Yahoo! News

“All 227 vehicles that entered Ukraine as part of a Russian aid convoy have now returned to Russian soil, security watchdog the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) said on Saturday...”

[UK Close To Identifying James Foley's Killer](#)

Author/Source: Sky News

“The British ambassador to the US says the UK is close to identifying the Islamic State (IS) militant who murdered American journalist James Foley...”

[NATO Plots Defense Against Russia](#)

Author/Source: Andre de Nesnera, Voice of America

“The 28 NATO members are preparing for their summit meeting in Wales in early September. The main topic of discussion: the notion of collective defense in light of Russia’s recent actions against Ukraine...”

[Turkey's Erdogan, Gul Face Political Showdown](#)

Author/Source: Dorian Jones, Voice of America

“Outgoing Turkish president Abdullah Gul has made it clear that he intends to stay in politics. The long time ally of President-elect Recep Tayyip Erdogan is now increasingly seen as a political rival and even threat to Erdogan...”

Latin America and the Caribbean

[Venezuela Perceived As Most Dangerous Country In the World](#)

Author/Source: Kyra Gurney, InsightCrime

“Venezuela ranked the lowest in the world for perceptions of security in a recent Gallup poll, while citizens in Ecuador reported feeling considerably safer than four years ago, illustrating changing security perceptions amid constant shifts in the region's criminal landscape...”

[Elite Mexican Police Corps Targets Persistent Violence, but Many Are Skeptical](#)

Author/Source: Randal C. Archibold, New York Times

“More than two years after first floating it during his presidential campaign as a signature effort to control rampant violence, President Enrique Peña Nieto on Friday swore in a new gendarmerie for Mexico, an offshoot of the federal police aimed at quelling outbreaks of violent crime...”



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Colombia announces 10 member sub-committee to discuss bilateral ceasefire with FARC

Author/Source: Emil Foget, Colombia Reports

“Colombia’s government has announced the names of ten officials who are set to discuss a bilateral ceasefire on Friday with the country’s largest rebel group, the FARC, in Havana, Cuba...”

Colombia’s Santos Demands Probe of Alleged Spying by Political Foes

Author/Source: Latin American Herald Tribune

“Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos on Monday ordered authorities to conduct a thorough investigation into complaints by a jailed computer hacker who accused the opposition Democratic Center party of being behind a spying operation that even targeted the head of state...”

Four Prisoners Dead, Two of Them Decapitated, in Prison Rebellion in Brazil

Author/Source: Latin American Herald Tribune

“Four prisoners were killed, two of them decapitated, and an undetermined number were injured in a prison rebellion in Parana, in southern Brazil, where the management is negotiating the release of two hostages, official sources reported...”

16 Puerto Rico Police Officers Guilty of Running Criminal Gang

Author/Source: Latin American Herald Tribune

“Sixteen former Puerto Rico police officers have pleaded guilty for their roles in a criminal organization run out of the police department...”

US & Canada

United States Targeted by Cyber Attacks Originating from China, the US, India, and Russia

Author/Source: Softpedia

“Based on information collected from honeypots deployed in public cloud infrastructures across the globe, a company observed that most of the machines frequently targeting the US are located in China, the US, India, and Russia...”

U.S. court scraps order to seize Kurdish crude from tanker near Texas

Author/Source: Terry Wade and Anna Driver, Reuters

“A U.S. court on Monday threw out an order to seize some 1 million barrels of disputed Iraqi Kurdish crude oil from a tanker near Texas, a move that could allow the cargo to be delivered and end a nearly month-long impasse...”

Shooter at U.S. Army base in Virginia kills herself, sparks lockdown

Author/Source: Ian Simpson, Reuters

“A U.S. soldier armed with a pistol fatally wounded herself after barricading herself in a building at Fort Lee, Virginia, sparking a lockdown of the Army base, officials said...”