



POTOMAC INSTITUTE FOR POLICY STUDIES
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Daily Terrorism Weather

24 August 2014

Middle East

James Foley beheading: UK close to identifying jihadist

Author/Source: BBC

“The UK is close to identifying a suspected British jihadist from the footage of the killing of a journalist, the ambassador to the US has said...”

Iraq forces defeat militant push to take oil refinery

Author/Source: BBC

“Iraqi government forces say they have defeated a militant attack on the country's largest oil refinery, killing several insurgents ...”

US 'set to launch air strikes' on senior Isis leaders in Syria

Author/Source: Toby Helm and Martin Chulov/ The Guardian

“The United States was said to be considering air strikes aimed at eliminating individual leaders of Islamic State as Turkey came under mounting pressure to stem the flow of jihadists across its border into Syria...”

Iraq: on the frontline with the Shia fighters taking the war to Isis

Author/Source: Ghaith Abdul-Ahad/ The Guardian

“The new Iraqi "border" is marked by a two-metre-high wall of earth. The berm, as it is known, cuts through farmland and orchards, separating the shrinking lands of the Iraqi state as it has existed for 95 years from the expanding territory of the new Islamic caliphate...”

Gaza highrises flattened by Israel

Author/ Source: Harriet Sherwood/ The Guardian

“Two multi-storey buildings in Gaza have been completely destroyed by Israeli air strikes in less than 24 hours, possibly signalling a new tactic in Israel’s military campaign...”

Israeli stealth drone downed at nuclear facility, Iran claims

Author/ Source: Harriet Sherwood and Saeed Kamali Dehghan/ The Guardian

“Iran's Revolutionary Guards claimed on Sunday that an Israeli stealth drone had been brought down above the Natanz uranium enrichment site in the center of the country...”

Israel Says Missile Strike Killed Hamas Official Handling ‘Terror Funds’

Author/ Source: Ares 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...”



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Teenager Cites Ordeal as Captive of Israelis

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

“A Palestinian teenager says that Israeli soldiers detained him for five days last month, forcing him to sleep blindfolded and handcuffed in his underwear and to search and dig for tunnels in Khuza’a, his village near Gaza’s eastern border...”

Israel says it found Hamas training manual in Gaza

Author/ Source: Luke Baker/ Reuters

“The Israeli army has released what it says is a page from a seized Hamas training manual that would appear to support its case that Palestinian militants deliberately use the cover of residential areas...”

U.S. hostage Peter Theo Curtis is freed after nearly two years in Syria

Author/ Source: Liz Sly and Adam Goldman/ Washington Post

“An American journalist abducted by rebels in Syria was freed Sunday after nearly two years in captivity, but his release appears to have little bearing on the fates of other hostages under threat of death from their kidnappers because of the U.S. airstrikes in Iraq...”

Islamic State militants seize Syrian airbase

Author/ Source: Martin Chulov/ The Guardian

“Islamic radicals have seized most of an airbase in eastern Syria and are tightening a stranglehold on a minority Turkoman community north of Baghdad, as their pillage of the heartland of the Levant gains further momentum...”

Talks on new Yemeni government collapse over Shi'ite Houthi subsidy demands

Author/ Source: By Mohammed Ghobari/ Reuters

“Over demands by Shi'ite Muslim Houthis to restore fuel subsidies cut by President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, officials said, and further demonstrations in the capital Sanaa were expected...”

Car bomb in Shi'ite area of Baghdad kills seven: police

Author/ Source: Michael Georgy/ Reuters

“A car bomb killed seven people on Sunday in a mostly Shi'ite area of Baghdad, police and medical sources said...”

Central Asia

Afghan leader amplifies pressure on Ghani, Abdullah to resolve differences by Sept. 2

Author/ Source: Tim Craig and Sayed Salahuddin/ The Washington Post

“Afghan President Hamid Karzai has reiterated that he will leave office Sept. 2, intensifying pressure on his two potential successors to resolve their differences soon to avoid plunging the country into political chaos...”



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[Tony Blair advises Kazakh president on publicity after killing of protesters](#)

Author/ Source: Haroon Siddique/ The Guardian

“Tony Blair's role advising countries with poor human rights records has come under scrutiny again after he gave Kazakhstan's president advice on how to avoid his image being tarnished by the killing of 15 civilian protesters by police...”

[Kyrgyzstan's biggest ever blockbuster hits cinemas amid patriotism push](#)

Author/ Source: Bakyt Ibraimov/ The Guardian

“A historical epic billed as Kyrgyzstan's biggest ever blockbuster is set to hit cinemas in the central Asian country next week as part of the latest government attempts to bolster patriotism...”

South Asia

[India, Pakistan intensify cross-border firing as ties sour](#)

Author/ Source: Fayaz Bukhari/ Reuters

“Indian and Pakistani troops intensified firing across the border over the weekend killing at least four, an Indian official said on Sunday, straining ties between the arch rivals...”

[Fishermen Cross an Imperceptible Line Into Enemy Waters](#)

Author/ Source: Saba Imtiaz/ New York Times

“Fishermen bustled through a ramshackle harbor, a knot of narrow streets and one-room houses on the edge of Karachi, as they prepared to set out to sea for the summer fishing season...”

East Asia

[China executes eight, including Tiananmen attackers](#)

Author/ Source: BBC

“China has executed eight people in the north-western region of Xinjiang, for what it calls "terrorist" attacks, reports the state news agency Xinhua. Three of those executed had been convicted of an attack in Tiananmen Square...”

[Beijing independent film festival shut down by Chinese authorities](#)

Author/ Source: Jonathan Kaiman/ The Guardian

“Chinese authorities have shut down the country's most prominent independent film festival for the first time in its 11-year history, raising concerns about a wide-ranging government crackdown on freedom of speech and civil society...”

South East Asia

[Malaysia Airlines plane forced to turn back due to pressure problems](#)

Author/ Source: Agence France-Presse/ The Guardian

“A Malaysia Airlines plane was forced to turn back due to pressure problems inside the aircraft after being in the air for almost an hour, a top aviation watchdog official said on Sunday...”



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[Veera arrested in energy protest](#)

Author/ Source: Bangkok Post

“Former yellow-shirt leader Veera Somkhwamkid, who was released from a Cambodian prison last month, and six other activists were arrested on Sunday shortly after they kicked off a march to support energy...”

[Jokowi yet to submit resignation letter](#)

Author/ Source: Dewanti A. Wardhani/ The Jakarta Post

“President-elect Joko “Jokowi” Widodo has opted to remain in his gubernatorial post for a few more days following the Constitutional Court’s verdict on Thursday that officially named him the nation’s seventh leader...”

[All clear given across country after ruling](#)

Author/ Source: Ina Parlina and Yuliasri Perdani/ The Jakarta Post

“The government reported on Friday that the country was calm following the Constitutional Court’s ruling on Thursday that upheld the election victory of president-elect Joko “Jokowi” Widodo...”

Africa

[Libyan capital under Islamist control after Tripoli airport seized](#)

Author/ Source: Chris Stephen, and Anne Penketh/ The Guardian

“Libya has lurched ever closer to fragmentation and civil war this weekend after Islamist-led militias seized the airport in the capital, Tripoli, proclaimed their own government, and presented the world with yet another crisis...”

[Concern in Egypt as Libyan tensions spill over the border](#)

Author/ Source: Patrick Kingsley/ The Guardian

“There are those who claim Egypt was behind a mysterious series of airstrikes on Islamist militias in Libya last week – but the Egyptians themselves are not among them...”

[To South Sudan’s woes, add famine — 50,000 kids at risk of death](#)

Author/ Source: Ty McCormick/ Washington Post

“Nyarony Choing is as old as South Sudan. And like the world’s newest nation, she has been to hell and back before her fourth birthday...”

[South Sudan ceasefire monitor dies after officials held by rebels](#)

Author/ Source: Aaron Maasho/ Reuters

“A member of an East African regional body monitoring a ceasefire in South Sudan died of a heart attack after some monitors were detained by rebels to the north of the country, further complicating a peace process...”



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Europe

[Iceland volcano not a concern for UK airspace, says aviation watchdog](#)

Author/Source: Gwyn Topham/ The Guardian

“Britain's aviation watchdog has played down fears that a volcanic ash cloud from Iceland could stop flights across Europe, saying there is no prospect of a blanket closure of airspace in the event of an eruption...”

[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...”

['Stronger border checks for radicals needed', says Cardiff MP](#)

Author/Source: BBC

“Stronger border checks are needed to prevent radicalised Muslims leaving the UK, says an MP with three constituents believed to be in Syria. Cardiff South and Penarth MP Stephen Doughty said legislation targeting those who "groomed" recruits for militant groups...”

[Britain's Trident nuclear program at stake in Scottish independence vote](#)

Author/Source: Griff Witte/ Washington Post

For decades, Britain's contribution to the threat of global Armageddon has found a home on the tranquil shores of Gare Loch, where soaring green mountains plunge into murky gray waters plied by sporty kayakers, weekend yachtsmen — and nuclear-armed submarines...”

[Merkel dampens hopes of breakthrough at Putin-Poroshenko talks](#)

Author/Source: Madeline Chambers and Stephen Powell/ Reuters

“German Chancellor Angela Merkel warned on Sunday that closely watched talks next week between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukraine's Petro Poroshenko in Minsk were unlikely to deliver a breakthrough that would resolve the crisis in Ukraine...”

[Mediterranean escape route claims 260 migrants in one weekend](#)

Author/Source: Lizzy Davies/ The Guardian

“More than 260 people were feared to have lost their lives in the Mediterranean Sea at the weekend as two more tragedies on the perilous route from north Africa to Europe...”

[Separatists put Ukrainian captives on show in rebel stronghold](#)

Author/Source: Thomas Grovel/ Reuters

“Pro-Russian separatists marched dozens of Ukrainian prisoners of war through the eastern rebel stronghold of Donetsk on Sunday in a parade meant to counter Independence Day celebrations in Kiev...”



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Turkey's Erdogan seen softening style not substance as president

Author/Source: Selin Bucak/ Reuters

“Tayyip Erdogan's caustic rhetoric has won him the devotion of Turkey's conservative Islamic heartlands, from his dismissal of political enemies as "worse than leeches" to his comparisons of Israel's actions in Gaza to those of Hitler...”

Britain Appeals to Anti-Extremist Imams in Effort to Uproot Seeds of Radicalization

Author/Source: Imiko De Freytas-Tamura/ New York Times

“The beheading of American journalist James Foley, apparently by a British jihadist, has drawn renewed attention to the dangers posed by radicalized young British Muslims...”

US & Canada

Thousands march in New York over police chokehold death

Author/Source: BBC

“Thousands of demonstrators have marched peacefully through the New York borough of Staten Island in protest at the death of a black man at the hands of a white police officer...”

Obama sends White House aides to Ferguson funeral of Michael Brown

Author/Source: The Associated Press/ The Guardian

“Barack Obama will send three White House aides to the funeral on Monday of Michael Brown, the 18-year-old black man whose fatal shooting by a white police officer sparked days of racial unrest in Ferguson, Missouri...”

South and Central America and the Caribbean

Prisoners Beheaded in Brazil Jail Riot

Author/Source: The Associated Press/ Al Jazeera

“Two prisoners were beheaded and at least another one died after being thrown off the roof in a riot that erupted Sunday in a prison in southern Brazil, authorities said. Inmates of the penitentiary in the city of Cascavel took at least two agents...”

Arrested Computer Programmer: Colombian Military Hacked Santos Emails

Author/Source: Latin America Herald Tribune

“Colombian military personnel linked to former President Alvaro Uribe spied on President Juan Manuel Santos' emails, arrested computer programmer Andres Fernando...”

No Evidence of Jihadists in Mexico, Foreign Minister Says

Author/Source: Latin America Herald Tribune

“There is no evidence to support the comments by Texas Gov. Rick Perry that jihadists could enter the United States via the southern border, Mexican Foreign Relations Secretary Jose Antonio Meade said...”

Three Die in Shootout in Central Mexico

Author/Source: Latin America Herald Tribune

“Three people, including a police officer, died in a shootout triggered by an attempt to steal an automobile in the central Mexican city of Ecatepec, media reports said...”



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[TV Station Owner Gunned Down in Honduras](#)

Author/Source: Latin America Herald Tribune

“The owner of the Channel 20 television station was gunned down in eastern Honduras, a police spokesman said Sunday...”