

Geopolitical, International, and Security collected stories, week of 22 April

[Syria, Chemical Weapons, Israel, U.S.] [Israeli spy says Syria used chemical arms, U.S. unconvinced](#) – Reuters. (The [U.S. later responded](#) that they have evidence of some chemical weapons use in Syria, according to the Washington Post. Though unverified, a source claimed to Wired.com, Danger Room blog that there may be [stronger evidence](#) of chemical weapons use.)

[Bangladesh, Building Safety, Manufacturing] [Bangladesh factory building collapse kills nearly 100](#) – Reuters.

[Nigeria, Terrorism, Boko Haram, al Qaeda, AQIM] [New Threat in Nigeria as Militants Split Off](#) – New York Times.

[Iraq, Sectarian Violence, Internal Politics] [Dozens killed in Battles Across Iraq as Sunnis Escalate Protests Against Government](#) – New York Times.

[European Union, Sanctions, Burma/Myanmar] [EU lifts Myanmar sanctions despite human rights concerns](#) – Reuters.

[Honduras, Assassinations] [Honduran authorities report plot by drug gangs to kill congressman, journalist, police chief](#) – Associated Press.

[Spain, Population, Immigration, Economy] [Spain's population shrinks as immigrants flee economic crisis](#) – BBC News. (Later in the week, Spain reported record [unemployment](#) at 27%, according to Bloomberg News.)

[Spain, Counterterrorism, al Qaeda] [Two al Qaeda suspects arrested in Spain](#) – Reuters.

[Afghanistan, Taliban] [Study Finds Sharp Rise in Attacks by Taliban](#) – New York Times.

[Russia, Gun Violence] [Russian police capture 'Belgorod shooter' as he attempts to escape massive manhunt](#) – RT.

[Paraguay, Elections] [Paraguayan magnate wins back power for Colorado Party](#) – Reuters.

[North Korea, Terrorism, History] [The North Korean spy who blew up a plane](#) – BBC News.

[India, China, Borders] [India Accuses China of Crossing De Facto Border](#) – Associated Press.

[Cybersecurity, China, NGOs, Intelligence Services] ['Aurora' Cyber Attackers Were Really Running Counter-Intelligence](#) – CIO.

[France, Internal Politics, Gay Rights, Demonstrations] [Clashes erupt in Paris after gay marriage legalised](#) – France24.

[Netherlands, Espionage, Russia, NATO] [Dutch diplomat jailed for giving secret Nato documents to Russian agents](#) – Associated Press.

[U.S. Navy, Cybersecurity, Littoral Combat Ship] [Cyber vulnerabilities found in U.S. Navy's newest warship: official](#) – Reuters.

[South Korea, U.S., Nuclear Programs] [Korea, U.S. agree to extend current nuclear pact by 2 years](#)- Arirang.

[Syria, Internal Conflict, European Union, Foreign Fighters] [Hundreds of Europeans fighting in Syria, says EU expert](#) – BBC News.

[United Arab Emirates, Counterterrorism, al Qaeda] [Emirates Said to Seize Qaeda Supporters](#) – New York Times.

[Afghanistan, Schools, Terrorism] [Afghan girls' school feared hit by poison gas](#) – Reuters.

[Nigeria, Internal Conflict, Boko Haram] [Officials: At Least 185 Killed in Nigeria Attack](#) – Associated Press. ([Another AP story](#) further discusses alleged Nigerian military and security services' indiscriminate or intentional killing of civilians in similar operations.)

[China, Armed Groups*] [21 dead in west China clashes](#) – USA Today. (*I hesitate to label this more specifically given conflicting reports of a terrorist group, a criminal gang, or some other sort of organization, and also because of China's sensitivity to Xinjiang issues often leading authorities to label any disruptive group a terrorist organization.)

[U.S., Israel, Arms Transfers] [Ospreys to Israel in Major Arms Deal](#) – DefenseTech.

[Pakistan, Internal Politics, Sectarian Violence] [Insight: Pakistan cleric tries hand at politics, striking fear in Shi'ites](#) – Reuters.

[European Union, U.S., France, Trade] [France threatens to block start of EU/U.S. free trade talks](#) – Reuters.

[Venezuela, Internal Politics, U.S.] [Venezuela Threatens Oil Trade in Row with US](#) – Agence France Presse.

[Italy, Internal Politics] [Giorgio Napolitano, Italy's reluctant president](#) – Reuters. (Reuters also reported that Enrico [Letta was appointed the country's prime minister](#).)

[Libya, Embassies, Terrorism, France] [French Embassy in Tripoli Hit by Car Bomb](#) – Reuters.

[Pakistan, Illegal Drugs, Taliban, Internal Politics] [Political conflicts in Pakistan damage hashish business](#)- Washington Post.

[U.K., Bomb Detection Equipment, Fraud, Iraq, Georgia] [James McCormick guilty of selling fake bomb detectors](#) – BBC News.

[United Nations, Mali, Peacekeeping Operations] [UN approves new UN peacekeeping force, Minusma](#) – BBC News.

[Israel, Hezbollah, Drones] [Israeli military shoots down suspected Hezbollah drone](#) – Associated Press.

[Canada, U.S., Law Enforcement] [RCMP grapples with questions of FBI authority in Canada](#) – Embassy.

[U.S., Guantanamo Bay, Prisoners] [US military says 84 on hunger strike at Guantanamo](#) – Associated Press.

[Venezuela, Internal Politics, Political Freedoms] [Venezuela govt targets disaffected ex-supporters](#) – Associated Press.

[Hungary, European Union, Legal, Internal Politics] [Reding Says EU May Move Against Hungary on Legal Changes](#) – Bloomberg News.

[Taiwan, China, Infectious Diseases] [Taiwan reports first bird flu case outside China](#) – BBC News.

[Egypt, Judiciary, Internal Politics] [Egypt parliament pushes ahead with judicial law despite uproar from opposition](#) – Associated Press.

[Syria, Cultural Heritage, Internal Conflict] [Minaret on a Storied Syrian Mosque Falls](#) – New York Times.

[Malaysia, China, Strategy, U.S.] [Why Malaysia isn't afraid of China \(for now\)](#) – The Strategist (ASPI).

[Afghanistan, Combat Aircraft] [Afghan Air Force Waits on Light Attack Aircraft](#) – DefenseTech.

[Africa, Maritime, Non-State Actors] [Africa Maritime Updates](#) – Information Dissemination.