

Geopolitical, International, and Security collected stories, week of 16 December 2013

[Ukraine, European Union, Trade, Internal Politics, Protests] [Ukrainian Leader Slams West, Tilts Toward Russia](#) – Associated Press.

[Iran, IRGC, Iraq, MEK] [U.S. Fingers Iranian Commandos for Kidnapping Raid Inside Iraq](#) – Foreign Policy.

[China, Space Exploration] [Giant leap for China as moon probe lands safely in Bay of Rainbows](#) – The Guardian.

[U.S., India, Diplomats, Crime] [Arrest, strip-search of Indian diplomat in New York triggers uproar](#) – CNN.

[Brazil, Fighter Aircraft, Defense Industry, NSA] [Saab wins Brazil jet deal after NSA spying sours Boeing bid](#) – Reuters.

[Syrian Civil War] [Syrian air raids exact high toll on Aleppo](#) – Associated Press.

[Russia, Internal Politics, Protests, Political Prisoners, Greenpeace] [Arctic 30 protestors and Pussy Riot members set to walk free](#) – The Guardian.

[Germany, Internal Politics] [German parliament confirms Angela Merkel for new term](#) – BBC News.

[South Sudan, Internal Conflict, U.N.] [South Sudan says order restored after 500 killed, but U.N. still concerned](#) – CNN.

[Japan, Defense Budgets, Internal Politics] [New Japan security plan focuses on island dispute](#) – Associated Press.

[Israel, Lebanon, Border Skirmishes] [Israel, Lebanon rush to ease tensions following border clashes](#) – Associated Press.

[Italy, Mafia, Crime] [Family of top Mafia 'godfather' arrested in Sicily](#) – BBC News.

[DRC, M23 Rebels, Diplomacy] [DR Congo government 'signs deal with M23 in Kenya'](#) – BBC News.

[U.S., Philippines, Vietnam, Disputed Territories, China, Military Aid] [Kerry plays down tension with China in maritime disputes](#) – Reuters.

[Colombia, Organized Crime] [Colombia arrests relatives of Urabenos 'gang leader' Otoniel](#) – BBC News.

[China, Sectarian Violence] [Clash in China's Xinjiang kills 16: state media](#) – Agence France-Presse.

[Palestine, Natural Disasters] [More than 5,000 evacuated from Gaza 'disaster area' floods](#) – Reuters.

[Cybersecurity, Hezbollah, al Qaeda, Hactivist Groups, Israel, Saudi Arabia] [Hackers Avenge Death of Hezbollah Commander by Leaking Al-Qaeda Files](#) – Softpedia.

[China, Industrial Disasters, Energy, Crime, Urban Planning] [China pipeline blast exposes risks of urban sprawl](#) – Reuters.

[U.S. Army, Laser Weapons, Defensive Systems] [US military's RAY-GUN truck BLASTS DRONES, mortars OUT OF THE SKY](#) – The Register.

[Japan, Crime, Internal Politics] [Tokyo governor to resign over loans scandal](#) – Agence France-Presse.

[Russia, Nuclear Weapons, Ballistic Missiles, NATO] [Russia has stationed Iskander missiles in western region: reports](#) – Reuters. (Russian President Putin later stated that he [had not yet ordered](#) the missiles to Kaliningrad, but that the option remained in his country's dispute over a U.S.-led missile defense system.)

[U.S., Syrian Civil War, Islamist Groups] [U.S. Weighing Closer Ties With Hardline Islamists in Syria](#) – Foreign Policy.

[Mali, Terrorism, Banking, U.N.] [Two peacekeepers killed as suicide bomb hits bank in northern Mali](#) – Reuters.

[Turkey, Corruption, Internal Politics] [Report: \\$4.5 million seized from bank chief's home](#) – Associated Press.