

Geopolitical, International, and Security collected stories, week of 22 December 2013

[Colombia, FARC, Internal Conflict, U.S., Covert Operations] [Covert action in Colombia](#) – Washington Post.

[South Sudan, Internal Conflict, Diplomacy] [African leaders meet to push peace talks in South Sudan](#) – USA Today. (AFP also reported that the country's [oil fields](#) are in play during the fighting and that Chinese companies have evacuated their oil field workers. [U.S forces](#) evacuated American civilians from the country, as reported by the AP, while others sought sanctuary with U.N. forces. U.N. forces previously came under attack while sheltering a group of South Sudanese, with [two Indian peacekeepers](#) killed, according to the BBC. The U.N. Security Council voted to [increase](#) the size of the U.N. force from 900 to 1,300, Deutsche Welle reported.)

[Cybersecurity, NSA, U.S., Business] [Secret contract tied NSA and security industry pioneer](#) – Reuters.

[Turkey, Protests, Corruption, Internal Politics] [Istanbul clashes as Turkey PM Erdogan condemns 'plot'](#) – BBC News.

[Nigeria, Internal Conflict, Boko Haram] [Nigeria says 70 killed in battle with Islamist group](#) – Reuters.

[UAE, Social Media, Civil Liberties, U.S., India] [Jailed in the UAE for Posting Parody Video](#) – Wall Street Journal.

[U.S. Air Force, Nuclear Weapons, Personnel] [Report: Fired Nuke General Allegedly Associated With 'Suspect' Women and Drank Heavily In Russia](#) – Associated Press.

[Israel, Terrorism] [Disaster averted as bomb explodes on bus after passengers evacuated](#) – Times of Israel.

[Uruguay, Internal Politics, Corruption] [Uruguayan economy minister quits amid airplane sale scandal](#) – Reuters.

[UAVs, Christmas] [Mistletoe drone floats above San Francisco's Union Square](#) – NextGov.

[al Qaeda Groups, Illicit Finance, U.S., Qatar] [Islamic charity officials gave millions to al-Qaeda, U.S. says](#) – Washington Post.

[Small Arms, Inventors] [AK47 assault rifle designer Kalashnikov dies at 94](#) – BBC News.

[Naval Warfare, History, USSR, Japan, U.S., China] [Kamikazes: The Soviet Legacy](#) – Maksim Y. Tokarev, in *U.S. Naval War College Review*.

[U.S. Navy, PLAN, Navigation, Public Perception, Analysis/Commentary] [How the US Lost the South China Sea Standoff](#) – The Diplomat.

[Israel, Palestine, Borders] [Israel Launches Gaza Airstrikes For Worker Killing](#) – Associated Press.

[China, Economy, Internal Politics] [China's \\$50 billion move to avert cash crunch](#) – CNNMoney.

[North Korea, Nuclear Programs, Unconfirmed] [Satellite photos show N. Korea making fuel rods for nuclear reactor](#) – United Press International.

[U.S., Agriculture, Climate Change, Business] [Okra-homa: As the climate warms, Midwest farmers plant Southern crops](#) – Al Jazeera America.

[North Korea, Russia, Diplomacy] [The Significance of Russia's Frustration with North Korea](#) – The Diplomat.

[Japan, Financial Services, Organized Crime] [Japan's Mizuho chairman to step down over mob loans scandal](#) – Reuters.

[China, Pakistan, Nuclear Power] [China commits \\$6.5 billion for Pakistani nuclear project](#) – Reuters.

[Japan, Internal Politics, China, South Korea] [Japan PM Shinzo Abe visits Yasukuni WW2 shrine](#) – BBC News.

[Brazil, Natural Disasters] [Floods leave 50,000 Brazilians homeless](#) – Al Jazeera.

[China, Military Helicopters] [Did China Just Clone a Black Hawk Helicopter?](#) – The Diplomat, Flashpoints blog.

[Israel, U.S., China, Technology Transfers] [Report: Israel Passes U.S. Military Technology to China](#) – DefenseTech.

[South Korea, Labor, Protests, Internal Politics] [Police clash with striking rail workers, KCTU vows general strike](#) – Yonhap News Agency. ([Social media reactions](#) and images from Global Voices.)

[Iran, Internal Politics, U.S., Sanctions, Nuclear Programs] [Iran lawmakers threaten nuclear speed-up if Congress adds sanctions](#) – Los Angeles Times.

[Egypt, Internal Politics, Muslim Brotherhood] [Egypt's military-backed government declares Muslim Brotherhood a terrorist organization](#) – Washington Post.