

**Geopolitical, International, and Security collected stories, week of 31
December**

[Paraguay, History, Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay] [*Paraguay's awful history: The never-ending war*](#) – The Economist.

[Syria, Chemical Weapons, UAVs, Unconfirmed] [*Syria accused of adapting MiG-21 for unmanned chemical warfare use*](#) – Flightglobal.

[Iran, Fighter Aircraft, China] [*China Upgrades Iranian Jets*](#) – Offiziere.ch.

[China, People's Liberation Army, Internal Culture] [*People's Liberation Army Bans Alcohol: How China's Drinking Culture Hurts The Military*](#)- International Business Times.

[North Korea, Weapons Tests, Nuclear Weapons] [*Photos indicate readiness at North Korea nuke test site, but also water seepage*](#) – Associated Press.

[Central African Republic, U.S., Diplomatic Personnel] [*US troops sent to aid African diplomat evacuation*](#) – Associated Press.

[Japan, G-20, Economy] [*Japan Rebuke to G-20 Nations May Signal Moves to Weaken Yen*](#) – Bloomberg News.

[Russia, Syria, Diplomacy] [*Russia 'ready for Syria opposition talks'*](#) – BBC News.

[Bolivia, Nationalization, Energy, Spain] [*Spain's Iberdrola Has 4 Units Taken Over by Bolivian State*](#) – Bloomberg News.

[Pakistan, Terrorism, Sectarian Violence] [*19 Shiite Pilgrims Bound for Iran Are Killed in Pakistan*](#) - New York Times.

[Nigeria, Boko Haram, Terrorism] [*At least 15 killed in sect attack in north Nigeria*](#) - Associated Press.

[East Timor, United Nations, Peacekeeping] [*East Timor: UN ends peacekeeping mission*](#)- BBC News.

[Afghanistan, Culture] [*Cosmetic surgery catches on in a more open Afghanistan*](#) – Los Angeles Times.

[al Qaeda, Yemen, U.S.] [*Al Qaeda Places Bounties on Americans in Yemen*](#) – Associated Press.

[Pakistan, India, Nuclear Weapons, Defense Doctrine] [*New Year, New Problem? Pakistan's Tactical Nukes*](#) – The Diplomat.

[Syria, Energy, Infrastructure] [*Syria says rebels destroyed gas pipeline*](#) – Associated Press.

[North Korea, Public Announcements] [*North Korean leader, in rare address, seeks end to confrontation with South*](#) – Reuters.

[Central African Republic, Seleka Rebels, Negotiations] [*Central African Republic rebels halt advance, agree to peace talks*](#) - Reuters.

[Israel, Cyberwarfare] [*Israel taps teens to become 'interceptors' in cyberwarfare*](#) – The Register.

[U.S., Afghanistan, Soviet Union, History] [*With U.S. Set to Leave Afghanistan, Echoes of 1989*](#) – New York Times.

[Russia, Naval Forces, Military Exercises] [*Russia poised for largest naval exercise for decades*](#) – Reuters.

[Burma/Myanmar, Internal Conflict] [*Myanmar Military Admits to Airstrikes on Kachin Rebels*](#)- New York Times.

[Pakistan, Taliban, Drone Strikes] [*U.S. Drone Strike Kills a Top Pakistani Militant*](#)- New York Times.

[Argentina, Cybersecurity, Military, Peru] [*Argentinian Ministry of Defense Website Hacked and Defaced by LulzSec Peru*](#) – Softpedia.

[Japan, U.S., History] [*Beate Gordon, Long-Unsung Heroine of Japanese Women's Rights, Dies at 89*](#) – New York Times.

[Iraq, Terrorism, Sectarian Violence] [*Car bomb in Iraq kills 20 Shiite pilgrims*](#) – Associated Press.

[U.S., Diplomatic Security, PMCs, Opinion] [*From Benghazi to Blackwater*](#) – Center for a New American Security, Abu Muqawama blog.

[Organized Crime, Latin America, China] [*Chinese Organized Crime in Latin America*](#) – R. Evan Ellis, in Prism (NDU.)

[Japan, Defense Acquisitions, UAVs] [*Govt eyeing purchase of U.S. spy drones / Global Hawks could cover China, N. Korea*](#) – Yomiuri Shimbun.