

Geopolitical, International, and Security collected stories, week of 9 December 2013

[Ukraine, European Union, Trade, Internal Politics, Protests] [*EU promises more aid for Ukraine to sign EU deal*](#) – Associated Press.

[Central African Republic, France, Military Interventions] [*French troops begin disarming CAR fighters*](#) – Al Jazeera. (In addition to the U.S. logistic and transportation assistance mentioned in the previous article, the Associated Press also reported that the U.K. was providing a [*transport aircraft*](#) for French deployments.)

[DRC, FDLR, U.N., Peacekeeping Operations] [*Rwandan Hutu fighters in Congo surrendering in large numbers: U.N.*](#) – Reuters.

[U.S., CIA, Iran, Contractors] [*Ex-FBI agent who went missing in Iran was on rogue mission for CIA*](#) – Washington Post.

[Japan, Policy, Strategy, China] [*Japan to Approve New China-Centric Defense Posture*](#) – The Diplomat, Flashpoints blog.

[India, Internal Politics, Elections] [*Assembly elections; Narendra Modi, Arvind Kerjriwal bring mayday for Congress*](#) – Economic Times.

[Iraq, Terrorism, Sectarian Violence] [*Deadly bombings hit Baghdad province*](#) – Al Jazeera.

[Syrian Civil War] [*Syrian army captures key town*](#) – Associated Press.

[Humanitarian Aid, Somalia, al Shabaab, NGOs] [*Aid agencies 'paid Somalia's al-Shabab' during famine*](#) – BBC News.

[Vietnam, Energy, Economy, Infrastructure] [*Vietnam Faces Growing Threat of Power Blackouts*](#) – Bloomberg News.

[China, Crime, Virtual Currencies] [*Police arrest Chinese Bitcoin exchange owners suspected of fraud*](#) – Help Net Security. (German police also [*arrested two individuals*](#) suspected of creating a botnet to mine over \$954,000 of Bitcoins, SC Magazine reported.)

[China, Philippines, Disputed Territories, U.N.] [*China pulls out of UN process over territorial dispute with Philippines*](#) – The Guardian.

[World Trade Organization, Trade] [*WTO Trade Deal Enabled After Cuba Drops Veto Threat*](#) – Reuters.

[U.S. Army, Afghanistan, Economic Development] [Fighting to footwear: US Army veteran's Afghan factory plan](#) – BBC News.

[U.S. Navy, Submarines, UAVs] [Submerged Navy submarine successfully launches drone from missile tubes](#) – The Register.

[China, Pollution, Media, Lulz] [Smog? It bolsters military defence, says Chinese nationalist newspaper](#) – South China Morning Post.

[Russia, Media, Internal Politics] [Putin dissolves state news agency, tightens grip on Russia media](#) – Reuters.

[U.S., NSA, Surveillance, Cybersecurity] [NSA uses Google cookies to pinpoint targets for hacking](#) – Washington Post.

[Syrian Civil War, al Qaeda Groups, Assassinations] [Al Qaeda fighters in Syria kill two top rebel leaders](#) – The Hill.

[Japan, Philippines, Diplomacy] [Japanese, Philippine leaders to discuss maritime cooperation](#) – Japan Times.

[Libya, Nuclear Materials, U.N.] [U.N. to inspect Libya's uranium stocks amid worsening security](#) – Reuters.

[U.S. Navy, Fighter Aircraft, Modernization] [Navy's Hornet at 35](#) – USNI News.

[China, Virtual Currencies, Financial Regulation] [China bans banks from trading in Bitcoin](#) – IDG News Service.

[European Union, Natural Disasters] [Deadly storm and tidal surge batter northern Europe](#) – BBC News.

[Bangladesh, Internal Politics, Executions] [Bangladesh Executes Opposition Leader](#) – The Diplomat, The Pulse blog.

[Syrian Civil War, Refugees, Lebanon] [Syrian refugees in Lebanon bundle up against storm](#) – Associated Press.

[Uruguay, Illegal Drugs, Internal Politics] [Uruguay becomes first nation to legalise marijuana trade](#) – BBC News.

[Russia, U.S., Trade] [Russia seeks trade talks with Washington: Russian official](#) – Reuters.

[Mali, France, Counterterrorism] [French say they killed 19 extremists near Timbuktu](#) – Associated Press.

[**North Korea, Internal Politics, Government Figures**] [*Uncle of North Korean leader executed as 'traitor'*](#) – USA Today.

[**Military Aircraft**] [*Free download: World Air Forces directory 2014*](#) – FlightGlobal, The DEW Line blog.