

Geopolitical, International, and Security collected stories, week of 20 January 2014

[Ukraine, Protests, Internal Politics] [Kiev cease-fire as opposition leaders meet with Ukraine president](#) – New York Times. (A Ukrainian student [alleged](#) that he was beaten and tortured by riot police during the protests, according to the BBC. Several [photos](#) of the Kiev protests were posted by Huffington Post UK.)

[Thailand, Protests, Internal Politics] [Thai protest in Bangkok: 28 injured in explosions](#) – CNN.

[Syrian Civil War, Diplomacy] [Syrian opposition looks to future without Assad](#) – Reuters.

[U.S. Navy, Surface Ships, LCS] [Pentagon Cuts LCS Buy to 32 Ships](#) – DefenseNews. ([Details and commentary](#) from James R. Holmes' blog at *The Diplomat*.)

[Central African Republic, Mass Killings] [New mass grave in C. Africa Republic](#) – Associated Press.

[Mexico, Drug Trafficking Organizations, Knights Templar Cartel] [Mexico Knights Templar 'leader' captured in Michoacan](#) – BBC News.

[Lebanon, Syria, Borders] [Rocket fire from Syria kills at least seven in Lebanese border town](#) – Reuters.

[U.S., Organized Crime] [Five held for links to 1978 Lufthansa heist at JFK](#) – Bloomberg News.

[Space Exploration, European Space Agency] [Comet-chasing probe wakes up, calls home](#) – CNN.

[U.S., E.U., Iran, Nuclear Programs, Sanctions, Diplomacy] [Iran, US, Europe start implementing nuclear deal](#) – Associated Press.

[U.S. Military, Robotics, UAVs, Proliferation] [20YY: Preparing for War in the Robotic Age](#) – Robert O. Work and Shawn Brimley, Center for a New American Security.

[U.S. Navy, Surface Ships] [Navy Plans More Destroyer Upgrades](#) – Military.com.

[South Africa, Poaching] [More than 1,000 rhinos killed in South Africa in 2013](#) – The Guardian.

[Australia, Indonesia, Refugees, Human Trafficking] [Indonesia condemns Australian navy water violations](#) – BBC News.

[Burma/Myanmar, Sectarian Violence, Unconfirmed] [Rights group says Muslims massacred in Myanmar amid official denials](#) – Reuters.

[China, Media, Public Sentiment, U.S.] [The Big Bang Theory in Little China](#) – Foreign Policy.

[Iraq, U.S., Arms Transfers] [US agrees to send new arms, artillery to Iraq to fight Al Qaeda](#) – Fox News.

[South Africa, Labor, Mining, Precious Metals] [South African platinum workers strike over pay](#) – BBC News.

[France, Natural Disasters] [Two dead, hundreds evacuated in flood-hit French Riviera](#) – Agence France-Presse.

[Japan, India, Diplomacy] [India-Japan Ties Strengthen](#) – The Diplomat.

[Afghanistan, Terrorism, U.N.] [U.N., IMF personnel among 21 killed in Kabul restaurant attack](#) – CNN.

[Vietnam, U.S., Cybersecurity, NGOs] [EFF claims Vietnam targeted its staff with spear phishing attack](#) – The Register.

[U.S., Russia, Olympics] [Sochi: US To Deploy Warships During Olympics](#) – Sky News.

[South Sudan, Internal Conflict, War Crimes, Mass Killings] [South Sudan conflict: UN says atrocities on both sides](#) – BBC News. (The Guardian also reported that South Sudanese army troops [attempted](#) to force their way into a U.N. base that was sheltering civilians.)

[China, Government Figures, Corruption, Internal Politics] [Leaked Documents Tie Chinese Elites to Massive Offshore Holdings](#) – The Diplomat, China Power blog.

[South Korea, Financial Services, Crime] [Credit card data of almost half of South Koreans stolen in data breach](#) – United Press International.

[Argentina, Economy, Currency] [Argentina limits foreign online buys to 2 a year](#) – Associated Press.

[Russia, Cybersecurity, Espionage, Energy, Defense Industry, IT] [Russia Accused of Conducting Global Cyber Espionage Campaign](#) – Softpedia.

[Pakistan, Terrorism, Tehreek-e-Taliban] [Taliban bombing near Pakistan military HQ kills 13](#) – Agence France-Presse.

[Russia, Terrorism, Vilayat Dagestan, Olympics] [Islamic group claims Volgograd attacks and threatens Sochi visitors](#) – The Guardian.

[Syrian Civil War, Torture, War Crimes, Unconfirmed] [Report alleges torture, mass killings by Syrian government](#) – NBC News.

[Catholic Church, Italy, Financial Crimes] [Vatican cleric Scarano charged with money-laundering](#) – BBC News.

[U.S. Navy, Fighter Aircraft] [Just How Stealthy Is the Navy's Super Hornet?](#) – War Is Boring.

[Libya, Militia Groups] [Pro-government militiaman killed in clashes with Tripoli gangs](#) – The Guardian.

[Australia, Organized Crime, Financial Crime, Hezbollah] [Australian Police Seize \\$510 Million in Drugs, Cash and Assets in Money Laundering Sting](#) – The Diplomat, Asia Life blog.

[Al Qaeda Groups, Syrian Civil War] [Al Qaeda chief Zawahri tells Islamists in Syria to unite: audio](#) – Reuters.

[Bolivia, Nuclear Programs] [Bolivia 'to build first nuclear reactor'](#) – BBC News.

[China, Internal Politics, New Citizens' Movement] [China puts anti-corruption activist Xu Zhiyong on trial, bars diplomats from attending](#) – Washington Post.

[Libya, Internal Politics] [Islamist party quits Libya's government](#) – BBC News.

[Russia, Counterterrorism, Olympics] [Russian police kill Islamist militant leader before Olympics](#) – Reuters.

[Mozambique, Landmines, UXO] [Giant rats put noses to work on Mozambique's landmines](#) – The Guardian.