

Geopolitical, International, and Security collected stories, week of 7 January

[France, PKK, Turkey, Assassinations] [Kurdish PKK co-founder Sakine Cansiz shot dead in Paris](#) – BBC News.

[Afghanistan, Disarmament-Demobilization-Reintegration, Taliban] [Afghan Amnesty Program Falls Short, Leaving Ex-Insurgents Regretful and Angry](#) – New York Times.

[India, Pakistan, Disputed Territories, Border Clashes] [India says Pakistani troops entered its territory in Kashmir, killed 2 soldiers](#) – Washington Post. (Two days earlier, the New York Times reported that [the two sides had exchanged fire](#), killing one Pakistani soldier.)

[Predictions, Geopolitics, Economy] [Top Risks 2013](#) – Eurasia Group.

[Algeria, Internal Politics, Economy] [Algerian Calm in Arab Tumult Threatened as Oil Largesse Dwindles](#) – Bloomberg News. (The Associated Press also reported that the [prominent politician Ahmed Ouyahia resigned](#) from his leadership position in the National Democratic Rally party.)

[Argentina, ARA Libertad] [Seized Argentine naval ship gets jubilant homecoming](#) – Reuters.

[Venezuela, Internal Politics] [Chavez swearing-in delay legal, rules Venezuela court](#) – BBC News. ([Article](#) from The Diplomat on China's view of and stake in Chavez's Venezuela.)

[Syria, Internal Conflict, Iran] [Syrian government frees 2,130 prisoners in exchange for 48 Iranians](#) – CNN.

[Japan, Strategy, China, Taiwan] [Japan Explores War Scenarios with China](#) – The Diplomat, Flashpoints blog.

[Australia, Climate, Natural Disasters] [Temperatures off the charts as Australia turns deep purple](#) – The Age.

[Pakistan, Culture, U.S., Business] [Pakistan Loving Fatburger as Fast Food Boom Ignores Drones](#) – Bloomberg News.

[Vietnam, Internal Politics, Political Speech] [Vietnam puts 14 activists on trial for dissent](#) – Associated Press.

[North Korea, U.S., Diplomacy, Google] [American Group Begins Private Trip to North Korea](#) – New York Times.

[Canada, Pollution, Energy] [Oil Sands Industry in Canada Tied to Higher Carcinogen Level](#) - New York Times.

[Philippines, Organized Crime] [Police among 13 suspects slain in Philippine clash](#)- Associated Press.

[South Sudan, Sudan, Borders] [Sudanese leaders Bashir and Kiir commit to buffer zone](#) – BBC News.

[China, Justice System, Internal Politics] [Official says China to end labour camp sentences without trial, in move toward judicial reform](#) – Associated Press.

[United Kingdom, Northern Ireland, Internal Unrest, Sectarian Violence] [Violence in Northern Ireland for 3rd day over flag](#) – Associated Press.

[Syrian, Internal Conflict, Speeches] [Defiant Speech by Assad Is New Block to Peace in Syria](#) – New York Times.

[Israel, Elections, Internal Politics, Political Parties] [Unholy Alliances](#) – Foreign Policy.

[China, Media, Censorship] [Southern Weekly reporters confront China censors](#) – BBC News.

[Greece, Investigations, Internal Politics] [Greece probes officials in Swiss tax scandal: source](#) – Agence France-Presse.

[Iraq, Sectarian Tensions, Protests] [Anti-government protests rage across Iraq](#) – Al Jazeera.

[Afghanistan, History, Judaism] [Ancient manuscripts indicate Jewish community once thrived in Afghanistan](#) – CBS News.

[U.S., China, Business] [US Officials: China Refuses to Help Stop Investment Scams](#) – ABC News.

[U.S., Iraq, Lawsuits, Torture, Defense Contractors] [Defense contractor pays \\$5M to Iraqis who alleged torture at Abu Ghraib, other detention sites](#) – Associated Press.

[Democratic Republic of Congo, M23 Rebels, Negotiations] [DR Congo's M23 rebels declare unilateral ceasefire](#) – BBC News.

[Egypt, Qatar, Loans] [Egypt finance: Qatar steps in to ease Cairo cash crisis](#) – BBC News.

[China, Internet, Censorship, Sina Weibo] [*A Chinese Web censor snaps, goes on public rant*](#) – Washington Post. (In other news of the microblogging site, Sina Weibo recently announced that they [*will offer an English-language interface*](#), according to TechCrunch.)

[China, Burma/Myanmar, Borders] [*China makes formal complaint to Myanmar over bombing raids*](#) – South China Morning Post.

[Piracy, Somalia] [*Somali Pirate Kingpin Calls It Quits as Hijackings Plummet*](#) – Wired.com, Danger Room blog.

[U.S., Covert Action, Institutional Behavior] [*The Market for Covert Action*](#) – Center for a New American Security, Abu Muqawama blog.

[Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Borders] [*Fresh Border Incident Could Provoke New Inter-Ethnic Clashes in the Ferghana Valley*](#) – Jamestown Foundation.