

Geopolitical, International, and Security collected stories, week of 21 October 2013

[Saudi Arabia, United Nations, Security Council] [*Saudi Arabia Rejects U.N. Security Council Seat in Protest Move*](#) – New York Times.

[U.S. Army, Readiness, Budgets] [*Only Two US Army Brigades Now Combat Ready, Chief Says*](#) – DefenseNews.

[Mozambique, Internal Politics, Internal Conflict] [*Mozambique faces uncertainty as Renamo ends 1992 peace pact*](#) – Reuters. (BBC News reported that Renamo members [attacked a police station](#), while the U.S. [expressed its concern](#) over the unraveling of the peace treaty, according to Reuters.)

[Pakistan, U.S., UAVs] [*Secret memos reveal explicit nature of U.S., Pakistan agreement on drones*](#) – Washington Post.

[India, Anti-Piracy Operations, Security Contractors] [*MV Seaman Guard Ohio: India police arrest crew of US ship*](#) – BBC News. (OneIndia reported that the Ukrainian chief engineer of the vessel unsuccessfully [attempted to commit suicide](#) twice but was stopped by guards.)

[Iraq, Terrorism, Sectarian Violence, al Qaeda in Iraq] [*Iraq car and suicide bomb attacks hit Baghdad, northern towns, killing at least 61*](#) – Associated Press.

[Uganda, Terrorism, al Shabaab, U.S.] [*Uganda alert after US warns of 'Westgate-style' attack*](#) – BBC News.

[Japan, Disaster Response, Natural Disasters] [*Mayor of typhoon-hit Japanese island apologizes for not ordering evacuation ahead of storm*](#) – Associated Press. (The Wall Street Journal's Japan Realtime blog also reported that [a reliance on fax machines](#) for sending warnings may have contributed to the lack of an evacuation.)

[Russia, Cybersecurity, Financial Services] [*Russia's Central Bank and Other Financial Institutions Hit by DDOS Attacks*](#) – Softpedia.

[Angola, Portugal, Investigations, Trade] [*Angola's Dos Santos Threatens Portugal Trade Over Probes*](#) – Bloomberg News.

[Norway, al Shabaab, Foreign Fighters, Westgate Mall Attack] [*Norwegian may have been involved in Westgate mall attack, Kenya sources say*](#) – CNN.

[Canada, European Union, Trade, Negotiations] [*CETA: Canada-EU free trade deal lauded by Harper, Barroso*](#) – CBC News.

[UNWFP, Refugees, Lebanon] [With UN Debit Cards, Syrian Refugees No Longer Depend on Food Rations](#) – Mashable.

[Israel, Financial Services, Crime] [Court convicts former Bank Hapoalim chairman of fraud](#) – Jerusalem Post.

[Russia, Cybersecurity, FSB] [New Bill Tasks FSB with Protecting Russia Against Cyberattacks](#) – Softpedia.

[Venezuela, Currency, Travel, Black Markets] [Venezuelan currency scam hogging all air flights](#) – USA Today.

[U.S. Navy, Surface Forces] [Navy's largest destroyer heading into the water in Maine](#) – Associated Press.

[Russia, Terrorism] [Female suicide bomber attacks Russian bus, kills six](#) – Reuters.

[France, Espionage, U.S.] [France summons US ambassador over 'spying'](#) – France24.

[Israel, Palestine, Counterterrorism, Islamic Jihad] [Islamic Jihad planner of bus bomb killed in exchange of fire with IDF](#) – Jerusalem Post.

[China, Global Media, Censorship, Internal Politics] [China's Global War Against Press Freedom](#) – The Diplomat, China Power blog.

[Financial Services, Crime, Switzerland] [Banks and Tax Evasion: The fall-out from Falciani](#) – The Economist.

[China, Pollution] [China smog emergency shuts city of 11 million people](#) – Reuters.

[South Sudan, Internal Conflict, Militia Groups] [South Sudan: Jonglei militia 'kills dozens'](#) – BBC News.

[Egypt, Sectarian Violence, Terrorism] [Egypt Christians mourn after wedding party shooting](#) – USA Today.

[U.S., Attack Aircraft] [Textron Unveils Scorpion Light Attack, Recce Jet](#) – Aviation Week.

[Australia, Natural Disasters] ['Mega-fire' fear grips Australia as dozens of blazes rage](#) – NBC News.

[China, PLA, Amphibious Forces] [China's PLA Marines: An Emerging Force](#) – The Diplomat, China Power blog. (In news of other regional amphibious forces, [an article](#) from USNI News on the buildup of amphibious capability in Japan's Self Defense Force.)

[Anti-Piracy Operations, Somalia, CTF 151] [Suspected pirates caught in joint naval operation](#) – BBC News.

[Germany, U.S., NSA, Espionage] [Germany's Merkel calls Obama: Did NSA monitor my cellphone?](#) – NBC News.

[China, India, Borders] [China, India Sign Border Cooperation Agreement](#) – Associated Press.

[North Korea, Nuclear Weapons] [Satellite images show new work at North Korea's nuclear test site](#) – Associated Press.

[Venezuela, Drug Trafficking] [Venezuela shoots down two 'hostile' planes](#) – BBC News.

[Sierra Leone, Press Freedom, Internal Politics] [Sierra Leone editor arrested for comparing president to rat](#) – Reuters.

[India, Pakistan, Borders, Disputed Territory] [India Says Pakistani Troops Attacked Border Posts](#) – Associated Press.

[U.N., Peacekeeping Operations, Somalia, al Shabaab] [U.N. Uncovers 'Credible' New al-Shabaab Terror Plot](#) – Foreign Policy.

[Energy, Brazil, Organized Labor, Petrobras] [Brazil Petrobras workers on strike over Libra oilfield auction](#) – BBC News.

[U.S. Navy, Contracting, Corruption, Singapore] [Senior officer, NCIS agent are among those arrested in Navy bribe scandal](#) - Washington Post.

[Qatar, Diplomacy, Syria, Turkey, Lebanon] [Rare Syria Deal Brings Warring Sides to Table](#) – Wall Street Journal.

[Ukraine, Cybersecurity, Hactivist Groups] [Anonymous Hacks Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Documents Leaked](#) – Softpedia.

[U.S. Navy, Submarines] [Ohio Replacement Submarine Starts Early Construction](#) – DefenseTech.

[Japan, Natural Disasters] [Big typhoons may collide off Honshu](#) – Japan Times.

[Catholic Church, Germany] [Vatican suspends 'bishop of bling' Tebartz-van Elst](#) – BBC News.

[Colombia, Internal Conflict, FARC, Energy] [Colombia's Cerrejon coal railway bombed; exports unaffected](#) – Reuters.

[U.S. Air Force, Nuclear Weapons, Personnel] [Nuclear missile officers were twice caught leaving blast door open while napping](#) – Associated Press.

[China, U.S., Banking, Regulation] [China's central bank in pact with Federal Deposit Insurance Corp](#) – Reuters.

[European Union, U.S., Cybersecurity, Counterterrorism, Banking] [Euro Parliament axes data sharing with US – the NSA swiped the bytes anyway](#) – The Register.

[Greece, Internal Politics, Neo-Nazi Groups, Golden Dawn] [Greek Parliament Axes Funding for Far Right](#) – Associated Press.

[Israel, Internal Politics, Elections] [Jerusalem mayor re-elected in blow to ex-Foreign Minister Lieberman](#) – Reuters.

[Nigeria, Internal Conflict, Boko Haram, Militia Groups] [Nigerian insurgents kill 10 villagers in revenge attack](#) – Reuters. (Reuters also reported that [Nigerian troops claimed to have killed](#) 37 Boko Haram militants in air and ground attacks.)

[Iran, Nuclear Programs] [Iran Lawmaker: No Need for More 20 Percent Uranium](#) – Associated Press.

[Japan, JSDF, Military Exercises] [Japan readies island war games amid YouTube PR push](#) – Agence France-Presse.

[Mali, U.N., Peacekeeping Operations, Terrorism, Chad] [UN troops from Chad killed in Mali's Tessalit town](#) – BBC News.

[Russia, Greenpeace, Maritime] [Russia reduces piracy charges against Greenpeace crew to 'hooliganism'](#) - NBC News.

[Afghanistan, ANA, Training, U.K.] [Officer academy dubbed Afghan Sandhurst opens its doors](#) – BBC News.

[U.S., Defense Contractors, Fraud, India] [Owner of Allied Components LLC Admits Transmitting Military Blueprints To India Without A License: Also provided faulty aircraft parts to Department of Defense, Grounded 47 F-15 Fighters](#) – U.S. Department of Justice.

[Russia, Russian Navy, Submarines, Radioactive Waste, Environment] [Russia Is Finally Slicing Up Its Abandoned, Radioactive Submarines](#) – War Is Boring.