

Geopolitical, International, and Security collected stories, week of 23 September 2013

[al Shabaab, Kenya, Terrorism] [*Before Kenya Attack, Rehearsals and Planting of Machine Guns*](#) – New York Times. (Foreign Policy also wrote a [background piece](#) on al Shabaab's recent fortunes. Offering possible psychological insight, The Independent reported on an exchange where a [4-year old boy confronted a terrorist](#) in the mall and was allowed to leave. The Daily Mail also has an [extensive collection of photos](#) and videos from the attack, as well as speculation on a possible foreign fighter involved.)

[Germany, Elections, Internal Politics] [*Angela Merkel's Christian Democrats party wins German elections*](#) – Washington Post.

[Qatar, Labor Exploitation, Human Rights, World Cup, Nepal] [*Revealed: Qatar's World Cup 'slaves'*](#) - The Guardian.

-----Related: Kenya Mall Attack-----

[al Shabaab, Leadership Figures] [*Al-Shabaab leader's ambitions appear to be as complex as his personality*](#) – Washington Post.

[al Shabaab, Kenya, U.K., Interpol] [*Kenya seeks UK woman Samantha Lewthwaite's arrest*](#) – BBC News.

-----Related: Kenya Mall Attack-----

[Yemen, Internal Conflict, al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula] [*Yemen violence: Twin attacks on army 'kill 40'*](#) – BBC News.

[Egypt, Qatar, Loans, Economy] [*Egypt Returns \\$2 Billion to Qatar in Sigh of Growing Tensions*](#) – Reuters.

[Syrian Civil War, al Qaeda Groups, Rebel Groups] [*Al Qaeda-linked fighters killed in clash with Syrian rebels*](#) – Reuters. (A coalition of several rebel groups [issued a statement](#) rejecting the Turkey-based opposition political leadership and called for prioritizing an Islamic state, according to the New York Times.)

[Tunisia, Assassinations, Internal Politics, U.S.] [*Tunisia says CIA warned authorities of planned attack against assassinated lawmaker*](#) – Associated Press.

[Cybersecurity, China, Japan] [*Government Organizations from Asia-Pacific Region Targeted with EvilGrab Malware*](#) – Softpedia.

[Lebanon, Economy, Syrian Civil War, Infrastructure] [World Bank says Lebanese economy deeply damaged by spillover of Syrian civil war](#) – Associated Press.

[Russia, Greenpeace, Energy] [Russian guards 'seize Greenpeace Arctic protest ship'](#) – ITV.

[History, Nuclear Weapons, U.S., Cold War] [One cheap switch saved US from nuclear catastrophe in 1961, declassified document reveals](#) – NBC News.

[U.S., Department of Defense, Media, Budgets] [The D.C. Socialite vs. 'The Grill Sergeant'](#) – Foreign Policy.

[Poland, Internal Politics, Finance, Business] [Poland reduces public debt through pension funds overhaul](#) – Reuters.

[Russia, U.S., Media, Public Opinion] [How Russians Read McCain's Pravda Op-Ed on Putin](#) – Global Voices.

[Pakistan, Terrorism, Sectarian Violence] [Pakistani Christians Protest Deadly Church Bombing](#) – Associated Press.

[Egypt, Internal Politics, Political Parties] [Egypt court bans all Muslim Brotherhood activities](#) – Los Angeles Times.

[Cambodia, Elections, Internal Politics] [Cambodia's Hun Sen Forms Government Despite Boycott](#) – Wall Street Journal, Southeast Asia Realtime blog.

[Cybersecurity, Cyberespionage, Japan, South Korea] [Icefog Cybercriminals Launch Hit and Run Attacks Against High-Profile Organizations](#) – Softpedia.

[Russia, Terrorism] [Two killed in suicide attack in Russia's Caucasus](#) – Agence France-Presse.

[Venezuela, France, Narcotics, Smuggling] [Venezuelan National Guardsmen arrested over drugs](#) – BBC News.

[Pakistan, Law Enforcement, Counterterrorism, Corruption] [The battle for Karachi](#) – Foreign Policy, AfPak Channel blog.

[Bulgaria, Demographics, Economy, World Bank] [World Bank Warns Bulgaria of Demographic Time-Bomb](#) – Novinite. (Direct link to the [World Bank report](#).)

[Brazil, Cybersecurity, Energy, NSA] [Brazil's Petrobras to Invest Billions in Cybersecurity in Light of NSA Spying Allegations](#) – Softpedia.

[U.S., Anti-Ship Missiles] [Lockheed Tests New Anti-Ship Missile](#) – DefenseTech.

[Singapore, Sports, Crime] [Singapore police arrest 14 in match-fixing raids](#) – BBC News.

[**Bangladesh, Protests, Labor, Manufacturing**] [Bangladesh Garment Protests Enter Fourth Day](#) – Bloomberg News.

[**Ukraine, Russia, European Union, Trade**] [Russia makes new threats over Ukraine's pro-Europe policy](#) – Reuters.

[**China, One-Child Policy, Medical Services**] [Chinese "Designer" Babies, American Surrogate Mothers](#) – The Diplomat, Asia Life blog.

[**China, North Korea, Arms Transfers, Sanctions**] [China bans several weapons-related North Korea exports](#) – BBC News.

[**Syrian Civil War**] [Rebels Greet Assad's Ceasefire With Skepticism](#) – Foreign Policy, The Cable blog.

[**Mexico, Natural Disasters**] [Mexico storm death toll rises to 110](#) – BBC News.

[**Nigeria, Internal Conflict, Terrorism, Boko Haram**] [Nigeria's Boko Haram unrest: Scores dead in Benisheik raid](#) – BBC News.

[**Belgium, U.K., GCHQ, Cybersecurity**] [Latest Snowden reveal: It was GCHQ that hacked Belgian telco giant](#) – The Register.

[**Israel, Palestine, European Union, International Aid**] [Israeli forces manhandle EU diplomats, seize West Bank aid](#) – Reuters.

[**Russia, Georgia, Disputed Territories, U.S.**] [U.S. Doesn't Say Much as Russia Violates Georgia's Turf](#) – Foreign Policy, The Cable blog.

[**Taiwan, Anti-Submarine Warfare, Patrol Aircraft**] [Taiwan Receives First US Anti-Submarine Aircraft](#) – DefenseNews.

[**Philippines, Internal Conflict, Moro National Liberation Front**] [More Muslim rebels surrender in Philippines' south](#) – BBC News.

[**India, Pakistan, Disputed Territories, Borders**] [Ahead of India-Pakistan Talks, Militants Kill as Many as 12 in Indian-Controlled Kashmir](#) – New York Times, India Ink blog.

[**U.S., Djibouti, UAVs, Basing**] [U.S. moves drone fleet from Camp Lemonnier to ease Djibouti's safety concerns](#) – Washington Post.

[**China, Fighter Aircraft**] [China Says J-31 Fighter Will Compete With F-35 for Sales](#) – The Diplomat, Flashpoints blog.

[**Pakistan, Natural Disasters**] [Rescuers struggle to reach Pakistan quake zone](#) – BBC News. (The Washington Post also reported that militants in the area of the earthquake [fired rockets](#) at a Pakistani government helicopter during operations, but missed.)

[Sudan, Internet, Internal Politics, Riots, Demonstrations] [*Sudan drops off Internet amid internal strife*](#) – Computerworld.

[New Zealand, NZDF, Military Modernization, Personnel] [*Annual Report Shows Light at End of the Tunnel for NZDF*](#) – DefenseNews.

[Afghanistan, ANSF, Taliban, Internal Conflict] [*Afghan troops blunt Taliban offensive but at high price*](#) – USA Today.

[U.S. Air Force, UAVs] [*Empty F-16 jet tested by Boeing and US Air Force*](#) – BBC News.

[Sudan, U.N., U.S., ICC] [*Sudan's Omar al-Bashir Cancels U.N. Trip*](#) – Foreign Policy, Turtle Bay blog.

[U.S., Arms Transfers, Black Market, MANPADS, Taliban] [*Ex-Army translator gets 25 years in Taliban weapons sting*](#) – Reuters.

[South Korea, Fighter Aircraft] [*South Korea dumps Boeing fighter jet tender, Lockheed soars back*](#) – Reuters.