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ACIPSS-newsletter

- collecting intelligence news of today
that will become intelligence history of tomorrow -
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*Das ACIPSS-Newsletter-Team wünscht allen Abonnenten und Lesern
ein Frohes Weihnachtsfest
und
einen guten Rutsch ins neue Jahr 2013!*

*We wish all our subscribers and readers a Merry Christmas
and
A Happy New Year 2013!*

Contributors: Lukas HEGI, Oliver PLAUDER

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TOP HEADLINES

4415/12 -----
USA - „Schützen sind das Problem“

(orf) Die Waffenlobby in den USA geht weiter auf Konfrontationskurs zu Präsident Barack Obama, der nach dem Schulmassaker von Newtown die Waffengesetze verschärfen will. Man werde jede Einschränkung des Rechts auf das Tragen einer Waffe bekämpfen, machten die Spitzen der einflussreichen National Rifle Association (NRA) in mehreren TV-Interviews deutlich.

Nicht die Waffen seien das Problem, sondern die Schützen, argumentierte NRA-Präsident David Keene im Sender CBS. Dabei zielte er auch auf Menschen mit psychischen Problemen. Er erklärte weiters, er sage nicht, „dass jeder, der Videos schaut, ein potenzieller Killer ist. Das stimmt nicht. Aber genauso wenig stimmt es, dass jeder, der eine Waffe besitzt, ein potenzieller Killer ist.“

<http://orf.at/stories/2157999/2158000/>

4416/12 -----
Entführung im Jemen: Österreichische Ermittler aktiv

(diepresse) Österreichische Experten unterstützen den Botschafter in Sanaa. Doch es wird Kritik an den jemenitischen Sicherheitskräften laut.

Bei den Ermittlungen im Fall des am 21. Dezember im Jemen entführten Wieners ist auch ein Team an österreichischen Experten an Ort und Stelle aktiv. Sie unterstützen den Botschafter in der jemenitischen Hauptstadt Sanaa, wie das Außenministerium in Wien bestätigte. Details wollte Außenamts-Sprecher Nikolaus Lutterotti jedoch nicht nennen.

Wie die Tageszeitung "Der Standard" (Freitagsausgabe) unter Berufung auf die jemenitische Regierung berichtete, ist der Österreicher, der vergangene Woche gemeinsam mit einem finnischen Paar entführt worden war, wohl auf. Derartige Berichte wollte Lutterotti weder bestätigen noch dementieren.

- (a) <http://diepresse.com/home/panorama/welt/1327570/Entfuehrung-im-Jemen-Oesterreichische-Ermittler-aktiv>
- (b) Millionensumme für Österreicher gefordert:
<http://kurier.at/politik/weltchronik/oesterreicher-im-jemen-entfuehrt-fuenf-millionen-euro-gefordert/2.094.741>



HOT SPOTS / WARS

4417/12 -----

Angriff auf Alliierte - Afghanische Polizistin tötet Nato-Mitarbeiter

(focus) Eine afghanische Polizistin hat einen zivilen Mitarbeiter der alliierten Truppen in Kabul erschossen. Offenbar handelt es sich bei dem Toten um einen US-Amerikaner. Der Zwischenfall ereignete sich auf einem Polizeigelände.

Die Frau sei festgenommen worden, der Vorfall werde untersucht, sagte der Sprecher der Internationalen Schutztruppe für Afghanistan (Isaf), Hagen Messer. Die Tat habe sich auf einem Polizeigelände der afghanischen Hauptstadt zugetragen.

Der Getötete sei ein US-amerikanischer Berater der Polizei gewesen. Es handele sich um den ersten Angriff einer Frau, die für die afghanischen Sicherheitskräfte gearbeitet und ein Mitglied der Nato-geführten Truppen am Hindukusch in einem Insider-Angriff getötet habe.

http://www.focus.de/politik/ausland/afghanistan/schwerer-angriff-auf-alliierte-afghanische-polizistin-toetet-nato-mitarbeiter_aid_887549.html

4418/12 -----

„Psychologische Kriegsführung“ - Südkorea provoziert Nordkorea

(focus) Weihnachten ist das Fest der Liebe - eigentlich. Nordkorea jedoch sieht in einer christlichen Aktion zum Fest eine Provokation: An der Grenze haben Kirchenaktivisten einen riesigen Weihnachtsbaum mit tausenden Lichtern aufgestellt.

Dutzende Kirchenvertreter und Anhänger installierten die Lichter auf einem baumförmigen Stahlturm nahe der schwer befestigten Grenze zu Nordkorea, wie ein Sprecher des Verteidigungsministeriums in Seoul am Sonntag sagte. Da der Weihnachtsbaum auf einem Hügel steht, dürfte er von nordkoreanischem Gebiet aus kilometerweit zu sehen sein.

http://www.focus.de/politik/ausland/nordkorea/psychologische-kriegsfuehrung-suedkorea-provoziert-nordkorea-mit-weihnachtslichtern_aid_887620.html

4419/12 -----

Call for Libya to open IRA files

(newsletter) A Northern Ireland victims' campaigner says he is hopeful the Libyan government will open its files on IRA links after it promised to disclose all documents relating to the 1988 Lockerbie bombing in Scotland, which claimed 270 lives.

The Libyan administration is said to be preparing to release all files relating to the 1988 bombing, according to the country's ambassador to the UK.

Mahmud Nacua said: "We sympathise with them [the victims], with their loss and I think our government, when we have enough time, enough security and stability, all files will be open and everyone will know what happened with that crime."

In 2001, Libyan Abdelbaset al-Megrahi was convicted of mass murder and sentenced to life imprisonment.

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/headlines/call-for-libya-to-open-ira-files-1-4615247>



UNITED STATES

4420/12

Obama Nominates Kerry for Secretary of State

(nytimes) With a patrician bearing, nearly three decades of service on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, a highly decorated combat career in the Vietnam War, even a father who was a diplomat, John Kerry is the very picture of a secretary of state.

"In a sense, John's entire life has prepared him for this role," President Obama said on Friday at the White House, as he nominated Mr. Kerry to replace Hillary Rodham Clinton, the first step in filling out a national security team for his second term.

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/22/us/politics/kerry-is-pick-for-secretary-of-state-official-says.html?_r=0

4421/12

Republican Senators Criticize Benghazi Embassy Security

(VOA) Opposition lawmakers are criticizing the Obama administration for sending diplomats to the Libyan city of Benghazi without enough security. It follows an independent report into the September attack on the U.S. mission there that killed four Americans, including U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens.

Republican Senator Bob Corker says State Department officials knew Ambassador Chris Stevens and his team were going to Benghazi at a time of

growing instability and problems with local militia who had been providing security.

<http://www.voanews.com/content/republican-senators-criticize-benghazi-security/1568911.html>

4422/12 -----

Detained Linguist Released Under Supervision

(fas) Yesterday former Navy contract linguist James Hitselberger, (b) who has been charged under the Espionage Act with mishandling classified records, was ordered released under supervision while awaiting trial.

Mr. Hitselberger is a multi-lingual translator and collector of rare documents, including records that are now housed in a dedicated collection at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University. Unfortunately for him, the government says that his collection activity extends to some documents that are currently classified. (Document Collector Charged Under Espionage Statute, Secrecy News, November 7, 2012). (c)

- (a) http://www.fas.org/blog/secrecy/2012/12/detained_linguist.html
- (b) <http://www.fas.org/spp/jud/hitsel/index.html>
- (c) http://www.fas.org/blog/secrecy/2012/11/collector_charged.html

4423/12 -----

Press Secretary Responds to Media Reports on DOD Undersecretary

(DOD) Media reports that a Pentagon investigation determined the Defense Department's top intelligence official leaked restricted information about the raid that killed Osama bin Laden to filmmakers are "unwarranted, unfounded, and unfair," Pentagon Press Secretary George Little said yesterday.

A pending inspector general investigation involving Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence Michael G. Vickers will and should reach its own conclusions, Little said. "But because yesterday's press reports on Mr. Vickers are unwarranted, unfounded, and unfair, we are obliged to correct the record," he added. "He deserves better."

<http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=118831>

4424/12 -----

ISI enjoys immunity in 26/11, says US

(dailypioneer) Efforts to bring Pakistan's former spy masters before a New York court to face charges filed by relatives of American victims in the Mumbai terror attacks are getting nowhere with the US Government taking the stand that the notorious Inter-Services Intelligence and its top brass enjoy immunity under the US Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act.

In response to a civil case filed on behalf of the American victims, a top official of the Department of Justice said the United States strongly condemns the 26/11 attacks and believes that Pakistan "must take steps to to dismantle Lashkar-e-Taiba and to support India's efforts to counter this terrorist threat".

But the ISI and its former chiefs Shuja Pasha and Nadeem Raj cannot be proceeded against in a US court because of immunity conferred under the American law, Principal Deputy Attorney General Stuart Delery informed the New York court.

<http://www.dailypioneer.com/world/116816-isi-enjoys-immunity-in-2611-says-us.html>



*(Hat tip to Lukas HEGI
for this info!)*

4425/12

Florida man planned to detonate explosives in NYC terrorism attack

(washingtonpost) A Pakistani-born man wanted to avenge the deaths of U.S. drone attacks in Afghanistan by blowing up a New York City landmark but lacked the money and materials to carry out the plan, a federal prosecutor said Tuesday.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Karen Gilbert said at a bail hearing that Raees Alam Qazi, 20, researched bomb-making techniques on Internet sites affiliated with al-Qaida, including one using Christmas tree lights, and the FBI recorded phone calls and conversations linking Qazi to a purported "lone wolf" plot.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/prosecutors-florida-man-planned-to-set-off-bomb-in-nyc-faces-terrorism-charges/2012/12/18/ea055a42-493c-11e2-8af9-9b50cb4605a7_story.html

4426/12

Alabama terror case could hinge on relationship with known jihadist

(washingtonpost) The terrorism case against an Alabama man accused of planning to wage violent jihad in Africa may hinge on just how well he knew a man on the FBI's most-wanted terrorist list.

Federal prosecutors portrayed Randy Wilson as an Islamic radical who wanted to reunite with Omar Hammami, an American who also grew up in Alabama but has since become one of the most well-known jihadists in Somalia. Wilson and another American who lived in Alabama for the last year, Mohammad Abdul Rahman Abukhdair, are accused of plotting to leave the country to join Islamic radicals fighting in North Africa.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/alabama-terror-case-involving-2-americans-could-hinge-on-relationship-with-well-known-jihadist/2012/12/23/acbe46c2-4d14-11e2-835b-02f92c0daa43_story.html

4427/12

US Marine Joseph Chamblin sentenced for Afghan urination video

(bbc) A US Marine has been sentenced to a reduction in ranks after he admitted at a court martial urinating on the body of a dead Afghan combatant.

Staff Sgt Joseph Chamblin was also told to forfeit \$500 pay after admitting to wrongful desecration, among other charges.

He was initially given 30 days in jail but will not serve the time because of a plea deal with military prosecutors.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-20807182>



4428/12 -----

Rüstungsdeal mit Russland: Indien kauft russische Waffen

(focus) Der russische Präsident Wladimir Putin und Indiens Premier Manmohan Singh

Dickes Geschäft für Wladimir Putin: Indien will für mehrere Milliarden Dollar Dutzende Militärhubschrauber sowie Montageteile für Kampfflugzeuge von Russland kaufen. Mit dem Deal festigt Russland seine Rolle als wichtigster Rüstungslieferant für Indien.

Indien kündigte bei einem Besuch des russischen Präsidenten Wladimir Putin in Neu Delhi an, Dutzende Militärhubschrauber sowie Montageteile für Kampfflugzeuge von der Regierung in Moskau zu kaufen. Aus russischen Regierungskreisen verlautete, das Hubschraubergeschäft habe ein Volumen von 1,3 Milliarden Dollar. Die Montageteile für die Kampfflugzeuge vom Typ Sukhoi SU-30MKI hätten einen Wert von 1,6 Milliarden Dollar.

http://www.focus.de/politik/ausland/ruestungsdeal-mit-russland-indien-kauft-russische-waffen-fuer-milliarden-dollar_aid_887647.html

4429/12 -----

Russia's 5th Generation Fighter Jet to Start State Tests in March

(rian) Russia's fifth-generation stealth jet fighter, the T-50, will start state flight tests in March 2013, Russia's Air Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Viktor Bondarev said on Sunday.

Currently three fighter jets are performing test flights at the Zhukovsky airfield outside Moscow, the fourth plane is undergoing factory test trials and the fifth plane is in the process of factory approvals, the commander said.

All these planes will fly to Akhtubinsk in the Astrakhan Region in March next year where "state tests will begin," he said.

http://en.rian.ru/military_news/20121223/178346715.html

4430/12

Russia Postpones Mistral Warship Project to 2016 - Source

(rian) Russia is putting back the launch of a project to build two Mistral-class amphibious assault ships under French license from 2013 to 2016, a Defense Ministry source said on Friday.

"The Russian Defense Ministry is not abandoning plans to build two Mistral-class ships in Russia but is postponing the start of the construction work from 2013 to 2016," the source said.

The reason for that is the need to assess the ships' performance, role and status as part of the Russian Navy, he said.

<http://en.rian.ru/business/20121221/178312682.html>

4431/12

Russia demands action over UN helicopter downed in S Sudan

(bbc) Russia has urged South Sudan to identify and punish those responsible for shooting down a UN helicopter and killing its four Russian crew.

The helicopter was apparently shot down on Friday while on a reconnaissance mission in eastern Jonglei state.

The UN strongly condemned the "shooting down... of a clearly marked UN helicopter" by South Sudanese forces.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-20824750>

4432/12

Besieged Russian Minister to Be Questioned

(rian) Russia's former Defense Minister, who lost his job last month over corruption allegations, has been summoned for questioning, a procedure that no top Russian official has faced for years.

Ex-head of the Defense Ministry, Anatoly Serdyukov, is due for questioning at the Investigative Committee in Moscow on Friday, a committee spokesman said on Thursday.

Media reports claimed earlier that Serdyukov left Russia, but his lawyer Genrikh Padva denied that on Thursday.

<http://en.rian.ru/russia/20121227/178439262.html>



THE IRAN SPECIAL

4433/12 -----

Diplomats, Generals Urge Obama To Pursue Bolder Diplomacy With Iran

(rfe) Twenty-four former diplomats and generals have called on U.S. President Obama to pursue serious negotiations with Iran, including securing limitations on the country's nuclear program in exchange for a proportional paring back of international sanctions.

The group says a "diplomacy-centric approach" is the only option that can prevent an Iranian nuclear weapon and a war, and address other critical areas including Iran's human rights situation.

The former diplomats and generals, including retired U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Thomas Pickering and former Assistant Secretary of Defense Larry Korb, say that a further tightening of the sanctions is unlikely to stop Iran's sensitive nuclear work.

<http://www.rferl.org/content/obama-urged-to-bolder-diplomacy-with-iran/24805564.html>

4434/12 -----

Iranian bomb suspects in Bangkok deny involvement in alleged plot

(washingtonpost) Two Iranians arrested after a botched bomb plot that allegedly targeted Israeli diplomats say they're innocent and were stunned to discover explosives stashed in a cabinet in their rented Bangkok home, a lawyer said Friday.

Both men appeared in court Friday, 10 months after the explosives blew apart their home in a residential Bangkok neighborhood on Valentine's Day. The explosion uncovered a plot that Thai authorities say was aimed at Israeli envoys and that Israel says was part of an Iranian-backed network of terror.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/iranian-bomb-suspects-in-bangkok-court-for-botched-plot-allegedly-targeting-israeli-diplomats/2012/12/21/922529da-4b38-11e2-8758-b64a2997a921_story.html

4435/12 -----

PGCC states' accusations against Iran 'baseless'

(globalsecurity) Iranian Spokesperson Ramin Mihmanparast in a statement released here on Tuesday, called the accusation against Iran in the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council member states' Manama statement as baseless.

'Projecting responsibility of internal problems of regional countries and affiliating them to outside elements is escaping from reality,' he said.

Spokesperson added that using oppressive ways is not a right approach toward people's demands.

'The islands of Abu Musa, Lesser Tunb and Greater Tunb are inseparable part of Iran's soil and repetitions of pervious baseless claims can not change reality.'

<http://www.globalsecurity.org/wmd/library/news/iran/2012/iran-121226-irna01.htm>



THE SYRIA SPECIAL

4436/12

Brahimi versucht Assad für Übergangsregierung zu gewinnen

(zeit) Der UN-Sondergesandte Brahimi will Syriens Präsident Assad überzeugen, mit der Opposition zusammenzuarbeiten. Diese wirft dem Herrscher vor, Gas einzusetzen.

Der internationale Sondergesandte Lakhdar Brahimi hat einen neuen Anlauf für eine Beilegung des Konflikts in Syrien unternommen. Er habe mit Präsident Baschar al-Assad einen Meinungs austausch über die "zahlreichen Etappen in die Zukunft" gehabt, sagte Brahimi in Damaskus.

- (a) <http://www.zeit.de/politik/ausland/2012-12/syrien-brahimi-assad>
- (b) Brahimi Calls For Transitional Government In Syria:
<http://www.rferl.org/content/brahimi-envoy-calls-for-transitional-syria-government/24810025.html>

4437/12

Syrian Activists: Government Air Strike Kills More Than 60

(VOA) Syrian activists say a government air strike on a bakery killed more than 60 people Sunday, even as international peace envoy Lakhdar Brahimi began another visit to negotiate an end to Syria's civil war.

The attack occurred in the rebel-controlled town of Halfaya in Hama province. If confirmed, it would be one of the deadliest incidents in the 21-month conflict. The number of casualties is expected to rise because some 50 of those wounded are listed in critical condition.

It is not clear if the bombed out, one-story building was actually a bakery, but video posted online showed men working frantically to free people, including at least one woman, from the debris. Bloodstained bodies littered the surrounding area and street.

<http://www.voanews.com/content/dozens-killed-in-air-strike-on-bakery-in-central-syria/1570816.html>

4438/12 -----

UN genocide adviser warns of increasing risk of sectarian violence

(UN) The United Nations top official on the issue of genocide has warned of the increasing risk of sectarian violence in Syria, and called on all parties to the conflict to refrain from targeting individuals or groups based on religious or ethnic identity.

"I am deeply concerned that entire communities risk paying the price for crimes committed by the Syrian Government," the UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, Adama Dieng, said in a statement issued on Thursday night.

"As the situation in Syria deteriorates further, there is a growing risk that civilian communities, including Alawite and other minorities perceived to be associated with the Government, its security forces, militias and allies could be subject to large scale reprisal attacks," he added.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=43830&Cr=syria#.UNjDQoE7vWU>

4439/12 -----

Russian and Egyptian Envoys Urge Cease-Fire In Syria

(turkishweekly) Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has met in Moscow with his Egyptian counterpart, Muhammad Amr, for talks that included discussion of the ongoing crisis in Syria.

After the December 28 meeting, Lavrov told journalists the international community must stop pressuring Syrian President Bashar al-Assad to step down and should avoid establishing preconditions for negotiations.

"The international community should not incite any party to continue bloodshed or put forward any preconditions but encourage all fighting parties to take the path outlined by the Geneva communique," Lavrov said.

<http://www.turkishweekly.net/news/146132/russian-and-egyptian-envoys-urge-cease-fire-in-syria.html>

4440/12 -----

Syrienkonflikt: Russland und Brahimi glauben an politische Lösung

(focus) Russland und der UN-Sonderbeauftragte Lakhdar Brahimi halten eine politische Lösung des Syrienkonflikts weiterhin für möglich - trotz der mehr als 40 000 Toten. Es gebe nur die Wahl zwischen einem politischen Prozess und der Hölle, sagte Brahimi in Moskau. Vorher hatte der wichtigste syrische Oppositionsblock Verhandlungen mit dem Regime von Baschar al-Assad in Moskau abgelehnt. Russland kritisierte die Entscheidung als Weg in die Sackgasse, weil Assad bis zum Ende auf seinem Posten bleiben werde.

- (a) http://www.focus.de/politik/schlagzeilen/nid_121384.html
- (b) Russia Urges Syria to Dialogue with Opposition:
<http://www.voanews.com/content/russia-urges-syria-to-dialogue-with-opposition/1573655.html>
- (c) Russia, UN Envoy Call for Peaceful Solution in Syria:
<http://www.voanews.com/content/syrian-delegation-in-russia/1572939.html>

4441/12

Assad Meeting Does Nothing to Alleviate UN Envoy's Concerns

(global-business-center) International peace envoy Lakhdar Brahimi says he remains worried about Syria's civil war after meeting President Bashar al-Assad in Damascus seeking a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

Brahimi said Monday he exchanged views with Assad on possible solutions, but the Algerian diplomat did not elaborate or describe any signs of progress. Syrian state news agency SANA quoted the president as saying he supports any peace effort that protects Syria's sovereignty and independence.

Brahimi arrived in Damascus Sunday, on his third visit since taking the post of U.N.-Arab League envoy in September. Since then, fighting between government and rebel forces has escalated nationwide, including around the Damascus airport. The lack of security at the facility forced Brahimi to travel to the Syrian capital by car from neighboring Lebanon.

http://global-business-center.com/r11139,Assad_Meeting_Does_Nothing_to_Alleviate_UN_Envoys_Concerns.php



NEAR / MIDDLE EAST / NORTH AFRICA

4442/12

Egypt's Morsi Cedes Top Legislative Authority to Parliament

(rian) Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi said in his address to the nation late on Wednesday that he cedes the top legislative authority to the Shura Council, the upper chamber of the Egyptian parliament.

"With the adoption of the country's new fundamental law.. the legislative authority from now on is held by representatives of the Egyptian people - the Shura Council," said Morsi, congratulating citizens on the adoption of a new constitution.

The president signed the constitution into law earlier on Wednesday.

- (a) <http://en.rian.ru/politics/20121227/178423319.html>
- (b) Morsi Urges Egyptian Opposition to Engage After Constitution Enacted: <http://www.voanews.com/content/egyptian-senate-convenes-after-constitution-approval/1572298.html>

4443/12

Egypt Opposition Vows to Keep Fighting Islamist-Backed Constitution

(VOA) The official results of Egypt's two-stage referendum on a new Islamist-backed constitution could be announced as early as Monday.

Election officials have been tallying votes from Saturday's second round of voting, which was held in 17 of Egypt's 27 provinces. Voting began in the other provinces on December 15.

The Muslim Brotherhood movement of President Mohamed Morsi says unofficial results show the constitution won approval from 64 percent of voters in the two rounds, with Saturday's "yes" vote being even higher at 71 percent.

<http://blogs.voanews.com/breaking-news/2012/12/24/egypt-opposition-vows-to-keep-fighting-islamist-backed-constitution-2/>

4444/12 -----

Opposition To Appeal Egypt's Referendum

(rfe) Egypt's secular opposition is claiming fraud in a referendum that the ruling Islamists say approved a new constitution.

On December 23, the opposition National Salvation Front said it will appeal the results of the two-stage referendum because "fraud and violations" skewed the results.

The second leg of the referendum took place on December 22.

Front member Amr Hamzawy told journalists that they are "asking the [election] commission to investigate the irregularities before announcing official results."

<http://www.rferl.org/content/muslim-brotherhood-says-new-constitution-approved/24806370.html>

4445/12 -----

Yemen Army Shells Tribesmen for Blocking Pipeline Repairs

(VOA) The Yemeni army launched an assault on Sunday using tanks and rockets on tribesmen blocking repairs to the country's main oil export pipeline, tribal sources said.

Earlier this month, the military launched a major offensive against tribesmen suspected of repeatedly blowing up the Maarib pipeline and attacking power lines. At least 17 soldiers were killed in an ambush by suspected al Qaeda militants.

"Armed tribesmen prevented repair teams from fixing the oil pipeline and army forces shelled the areas where the gunmen are based using tanks and Katyusha rockets," a tribal source told Reuters.

http://www.voanews.com/content/yemen_army_shells_tribesmen_for_blocking_pipeline_repairs_reuters/1570762.html

4446/12 -----

Three Westerners kidnapped in Yemen's capital, Sanaa

(bbc) Three Westerners have been kidnapped in the Yemeni capital, Sanaa, security officials say.

One official told Reuters news agency that those kidnapped were an Austrian man and a Finnish couple.

One report said that four masked gunmen had seized the trio at a shop in the city centre.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-20817731>

4447/12

Report: Inadequate Security at US Mission in Benghazi

(VOA) An independent U.S. panel investigating the September 11 attack in Libya that resulted in the deaths of four Americans has concluded that security at the mission in Benghazi was "grossly inadequate."

The Accountability Review Board said senior-level "systematic failures and management deficiencies" within two State Department bureaus led to a security posture that was inadequate to deal with the terrorist attacks at the facilities in the eastern Libyan city.

<http://www.voanews.com/content/report-inadequate-security-at-us-mission-in-benghazi/1567685.html>

4448/12

UN, EU, Russia Condemn Israeli Settlements

(VOA) All members of the U.N. Security Council, with the lone exception of the United States, have publicly condemned Israel's recent settlement expansion activities and called for them to end. In a rare move, 14 of the council's 15 members read public statements of their views instead of seeking formal action by the council, since that likely would have been opposed by the United States.

Normally the Security Council carries on its work around the horseshoe-shaped table inside its chamber. But on Wednesday, 14 council members took to the microphone outside the chamber to express their condemnation of Israel's latest settlement expansion announcement.

http://www.voanews.com/content/un_eu_russia_condemn_israeli_settlements/1568322.html

4449/12

Iraqi Sunnis Hold Protest Against Shi'ite-Led Government

(VOA) Tens of thousands of Iraqis have taken to the streets in a Sunni-dominated western province, the latest in a series of demonstrations against the country's Shi'ite-led government.

The protesters blockaded a main highway Friday in Anbar province west of the capital, Baghdad, holding placards and chanting slogans against the government of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

Protests were also reported in the northern Sunni towns of Tikrit, Mosul and Samarra.



FAR EAST & ASIA

4450/12

Indien - Proteste nach Tod von Vergewaltigungsopfer

(dw) In Indien haben Tausende der Studentin gedacht, die nach einer mehrfachen Vergewaltigung gestorben ist. Die Stimmung im Land ist äußerst angespannt. Premier Manmohan Singh rief zu einem gesellschaftlichen Wandel auf.

Das Schicksal der 23-jährigen Studentin erschüttert das gesamte Land: In vielen Städten demonstrierten Tausende gegen sexuelle Gewalt und für mehr Frauenrechte. Nach einem fast zwei Wochen dauernden Überlebenskampf war die junge Frau, die von sechs Männern in Neu Delhi mehrfach vergewaltigt, mit Eisenstangen geschlagen und dann aus einem fahrenden Bus geworfen worden war, am Morgen gestorben.

<http://www.dw.de/proteste-nach-tod-von-vergewaltigungsopfer/a-16487640>

4451/12

Pakistan: Bhutto's Son Launches Political Career

(time) The 24-year-old son of former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto launched his political career Thursday with a fiery speech before thousands of cheering supporters observing the fifth anniversary of his mother's assassination.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's speech comes several months before national elections are expected to be held. He is too young to participate in the elections himself – the minimum age is 25 – but is likely to be a key asset for the ruling Pakistan People's Party. The party's popularity has plummeted since it took power nearly five years ago as the country has struggled with a weak economy and bloody Taliban insurgency.

<http://world.time.com/2012/12/28/pakistan-bhuttos-son-launches-political-career/>

4452/12

Pakistani Clerics Want Protests Against Killings

(rfe) Some of Pakistan's most influential Islamic clerics are calling for nationwide protests December 21 against the killings of healthcare workers who were attempting to administer polio vaccines.

The head of the Pakistan Ulema Council Tahir Ashrafi said some 24,000 mosques associated with his organization would preach against the killings of healthcare workers during Friday prayers.

Ashrafi said "neither Pakistani customs nor Islam would endorse this, far from doing wrong these girls are martyrs for Islam because they were doing a service to humanity and Islam."

- (a) http://www.rferl.org/content/pakistan_clerics_polio_healthcare_islam_extremists/24804733.html
- (b) Two More Deaths In Attacks On Polio Workers In Pakistan:
<http://www.rferl.org/content/pakistan-polio-workers-attacks/24802776.html>

4453/12

Suicide bombing at political rally kills 9, including minister

(washingtonpost) A suicide bomber in Pakistan killed nine people including a provincial government official at a political rally held Saturday by a party that has opposed the Taliban, officials said.

The rally in Peshawar, the capital of northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, was held by the Awami National Party, whose members have been repeatedly targeted by the Taliban.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/gunmen-in-southwest-pakistan-kill-11-pakistanis-and-afghans-trying-to-illegally-travel-to-iran/2012/12/22/725825e6-4c08-11e2-8758-b64a2997a921_story.html

4454/12

India: Nuclear-capable Prithvi-II test successful

(timesofindia) India today successfully test-fired its indigenously developed nuclear capable Prithvi-II missile with a strike range of 350 km from a test range at Chandipur near.

The surface-to-surface missile was test fired from a mobile launcher in salvo mode from launch complex-3 of Integrated Test Range at about 9:21 AM, defence sources said.

http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-12-20/india/35932856_1_prithvi-ii-surface-to-surface-missile-inertial-guidance-system

4455/12

India, Russia Seal Defense Deals Worth Billions

(VOA) India and Russia have sealed defense deals worth billions of dollars during a visit by the Russian president, in a move which reaffirms the long-standing strategic alliance between the two countries.

Calling Russia a key partner in the effort to modernize India's armed forces, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh announced the deal to buy 71 military helicopters worth \$1.3 billion, and kits to assemble 42 Sukhoi fighter jets worth \$1.6 billion.

India and Russia were close allies during the Cold War days, with Moscow being the main supplier of India's armed forces. But analysts say Russia has been losing out on India's lucrative defense market in recent years, as New Delhi increasingly hands out contracts to countries such as Israel, France and the United States, establishing closer links with many Western countries.

<http://www.voanews.com/content/indian-russia-seal-dfense-deals-worth-billions/1571157.html>

4456/12

S. Korea Says Debris Reveals North's ICBM Technology

(VOA) South Korea is asserting, based on debris it recovered from North Korea's rocket launch this month, that the reclusive state has significantly advanced its ballistic missile technology.

As the U.N. Security Council prepares to decide on further sanctions against Pyongyang, military officials in Seoul are releasing details about the technology used in North Korea's December 12th launch in defiance of existing U.N. sanctions.

The Ministry of National Defense says it has retrieved several pieces of the rocket's first stage in the Yellow Sea. Its officials say initial analysis leaves little doubt North Korea conducted a test of intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) technology.

<http://www.voanews.com/content/north-korea-missile/1570703.html>

4457/12

Park Geun-hye close to becoming South Korea's first female president

(guardian) But opinion polls show dictator's daughter Park may be pipped at the post by liberal former human rights lawyer Moon Jae-in

For a woman who likens herself to Margaret Thatcher, Park Geun-hye has no doubt invoked her heroine's fortitude as she enters the final few days of her quest to become South Korea's first female president.

Park has successfully distanced herself from the unpopular incumbent, Lee Myung-bak, a fellow member of the rightwing New Frontier party. But she still has to convince conservative South Korea that it is ready for a woman leader, and that she has laid to rest the legacy of her father, a former dictator who has overshadowed the campaign 33 years after his death.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/dec/14/park-geun-hye-south-korea>

4458/12

US to sell \$1.2bn in spy drones to S. Korea

(4thmedia) The Pentagon has informed Congress of its plans to sell four Global Hawk high-altitude spy drones to South Korea. Under the deal Seoul's surveillance capabilities would be greatly improved, even though the US DoD itself wanted to retire the aircraft.

The US Department of Defense wants to sell four of the Block 30 version of the RQ-4 Global Hawk aircraft to Seoul under the Foreign Military Sales program. It formally notified Congress of the proposed deal, which is estimated to worth \$1.2 billion, reports the Pentagon-affiliated Defense Security Cooperation Agency.

The deal would include "associated equipment, parts, training and logistical support". The military says it would go in line with the transition of intelligence gathering mission from the US-led Combined Forces Command to South Korea's own troops in 2015. South Korea hosts almost 30,000 American troops, which take on many tasks requiring use of advanced technology.

- (a) <http://www.4thmedia.org/2012/12/27/us-to-sell-1-2bn-in-spy-drones-to-s-korea/>
- (b) US to Sell South Korea Spy Drones:
http://www.voanews.com/content/u_moves_to_sell_spy_drones_to_south_korea/1572398.html

4459/12

Multiple Uranium Enrichment Facilities Suspected in N. Korea

(VOA) Analysts are expressing little surprise about the revelation North Korea apparently has multiple facilities to enrich uranium that could be used to make nuclear weapons.

South Korea's defense ministry Friday revealed that intelligence satellites have detected additional facilities in North Korea where it suspects work is being done to produce weapons-grade uranium.

A South Korean senior official told reporters North Korea's uranium enrichment activities appear to be proceeding.

http://www.voanews.com/content/multiple-uranium-enrichment-facilities-suspected-in-nkorea/1569440.html?utm_content=socialflow&utm_campaign=en&utm_source=voanews&utm_medium=twitter

4460/12

Army to Seek Death Penalty for Soldier in Deadly Afghan Rampage

(VOA) The U.S. Army is recommending the death penalty for an American soldier accused of killing 16 Afghan villagers in a shooting rampage earlier this year.

Prosecutors say Army Staff Sergeant Robert Bales attacked two villages in the early morning hours of March 11. They say he left his remote base in southern Afghanistan and walked to a nearby village and killed residents, before returning to base, leaving a second time and walking to another village, where he killed more people. The dead included children.

<http://www.voanews.com/content/bales-afghanistan-massacre-death-penalty/1568336.html>

4461/12 -----

Combined Force Arrests Taliban Leader

(DOD) An Afghan and coalition security force arrested a Taliban leader and detained one other suspected insurgent during an operation in the Now Zad district of Afghanistan's Helmand province today, military officials reported.

The arrested Taliban leader coordinated and executed direct-fire and improvised explosive device attacks against Afghan and coalition forces in the province.

<http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=118874>

4462/12 -----

Afghan Policewoman Kills Foreign Trainer, Local Cop Kills Colleagues

(rfe) An Afghan policewoman has been detained in Kabul after shooting dead a foreign civilian contractor working to train the Afghan National Police.

It is the first so-called "insider" attack against foreign troops or security contractors to be carried out by an Afghan woman.

On December 24, Brigadier General John Madower, spokesman for the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), confirmed that the male contractor was shot dead inside the Kabul police headquarters compound.

<http://www.rferl.org/content/afghan-policewoman-shoots-dead-us-man/24807041.html>

4463/12 -----

Abe Named New Japanese Prime Minister

(VOA) Japan has a new prime minister. The Diet (parliament) on Wednesday selected Shinzo Abe to again lead the country after his Liberal Democratic Party scored a solid comeback in elections this month. That ends a three-year stay in power for the Democratic Party of Japan.

Abe said his top priorities are to overcome the country's economic and diplomatic crises.

At his initial news conference, following his selection by lawmakers to lead Japan, Abe lamented that any country that gives up on economic growth has no future.

<http://www.voanews.com/content/japan-lawmakers-return-hawkish-shinzo-abe-to-power/1572235.html>

4464/12 -----

China's new guided missile destroyer ready for debut: report

(focustaiwan) The appearance of a picture of China's second 052D guided missile destroyer on the Internet recently has aroused speculations in China that the country's most advanced version of the warship is ready for the sea.

The television station HBTV in Hubei Province, central China reported that the vessel in the picture was decorated with Chinese flags and other trappings which suggested that it was ready for launch.

http://focustaiwan.tw/ShowNews/WebNews_Detail.aspx?Type=aIPL&ID=201212240020

	EUROPE (GEOGRAPH.)
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4465/12 -----

Luxemburger zweifeln an ihrem Geheimdienst

(heise) Der Luxemburger Geheimdienst Service de renseignement de l'État (SRE) ist im Zuge diverser Affären in die Kritik geraten, u.a. wegen des Abhörens eines Gespräches zwischen Premierminister Jean-Claude Juncker und Großherzog Henri. Letzterer geriet in Verlegenheit, nachdem der vormalige SRE-Chef Marco Mille behauptet hatte, der großherzogliche Hof unterhalte wohl gute Kontakte zum britischen Geheimdienst.

Laut einer Umfrage des Luxemburger "Journals" glauben nur 22% der Befragten dem Dementi des Hofmarschallamts. Die Befragten sind zudem wenig erbaut über die Tatsache, dass die Letzeburger Schlapphüte in den letzten Jahrzehnten 300.000 Karteikarten über Bürger, Ausländer und politische Parteien angelegt haben. Eine Mehrheit verlangt ein Einsichtsrecht in die Datenbanken und bezweifelt die Notwendigkeit eines Geheimdienstes, berichtet das Luxemburger Tagblatt. Mille war 2009 zu Siemens als Sicherheitschef gewechselt.

(a) <http://www.heise.de/tp/blogs/6/153421>

(b) Geheimdienst auf dem Prüfstand:

<http://www.lessentiel.lu/de/news/dossier/srel/story/Geheimdienst-auf-dem-Pruefstand-20844981>

4466/12 -----

Afghan Factions Meeting In France

(rfe) Afghan officials, representatives from the Taliban militia, and other factions are expected to start gathering on December 19 at a secret location near Paris.

Planned informal meetings through December 21, organized by a French think tank, are not expected to produce an immediate, concrete breakthrough in peace negotiations.

But Afghan political analyst Wahid Muzhda told RFE/RL's Radio Free Afghanistan that the meeting could "pave the way for formal talks in the future."

<http://www.rferl.org/content/afghanistan-talks/24802681.html>

4467/12 -----

6 Macedonian Muslims go on trial over 'terrorist' killings

(washingtonpost) ix Muslim men have gone on trial in Macedonia over the killings of five fishermen near the capital, Skopje. Prosecutors are presenting the case as a terrorism-related attack.

According to the indictment, the fishermen were killed so as to "cause fear among the population" and to harm the small Balkan country's security.

Four defendants appeared in court Thursday and another two are being tried in absentia.

If found guilty, the suspects would face a minimum 10-year prison sentence.

April's fatal lake shooting of the fishermen, all of whom belonged to the country's ethnic Macedonian majority, fueled tension with the mostly Muslim ethnic Albanian minority.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/6-macedonian-muslims-go-on-trial-over-terrorist-killings-of-5-fishermen/2012/12/20/18390cde-4ac7-11e2-8758-b64a2997a921_story.html

4468/12 -----

France: Protecting Interests, Not Intervening in Central African Rep

(VOA) French President Francois Hollande says France has a presence in the Central African Republic to protect its interests and nationals, not to intervene in the country's business.

Hollande spoke Thursday, a day after protesters critical of France's inaction during a rebel advance in the C.A.R. threw stones at the French embassy in the capital, Bangui, and tore down the country's flag.

"Generally speaking, if we are there [in C.A.R.], it's not to protect a regime but to protect our citizens and our interests, and not at all to interfere in domestic matters of a country, as it happens, Central African Republic," he said. "This time is over."

<http://www.voanews.com/content/france-protecting-interests-not-intervening-in-central-african-republic/1572978.html>

4469/12 -----

Greece: AND THE LIES PLAY ON..

(rieas) I often wonder how long it takes to begin believing your own lies.

Judging from the behavior of Mr. Samaras et.al. the answer is "not very long." The answer was the same for Mr. Samaras's predecessors also, both the hapless Papandreou and the "technocrat" Papademos. All three quickly acquired a perception of reality that was in discordance with the view of the overwhelming majority of Greeks and the rest of the world.

Lies played on.

The latest round of self-applause from the Greek government comes after yet another "victory" - the decision by our European "partners" to release another loan "tranche" worth 49.1bn euros; and the forced "haircut" of the Greek banks so that Greece's overlords in Berlin and Brussels would agree to allow the borrowed cash to flow.

The "triumph" of the haircut has been shown, convincingly and exhaustively, to be yet another tragic absurdity associated with Greece's slow strangulation by "friends and partners."

<http://www.rieas.gr/research-areas/editorial/1886-and-the-lies-play-on.html>

4470/12

Schrittweise Privatisierung der öffentlichen Wasserversorgung in EU

(theintelligence) Ein knapp achtminütiger Beitrag des ARD beleuchtet die geplante Privatisierung der öffentlichen Wasserversorgung in der gesamten EU. Aus einem Gemeingut soll ein Spekulationsobjekt werden, mit dem sich dreistellige Milliardenbeträge verdienen lassen. Als erster Schritt soll das wirtschaftlich schwache Portugal zum Verkauf der Wasserversorgung gezwungen werden. Doch der Rest der EU soll schon bald folgen.

So schockierend die neuen Pläne aus Brüssel auch sein mögen, die allgemeine Berichterstattung gibt sich enorm zurückhaltend. In einer portugiesischen Gemeinde ist das einst Undenkbare bereits zur Realität geworden. Für einen einmaligen Betrag, der der Gemeinde zugute kam, wurde die öffentliche Wasserversorgung einem privaten Unternehmen übertragen. Wie nicht anders zu erwarten war, explodierten sogleich die Kosten für den Verbraucher.

<http://www.theintelligence.de/index.php/politik/eu-europaeische-union/5082-schrittweise-privatisierung-der-oeffentlichen-wasserversorgung-in-der-eu.html>



4471/12

PM announces reduction in UK troop numbers in Afghanistan

(globalsecurity) UK force levels in Afghanistan are to reduce to around 5,200 by the end of 2013, the Prime Minister announced today.

The Prime Minister told Parliament that UK forces would shift from mentoring Afghan troops at battalion level to brigade level next year. This reflects the progress made in Helmand and the increasing ability and confidence of the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) to lead security operations.

The drawdown, agreed by the National Security Council this week, is in line and consistent with both UK military advice and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization strategy agreed at the Lisbon Summit in 2010, under which International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) forces continue to operate across the country.

<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/library/news/2012/12/mil-121219-ukmod01.htm>

4472/12 -----

Mahdi Hashi: Lawyer's question over 'rendition'

(bbc) The lawyer for the family of a man whose British citizenship was revoked over allegations of extremism has questioned how he came to appear before a US court.

Mahdi Hashi, 23, of Camden, was stripped of his citizenship in the summer when he went missing in Africa.

He appeared in a New York court on Friday charged with "providing material support" to terrorist group Al Shabaab.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-20833555>

4473/12 -----

Muslims call for changes over port terror searches

(bbc) Muslims in Greater Manchester are calling for changes to the Terrorism Act which allows passengers to be stopped and searched at airports.

A letter signed by several organisations has been sent to the Home Office highlighting concerns over religious profiling.

Representatives from mosques and Islamic human rights groups claim some people are detained but never charged.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-20772573>

4474/12 -----

Lockerbie bombing: Libyan government set to release files

(bbc) The new Libyan government in Tripoli is prepared to open all files relating to the Lockerbie bombing, the country's ambassador to the UK has confirmed.

However, Mahmud Nacua said it would be at least another year before Libya was in a position to release whatever information it holds.

The move comes on the 24th anniversary of the of bombing of Pan Am flight 103 over Scotland, which killed 270 people.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-south-scotland-20806873>

4475/12

The 'murder and mayhem' squad

(dailymail) A former British soldier who belonged to an undercover unit in Northern Ireland has claimed he and his colleagues resorted to 'murder and mayhem' during a secret campaign against the IRA.

Simon Cursey was a member of a 30-man team which would 'shoot first and ask questions later'. They shot at least 20 terrorist suspects and breached the British Army's rules of war.

In support of his allegations, he has provided The Mail on Sunday with detailed descriptions of some of the most controversial killings in Northern Ireland's recent history.

Cursey says these shootings were carried out by the Military Reaction Force (MRF), a clandestine Army team sent into Republican neighbourhoods to eliminate IRA gunmen.

His accounts are being studied by detectives from the Police Service of Northern Ireland's Historical Enquiries Team (HET), which was set up to re-examine suspicious deaths over the course of 'The Troubles'. More than 2,260 cases are on its books.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2252237/The-murder-mayhem-squad-Shocking-new-revelations-undercover-soldier-carried-shoot-ask-questions-later-attacks-IRA-terrorists-British-Army.html>

4476/12

High Court blocks US drone intelligence case

(bbc) The High Court has rejected an attempt by a Pakistani man to force the UK government to reveal if it is providing intelligence for US drone strikes.

Noor Khan, whose father died in a drone strike in Pakistan, said the UK could be committing a war crime by helping the CIA to identify targets.

The government neither confirms nor denies any role in assisting with operations against al-Qaeda.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-20807934>

4477/12

Afghan troop withdrawal could be faster, says Cameron

(bbc) UK troops could be withdrawn from Afghanistan more quickly than previously announced, David Cameron has suggested.

The prime minister announced this week that numbers would be cut from 9,000 to 5,200 next year.

But, on a pre-Christmas visit to Camp Bastion in Helmand province, he said there was "flexibility" in the plan.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/20806021>

4478/12

Army doctor failed Iraqi detainee Baha Mousa beaten to death

(belfasttelegraph) A former British Army doctor has been found guilty of attempting to cover up the death of an Iraqi civilian who was fatally beaten by British troops in 2003, and of failing to protect other detainees.

Dr Derek Keilloh was a 28-year-old captain and the senior medic in charge of detainees when Baha Mousa, 26, died in British custody in Basra during the occupation of Iraq.

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/uk/army-doctor-failed-iraqi-detainee-baha-mousa-beaten-to-death-by-british-soldiers-16251504.html#ixzz2FOWhNmMQ>

4479/12

High Court blocks US drone intelligence case

(bbc) The High Court has rejected an attempt by a Pakistani man to force the UK government to reveal if it is providing intelligence for US drone strikes.

Noor Khan, whose father died in a drone strike in Pakistan, said the UK could be committing a war crime by helping the CIA to identify targets.

The government neither confirms nor denies any role in assisting with operations against al-Qaeda.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-20807934>



NORTHERN IRELAND

(This section is edited by Oliver PLAUDER, ACIPSS's expert on the IRA)

4480/12

Bloody Sunday murder inquiry to begin in new year

(belfasttelegraph) A murder inquiry into the Bloody Sunday killings in Londonderry is to begin in the new year.

Senior commanders from the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) today briefed relatives of the 14 people who died after British paratroopers opened fire on civil rights demonstrators in the city in 1972.

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/bloody-sunday/bloody-sunday-murder-inquiry-to-begin-in-new-year-16252884.html#ixzz2Fd45t8EK>

4481/12 -----

Thomas 'Slab' Murphy, tax case delayed to March

(belfasttelegraph) The case against prominent republican Thomas 'Slab' Murphy, who is being prosecuted on tax charges in the Republic, has been put back until March.

Mr Murphy (60) from Hackballscross, Louth, faces nine charges alleging that he failed to furnish a return of income, profits or gains to the Collector General or Inspector of Taxes for the years 1996/97 to 2004.

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/republic-of-ireland/thomas-slab-murphy-tax-case-delayed-to-march-16252376.html#ixzz2FUlZru6L>

4482/12 -----

Man in court over David Black murder

(belfasttelegraph) A man has appeared in court accused of obtaining a car which was later used in the killing of prison officer David Black.

Damien Joseph McLaughlin, 36, was linked to the Toyota Camry, which was moved from the Republic to Northern Ireland before it was used in the murder of Mr Black, 52.

- (a) <http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/northern-ireland/man-in-court-over-david-black-murder-16252966.html#ixzz2Fd4WWSgN>
- (b) Man provided the car used in David Black murder, court told:
<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/northern-ireland/man-provided-the-car-used-in-david-black-murder-court-told-16253233.html#ixzz2FhulJoK7>

4483/12 -----

Dissidents planned to kill family of Irish soldier

(irishexaminer) Gardai have foiled a plot by dissident terrorists to kill a British soldier as he spent Christmas with his family in the Republic.

He was due to return this week to his family in Limerick city.

But he has now opted to remain in the UK after gardai became aware of the planned murder bid by the Continuity IRA in west Dublin and Limerick.

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/ireland/dissidents-planned-to-kill-family-of-irish-soldier-serving-in-british-army-217388.html>

4484/12 -----

Gardai foil dissident plot to kill soldier on home leave

(belfasttelegraph) Gardai have foiled a plot by dissident terrorists to kill a British soldier as he spent Christmas with his family in the Republic.

He was due to return this week to his family in Limerick city.

But he has now opted to remain in the UK after gardai became aware of the planned murder bid by the Continuity IRA in west Dublin and Limerick.

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/republic-of-ireland/gardai-foil-dissident-plot-to-kill-soldier-on-home-leave-16251869.html#ixzz2FOUEifTE>

4485/12 -----

City CIRA men linked to soldier death plot mob

(herald) Two Dublin IRA men are linked to a mob behind a plot to kill a young Irishman who is serving in the British Army.

The young soldier is being forced to spend Christmas in the UK, away from his family, after gardai became aware of a planned murder bid by members of the Continuity IRA based in west Dublin and Limerick.

Notorious terror chief Dermot Gannon is one of the men closely associated with those behind the sinister plot.

- (a) <http://www.herald.ie/news/city-cira-men-linked-to-soldier-death-plot-mob-3330958.html>
- (b) CIRA plotted to kill Facebook soldier: <http://www.u.tv/News/CIRA-plotted-to-kill-Facebook-soldier/b3ff9f95-8dfb-42e1-8132-65b21d011de4>

4486/12 -----

IRA man's five-year sentence cut by six months

(independent) The Court of Criminal Appeal (CCA) has reduced a man's five-year sentence for membership of the IRA by six months.

Gerard McGarrigle (47), of Mount Carmel Heights, Strabane, Co Tyrone, had appealed severity of the sentence imposed on him in November 2010 following a 15-day trial at the Special Criminal Court (SCC) for membership of an illegal organisation styling itself the Irish Republican Army, otherwise Oglagh na hEireann, in February 2010.

Two co-accused, Desmond Donnelly (59), Drumall, Lisnarick, Co Fermanagh and Jim Murphy (62), Floraville, Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh, were convicted of the same offence arising out of the same circumstances.

<http://www.independent.ie/national-news/courts/ira-mans-fiveyear-sentence-cut-by-six-months-3331310.html>

4487/12 -----

Londonderry man jailed for 13 years for Strand Road bombing

(bbc) A 44-year-old Londonderry man who admitted a car bomb attack outside the city's Strand Road police station has been sentenced to 13 years in jail.

Philip O'Donnell, of Baldrick Crescent, pleaded guilty to causing an explosion likely to endanger life and to a number of other charges, including hijacking.

No-one was injured in the attack on 3 August 2010.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-foyle-west-20753271>

4488/12

Text that jailed key member of police base bomb gang

(belfasttelegraph) A dissident republican who threatened to shoot a taxi driver dead unless he drove a bomb to a police station was caught after he sent a text message asking the bomber to hurry up and deliver the explosives, a court has heard.

Philip O'Donnell was jailed for 13 years yesterday after playing an "active" role in the bomb attack on Strand Road police station in Londonderry on August 3, 2010.

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/northern-ireland/text-that-jailed-key-member-of-police-base-bomb-gang-16251916.html#ixzz2FUlFuZnQ>

4489/12

Criminal gangs target Real IRA over Kelly killing

(independent) Four attempted murders in one week as rival crime bosses bury hatchet to fight dissidents

A GROUP calling itself "Criminal Action Force" was responsible for four attempted murders last weekend in retaliation for the murder earlier this month of the leading criminal figure, Eamon Kelly, by dissident republicans.

The attempted killings in north Dublin were reported to gardai and come as they step up investigations into the growing threat from the dissidents.

<http://www.independent.ie/national-news/criminal-gangs-target-real-ira-over-kelly-killing-3334491.html>

4490/12

Man jailed for having Crossmaglen PSNI station bomb

(bbc) A County Monaghan man has been jailed for three years for having a car bomb left outside Crossmaglen police station.

Paul Maguire admitted the unlawful possession of an improvised explosive device with intent to endanger life or cause serious injury to property.

The device was loaded into a stolen car and left outside the PSNI station where it failed to detonate on 3 April, 2010.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-20818124>

4491/12 -----

Man shot in both legs in west Belfast

(bbc) A 29-year-old man has been taken to hospital after being shot in both legs in west Belfast.

The attack happened just after 19:30 GMT on Thursday at Dungloe Crescent.

Police have described it as a "paramilitary-style shooting".

They have appealed for anyone with information to contact them.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-20818348>

4492/12 -----

Martin Corey: Double murderer to stay in prison

(bbc) The NI Secretary has won an appeal against a convicted double murderer's legal bid to get out of prison.

Senior judges upheld a challenge to a ruling that Parole Commissioners breached Martin Corey's human rights in keeping him behind bars.

It means Corey will remain in jail at least until separate proceedings go before the Supreme Court in London.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-20818499>

4493/12 -----

New probe of Loughinisland massacre

(belfasttelegraph) Northern Ireland's Police Ombudsman is to launch a fresh investigation into the loyalist gun massacre at Loughinisland.

Dr Michael Maguire's inquiry into the police's handling of the case comes after families of the six men killed in the 1994 shooting criticised his predecessor's examination of the murders.

Last year, former ombudsman Al Hutchinson found there was insufficient evidence to prove collusion between the police and the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) gang which carried out the attack.

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/northern-ireland/new-probe-of-loughinisland-massacre-16252802.html#ixzz2FaXiRPDd>

4494/12 -----

Trio convicted of McIlveen murder win their appeal

(belfasttelegraph) The family of a Catholic boy murdered in a sectarian attack are reliving their darkest hours after the convictions of three men jailed for his killing were quashed.

The Court of Appeal ruled that guilty verdicts returned against Aaron Wallace, Christopher Kerr and Jeff Lewis for murdering Michael McIlveen are unsafe due to flaws in how the jury was directed.

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/northern-ireland/trio-convicted-of-mcilveen-murder-win-their-appeal-16252753.html#ixzz2FaZelGvQ>

4495/12

Sinn Fein and Alliance politicians sent bullets in the post

(bbc) Letters containing bullets have been sent to five Northern Ireland politicians.

Sinn Fein said letters addressed to Gerry Kelly and Alex Maskey had been sent to Stormont.

An Alliance Party press officer said he had been told that bullets had also been sent to party leader David Ford, Naomi Long and Gerardine Mulvenna.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-20785567>

4496/12

Petrol bombs thrown at police during flag protests

(belfasttelegraph) Two petrol bombs were thrown at police in Belfast last night but protests over the flying of the Union flag were largely peaceful.

The PSNI dealt with more than 50 protests within an hour across the region last night as commuters were heading home from work.

Officers encountered some minor incidents in the Lower Newtownards Road area where petrol bombs were thrown at them. There were no injuries.

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/northern-ireland/petrol-bombs-thrown-at-police-during-flag-protests-16253721.html#ixzz2FntQZRpx>

4497/12

Loyalist flag protesters storm Carrickfergus council meeting

(belfasttelegraph) Politicians were threatened last night during a council meeting in Northern Ireland when a group of loyalists stormed the building.

There were no injuries but the session was disrupted in Carrickfergus, north of Belfast on the Co Antrim coast, police said.

Cross-community Alliance Party councillor Noel Williams said about five protesters infiltrated a meeting of Carrickfergus Council.

"They managed to enter the council chamber unhindered without facing any opposition and once inside subjected councillors to verbal abuse, banging on desks and chairs with implements, leaving many feeling threatened," he said.

- (a) <http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/northern-ireland/loyalist-flag-protesters-storm-carrickfergus-council-meeting-as-police-are-attacked-in-belfast-16251841.html>
- (b) Loyalists carried out 'body in the fridge' murder:
<http://www.impartialreporter.com/news/roundup/articles/2012/12/17/399217-loyalists-carried-out-body-in-the-fridge-murder/>

4498/12

The 'murder and mayhem' squad: Shocking new revelations

(dailymail) The 'murder and mayhem' squad: Shocking new revelations by former undercover soldier who carried out 'shoot first, ask questions later' attacks on IRA terrorists for the British Army

A former British soldier who belonged to an undercover unit in Northern Ireland has claimed he and his colleagues resorted to 'murder and mayhem' during a secret campaign against the IRA.

Simon Cursey was a member of a 30-man team which would 'shoot first and ask questions later'. They shot at least 20 terrorist suspects and breached the British Army's rules of war.

In support of his allegations, he has provided The Mail on Sunday with detailed descriptions of some of the most controversial killings in Northern Ireland's recent history.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2252237/The-murder-mayhem-squad-Shocking-new-revelations-undercover-soldier-carried-shoot-ask-questions-later-attacks-IRA-terrorists-British-Army.html>

4499/12

Thomas 'Slab' Murphy, tax case delayed to March

(belfasttelegraph) The case against prominent republican Thomas 'Slab' Murphy, who is being prosecuted on tax charges in the Republic, has been put back until March.

Mr Murphy (60) from Hackballscross, Louth, faces nine charges alleging that he failed to furnish a return of income, profits or gains to the Collector General or Inspector of Taxes for the years 1996/97 to 2004.

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/republic-of-ireland/thomas-slab-murphy-tax-case-delayed-to-march-16252376.html#ixzz2Fulzru6L>



GERMANY

4500/12 -----

Deutscher Geheimdienst: Terrorismus weiter Gefahr

(orf) Der islamistische Terror bleibt nach Erkenntnissen des Verfassungsschutzes für die Sicherheit Deutschlands die größte Gefahr - und wird daher auch 2013 die vorrangige Aufgabe sein. Einzeltäter, die sich im Internet selbst radikalisierten, und auch individuell agierende kleinere Gruppen stellten die Sicherheitsbehörden vor besondere Herausforderungen, sagte der Präsident des Bundesamtes für Verfassungsschutz (BfV), Hans-Georg Maaßen, der deutschen Nachrichtenagentur dpa in Köln.

Sorgen bereite auch „die gestiegene Anzahl der Ausreisen von Personen aus dem islamistischen und islamistisch-terroristischen Spektrum im abgelaufenen Jahr“. Besonders Ägypten, wohin 2012 mehr als 50 Personen ausreisten, sei als Transit- oder Zielland zu einer Art Drehscheibe für Freiwillige des Dschihad geworden, sagte Maaßen. Aber auch Somalia habe hier an Bedeutung gewonnen. „Die Entwicklungen im Nahen und Mittleren Osten werden für die Sicherheitslage in Deutschland immer bedeutsamer.“

<http://orf.at/stories/2157990/>

4501/12 -----

Geheimdienst besucht Vereine - Verfassungsschützer tauchen auf

(taz) Der Verfassungsschutzchef übt sich in neuer Bürgernähe - und besucht zum Auftakt den SPD-nahen Jugendverein Falken. Auch Schulen sollen folgen.

Zweieinhalb Stunden saßen sie zusammen: Bernd Palenda, der neue Interimschef des Berliner Verfassungsschutzes, und ein gutes Dutzend Neuköllner Falken. Der Behördenleiter war eigens nach Britz gekommen, ins Anton-Schmaus-Haus der linken, SPD-nahen Jugendorganisation. Dort ließ er sich schildern, wie die Falken auf die wiederholten rechten Schmierereien an ihrem Haus reagierten, auf die Angriffe, die 2011 zweimal auch mit Brandsätzen erfolgten. Hörte zu, was der Verein über die rechtsextreme Szene berichtete.

<http://www.taz.de/Geheimdienst-besucht-Vereine/!107963/>

4502/12 -----

Geheimdienst-Kontrolle soll transparenter werden

(rp-online) Das Parlamentarische Kontrollgremium der deutschen Geheimdienste ist unzufrieden mit der Regierungsinformationen. Sie pochen darauf, zeitnah informiert zu werden. Mit einer Reform ihrer eigenen Arbeit wollen sie dieser Forderung nun Nachdruck verleihen.

Berlins geheimstes Gremium will mehr Transparenz. Was schizophren klingt, ist den parlamentarischen Kontrolleuren der deutschen Geheimdienste bitterer Ernst. Sie wollen nicht länger die Stichworte für dringende Nachfragen erst aus der Zeitung erfahren.

Wie sie dem durch eine Reform ihrer eigenen Arbeit Nachdruck verleihen können, besprachen die Mitglieder des ohnehin streng geheim tagenden

Parlamentarischen Kontrollgremiums (PKGr) am Dienstag an einem abgeschiedenen Ort; dem Noch-Hauptsitz des Bundesnachrichtendienstes in Pullach.

<http://www.rp-online.de/politik/deutschland/geheimdienst-kontrolle-soll-transparenter-werden-1.3111157>

4503/12 -----

Syrischer Spion zu Haftstrafe verurteilt

(welt) Kammergericht Berlin verurteilt syrischen Spion wegen geheimdienstlicher Agententätigkeit

Wegen geheimdienstlicher Agententätigkeit ist ein Syrer zu drei Jahren und drei Monaten Haft verurteilt worden. Das Kammergericht Berlin sprach den 35 Jahre alten Mann am Mittwoch schuldig, von Mitte 2009 bis Februar 2012 in Deutschland lebende Oppositionelle seines Landes im Auftrag eines syrischen Nachrichtendienstes ausspioniert zu haben.

Das Gericht sah es als erwiesen an, dass der promovierte Jurist über Zusammenkünfte, Kundgebungen und Spendensammlungen Oppositioneller berichtet und sich 2010 im Auftrag des Geheimdienstes für eine Stelle beim Bundesamt für Verfassungsschutz beworben hatte. Die Bewerbung blieb allerdings erfolglos. Im Prozess hatte der Angeklagte die Spionage-Vorwürfe bestritten.

<http://www.welt.de/newsticker/news3/article112136725/Syrischer-Spion-zu-Haftstrafe-verurteilt.html>

4504/12 -----

Neskovic scheidet aus Geheimdienst-Kontrollgremium aus

(zeit) Das Parlamentarische Gremium des Bundestags zur Kontrolle der Geheimdienste verliert eines seiner bekanntesten Mitglieder. Der frühere Bundesrichter Wolfgang Neskovic, der bislang für die Linksfraktion in dem Ausschuss Verfassungsschutz und Bundesnachrichtendienst mit überwachte, muss gehen. Das bestätigte eine Fraktionssprecherin der «Frankfurter Rundschau». Neskovic hatte die Fraktion in der vergangenen Woche im Streit verlassen und als Grund «Unwahrheiten und Intrigen» aus den eigenen Reihen angegeben.

<http://www.zeit.de/news/2012-12/20/parteien-neskovic-scheidet-aus-geheimdienst-kontrollgremium-aus-20043208>

4505/12 -----

Jugoslawienkrieg für Gauck nicht existent

(theintelligence) Dass Politiker stets bestrebt sind, die Welt etwas anders darzustellen, als sie ist, das ist jetzt nichts Neues. Sie kreieren Scheinbilder, lügen, verzerren oder ignorieren Tatsachen. So weit, so bekannt. Dass aber der deutsche Bundespräsident in seiner Weihnachtsansprache von 60-jährigem Frieden in Europa spricht, das grenzt an ... sagen wir: Einfältigkeit, um es wohlwollend auszudrücken.

Zunächst erzählte der Präsident vom Kind in der Grippe und Botschaften (damit muss er sich als Theologe ja auskennen). Er bediente sich des

schönen Zitats „Fürchtet Euch nicht“ und sprach vom „Frieden auf Erden“, um dann von seiner kürzlich absolvierten Afghanistan-Reise zu berichten, wo ihn die Leistungen der deutschen Soldaten beeindruckten, um genau damit den Schwenk zur Realität zu machen, die von so viel Unfrieden und so viel Krieg (was an sich das gleiche ist) geprägt ist.

<http://www.theintelligence.de/index.php/politik/kommentare/5095-jugoslawienkrieg-fuer-gauck-nicht-existent.html>

	AUSTRIA
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4506/12 -----


Syrien: Österreicher von Geheimdienst festgenommen

(diepresse) Der 47-Jährige brachte Medikamente und Nahrungsmittel für Kinder ins Land. Wo der Mann festgehalten wird, ist unklar. Das österreichische Außenministerium verlangt von den syrischen Behörden Aufklärung.

Ein 47-jähriger Österreicher syrischer Abstammung ist nach Angaben von Angehörigen bei der Auslieferung von Hilfsgütern in Syrien von Regierungskräften verhaftet worden. Jamal Orabi, der mit seiner Ehefrau und sechs Kindern in Österreich lebt, sei am Sonntag gezielt im Wohnhaus von Verwandten in der syrischen Metropole Aleppo aufgesucht und von Männern des Militärgeschwader mitgenommen worden. Seither habe man nichts von ihm gehört, sagten ein Angehöriger und ein Sprecher der Hilfsorganisation Humanic Relief am Montag.

Die Familie des Festgenommenen hofft nun, dass die österreichische Staatsbürgerschaft ihn schützt. Man habe auch das Außenministerium in Wien um Hilfe gebeten. Andernfalls gebe es kaum Aussicht auf Freilassung, würden doch die syrischen Regimekräfte immer wieder Festgenommene foltern und töten. "Es ist so schlimm, wir wissen nicht, was wir tun sollen", sagte der Neffe des Mannes, Mohammed Orabi. Das Außenamt gab vorerst keine Stellungnahme ab.

<http://diepresse.com/text/home/politik/aussenpolitik/1324833>

	AMERICA (CONTINENTAL)
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4507/12 -----

Chavez Condition More Stable - Vice President

(ria) The health of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has been stabilizing in recent days as he recuperates at a clinic in Havana from a fourth

operation to remove cancerous tissue, the Venezuelan vice president said on Saturday.

Vice-President and Foreign Minister Nicolas Maduro, whom Chavez named as his possible successor before the operation, said the president "continues his post-operation recovery and his health stabilizes with each day that passes."

Venezuelan Minister of Information and Communication Ernesto Villegas earlier said Chavez suffered bleeding during the operation, but it was immediately staunched. Later, the president was diagnosed with respiratory infection, frequent in patients who are recovering from serious operations, but it was contained.

<http://en.ria.ru/world/20121223/178342557.html>

4508/12 -----

First civilian sentenced for Argentina Dirty War crimes

(bbc) A court in Argentina has sentenced former minister Jaime Smart to life in prison for crimes against humanity during the 1976-1983 military rule.

Smart is the first civilian to be sentenced for crimes against humanity committed during the "Dirty War".

He and 22 other defendants were found guilty of involvement in the torture and murder of opposition activists at illegal detention centres.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-20793884>

4509/12 -----

Canada drops Iranian opposition group from terror list

(washingtonpost) Canada's government said Thursday that it has removed an Iranian opposition group once allied with Saddam Hussein's Iraqi regime from its official list of terrorist organizations.

The government's move to delist Mujahedeen-e-Khalq, or MEK, follows similar moves by the United States and the European Union.

The MEK, a small, armed exile group, has said it wants to replace Tehran's clerical regime with a secular government through peaceful means.

The MEK, also known as the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran, carried out a series of bombings and assassinations against Iran's clerical regime in the 1980s and fought alongside Saddam's forces in the Iran-Iraq war. But the group says it renounced violence in 2001.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the_americas/canada-drops-iranian-opposition-group-from-terror-list/2012/12/21/76c4bc94-4b30-11e2-8758-b64a2997a921_story.html



AFRICA (SUB-SAHARA)

4510/12 -----

Diplomats Make Last Ditch Effort to Talk With CAR Rebels

(VOA) Central African countries are working Friday to open talks between the government of the Central African Republic (CAR) and the rebel coalition that has seized 10 key towns in the north in the past three weeks. The rebels are threatening to march on the capital, Bangui, and topple the government if the president does not negotiate.

The rebel group, known as Seleka, began its lightning offensive in the north on December 10 and is now within 300 kilometers of the capital, Bangui.

- (a) <http://www.voanews.com/content/central-african-republic/1573927.html>
- (b) CAR rebels seize another city:
<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2012/12/20121229162438891450.html>

4511/12 -----

UN Mission in DRC Deploys 'Quick Reaction Force'

(VOA) The United Nations Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO) has deployed its quick reaction force to combat banditry in the restive North Kivu capital, Goma.

MONUSCO's military spokesman, Colonel Felix Basse, says there is growing tension in the camps of internally displaced persons following attacks by armed groups.

He says banditry has been on the rise after violent criminals broke out of jail during fighting between the DRC's national army and the M23 rebels.

<http://www.voanews.com/content/un-mission-in-drc-deploys-quick-reaction-force/1570918.html>

4512/12 -----

UN condemn fatal shooting down of helicopter in South Sudan

(UN) Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has condemned the shooting down today of a United Nations helicopter in South Sudan - killing all four crew members onboard - by the country's armed forces and called for those responsible to be held to account, his spokesperson said today.

"The Secretary-General strongly condemns the shooting down today of a clearly marked UN helicopter by the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) near Likuangole, in Jonglei state of South Sudan," the spokesperson said in a statement.

The Russian-crewed MI-8 helicopter, part of the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), had been on a reconnaissance flight at around 10:00 a.m. local time over the settlement of Likuangole, in the eastern state of Jonglei.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=43837&Cr=south+sudan&Cr1=#.UNjDMIE7vWU>

4513/12

UN Security Council authorizes African-led intervention force in Mali

(UN) The Security Council today authorized the deployment of an African-led International Support Mission in Mali, to be known as AFISMA, for an initial period of one year to assist the authorities in recovering rebel-held regions in the north and restoring the unity of the country.

Northern Mali has been occupied by radical Islamists after fighting broke out in January between Government forces and Tuareg rebels - just one of several security, political and humanitarian problems the West African nation has been dealing with this year.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=43827#.UNjMxIE7vWU>

4514/12

Francois Hollande: Al-Qaeda behind Nigeria kidnap

(bbc) Al-Qaeda, or an allied group, was probably behind the kidnapping of a French engineer in Nigeria, French President Francois Hollande has said.

A group of about 30 gunmen snatched him from a heavily guarded compound in northern Nigeria, police say.

The attack occurred in Katsina state, which shares a border with Niger, where al-Qaeda's North African wing is known to operate.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-20808534>

4515/12

Timbuktu mausoleums 'destroyed'

(bbc) Islamists in Mali have begun destroying remaining mausoleums in the historic city of Timbuktu, an Islamist leader and a tourism official said.

"Not a single mausoleum will remain in Timbuktu," Abou Dardar, a leader of the Islamist group Ansar Dine, told AFP news agency.

Islamists in control of northern Mali began earlier this year to pull down shrines that they consider idolatrous.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-20833010>

4516/12

Rebels in Central African Republic take city of Bambari

(bbc) Rebels in the Central African Republic (CAR) have seized the key city of Bambari as part of their offensive against President Francois Bozize.

The city, the third largest in the country, fell into rebels hands after two hours of fighting with government forces, witnesses said.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-20833943>

4517/12

Somali troops 'free' 22 hostages held by pirates

(bbc) Twenty-two hostages seized by pirates nearly three years ago have been freed, the authorities in Somalia's semi-autonomous region of Puntland say.

They said their maritime force began the operation to free the hostages - and their ship - nearly two weeks ago.

The hostages are showing signs of having suffered physical torture and illness, their statement said.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-20832401>



THE CYBER BATTLEFIELD/ CIVIL RIGHTS

4518/12

Can Disclosures of Classified Information Be Authorized?

(fas) It is plainly true that executive branch officials will sometimes disclose classified information to reporters and other uncleared individuals. But this practice is not explicitly authorized in any official statement of classification policy. In fact, with an exception for life-threatening emergencies, it is usually understood to be prohibited.

How can the obviously flexible practice and the seemingly prohibitive policy be reconciled? A newly updated report from the Congressional Research Service presents a close reading of the relevant rules and regulations in search of some wiggle room for authorized disclosures of classified information.

"Nothing in the Executive Order addresses an informal procedure for releasing classified information [to reporters]. E.O. 13526 section 1.1 provides that '[c]lassified information shall not be declassified automatically as a result of any unauthorized disclosure of identical or similar information,' but does not address what happens in the event of a disclosure that was in fact authorized," the CRS report observes.

http://www.fas.org/blog/secretcy/2012/12/authorized_disclosures.html

4519/12

Schools need consent to keep data

(belfasttelegraph) Schools in England will be banned from collecting pupils' biometric data without consent, the Department for Education (DfE) said.

From September next year schools will be forced to obtain parental permission before taking fingerprints.

The ban will also cover the use of data for iris and retina scanning, and face recognition.

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/uk/schools-need-consent-to-keep-data-16253859.html#ixzz2FuKAp2RQ>

4520/12

Die beste Whatsapp-Spy und Whatsapp-Sniffer Software



(plonki) Whatsapp-Spy-Apps wie der Whatsapp-Sniffer existieren im Internet seit 2011. Moralisch oder unmoralisch das ist jedoch die Frage? Wir haben einmal eine Liste von möglichen Whatsapp-Spy Software oder auch Spyware genannt für Euch herausgesucht.

In der heutigen Zeit, wo vieles was sich früher zwischenmenschlich am Tisch abspielte nur noch über den Whatsapp-Chat abspielt, ist das misstrauen in vielen Ehen und Beziehungen gross. Einmal wissen mit wem der Partner schreibt oder was er denn schreibt. Wir haben ja bereits über das erste Spytool den Whatsapp-Sniffer und dessen Funktionen berichtet. Hier sieht es jedoch so aus, dass es nur möglich ist Chats mitzulesen, wenn diese im selben WLAN statt findet beziehungsweise auch beide Smartphones über das selbe WLAN eingeloggt sind. In diesem Zusammenhang nutzen auch immer mehr Firmen eine solche Spy-Software die es praktisch ermöglicht nicht nur Textmessages oder Telefonate zu verfolgen, viel mehr auch die aussendienstler über das Smartphone eigene GPS zu orten und so jederzeit über den Standort und arbeiten informiert zu sein.

<http://www.plonki.com/news/die-beste-whatsapp-spy-und-whatsapp-sniffer-software,468781.html>



SPYCRAFT

4521/12

Smart Spy Flieger mit Videokamera



(rc-fabrik) Smart Spy Flieger mit Videokamera 4GB RTF Mode 2 840mm

Dieses Flugzeug verfügt über eine Videokamera, die Clips auf der beiliegenden 4GB Micro SC Card speichert. So können Sie Ihren Freunden Clips aus der Vogelperspektive zeigen und die Welt von oben entdecken!

Dieser Flieger ist dank robustem EPO-Schaum sehr gut für Fluganfänger geeignet. Gesteuert wird einsteigerfreundlich über Seiten- und Höhenruder mit einer modernen 2,4 GHz Fernsteuerung. Eine LCD-Funktionsanzeige gibt die wichtigsten Informationen wieder. Das Flugzeug ist 100% Ready-to-Fly und flugbereit vormontiert, lediglich die Flügel müssen noch angesteckt werden. Der Komplettlieferrumfang besteht aus dem Flugzeug, einem 2,4 GHz RC-System, LiPo-Flugakku, Ladegerät, Senderbatterien und einer ausführlichen Anleitung.

Lieferumfang:

Flugmodell mit RC-System, Flugakku und Ladegerät, 2 x Ersatzpropeller, 4GB microSD Karte und ausführliche Anleitung

Technische Details:

- Material: EPO-Schaum ?Crashproof?
- Bürstenmotor N60
- 2S 7,4 V/450 mAh LiPo-Akku
- Flugzeit: ca. 10 Minuten
- Balancer Ladegerät für 2S LiPo Akkus 400 mA
- 2,4 GHz 4-Kanalsender mit LCD-Funktionsanzeige
- Seiten-/Höhenruder mit zwei 2,2 g-Servos

Preis: 119,95 Euro

<http://www.rc-fabrik.de/Smart-Spy-Flieger-mit-Videokamera-4GB-RTF-Mode-2-840mm>

4522/12

JASON on "Compressive Sensing" for DoD Sensors

(fas) The latest report from the elite JASON science advisory panel is devoted to the subject of "compressive sensing." This term generally refers to the use of sensors for imaging (or other sensing) of an object in a manner that uses a limited subset of the available data in order to improve efficiency or conserve resources.

"Compressive sensing involves intentionally under-sampling an object or image, typically in a random manner, and then using a companion process known as sparse reconstruction to recover the complete object or image information...," the JASON report says. (b)

- (a) http://www.fas.org/blog/secretcy/2012/12/compressive_sensing.html
(b) The Report: <http://www.fas.org/irp/agency/dod/jason/compress.pdf>



INTEL HISTORY

4523/12

----- **Making Intelligence Relevant for the Missions of the 21st Century** -----

(smallwarsjournal) The international challenges which threaten the security of the United States and our partners in the 21st century are not primarily posed by conventional military forces. Despite the "pivot" toward a conventional peer competitor in Asia, the predominant source of conflict in the 21st century has been and will continue to be driven by events in fragile or failing states. Of the 27 active conflicts in the world today, only one is a traditional interstate war. (b) Due to the forces of globalization, strife and conflict in these regions now can directly impact the security of citizens within our borders. Unaddressed conflict in these regions gives rise to organized crime networks which engage in trafficking of weapons, drugs, people and WMD components. Ethnic violence results in civil wars which often lead to humanitarian catastrophes and refugee migrations. Ungoverned space may result in terrorist sanctuaries and the spread of radical ideologies and beliefs. The most likely deployment mission will not be to engage against a traditional state's military, but to engage in an unconventional conflict against non-state foes that use asymmetric tactics.

International security organizations and individual nations have various terms and definitions to address the range of possible operations to address security problems in fragile or failing states: Peace Operations, Peace Support Operations or Stability Operations are commonly used terms. The U.S Department of Defense (DOD) describes Stability Operations as: Military missions, tasks, and activities conducted outside the United States in coordination with other instruments of national power to maintain or reestablish a safe and secure environment, provide essential governmental services, emergency infrastructure reconstruction and humanitarian relief (Department of Defense Instruction 3000.05, "Stability Operations," September 16, 2009, para. 3). Most often, regional security organizations, such as NATO or the African Union, empowered by the legitimacy of a UN Security Council mandate, form the headquarters or nucleus for ad hoc "coalitions of the willing" to carry out these missions. ISAF in Afghanistan, the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the NATO-led coalition operations in Libya are recent examples of this model. Due to the nature of the missions the military, while a major actor, is only one member of a wider interagency, comprehensive, "whole of

government" team assembled to address security, governance, humanitarian and economic developmental needs.

- (a) <http://smallwarsjournal.com/jrnl/art/making-intelligence-relevant-for-the-missions-of-the-21st-century>
- (b) http://www.pcr.uu.se/research/ucdp/datasets/ucdp_prio_armed_conflict_dataset/



(Hat tip to Lukas HEGI for this info!)

4524/12

Plane terrorist loses freedom bid

(belfasttelegraph) A convicted terrorist who has served 26 years in prison for trying to blow up an Israeli airliner has lost his latest High Court bid for parole.

Lawyers for Nezar Hindawi, 57, argued that he no longer poses a security threat anywhere in the world and could safely be released on licence.

Mr Justice Blake, sitting in London, expressed concerns about the case, but he ruled that a Parole Board decision that the Jordanian citizen of Palestinian origin must remain behind bars was both "rational and lawful on the information before it".

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/world-news/plane-terrorist-loses-freedom-bid-16251601.html#ixzz2FOWA3lWU>

4525/12

Der mysteriöse Todesfall Gareth Williams

	<p>(focus) MI6-Spion tot in Sporttasche - War es ein Fetischspiel?</p> <p>Eingepackt in einer Sporttasche fand man die Leiche von MI6-Spion Gareth Williams. Wurde der Spion getötet oder hat er sich selbst in die Tasche gesperrt? Neue Ermittlungen zeigen, dass ihn Klaustrophobie angetrieben hatte.</p> <p>Es ist ein Todesfall, der die Ermittler seit Jahren nicht zur Ruhe kommen lässt. Im August 2010 wurde der 31-jährige Kodierungs-Spezialist des britischen Geheimdienstes MI6 tot in seiner Wohnung in London</p>
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aufgefunden. Die Leiche war nackt und in eine Sporttasche eingepackt. Ermittler fragen sich bis heute: Konnte sich der Spion selbst in eine Tasche schließen oder wurde er umgebracht?

Jahrelang waren sich die Ermittler sicher, dass sich Williams nicht selbst in die Tasche legen konnte. Grund dafür war, dass die Tasche mit der Leiche zusätzlich mit einem Vorhängeschloss versperrt war. Im Zuge der Untersuchungen gelang es zwei Experten in 400 Versuchen nicht, sich selbst in eine Tasche zu sperren und sie zu verschließen. Der „Daily Telegraph“

berichtet jetzt, dass es einem pensionierten Army-Sergeant gelang, in die Tasche zu steigen und sie von innen zu verriegeln.

Er filmte sich selbst nackt mit Lederstiefeln

Die zuständige Gerichtsmedizinerin Fiona Wilcox sagte dieses Jahr, sie könne nicht ausschließen, dass Geheimdienste in den Todesfall verwickelt waren, schreibt die Zeitung. Daraufhin nahm die britische Polizei den Fall wieder auf. Sieben Monate lang befragte die Polizei MI6-Kollegen und nahm DNA-Proben. Doch die Polizei fand keine Hinweise, die auf einen Mord hindeuten könnten.

- (a) http://www.focus.de/panorama/welt/der-mysterioese-todesfall-gareth-williams-mi6-spion-stirbt-an-lusttod-in-sporttasche_aid_888853.html
- (b) Bizarrer Todesfall Spion sperrte sich wohl aus Lust in Tasche: <http://www.blick.ch/news/ausland/spion-sperrte-sich-wohl-aus-lust-in-tasche-id2151644.html>

4526/12

President, Defense Leaders Praise Schwarzkopf's Service, Legacy

(DOD) President Barack Obama, Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta and Joint Chiefs Chairman Army Gen, Martin E. Dempsey praised the service and legacy of retired Army Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf, who passed away yesterday at age 78.

Schwarzkopf was a Vietnam veteran and one of the architects of the western flanking movement that helped to defeat the Iraqi army during the Gulf War in early 1991. As the commander of U.S. Central Command, Schwarzkopf led the international coalition assembled by then-President George H.W. Bush that expelled Iraqi troops who had invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

The four-star general and West Point graduate retired in August 1991 after 35 years of Army service. Schwarzkopf died in Tampa, Fla., of complications from pneumonia, according to press reports.

Obama saluted Schwarzkopf's service in a statement issued yesterday.

<http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=118883>



HOT DOCS ONLINE

4527/12

Congress Permits Reclassification of Restricted Data

(fas) Certain nuclear weapons-related information that has been removed from the category of Restricted Data (RD) and designated as Formerly Restricted Data (FRD) can now be restored to the RD category, under a

provision approved by Congress (b) in the FY 2013 national defense authorization act.

Until now, the removal of information from the Restricted Data category was irreversible, being prohibited by the Atomic Energy Act. That prohibition is nullified by the new legislation.

The authority to reclassify FRD as RD was requested by the Department of Energy last year.

- (a) http://www.fas.org/blog/secretcy/2012/12/rd_reclass.html
- (b) <http://www.fas.org/sgp/congress/2012/rd-reclass.html>

4528/12 -----

Offshoring, Chemical Weapons, and More from CRS

(fas) New and updated reports from the Congressional Research Service that Congress has not made available to the public include the following.

Offshoring (or Offshore Outsourcing) and Job Loss Among U.S. Workers, December 17, 2012 (b)

Chemical Weapons: A Summary Report of Characteristics and Effects, December 13, 2012 (c)

Party Leaders in the United States Congress, 1789-2012, December 18, 2012 (d)

U.S. Wind Turbine Manufacturing: Federal Support for an Emerging Industry, December 18, 2012 (e)

Survivor Benefits for Families of Civilian Federal Employees and Retirees, December 18, 2012 (f)

The Federal Communications Commission: Current Structure and Its Role in the Changing Telecommunications Landscape, December 18, 2012 (g)

- (a) <http://www.fas.org/blog/secretcy/2012/12/offshoring.html>
- (b) <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL32292.pdf>
- (c) <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/nuke/R42862.pdf>
- (d) <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL30567.pdf>
- (e) <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R42023.pdf>
- (f) <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RS21029.pdf>
- (g) <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL32589.pdf>

4529/12 -----

Rising Economic Powers, and More from CRS

(fas) New and updated reports from the Congressional Research Service that Congress has directed CRS not to release to the public include the following.

Rising Economic Powers and U.S. Trade Policy, December 3, 2012 (b)

Unauthorized Aliens Residing in the United States: Estimates Since 1986, December 13, 2012 (c)

DOD Alternative Fuels: Policy, Initiatives and Legislative Activity, December 14, 2012 (d)

Federal Land Ownership: Current Acquisition and Disposal Authorities, December 13, 2012 (e)

The Controlled Substances Act: Regulatory Requirements, December 13, 2012 (f)

- (a) http://www.fas.org/blog/secretcy/2012/12/rising_powers.html
- (b) <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R42864.pdf>
- (c) <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL33874.pdf>
- (d) <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/natsec/R42859.pdf>
- (e) <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL34273.pdf>
- (f) <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL34635.pdf>

4530/12

Imagery Declassification Preparations Continue

(fas) Intelligence community officials have been meeting with representatives of the National Archives to discuss the anticipated declassification and release of intelligence imagery from the KH-9 satellite dating between 1971 and 1984.

Officials have been negotiating the transfer of the original negatives from the KH-9 system and the provision of finding aids, according to a newly released but heavily redacted report (b) from the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency, dated June 2012.

Multiple releases of declassified imagery are planned over the coming year "with final delivery of imagery scheduled for September 2013." See "Intelligence Imagery Set to be Disclosed in 2013," Secrecy News, October 22, 2012. (c)

- (a) http://www.fas.org/blog/secretcy/2012/12/nga_nara_declass.html
- (b) <http://www.fas.org/irp/agency/nga/imagery-declass.pdf>
- (c) http://www.fas.org/blog/secretcy/2012/10/hexagon_imagery.html

4531/12

Intellectual Property Rights Violations + Remedies, and More from CRS

(fas) New and updated reports from the Congressional Research Service that Congress has not made available to the public include the following.

Intellectual Property Rights Violations: Federal Civil Remedies and Criminal Penalties Related to Copyrights, Trademarks, and Patents, December 13, 2012 (b)

The President's State of the Union Address: Tradition, Function, and Policy Implications, December 17, 2012 (c)

The Sustainability of the Federal Budget Deficit: Market Confidence and Economic Effects, December 14, 2012 (d)

Organized Retail Crime, December 11, 2012 (e)

Trade Adjustment Assistance for Workers, December 17, 2012 (f)

Immigration of Temporary Lower-Skilled Workers: Current Policy and Related Issues, December 13, 2012 (g)

Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006: Background and Performance, December 5, 2012 (h)

Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006: Implementation Issues, December 14, 2012 (i)

Presidential Transition Act: Provisions and Funding, December 17, 2012 (j)

Title IX, Sex Discrimination, and Intercollegiate Athletics: A Legal Overview, December 7, 2012 (k)

Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR) Status for Russia and U.S.-Russian Economic Ties, December 17, 2012 (l)

Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies: FY2013 Appropriations, December 14, 2012 (m)

- (a) http://www.fas.org/blog/secretcy/2012/12/ip_rights_violations.html
- (b) <http://www.fas.org/spp/crs/misc/RL34109.pdf>
- (c) <http://www.fas.org/spp/crs/misc/R40132.pdf>
- (d) <http://www.fas.org/spp/crs/misc/R41118.pdf>
- (e) <http://www.fas.org/spp/crs/misc/R42012.pdf>
- (f) <http://www.fas.org/spp/crs/homsec/R42434.pdf>
- (g) <http://www.fas.org/spp/crs/misc/R42863.pdf>
- (h) <http://www.fas.org/spp/crs/misc/R42858.pdf>
- (i) <http://www.fas.org/spp/crs/misc/RS22979.pdf>
- (j) <http://www.fas.org/spp/crs/misc/RL31709.pdf>
- (k) <http://www.fas.org/spp/crs/row/RS21123.pdf>
- (l) <http://www.fas.org/spp/crs/natsec/R42586.pdf>

4532/12

"Crimes Reports" and the Leak Referral Process

(fas) "Crimes reports" are official notifications that are sent by U.S. intelligence agencies to the Department of Justice when an unauthorized disclosure of classified information (or another potential federal crime) is believed to have occurred. Crimes reporting is required by statute, by executive order, and by interagency agreement between the Attorney General and the heads of intelligence agencies.

"We file crimes reports every week," said George J. Tenet in a discussion of leaks during his 1997 confirmation hearing (b) to be Director of Central Intelligence.

"Say again?" said Sen. Robert Kerrey, who may have been unfamiliar with the term used by Mr. Tenet.

- (a) http://www.fas.org/blog/secretcy/2012/12/crimes_reports.html
- (b) http://www.fas.org/irp/congress/1997_hr/tenet.pdf

Gun Control Legislation, and More from CRS

(fas) The broad spectrum of policies relating to gun control is surveyed in a sadly timely, updated report from the Congressional Research Service, which also provides statistics on the prevalence and use of firearms in the United States. See Gun Control Legislation, November 14, 2012. (b)

Other new and updated CRS reports that Congress has not made available to the public include the following.

Judicial Activity Concerning Enemy Combatant Detainees: Major Court Rulings, December 11, 2012 (c)

Women in Combat: Issues for Congress, December 13, 2012 (d)

Intelligence Identities Protection Act, December 13, 2012 (e)

Maritime Territorial and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) Disputes Involving China: Issues for Congress, December 10, 2012 (f)

Outside Employment, "Moonlighting," by Federal Executive Branch Employees, December 12, 2012 (g)

Follow-On Biologics: The Law and Intellectual Property Issues, December 6, 2012 (h)

Nuclear Energy: Overview of Congressional Issues, December 11, 2012 (i)

Fatherhood Initiatives: Connecting Fathers to Their Children, December 7, 2012 (j)

Emergency Assistance for Agricultural Land Rehabilitation, December 11, 2012 (k)

Bee Health: The Role of Pesticides, December 11, 2012 (l)

- (a) http://www.fas.org/blog/secretcy/2012/12/gun_control_crs.html
- (b) <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL32842.pdf>
- (c) <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/natsec/R41156.pdf>
- (d) <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/natsec/R42075.pdf>
- (e) <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/intel/RS21636.pdf>
- (f) <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R42784.pdf>
- (g) <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R42857.pdf>
- (h) <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R41483.pdf>
- (i) <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R42853.pdf>
- (j) <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL31025.pdf>
- (k) <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R42854.pdf>
- (l) <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R42855.pdf>

INTELLIGENCE STUDIES IN GREECE: A light at the end of the tunnel?

(rieas) Academic intelligence studies are now a firmly -established part of sociology, security studies, political studies, anthropology, international relations, defense studies and history in many universities in the United States, Europe, the Middle East and Asian countries.

Nowadays, intelligence is no longer the sole domain of the state's security apparatus. Research institutes, international organizations, law

enforcement agencies, and private security companies all now deal with the fluidity and complexity of intelligence and security threats.

The increasing development of research in intelligence studies has cultivated widespread awareness of the need to strengthen the collaboration between academia and the intelligence community. Intelligence activities, a crucial part of democratic governance, are also central to state the management and practice in developed societies.

There has been a mushrooming of research institutes and centers for intelligence studies at universities, private interdisciplinary and multi-stakeholder structures aimed at broadening the intelligence debate in countries like Brazil, France, Greece, Australia, the UK, the USA, Israel, the Baltic states and Singapore.

<http://www.rieas.gr/research-areas/editorial/1879-intelligence-studies-in-greece-a-light-at-the-end-of-the-tunnel-.html>



4535/12

Canada and the five eyes intelligence community by James Cox

(opencanada) The January 2012 arrest of Canadian Sub-Lieutenant Jeffery Delisle for supplying Top Secret intelligence to Russia reminded Canadians of Canada's involvement in the Five Eyes intelligence community, the world's most exclusive intelligence sharing club that includes Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States. This paper promotes further understanding of the nature and structure of the Five Eyes intelligence community by reviewing three selected intelligence disciplines—signals intelligence (sigint), national assessment, and defence intelligence.

The Five Eyes intelligence community grew out of twentieth-century British-American intelligence cooperation. While not monolithic; the group is more cohesive than generally known. Rather than being centrally choreographed, the Five Eyes group is more of a cooperative, complex network of linked autonomous intelligence agencies, interacting with an affinity strengthened by a profound sense of confidence in each other and a degree of professional trust so strong as to be unique in the world.

The paper suggests that, given Canadian foreign policy initiatives and evolving strategic security threats, not only must Canada maintain credible and valuable intelligence support to its partners, the Five Eyes intelligence community as a whole must remain integrated, effective and dominant.



(Hat tip to Lukas HEGI
for this info!)

ACIPSS-newsletter-commentary: Zusammen mit den anderen Englisch sprechenden Ländern USA, Grossbritannien, Australien und Neuseeland gehört Kanada zur sogenannten „Five eyes intelligence community“, einer vertraglich geregelten nachrichtendienstlichen Zusammenarbeit dieser fünf Länder. Diese entstand aus amerikanisch-britischen Kooperation während des Zweiten Weltkriegs. Der Autor will mit diesem Papier Wissen über Strukturen und Verfahren vermitteln und plädiert zudem für eine starke Rolle Kanadas innerhalb der Gemeinschaft und für eine Erhaltung des Abkommens insgesamt. (Lukas HEGI)



4536/12

THE MEDIA AND TERRORISM: THE CASE OF GREECE

(rieas) Note: The article was published in "Managing the Consequences of Terrorists Acts - Efficiency and Coordination Challenges, edit by D.Caleta, Paul Shemella. ICS-Ljubljana : 2012. The article is an extension of the presentation of the author in 5th International Regional Conference Counter Terrorism Challenges in the Region of South Eastern Europe, Maribor, (27 - 29 November 2012), Slovenia.

Copyright: ICS-Lujbljana Publishing Company, Slovenia

1. INTRODUCTION

The mass media use the power of communication to influence the public opinion in order to affect political and social affairs. The terrorist use the attacks to attract the public attention. The correlating element between these two actors is the attraction of the public attention. Albeit the absolute distance of strategy and goals a certain degree of interdependence is directly developed between the two; should certain conditions be fulfilled we can talk either about a kind of mutual interdependence or even symbiotic relation. The media decide how they will cover the terrorist attacks (raises or downplays) and the terrorists choose magnitude attacks to gain the media's attention. The evolution of Information Technology (IT) hugely strengthened the capability of media, opening the road for their transformation to the mass media and for the creation of internet and social media. The vital news, incident and terrorists attacks rapidly disseminate to the million populations in the world.

<http://www.rieas.gr/images/maribor12.pdf>



CONFERENCES / LECTURES

4537/12 -----

The online Certificate in Terrorism Studies

(terrorismstudies) Introduction to the terrorism studies distance education course at the University of St. Andrews

If it's part of your responsibility to protect people, infrastructure, organisations or investments, understanding the threat is key - whether this is to governments and homeland security, transport networks, investments, private organisations or to the public. Understanding this threat involves knowing who is involved, how and why they act and their capacity to inflict harm. The Certificate in Terrorism Studies addresses these needs and the course provides the knowledge that is so essential to understanding and ultimately countering terrorism and political violence.

Course Rationale

By knowing who, how and why terrorists plot against civilians, governments, corporations, commercial operations, transport or IT networks makes an unmistakable difference to an organisation's security strategies. For many - including police authorities, close protection operatives, the military, government and private sector bodies - the subject of terrorism is so vast and complex that a quality educational insight is rarely available. This course provides the solution.

In these testing times where terrorists have grown their ability to target the military and civilians, and security risks are at their highest, knowledge of this important subject is ever more important and can help prepare a company or organisation to counteract and protect against the variety of threats posed by today's multi-faceted terrorist organisations.

Download the latest Certificate in Terrorism Studies training course brochure [here](#).

Why Study Terrorism?

This terrorism studies course fills the critical knowledge gap, enabling participants and organisations to prepare to meet the counter terrorism challenges and risks of evolving anti-terrorist techniques and counter the terrorist threat.

Knowing how and why terrorists are radicalised and plot against civilians, governments, corporations, commercial operations, transport or IT networks makes an unmistakable difference to a nation's or organisation's anti terrorist and security strategies. The knowledge you will gain from this unique terrorism course will prove invaluable in countering the ever present threat to security.

Study Part-time Online

The Certificate in Terrorism Studies delivers excellence via globally accessible online e-learning, and can be studied from anywhere - all you need is an internet connection.

The course is recognised as the world leader in terrorism studies and is undertaken by many individuals and groups as part of their terrorism

awareness training or counter terrorism training - mostly following the personal recommendation of previous students.

Successful completion of the Certificate in Terrorism Studies course results in the award of an internationally recognised certificate from the University of St Andrews.

Programme Structure

A core module and three electives are studied for the Certificate. Modules are also available for stand-alone study, or in addition to the Certificate. Available modules:

- Key Issues in International Terrorism
- Terrorist Ideologies, Aims, Beliefs and Motivations
- Terrorist Modus Operandi
- International Policing Policy
- Cyberterrorism
- Critical Infrastructure Protection
- Aviation Terrorism and Security
- Maritime Terrorism and Security
- Radicalisation and De-Radicalisation
- Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Weapons in Terrorism - NEW FOR JANUARY 2013 ENTRY

the full Certificate in Terrorism Studies (four modules): Fees due £1925/\$3080

the relevant start dates are 21st January 2013, 15th May 2013 and 10th September 2013

Applications for enrolment are currently being accepted under:

<https://www.informaglobalevents.com/event/terrorism-studies-distance-learning/booking/form/561>

<http://www.terrorismstudies.com/?xtssot=0>

4538/12

Fotografien aus Stasi-Archiven - Spione in der Endlosschleife



(nzz) Simon Menner enthüllt in seiner Ausstellung in der Zürcher Galerie ABC die Menschen hinter den Spionen - und generiert so irrwitzige Absurdität.

Auch Agenten müssen lernen, wie man Schnäuze korrekt anklebt. Fotografien von solchen Seminaren für Stasi-Spione sind in der Galerie Armin Berger Contemporary in Zürich dieser Tage zu sehen. Der Berliner Künstler Simon

Menner hat sich hierfür in den Archiven der Stasi vergraben und ist in die Welt des Geheimen eingetaucht. Zwei Jahre lang durchforstete er den enormen Bildbestand. Die Fotografien in der Ausstellung sind Repliken der Originale, es ist das erste Mal überhaupt, dass solche Bilder öffentlich zugänglich sind.

Polaroids der Überwachung

Die Fotografien, die zum Vorschein kommen, erinnern den Betrachter eher an eine Maskerade denn an die gutaussehenden Spione, deren Abbild die Unterhaltungsindustrie in unseren Köpfen sät und aufzieht. Und genau in diesem Spalt zwischen unseren Vorstellungen, wie der Stasi-Spion auszusehen hat, und der Realität entsteht schallende Absurdität. Eine Absurdität, die zwar einem Schenkel-Klopfer gleicht, über der aber stets die triste Realität der Bespitzelung im Deutschland und in der Welt des Kalten Krieges schwebt.

http://www.nzz.ch/aktuell/zuerich/zuercher_kultur/fotografien-aus-stasi-archiven-1.17899109

	MEDIA ALERTS
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Media alerts

am Mo, 07.01. um skynostalgie

Spionage

Dauer: 100 min ()

Beschreibung: Wien, 1913: Der österreichische Generalstab ist fieberhaft auf der Suche nach einem Spion mit dem Decknamen "Opernball 13". Oberst Redl und Hauptmann Angelis werden mit der Entlarvung des Spions beauftragt und verdächtigen sich schon bald gegenseitig. - Spannender Agentenfilm vor dem Hintergrund der K.u.K.-Gesellschaft.

http://www.tvinfo.de/fernsehprogramm/sendung/186511445_spionage

Deadline for application: 3 January 2013

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