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The Homeland Security News Briefing

TO: THE SECRETARY AND SENIOR STAFF

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Leading DHS News:**HEARING HIGHLIGHTS PARENTS WHOSE CHILDREN WERE KILLED BY UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS.**

The [Washington Times](#) (4/19, Dinan, 285K) reports House Republicans "used a hearing Tuesday to try to highlight...parents whose children were killed by illegal immigrants who gained a foothold in the US" due to the Administration's immigration policies. Michelle Root, whose daughter Sarah died "this year at the hands of an illegal immigrant who police said was drag racing while drunk, smashed into the young woman's car and left her brain-dead," said a local judge set his bail at "less than the amount it cost to bury my baby." The Times adds that "federal immigration authorities refused to come pick him up, allowing him to escape into the shadows." Frederick County, Maryland Sheriff Charles A. Jenkins, whose department was found to have "engaged in racial profiling," said "illegal immigrant children streaming across the U.S.-Mexico border have become a breeding pool for criminal gangs," and cited "a long list of crimes including attempted murder, kidnapping, home invasion and carjacking."

The [Des Moines \(IA\) Register](#) (4/19, Bolten, 320K) reports ICE says "that even with the detainer, Mejia would have been eligible for a bond hearing before an immigration judge, 'because he had no criminal conviction' and wasn't subject to mandatory detention under federal immigration laws." Rep. John Ratcliffe told Root that her story prompted him to call ICE director Sarah Saldana and request an immigration detainer for an undocumented immigrant involved in a fatal car crash. Ratcliffe said,

"Because of the attention Sarah's story has brought to this issue...I'm happy to report that ICE did intervene."

The [Frederick \(MD\) News-Post](#) (4/19, Morris, 77K) reports Jenkins "recommended that more communities follow the Frederick County model of close coordination with Immigration and Customs Enforcement." However, Bishop Minerva Carcaño of the United Methodist Church's California-Pacific Conference said, "Community members become reluctant to report a crime that they witness, or are victim to, because they fear police officers will inquire about the immigration status of themselves or their friends, neighbors or family members."

[Courthouse News](#) (4/19, Ryan, 7K) reports Laura Wilkerson, whose son, Josh, was killed by "a person who had allegedly overstayed his visa for eight years and who ICE reportedly declined to take hold of," also testified. She rejected the argument that tough enforcement makes immigrants reluctant to go to police, saying, "I could care less about" their fear. Committee members "regularly referenced Root and Wilkerson's testimony" but "asked them relatively few questions," instead focusing on Bishop Carcano. The "strongest point" in GOP criticism of Administration immigration policy came when Rep. Lamar Smith (R) said, "All this makes me wonder if President Obama might be an accessory to the crimes committed by illegal immigrants, since he intentionally undertook policies that he knows are going to result in the murder and loss of life and injury to innocent Americans."

SENATE APPROVES AVIATION POLICY BILL. In a 95-3 vote Tuesday, the Senate approved a "bipartisan aviation policy bill" that would "boost airport security, extend new protections to airline passengers and help speed the introduction of package-delivery drones," the [AP](#) (4/19, Lowy) reports. The bill, which would also extend the FAA's authority through Oct. 1, 2017, must still pass the House, where its progress has been impeded over a disagreement on whether to privatize the nation's air traffic control system. The bill would require the Transportation Security Administration "to use private companies to market and enroll more people in its PreCheck program while ensuring PreCheck screening lanes are open during high-volume travel times."

[Reuters](#) (4/19, Morgan) says the Senate measure includes a range of travel security provisions, including an increase in the number of transportation security teams with bomb-sniffing dogs at US airports, more stringent vetting of airport employees, and greater security at check-in and baggage claim areas. However, [USA Today](#) (4/19, Jansen, 5.45M) reports, "The White House had concerns about safety and security provisions," saying that requiring the TSA to serve small airports would result in staff being shifted from high-risk airports.

LEGISLATORS WRITE TO SECRET SERVICE ABOUT STAFFING SHORTAGE. The [Washington Examiner](#) (4/20, Gehrke, 124K) reports House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chairman Jason Chaffetz and ranking Democrat Elijah Cummings wrote a letter to Secret Service Director Joseph Clancy saying that the Secret Service "simply cannot hire enough personnel to keep pace with historic attrition rates" and encouraging the agency "to explore innovative ways to fill this staffing gap-such as detailing qualified law enforcement officials or [administrative, professional, and technical] employees from other agencies-in the short-term while continuing its long-term efforts to develop a zero-based budget and increase hiring and retention."

[The Hill](#) (4/19, Savransky, 862K) reports in its "Blog Briefing Room" blog that the lawmakers said that "Nearly every USSS employee who spoke with the [inspector general] said they had serious concerns regarding UD staffing shortages."

REPORT ON 2014 FENCE-JUMPING INCIDENT FINDS PROBLEMS WITH WHITE HOUSE SECURITY. The [CBS Evening News](#) (4/19, story 4, 2:10, Pelley, 11.17M) reported that a new report released on Tuesday, sparked by "a federal investigation in how a fence jumper got into the White House with a knife in 2014," found that "the officers who protect the White House from attack are severely understaffed, inadequately funded, and plagued by fatigue and low morale." CBS (Pegues) added that "by the time Omar Gonzalez was captured on cell phone video, he had already scaled a seven-foot six-inch fence and compromised White House security," and "according to the 70-page report by the Department of Homeland Security's inspector general, there were a series of failures," including "radios

carried by secret service personnel” that “didn’t work properly,” an alarm system inside the command center that “was set too low and was not heard,” and an alarm system inside the White House that “had been muted, a revelation personnel quoted in the report called ‘shocking.’”

On its website, [CBS News](#) (4/19, Shabad, 3.97M) reports that while Congress allocated more overall funding to the Secret Service in the last two years than the agency requested, “the report explains that it often has to direct funding intended for unexpected events or trips rather than making upgrades to their equipment.” Meanwhile, as of 2015, the Uniformed Division of officers for the White House was “short 159 officers.” In a statement, the Secret Service said it concurred with all of the report’s recommendations, saying in a statement, “We are confident that the actions we have taken and will take will continually enhance our organization and operations.”

SUPREME COURT IMMIGRATION DECISION COULD AFFECT HOW FEDERAL AGENCIES WORK.

The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (4/19, Gass, 442K) says the Supreme Court’s decision in *United States v. Texas*, in which states are suing over executive orders to provide relief to undocumented immigrants “by making them low priorities for deportation and giving them access to renewable work permits,” could “dramatically redefine how federal agencies enforce US law.” If the court gives the states standing, it could open agencies “to endless lawsuits from the states.” Additionally, a decision on the merits for the states “could force agencies to go through notice-and-comment more often, fundamentally limiting how much an agency can get done.” In contrast, siding with DHS “could enable federal agencies to enact sweeping new regulations without much public or judicial oversight.”

NEWSPAPER ARGUES BORDER ISN’T SECURE, DESPITE ADMINISTRATION CLAIMS. In an editorial, the [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#) (4/20, 333K) criticizes “the repeated deception by the Obama administration about border ‘security,’” citing Homeland Security Deputy Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas’ statement that the US border with Mexico “is more secure now than it has been in many, many years.” The Tribune-Review argues “the flood of illegals overshadow that claim” and that “‘Arab extremists’ are entering the United States through Mexico.” The Tribune-Review calls for Americans to “replace the mindset that enables” such a “pretense of security.”

Immigration and Customs Enforcement:

ILLINOIS MAN CHARGED WITH SELLING COUNTERFEIT GOODS. The [Chicago Sun-Times](#) (4/19, Gattuso, 764K) reports Felipe Aparicio-Nolasco was charged with selling counterfeit goods. He was caught during an investigation by Department of Homeland Security agents and local law enforcement that began in February. A search of Aparicio-Nolasco’s home found about 1,000 counterfeit items.

DRUG TUNNEL FOUND LINKING OTAY MESA WITH TIJUANA. The [San Diego Union-Tribune](#) (4/19, Winkley, 534K) reports authorities discovered a cross-border drug tunnel in Otay Mesa, California. The [Imperial Beach \(CA\) Patch](#) (4/19, 427) reports details on the new tunnel will be released during a Wednesday morning news conference with supervising agents with US Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

Customs and Border Protection:

WOMAN ARRESTED AT ATLANTA AIRPORT AFTER 14 POUNDS OF COCAINE DISCOVERED. The [AP](#) (4/19) reports US Customs and Border Protection arrested a US citizen who arrived at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport after they found “more than 14 pounds of cocaine concealed in purses, jackets and llama skins” in her baggage. The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (4/19, 1.1M) identifies the woman as Laura A. Guizado.

CBP SEIZES MORE THAN \$7.8 MILLION WORTH OF DRUGS IN FOUR BUSTS. [KSAT-TV](#) San Antonio (4/19, Brooks, 77K) reports on its website US Customs and Border Protection officers made four recent busts near the Laredo Port of Entry, seizing more than \$7.8 million worth of hard narcotics. Laredo Port of Entry Port Director Gregory Alvarez said, “These multiple seizures totaling nearly \$8 million in hard narcotics truly exemplify our CBP officers’ hard work, experience and dedication to the CBP

mission.”

BORDER PATROL AGENT FIRES WEAPON AS POT SMUGGLERS CAUGHT. The [Tucson \(AZ\) Sentinel](#) (4/20, Smith, 1K) reports Agents from the Border Patrol “station in Casa Grande were tracking a group of suspected smugglers near the village of Cowlic,” Arizona, and when they approached the group they were “assaulted with rocks,” according to a statement from US Customs and Border Protection. A Border Patrol agent fired his weapon, but no injuries were reported. “The assailant and one other suspect are in custody and multiple bundles of marijuana were seized,” the statement said.

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF BORDER PATROL AGENT’S FATAL CRASH. In continuing coverage, the [Houston Chronicle](#) (4/19, 1.99M) reports Border Patrol agent Jose Daniel Barraza died when he “crashed his truck into the back of a tractor-trailer rig.” His law enforcement dog, named Vino, was in the agency vehicle but not injured.

Transportation Security Administration:

TSA REBUTS EDITORIAL ON SCREENING AIRPORT EMPLOYEE SCREENING. Transportation Security Administration spokesperson Michael McCarthy, in a letter to the editor of the [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#) (4/20, 333K), criticizes the paper’s editorial “More TSA insecurity: A gaping hole” as being based on “flawed information.” Airport employees “with a need to access secure areas are screened.” As for the others, the Aviation Security Advisory Council “concluded that 100 percent physical employee screening would not eliminate potential risks but would instead divert valuable resources from critical security functions.” McCarthy concludes, “The assertion that there were airport employees who were known or suspected terrorists is patently false,” as TSA Administrator Peter Neffenger testified before Congress.

Federal Emergency Management Agency:

FLOOD RESCUE OPERATION CONTINUES IN HOUSTON. Today’s news cycle features additional major media outlet coverage of an ongoing flood rescue operation in Houston. [NBC Nightly News](#) (4/19, lead story, 2:20, Holt, 16.61M), for example, broadcast that dozens “more had to be rescued and evacuated” from flood waters on Tuesday. Such waters, however, have claimed the lives of at least six people in Houston. The NBC report added that many Houston residents face a long flood cleanup challenge.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (4/19, story 4, 1:55, Stephanopoulos, 14.63M) broadcast that “have been hundreds of rescues across dozens” of Houston neighborhoods. Flooding in the city has also damaged more than 1,000 homes.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (4/19, story 8, 2:05, Pelley, 11.17M) broadcast that boats were sent out on Tuesday to rescue more flood-stranded Houston residents. Those who died in Houston flood waters, added CBS, were trapped “in their own vehicles.” Similar coverage of this story can be found in articles run by [Reuters](#) (4/19), the [NPR](#) (4/19, Domonoske, 1.81M) website, [USA Today](#) (4/19, Rice, 5.45M), and the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/19, Frosch, Subscription Publication, 6.74M).

MISSISSIPPI GOVERNOR’S DISASTER ASSISTANCE REQUEST APPROVED. The [Hattiesburg \(MS\) American](#) (4/19, 33K) reports FEMA officials have approved Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant’s “request for 26 counties to become eligible for all categories of public assistance.” Sixteen counties in the state were previously “approved for Individual assistance grants to residents for recovery from severe storms and flooding that began March 9.” [WJTV-TV](#) Jackson, MS (4/19, Aldridge, 162K) publishes a similar online report.

US Citizenship and Immigration Services:

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF ACCUSATIONS VERMONT DEVELOPER MISUSED MONEY RAISED

THROUGH EB-5 VISA PROGRAM. In continuing coverage, the [AP](#) (4/20, Rathke) reports the accusation that Ariel Quiros, the owner of Jay Peak ski resort in Vermont, and Bill Stenger of Newport, the resort's president, "misused more than \$200 million of about \$400 million raised from foreign investors 'in Ponzi-like fashion' has brought some of the development to a halt and left state officials, who enthusiastically promoted the projects, feeling betrayed." According to court filings, "the pair misused money raised through the EB-5 visa program."

Immigration:

MISSISSIPPI IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT BILL DIES. The [AP](#) (4/19) reports a Mississippi bill "reinforcing that local law enforcement officials must follow federal immigration laws has died" in the state legislature because "a joint House-Senate committee did not negotiate and file a final version before Monday night's deadline." Under the bill, police would have "to alert federal agencies when they think someone convicted of violating state or local laws is in the country illegally," and it authorizes officers "to make arrests if they have probable cause and transfer detainees to federal custody."

NEWSPAPER BLAMES IMMIGRATION PROBLEMS ON CONGRESSIONAL INACTION. In an editorial, the [Detroit Free Press](#) (4/19, 989K) writes the oral arguments in the immigration suit before the Supreme Court "highlight the unsustainable chaos into which more than a decade of congressional inaction has plunged U.S. immigration policy." The Free Press criticizes the "congressional dereliction that created this crisis" and calls the President's executive action "an effort to rationalize enforcement priorities immigration functionaries would otherwise be forced to make up as they go along in the absence of clear legislative direction." The Free Press concludes that without congressional action, millions of American children "will continue to live in perpetual terror of abrupt separation from their parents," the GOP's "cruel legacy."

Secret Service:

DC CHARGES MAN IN DEATH OF SECRET SERVICE OFFICER. The [AP](#) (4/19) reports the District of Columbia charged Charles Sims with first-degree murder in the death of Arthur Baldwin, a uniformed officer with the Foreign Missions Branch of the Secret Service who was "suspended from duty in April 2015 after he was charged with trying to break into his girlfriend's house while armed."

National Protection and Programs:

FEDERAL BUILDING IN CALIFORNIA EVACUATED. The [Orange County \(CA\) Register](#) (4/19, Duranty, 591K) reports the Chet Holifield Federal Building in Laguna Niguel, California, which houses Department of Homeland Security offices as well as other agencies, was evacuated when "a suspicious package arrived in the mail."

Office of Health Affairs:

REPORT WARNS R&D CUTS COULD LEAVE US VULNERABLE TO DISEASE. [CNN](#) (4/19, Storrs, To, 3.96M) writes a report on health research by the Global Health Technologies Coalition "stated that the cuts to Ebola funding in 2012 is a 'stark example' of how failure to invest can backfire." Research suggests \$4.5 billion in regular annual spending is needed to protect against disease outbreaks, compared to more than \$60 billion a year to deal with pandemics. However, "the lesson seems to have been missed." While there was an increase in US investment in research and development between 2013 and 2014, it only went to Ebola; spending on other diseases continued the "downward trend that began in 2009." Furthermore, money intended for Ebola is now being diverted to Zika research. The spending decline comes despite a report that found every dollar government invested in the National Institutes of Health produces "a return of more than \$2 in goods and services in addition to the creation of new jobs." The report also asks Congress to define the roles of the various agencies involved in global health R&D so they can work together more efficiently.

Terrorism Investigations:

COURT “EXTREMELY CONCERNED” FBI, NSA VIOLATED LIMITS ON SURVEILLANCE

ACTIVITIES. [Politico](#) (4/19, Gerstein, 1.07M) reported in its “Under The Radar” blog that a just-released opinion from Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court Judge Thomas Hogan “sharply criticized” the FBI and NSA about “a series of incidents” in which the agencies “deviated from court-approved limits on their snooping activities.” Hogan said he was “extremely concerned” about the incidents and “raised concerns that the government had taken years to bring the NSA-related issues to the court’s attention.” The NSA’s issues “appeared to involve preserving surveillance data in its systems beyond the two or five years after which it was supposed to be deleted,” while the FBI’s “troubles involved failing to use the required procedures when conducting surveillance of suspects overseas who are facing criminal charges in US courts.”

Meanwhile, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (4/19, Wilber, 4.1M) reports attorney Amy Jeffress, who was “assigned to represent Americans’ privacy interests before the nation’s top-secret spy court failed to convince” Hogan “to block FBI agents from searching intelligence databases to hunt for evidence of traditional crimes rather than restricting them to national security probes, according to a newly declassified court opinion.” In the Nov. 6 opinion, Hogan “reauthorized a long-standing government spying effort known as the ‘702 program,’” and “ruled that the nation’s spy agencies and the FBI were following proper procedures in how they selected targets for surveillance, gathered intelligence data and later mined it.”

The [New York Times](#) (4/19, Savage, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) says Hogan “has rejected a legal challenge to rules permitting FBI agents, when working on domestic criminal cases, to search emails written by Americans that the government has intercepted without a warrant in the name of gathering foreign intelligence.” Hogan “ruled that what critics call ‘backdoor searches’ of messages by the FBI comply with both the Constitution and the FISA Amendments Act.”

MCCONNELL STILL CONSIDERING SAUDI LAWSUIT BILL. [Reuters](#) (4/19) reports Senate Majority Leader McConnell told reporters Tuesday he is “still looking at” a measure to allow US citizens to sue the government of Saudi Arabia over the 9/11 attacks, and had not set a date to begin debate on the measure.

Meanwhile, Sen. Lindsey Graham, who is a co-sponsor of the bill, has nonetheless placed a hold on it “over concerns that new changes could expose the US to legal attacks,” [The Hill](#) (4/19, Hattem, 862K) reported. Graham told reporters that “edits made last week by Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.) might expand the scope...potentially putting the US at risk of legal retaliation because of actions by individuals or unsavory allies.” However, a [New York Times](#) (4/19, Mazzetti, Steinhauer, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) report says the bill “appeared to gain momentum on Tuesday” when Graham said in an interview “he would drop his opposition...if the sponsors of the legislation agreed to changes that he believed were important to protect American interests abroad.”

Also Tuesday, [The Hill](#) (4/19, Carney, 862K) reported in its “Floor Action” blog, Senate Minority Leader Reid told reporters, “I think we should move forward on this legislation. I hope we can.” Reid’s comments “come amid fierce pushback against the bill from the White House.” The President told “CBS This Morning” the legislation “would open up the United States to lawsuits by individuals from other countries,” and White House press secretary Josh Earnest “hinted this week that the president would veto the bill if it reached his desk.” Nonetheless, Reid “said the legislation has broad support among Senate Democrats.” The President’s opposition to the bill also drew fire from its sponsor, Sen. John Cornyn, the [Washington Times](#) (4/19, Boyer, 285K) reports. Cornyn, who authored the legislation with Sen. Charles Schumer, took issue with the White House’s argument in a veto threat that “the measure would endanger US diplomats and military personnel by putting them in legal jeopardy for their actions in other countries.” Cornyn “said that’s not true,” adding that the Administration “has worked to undercut progress on this legislation at every turn.” Cornyn argued “In light of his upcoming trip this week, it appears that the Obama administration is pulling out all the stops to keep this bill from moving forward before the president’s visit to Riyadh.”

The [AP](#) (4/19, Taylor, Lardner) reports families of the 9/11 attack victims also say they are “greatly distressed” by Administration efforts to derail the bill. In a letter to the President, more than dozen relatives of 9/11 victims wrote, “Your place in history should not be marked by a campaign to foreclose the judicial process as a venue in which the truth can be found.”

TRUMP PREDICTS CLASSIFIED 9/11 PAPERS CONTAIN “VERY REVEALING THINGS.” The [Washington Times](#) (4/19, Sherfinski, 285K) reports Donald Trump on Tuesday predicted a “classified portion of the 9/11 Commission’s report” contains some “very revealing things,” and should have been released “a long time ago.” Trump told Fox News, “I think we should have seen it a long time ago. ... I think I know what it’s going to say. It’s going to be very profound having to do with Saudi Arabia and Saudi Arabia’s role on the World Trade Center [in] the attack, and that’s very serious stuff.” Trump added, “I think they’re finally going to be, at least in some form, released. ... It’s sort of nice to know who your friends are, and perhaps who your enemies are, but you’re going to see some very revealing things in those papers, and I look forward to reading [them].”

SWEDISH DEPUTY PM CALLS 9/11 ATTACKS “ACCIDENTS.” The [Washington Times](#) (4/19, Chasmar, 285K) reports Swedish Deputy Prime Minister Asa Romson’s reference to the 9/11 attacks as “accidents” during a discussion of the resignation of housing minister Mehmet Kaplan is drawing fire. Speaking on public television Tuesday, Romson said “[Kaplan] has been chairman of Young Muslims in tough situations like the September 11th accidents.” She “later clarified her comments in an email sent to The Local,” noting, “Let there be no doubt: the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City on September 11th 2001 were one of the most vile acts of terror and disastrous violations of the open, free and democratic society in modern history. ... The tragedy for the world and the families of the almost 3,000 human beings who perished as a result of the attack cannot be overstated.”

FORMER GITMO DETAINEE TO WED RIGHTS ACTIVIST. The [Huffington Post \(CAN\)](#) (4/19, Lum, 58K) reported that “former Guantanamo inmate Omar Khadr” is engaged “to human rights activist Muna Abougoush, according to CTV News.” Abougoush “played a key role in rallying a network of supporters to advocate for Khadr’s freedom.”

Cyber News:

FBI DEFENDS USE OF OUTSIDE HACKERS TO CRACK ENCRYPTED DEVICES. Several major print and online sources continue coverage of the ongoing debate between Apple and the FBI over encryption. Tuesday brought multiple developments, including testimony by top FBI and Apple officials at a hearing of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Sources highlight FBI Assistant Director Amy Hess’ response to questions surrounding the bureau’s use of outside experts to unlock an iPhone linked to the San Bernardino attack.

The [New York Times](#) (4/19, Lichtblau, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports the FBI “defended its hiring of a third-party company to break into an iPhone used by a gunman in last year’s San Bernardino, Calif., mass shooting,” arguing the agency needed to work with “for-profit hackers as technology companies increasingly resist their demands for consumer information.” FBI Assistant Director for Science and Technology Amy Hess “did not provide details on how the FBI ultimately gained access to the iPhone but said the agency has come to rely on private-sector partners to keep up with changes in technology.” According to Hess, the FBI requires the “services of specialized skills we can only get through third parties.” Paraphrasing Hess, [USA Today](#) (4/19, Kelly, 5.45M) says the FBI “cannot unlock 13% of the password-protected cellphones it has seized as evidence in the past six months.” According to the newspaper, “about 30% of the phones that the FBI has seized since Oct. 1 require passwords to open.” While the FBI “was able to unlock most of those phones,” the “number that they can’t get into is growing as tech companies build devices with stronger data encryption.”

The [AP](#) (4/19, Tucker) reports Hess as saying the reliance on an outside entity represented just “one potential solution,” adding that there is no “one-size-fits-all” approach for recovering evidence. In response to a question from Rep. Diana DeGette asking if the government could develop its own methods to hack encrypted devices, [Yahoo! News](#) (4/19, Bereznak, 6.31M) reports, Hess responded that

she did not see that as possible. "I think that we really need the cooperation of industry, we need the cooperation of academia, we need the cooperation of the private sector in order to come up with solutions," Hess said.

[ABC News](#) (4/19, Newcomb, 4M) reports on its website that DeGette "said the committee also invited Facebook and WhatsApp, which is owned by Facebook, to participate in the hearings but said they declined." A spokesman for both companies said they were unable to participate but will "continue to be engaged."

[Reuters](#) (4/19, Volz) reports that also testifying before the panel on Tuesday was Thomas Galati, chief of intelligence at the New York Police Department. According to Galati, his investigators were unable to unlock 69 Apple devices in the period between October 2015 and March 2016. Those devices were connected to 23 felonies and 44 violent crimes, including homicides, rapes, and the shooting of a police officer in the line of duty.

Sewell: Americans Better Off With Strong Encryption. [McClatchy](#) (4/19, Doyle, 22K) reports the "conflict between law enforcement and privacy advocates seems no closer to resolution" as "Silicon Valley executives remain intent on protecting privacy, leaving little room for lawmakers to maneuver." Apple Senior Vice President and General Counsel Bruce Sewell told the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, "We feel strongly that Americans will be better off if we can offer the very best protections for their digital lives. ...The best way we...know how to protect your information is through the use of strong encryption."

According to Sewell, the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (4/19, Sposito, 3.37M) reports, attempts to create backdoors in encryption pose a security threat as they may be accessed by criminals. "We can create an access point, and we can create locks," Sewell said. "But the problem is the keys to that lock will ultimately be available somewhere. And if they are available anywhere, they can be accessed by both good guys and bad guys."

[NPR](#) (4/19, Selyukh, 1.81M) reports Sewell said that before the San Bernardino iPhone dispute began, Apple and the FBI were working on an agreement to bring representatives from both entities together to discuss their views of the future and role of technology in society. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/19, Barrett, Paletta, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) adds that Rep. Tim Murphy, who chaired Tuesday's hearing, said that siding with either the FBI or with tech firms "feels like a lose-lose proposition."

[The Hill](#) (4/19, Bennett, 862K) reports that Apple attorney Ted Olson will brief senators about the company's battle with the FBI on Wednesday. The off-the-record session was organized by "Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), who chairs the Senate Republican High-Tech Task Force," The Hill says.

Sewell: Apple Refused China's Request For Source Code. [Reuters](#) (4/19, Volz) reports that during his testimony, Sewell responded to allegations that Apple has cooperated with China, saying that while China has asked for the company's source code within the last two years, Apple has refused to hand it over.

[Reuters](#) (4/19, Volz) reports that the claim that Apple gave special treatment to Beijing resurfaced at Tuesday's hearing when Indiana State Police Captain Charles Cohen made a statement suggesting Apple had quietly cooperated with Chinese authorities. Pressed for a source for the assertion by Rep. Anna Eshoo, Cohen only cited media reports. "That takes my breath away," Eshoo said. "That is a huge allegation."

Sewell's remarks, [NBC News](#) (4/19, DeLuca, 3.58M) reports on its website, are not "the first time Apple has pushed back against the idea that it has given other countries special access to its tech." Amid the dispute over the San Bernardino iPhone, Apple software chief Craig Federighi said the company "has never made user data, whether stored on the iPhone or in iCloud, more technologically accessible to any country's government."

Tech Trade Groups Voice Opposition To Anti-Encryption Bill. The [New York Times](#) (4/20, Kang, Lichtblau, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports that also on Tuesday, trade groups representing

companies including Apple and Google released a letter opposing a bill proposed by Sens. Richard Burr and Dianne Feinstein that would force tech firms to decrypt data if ordered to do so by a court. "We believe it is critical to the safety of the nation's, and the world's, information technology infrastructure for us all to avoid actions that will create government-mandated security vulnerabilities in our encryption systems," the groups said in an open letter to the senators. "Any mandatory decryption requirement, such as that included in the discussion draft of the bill that you authored, will lead to unintended consequences."

[CNBC](#) (4/19, DeLuca, 2.3M) reports on its website that some officials, including "New York City Police Commissioner Bill Bratton and Manhattan District Attorney Cy Vance...have come out in support of Feinstein and Burr's proposal."

Data On Farook's Phone Proven Useful To Investigation. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (4/19, story 10, 0:20, Stephanopoulos, 14.63M) reports the data stored in San Bernardino shooter Syed Rizwan Farook's iPhone provided investigators with "data they didn't previously have." [CNN's](#) (4/19, Perez, Brown, Prokupecz, 3.96M) website reports, "Investigators are now more confident that terrorist Syed Farook didn't make contact with another plotter during an 18-minute gap that the FBI said was missing from their time line of the attackers' whereabouts after the mass shooting." The phone has helped allay concerns that the attackers may have had outside help, possibly from family or friends. The iPhone did not contain evidence of that Farook had used the device to engage in encrypted communications or contact other ISIL supporters. "The FBI views that information as valuable to the probe, possibilities it couldn't discount without getting into the phone, the officials said," CNN reports.

STUDY FINDS HACKERS INCREASINGLY USING TARGETED PHISHING ATTACKS INSTEAD OF SPAM EMAILS. The [Chicago Tribune](#) (4/19, Elahi, 2.17M) reports security firm Trustwave released a study that found hackers are relying less on spam emails because "email systems have gotten better at filtering out malicious messages before they hit users' inboxes." Trustwave found that "some criminals are switching to spear phishing attacks, in which they target one valuable individual or organization," according to the Tribune. The Tribune interviews Trustwave threat intelligence manager Karl Sigler, who discusses how criminals are finding targeted phishing attacks to be more lucrative than mass emails.

CONGRESSMAN LIEU CALLS FOR INVESTIGATION INTO CCSS7 VULNERABILITY. [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (4/19, Gibbs, 3.71M) reports Rep. Ted Lieu has called for a congressional investigation into security vulnerabilities in the CCSS7 system, which "brokers connections, billing, and transfers messages between phone networks." The Guardian says Rep. Lieu is calling for the investigation after a demonstration showed him that "all you need is someone's phone number to record their calls, texts and location."

REP. JIM RENACCI TELLS CONGRESS ABOUT BEING IDENTITY THEFT VICTIM. [The Hill](#) (4/19, Jagoda, 862K) reports Rep. Jim Renacci told the House Ways and Means Committee "his story of being a victim of tax-related identity theft at a hearing on Tuesday." The Hill says Rep. Renacci said that "identity theft is real," and that "thankfully, there were various red flags" caught before payment was sent on a fraudulent tax return filed in his name.

"HACK THE PENTAGON" PROGRAM BEGINS. [AOL](#) (4/19, 6.15M) reports DOD's "Hack the Pentagon" program began on April 18 and will run until May 12. AOL says the program offers "hackers money to find vulnerabilities within the DOD." AOL adds that interested hackers must register for the program in order to determine eligibility.

APPLE NO LONGER UPDATING QUICKTIME FOR WINDOWS, GOVERNMENT ADVISES USERS TO UNINSTALL PROGRAM. In continuing coverage, [Business Insider](#) (4/19, Cook, 2.64M) cites a Wall Street Journal report that said Apple will no longer update the Quicktime for Windows media player program after security company Trend Micro found several cybersecurity vulnerabilities. Business Insider adds that the US government "advised Windows PC users to uninstall QuickTime" last week following the report by Trend Micro.

NAVY AND MARINE CORPS ISSUE \$26 MILLION CONTRACT SOLICITATION FOR CYBER

TRAINING. [FierceGovernmentIT](#) (4/19, Donovan, 277) reports the US Navy and Marine Corps are jointly soliciting applications from businesses for a \$26 million five-year contract “to train the Navy and marine Corps’ cyber personnel.” FierceGovernmentIT says the contact being solicited calls for “online and in-person cybersecurity training for military personnel and civilians,” and “shall provide support to develop and deliver technical courses.” FiercegovernmentIT adds that the “bid deadline is May 12.” [ZDNet](#) (4/19, Osborne, 147K) and [PC Magazine](#) (4/19, Brant, 2.33M) also report on the contract solicitation.

NORTH KOREA POSSESSES ADVANCED CYBERATTACK CAPABILITIES, ACCORDING TO ARMY GENERAL. [Bloomberg News](#) (4/19, Capaccio, 2.92M) reports Army General Vincent Brooks testified in front of the Senate Armed Services Committee on Tuesday and called North Korea’s cyberattack capabilities “among the best in the world and best organized.” Bloomberg News adds Gen. Brooks’ comments were made during his nomination hearing to “command US forces in South Korea.”

ITALY REVOKES EXPORT LICENSE OF CYBERSECURITY COMPANY “HACKING TEAM.” The [Financial Times](#) (4/19, Politi, Kuchler, Subscription Publication, 1.36M) reports the Italian ministry of economic development revoked the export license of the cybersecurity company Hacking Team over objections to countries that were buying its surveillance software.

Countering Violent Extremism:

IGNATIUS: SURVEY SHOWS YOUNG ARABS WANT A “MODERN, SECURE WORLD.” In his [Washington Post](#) (4/19, Ignatius, 8.98M) column, David Ignatius cites a “remarkable survey by the public relations company ASDA’A Burson-Marsteller and the polling firm Penn Schoen Berland,” which found young Arabs are “scared about the Islamic State and terrorism; they yearn for more freedom and gender equality; they fear that the Arab Spring has made life worse; and they’re increasingly skeptical about the role of traditional religious values.” Ignatius argues the findings are reason not to “give up on the Arabs. They’re living through hell, but they want the same modern, secure world that most people do.”

National Security News:

OBAMA EXPECTS IRAQI FORCES TO RETAKE MOSUL BY YEAR’S END. The [Washington Times](#) (4/19, Munoz, 285K) reports that in an interview with CBS News, the President said he “anticipates Iraqi forces to retake Mosul from Islamic State control by the end of 2016.” Said Obama, “My expectation is that by the end of the year, we will have created the conditions whereby Mosul will eventually fall.”

OPPOSITION PULLS OUT OF GENEVA TALKS AFTER DEADLY SYRIAN GOVERNMENT STRIKE. [AFP](#) (4/19, El Hussein, Rahal) reports “suspected government air strikes killed at least 44 civilians at markets in northwestern Syria Tuesday, as opposition chiefs said they were leaving peace talks in Geneva because of such attacks.” AFP adds that the “suspected regime bombing raid hit a market in the city of Maaret al-Numan, killing at least 37 civilians.” According to the [Washington Post](#) (4/19, Naylor, 8.98M), the residents of the town “faced devastating airstrikes from pro-government warplanes” despite the fact “they strongly oppose militants linked to al-Qaeda.”

The [New York Times](#) (4/19, Barnard, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) says “the attack confirmed the apparent unraveling of a fragile cease-fire agreement between Syrian government forces and some armed opposition groups.” The Times adds that “the opposition’s decision to pull out of talks in Geneva could be viewed as a win for Russia, Mr. Assad’s chief international backer, which can blame the rebels for the collapse of the talks,” but the development “could also be awkward for Saudi Arabia, the main sponsor of the Syrian opposition, as President Obama prepares to visit the Saudi capital this week.”

The [AP](#) (4/19, Keaten, Issa) reports that “Syria’s top opposition leader vowed to fight ‘even with stones’ to depose President Bashar Assad, shifting sharply to a tone of conflict over conciliation as peace talks in Geneva teetered near collapse Tuesday amid a new surge in fighting – including government airstrikes that left dozens dead.” Riad Hijab “of the Western-backed Syrian High Negotiations Committee” appeared “angry and defiant” as he “thundered home the opposition coalition’s decision to walk back – if not entirely away – from UN-brokered peace talks in Geneva.” [Reuters](#) (4/19, Irish, Perry) quotes Hijab as saying,

"There cannot be a political process which prolongs the life of this regime. We will not accept this. ... We will fight under all circumstances, even with stones. And never give up." [AFP](#) (4/19), however, reports that Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov "insisted that Syria peace talks in Geneva were 'not frozen' as he slammed main opposition chiefs for walking out."

The [Washington Times](#) (4/18, Taylor, 285K), meanwhile, indicates that the Obama Administration yesterday "rushed to shore up" the "faltering cease-fire in Syria." The Times adds that "Administration officials also sought to downplay the uptick in violence," and State Department spokesman John Kirby "told reporters that 'nobody's disputing that there are violations [but] the violence is still significantly reduced' from what was occurring prior to when the cessation of hostilities went into effect."

In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (4/19, 8.98M) says the ceasefire "has achieved diplomatic zombie status: It is dead but lives on in the otherworldly rhetoric of its promoters, headed by the Obama administration." While "the White House reported Monday that Mr. Obama had spoken to" Russia's Vladimir Putin "by telephone about the unraveling cease-fire...there was no indication that Mr. Putin was given any incentive to respond cooperatively, other than an appeal to his goodwill. If that's the case, the cease-fire will remain a zombie."

NEW PENTAGON RULES ALLOW FOR POSSIBILITY OF HIGHER CIVILIAN CASUALTIES. [USA Today](#) (4/19, Brook, 5.45M) reports that new Pentagon rules for US airstrikes "risk more civilian casualties in order to destroy Islamic State targets." Under the new arrangement, "the Pentagon has delegated more authority to the commander of the war, Army Lt. Gen. Sean MacFarland, to approve targets when there is the risk that civilians could be killed." USA Today adds that "previously, authority for missions with the potential to kill innocents had been made by the higher headquarters of US Central Command." Six anonymous "Defense Department officials...described a sliding scale of probable civilian casualties based on the value of the target and the location. For example, a strike with the potential to wound or kill several civilians would be permitted if it prevented ISIL fighters from causing greater harm."

IRAQI POLICE FINDS TWO MASS GRAVES IN RAMADI. The [AP](#) (4/19, Salaheddin) reports "Iraqi police on Tuesday unearthed two mass graves in the western city of Ramadi, with bodies of about 40 people killed by Islamic State militants during the militant Sunni group's reign of terror in the city, officials said."

LONDON UNVEILS REPLICA OF PALMYRA ROMAN ARCH DESTROYED BY ISIL. The [New York Times](#) (4/20, Shea, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports that "a landmark Roman arch that was destroyed by Islamic State fighters in Palmyra, Syria, stood proudly once again on Tuesday, this time as a replica built from digital models that was installed in Trafalgar Square in London." Mayor Boris Johnson "unveiled the piece on Tuesday, as crowds gathered in the square and on the steps leading to the National Gallery."

TALIBAN ATTACK ON SECURITY AGENCY IN KABUL KILLS 28, WOUNDS HUNDREDS. The [CBS Evening News](#) (4/19, story 6, 0:20, Pelley, 11.17M) reported a Taliban attack Tuesday on an Afghan security agency in Kabul left 28 dead and more than 300 wounded. The Administration condemned the attack, according to [NBC Nightly News](#) (4/19, story 6, 0:20, Holt, 16.61M), which added that most of the victims "were civilians, including children." The [AP](#) (4/19, Faiez) says the "coordinated attack in central Kabul appeared to have targeted an agency that provides an elite security force for high-ranking government officials, similar to the US Secret Service." The [New York Times](#) (4/19, Mashal, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) says the attack "sent a message: The Taliban can attack the capital at will, and they have no intention of engaging in peace talks despite reports of internal rifts."

[USA Today](#) (4/19, Onyanga-Omara, Bacon, 5.45M) refers to the "Taliban spring offensive's most brutal assault yet." The [Washington Post](#) (4/19, Craig, Salahuddin, 8.98M) notes that "just a week earlier, the Taliban vowed to escalate attacks," and it "appeared to have followed through." Finally, the [New Yorker](#) (4/19, Filkins, 5.3M) remarked on "how easy it has become for them to get inside the city," given the fact that "there was a time, not long ago, when Kabul was extremely safe, even as the war raged in the countryside."

On its website, [US News & World Report](#) (4/19, Shinkman, 853K) said “the Taliban is anything but weakening on the battlefield,” and noted that “Pakistan issued a rebuke of Tuesday’s attack shortly afterward.” [Reuters](#) (4/19, Shalizi, Smith) reports the US embassy said in a statement, “Afghanistan deserves peace and security, not attacks that victimize parents taking their children to school, workers on their morning commute, and people who have stepped forward to help defend their fellow citizens.”

The [Washington Times](#) (4/19, Munoz, Taylor, 285K) says the attack “sent shock waves through the debate among officials at the Pentagon and lawmakers on Capitol Hill over President Obama’s plan to cut the roughly 10,000 US troops in Afghanistan to some 5,000 by the time he leaves office early next year.” Alicia Shepard, “a former NPR ombudsman” who “recently spent two years in Kabul working with Afghan journalists and the US Agency for International Development,” asks in [USA Today](#) (4/19, Shepard, 5.45M), “After this lethal blast, or any attack for that matter, there’s an obvious question: Why are American troops still in Afghanistan?” While “the US has spent more than \$65 billion to beef up the Afghan police and security forces...Afghanistan isn’t safer. In fact, it’s getting more dangerous. With all the money America has invested, Afghan forces still aren’t able to protect their country.” Shepard concludes that “after spending billions and billions on security and development for 15 years, it’s too early for the Americans to leave. And it’s too late.”

NATO-RUSSIA COUNCIL TO MEET FOR FIRST TIME IN ALMOST TWO YEARS. [Reuters](#) (4/19, Emmott) reports Russian and NATO officials are not likely to ease tensions between the sides when they get together Wednesday as the NATO-Russia Council meets for the first time since June 2014 in the aftermath of the Crimea crisis. The Brussels meeting, according to Reuters, will include discussion of Ukraine, Afghanistan, and avoiding military accidents. Moscow’s envoy to NATO, Alexander Grushko, said Russia is “not afraid of dialogue,” but added his country is “facing a NATO military build-up which is completely unjustified.”

OBAMA TO ARRIVE IN RIYADH AMID SHARP DISAGREEMENTS WITH SAUDIS. There is limited coverage of President Obama’s visit to Saudi Arabia, with reporting highlighting he arrives at a time of uncertain relations between Washington and Riyadh. The [AP](#) (4/19) reports President Obama will arrive in Riyadh on Wednesday and “face an increasingly assertive leadership still heavily dependent on US weapons and military might that nonetheless has little trust in him and essentially believes its been thrown a curveball.” The AP says Obama “is expected to push Saudi Arabia...and other Gulf states for greater cooperation and military backing” against ISIL. However, the appeal will come, according to the AP, as Washington “is also concerned about mounting civilian casualties and the expansion of al Qaeda’s active branch in Yemen amid the chaos spread by the Saudi-led war there,” as well as Riyadh and Tehran’s “aggressive foreign policy stances that are exacerbating” violence in the Middle East.

[USA Today](#) (4/19, Dorell, 5.45M) lists “five issues that cause friction between” the US and Saudi Arabia. They include: the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks; the Syrian conflict and peace process; the Yemen civil war; “resurgent Iran;” and “low oil prices.” On the [CBS Evening News](#) (4/19, story 7, 1:45, Pelley, 11.17M), Margaret Brennan reported “some” of the tensions are of Obama’s “own making.” Brennan highlights that Obama “recently described the kingdom as free riders, too reliant on American military might. And he said the Saudis needed to share the neighborhood with longtime foe Iran.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/19, A1, Lee, Stancati, Subscription Publication, 6.74M), meanwhile, reports on its front page that the US is widely seen within the region as a contributor to the tension between Riyadh and Tehran. The Administration, according to the Journal, is hoping it can encourage a better working relationship between the countries.

Despite the differences, Zaid Jilani and Alex Emmons write in The Intercept that the US-Saudi Relationship is not expected to suffer greatly. In The [Intercept](#) (4/19, Emmons), Zaid Jilani and Alex Emmons write Obama as a senator “denounced” human rights abuses in Saudi Arabia, but now “offer[s] only muted criticism of the kingdom’s rights violations.” The authors write Obama is unlikely to “speak up while he’s there” this week and “many activists are losing hope that the US relationship with Saudi Arabia will change.”

NYTimes Analysis: Saudi Threat To Sell Off US Investments “Could Be Self-Defeating.” The [New York Times](#) (4/19, Appelbaum, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports that if Saudi Arabia “follows

through on its recent threat to sell off its investments in the United States, the financial maneuver could be painful – mostly for Saudi Arabia.” According to the Times, “Experts say it is hard to imagine a significant or lasting impact on the American economy.” However, the Times says, “a sell-off could be self-defeating for Saudi Arabia.”

Saudi Prince Mohamed Goes From Relatively Unknown To Position Of Power. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/19, Stancati, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) reports 30-year-old Prince Mohammed bin Salman has gone from relatively unknown outside Saudi Arabia to a position of great power following his father’s ascension to king. The Journal says Mohammed has become associated with movement toward change in Saudi Arabia as the country seeks to assert itself in the region, change its oil-dependent economy, and adjust its ties with the US.

WSJournal: Obama Should Pursue Better Relationship With Riyadh. In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/19, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) says the US’ traditional allies feel betrayed by Obama and there is no clear indication that he has a desire to change that perception. The Journal says Obama should pursue a better relationship with Riyadh – and gives examples that could accomplish this – as it would give Washington greater leverage to influence Saudi Arabia.

Hartung: Obama Should Not Offer Saudis More Weapons. In a [New York Times](#) (4/19, Hartung, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) op-ed, “Arms and Security Project at the Center for International Policy” director William Hartung cautions that Obama should not “promise more arms sales” when meeting with the Saudis. Hartung says that since the May Camp David summit with Gulf countries, the US “has offered over \$33 billion in weaponry to its Persian gulf allies, with the bulk of it going to Saudi Arabia,” and the “results have been deadly.” Hartung cites the Saudi-led war in Yemen as “a prime example of what’s wrong with unbridled American weapons transfers” to Riyadh, saying “a majority” of the 3,200 civilian deaths in the conflict “are a result of airstrikes, many of which have been carried out aircraft, bombs and missiles supplied” by the US and Britain.

WHITE HOUSE DEFENDS BIDEN’S CRITICISM OF ISRAEL. [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (4/19, 1.53M) reported that Vice President Biden “rais[ed] eyebrows” Monday night when he came “down hard on Israel” at a Washington dinner. Biden was shown stating, “Notwithstanding our sometimes overwhelming frustration with the Israeli government, we have an obligation to push them as hard as we can toward what we know in their gut is the only ultimate solution, a two-state solution” with Palestine. Bret Baier added that Biden also criticized the Palestinians in his speech, “but he spent a lot of time...on the Israelis.” The [Washington Times](#) (4/19, Boyer, 285K) notes that “the White House supported...Biden’s criticism of Israel Tuesday, agreeing with Mr. Biden that the administration is frustrated with the lack of progress toward a two-state solution.” Press Secretary Josh Earnest said, “There certainly is frustration with both sides that we have encountered. ... The inability to make that progress is frustrating.”

However, [Politico](#) (4/19, Gass, 1.07M) reports, Earnest also “pushed back...at the notion that comments from...Biden blasting the Israeli government the previous night represented an attempt to vilify the Middle Eastern ally.” Said Earnest, “So, I think what is also true is when you have a strong relationship with your allies, you can also comfortably disagree in public. And there are areas of disagreement as a matter of policy between our two countries. ... And we certainly have gone to great lengths to try to resolve those differences.” [The Hill](#) (4/19, Fabian, 862K) indicates that Earnest went on to note “Biden recently traveled to Israel to meet with [Prime Minister] Netanyahu and is ‘somebody who understands the importance of the relationship between our two countries.’”

The [Washington Post](#) (4/19, Morello, 8.98M) reports that J Street, “the liberal advocacy group,” was “in its infancy” when President Obama was elected, but “seven years later, the self-defined ‘pro-Israel, pro-peace’ organization has earned the gratitude of the administration for its support of the Iran nuclear deal and its lobbying for a two-state solution to the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians.” In addition to Biden, Secretary of State Kerry also addressed the group Monday night. Kerry “used the forum to defend the Iran deal that was vigorously opposed by...Netanyahu.” The Post also quotes Kerry as saying, “We will continue to try to advance a two-state solution, the only solution. ... Because anything else will not be Jewish, and it will not be democratic.” Biden, meanwhile, “balanced blunt criticism of the Israeli government with vows that the United States will always guarantee Israel’s security.”

In a blog for the [Council On Foreign Relations](#) (4/19, Abrams, 7K), however, Elliot Abrams wrote, "Yesterday, Israel was assaulted twice: once by terrorists, and once by the Vice President of the United States."

Israel Remains In Favor Of Cameras At Aqsa Compound. [AFP](#) (4/19) reports that "Israel remains in favour of installing security cameras at the Al-Aqsa mosque compound in Jerusalem, even after Jordan reneged on the project due to Palestinian reservations, a senior official said Tuesday." An unnamed Israeli official told AFP, "Israel's support for placing cameras on the Temple Mount remains unchanged. That's because we believe in transparency. ... It is regrettable that the Palestinian Authority objects to this idea. It's clear that they don't want repeated Palestinian provocations caught on tape."

Court Convicts Israeli Man Of Murder Of Palestinian Teenager. The [New York Times](#) (4/19, Kershner, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports that "an Israeli court convicted a 31-year-old man on Tuesday of abducting and murdering a Palestinian teenager in 2014, rejecting his late-hour insanity plea and bringing to a close a case that has convulsed Israelis and Palestinians." The Jerusalem District Court ruled that Yosef Haim Ben-David "had been fully responsible for his actions when he and two teenage nephews snatched Muhammad Abu Khdeir, 16, off a street near his East Jerusalem home, drove him to a forest on the outskirts of the city, choked him, beat him unconscious and burned him to death in the early hours of July 2, 2014."

Thousands Of Israelis Rally For Release Of Soldier. [Reuters](#) (4/19, Amichay) reports that thousands rallied in Israel yesterday urging that Sargent Elor Azaria, charged with killing a wounded Palestinian assailant, be released.

KERRY, ZARIF DISCUSS IMPLEMENTATION OF NUCLEAR AGREEMENT. [Reuters](#) (4/19, Reuters) reports Secretary of State Kerry and Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif on Tuesday met in New York to discuss the implementation of last year's nuclear deal. "We agreed we're both working at making sure that the...nuclear agreement is implemented in exactly the way that it is meant to be and that all the parties to that agreement get the benefits that they are supposed to get out of the agreement," Kerry told reporters. Kerry also said the two would "meet again to sort of solidify what we talked about today," and [Bloomberg News](#) (4/19, Foroohar, 2.92M) says they will meet again Friday in New York.

The [AP](#) (4/19, Lederer) reports the two met following "Iranian complaints" over the weekend that the US "isn't...providing adequate sanctions relief," and the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/19, Fassihi, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) reports Zarif told reporters yesterday, "We want the United States to implement its commitments [to the nuclear deal] in a way that Iran benefits from this deal in practice."

Iran Lacks Ships As It Seeks To Increase Oil Exports. [Reuters](#) (4/19, Saul, Hafezi) reports that as Iran seeks to increase its oil exports, it has found that many of its tankers are either being used to store crude or are not seaworthy. As a result, Iran will need to use foreign ships, but many owners are reluctant to do business with Tehran.

US ENVOY: NORTH KOREA'S FOREIGN EARNINGS AT RISK OVER NUCLEAR TESTS. [Reuters](#) (4/19, Mohammed, Brunnstrom) reports Assistant Secretary of State Daniel Russel warned Tuesday that if North Korea conducts a fifth nuclear test, it could trigger new international sanctions targeting its hard currency earnings by laborers abroad.

Separately, on Tuesday, [Reuters](#) (4/19, Reuters) reports Army Gen. Vincent Brooks, President Obama's nominee to lead US forces in South Korea, told a Senate hearing that he was "not optimistic" about North Korea's direction and warned that leader Kim Jong-un appears more "risk-tolerant, arrogant and impulsive" than his father.

US SANCTIONS OPPONENTS OF LIBYAN UNITY GOVERNMENT. The [AP](#) (4/19, Lederman) reports the US Treasury on Tuesday imposed sanctions on the head of Libya's "Islamist-backed government in Tripoli, accusing him of threatening stability in Libya and undermining the new UN-brokered unity government." According to the AP, the sanctions targeting Prime Minister Khalifa Ghwell of the so-called

National Salvation Government “are the first under new authorities granted” by President Obama, who cited an “unusual and extraordinary threat” to US security and foreign policy interests. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/19, Schwartz, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) quotes acting Treasury Undersecretary Adam J. Szubin as saying, “Treasury is committed to using all tools at our disposal to support Libya’s Government of National Accord as it works to build a safer and more stable country for the Libyan people.” The [New York Times](#) (4/19, Walsh, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) says the sanctions are “a boost to the new unity government,” and “complemented similar penalties” imposed by the EU earlier this month.

ADMINISTRATION’S SOUTH CHINA SEA POLICY UNDER FIRE FROM DEMOCRATIC

CONGRESSMAN. The [AP](#) (4/19, Pennington) reports the Administration’s policy on the disputed South China Sea came under fire Tuesday from “a fellow Democrat, and in an unusual twist, it was a Republican adversary who leapt to the administration’s defense.” During a House foreign affairs subcommittee hearing with State Department officials, Rep. Brad Sherman, the panel’s top-ranking Democrat, “accused the Administration of exaggerating the importance of uninhabited islands in the region’s contested seas,” and argued that the Pentagon was playing up the threat posed by China. Assistant Secretary of State Daniel Russel “responded that the US was standing up for international norms and had a ‘vital’ economic and security interest there,” and Republican chairman Matt Salmon “agreed.”

CHINA SENTENCES MAN TO DEATH FOR ESPIONAGE. The [New York Times](#) (4/19, Hernández, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports China sentenced former computer technician Huang Yu to death for selling 150,000 classified documents to foreign spies between 2002 and 2011 for about \$700,000, according to state media reports on Tuesday. The Times says China’s first known execution for spying since 2008 is a sign of the country’s “increasingly aggressive efforts to combat espionage and other security threats.” Eva Pils, a legal scholar at King’s College London, said, “I would read this as intending to produce a kind of warning effect.” China did not specify which spy agencies Huang assisted.

To keep the email to a manageable size, the national news summary is available on the [website](#).

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