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The Homeland Security News Briefing

TO: THE SECRETARY AND SENIOR STAFF

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Leading DHS News:

SECRETARY JOHNSON JOINS SENATORS' PUSH TO TIGHTEN AIRPORT SECURITY. [USA Today](#) (4/5, Jansen, 5.45M) reports Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson is backing a proposal by Sen. Charles Schumer (D) in the wake of the Brussels attacks "to nearly double the number of armed Transportation Security Administration teams that patrol" transportation hubs, bolster security in unsecured parts of airports, and increase grant funding for training law-enforcement officers to combat shooters. The proposals would become part of the Federal Aviation Administration legislation the Senate is debating this week. Johnson said, "We know of no specific credible intel of a plot like the Brussels attack here in the homeland," adding, "However, we remain vigilant, concerned about potential acts of self-radicalized violence by the so-called lone actors here in this country at public places and at public events." Meanwhile wait times at checkpoints remain an issue, something Johnson partly attributed to the number of daily travelers growing from 1.8 million to 2.2 million. He said, "Wait times is something that I'm acutely aware of, but I believe we are addressing it." TSA Administrator Peter Neffenger shifted canine teams between airports, as using the dogs for screening speeds the process. Johnson "also said he is trying to halt reductions in TSA officers as part of annual spending bills this year." [Roll Call](#) (4/5, Leswinski, 126K) reports, "Johnson called additional VIPR teams, which feature canine units and

expanded visible security, 'critical.'”

The [AP](#) (4/5, Lowy) reports Democrats say they will push the proposals. Sen. Schumer said, “What happened in Europe must serve as a wakeup call for the United States.” The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (4/5, Sherry, 1.25M) reports Sen. Amy Klobuchar joined Secretary Johnson and four other senators in supporting the proposals. [CBS News](#) (4/5, 3.97M) reports Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee chair Sen. John Thune (R) “said Tuesday that he would prefer to deal separately with the security proposals,” although he didn’t voice opposition to including them in the aviation bill.

SECRETARY JOHNSON: E-PASSPORT NOW REQUIRED FOR VISA WAIVER TRAVELERS.

[ExecutiveGov](#) (4/5, Adams, 548) reports Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson, in a statement posted Friday, said that travelers entering the US from countries in the Visa Waiver Program are required to have e-passports, which contain electronic chips with the holders’ biographical information. Johnson cast the requirement as the latest in a string of moves improving travel security. He said, “In the last two years, we have also increased the data collected from travelers from Visa Waiver countries for vetting purposes and have required increased terrorism and criminal information sharing and increased cooperation on the screening of refugees and asylum seekers with countries in the Visa Waiver Program.”

BORDER PATROL, ICE AGENTS ACCUSED OF TAKING IMMIGRANTS’ POSSESSIONS. The [AP](#) (4/6, Contreras) reports the ACLU of New Mexico and a coalition of organizations filed an administrative complaint with the Department of Homeland Security alleging that US “Border Patrol agents are looting immigrants of possessions before deporting them to Mexico without their IDs or money.” DHS spokeswoman Gillian Christensen said in a statement, “DHS will review the complaint once we receive it. DHS has strict standards in place to ensure that detainees’ personal property – including funds, baggage and other effects – is safeguarded and controlled while they are in detention and returned to them when they are released from CBP/ICE custody or removed from the United States.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/6, O’Keeffe, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) reports that in a letter to DHS, advocacy groups said Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials sometimes confiscate and fail to return money, legal documents, phones, wedding rings, an other object. DHS spokeswoman Gillian Christensen said the complaints will be investigated thoroughly. The letter said the problem is widespread but focused on 26 people deported to Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, from near El Paso, Texas, in 2015 and 2016.

SECRETARY JOHNSON’S THROWING MARLINS’ FIRST PITCH NOTED. The [Miami Herald](#) (4/5, Hanks, 803K) notes that Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson threw the first pitch at the opening game of the season at Marlins Park in Miami. The article focuses on Miami-Dade Mayor Carlos Gimenez’s going five years without attending the team’s games.

SUPREME COURT MAY DECIDE DEFERRED DEPORTATION CASE ON DIFFERENCE BETWEEN POLICY STATEMENT, SUBSTANTIVE RULE. [Reuters](#) (4/5, Frankel) reports that the Supreme Court’s decision on Texas’ challenge to the Obama Administration’s executive action to defer deportation of longtime undocumented immigrants who are parents of US citizens depends on whether the memo by Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson detailing the move was a policy announcement codifying enforcement priorities or a substantive rule granting more rights. The former would allow the executive branch to take unilateral action, while the latter would not. However, the difference between the two is blurry. An amicus brief by 12 eminent administrative law professors favors the Administration’s position, pointing to the memo imposing no legally binding obligations on the Homeland Security department by insisting deferred action applications be handled one at a time.

DAVIDSON EXAMINES EFFORTS TO REIN IN ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE. Joe Davidson, in his column in the [Washington Post](#) (4/5, Davidson, 8.98M), examines efforts to reform “the use and misuse of paid administrative leave in federal agencies,” focusing in particular on the practices at the Department of Homeland Security. DHS spokesman Justin Greenberg said that the department has been “implementing strict limitations on the use of administrative leave” and is working to “to identify successful practices, address potential inefficiencies, make appropriate adjustments, and share results across the

Department.” Additionally, the Administration and Congress are seeking “to rein in administrative leave.” Davidson notes that the leave “doesn’t mean vacation time for those not allowed to work” and is a management decision, so “it is management that needs to explain any abuse of the process.”

AMERICAN USE OF TERM “HOMELAND” SAID TO CONNOTE COUNTRY’S VULNERABILITY. In the “First Words” column of the [New York Times Magazine](#) (4/5, Traub, 3.79M), James Traub examines the rise of the use of the term “homeland” since the 9/11 attacks and how “a word ostensibly deployed to offer a sense of comfort instead unleashes deep undercurrents of anxiety.” He suggests that part of the reason homeland “feels more like a violation than an affirmation of American identity” is its association with an “ethnocentric conception of nationhood,” something the founding fathers rejected. He also notes Vanderbilt University Professor Celia Applegate’s comparison of DHS’s use of “homeland” to Hitler’s use of “heimat.” Traub concludes that the American use of “homeland” is associated with “the rise of the national sense of vulnerability,” and our current use of the word “means ‘the country insofar as it is endangered.’ It is cold rather than warm – a term fit for a dictator.”

Immigration and Customs Enforcement:

TWENTY-ONE ARRESTS IN MAJOR ICE FAKE STUDENT VISA STING. The [CBS Evening News](#) (4/5, story 6, 1:45, Pelley, 11.17M) reported on a government sting on immigration fraud involving setting up the fake University of Northern New Jersey. CBS (Pegues) added that brokers “contacted the fake school to help foreigners secure fraudulent student and work visas.” Sarah Saldaña, Director of US Immigration and Customs Enforcement, was shown saying, “We told them there was no school and the brokers came. And with the brokers, they brought many, many students, people purporting to be students who enrolled in the university knowing full well there would be no classes.” Twenty-one brokers have been arrested.

The [New York Times](#) (4/5, Robbins, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports the brokers recruited those seeking to stay in the country on student visas without actually taking classes, charged them fees, and arranged for jobs. Some of those employers also had warrants issued for their arrest. Saldaña said in a interview, “Our message is pretty loud and clear,” adding, “We’re out there, we have intelligence to identify you, we’re going to find you and bring you to justice.” The United States Attorney for New Jersey, Paul J. Fishman, “said all of the recruited students were already living in the United States and were looking for a way to stay.” The government said that a thousand people knowingly enrolled for at least 45 days at the university will receive notices to appear in immigration court and will have their visas revoked.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/5, Jordan, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) reports that the major probe by Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s Homeland Security Investigations had agents staffing the school in an effort to understand how the brokers operate and structure their operations. Saldaña said, “As a result of this operation, HSI special agents have successfully identified and closed a gap in the student visa system.” A 2102 Government Accountability Office report previously concluded that ICE needed to do more to detect fraud by school operators.

Customs and Border Protection:

CBP COMMISSIONER KERLIKOWSKE VISITS INDIANAPOLIS. The [Indianapolis Star](#) (4/5, Disis, 616K) reports Customs and Border Protection Commissioner R. Gil Kerlikowske’s tour of urban centers across the country brought him to Indianapolis, where he met with local business stakeholders and policing agencies. Kerlikowske said, “A lot of times, local communities don’t have as good an understanding of what CBP means to their local economy.” He added, “We want them to know that we can be helpful.” The Star says the flow of narcotics into Indianapolis “has created cause for concern in recent years.” Kerlikowske said, “It isn’t as much that the cartels are active in the city,” but rather, “It’s local gangs that have made an arrangement with a supplier.”

[WXIN-TV](#) Indianapolis (4/5, Smith, 159K) reports, “The visit is part recruitment, part policy discussions,” with Kerlikowske saying that more than 2,000 positions in his agency are open. He added, “Our screening and hiring standards are very high” because smugglers will seek to corrupt agents. He also said, “We have a robust...internal affairs office.”

DINOSAUR FOSSIL BEING RETURNED TO MONGOLIA. The [New York Daily News](#) (4/5, Marzulli, 3.7M) reports a 70 million-year-old Alioramus dinosaur skull, one of seven dinosaur fossils Customs and Border Protection officers at Port of Newark seized in 2014, is being returned to Mongolia, where it will be displayed at the Museum of Mongolian Dinosaurs. Robert Perez, director of CBP's New York field office, said, "These are not souvenirs to be sold to the highest bidder." Brooklyn US Attorney Robert Capers said, "This is a very rare, rare fossil and it belongs to the people of Mongolia."

ALABAMA SENDING HELICOPTER, PILOTS TO HELP WITH BORDER SECURITY. The [AP](#) (4/5) reports Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley is sending an Alabama National Guard H-72 helicopter and three pilots to Marana, Arizona, at the request of the National Guard Bureau, where they will "assist civilian law enforcement and U.S. Border Patrol agents tasked with border security."

CPB DISCUSSING ESTABLISHING PRE-CLEARANCE FACILITY AT JAPAN'S NARITA AIRPORT. [Pacific Business News \(HI\)](#) (4/5, Gallagher, Subscription Publication, 35K) reports Customs and Border Protection Deputy Commissioner Kevin McAleenan "visited Hawaii to talk about the possibility of establishing a pre-clearance facility at Japan's Narita International Airport in Tokyo." He met with Sen. Mazie Hirono and officials from Narita.

Transportation Security Administration:

TSA PAID IBM \$47,700 FOR APP TO SELECT SECURITY LANE. [Business Insider](#) (4/5, 2.64M) reports the Transportation Security Administration paid IBM \$336,413.59 for "mobile application development," \$47,400 of which went to an app that "randomly selected which lane (left or right) passengers should go into in a security line." However, developer Chris Pacia recently uploaded a YouTube video showing him making such an app for less than \$20 worth of labor.

Federal Emergency Management Agency:

MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE GRANT APPROVED FOR KANSAS FIRE. [KSNT-TV](#) Topeka, KS (4/5, Carter, 1K) reports on its website that FEMA officials have verbally approved a Fire Management Assistance grant for Wabaunsee County, Kansas. The [Topeka \(KS\) Capital-Journal](#) (4/5, Moore, 112K) reports that the grant would pay for expenses related to a blaze that "prompted an estimated 15 area fire districts to respond."

ICE POSES THREAT TO DRIVERS IN NORTHEAST US. In continuing coverage, [ABC World News Tonight](#) (4/5, story 5, 1:00, Muir, 14.63M) broadcast that there is concern about ice posing a threat to drivers in some parts of America's unseasonably cold northeast region, which was recently hit by a snowstorm.

US Citizenship and Immigration Services:

ADVOCATES CALL FOR REDUCTION OF U VISA BACKLOG. [KUT-FM](#) Austin, TX (4/5, Rancaño, 5K) reports on its website that there are 62,000 applications pending for U Visas, which "give legal status to immigrant victims of serious crimes if they help with criminal investigations." About half of the applicants are victims of domestic violence. By statute, just 10,000 U Visas are given out each year, and applicants wait more than two years for them. Advocates call on the US Citizenship and Immigration Services to "make sure there are enough officers to review applications." This would help because being deemed eligible for a U Visa allows applicants to get work permits, which enable people to work legally and protect them from deportation.

EX-SOLDIER SENTENCED TO FOUR YEARS IN PRISON FOR RUNNING MIAMI DRUG RING. The [Miami Herald](#) (4/6, Ovalle, 803K) reports an investigation by HSI into "one of the largest Molly drug rings in Miami history" has led to four year prison sentence being imposed on Jorge Hernandez, who authorities say ran the organization. The Herald says Hernandez's sentence was lowered from a possible

ten years to four years for cooperating with HSI and DOJ in “making drug deals that helped agents bust 13 other people.”

Immigration:

OBAMA MOCKS TRUMP’S PLAN TO FORCE MEXICO TO PAY FOR BORDER WALL. President Obama yesterday expressed derision toward the latest proposal to come out of the Trump campaign, first reported by the [Washington Post](#) (4/5, Woodward, Costa, 8.98M) yesterday morning. The story sparked extensive media reporting, including mentions on two network newscasts. The coverage highlights the fact that, in contrast to other occasions in which he has criticized Donald Trump’s plans without naming him, the President took on the GOP tycoon, as well as Sen. Ted Cruz, directly. The [AP](#) (4/5) notes that “in his proposal, Trump threatened to change a rule under the USA Patriot Act, an anti-terrorism law, to cut off a portion of the funds sent to Mexico through money transfers known as remittances.” Trump “said he would withdraw the threat if Mexico makes a one-time payment to finance the wall.” The [Washington Times](#) (4/5, Dinan, 285K) notes that Mexico “received nearly \$25 billion in remittances last year — with the vast majority of that believed to come from workers in the US.” The [CBS Evening News](#) (4/5, story 2, 2:15, Pelley, 11.17M) showed Obama saying in response to the Trump campaign’s proposal, “The motion that we’ll track every Western Union, you know, bit of money that’s being sent to Mexico, you know, good luck with that.” That Obama statement appears in virtually every news account. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (4/5, lead story, 3:45, Muir, 14.63M) described Obama as “mocking the Trump plan.”

As [Politico](#) (4/5, Wheaton, 1.07M) reports, Obama “has started attacking the proposals and tone of Trump and the other GOP contenders with increasing frequency,” but “he rarely invokes their names.” [USA Today](#) (4/5, Korte, 5.45M) notes that Obama said the situation has “reached the point where Trump’s opinions are causing damage to America’s standing in the world.” In fact, the [New York Times](#) (4/5, Shear, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) indicates that the President “said he repeatedly gets questions from foreign leaders about ‘the wackier suggestions’ by...Trump and other Republicans.”

[The Hill](#) (4/5, Fabian, 862K) reported that Obama “called Trump’s remittance cut-off proposal ‘just one more example of something that’s not thought through’ and made only for political purposes,” while the [Huffington Post](#) (4/5, Bendery, 518K) said that for the President, “the bottom line...is that neither Cruz nor Trump is taking a serious approach to global issues.” The [CBS Evening News](#) (4/5, story 2, 2:15, Pelley, 11.17M) also noted Obama’s reference to Cruz, whose immigration proposals he called “draconian,” adding that “people expect more from the President of the United States.” Said Obama, “They don’t expect half-baked notions coming out of the White House. We can’t afford that.” The [Dallas Morning News](#) (4/5, Gillman, 1.24M) says “Obama’s swipe at Cruz was general, but likely he was alluding to the senator’s call after the Brussels terrorist attack for heightened surveillance of Muslims in the United States — a proposal Obama swiftly rejected as un-American and counterproductive, since it would alienate American citizens and foreign allies needed in the fight against terrorism.”

The [AP](#) (4/5, Salama, Colvin) reports that “this is not the first time that Trump has spelled out options for pressuring Mexico into paying for his signature policy proposal.” Back in August, his campaign said options “for compelling Mexico to pay for the wall...included impounding ‘all remittance payments derived from illegal wages,’ increasing fees on temporary visas issued to Mexican CEOs and diplomats — ‘and if necessary cancel them’ — increasing fees on border crossing cards, increasing fees on NAFTA worker visas from Mexico, and increasing fees at ports of entry between the two countries.”

SANDERS: NAFTA HELPED EXPAND ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION. [The Hill](#) (4/5, Bernal, 862K) reports that in response to a questionnaire published by the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda, Bernie Sanders said that the North American Free Trade Agreement has made economic and political conditions in Latin America worse, increasing illegal immigration into the US.

LEGISLATOR’S EMAILS SOUGHT IN COURT BATTLE OVER ID THEFT LAWS. The [AP](#) (4/5, Billeaud) reports, “Attorneys challenging Arizona identity theft laws that were used to charge hundreds of immigrants are” seeking the release of emails between former state Sen. Russell Pearce, the chief sponsor of the statutes, and advocates of tougher immigration enforcement. The attorneys are seeking

proof of their claim that the state's landmark 2010 law "was passed with discriminatory intent." Pearce's attorneys argue the documents fall under "First Amendment protections and a legislative privilege against being forced to testify or offer evidence on legislative activities."

TRUMP RHETORIC MAY BE BOOSTING ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION. [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (4/5, Dart, 3.71M) reports Donald Trump's plan to build a wall along the border with Mexico "may be encouraging...migrants to head north to escape poverty and violence" in an effort to arrive before the barrier's construction. The article focuses on undocumented immigrants caught by Immigration and Customs Enforcement and staying at the parish hall of Sacred Heart Catholic church in downtown McAllen, Texas, a shelter originally intended to be temporary but which now "looks all but permanent."

OMAHA MAYOR BACKS BILL TO GIVE DACA IMMIGRANTS WORK LICENSES. The [Omaha \(NE\) World-Herald](#) (4/5, Moring, 549K) reports Omaha Mayor Jean Stothert sent a letter to Nebraska legislators in support of a bill to allow immigrants in the country under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program to get professional and commercial licenses.

UN: GANG VIOLENCE CAUSING CENTRAL AMERICA REFUGEE CRISIS. [Reuters](#) (4/5, Nebehay) reports Adrian Edwards, spokesman of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said the number of refugees fleeing El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala "has surged to levels not seen since the 1980s, the period when the region was wracked by armed conflicts." He added, "Large-scale violence and persecution at the hands of armed criminal actors have now become, along with poverty and unemployment, the primary driver of refugee and migrants flows" from the area. The UNHCR said that asylum applications from those countries doubled from 2014 to 2015, with the US the main country receiving them.

LACK OF RESOURCES TO HELP REFUGEES INTEGRATE CAN LEAVE THEM VULNERABLE TO DEPORTATION. [USA Today](#) (4/5, Wiltz, 5.45M) reports refugees' successful adaptation to new lives in the US often "depends greatly on the organizations that sponsor them," as "few states have programs to help them" successfully integrate American society. As a result, analysts say, "success can vary widely, depending on where they live." The article focuses on Southeast Asian refugees, especially those who entered the country as young children. There were "few federal and state resources available" and they were "often bullied for being outsiders," leaving some to find "solace and protection in street gangs." However, today they are finding "that crimes they committed in their youth could mean abrupt deportation for them later on."

Secret Service:

FBI, SECRET SERVICE INVESTIGATING CYBERATTACK ON TRUMP HOTEL COLLECTION. [CNN Money](#) (4/5, Pagliery, 2.9M) reports Eric Trump acknowledged Monday that the Trump Hotel Collection computers were breached, and the "FBI and Secret Service are now investigating the incident."

FORMER BANK EMPLOYEE ARRESTED ON EMBEZZLEMENT CHARGES. The [San Antonio Express-News](#) (4/5, Contreras, 952K) reports Secret Service agents arrested former Frost Bank Trust Administrator Assistant Meagan Hollis "on a charge that she embezzled \$76,664 from the accounts of customers, some of whom were dead."

Terrorism Investigations:

COMEY: "DON'T FREAK OUT" ABOUT TERRORISM. During a visit to Detroit Tuesday, FBI Director Comey urged residents to "remain calm but guarded" about terrorism, the [Detroit Free Press](#) (4/5, Baldas, 989K) reports. Speaking during a press conference, Comey said, "Please don't freak out. ... That's exactly what these savages want you to do." Comey "stressed that the FBI and other federal agencies are doing all they can to prevent terror attacks in the US, but urged the public to speak up if they see or hear something suspicious."

FBI LAWYER WON'T DISCLOSE WHETHER DATA FROM FAROOK'S IPHONE IS "USEFUL." The

[New York Times](#) (4/5, Lichtblau, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports the FBI General Counsel James A. Baker told “an audience of privacy professionals in Washington” that the agency had extracted data from San Bernardino attacker Syed Rizwan Farook’s iPhone, but would not say “whether he considered the data...to be ‘useful.’” Baker said, “We’re still working on that, I guess is the answer,” but added, “It was worth the fight to make sure that we have turned over every rock that we can with respect to the investigation. We owe it to the victims and the families to make sure that we pursue every logical lead.”

AFTER “CONFIDENTIAL” DOJ NOTICE, 9/11 PROSECUTION DELAYED AGAIN. The [AP](#) (4/5) reports that “an effort to prosecute five men held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, for the Sept. 11 terrorist attack has hit another snag,” as a “pretrial hearing scheduled to start Tuesday was abruptly canceled late last week by the military judge presiding over the case after he received a confidential notice from Justice Department lawyers.” While “the document is sealed...there are indications the filing has raised issues that will result in further delays in a case that has been mired in the pretrial stage for years.”

ISIL CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR MURDER OF SAUDI POLICE COLONEL. The [Washington Post](#) (4/5, Murphy, 8.98M) reports that “a Saudi military officer was killed by gunfire Tuesday in an attack claimed by an Islamic State faction previously linked to bombings against mosques and other sites in the Western-allied kingdom.” While “the assertion by the group could not be independently verified...it suggests a widening of its targets in Saudi Arabia to strike directly at military and security forces, which are aided by the United States and other Western allies.” The [New York Times](#) (4/6, Hubbard, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) notes “the Saudi Interior Ministry confirmed the colonel’s killing in a statement, but said the attacker remained unknown.”

SEIZED DOCUMENTS SHOW BIN LADEN URGED AL QAEDA TO BUY GOLD. The [New York Times](#) (4/5, Rosenberg, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports that as al Qaeda sought to invest \$5 million in ransom at the end of 2010, Osama bin Laden was “bullish” about gold. Among the intelligence seized in the 2011 raid on bin Laden’s compound was a December 2010 letter in which he “instructed Al Qaeda’s general manager to set aside a third of the ransom – nearly \$1.7 million – to buy gold bars and coins.”

CLASS-ACTION LAWSUIT SEEKS DAMAGES FOR THOSE ON FEDERAL WATCH LISTS. The [Washington Post](#) (4/5, Zapotosky, 8.98M) reports that a new class-action lawsuit “alleges that untold thousands of people placed on the U.S. watch listing system deserve monetary damages for what it says are the unpleasant and unconstitutional consequences that come from having their names on various federal registers.” The lawsuit, filed in an Alexandria, VA federal court “on behalf of 18 American Muslims, including a 4-year-old child,” is “perhaps the broadest challenge to the federal watch listing system, though it is hardly the first.” A federal judge in Oregon “has already declared the previous no-fly-list procedures unconstitutional, and a federal judge in Alexandria said the way the United States used it was unconstitutional when it was used to detain a Northern Virginia teenager in Kuwait several years ago.”

AUTHOR QUESTIONS WHITE HOUSE’S TRANSLATION OF HOLLANDE’S COMMENTS ON TERRORISM. In an op-ed for [USA Today](#) (4/5, Orchowski, 5.45M), author Peggy Sands Orchowski, the congressional correspondent for Hispanic Outlook magazine, writes she “cringed when [she] heard that ‘Islamist’ had gone missing from French President Francois Holland’s description of terrorism at a recent White House roundtable.” Noting that the President “adamantly refuses to use or allow use of the term,” Orchowski calls it “quite a coincidence that the technical difficulty happened to erase a term often used by European leaders but essentially banned by Obama,” and argues “no translation protocol allows deliberate changes to a speaker’s words because they are deemed politically incorrect by the host,” especially “when the host is the White House.”

Cyber News:

ROGERS HIGHLIGHTS CYBER THREATS AT SENATE HEARING. The [Washington Times](#) (4/5, Blake, 285K) reports NSA Director and Cyber Command head Rogers told the Senate Armed Services Committee on Wednesday that while Chinese hackers have continued to launch attacks on American targets, “US intelligence officials aren’t certain if Beijing has fully breached the terms of a cyber pact

reached last year between President Obama and his Chinese counterpart.” Rogers told the panel that although “US entities are indeed still under attack,” the “‘jury is still out’ with respect to whether China has explicitly broken its promise.” Rogers also “confessed...that Chinese hackers are indeed believed to still be attacking US networks, but it’s not clear yet if trade secrets are being stolen for Beijing’s economic benefit.” The [AP](#) (4/5) reports Rogers said that Russia and China “present the greatest cyber security threat to the U.S., but Iran is trying to increase and spend more on its capabilities.” Rogers said that while the US “has more overall military power than the three countries, the gaps are narrower when it comes to cyber warfare.” [USA Today](#) (4/5, Kelly, 5.45M) reports that Rogers testified that “one of his biggest fears is that the Islamic State could develop the ability to manipulate electronic data – a power that could allow them to give American military officials false information in the midst of a battle or threaten the lives of patients by providing doctors with altered health records.” Rogers said that the result would be that Americans “could no longer trust what you are seeing.”

In a more negative piece, [The Hill](#) (4/5, Bennett, 862K) says that senators “hammered the Obama administration, saying it lacks a coherent or fully formed cyber warfare policy.” For example, Chairman McCain said, “The administration’s cyber policy as a whole remains detached from reality. For years our enemies have been setting the norms in cyberspace while the White House sat idly by hoping the problem would fix itself.” The Hill adds that “several senators...pointed to” a GAO report released Monday “that concluded the DOD has not clearly defined its own ‘roles and responsibilities for cyber incidents.’” Rogers “agreed that greater clarification was needed, but had not yet read the report.”

The [Military Times](#) (4/5, Randall, 763K) reports that Rogers also “urged” members of the committee “to accelerate debate on how to balance security and privacy in the ever-changing digital realm.” Rogers testified, “Worst-case scenario is we don’t have dialogue and then we have a major event. We have got to figure out how we can do this.”

McCain Backs Splitting CyberCom, NSA. [Bloomberg Politics](#) (4/5, Syeed, 289K) reports that McCain said he wants to make Cyber Command “a standalone organization as concerns about electronic security deepen.” The move is “needed to address the serious threat of hacking attacks to national security and will be proposed in the annual defense authorization bill,” McCain said. [FedScoop](#) (4/5) reports that “Senate lawmakers believe the conjoined roles of NSA director and CyberCom commander should be split.” The Tuesday hearing discussed, “among other things, elevating CyberCom to be a unified combatant command, on a par with geographical commands like the U.S. Central Command. CyberCom, co-located with the NSA at Ft. George G. Meade in Maryland, would be the 10th such command – the units in the U.S. military that actually wage war.”

The [Military Times](#) (4/5, Tilghman, 763K) reports Rogers testified on Tuesday “that his command should be elevated to become its own unified combatant command, a move that would make it one of the most powerful institutions in the Defense Department.” Rogers said, “A combatant commander designation would allow us to be faster, which would generate better mission outcomes. I would also argue that the department’s processes of budget prioritization, strategy and policy are all generally structured to enable direct combatant commander input into those processes. That’s what they’re optimized for. I believe that cyber needs to be a part of that direct process.”

Carter Says CyberCom Has “First Wartime Assignment.” [Military](#) (4/5, Seck, 190K) reports that on Tuesday, Defense Secretary Carter said that Cyber Command “has received its ‘first wartime assignment’ in the fight against the Islamic State.” Carter said, “I have given the Cyber Command in the counter-ISIL fight really its first wartime assignment,” adding, “What that means is to bring the fight to ISIL in Syria and Iraq. It means interrupting their ability to command and control their forces, interrupting their ability to plot including against us here and anywhere else against our friends and allies around the world, interrupting their finances, their ability to dominate the population on territory they have tried to establish this nasty ideology.”

ANONYMOUS SOURCE CLAIMS MEDSTAR ATTACK COULD’VE BEEN AVOIDED IF HOSPITAL APPLIED A RECOMMENDED SOFTWARE PATCH. The [AP](#) (4/5, Abdollah) reports an anonymous source claiming to have information on the cyberattack on MedStar Health Inc.’s network says that the attack occurred through a “JBoss application server supported by Red Hat Inc.” that was discovered to

have a security flaw in February 2007. The source tells the AP that Red Hat and the government issued several warnings in regard to the security flaw, which could be fixed by “installing an available update or manually deleting two lines of software code.” The AP says it isn’t clear why the hospital network failed to heed the warnings.

Recent Attacks Shine Spotlight On Hospital Security Vulnerabilities. The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (4/5, Caiola, 569K) says the recent hacks on Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center and several other hospitals in California have highlighted vulnerabilities in healthcare security. The Bee says hospitals are vulnerable “due to their reliance on expensive, aging medical equipment, their inability to halt patient care to perform time-consuming software updates, and a workflow that depends on the constant input and accessing of data on different devices.” The Bee calls electronic medical records a “treasure trove of unguarded information” with a “high black market value,” which makes them “prime targets for a growing number of sophisticated criminals.”

MAYORKAS, PAINTER URGE GLOBAL CYBERSECURITY EXPERTS TO ADOPT NIST FRAMEWORK. [FedScoop](#) (4/5, Otto) reports Deputy DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas and State Department Coordinator for Cyber Issues Chris Painter spoke Tuesday to a “roomful of global cybersecurity experts at the Billington International Cybersecurity Summit...to examine the various security frameworks and legislation the US has crafted and use it as a model for their home governments.” FedScoop says Mayorkas and Painter “touted the National Institute of Standards and Technology cybersecurity framework as a document that has lifted cybersecurity awareness in private companies,” and “highlighted progress made in the administration’s efforts on a global level.”

HACKER PLEADS GUILTY TO BREACHING US DEFENSE CONTRACTORS TO SEND DATA TO CHINA. The [Vancouver \(CAN\) Sun](#) (4/5, Tanner, 544K) reports Chinese-national and former Vancouver resident Su Bin “pleaded guilty in California to hacking into the computer networks of major U.S. defense contractors and sending stolen military data to China.” The Sun says “some of the stolen information related to military technical data, including data relating to the C-17 strategic transport aircraft and certain fighter jets produced for the U.S. military.” The Sun notes that Bin is set to be sentenced in July, and could “face five years in prison and a \$250,000 U.S. fine.”

WHATSAPP IS FULLY ENCRYPTED ON ALL PLATFORMS. The [Washington Post](#) (4/5, Nakashima, 8.98M) reports the instant messaging app WhatsApp “is now fully encrypted on all platforms,” representing “the intensification of a trend toward ubiquitous encryption that has posed challenges for law enforcement in the United States and around the world.” In remarks to the International Association of Privacy Professionals on Tuesday, FBI General Counsel James A. Baker said WhatsApp and Facebook, which owns the app, “are ‘great American companies,’” but “this presents us with a significant problem.” Baker said if the trend continues, “encryption like that will continue to roll out in a variety of different ways across the technological landscape.”

TEPLINSKY: DEFEND TRADE SECRETS ACT WILL DETER CYBERCRIME. In an op-ed for the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (4/5, Teplinsky, 442K), American University Washington College of Law professor Melanie Teplinsky argues the Defend Trade Secrets Act (DTSA), which was unanimously passed in the Senate on Monday, shows the “government’s growing commitment to deterrence as a key element in the country’s cybersecurity strategy.” Teplinsky says the DTSA will deter cybercrime because “the bill encourages victims to pursue perpetrators” by “enabling victims to recover losses from cyberenabled IP theft.” Teplinsky opines that the previous strategy of “focus[ing] on reducing our vulnerability to cyberattack” didn’t work, and she believes deterrence is a better strategy because the bill will make “cyberespionage more costly for malicious hackers...by allowing victims the chance to recover significant monetary damages after an attack.”

AP ANALYSIS: TIPS FOR BECOMING A “SMALLER TARGET FOR RANSOMWARE HACKERS”. The [AP](#) (4/5, Abdollah) provides five tips for avoiding ransomware hacks. The AP says users should “make safe and secure backups,” “update and patch your systems,” “use antivirus software,” “educate your workforce,” and shut down an infected network immediately.

ADM. ROGERS WARNS SENATE OF RUSSIAN, CHINESE CYBERTHREATS. The [AP](#) (4/5, Baldor)

reports Navy Admiral Michael Rogers told the Senate Armed Services Committee on Tuesday that “Russia and China present the greatest cyber security threat to the U.S., but Iran is trying to increase and spend more on its capabilities.” The AP adds Adm. Rogers “is considering elevating Cyber Command to a full, independent military command” in order to increase efficiency and “give him more input into the budget process and how to prioritize spending.”

National Security News:

OBAMA: ISIL STILL DANGEROUS, BUT “CONTINUES TO LOSE GROUND.” [USA Today](#) (4/5, Korte, 5.45M) reports that the President “met with his top generals for a big-picture overview of the US defense posture Tuesday, but said most of the discussion focused on his ‘top priority,’” defeating ISIL. Obama told reporters, “ISIL continues to lose ground,” but “still has the ability to launch serious terrorist attacks. One of my main messages today is that destroying ISIL continues to be my top priority and so we can no longer tolerate the kinds of positioning that is enabled by them having headquarters in Raqqa and in Mosul.” The [Washington Times](#) (4/5, Boyer, 285K) indicates that Obama “noted that coalition forces recently severed the main highway between the Islamic State strongholds of Raqqa, Syria, and Mosul, Iraq.” Obama “said the renewed pressure is necessary because the Islamic State has shown the ability to launch terrorist attacks such as the ones last month in Belgium and Turkey.” Added Obama, “We are going to squeeze them and we will defeat them. ... This will continue to be a difficult fight, but I’m absolutely confident that ISIL will lose, and we will prevail once again.”

MCCAIN: OBAMA’S ISIL STRATEGY RISKS “GRINDING FAILURE FOR OUR NATION.” The [AP](#) (4/5, Lardner) reports that in a “brief but pointed” letter to Defense Secretary Carter, Sen. John McCain wrote that the Administration’s “fight against the Islamic State is at risk of becoming a ‘grinding failure for our nation.’” McCain also “said US military commanders are being hamstrung by an overly cautious Obama administration.” Wrote McCain, “As a young military officer, I bore witness to the failed policy of gradual escalation that ultimately led to our nation’s defeat in the Vietnam War. ... I fear this administration’s grudging incrementalism in the war against the Islamic State risks another slow, grinding failure for our nation.”

WPOST ANALYSIS: NATIONAL SECURITY POWERS INCREASINGLY USED IN ORDINARY CRIMINAL CASES. The [Washington Post](#) (4/5, Nakashima, 8.98M) examines “how exceptional powers given to the government in recent years to gather information about suspected terrorist or espionage threats without some of the traditional safeguards for a defendant’s rights are now being used in more routine criminal cases.” According to the Post, “over the past 15 years or so, the wall between intelligence gatherers and criminal prosecutors has fallen, making it easier to share information, especially to fight terrorism,” and under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA), “defendants are generally unable to effectively challenge the warrants that authorized the search or surveillance because they are not permitted to see them or the underlying application on national security grounds.” The Post uses as an illustrative case the prosecution of Keith Gartenlaub, of Riverside, CA, who was suspected to be a spy for China, but was instead later convicted of possession of child pornography.

RUSSIA’S LAVROV EXPRESSES “FULL SUPPORT” FOR UN-MEDIATED PEACE TALKS. [Reuters](#) (4/5) reports that Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov yesterday expressed his country’s full support for the peace talks led by the UN mediator Staffan de Mistura, with whom he met in Moscow. Said Lavrov, “As in any conflict, it is of course key that we ensure the inclusive character of the negotiations and that they are focused on promoting a direct dialogue between the two sides. ... We will give you our full support in this.”

The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (4/5, Weir, 442K), meanwhile, remarked on the sense of triumph enveloping perceptions of the Russian army in the wake of its intervention in Syria. Said the Monitor, “There’s nothing quite like a victorious war to change perceptions about a country.” Russia’s “reduced-but-ongoing military intervention in Syria appears to have already accomplished several of its intended geopolitical goals,” and “may also be yielding a surprise windfall: stepped-up orders for the weaponry that starred in the globally televised Syria mission.”

WPost: Ceasefire Falling Apart, Hasn't Lived Up To Billing. The [Washington Post](#) (4/5, 8.98M) editorializes that the ceasefire in Syria "has now nominally lasted more than five weeks," but it "has not stopped the regime of Bashar al-Assad from continuing offensives against strategic territory held by rebel forces that joined the truce," and "has not opened corridors for humanitarian aid into those areas, which are occupied by hundreds of thousands of people." In the final analysis, "the Obama administration lacks the leverage to force compliance by the regime because of its refusal to take steps such as creating a no-fly zone or providing more military support to rebel forces." The Post adds that the Administration "can only hope that sheer jawboning by Secretary of State John F. Kerry with his Russian and Iranian counterparts will persuade them to bring Mr. Assad into line," but Kerry "will have to talk fast: At the rate events are moving, what's left of the cease-fire doesn't appear likely to last much longer."

MILITANTS DOWN SYRIAN GOVERNMENT PLANE. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (4/5, Bulos, 4.1M) reports that "Syrian rebels operating in the country's northern region shot down a government warplane Tuesday, suggesting that they have been supplied with anti-aircraft weapons." The Times adds that "A pro-opposition activist, Majed Abdul Nour, said that" one of the pilots "was taken by militants affiliated with Al Qaeda's branch in Syria, Al Nusra Front," and "another pro-opposition journalist, Moussa Omar, tweeted a picture of what he said was the bloodied corpse of the other pilot." The [Washington Post](#) (4/5, Naylor, 8.98M) notes "the aircraft was hit near the city of Aleppo, a front line in the fighting," and that "the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based monitoring group, said al-Qaeda-affiliated Jabhat al-Nusra took the pilot captive."

[Al Arabiya](#) (4/5, 22K) ran a similar story under the headline "Nusra Front Captures Pilot From Downed Syrian Jet." However, [Reuters](#) (4/5) indicates, the Islamist group Ahrar al-Sham also appeared to claim responsibility for the attack on Twitter.

AFGHANISTAN RECRUITING VILLAGERS TO TAKE ON ISIL. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/5, Donati, Totakhil, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) reports Afghanistan's National Directorate of Security has been recruiting and arming villagers in the country's east to hold back ISIL as the group moves to expand its grip on the region. The Journal cites an official who said the government hopes to roll out the program across the country and may later employ it against the Taliban.

TALIBAN LEADER APPOINTS "SKEPTICS" TO SENIOR LEADERSHIP POSITIONS. The [New York Times](#) (4/5, Mashal, Shah, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports Taliban leader, Mullah Akhtar Muhammad Mansour, in his latest effort to "publicly consolidate his authority after a leadership struggle last summer," has appointed the brother and son of Taliban founder Mullah Muhammad Omar "to senior leadership posts, a spokesman for the insurgent group said on Tuesday." Mansour "brutally quashed breakaway groups and sought to buy the support of other skeptical commanders, all while maintaining a publicity campaign that has portrayed the Taliban as united under his command." The announcement he "had formally brought two of the most influential skeptics back into the fold – Mullah Abdul Manan, the brother of Mullah Omar; and Mullah Muhammad Yaqoub, the founder's son – was expected to help bring other dissenters into line right as the Taliban's annual offensive is expected to pick up momentum in Afghanistan."

DUTCH REFERENDUM ON UKRAINE AGREEMENT MAY STRENGTHEN EU CRITICS. The [New York Times](#) (4/6, Erlanger, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports on the Dutch referendum regarding the EU association agreement with Ukraine. A vote to reject the agreement "could cause major headaches" for the EU and the Dutch government. It is also thought that a negative vote would strengthen EU opponents in Great Britain, and help Russian President Vladimir Putin.

SHANNON: ADMINISTRATION WILL NOT GIVE IRAN ACCESS TO US FINANCIAL SYSTEM. [Reuters](#) (4/5, Zengerle) reports on testimony by Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Thomas Shannon to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in which he said that the Administration will not permit Iran to access the US financial system. Shannon said, "The rumors and news that have appeared in the press ... are not true." Pressed by Sen. Bob Corker as to whether these reports are "bogus," Shannon replied, "As of this moment, as far as I know, yes."

The [Washington Times](#) (4/5, Howell, 285K) reports Shannon told the committee that the US will "use its

veto power in the U.N. Security Council” to “block the approval of fighter aircraft” being sold to Iran. He also explained “that the purchase of Su-30 is prohibited under” a UN Security Council resolution.

Royce Producing Legislation To Prevent Iran From Gaining Access To US Financial System. Rep. Ed Royce (R-CA), chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, writes in the [Washington Post](#) (4/5, Royce, 8.98M), that Iran is seeking “access to the U.S. financial system.” While President Obama “walked back reports that Iran would be allowed direct access to the U.S. dollar,” he failed to “explicitly close the door to other steps that would give the regime access to U.S. dollars.” Royce writes that Treasury Secretary Jack Lew said last summer that Iran would “continue to be denied access to the world’s largest financial and commercial market,” but “just two weeks ago,” Lew “refused to give a direct answer” when asked whether this was still true. Royce writes that he is working on bipartisan legislation to adopt “strict statutory prohibitions to keep Iran from receiving the benefits of accessing the U.S. financial system.”

SOUTH KOREAN OFFICIAL: NORTH CAN MOUNT NUCLEAR WARHEAD ON MEDIUM-RANGE MISSILE. [Reuters](#) (4/5, Kim) reports an unidentified South Korean official, speaking to a small group of reporters, said that the South Korean government believes North Korea is able to mount a nuclear warhead on a medium-range missile, specifically identifying the Rodong missile, which has a range of 2,000 km, and can carry a warhead up to 1,100 lbs. Pentagon spokesman Captain Jeff Davis on Tuesday said, “we don’t share that assessment necessarily but we do accept what they say as a threat we need to take as real.”

DOJ TO OFFER LENIENCY FOR COMPANIES THAT SELF-REPORT FOREIGN BRIBERY. The [Washington Post](#) (4/5, Zapotosky, 8.98M) reports that the Justice Department on Tuesday “unveiled a pilot program that they hope will encourage companies to reach out to prosecutors when they find evidence their employees bribed foreign government officials.” Assistant Attorney General Leslie R. Caldwell, who heads the department’s Criminal Division, said the initiative “is meant to help federal prosecutors learn of international corruption more quickly and build more cases against individuals – even if that means giving cooperating companies a break.” Caldwell said that in some cases, “companies that self-report wrongdoing and surrender their ill-gotten gains will be able to avoid prosecution altogether” while others “will receive financial penalties at half the level that federal guidelines call for or be allowed to forego having a federal monitor oversee their activities.”

ICELAND’S PRIME MINISTER RESIGNS AMID PROTESTS OVER “PANAMA PAPERS” REVELATIONS. Coverage of the so-called “Panama Papers” leak is significantly lighter than it has been over the past two days, with less than one minute of total coverage on two of the three network television broadcasts and stories from fewer print and online outlets. By far, the main focus of the coverage is the resignation of Iceland’s prime minister, Sigmundur David Gunnlaugsson, who stepped down Tuesday amid protests in Reykjavik over revelations he and his wife owned an offshore company that managed millions of dollars of investments in three Icelandic banks that collapsed during the 2008 financial crisis.

Like many media outlets, both [NBC Nightly News](#) (4/5, story 5, 0:25, Holt, 16.61M) and the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/5, Duxbury, Gauthier-Villars, Verbergt, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) describe Gunnlaugsson as the first high-profile casualty of the scandal, while the [CBS Evening News](#) (4/5, story 8, 0:30, Pelley, 11.17M) called his resignation a consequence of the leak. The [AP](#) (4/5, Lawless, McHugh) reports Gunnlaugsson stepped down “amid outrage” that he used a shell company “shelter large sums while Iceland’s economy was in crisis.” He is, the AP says, “first major figure brought down” by the leaked material. Gunnlaugsson’s resignation came after Iceland’s president, Olafur Ragnar Grimsson, refused “to dissolve parliament and call a new election, and after thousands of Icelanders protested outside the parliament building in Reykjavik.”

The protests, [McClatchy](#) (4/5, Johnson, 22K) notes, were “the largest anti-government protests in modern times in Iceland, a sign of the public anger over his family’s offshore holdings.” Gunnlaugsson’s resignation “came hours before thousands of Icelanders planned for a second day to gather in front of parliament” to demand his ouster. [USA Today](#) (4/5, Hjelmggaard, Durando, 5.45M) says Gunnlaugsson was “expected to face a no-confidence vote in Parliament Thursday.”

The [Washington Post](#) (4/5, Murphy, 8.98M) reports his offer to step down “could avoid a showdown” over

his government, but adds it was unclear “how the current political showdowns would unfold,” noting parliament “was not scheduled to meet Tuesday,” and Grimsson “said he wanted further talks with political leaders and others before making the formal decision to accept the resignation and dissolve Parliament.” According to [Reuters](#) (4/5), Progressive Party deputy leader Sigurdur Ingi Johannsson told reporters the party will recommend to its Independence Party coalition partners that he become the new prime minister.

The [New York Times](#) (4/5, Erlanger, Castle, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) says Gunnlaugsson’s resignation is “the first prominent political fallout from the document leaks,” adding “officials around the world...were scrambling on Tuesday to contain the fallout.” In Britain, Prime Minister David Cameron, “who has portrayed himself as a champion of financial transparency, was battling revelations in the leaks that British-governed territories are vast havens of hidden wealth, including for members of his own family.”

China Moves To Censor Reports On Leak. [USA Today](#) (4/5, Yu, 5.45M) reports China reacted to the “reports and online chats” about the leak by “largely banning the topic and other related search terms at news organizations and social media channels in the country.” While the report from the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists said “several prominent Chinese names...appear in the documents,” the “revelation will not be easy to find online for Chinese readers, as censors prevented the country’s top news outlets from reporting the topic” and “blocked the stories by the ICIJ’s and several of its publishing partners, including Spain’s El País, France’s Le Monde, Süddeutsche Zeitung in Germany, the Canadian Broadcasting Corp., and the U.K. and U.S. editions of The Guardian.”

In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (4/5, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) questions whether anything will change in the wake of the revelations. The Times says “it is clear that the secrecy of the sort Swiss banks formerly provided and now lawyers in Panama offer is a magnet for ill-gotten fortunes and tax evaders,” and argues while “lost tax revenue is one consequence of this hidden system; even more dangerous is its deep damage to democratic rule and regional stability when corrupt politicians have a place to stash stolen national assets out of public view.”

CEASE-FIRE HOLDING ALONG NAGORNO-KARABAKH BORDER. The [New York Times](#) (4/6, Kramer, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports, “Armenians and Azerbaijanis agreed on Tuesday to a cease-fire after four days of fighting” on the border of the Nagorno-Karabakh region. There were “isolated instances of mortar and tank fire.” The Kremlin said that Russian President Vladimir V. Putin had called both President Ilham Aliyev of Azerbaijan and President Serzh Sargsyan of Armenia “to immediately support a full halt in combat actions.”

The [Washington Post](#) (4/5, Roth, 8.98M) reports “officials from the United States, France and Russia planned trips to the region later this week to mediate” the conflict. In addition to Putin’s calls, Russian Prime Minister Dmitri Medvedev is planning a trip to Armenia, while Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov will visit Azerbaijan in mediation efforts.

DAUGHTER OF MURDERED HONDURAN ACTIVIST SEEKS US HELP IN INVESTIGATION.

[McClatchy](#) (4/5, Ordoñez, 22K) reports Bertha Zúniga, 25, daughter of Berta Cáceres, the co-founder of the Council of Indigenous Peoples of Honduras, is in Washington “this week to press the Obama administration for help investigating her mother’s murder.” She said that Cáceres’ opposition to a hydroelectric dam had resulted in her receiving “death threats from Honduran authorities and private security forces.” Cáceres’ family members are meeting with members of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and several senators, and are seeking to meet with officials from the State and Treasury departments. They are urging an end to US aid to Honduras until they receive satisfaction. US ambassador to Honduras James D. Nealon has called “for a prompt and thorough investigation.” Members of Congress, including 11 senators, have “urged Secretary of State John Kerry to place a hold on any U.S. assistance.”

ONE OF LIBYA’S GOVERNMENTS RESIGNS TO MAKE WAY FOR NEW UNITY GOVERNMENT. The [AP](#) (4/6, Mohammed) reports that Libya’s Tripoli-based National Salvation Government announced Tuesday that it will “cease duties,” an action that “helps efforts by a new, U.N.-brokered unity

government.” The European Union had “slapped sanctions on three Libyan officials, including Prime Minister Khalifa Ghweil” of the Tripoli-based government. Secretary of State Kerry and the UN envoy to Libya, Martin Kobler, both welcomed the arrival in Tripoli of “the head of the new government, Fayez Serraj.” [Reuters](#) (4/5, Elumami) reports the new government began operations in a naval base and is supported by the UN, EU, and US.

ITALY’S FOREIGN MINISTER WARNS EGYPT OF NEED TO UNCOVER TRUTH IN DEATH OF STUDENT. The [New York Times](#) (4/5, Walsh, Youssef, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports Italian Foreign Minister Paolo Gentiloni on Tuesday told the Italian parliament that the government will implement “immediate and proportional” actions against Egypt if does not “help uncover the truth behind the death” of Giulio Regeni, 28, an Italian student in Italy, “whose brutalized body was discovered on a roadside in February in Cairo.” The Italian government is seeking cooperation from the Egyptian police in order that Italian police may review the case. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/5, Zampano, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) reports a delegation of Egyptian police is traveling to Rome to offer a review of the case to Italian police.

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

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