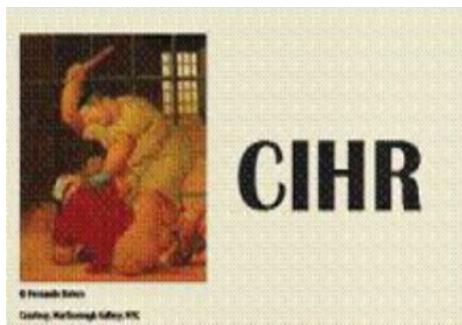


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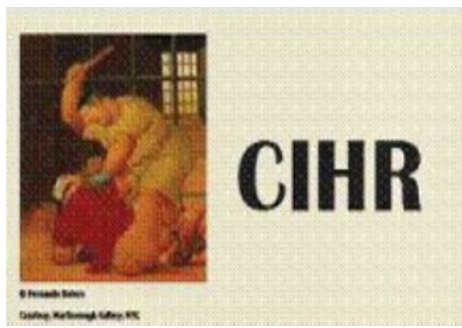
<b>BRIEF STATEMENT</b>	<b>LINKS</b>
<p>Escalating violence across Syria which has seen a fragile truce agreement unravel and peace talks collapse could release new levels of horror, the U.N. human rights chief said on Friday, saying all parties have shown a "monstrous disregard" for civilian lives.</p>	<p><a href="#"><u>'Lethal escalation' in Syria being readied: U.N. rights boss</u></a></p>
<p>Mistakes by the crew flying an AC-130 gunship, compounded by equipment and procedural failures, led to the devastating attack on a Doctors Without Borders hospital in northern Afghanistan last year, and 16 American military personnel, including a general officer, have been punished for their roles in the strike, the Defense Department announced on Friday.</p>	<p><a href="#"><u>Punishing 16, Pentagon Says Mistakes Led to Hospital Attack</u></a></p>
<p>Lysenko was once the Soviet Union's top agricultural mastermind, supported by Joseph Stalin Himself. Even at the height of his power, however, Lysenko's controversial theories on how plants and animals genetically adapt to their surroundings were dismissed by most of his peers. Yet Lysenko's political influence was so great that he managed to have many of his rivals killed. His pseudoscience thus dominated Soviet academia for decades—causing profound damage to Russian research and agricultural production.</p>	<p><a href="#"><u>What the Reappraisal of Soviet Russia's Top Agricultural Mastermind Says About Putin's Russia</u></a></p>
<p>By many measures, after all, China's economy is on track to become the world's biggest, and even if its growth slows, it will still outpace that of the United States for many years. Its coffers overflowing, Beijing has used its new wealth to attract friends, deter enemies, modernize its military, and aggressively assert sovereignty claims in its periphery. For many,</p>	<p><a href="#"><u>Why China Won't Overtake the United States</u></a></p>



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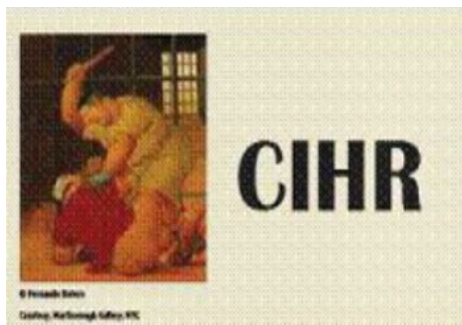
<p>therefore, the question is not whether China will become a superpower but just how soon.</p>	
<p>The Syrian refugee crisis has attracted Western attention largely because of its modest spillover into Europe. But this spillover represents a mere fraction of the misery caused by mass displacement today: only around 15 percent of Syria’s 5.8 million refugees have attempted to reach Europe, and the Syrian refugee surge is itself only one of several around the world.</p>	<p><u><a href="#">A New Model for Helping the Displace</a></u></p>
<p>For decades, anyone who settled there was primarily in the area to mine, but in 2013, hit by low oil prices, coal became unprofitable and Norway decided to diversify away from fossil fuels. It committed to developing more renewable energy sources, transitioning slowly from oil to gas and selling off coal stocks from its \$900 billion sovereign wealth fund, the largest in the world. Against this background, Norway closed its main coal mine in Svalbard early this year, sending shock waves through the economy of the largest town on Spitsbergen, the only permanently inhabited island in the archipelago.</p>	<p><u><a href="#">The Economics of Living at the Top of the World</a></u></p>
<p>South Sudanese rebel leader Riek Machar was sworn in as first vice president on Tuesday, hours after he returned to the capital of Juba for the first time since conflict erupted more than two years ago.</p>	<p><u><a href="#">South Sudan's Machar sworn in as VP, president calls for reconciliation</a></u></p>
<p>Secor, who has reported from and written about Iran for The New Yorker, The New York Times Magazine, and this publication, has produced a vibrant panorama of contemporary Iran that doubles as a thorough intellectual and political history of the country’s past four decades. She tells the stories of the men who have held power, and also those of the</p>	<p><u><a href="#">The Iranian Revolution and the Enlightenment</a></u></p>



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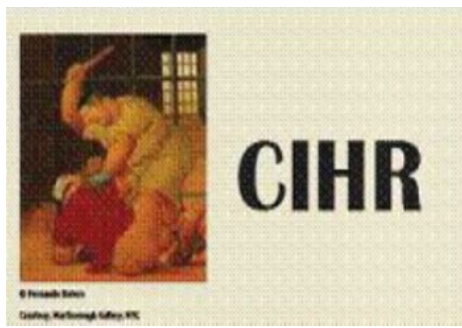
<p>men—and, increasingly, women—who have opposed them: activists, journalists, lawyers, university students, and ordinary citizens who have risked their lives by challenging authority. The Iran that emerges from her account is full of contradictions, complexities, and paradoxes.</p>	
<p>The United Nations Security Council today blasted North Korea for firing what the hermit state claimed was a successful submarine-launched ballistic missile.</p>	<p><a href="#"><u>UN Security Council 'strongly' condemns N.Korea missile launch</u></a></p>
<p>The United States takes the prize for gun ownership, with almost one gun per person. In fact, if China, Germany, and India are taken out of the equation, the United States, with as many as 270 million guns in the hands of civilians, has more privately owned firearms than the rest of the world put together. No wonder gun advocates there call themselves an army.</p>	<p><a href="#"><u>The World's Love Affair With Firearms</u></a></p>
<p>The United States has opened a new line of combat against the Islamic State, directing the military's six-year-old Cyber Command for the first time to mount computer-network attacks that are now being used alongside more traditional weapons.</p>	<p><a href="#"><u>U.S. Cyber Attacks Target ISIS in a New Line of Combat</u></a></p>
<p>As The UN Climate Change Conference in Paris came to a close in December 2015, foreign ministers from around the world raised their arms in triumph. Indeed, there was more to celebrate in Paris than at any prior climate summit. Before the conference, over 180 countries had submitted detailed plans to curb their greenhouse gas emissions. And after two weeks of intense negotiation, 195 countries agreed to submit new, stronger plans every five years.</p>	<p><a href="#"><u>Fighting Climate Change With Innovation</u></a></p>



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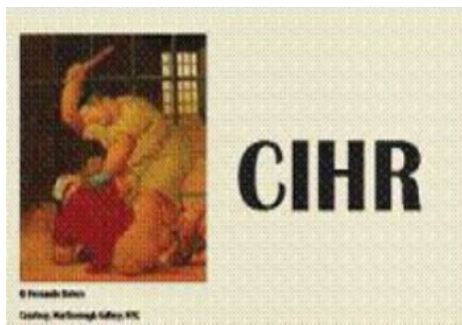
<p>The mood of much of the world is grim these days. Turmoil in the Middle East, causing hundreds of thousands of deaths and millions of refugees; random terrorist attacks across the globe; geopolitical tensions in eastern Europe and Asia; the end of the commodity supercycle; slowing growth in China; and economic stagnation in many countries—all have combined to feed a deep pessimism about the present and, worse, the future.</p>	<p><u><a href="#">The Case for Global Optimism</a></u></p>
<p>This Friday, a record number of countries will sign the Paris Agreement on climate change, the historic roadmap for moving to a low-carbon economy and achieving a sustainable future for our planet and its people.</p>	<p><u><a href="#">Why countries should sign the Paris Agreement on climate change -- and why you should care</a></u></p>
<p>GOVERNMENT is concerned about the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in the hands of civilians in the country. “The large number of armed civilians is a serious concern, which usually results in the abuse of firearms,” safety and security minister Charles Namoloh said at Walvis Bay yesterday.</p>	<p><u><a href="#">Govt concerned about armed civilians</a></u></p>
<p>As global leaders prepare to sign the Paris Agreement on climate change tomorrow at United Nations Headquarters in New York, the head of the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction today called on signatories to go beyond their existing commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions if the world is to avoid catastrophic future weather events.</p>	<p><u><a href="#">UN says Paris Agreement on climate change must aim for long-term environmental stability</a></u></p>
<p>The government of Venezuela sent Wednesday its fourth humanitarian mission to Ecuador in order to help that country with the disaster left by the worst earthquake in nearly a decade.</p>	<p><u><a href="#">Venezuela Sends Fourth Humanitarian Mission to Ecuador</a></u></p>



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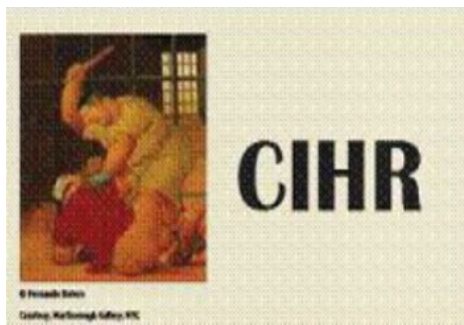
<p>It is well known that Western societies are aging and that the relative paucity of young workers will come with all sorts of budgetary challenges. But the real problem is worse than most people imagine: Grey societies are intrinsically less productive than green ones. What's now at stake is the economic prosperity of the West and the ability of governments to provide for a growing share of inactive people.</p>	<p><u><a href="#">Do Older Workforces Contribute to Low Economic Growth?</a></u></p>
<p>Syrian peace talks appeared all but doomed on Tuesday after air strikes killed about 40 people in a crowded vegetable market in rebel territory, with the opposition saying a truce was finished and it would keep out of negotiations indefinitely.</p>	<p><u><a href="#">Syrian talks appear doomed as air strike kills dozens in market</a></u></p>
<p>In this Year of the Monkey, China has been riveted by the U.S. presidential election, and more specifically by Republican contender Donald Trump. Those who usually pontificate on the nature of democracy and about what kind of U.S. president would be better for China are at a loss to explain the Trump phenomenon to the Chinese public.</p>	<p><u><a href="#">Watching American Democracy in China</a></u></p>
<p>In just two years, a group of Palestinian teenagers have learned how to somersault off buildings, blow fire, and fight with steel swords. They are learning freestyle nunchaku, a type of martial art that is part showmanship and part combat and involves performing a constant series of moves at high speeds. Ahmed Samour, 21, started the group in the hopes that it would gain as much notoriety as parkour has in Palestine and help lift them out of Gaza, which since the 2014 Israeli offensive, is still in ruins.</p>	<p><u><a href="#">The Ninjas of Palestine</a></u></p>
<p>KABUL, Afghanistan — Even in a year when violence across <u><a href="#">Afghanistandid not relent</a></u> over the winter months, the <u><a href="#">Taliban</a></u> marked the official start of the</p>	<p><u><a href="#">Taliban Send Message With Deadly Kabul Attack as Fighting Season Begins</a></u></p>



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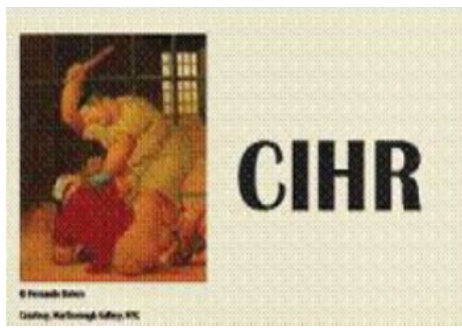
<p>spring fighting season with a huge truck bomb in the heart of Kabul on Tuesday.</p>	
<p>On March 21, 2016, the International Criminal Court (ICC) found Congolese rebel leader turned politician Jean-Pierre Bemba guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity. After holding Bemba in detention for nearly eight years, the court determined that Bemba failed to stop his Mouvement de Libération du Congo (MLC) troops from committing atrocities against civilians in the Central African Republic (CAR) during an attempted coup there in 2002–3. Bemba remains in detention pending sentencing and a judgement on reparations.</p>	<p><u><a href="#">Making Justice Work</a></u></p>
<p>While the Government of Ecuador is leading the response to continue helping people and communities affected by Saturday’s 7.8 magnitude earthquake, the United Nations announced it has deployed relief teams to provide additional support. “The Secretary-General commends the Ecuadorean authorities for their leadership in the rescue effort and in providing relief to affected communities,” said a statement issued by Ban Ki-moon’s spokesperson.</p>	<p><u><a href="#">UN supporting authorities in Ecuador following strongest earthquake in decades</a></u></p>
<p>Burundi’s security services are torturing and illegally detaining increasing numbers of people, the United Nations said on Monday, reinforcing international alarm over the government’s ferocious crackdown on political opponents.</p>	<p><u><a href="#">Burundi Is Torturing Prisoners in Crackdown on Dissent, United Nations Says</a></u></p>
<p>For half a millennium, Russian foreign policy has been characterized by soaring ambitions that have exceeded the country’s capabilities. Beginning with the reign of Ivan the Terrible in the sixteenth century, Russia managed to expand at an average rate of 50 square miles per day for hundreds of years, eventually</p>	<p><u><a href="#">Russia's Perpetual Geopolitics</a></u></p>



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<p>covering one-sixth of the earth’s landmass. By 1900, it was the world’s fourth- or fifth-largest industrial power and the largest agricultural producer in Europe. Russian literacy in the early twentieth century remained below 33 percent—lower than that of Great Britain in the eighteenth century. These comparisons were all well known by the Russian political establishment, because its members traveled to Europe frequently and measured their country against the world’s leaders (something that is true today, as well).</p>	
<p>The United Nations stands ready to provide assistance to Japan following powerful earthquakes that struck Kumamoto province last Thursday and Saturday, killing over 40 people and displacing some 110,000 from their homes.</p>	<p><u><a href="#">Following earthquake in Japan, UN stands ready to provide assistance</a></u></p>
<p>As the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris came to a close in December 2015, foreign ministers from around the world raised their arms in triumph. Indeed, there was more to celebrate in Paris than at any prior climate summit. Before the conference, over 180 countries had submitted detailed plans to curb their greenhouse gas emissions. And after two weeks of intense negotiation, 195 countries agreed to submit new, stronger plans every five years.</p>	<p><u><a href="#">The Clean Energy Revolution</a></u></p>
<p>The top United Nations relief official wrapped up his two-day mission to Ecuador yesterday, announcing that he is releasing \$7 million from the UN’s Central Emergency Response Fund to assist people affected by the deadly earthquake that struck on Saturday, while calling for more support to vulnerable communities.</p>	<p><u><a href="#">Ecuador earthquake: UN relief chief calls for more support to vulnerable communities</a></u></p>



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<p>"States should adopt an international, legally binding instrument that prohibits the development, production, and use of fully autonomous weapons," declared Human Rights Watch (HRW) and Harvard Law School's International Human Rights Clinic (IHRC) in an April statement. The two groups issued their report, "Killer Robots and the Concept of Meaningful Human Control," as experts in weapons and international human rights met in Geneva to consider what should be done about lethal autonomous weapon systems (LAWS). It was their third meeting, conducted under the auspices of the Convention on Conventional Weapons.</p>	<p><a href="#"><u>Killer Robots: Protectors of Human Rights?</u></a></p>
<p>China, responding to the State Department's harsh criticism of China's human rights abuses, condemned the United States' human rights record Thursday, pointing to police brutality and gun violence in the U.S.</p>	<p><a href="#"><u>China cites U.S. gun violence in response to human rights criticism: 'Hold up a mirror</u></a></p>
<p>On May 17, 1916, France and the United Kingdom signed the Sykes-Picot agreement, named after the two diplomats who conducted the negotiations. The agreement was the first in a series of treaties that would eventually create the modern states of the Middle East following the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire. One hundred years later, analysts such as Robin Wright and Jeffrey Goldberg predict that the region's borders will soon be redrawn once more.</p>	<p><a href="#"><u>Does the Middle East Need New Borders?</u></a></p>
<p>The word "ally" is used far too casually in Washington's Middle East lexicon. It's time to break this bad habit, because the truth is that with the exception of Turkey—a NATO member—the United States does not share a single alliance with any Middle Eastern country. As the U.S.-GCC summit in</p>	<p><a href="#"><u>The United States Has No Gulf Allies</u></a></p>

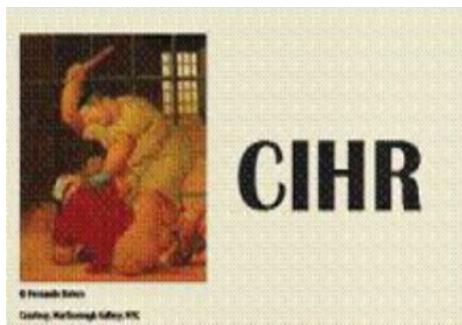




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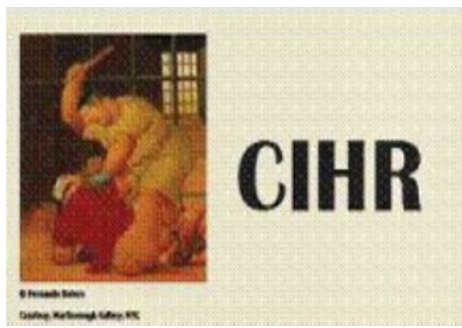
<p>Riyadh approaches, understanding what really constitutes an alliance couldn't be more important.</p>	
<p>Belgian authorities announced on Sunday that the group of attackers who set off bombs at the Brussels airport and a subway station on March 22 had initially planned to hit France.</p>	<p><a href="#"><u>Brussels Attackers' Original Target Was France, Prosecutor Says</u></a></p>
<p>The "man in the hat" who accompanied the two suicide bombers who detonated their explosives at Brussels Airport on March 22, and who was seen in a surveillance video walking away from the airport, has been identified as Mohamed Abrini, the Belgian prosecutor's office said in a statement on Saturday.</p>	<p><a href="#"><u>Man in Hat in Brussels Airport Attack Is in Custody, Belgium Says</u></a></p>
<p>The race to replace Ban Ki-moon, who will step down at the end of the year, fortunately, will be different. At the insistence of small nations that traditionally had no say in the matter, the United Nations has asked that governments that wish to nominate a candidate for the job do so openly. Next week, diplomats from the United Nations' 193 states will have an opportunity to meet and question the four women and four men who are vying for the job.</p>	<p><a href="#"><u>The Race to Run the United Nations</u></a></p>
<p>The war raging in Syria has "provided the perfect breeding ground for extremist and terrorists to take root in the society," UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon told reporters in Geneva.</p>	<p><a href="#"><u>Isis spreading 'like cancer' - United Nations</u></a></p>
<p>The research, "The Online Trade Of Light Weapons In Libya," conducted by the Small Arms Survey, provides detailed information on how the firearm trade on Facebook is propagating. It started during the fall of the Qaddafi regime, which had earlier established strict gun control laws that prohibited the trading of</p>	<p><a href="#"><u>Want Heat-Seeking Missiles Or Machine Guns? You Can Buy That Via Facebook In Libya</u></a></p>



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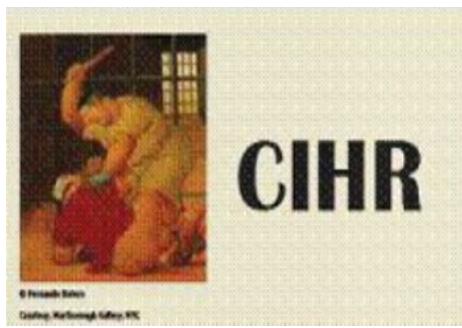
<p>gun wares across the country. Libya, then, saw a sudden increase of weapon trade in the black market as regulations were lifted.</p>	
<p>Greater efforts in preparedness response, recovery and development interventions are needed from humanitarian actors for African nations to meet the immediate needs of their citizens, become more resilient to shocks and crises, and ultimately achieve food security, senior United Nations officials stressed today.</p>	<p><a href="#"><u>UN officials urge boost in development action to meet humanitarian challenges in Africa</u></a></p>
<p>In 2009, U.S. President Barack Obama made a speech in Prague in which he advocated “the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons.” Since then, many Japanese have wondered whether Obama might become the first sitting U.S. president to visit Hiroshima. In May, he will travel to Japan to attend the G-7 summit in Ise-Shima, which has fueled speculation that he might visit the atomic-bombing site during his trip.</p>	<p><a href="#"><u>The Presidential Path to Hiroshima</u></a></p>
<p>Refugees have a right to asylum, not bias and barbed wire. Today’s refugee crisis — and the large-scale migration of people in search of opportunity — are signs of deeper challenges. From Syria to Afghanistan to South Sudan, we need to resolve the wars that force people to flee.</p>	<p><a href="#"><u>Refugees Have a Right to Asylum, Not Bias and Barbed Wire</u></a></p>
<p>The two men came together in an era of political and economic uncertainty in Panama: One a reserved German immigrant whose father served in the armed wing of the Nazi party, the other a gregarious, aspiring novelist whose family opposed Panama’s military dictatorship.</p>	<p><a href="#"><u>Panama Papers Leak Casts Light on a Law Firm Founded on Secrecy</u></a></p>



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<p>Almost a year after Europe’s refugee crisis began, the pressure is still on to find a solution. On March 18, Turkey and the European Union, with German Chancellor Angela Merkel at the forefront, agreed on a deal: for every illegal Syrian refugee returned to Turkey from Greece, one legal Syrian refugee already in Turkey would be resettled in the EU.</p>	<p><u><a href="#">The Strongwoman of Europe</a></u></p>
<p>Geneva - Countries must urgently cooperate to halt the spread of violent extremism around the globe, the United Nations said on Tuesday, ahead of a high-level conference focused on preventing dangerous radicalisation.</p>	<p><u><a href="#">Violent extremism mushrooming - UN</a></u></p>
<p>As China sets its sights on European markets, it has zeroed in on London, the continent’s top international financial center. In October 2015, during Chinese President Xi Jinping’s visit to the United Kingdom, the People’s Bank of China announced that it would begin issuing government debt in yuan there—making the City of London the first place outside of China to offer Chinese sovereign debt.</p>	<p><u><a href="#">China's Offensive in London</a></u></p>
<p>Donald Trump, the leading Republican candidate for this fall’s presidential election, has been no stranger to controversy. Washington’s longstanding relationships with its key Northeast Asian allies—Japan and South Korea—were among his recent targets. In an interview last month with <i>The New York Times</i>, Trump questioned the value of the alliances with Tokyo and Seoul, accusing those countries of benefiting from Washington’s security guarantees and offering little in return.</p>	<p><u><a href="#">Trump's Base Politics in Asia</a></u></p>
<p>ISIS’ declaration of an Islamic State begs a fundamental question: When and how did that concept become a part of the political vocabulary of</p>	<p><u><a href="#">The Myth of the Islamic State</a></u></p>



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<p>Muslim societies? After all, the idea hasn't been around forever, and its popularity has waxed and waned over time. In fact, its emergence and popularity are tied to the specific conditions of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, when Muslim societies responded to European colonial rule.</p>	
<p>The United Nations' internal investigations office has uncovered serious lapses and due-diligence failures in the world body's interaction with organizations tied to an alleged bribery scheme involving a former U.N. General Assembly president.</p>	<p><u><a href="#">Exclusive: U.N. audit identifies serious lapses linked to alleged bribery</a></u></p>
<p>In June 2014, a small force of Islamic extremists routed the Iraqi army and seized control of Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city. The militants then swept south, capturing Tikrit, until they occupied an area the size of the United Kingdom stretching across eastern Syria and northwestern Iraq.</p>	<p><u><a href="#">Keeping Up With the Caliphate</a></u></p>