

THE MARSHALL CENTER

transnational weekly



A CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICE FROM THE MARSHALL CENTER

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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Changing the game: A critical analysis of infrastructure corruption in Mega Sport Events

Tippi Creed-Waring – sportanddev.org: 28 January 2021

A report by NGO Engineers Against Poverty has found that large-scale corruption in sports infrastructure has led to poorly constructed facilities and inflated costs. The report claims that high costs, lack of monitoring and complex logistics create a “perfect storm for corruption.”

<https://www.sportanddev.org/fr/article/news/changing-game-critical-analysis-infrastructure-corruption-mega-sport-events>

Out of Jail on Bail, Zimbabwe Journalist Vows to Continue Denouncing Corruption

Columbus Mavhunga – Voice of America: 28 January 2021

Prominent Zimbabwean journalist Hopewell Chin’ono was detained for three weeks after police arrested him for “peddling falsehoods.” Chin’ono’s arrest – his third in six months – may be part of efforts by the government to stifle freedom of expression on social media, especially when it comes to anti-corruption reporting.

<https://www.voanews.com/africa/out-jail-bail-zimbabwe-journalist-vows-continue-denouncing-corruption>

For more on this theme:

How to stop large-scale corruption in major sporting infrastructure projects

<https://www.newcivilengineer.com/latest/how-to-stop-large-scale-corruption-in-major-sporting-infrastructure-projects-28-01-2021/>

British Virgin Islands corruption scandal threatens its dependable tax haven reputation

<https://www.icij.org/investigations/paradise-papers/british-virgin-islands-corruption-scandal-threatens-its-dependable-tax-haven-reputation/>

Ten years on, Tunisians protest government, corruption

<https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2021/01/tunisia-protests-government-corruption-arabspring.html>

Lebanon: Systemic corruption problems require a systemic response

<https://www.transparency.org/en/blog/cpi-2020-lebanon-systemic-corruption-problems-require-systemic-response#>

What You Need To Know About Morocco’s New Anti-corruption Bill

<https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2021/01/333182/what-you-need-to-know-about-moroccos-new-anti-corruption-bill/>

Zambia’s medical supply scandal makes anti-corruption a key electoral issue this year

<https://www.transparency.org/en/blog/cpi-2020-zambia-medical-supply-scandal-anti-corruption-key-electoral-issue#>

The Silent Threat: The Impact of Fraud on UK National Security

https://rusi.org/sites/default/files/the_silent_threat_web_version.pdf

Corruption threatening global COVID-19 recovery, says new report

<https://www.financierworldwide.com/fw-news/2021/2/2/corruption-threatening-global-covid-19-recovery-says-new-report>

DRUG TRAFFICKING

More Women Are Dealing Cocaine. This is Why.

Rebecca Tidy – VICE: 1 February 2021

Data from the United Kingdom Ministry of Justice shows a steep rise in the number of women involved in selling cocaine. Interviews with offenders reveal that many take part as a way out of poverty or to fund their own addiction.

<https://www.vice.com/en/article/93w8gp/more-women-are-dealing-cocaine-this-is-why>

For more on this theme:

How Advanced Technologies Can Fight Money Laundering by Drug Traffickers

<https://www.finextra.com/blogposting/19809/how-advanced-technologies-can-fight-money-laundering-by-drug-traffickers>

Bolivia Rivers Become Increasingly Popular Drug Trafficking Routes

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/brief/bolivia-rivers-drug-trafficking-routes/>

Increased risk for Nigerians as drug smugglers rebrand Tramadol

<https://enactfrica.org/enact-observer/increased-risk-for-nigerians-as-drug-smugglers-rebrand-tramadol>

ORGANIZED CRIME

Organized Crime Groups Becoming More Violent and Targeting Ports

Homeland Security Today: 30 January 2021

The European Union is concerned about the escalating violence by organized crime groups, according to a new Europol report. The EU's law enforcement agency found the uptick to be centered on major transit points and port cities where criminal gangs and trafficking groups tend to be entrenched.

<https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/transportation/organized-crime-groups-becoming-more-violent-and-targeting-ports/>

Full report:

Europol Spotlight - The use of violence by organised crime groups

<https://www.europol.europa.eu/europol-spotlight/europol-spotlight-use-of-violence-organised-crime-groups>

For more on this theme:

Swedish Gangs Armed By Balkan Weapon Traffickers

<https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/13716-swedish-gangs-armed-by-balkan-weapon-traffickers>

Italian Prosecution Investigation Shows Mafia Attempts to Launder Money in Albania

<https://exit.al/en/2021/01/23/italian-prosecution-investigation-shows-mafia-attempts-to-launder-money-in-albania/>

Cachiros Money Laundering Cells Still Operate in Honduras

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/brief/money-laundering-cachiros-honduras/>

Is ransomware insurance funding a black market?

<https://techhq.com/2021/01/is-ransomware-insurance-funding-a-black-market/>

TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

COVID-19 contributed to decrease in rhino poaching – Creecy

defenceWeb: 1 February 2021

Poaching of rhinos, one of the world's most endangered species, has been on the decline in South Africa ever since the country shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://www.defenceweb.co.za/security/border-security/covid-19-contributed-to-decrease-in-rhino-poaching-creecy/>

Commission proposes new measures to ban trade in ivory

European Commission: 28 January 2021

The European Union Commission is seeking public input on draft measures to ban the ivory trade. In its biodiversity strategy, the EU intends to contribute indirectly to the preservation of African elephants. Every year, more than 20,000 elephants are killed for their ivory.

https://ec.europa.eu/environment/news/commission-proposes-new-measures-ban-trade-ivory-2021-01-28_en

For more on this theme:

Preventing pandemics through biodiversity conservation and smart wildlife trade regulation

<https://www.brookings.edu/research/preventing-pandemics-through-biodiversity-conservation-and-smart-wildlife-trade-regulation/>

Ivory by any other name: Illegal trade thrives on eBay, study finds

<https://news.mongabay.com/2021/01/ivory-by-any-other-name-illegal-trade-thrives-on-ebay-study-finds/>

Nigeria emerges as Africa's primary export hub for ivory, pangolin scales

<https://news.mongabay.com/2021/01/nigeria-emerges-as-africas-primary-export-hub-for-ivory-pangolin-scales/>

International Guidelines Would Help Stem Illegal Activity Tied to At-Sea Transfer of Fish

<https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2021/01/22/international-guidelines-would-help-stem-illegal-activity-tied-to-at-sea-transfer-of-fish>

Technology to count elephants from space offers anti-poaching hope

<https://www.independent.co.uk/environment/wildlife-trade-campaign-study-elephants-b1790797.html>

The former naval officer now leading Kenya's fight against poaching

<https://www.independent.co.uk/environment/poaching-africa-illegal-wildlife-trade-b1789453.html>

Laboratory comes up with technique to identify wildlife species from DNA

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Coimbatore/laboratory-comes-up-with-technique-to-identify-wildlife-species-from-dna/article33651903.ece>

Brazil to end military-led program against Amazon logging

<https://apnews.com/article/deforestation-brazil-jair-bolsonaro-forests-latin-america-7f1bb-5d248e468773f97208f2434103c>

WUR's alert system is helping to stop illegal logging in African rainforests

<https://africanews.space/wur-alert-system-radd-african-rainforests/>

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

COVID-19 Made People Smuggling More Dangerous and Expensive

Sadie Brown – Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project: 27 January 2021

Refugees and migrants appear to be increasingly dependent on smugglers, which carries increased risks for all involved, according to a new survey.

<https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/13738-covid-19-made-people-smuggling-more-dangerous-and-expensive>

Full report:

Impact of COVID-19 on migrant smuggling

http://www.mixedmigration.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/131_covid_thematic_update_smuggling.pdf

COVID-19 impact exposes millions to the risk of trafficking

Modern Diplomacy: 3 February 2021

A United Nations report finds that over the past year poverty arising from lost jobs or lost economic opportunities has increased the number of people vulnerable to trafficking. The of trafficked children has tripled. Girls are mainly trafficked for sexual exploitation, while boys are used for forced labor.

<https://modern diplomacy.eu/2021/02/03/covid-19-impact-exposes-millions-to-the-risk-of-trafficking/>

Full report:

Trafficking in Persons

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/glotip.html>

For more on this theme:

Mexico human trafficking cases stall as coronavirus bites

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mexico-trafficking-idUSKBN29R251>

Human trafficking cases in Thailand hit decade low due to COVID-19

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-thailand-trafficking/human-trafficking-cases-in-thailand-hit-decade-low-due-to-covid-19-idUSKBN29Q00R>

Harsh new punishments for human trafficking planned

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/crime-and-law/harsh-new-punishments-for-human-trafficking-planned-1.4465679>

Migrants Killed in Mexico Took Treacherous Path

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/migrants-killed-mexico-cartels/>

Liberia: Migrants As Messengers Volunteers Continue Awareness to Discourage Irregular Migration

<https://frontpageafricaonline.com/news/liberia-migrants-as-messengers-volunteers-continue-awareness-to-discourage-irregular-migration/>

Western Sahara: A migrant smuggling hotspot

<https://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/29818/western-sahara-a-migrant-smuggling-hotspot>

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Opinion: Russia is trying to set the rules for the Internet. The U.N. saw through the ruse.

David Ignatius – The Washington Post: 1 February 2021

Russia is engaged in a bold but little-noticed effort to set new rules for cyberspace – even as it flouts the existing ones. Recently, in an encouraging step, the United Nations International Telecommunications Union pushed back.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2021/02/01/russia-internet-rules-united-nations/>

For more on this theme:

(Global) Can We Decentralize the Internet?

<https://www.freethink.com/articles/decentralize-the-internet>

(Global) Get ready for the death of the global internet. It won't be pretty

<https://www.wired.co.uk/article/internet-balkanisation-ian-levy>

INTERNET FREEDOM

Internet connectivity drops in Myanmar after the military detains Aung San Suu Kyi and other leading politicians

Catherine Shu – Tech Crunch: 1 February 2021

Internet and phone connections in Myanmar, also known as Burma, are reportedly unstable, with online connectivity dipping to 50% as the country faces an apparent military coup and enters a state of emergency.

<https://ca.news.yahoo.com/internet-connectivity-drops-myanmar-military-054354816.html>

For more on this theme:

(Global) Internet blackouts skyrocket amid global political unrest

<https://www.axios.com/internet-blackouts-myanmar-global-unrest-c2b310d7-d9c4-42f7-9d17-f712527da3ea.html>

(India) India farmers' protests: internet shutdown highlights Modi's record of stifling digital dissent

<https://theconversation.com/india-farmers-protests-internet-shutdown-highlights-modis-record-of-stifling-digital-dissent-154287>

(Cuba) Cuban internet access cut amid free expression protest; journalist harassed

<https://cpj.org/2021/01/cuban-internet-access-cut-amid-free-expression-protest-journalist-harassed/>

CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

Three ways West Africa's digitalisation can improve

Alain Faujas – The Africa Report: 28 January 2021

According to a report by the African Union, a shift to digitalization is essential for successful development in West Africa. The report asserts that productivity gains and the added value of digital technology are essential for the successful implementation of “Agenda 2063” to transform Africa into the global powerhouse of the future.

<https://www.theafricareport.com/60956/three-ways-west-africas-digitalisation-can-improve/>

For more on this theme:

(Africa) Maritime cyber security – best practices and lessons learnt

<https://www.defenceweb.co.za/featured/feature-maritime-cyber-security-best-practices-and-lessons-learnt/>

(Europe, ASEAN) Filling the gaps in ASEAN and EU cybercrime cooperation

<https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/filling-gaps-asean-and-eu-cybercrime-cooperation>

(Singapore) Singapore aims for global e-commerce excellence with focus on core infrastructures

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/singapore-aims-for-global-e-commerce-excellence-with-focus-on-core-infrastructures/>

CYBER ATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

North Korea targeted cybersecurity researchers using a blend of hacking and espionage

Paulo Shakarian – The Conversation: 4 February 2021

Google has identified a North Korean government hacking group that is targeting cyber security researchers engaged in vulnerability studies. The group used multiple platforms to communicate with potential targets, including Twitter, LinkedIn, Telegram, Discord, Keybase and email.

<https://theconversation.com/north-korea-targeted-cybersecurity-researchers-using-a-blend-of-hacking-and-espionage-154236>

Full report:

New campaign targeting security researchers

<https://blog.google/threat-analysis-group/new-campaign-targeting-security-researchers/>

For more on this theme:

(Global) New Trickbot module uses Masscan for local network reconnaissance

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/new-trickbot-module-uses-masscan-for-local-network-reconnaissance/>

(U.K.) UKRI suspends services after ransomware attack

<https://www.computerweekly.com/news/252495664/UKRI-suspends-services-after-ransomware-attack>

(Scotland) Hackers publish thousands of files after government agency refuses to pay ransom

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/hackers-publish-thousands-of-files-after-government-agency-refuses-to-pay-ransom/>

CYBER CRIME

DDoS Attacks Increased Rapidly During the COVID-19 Pandemic as Hackers Exploited New Tools and Techniques

Alicia Hope – CPO Magazine: 29 January 2021

A report by A10 Networks says that distributed denial of service (DDoS) attacks became a significant cyber security threat and nuisance in 2020. The firm's threat intelligence report says that DDoS attacks became more intense and sophisticated during the COVID-19 pandemic as organizations struggled to support the remote workforce.

<https://www.cpomagazine.com/cyber-security/ddos-attacks-increased-rapidly-during-the-covid-19-pandemic-as-hackers-exploited-new-tools-and-techniques/>

For more on this theme:

(Global) The hidden costs of cyber crime on government

<https://www.itweb.co.za/content/JN1gP7OYL8qjL6m>

(Global) DDoS Extortion Groups Make New Ransom Demands as Bitcoin Price Surges

<https://www.cpomagazine.com/cyber-security/ddos-extortion-groups-make-new-ransom-demands-as-bitcoin-price-surges/>

(Global) Fears over cyber crime tool that can build phishing pages in real-time

<https://www.itpro.co.uk/security/phishing/358457/fears-over-cyber-crime-tool-that-can-build-phishing-pages-in-real-time>

MASS SURVEILLANCE AND INTELLIGENCE GATHERING

Revealed: Massive Chinese Police Database

Yael Grauer – The Intercept: 29 January 2021

Millions of leaked police files detail substantial surveillance of China's Uighur minority. Taken together, the materials provide a broad overview of how the extensive surveillance systems deployed in Xinjiang fit together to repress minority populations and how broadly they impact day-to-day life in the region.

<https://theintercept.com/2021/01/29/china-uyghur-muslim-surveillance-police/>

For more on this theme:

(India) Privacy fears as Indian city readies facial recognition to spot harassed women

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-india-tech-women-trfn/privacy-fears-as-indian-city-readies-facial-recognition-to-spot-harassed-women-idUSKBN29ROX5>

(Global) Exploring National Cyber Security Strategies: Policy Approaches and Implications

<https://rusi.org/publication/occasional-papers/exploring-national-cyber-security-strategies-policy-approaches-and>

(Singapore) Singapore Can Curb Covid and Crime With Your Data

<https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2021-02-03/singaporeans-aren-t-wary-of-using-tracetogether-for-crime-yet>

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

ISIL-K's new leader heads India operations; may have earlier affiliation with Haqqani network: UN

The Tribune: 4 February 2021

According to United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, the global terror group Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant-Khorasan's (ISIL-K) new leader, Shihab al-Muhajir, heads its operations in India, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, the Maldives and Sri Lanka. He is said to have had an earlier affiliation with the dreaded Haqqani Network.

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/nation/isil-ks-new-leader-heads-india-operations-may-have-earlier-affiliation-with-haqqani-network-un-207868>

UN urges countries to repatriate 27,000 children from Syria

Edith M. Lederer – The Associated Press: 30 January 2021

Vladimir Voronkov, the United Nations' counterterrorism chief, told an informal meeting of the U.N. Security Council that "the horrific situation of the children in Al Hol [camp] is one of the most pressing issues in the world today." Member states are reluctant to take these children due to security risks. The children at the Al Hol camp are vulnerable to be preyed on by ISIS enforcers and at risk of radicalization within the camp, Voronkov said.

<https://apnews.com/article/counterterrorism-islamic-state-group-united-nations-syria-terrorism-60a0f9f0dfb2937d8f34fe7967def30a>

For more on this theme:

ISIS targeting women in northeast Syria – SDC chair Ilham Ehmed

<https://ahvalnews.com/ilham-ahmed/isis-targeting-women-northeast-syria-sdc-chair-ilham-ehmed>

Islamic State tries to shore up relevance with Iraq carnage

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-55764993>

The Islamic State in Mozambique

<https://www.lawfareblog.com/islamic-state-mozambique>

ISIS Seeks Political Gains in Iraq as it Shifts Tactics

<https://english.aawsat.com/home/article/2763226/isis-seeks-political-gains-iraq-it-shifts-tactics>

Senior Islamic State figure killed in Iraq, PM says

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-iraq-security-islamic-state-idUSKBN29X2DL>

Ukraine woman starts fresh after life under Islamic State

<https://www.bangkokpost.com/world/2061267/ukraine-woman-starts-fresh-after-life-under-islamic-state>

Islamic State relies on money transfers from sympathizers in Turkey, Iraq: Report

<https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2021/01/isis-islamic-state-turkey-iraq-treasury-1.html>

TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Spike in Militant Islamist Violence in Africa Underscores Shifting Security Landscape

Africa Center for Strategic Studies: 29 January 2021

A surge of violent events by militant Islamist groups in Africa, led by escalations in the Sahel and the Lake Chad Basin, is widening instability.

<https://africacenter.org/spotlight/spike-militant-islamist-violence-africa-shifting-security-landscape/>

Hacking Group Linked To Hezbollah Reportedly Accessed Telecoms and ISPs Around The World

Rim Zrein – The961 :961 January 2021

Hezbollah's cyber unit has apparently hacked into telecoms and internet service providers. The firm ClearSky Security said it has identified at least 250 servers hacked by Lebanese Cedar, a group linked to the Hezbollah terrorist group.

<https://www.the961.com/hacking-group-hezbollah-telecoms-isps-world/>

For more on this theme:

Iran Hosts Taliban to 'Exchange Views' on US-backed Afghan Peace Process

<https://www.voanews.com/south-central-asia/iran-hosts-taliban-exchange-views-us-backed-afghan-peace-process>

Taliban backs vaccine drive as Afghan government receives \$112 million funding pledge

<https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-afghanistan-vaccine/update-3-taliban-backs-vaccine-drive-as-afghan-government-receives-112-mln-funding-pledge-idUSL1N2K1ONS>

Is Algeria once again confronted with the threat of terrorism?

<https://www.theafricareport.com/60899/is-algeria-once-again-confronted-with-the-threat-of-terrorism/>

Haqqani Network discussed forming new unit with al-Qaeda: US document

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/haqqani-network-discussed-forming-new-unit-with-al-qaeda-us-document-101611734314505.html>

The roots of Boko Haram and why its terrorist advance won't stop

<https://www.lifegate.com/boko-haram-attacks-history>

Pakistani Militant Leader Killed In Afghanistan

<https://gandhara.rferl.org/a/lashkar-e-islam-pakistani-militant-leader-killed-afghanistan/31074667.html>

In Algerian mountains, army operation shows persistent militant threat

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-algeria-security-idUSKBN2A217A>

Al Qaeda's "Expansion Project" targets Côte d'Ivoire, Benin

<https://northafricapost.com/47331-al-qaedas-expansion-project-targets-cote-divoire-benin.html>

Pentagon Warns Taliban on Failure to Meet Commitments on Violence, Terrorism

<https://www.voanews.com/usa/pentagon-warns-taliban-failure-meet-commitments-violence-terrorism>

RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

Evidence must guide terrorism prevention in Benin and Togo

William Assanvo, Ella Jeannine Abatan and Michaël Matongbada – Institute for Security Studies: 28 January 2021

Among civil society and the media in Benin and Togo, the understanding about what causes and drives violent extremism is limited and shaped by preconceived ideas that aren't based on evidence. Knowledge about those involved in terrorism – their objectives, strategies and motivations for associating with violent extremist groups – is also poor. This will ultimately lead to failure in their counterterrorism prevention efforts.

<https://issafrica.org/iss-today/evidence-must-guide-terrorism-prevention-in-benin-and-togo>

For more on this theme:

Against the Clock: Can the EU's New Strategy for Terrorist Content Removal Work?

<https://rusi.org/commentary/against-clock-can-eu-new-strategy-terrorist-content-removal-work>

Radicalization in the EU: What is it? How can it be prevented?

<https://www.eureporter.co/defence/terrorism-2/2021/02/03/radicalization-in-the-eu-what-is-it-how-can-it-be-prevented/>

Parents can help steer youth away from online radicalization

<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/singapore/parents-help-steer-youth-away-online-radicalisation-14078080>

ISD adjusts approach to rehabilitation as radicals get younger

<https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/isd-adjusts-approach-to-rehabilitation-as-radicals-get-younger>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: SOFT POWER

China looks to Winter Olympics as chance for rare soft power win amid COVID-19, rights concerns

Gabriel Crossley – Reuters: 2 February 2021

China is facing global scrutiny over a range of issues, notably the mass internment of Uighur Muslims, its clampdown in Hong Kong and its initial handling of COVID-19. China hopes the Winter Olympics in 2022 will give it the soft power boost it so desperately wants.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-olympics-2022-beijing-idUSKBN2A30C6>

For more on this theme:

India Launches 'Neighborly Vaccine Diplomacy'

<https://www.voanews.com/covid-19-pandemic/india-launches-neighborly-vaccine-diplomacy>

The 3 Pillars of Chinese Foreign Policy: The State, the Party, the People

<https://thediplomat.com/2021/02/the-3-pillars-of-chinese-foreign-policy-the-state-the-party-the-people/>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: PROXY FORCES

Outside Powers Are Making the Conflict in the Central African Republic Worse

John A. Lechner and Alexandra Lamarche – Foreign Policy: 22 January 2021

Proxy wars pitting France and Chad against Russia and Rwanda threaten to destabilize the entire region while subjecting Central Africans to more violence and instability.

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/01/22/outside-powers-are-making-the-conflict-in-the-central-african-republic-worse/>

For more on this theme:

Experts: Iran Eyes Reuniting Its ‘Axis of Resistance’

<https://www.voanews.com/extremism-watch/experts-iran-eyes-reuniting-its-axis-resistance>

Erdoğan using deniable private militias to destabilize the Middle East

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/1802716>

Iran Sends Missiles to Iraqi Hezbollah in East Syria

<https://english.aawsat.com/home/article/2774006/iran-sends-missiles-iraqi-hezbollah-east-syria>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: DISINFORMATION AND MALIGN INFLUENCE

Russia Has a Vaccine. The World Has Questions

Patrick Tucker – Defense One: 2 February 2021

Russia’s release of its Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccine has been plagued by questions about its effectiveness, the manner in which it was tested and the country’s disinformation campaign against Western vaccines. But the biggest question is whether Russia can use its new vaccine to spread its malign influence.

<https://www.defenseone.com/technology/2021/02/russia-has-vaccine-world-has-questions/171816/>

For more on this theme:

Reps. Spanberger, Katko introduce bill to combat online disinformation

<https://homelandprepnews.com/stories/62137-reps-spanberger-katko-introduce-bill-to-combat-online-disinformation/>

Biden’s Pick for UN Envoy Grilled on China at Confirmation Hearing

<https://www.voanews.com/usa/us-politics/bidens-pick-un-envoy-grilled-china-confirmation-hearing>

China’s Foreign Policy Weapons: Technology, Coercion, Corruption

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