

THE MARSHALL CENTER

transnational weekly



A CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICE FROM THE MARSHALL CENTER

CONTENTS

COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

- Corruption
- Drug Trafficking
- Trafficking in Scarce or Protected Resources
- Money Laundering

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

- Internet Freedom
- Cyber Statecraft
- Cyber Attacks, Threats and Vulnerabilities
- Cyber Crime
- Cyber Protection of Intellectual Property
- Cyber Protection of Critical Infrastructure
- Cyber Exercises and Training

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

- ISIS and Foreign Fighters
- Terrorism Around the World
- Radicalization and Messaging
- Irregular Warfare: Soft Power
- Irregular Warfare: Proxy Forces
- Irregular Warfare: Disinformation and Malign Influence

The Marshall Center Transnational Weekly is a current awareness, information and policy tool for Marshall Center stakeholders to inform them about online publications by think tanks, research institutes and other organizations that deal with transnational subjects. Use of these brief excerpts and links does not reflect the views of or endorsement by the Marshall Center, the U.S. government or the German government. All original content in these compilations is copyrighted unless specifically noted otherwise. All rights to copyrighted items are reserved.

COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Zuma to be charged with contempt of court

eNCA: 15 February 2021

Jacob Zuma, South Africa's former president, refused to appear before an inquiry panel. The panel's leader said he would seek an order to imprison Zuma for contempt.

<https://www.enca.com/news/zuma-be-charged-contempt-court#:~:text=JOHANNESBURG>

Clashes erupt at rally against corruption, COVID-19 curbs in Cyprus

Reuters: 13 February 2021

Clashes broke out between police and activists in Cyprus during a protest against corruption and lockdown measures imposed over the COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-cyprus-protests/clashes-erupt-at-rally-against-corruption-covid-19-curbs-in-cyprus-idUSKBN2AD0I0>

For more on this theme:

Journalism Watchdog Calls On Uzbek Authorities To Release Jailed Anti-Corruption Blogger

<https://www.rferl.org/a/cpj-uzbekistan-blogger-journalism-corruption-/31093150.html>

Are African countries preventing corruption and prosecuting related crimes?

<https://www.transparency.org/en/news/are-african-countries-preventing-corruption>

InSight Crime Presents Guatemala Cross-Border Crime and Corruption Investigation

<https://insightcrime.org/news/insight-crime-guatemala-corruption-investigation/>

Kyrgyzstan's Grand Mufti Resigns Amid Corruption Scandal

<https://www.rferl.org/a/kyrgyzstan-grand-mufti-resigns-amid-corruption-scandal/31096169.html>

Corruption in South Africa's firearms registry puts guns and ammo in the hands of gangsters

<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2021-02-10-corruption-in-south-africas-firearms-registry-puts-guns-and-ammo-in-the-hands-of-gangsters/>

Minister says "absolutely calm" as Ukraine probes COVID-19 vaccine deal

<https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-ukraine-probe/update-1-minister-says-absolutely-calm-as-ukraine-probes-covid-19-vaccine-deal-idUSL1N2KG1RD>

Migrant massacre puts focus on Mexican police corruption

<https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20210212-migrant-massacre-puts-focus-on-mexican-police-corruption>

Austrian prosecutors search finance minister's home in bribery probe

<https://www.reuters.com/article/austria-politics-minister/update-3-austrian-prosecutors-search-finance-ministers-home-in-bribery-probe-idUSL1N2KH130>

DRUG TRAFFICKING

Myanmar Opium Production Drops as Meth Surges, UN Says

Vijitra Duangdee – Voice of America: 11 February 2021

The Golden Triangle – an area in northeast Myanmar (also known as Burma) and parts of Thailand and Laos – was for years a main opium-growing region. But more recently, production has boomed in amphetamine-type stimulants, especially methamphetamine, according to a new report by the United Nations.

<https://www.voanews.com/east-asia-pacific/myanmar-opium-production-drops-meth-surges-un-says>

Full report:

Myanmar Opium Survey 2020: Cultivation, Production, and Implications

https://www.unodc.org/documents/crop-monitoring/Myanmar/Myanmar_Opium_survey_2020.pdf

Cocaine to Europe: An Underestimated Threat

Jeremy McDermott – InSight Crime: 9 February 2021

Historically based on exports to the huge U.S. market, the axis of the global cocaine trade has in the past 20 years increasingly tilted toward Europe. A recent report shows how soaring cocaine production in South America, rising demand among Europeans and the monopolization of the U.S. market by Mexican cartels has South American drug traffickers focusing on Europe.

<https://insightcrime.org/investigations/cocaine-europe-underestimated-threat/>

For more on this theme:

Guatemala's Los Huistas Continue to Build Influence Network

<https://insightcrime.org/news/guatemala-los-huistas-build-influence-network/>

Mexico's Tourist Corridor: Dream Destination for Drug Traffickers

<https://insightcrime.org/news/mexico-tourist-corridor-dream-destination-drug-traffickers/>

Colombia to target armed groups, restart coca fumigation, defense minister says

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-colombia-security/colombia-to-target-armed-groups-restart-coca-fumigation-defense-minister-says-idUSKBN2AB2LD>

'Drug traffickers in India increasingly using Dark Net'

<https://www.socialnews.xyz/2021/02/16/drug-traffickers-in-india-increasingly-using-dark-net/>

Why the arrest of one of Asia's most-wanted fugitives may fail to impact the region's war on drugs

https://www.kctv5.com/why-the-arrest-of-one-of-asias-most-wanted-fugitives-may-fail-to-impact-the/article_81c2184f-cec9-5b81-b488-9085e897839d.html

Meth lords look inward as pandemic curbs exports

<https://www.thestar.com.my/aseanplus/aseanplus-news/2021/02/18/meth-lords-look-inward-as-pandemic-curbs-exports>

Drug overdose crisis worsens in shadow of COVID-19 pandemic

<https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/538706-drug-overdose-crisis-worsens-in-shadow-of-covid-19-pandemic>

TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Gold exports 'more attractive than cocaine' to Colombia's criminal gangs, research finds

John Basquill – Global Trade Review: 17 February 2021

Colombia is losing billions of dollars every year to the illegal mining and smuggling of gold, according to a recent report, as criminal groups, unscrupulous multinationals and desperate miners bleed the economy and environment. Criminal mining can generate more profit and is substantially easier for criminal groups than drug trafficking.

<https://www.gtreview.com/news/americas/gold-exports-more-attractive-than-cocaine-to-colombias-criminal-gangs-research-finds/>

Full report:

The Gold Standard

<https://gfintegrity.org/report/the-gold-standard-addressing-illicit-financial-flows-in-the-colombian-gold-sector-through-greater-transparency/>

Animal populations fall by 62% where wildlife trade occurs, study reveals

Harry Cockburn – The Independent: 16 February 2021

Wildlife trafficking, both legal and illegal, is having a profound negative impact on biodiversity, a new analysis finds. Hunting and trapping to feed international and national trade networks threaten numerous species, the researchers report, even those living in protected areas.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/stop-the-illegal-wildlife-trade/animals-illegal-wildlife-trade-biodiversity-b1802483.html>

For more on this theme:

How Amazon Conservation is Cracking Down on Illegal Mining with Planet Data

<https://www.planet.com/pulse/how-amazon-conservation-is-cracking-down-on-illegal-mining-with-planet-data/>

The mobile app fighting illegal fishing in Ghana

<https://www.fairplanet.org/story/the-mobile-app-fighting-illegal-fishing-in-ghana/>

How artificial intelligence has become the latest conservation tool

<https://www.independent.co.uk/stop-the-illegal-wildlife-trade/ai-technology-wildlife-conservation-gabon-b1783812.html>

Cambodia releases activists detained over illegal logging protest

<https://news.trust.org/item/20210208085245-qaiki>

Treetop sensors help Indonesia eavesdrop on forests to curb illegal logging

<https://www.reuters.com/article/indonesia-forests-technology/feature-treetop-sensors-help-indonesia-eavesdrop-on-forests-to-curb-illegal-logging-idUSL8N2JX3ZF>

Romania's new timber traceability system removes public transparency

<https://emerging-europe.com/news/romania-new-timber-traceability-system-removes-public-transparency/>

Cambodia's Rangers Risk Lives Protecting Environment

<https://www.voanews.com/east-asia-pacific/cambodias-rangers-risk-lives-protecting-environment>

MONEY LAUNDERING

Just 270 crypto addresses laundered \$1.3 billion in dirty funds last year, research shows

Tom Wilson – Reuters: 11 February 2021

A majority of digital currency money laundering is facilitated by a surprisingly small number of service providers and wallet addresses. A new report from Chainalysis discovered that 270 wallet addresses were the recipients of 55% of all illicit digital currency transacted; overall, the group of 270 collectively received \$1.3 billion worth of illicit digital currency.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-crypto-currencies-crime/just-270-crypto-addresses-laundered-1-3-billion-in-dirty-funds-last-year-research-shows-idUSKBN2AB1UD?il=0>

Casinos' Buggy Siegel Problem Never Really Went Away

David Fickling – Bloomberg: 15 February 2021

Crown Resorts, Australia's biggest gaming and entertainment group, was rocked by a blistering report on the firm's operations this month. The inquiry, commissioned by the New South Wales Liquor and Gambling Authority watchdog, recommended that Crown Resorts be denied a license to run a glitzy casino tower on Sydney's waterfront. The company has been accused of facilitating money laundering and mafia ties.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2021-02-15/cleaning-up-casinos-and-money-laundering-is-an-endless-process>

For more on this theme:

ED charges Popular Front of India, its student wing with money laundering

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/ed-charges-pfi-cfi-members-over-money-laundering/article33811969.ece>

PHL needs to prove measures vs money laundering boosted guard

<https://www.bworldonline.com/phl-needs-to-prove-measures-vs-money-laundering-boosted-guard/>

Poland: Amendments to the Act on Prevention of Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism and Other Acts

<https://www.natlawreview.com/article/poland-amendments-to-act-prevention-money-laundering-and-financing-terrorism-and>

Bitcoin ATM boom fuels money laundering fears

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/technology/2021/02/17/bitcoin-atm-boom-fuels-money-laundering-fears/>

Top Mexico Tax Official Fired for Permitting Money Laundering

<https://insightcrime.org/news/senior-mexico-tax-official-fired-money-laundering/>

The Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2020—Expanding Anti-Money Laundering Reporting Responsibilities to Small Businesses

<https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/the-anti-money-laundering-act-of-2020-9236315/>

Treasury Secretary Yellen cites misuse of cryptos to highlight 'explosion of risk'

<https://ambcrypto.com/treasury-secretary-yellen-cites-misuse-of-cryptos-to-highlight-explosion-of-risk/>

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET FREEDOM

How India is Trying to Police the Internet

Mohamed Zeeshan – *The Diplomat*: 17 February 2021

As the Indian government's actions during the farmers' protest demonstrate, it is keen on curbing unfavorable opinion online. And existing laws may be enabling it.

<https://thediplomat.com/2021/02/how-india-is-trying-to-police-the-internet/>

For more on this theme:

(Global) Social Networks Are Messing Up Autocrats' Plans

<https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2021-02-06/whatsapp-tiktok-facebook-twitter-and-youtube-are-messing-with-autocrats>

(India) Govt looks for cyber volunteers to report 'anti-national activities'

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/anti-national-activities-cyber-volunteers-uapa-7180444/>

(China) A brief fissure in the Great Firewall shows the Chinese people's thirst for free speech

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/global-opinions/clubhouse-china-censorship/2021/02/14/0a2bfe38-6c8a-11eb-9f80-3d7646ce1bc0_story.html

CYBER STATECRAFT

Myanmar's proposed cybersecurity Bill draws wide condemnation

Eileen Yu – *ZDNet*: 16 February 2021

The new military regime in Myanmar (also known as Burma) is preparing to grant its telecommunications ministry sweeping control over data access as well as online content and service, a week after seizing power from Aung San Suu Kyi's elected government.

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/myanmars-proposed-cybersecurity-bill-draws-wide-condemnation/>

For more on this theme:

(QUAD) The Quad Tech Network aims to ensure that the Digital Indo-Pacific is "free, open and trusted"

<https://www.telecomtv.com/content/security/the-quad-tech-network-aims-to-ensure-that-the-digital-indo-pacific-is-free-open-and-trusted-40807/>

(North Korea, Global) UN experts: North Korea using cyber attacks to update nukes

<https://apnews.com/article/technology-global-trade-nuclear-weapons-north-korea-coronavirus-pandemic-19f536cac4a84780f54a3279ef707b33>

(U.K.) The National Cyber Force: directions and implications for the UK

http://www.realinstitutoelcano.org/wps/portal/rielcano_en/contenido?WCM_GLOBAL_CONTEXT=/elcano/elcano_in/zonas_in/ari18-2021-steed-the-national-cyber-force-directions-and-implications-for-the-uk

CYBER ATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

France Ties Russia's Sandworm to a Multiyear Hacking Spree

Andy Greenberg – Wired: 15 February 2021

France's cyber security agency said that a group of Russian military hackers, known as the Sandworm group, has been behind a multiyear operation that breached the internal networks of several French entities running the Centreon information technology tool.

<https://www.wired.com/story/sandworm-centreon-russia-hack/>

For more on this theme:

(U.S., Russia) SolarWinds: Microsoft Reveals New Details About Sophisticated Mega-Breach

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/kateoflahertyuk/2021/02/16/solarwinds-microsoft-reveals-new-details-about-sophisticated-mega-breach/?ss=cybersecurity&sh=7a281adf4879>

(Global) Cyber Privateering Complicates Attack Attribution

<https://securityboulevard.com/2021/02/cyber-privateering-complicates-attack-attribution/>

(France) Cyber attacks hit two French hospitals in one week

<https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20210216-cyber-attacks-hit-two-french-hospitals-in-one-week>

(U.K., Global) British cyber crime gang of eight 'stole' £72m from victims in US including celebrities

<https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/1396457/cyber-crime-gang-arrested-eight-victims-us-celebrities>

CYBER CRIME

North Korean hackers charged in massive cryptocurrency theft scheme

Dan Mangan – CNBC: 17 February 2021

The U.S. government unsealed indictments against three members of North Korea's military intelligence agency, Reconnaissance General Bureau, for their alleged role in numerous cyber attacks in recent years that resulted in the theft of more than \$1.3 billion from organizations worldwide.

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/02/17/north-korean-hackers-charged-in-massive-cryptocurrency-theft-scheme.html>

For more on this theme:

(Global) Cybercrime apparently cost the world over \$1 trillion in 2020

<https://www.techradar.com/news/cybercrime-cost-the-world-over-dollar1-trillion-in-2020>

(India) Bengaluru to get 8 more cyber crime police stations: CM

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=801116>

(Global) Cybercrime Joker Retires With A Reported \$2.1 Billion In Bitcoin

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/daveywinder/2021/02/14/cybercrime-joker-retires-becomes-a-bitcoin-billionaire/?sh=e6ea4c66330a>

CYBER PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

North Korean hackers tried to steal Pfizer vaccine know-how, lawmaker says

Sangmi Cha and Hyonhee Shin – Reuters: 16 February 2021

An apparent cyber attack on pharmaceutical company Pfizer was probably an attempt to steal COVID-19 vaccine information by North Korean state-backed actors, according to South Korea's intelligence service.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/idUSKBN2AGONI>

For more on this theme:

(Europe) The European Copyright Directive: Potential impacts on free expression and privacy

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/techtank/2021/02/02/the-european-copyright-directive-potential-impacts-on-free-expression-and-privacy/>

(U.S., China) CMMC: Stopping Cyber Espionage Like Chinese Theft of F-35 Data

<https://breakingdefense.com/2021/02/cmmc-stopping-cyber-espionage-like-chinese-theft-of-f-35-data/>

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

New maritime cybersecurity centre to fight pirates — and not the swashbuckling kind

Jean-Benoit Legault – The Canadian Press: 28 January 2021

A new maritime cyber security center in Canada is focused on fighting pirates on the high seas and the digital world.

<https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2021/01/28/new-maritime-cybersecurity-centre-to-fight-pirates-and-not-the-swashbuckling-kind.html>

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Florida water treatment facility hack used a dormant remote access software, sheriff says

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/02/10/us/florida-water-poison-cyber/index.html>

(Australia) ASD says cyber attack intervention will be 'rare' under critical infrastructure Bill

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/asd-says-cyber-attack-intervention-will-be-rare-under-critical-infrastructure-bill/>

(Russia, Global) Russian Government Moves to Assert Increasing Control Over Internet

<https://jamestown.org/program/russian-government-moves-to-assert-increasing-control-over-internet/>

CYBER EXERCISES AND TRAINING

It's Not Just About Cyber Anymore: Multidisciplinary Cyber Education and Training Under the New Information Warfare Paradigm

Dr. Joshua A. Sipper – Joint Force Quarterly 16 :100 February 2021

Cyber education and training are experiencing an unavoidable renaissance due to the inclusion of additional disciplines within the greater information warfare framework.

<https://www.16af.af.mil/News/Article/2505295/its-not-just-about-cyber-anymore-multidisciplinary-cyber-education-and-training/>

For more on this theme:

(Global) IDF cyber defenders attend international exercise

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/idf-cyber-defenders-attend-international-exercise-657436>

(Qatar) Qatari research center chooses Leonardo for cyber range

<https://www.c4isrnet.com/cyber/2021/02/03/qatari-research-center-chooses-leonardo-for-cyber-range/>

(U.K.) DCMS launches UK Cyber Security Council to oversee training and certification

<https://www.itpro.co.uk/business-strategy/careers-training/358563/dcms-launches-uk-cyber-security-council-to-oversee>

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Women Take The Lead In Fighting ISIS In ‘Daughters Of Kobani’

Mary Louise Kelly – National Public Radio: 16 February 2021

Gayle Tzemach Lemmon, an adjunct senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, released a new book about an all-female Kurdish militia who helped defeat ISIS and changed women’s rights in their corner of the Middle East and beyond.

<https://www.npr.org/2021/02/16/968424630/women-take-the-lead-in-fighting-isis-in-daughters-of-kobani>

Neo-Jama’atul Mujahideen Bangladesh’s Female Members Further Islamic State’s Recruitment and Propaganda

Animesh Roul – The Jamestown Foundation: 12 February 2021

The Neo-Jama’atul Mujahideen Bangladesh has created a strong network of female jihadists in the country. They have proven to be a largely unseen, but potent force behind the group’s resilience, spearheading recruitment and propaganda campaigns and occasional attacks.

<https://jamestown.org/program/neo-jamaatul-mujahideen-bangladeshs-female-members-further-islamic-states-recruitment-and-propaganda/>

For more on this theme:

Killings Spike at Syrian Displacement Camps, Raising Fears of IS Resurgence

<https://www.voanews.com/middle-east/killings-spike-syrian-displacement-camps-raising-fears-resurgence>

Refugees Fear The Resurgence Of ISIS in Syria

<https://www.newsgram.com/refugees-fear-the-resurgence-of-isis-in-syria/>

ISIS in Syria: 2020 in Review

<https://newlinesinstitute.org/isis/isis-in-syria-2020-in-review/>

The Hunt: ISIS still on Facebook

<https://wtop.com/j-j-green-national/2021/02/the-hunt-isis-still-on-facebook/>

With their mother’s Australian citizenship cancelled over alleged ISIS-links, how will NZ deal with her children?

<https://theconversation.com/with-their-mothers-australian-citizenship-cancelled-over-alleged-isis-links-how-will-nz-deal-with-her-children-155385>

Man accused of planning Isis-inspired attack ‘became friends with terror offenders in prison’

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/terror-plots-isis-uk-sahayb-abu-prison-b1802562.html>

Bring them home

<https://www.macleans.ca/news/world/bring-them-home/>

TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Taliban keep close ties with Al Qaeda despite promise to U.S.

Dan De Luce, Ken Dilanian and Mushtaq Yusufzai – NBC News: 16 February 2021

The Taliban have kept up a close relationship with al-Qaida despite having pledged to stop cooperating with the group, according to the head of a United Nations panel monitoring the insurgency. The U.N. team's most recent report estimates that 200 to 500 al-Qaida fighters remain in Afghanistan.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/national-security/taliban-keep-close-ties-al-qaeda-despite-promise-u-s-n1258033>

Is HTS reining in or expanding jihadist network in Idlib?

Khaled al-Khateb – Al-Monitor: 16 February 2021

Ansar al-Tawhid, an insurgent group affiliated with al-Qaida, recently attacked a Russian operations room in the south of Idlib governate, killing and injuring several soldiers, raising questions about the group's identity and affiliations.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2021/02/syria-idlib-ansar-al-tawhid-hayat-tahrir-al-sham-russia.html>

For more on this theme:

The Failure of Jihadi Conflict Resolution

<https://warontherocks.com/2021/02/the-failure-of-jihadi-conflict-resolution/>

Hezbollah Is Vulnerable. Lokman Slim's Assassination Proves It.

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/02/16/lebanon-lokman-slim-hezbollah-vulnerable/>

NATO Chief Says Afghanistan Troop Pullout Depends on Taliban

<https://www.voanews.com/south-central-asia/nato-chief-says-afghanistan-troop-pullout-depends-taliban>

What Happened When The Taliban Visited Turkmenistan?

<https://www.rferl.org/a/taliban-turkmenistan/31098344.html>

Concern as Shabaab militants spread across Mandera County

<https://nation.africa/kenya/counties/mandera/concern-as-shabaab-militants-spread-across-mandera-county-3293380>

Gunmen kill student, kidnap 42 in attack on Nigerian school

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-nigeria-security-kidnapping/gunmen-storm-nigerian-school-kidnap-students-idUSKBN2AH14Y?edition-redirect=uk>

5,000 Nigerians Displaced by Boko Haram Ready to Return, Cameroon Says

<https://www.voanews.com/africa/5000-nigerians-displaced-boko-haram-ready-return-cameroon-says>

52% of Afghanistan still under Taliban control: Survey

<https://morungexpress.com/52-of-afghanistan-still-under-taliban-control-survey>

Iran's Ties to Al-Qaeda

<https://www.heritage.org/middle-east/report/irans-ties-al-qaeda>

RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

YouTube continues to push dangerous videos to users susceptible to extremism, white supremacy, report finds

Will Carless and Jessica Guynn – Tech Xplore: 15 February 2021

A new report from the Anti-Defamation League found that although some high-profile extremist channels were removed by YouTube before and during the study period, white supremacist and other alternative and extremist content remained disturbingly accessible on the platform.

<https://techxplore.com/news/2021-02-youtube-dangerous-videos-users-susceptible.html>

Full report:

Exposure to Alternative & Extremist Content on YouTube

<https://www.adl.org/resources/reports/exposure-to-alternative-extremist-content-on-youtube>

For more on this theme:

Who are the Jihadi Video Journalists? An Analysis of a new Form of Activism in the Northwest of Syria

<https://gnet-research.org/2021/02/12/who-are-the-jihadi-video-journalists-an-analysis-of-a-new-form-of-activism-in-the-northwest-of-syria/>

The European report warns of the danger of “radicalization” of the extreme right in Portugal Europe

<https://www.valleybugler.com/2021/02/16/the-european-report-warns-of-the-danger-of-radicalization-of-the-extreme-right-in-portugal-europe/>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: SOFT POWER

Ukrainian PM: Russia using COVID vaccine for influence

David M. Herszenhorn – Politico: 10 February 2021

“It is important to admit here that the Russian Federation is trying actually to impose its own domestically produced vaccine especially as a tool for influencing some of those regions, specifically those that are not currently controlled by the Ukrainian government,” Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal said. “And that is the case not only here but also in many Eastern European countries.”

<https://www.politico.eu/article/russia-using-covid-vaccine-for-influence-ukrainian-prime-minister-denys-shmyhal/>

For more on this theme:

China and India tussle online over vaccine diplomacy

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/china-and-india-tussle-online-over-vaccine-diplomacy/>

Dam Agreement Highlights India’s Soft Power Gambit in Afghanistan

<https://thediplomat.com/2021/02/dam-agreement-highlights-indias-soft-power-gambit-in-afghanistan/>

China, Russia compete for a vaccine soft power victory; India could win

<https://www.sundayguardianlive.com/world/china-russia-compete-vaccine-soft-power-victory-india-win>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: PROXY FORCES

Iraqis can no longer tolerate Iran's proxies

Gulf News: 16 February 2021

Rampant attacks in Iraq by pro-Tehran militias undermine security.

<https://gulfnews.com/opinion/editorials/iraqis-can-no-longer-tolerate-irans-proxies-1.77243006>

For more on this theme:

Iran's Resistance Axis Rattled by Divisions: Asaib Ahl al-Haq's Leader Rejects the Ceasefire in Iraq

<https://jamestown.org/program/irans-resistance-axis-rattled-by-divisions-asaib-ahl-al-haqs-leader-rejects-the-ceasefire-in-iraq/>

Europe Must Confront Iranian Regime's Terrorism

<https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2021/02/13/europe-must-confront-iranian-regimes-terrorism/>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: DISINFORMATION AND MALIGN INFLUENCE

YouTube Terminates 3000 Channels in Russia and China Clampdown

Phil Muncaster – Infosecurity Magazine: 17 February 2021

YouTube has taken down almost 3,000 channels and accounts deemed to part of separate Chinese and Russian state-coordinated influence operations.

<https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/youtube-terminates-3000-channels/>

For more on this theme:

Coordinated Behavior in Libya's Regional Disinformation Conflict

<https://www.lawfareblog.com/coordinated-behavior-libyas-regional-disinformation-conflict>

The Russo-Georgian War: Russian Influence

<https://smallwarsjournal.com/jrnl/art/russo-georgian-war-russian-influence>

Disinformation Campaign Targets Hongkongers Seeking U.K. Visas

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-02-17/spin-doctors-target-hong-kongers-seeking-u-k-visas>

Estonia warns of "silenced world dominated by Beijing"

<https://www.axios.com/estonia-warns-of-silenced-world-dominated-by-beijing-09e54843-6b45-491a-9bfd-e880f6f14795.html>