

THE MARSHALL CENTER

transnational weekly



A CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICE FROM THE MARSHALL CENTER

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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

France's Sarkozy convicted of corruption, sentenced to jail

Sylvie Corbet – The Associated Press: 1 March 2021

French ex-President Nicolas Sarkozy was sentenced to prison for corruption. He was accused of trying to obtain confidential information from a judge by offering to help him land a job. He received a sentence of at least one year but said he would appeal. Two additional cases against him are pending.

<https://apnews.com/article/nicolas-sarkozy-convicted-corruption-france-6ee89cb03ba-8f3888ac64447ebf61f28>

New Report Shines Spotlight on Corruption in Zimbabwe

Michelle Gavin – Council on Foreign Relations: 19 February 2021

Earlier this year, South Africa's Daily Maverick newspaper published a damning expose on corruption in Zimbabwe. The report details off-the-books networks worth billions that deal in gold, diamonds, cigarettes, fuel and more.

<https://www.cfr.org/blog/new-report-shines-spotlight-corruption-zimbabwe>

Full report:

Cartel Power Dynamics in Zimbabwe

<https://www.pindula.co.zw/images/c/ce/Cartel-Power-Dynamics-02-FEB-2021-Optimized.pdf>

For more on this theme:

Digital transactions helped reduce corruption: PM Modi at Nasscom event

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/digital-transactions-helped-reduce-corruption-pm-modi-at-nasscom-event-101613553721190.html>

Where a Vaccination Campaign Faces Skepticism, War and Corruption

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/23/world/asia/afghanistan-vaccine-corruption.html>

China's Whip on Dissent Masked as Anti-Corruption Campaign | Opinion

<https://www.newsweek.com/chinas-whip-dissent-masked-anti-corruption-campaign-opinion-1570018>

Arms deal corruption trial against South African ex-President Zuma to start in May

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-safrica-zuma/arms-deal-corruption-trial-against-south-african-ex-president-zuma-to-start-in-may-idUSKBN2ANOW8>

Cypriots defy ban to protest again over corruption, coronavirus curbs

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-cyprus-protests/cypriots-defy-ban-to-protest-again-over-corruption-coronavirus-curbs-idUSKBN2AKOKP>

Make 'every effort' to save COVID-19 response from corruption, UN Assembly President urges

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/02/1085032>

Romanian politician and ex-president's daughter get jail terms for corruption

<https://www.reuters.com/article/romania-corruption/romania-politician-and-ex-presidents-daughter-get-jail-terms-for-corruption-idUSL5N2L03LA>

DRUG TRAFFICKING

DEA: Mexican Drug Cartels Remain Untouched By The Pandemic

Rodrigo Cervantes – Fronteras: 4 March 2021

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's "2020 National Drug Threat Assessment" outlines the threats posed to the United States by domestic and international drug trafficking and the abuse of illicit drugs. Of note: Mexican transnational criminal organizations remain the greatest criminal drug threat to the United States.

<https://fronterasdesk.org/content/1663758/dea-mexican-drug-cartels-remain-untouched-pandemic>

Full report:

2020 National Drug Threat Assessment

<https://www.dea.gov/documents/2021/03/02/2020-national-drug-threat-assessment>

For more on this theme:

Experts Call on Facebook to Address Illegal Trade on its Pages

<https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/13928-experts-call-on-facebook-to-address-illegal-trade-on-its-pages>

LatAm Crime Groups Set Sights on Europe's Bustling Cocaine Market

<https://insightcrime.org/news/latam-europe-cocaine-market/>

Belize Officials, Police Help Hide Drug Planes

<https://insightcrime.org/news/drug-planes-descend-belize-police-military-officials-arrested/>

ORGANIZED CRIME

Organized Crime and the Environment in Latin America: A Fatal Encounter

Katie Jones – InSight Crime: 3 March 2021

As criminal groups diversify and are no longer solely dependent on drug revenues, they are finding more opportunity in environmental crime, which allows them some legal cover along with lucrative returns. Widespread habitat destruction and loss of crucial biodiversity are now rampant.

<https://insightcrime.org/news/organized-crime-environment-latin-america-fatal-encounter/>

For more on this theme:

Mexico moves to strip Tamaulipas governor's immunity for alleged organized crime links

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mexico-crime/mexico-moves-to-strip-tamaulipas-governors-immunity-for-alleged-organized-crime-links-idUSKBN2A00D9>

Australia's casinos a hotspot for global money-laundering operations

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/australias-casinos-a-hotspot-for-global-money-laundering-operations/>

South Africa's deadly mix of explosives, extortion and organised crime

<https://issafrica.org/iss-today/south-africas-deadly-mix-of-explosives-extortion-and-organised-crime>

4 Key Takeaways from the Romanian Mafia in Mexico

<https://insightcrime.org/news/romanian-mafia-atm-skimming-mexico/>

TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

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Canada Launches International Effort to Detect Illegal Fishing

The Maritime Executive: 24 February 2021

Canada is launching a \$7 million project to track international “dark vessels,” ships that have turned off location transmitters to evade authorities while fishing illegally. The plan is to use satellites to detect and track these ships.

<https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/canada-launches-international-effort-to-detect-illegal-fishing>

Criminal Groups Clear Colombia’s Forests One Hectare at a Time

Katie Jones – InSight Crime: 3 March 2021

Just over 15% of Colombia’s national territory is classified as “protected,” with its national parks accounting for over 14 million hectares in total. Illegal loggers and land grabbers are clearing small, isolated patches of forest to avoid being spotted from the air – a change in tactics that could make it harder for authorities to combat deforestation.

<https://insightcrime.org/news/criminal-groups-clear-colombia-forests-one-hectare-time/>

For more on this theme:

The seafood sector and governments must join forces to combat illegal fishing

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/02/the-seafood-sector-and-governments-must-join-forces-to-combat-illegal-fishing/>

With Few Job Options, Balochistan Residents Turn To Smuggling

<https://gandhara.rferl.org/a/fuel-smuggling-pakistan-iran-balochistan/31097489.html>

Animal part stockpiling may have been made worse by pandemic, experts warn

<https://www.independent.co.uk/stop-the-illegal-wildlife-trade/illegal-wildlife-trade-stockpiling-horn-ivo-ry-b1804355.html>

Electronic ears spy on poachers in a key Central American jaguar habitat

<https://news.mongabay.com/2021/02/electronic-ears-spy-on-poachers-in-a-key-central-american-jaguar-habitat/>

An initiative in Sumatra leads the way in saving endangered pangolins and slow lorises

<https://www.sustainability-times.com/environmental-protection/an-initiative-in-sumatra-leads-the-way-in-saving-endangered-pangolins-and-slow-lorises/>

An electric motorbike could help tackle big game poaching. Here’s how

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/02/electric-motorbike-illegal-poaching-africa/>

Technology Can Improve Safety and Security for Observers on Fishing Vessels

<https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2021/02/22/technology-can-improve-safety-and-security-for-observers-on-fishing-vessels>

Pirate attacks more frequent in waters with destructive fishing practices

https://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2021-02/p-pam021721.php

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

GCHQ plans to use AI to detect child abuse and human trafficking

Engineering and Technology: 25 February 2021

The United Kingdom's intelligence and security organization, GCHQ, has laid out a plan to use artificial intelligence technology to protect citizens from a broad array of issues, including child abuse, disinformation campaigns, human trafficking, weapons, drugs, child sexual exploitation and cyber attacks.

<https://eandt.theiet.org/content/articles/2021/02/gchq-plans-to-use-ai-to-detect-child-abuse-and-human-trafficking/>

For more on this theme:

Colombia Went Big on Migration. Will Others Follow?

<https://www.americasquarterly.org/article/colombia-went-big-on-migration-will-others-follow/>

Southern Neighbourhood: EU proposes new Agenda for the Mediterranean

<https://modern diplomacy.eu/2021/02/11/southern-neighbourhood-eu-proposes-new-agenda-for-the-mediterranean/>

Anti-human trafficking apps were meant to save lives. They're failing

<https://www.wired.co.uk/article/human-trafficking-apps-fail>

Number of Illegal Arrivals in Mediterranean Routes Continues to Decrease

<https://www.schengenvisainfo.com/news/number-of-illegal-arrivals-in-mediterranean-routes-continues-to-decrease/>

Easy Prey For Traffickers — Rohingya Refugees' Vulnerability Will Only Increase From Now

<https://theowp.org/easy-prey-for-traffickers-rohingya-refugees-vulnerability-will-only-increase-from-now/>

Report on sex trafficking in Canada reveals a surprising demographic

<https://news.yahoo.com/canadian-human-trafficking-corridors-report-221052537.html>

Five myths about human trafficking

https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/five-myths/five-myths-about-human-trafficking/2021/02/26/aa8f210c-7707-11eb-948d-19472e683521_story.html

Database on human trafficking to be rolled out

<https://www.fbcnews.com.fj/news/database-on-human-trafficking-to-be-rolled-out/>

Awareness campaign launched on human trafficking crimes

<https://www.timesofoman.com/article/awareness-campaign-launched-on-human-trafficking-crimes>

Parliament approves new human trafficking provisions

<https://en.royanews.tv/news/25961/2021-03-03>

People smugglers could get life sentences under new rules, says Home Office

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/mar/01/home-office-looking-at-tougher-penalty-of-life-sentence-for-people-smugglers>

Chasing Brazil's Premier Money Launderer

Steven Dudley – *InSight Crime*: 4 March 2021

Few were better at money laundering than Dario Messer, a Brazilian, who, while scrambling to save himself from Brazilian authorities, did one last tour of his prime refuge, Paraguay, where he sought help from many of his partners in crime, including the Paraguayan president.

<https://insightcrime.org/investigations/chasing-brazil-premier-money-launderer/>

For more on this theme:

A new channel to launder money

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/789611-a-new-channel-to-launder-money>

Hong Kong Plans Money Flow Scrutiny of Chinese Officials

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-02-14/hong-kong-plans-money-flow-scrutiny-of-chinese-officials>

Fighting money laundering in crypto, explained

<https://cointelegraph.com/explained/fighting-money-laundering-in-crypto-explained>

EU Directive on combating money laundering by criminal law

<http://camilleripreziosi.com/en/news-resources/1/4684/eu-directive-on-combating-money-laundering-by>

Tax abuse and money laundering is trapping billions in poverty, says UN

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2021/feb/25/tax-abuse-and-money-laundering-is-trapping-billions-in-poverty-says-un>

UAE's new measures to combat money laundering

<https://www.khaleejtimes.com/news/uaes-new-measures-to-combat-money-laundering>

Qatar Regulator Unveils Platform To Help Fight Money Laundering and Financial Crime

<https://thefintechtimes.com/qatar-regulator-unveils-platform-to-help-fight-money-laundering-and-financial-crime/>

The Next Wave of Anti-Money Laundering Enforcement Globally Is on the Horizon

<https://internationalbanker.com/finance/the-next-wave-of-anti-money-laundering-enforcement-globally-is-on-the-horizon/>

UAE to train anti-money laundering professionals under new programmes

<https://gulfnews.com/business/banking/uae-to-train-anti-money-laundering-professionals-under-new-programmes-1.77506881>

Money Laundering: Darker Side Of World's Offshore Financial System – Analysis

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/27022021-money-laundering-darker-side-of-worlds-offshore-financial-system-analysis/>

UAE's zero-tolerance on money laundering is netting results

<https://gulfnews.com/business/banking/uaes-zero-tolerance-on-money-laundering-is-netting-results-1.1614327698002>

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

New intermediary rules jeopardize the security of Indian internet users

Riana Pfefferkorn – Brookings: 3 March 2021

India's information technology ministry recently finalized a set of rules that the government argues will make online service providers more accountable for their users' bad behavior. Despite the apparently noble aim of incentivizing providers to better police their services, the changes pose a serious threat to Indians' data security and reflect the Indian government's increasingly authoritarian approach to internet governance.

<https://www.brookings.edu/techstream/new-intermediary-rules-jeopardize-the-security-of-indian-internet-users/>

For more on this theme:

(Global) Internet Governance and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Part 8: Articles 22-25

<https://www.circleid.com/posts/20210301-internet-governance-and-universal-declaration-human-rights-part-8/>

(Global) Three challenges facing the Internet in 2021

<https://www.techradar.com/news/three-challenges-facing-the-internet-in-2021>

INTERNET FREEDOM

'Digital authoritarianism' threatening basic rights in Africa, study says

Nita Bhalla – Reuters: 4 March 2021

New research highlights a worrying rise in governments' techniques to repress online activity. The new study by the African Digital Rights Network documented 115 examples of technologies, tactics and techniques used to control or censor the internet.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/rights-privacy-africa/digital-authoritarianism-threatening-basic-rights-in-africa-study-says-idUSL3N2KZ4F3>

For more on this theme:

(Africa) Twice as many technologies, tactics and techniques used to close than open digital space in ten African countries

<https://www.ids.ac.uk/press-releases/twice-as-many-technologies-tactics-and-techniques-used-to-close-than-open-digital-space-in-ten-african-countries/>

(Africa) Sub-Saharan Africa lost \$237.4 million to Internet censorship in 2020

<https://techpoint.africa/2021/02/26/sub-saharan-africa-internet-shutdown-losses/>

(Iran) Internet disruption reported in southeast Iran amid unrest

<https://apnews.com/article/dubai-iran-united-arab-emirates-1976ed0f052e14a2bf73f3ad9c786fa1>

(Myanmar) Why is Myanmar's military blocking the internet?

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/3/4/myanmar-internet-blackouts>

PRIVACY AND SECURITY

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Why we need to rebuild internet search, putting user privacy first

Kurt Nielsen – TechRadar: 26 February 2021

As it stands, using the internet to do anything forces you to consume advertising. But it doesn't have to be this way.

<https://www.techradar.com/news/why-we-need-to-rebuild-internet-search-putting-user-privacy-first>

For more on this theme:

(India) Can India Catch Up to Global Standards of Digital Safety and Security?

<https://gadgets.ndtv.com/internet/opinion/can-india-catch-up-to-global-standards-of-digital-safety-and-security-2382958>

(Global) Why Is IoT Security Important?

<https://builtin.com/iot-internet-things/practical-iot-hacking>

(Global) Google ends sale of ads using individual web tracking data

<https://abcnews.go.com/Business/wireStory/google-vows-user-tracking-chrome-ad-data-76224986>

CYBER ATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

Oxford University lab with COVID-19 research links targeted by hackers

Charlie Osborne – ZDNet: 26 February 2021

An Oxford University biology laboratory researching COVID-19 has been hacked by a cyber gang amid fears they are trying to sell secrets to the highest bidder.

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/oxford-university-biochemical-lab-involved-in-covid-19-research-targeted-by-hackers/>

For more on this theme:

(Global) The Global Cyber Threat

<https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2021/03/global-cyber-threat-to-financial-systems-maurer.htm>

(Poland) Poland's CD Projekt delays results due to cyber attack

<https://www.reuters.com/article/cd-projekt-results-delay/polands-cd-projekt-delays-results-due-to-cyber-attack-idUSL8N2KW7MW>

(Global) Cyber attacks place COVID-19 relief efforts in jeopardy

<https://www.itweb.co.za/content/mQwkoq6Pwgj73r9A>



Cybercrime groups are selling their hacking skills. Some countries are buying

Danny Palmer – ZDNet: 26 February 2021

Nation-state hacking groups don't need to do the work themselves anymore: They can hire criminal gangs to breach targets for them – with the added bonus that it's harder to trace the attack back to them, say researchers from BlackBerry.

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/cybercrime-groups-are-selling-their-hacking-skills-some-countries-are-buying/>

For more on this theme:

(Global) Digital Threat Actors: Organized Criminals

<https://securityboulevard.com/2021/02/digital-threat-actors-organized-criminals/>

(Global) Go malware is now common, having been adopted by both APTs and e-crime groups

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/go-malware-is-now-common-having-been-adopted-by-both-apt-and-e-crime-groups/>

(Global) Pandemic Cyber Crime, By the Numbers

<https://securityboulevard.com/2021/02/pandemic-cyber-crime-by-the-numbers/>

(Global) This chart shows the connections between cybercrime groups

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/this-chart-shows-the-connections-between-cybercrime-groups/>

CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

The school leader getting New Mexico's tribes online

Jack Graham – Reuters: 25 February 2021

A lack of infrastructure on U.S. tribal lands has made access to the internet a long-standing issue. A Santa Fe Indian School leader is working to change all that.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/usa-indigenous-tech/interview-the-school-leader-getting-new-mexicos-tribes-online-idUSL8N2KV5KD>

For more on this theme:

(India) India fake news problem fueled by digital illiteracy

<https://www.dw.com/en/india-fake-news-problem-fueled-by-digital-illiteracy/a-56746776>

(India) Univs, colleges to create cybersecurity awareness

<https://www.dtnext.in/News/TamilNadu/2021/02/28042154/1277854/Univs-colleges-to-create-cyber-security-awareness.vpf>

Govt denies any impact from Chinese cyber campaign against Indian power systems

ETEnergyWorld: 1 March 2021

A study conducted by a U.S.-based company suggests that a China-linked group targeted India's power grid system through malware. However, India said there was no impact on Power System Operation Corp. operations due to a malware attack and that prompt actions are taken on advisories issued against such threats.

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/power/govt-denies-any-impact-from-chinese-cyber-campaign-against-indian-power-systems/81273259>

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) A strong offense can decrease cyberattacks on critical infrastructure

<https://thehill.com/opinion/cybersecurity/539085-a-strong-offense-can-decrease-cyber-attacks-on-critical-infrastructure>

(U.S., Global) What can the US learn from our allies on protecting critical infrastructure?

<https://thehill.com/opinion/cybersecurity/541348-what-can-the-us-learn-from-our-allies-on-protecting-critical>

(India) Cyber threats from China: Experts demand healthcare facilities be declared critical infrastructure

<https://www.theweek.in/news/india/2021/03/02/cyber-threats-from-china-experts-demand-healthcare-facilities-be-declared-critical-infrastructure.html>

(Global) These four new hacking groups are targeting critical infrastructure, warns security company

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/these-four-new-hacking-groups-are-targeting-critical-infrastructure-warns-security-company/>

CYBER EXERCISES AND TRAINING

In A First, Europe's Militaries Hone Their Cyber Warfare Skills With 'Live-Fire' Drills

The EurAsian Times: 21 February 2021

The exercise brought together members of various military cyber emergency response teams to observe the management of an emergency situation and share information. It simulated a multi-system attack on military cyber infrastructures in a number of countries.

<https://eurasianimes.com/in-a-first-europes-militaries-hone-their-cyber-warfare-skills-with-live-fire-drills/>

(U.S.) Best, brightest federal cyber workers competing in 'save the world' scenario

<https://federalnewsnetwork.com/reporters-notebook-jason-miller/2021/02/best-brightest-federal-cyber-workers-competing-in-save-the-world-scenario/>

(Scotland) Educational Adaptation Required to Close the Cyber-Skills Gap

<https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/adapting-education-close-cyber/>

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Runaway schoolgirl who joined IS cannot return to Britain, top court says

Michael Holden – Reuters: 26 February 2021

Shamima Begum, who ran away from London as a teenager to join ISIS, lost her bid to return to the United Kingdom to fight for the restoration of her citizenship, which was revoked on national security grounds.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-britain-security-begum-idCAKBN2AQ17K>

Combating the Islamic State's Spread in Africa: Assessment and Recommendations for Mozambique

Emily Estelle and Jessica Trisko Darden – American Enterprise Institute: 24 February 2021

The global Salafi-jihadi movement, which includes al-Qaida and ISIS, is spreading in Africa. An ISIS-linked group in northern Mozambique is one of the latest cases of a Salafi-jihadi group co-opting and expanding a local conflict.

<https://www.aei.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Combating-the-Islamic-State%E2%80%99s-Spread-in-Africa.pdf?x91208>

For more on this theme:

Islamic State continues to terrorize Raqqa

<https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2021/02/syria-raqqa-islamic-state-threats-assassinations-sdf.html>

The Yazidi Women Who Do Not Want to Be Known

<https://www.voanews.com/extremism-watch/yazidi-women-who-do-not-want-be-known>

Kazakh Widow Shares Horror Stories About Life Under Islamic State In Syria

<https://www.rferl.org/a/kazakhstan-islamic-state-widow-stories-anti-terror-campaign/31113795.html>

Coalition Plans To Expand Giant ISIS Prison In Syria

<https://www.defenseone.com/policy/2021/02/coalition-plans-expand-giant-isis-prison-syria/172270/>

How Islamic State returned to haunt civilians in northeast Syria

<https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2021/02/syria-islamic-state-resume-attacks-kurds-civilians.html>

7,000 ISIS fighters in Iraq are exploiting the COVID-19 pandemic to regroup in key areas, general warns

<https://www.businessinsider.com/report-covid-19-pandemic-syria-provides-cover-for-isis-resurgence-2021-2>

Syria's Al-Hol Camp for ISIS Families Records 31 Murders This Year

<https://english.aawsat.com/home/article/2838861/syria%E2%80%99s-al-hol-camp-isis-families-records-31-murders-year>

Islamic State says it killed female media workers in east Afghanistan

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-afghanistan-attack-media-idUSKCN2AV0GB>

TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

ISIS and Al-Qaeda's Sub-Saharan Affiliates Are Poised for Growth in 2021

Colin P. Clarke and Jacob Zenn – Defense One: 26 February 2021

ISIS and al-Qaida are gaining strength in Africa, raising alarms. The success enjoyed by jihadist groups in sub-Saharan Africa is juxtaposed with struggles encountered by al-Qaida and ISIS affiliates elsewhere. Overall, their core leaderships have been weakened, and both groups have relied more on the momentum of their respective affiliates. But one thing is clear: Al-Qaida and ISIS are ascendant in Sub-Saharan Africa.

<https://www.defenseone.com/ideas/2021/02/isis-and-al-qaedas-sub-saharan-affiliates-are-poised-growth-2021/172313/>

New Iran-based Al-Qaeda head 'a potential asset to Tehran'

Christopher Hamill-Stewart – Arab News: 26 February 2021

Al-Qaida has reportedly announced the appointment of a new leader, Saif al-Adel, replacing its former leader, Ayman al-Zawahiri, who is rumored to be dead. Al-Adel is believed to be in Iran, which could limit his efficacy.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/1815886/middle-east>

For more on this theme:

Africa Is a Jihadist Playground for the Resurgent Islamic State and al-Qaeda

<https://jcpa.org/africa-is-a-jihadist-playground-for-the-resurgent-islamic-state-and-al-qaeda/>

UN sanctions Al-Shabaab leaders

<https://www.radioshabelle.com/un-sanctions-al-shabaab-leaders/>

Boko Haram teams up with bandits in Nigeria

<https://issafrica.org/iss-today/boko-haram-teams-up-with-bandits-in-nigeria>

Mass Kidnapping in Nigeria Captures International Attention — Again

<https://www.cfr.org/blog/mass-kidnapping-nigeria-captures-international-attention-again>

New Pictures Show Boko Haram Recruiting, Training Kids

<http://saharareporters.com/2021/02/28/new-pictures-show-boko-haram-recruiting-training-kids>

Boko Haram, others remain a threat –US

<https://punchng.com/boko-haram-others-remain-a-threat-us/>

'I Wake Up and Scream': Secret Taliban Prisons Terrorize Thousands

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/27/world/asia/afghanistan-taliban-prison.html>

Speech Offers Rare Glimpse Into Taliban Inner Politics

<https://www.voanews.com/extremism-watch/speech-offers-rare-glimpse-taliban-inner-politics>

Neo-Nazi Sonnenkrieg Division to become first right-wing terrorist organisation listed in Australia

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-03-02/sonnenkrieg-division-first-right-wing-terror-group-list-ed/13206756>

RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

What kinds of people become extremists?

Duaa Nasir – The Medium: 1 March 2021

Have you ever wondered what kinds of people become extremists? A recent study from the University of Cambridge examines decision-making strategies, personality traits, and ideological attitudes in people to identify relationships between the variables.

<https://themedium.ca/sports/what-kinds-of-people-become-extremists/>

For more on this theme:

Deradicalised terrorists rejoin Boko Haram after spying on communities, says Zulum

<https://punchng.com/deradicalised-terrorists-rejoin-boko-haram-after-spying-on-communities-says-zulum/>

New report to help prisons handle violent extremists

<https://www.capitalfm.co.ke/news/2021/03/new-report-to-help-prisons-handle-violent-extremists/>

Nairobi renews fight against radicalisation, violent extremism

<https://nation.africa/kenya/counties/nairobi/nairobi-renews-fight-against-radicalisation-violent-extremism-3308312>

Extremists and terrorists use pandemic to ‘sell’ their messages, Europol chief warns

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/global-europe/news/extremists-and-terrorists-use-pandemic-to-sell-their-messages-europol-chief-warns/>

Solution to terrorism threat is rehabilitating & reintegrating detainees: Josephine Teo

<https://mothership.sg/2021/03/josephine-teo-terrorism-foreign-interference/>

Guide to spotting far-right extremism sent to schools in England and Wales

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/mar/02/guide-to-spotting-far-right-extremism-sent-to-schools-in-england-and-wales>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: SOFT POWER

China’s Soft Power Grows in the Philippines

Jason Hung – The Diplomat: 26 February 2021

China is using a targeted expansion of its pop culture and media in the Philippines to promote pro-China narratives and content.

<https://thediplomat.com/2021/02/chinas-soft-power-grows-in-the-philippines/>

For more on this theme:

Turkey’s Pivot in Central Asia: A Calculated Risk?

<https://armenianweekly.com/2021/02/17/turkeys-pivot-in-central-asia-a-calculated-risk/>

Report: China sharpens influencing efforts as impact dulls

<https://eurasianet.org/report-china-sharpens-influencing-efforts-as-impact-dulls>

Moscow Expanding Diplomatic Contacts With Less Prominent Countries in Africa

<https://jamestown.org/program/moscow-expanding-diplomatic-contacts-with-less-prominent-countries-in-africa/>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: PROXY FORCES

Who Are Iran-backed Militants Struck by US in Syria?

Namo Abdulla and Rikar Hussein – Voice of America: 26 February 2021

The U.S. military conducted airstrikes in eastern Syria against facilities belonging to Iran-backed militia in a calibrated response to recent rocket attacks against U.S. targets in Iraq. “Specifically, the strikes destroyed multiple facilities located at a border control point used by a number of Iranian-backed militant groups,” including Kataeb Hezbollah and Kataeb Sayyid al-Shuhada, Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said.

<https://www.voanews.com/extremism-watch/who-are-iran-backed-militants-struck-us-syria>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: DISINFORMATION AND MALIGN INFLUENCE

Borrell: EU doesn’t have resources to fight disinformation from China

Laurens Cerulus – Politico: 1 March 2021

“Today, we don’t have a mandate to study disinformation about China,” Josep Borrell, the European Union’s foreign affairs chief, told members of the European Parliament’s Special Committee on Foreign Interference. “We have very little resources to study disinformation from China.”

<https://www.politico.eu/article/josep-borrell-eu-doesnt-have-resources-fight-disinfo-china/>

For more on this theme:

Growing number of countries issue warnings on China’s espionage

<https://www.axios.com/china-espionage-europe-1ff03504-0245-4b9c-b967-8807f6c75288.html>

Russia’s Strategy in the Central African Republic

<https://rusi.org/commentary/russia-strategy-central-african-republic>

Iran Cultivates Taliban Ties to Gain Leverage, Experts Say

<https://www.voanews.com/extremism-watch/iran-cultivates-taliban-ties-gain-leverage-experts-say>

China expands global authoritarian influence efforts: Report

<https://www.bignewsnetwork.com/news/267878014/china-expand-global-authoritarian-influence-efforts-report>

Chinese strategy is clear: The world has much to think about

<https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/chinese-strategy-clear-world-has-much-think-about/>

Ambassador Pyatt’s Remarks at the George C. Marshall Center’s Virtual Seminar on Countering Malign Influence

<https://gr.usembassy.gov/ambassador-pyatts-remarks-at-the-george-c-marshall-centers-virtual-seminar-on-countering-malign-influence/>

Fake Russian Instagram Accounts Tried To Drown Out Pro-Navalny Hashtags, Facebook Says

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/rachelsandler/2021/03/03/fake-russian-instagram-accounts-tried-to-drown-out-pro-navalny-hashtags-facebook-says/?sh=1e8d81b058a0>