

THE MARSHALL CENTER

transnational weekly



A CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICE FROM THE MARSHALL CENTER

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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Brazil justice annuls Lula's sentences, enabling 2022 run

Mauricio Savarese and David Biller – The Associated Press: 8 March 2021

A justice on Brazil's Supreme Court has annulled corruption convictions against former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva – a move that could be the first step toward clearing him to run next year against President Jair Bolsonaro.

<https://apnews.com/article/brazil-sao-paulo-caribbean-money-laundering-e31b88553d65e71a21d2b95aeb-fe498c>

How China's Massive Corruption Crackdown Snares Entrepreneurs Across The Country

Emily Feng – National Public Radio: 4 March 2021

The Chinese fight against corruption has served another function: enabling officials across China to lock away entrepreneurs and other citizens whom they perceive to have gained too much wealth or influence independent of the party.

<https://www.npr.org/2021/03/04/947943087/how-chinas-massive-corruption-crackdown-snares-entrepreneurs-across-the-country>

For more on this theme:

Former IMF chief Rato to stand trial in Spain on corruption charges

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-spain-court-rato/former-imf-chief-rato-to-stand-trial-in-spain-on-corruption-charges-idUSKCN2AT2SQ>

Offices of senior German politician searched over corruption allegations

<https://www.politico.eu/article/cdu-csu-police-raid-corruption-georg-nuesslein-bundestag-parliamentary-immunity/>

Austria fails to weed out corruption in judiciary and parliament

<https://www.trtworld.com/magazine/austria-fails-to-weed-out-corruption-in-judiciary-and-parliament-44664>

Why Europe needs to up its game in fighting corruption

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/europe-corruption-politics-montenegro-b1808718.html>

Procurement corruption darkens Africa's COVID-19 fight

<https://www.scidev.net/sub-saharan-africa/procurement-corruption-darkens-africas-covid-19-fight/>

South Africa to Target Nepotism, Corruption in Civil Service

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-03-01/south-africa-to-target-nepotism-corruption-in-civil-service>

France convicts ex-defence minister, acquits ex-PM Balladur in Karachi corruption trial

<https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210304-france-acquits-ex-pm-balladur-in-karachi-corruption-trial-convicts-ex-defence-minister>

Corruption claims threaten to damage Germany's CDU party

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/mar/09/corruption-claims-threaten-to-damage-germanys-cdu-party>

TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

The legal trade in wildlife poses pandemic risks too

Daniel T Cross – Sustainability Times: 8 March 2021

With three out of four newly emerging infectious human diseases originating in animals, there is an urgent need to monitor the legal trade in wildlife, according to new research by Vincent Nijman, anthropology professor at Oxford Brookes University.

<https://www.sustainability-times.com/environmental-protection/the-legal-trade-in-wildlife-poses-pandemic-risks-too/>

For more on this theme:

Cambodia: Widespread illegal logging in Prey Lang rainforest amid ban on community patrols

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2021/02/cambodia-widespread-illegal-logging-in-prey-lang-rainforest-amid-ban-on-community-patrols/>

Fake it till you save it? Synthetic animal parts pose a conservation conundrum

<https://news.mongabay.com/2021/02/fake-it-till-you-save-it-synthetic-animal-parts-pose-a-conservation-conundrum/>

Banning wild meat could add to global food problems

<https://phys.org/news/2021-02-wild-meat-global-food-problems.html>

We need a green recovery after COVID-19, but banning wildlife trade could do more harm than good

<https://theconversation.com/we-need-a-green-recovery-after-covid-19-but-banning-wildlife-trade-could-do-more-harm-than-good-155407>

Parrots, Toucans and Monkeys Delivered Across Mexico

<https://insightcrime.org/news/parrots-toucans-and-monkeys-delivered-across-mexico/>

FROM THE FIELD: Taming the illegal wildlife trafficking trade

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/03/1086082>

China Doubles the Number of its Protected Animals

<https://www.rfa.org/english/commentaries/animals-03032021145918.html>

Could Africa's taste for bushmeat trigger the next pandemic?

<https://www.dw.com/en/could-africas-taste-for-bushmeat-trigger-the-next-pandemic/a-56696576>

'A ticking time bomb': Commercial wildlife trade in southeast Asia risking future pandemic

<https://www.independent.co.uk/stop-the-illegal-wildlife-trade/asia-wildlife-trade-markets-covid-virus-b1806362.html>

Banning the Sale of Wild Meat Might Actually Make Pandemics More Likely

<https://www.vice.com/en/article/v7mkz3/banning-the-sale-of-wild-meat-might-actually-make-pandemics-more-likely>

Chinese triads target Bolivia's jaguars in search of 'American tiger' parts

<https://news.mongabay.com/2021/03/chinese-triads-target-bolivias-jaguars-in-search-of-american-tiger-parts/>

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Human Trafficking: The UK Needs to Improve Its Response

Keith Ditcham and Lisa Kosonen – Royal United Services Institute: 10 March 2021

The European Court of Human Rights has ruled that the United Kingdom violated its international obligations to protect the victims of slavery and forced labor.

<https://rusi.org/commentary/human-trafficking-uk-needs-improve-its-response>

Ethiopia's migrants turn to sex work as pandemic sends them home

Emeline Wuilbercq – Reuters: 3 March 2021

The economic repercussions of the COVID-19 crisis have forced many irregular migrants from Ethiopia to return home, where they are faced with destitution daily. Some turn to sex work as their only option to rise out of poverty. Others resort to prostitution to finance their next migration.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/ethiopia-migrants-sexwork-idAFL8N2KV6QW>

For more on this theme:

How contactless technology can prevent human trafficking

<https://www.hotelmanagement.net/operate/how-contactless-technology-can-prevent-human-trafficking>

Color-coded passage: Why smugglers are tagging U.S.-bound migrants with wristbands

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-immigration-border-idUSKBN2B12E6>

Foreign gangs making 'easy profits' by turning to Channel people smuggling

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/03/09/foreign-gangs-making-easy-profits-turning-channel-people-smuggling/>

ORGANIZED CRIME

Kyoto Crime Congress opens with declaration to tackle growing crime threats, promote inclusive COVID-19 recovery

United Nations: 7 March 2021

The United Nations kicked off its 14th Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Kyoto, Japan, with experts expressing concern about the COVID-19 pandemic and the new opportunities it has created for organized crime.

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/03/1086642>

For more on this theme:

Ecuador links deadly prison riots to transnational crime groups

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-ecuador-prisons-idUSKCN2AT3SJ>

COVID-19 is reconfiguring organized crime in Latin America and the Caribbean

<https://smallwarsjournal.com/jrnl/art/covid-19-reconfiguring-organized-crime-latin-america-and-caribbean>

A Former Made Man Opens Up About Life in the Mafia

<https://www.mensjournal.com/features/a-once-made-man-opens-up-about-life-in-the-mafia-mens-journal/>

MONEY LAUNDERING

Money mule recruiters use fake online job adverts to target 'generation COVID'

Lucy Harley-McKeown – Yahoo: 9 March 2021

Money mule recruiters are targeting people looking for work during the pandemic by posting fake advertisements on employment websites and social media.

<https://ca.movies.yahoo.com/money-laundering-covid-gen-z-job-hunt-000111043.html>

For more on this theme:

John McAfee Indicted On Fraud, Money Laundering Charges In Pump-And-Dump Crypto Scheme

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/rachelsandler/2021/03/05/john-mcafee-indicted-on-fraud-money-laundering-charges-in-pump-and-dump-crypto-scheme/?sh=74e4b62b2669>

The Anti-Money Laundering Act is a tough act for banks

<https://www.paymentsource.com/opinion/the-anti-money-laundering-act-is-a-tough-act-for-banks>

U.S. Anti-Money Laundering Reforms Spell Bad for Crypto Crime

<https://thetractable.com/opinions/us-antimoney-laundering-reforms-spell-bad-for-crypto-crime>

Kenya ranked among major money laundering hotbeds across the world

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/world/kenya-ranked-among-major-money-laundering-hotbeds-across-the-world-3317766>

SEC sets up transparency rules to combat money laundering

<https://ph.news.yahoo.com/sec-sets-transparency-rules-combat-051200971.html>

'I Might Buy it All': Albania Fights Losing Battle against Money Laundering

<https://balkaninsight.com/2021/03/10/i-might-buy-it-all-albania-fights-losing-battle-against-money-laundering/>

European Banking Authority Publishes Document Addressing Crowdfunding and Money Laundering, Terrorist Financing Risk

<https://www.crowdfundinsider.com/2021/03/173009-european-banking-authority-publishes-document-addressing-crowdfunding-and-money-laundering-terrorist-financing-risk/>

Anti-money laundering: Cayman is held to a higher standard

<https://www.caymancompass.com/2021/03/04/anti-money-laundering-cayman-is-held-to-a-higher-standard/>

FID: Covid pandemic has opened new paths for money launderers in Latvia

<https://bnn-news.com/fid-covid-pandemic-has-opened-new-paths-for-money-launderers-in-latvia-222728>

Taking the Profit Out of Intellectual Property Crime: Piracy and Organised Crime

<https://rusi.org/publication/whitehall-reports/taking-profit-out-intellectual-property-crime>

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

The Rise And Impact Of The Splinternet

David B. Shrestha – Analytics India Magazine: 7 March 2021

The global internet as we know it is on the verge of splintering into smaller bubbles of national networks due to aggressive national policies, trade disputes, censorship and dissatisfaction with big tech companies.

<https://analyticsindiamag.com/the-rise-and-impact-of-the-splinternet/>

For more on this theme:

(Global) Framing the Internet Governance Debate: The Long Road to WSIS+20 (2025)

<https://www.circleid.com/posts/20210304-framing-the-internet-governance-debate-long-road-to-wsis-2025/>

(U.K., Global) A Fight in the U.K. Reveals the Problems With Internet Governance

<https://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/articles/29478/a-fight-in-the-u-k-reveals-the-problems-with-regulating-cyberspace>

(India) India is trying to build its own internet

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/03/08/tech/india-internet-homegrown-apps/index.html>

INTERNET FREEDOM

How Kashmir's Internet Censorship is Hurting Public Health

Borgen Magazine: 9 March 2021

Lack of access to reliable internet service prevents Kashmir's citizens from accessing important COVID-19 information. In essence, Kashmir's internet censorship is actively harming public health.

<https://www.borgenmagazine.com/kashmir-internet-censorship/>

For more on this theme:

(China) China Persecutes Those Who Question 'Heroes.' A Sleuth Keeps Track.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/26/business/china-online-censorship.html>

(China, Global) Copying China's Online Blockade

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/01/technology/copying-chinas-online-blockade.html>

(Russia) Russia Slows Down Twitter Access

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/03/10/russia-slows-down-twitter-access>

(Global) More Governments Disrupt Internet for Political Control

<https://www.voanews.com/east-asia-pacific/more-governments-disrupt-internet-political-control>

PRIVACY AND SECURITY

Will the End of Internet 'Cookies' Bring More User Privacy?

Voice of America: 10 March 2021

Google has announced plans to stop supporting tools designed to follow internet users across the web in order to target them with specific advertising. How will that change privacy concerns?

<https://learningenglish.voanews.com/a/will-the-end-of-internet-cookies-bring-more-user-privacy-5809138.html>

For more on this theme:

(Global) Can WhatsApp stop spreading misinformation without compromising encryption?

<https://qz.com/1978077/can-whatsapp-stop-misinformation-without-compromising-encryption/>

(U.S.) NSA and CISA release cybersecurity guidance on strengthening cyber defense through protective DNS

<https://www.securitymagazine.com/articles/94758-nsa-and-cisa-release-cybersecurity-information-on-protective-dns>

(Balkans) Cyber-Attacks a Growing Threat to Unprepared Balkan States

<https://balkaninsight.com/2021/03/10/cyber-attacks-a-growing-threat-to-unprepared-balkan-states/>

CYBER STATECRAFT

China launches cyber warfare against India

Deepak Vohra – The Sunday Guardian: 6 March 2021

A more comprehensive and objective assessment of China's cyber power is in urgent need. As Joseph Nye argued, exaggerated fears about growing Chinese power can either paralyze or become a cause of conflict.

<https://www.sundayguardianlive.com/news/china-launches-cyber-warfare-india>

For more on this theme:

(Nigeria) Buhari seeks overhaul of national strategy on cyber security

<https://www.vanguardngr.com/2021/02/buhari-seeks-overhaul-of-national-strategy-on-cyber-security-2/>

(U.K.) The UK's Next Steps on Cybersecurity

https://www.thecipherbrief.com/column_article/the-uks-next-steps-on-cybersecurity

(Sierra Leone) Collaboration key to Sierra Leone's first national cyber security strategy

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/commonwealth-cyber-programme-country-case-studies/collaboration-key-to-sierra-leones-first-national-cyber-security-strategy>

CYBER CRIME

Criminals and Hostile States Attack Healthcare with Impunity; the CyberPeace Institute Calls for Accountability

CyberPeace Institute: 9 March 2021

Cyber attacks against health care entities are putting patients at risk and having a psychological impact on medical staffs. Governments must do more to help fight attacks, warns a report by the CyberPeace Institute.

<https://cyberpeaceinstitute.org/news/criminals-and-hostile-states-attack-healthcare-with-impunity-the-cyberpeace-institute-calls-for-accountability/>

For more on this theme:

(India) Over 1,000 Delhi Police personnel trained to tackle cyber-crime amid pandemic

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/delhi-news/over-1-000-delhi-police-personnel-trained-to-tackle-cyber-crime-amid-pandemic-101615108302568-amp.html>

(U.S., Global) How to Protect Vulnerable Seniors From Cybercrime

https://www.darkreading.com/vulnerabilities---threats/how-to-protect-vulnerable-seniors-from-cybercrime/d/d-id/1340322?pidl_msgorder=thrd

(Russia, Global) Hackers Target Russian Cybercrime Forums

<https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/hackers-target-russian-cybercrime/>

(Australia) Australia's answer to thwarting ransomware is good cyber hygiene

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/australias-answer-to-thwarting-ransomware-is-good-cyber-hygiene/>

INFORMATION SHARING

Most Threat Analysts Banned from Sharing Intel with Peers

Phil Muncaster – Infosecurity Magazine: 10 March 2021

According to a new report from Russian malware vendor Kaspersky, most threat intelligence analysts aren't allowed to share artifacts with their peers in professional networks, hindering the global fight against cyber attacks.

<https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/most-threat-analysts-banned/>

For more on this theme:

(U.S., Global) To combat cyber warfare the security industry needs to work together

<https://www.helpnetsecurity.com/2021/02/01/combat-cyber-warfare/>

(U.S.) Hacking Campaign Fuels Calls for Information Sharing Mandate

<https://www.nextgov.com/cybersecurity/2021/02/hacking-campaign-fuels-calls-information-sharing-mandate/172254/>

(U.K.) Cyber-threat intelligence information sharing guide

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cyber-threat-intelligence-information-sharing/cyber-threat-intelligence-information-sharing-guide>

PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

There's No Margin for Error in Port Cyber Security

Joel Snape – The Maritime Executive: 9 March 2021

With the global shipping industry already under pressure, Joel Snape, a security researcher at Nettitude, explains why addressing the risk to port infrastructure from cyber attack has never been more critical.

<https://www.maritime-executive.com/editorials/there-s-no-margin-for-error-in-port-cyber-security>

For more on this theme:

(Global) Why world's power grids are increasingly vulnerable to cyber attacks

https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/why-world-s-power-grids-are-increasingly-vulnerable-to-cyber-attacks-121030400155_1.html

(South Africa) Critical infrastructure attacks: why South Africa should worry

<https://issafrica.org/iss-today/critical-infrastructure-attacks-why-south-africa-should-worry>

(Global) Global Power Grids Are Becoming Increasingly Vulnerable to Cyber Attacks

<https://www.insurancejournal.com/news/international/2021/03/04/603758.htm>

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

UK foreign minister reports ‘worrying’ rise in Islamic State recruitment among teens

Agence France-Presse: 4 March 2021

Children and teenagers are being recruited to ISIS during lockdown in “worrying” numbers, warns United Kingdom Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab. Speaking in the House of Commons about the continued threat, Raab said it is “still able to carry out lethal attacks” and it remains the U.K.’s most significant terrorist threat at home and abroad.

<https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/international/europe/1614882522-uk-foreign-minister-reports-worrying-rise-in-islamic-state-recruitment-among-teens>

How the Pentagon Got Inside ISIS’ Chemical Weapons Operation — and Ended It

Joby Warrick – Politico: 27 February 2021

How shady reports of ISIS-made poison gas led the U.S. to a valuable ISIS weapons-maker who helped bring the whole operation down.

<https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2021/02/27/red-line-book-excerpt-chemical-weapons-syria-471784>

For more on this theme:

As part of the battle for hearts and minds, ISIS uses TikTok to spread propaganda messages mainly to a younger audience

<https://www.terrorism-info.org.il/en/as-part-of-the-battle-for-hearts-and-minds-isis-uses-tiktok-to-spread-propaganda-messages-mainly-to-a-younger-audience/>

Jihadist Women’s Demands Come at Crucial Time for France

<https://www.voanews.com/europe/jihadist-womens-demands-come-crucial-time-france>

Islamic State Khorasan Province Attack on Hazaras Endangers Pakistan’s Baluchistan Province

<https://jamestown.org/program/islamic-state-khorasan-province-attack-on-hazaras-endangers-pakistan-baluchistan-province/>

Isis women languish in dire conditions with nowhere else to go

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/feb/26/isis-women-languish-in-dire-conditions-al-hawl-sham-ima-begum>

Islamic State Exploiting Security Gaps to Step Up Violence, US Partners Warn

<https://www.voanews.com/middle-east/islamic-state-exploiting-security-gaps-step-violence-us-partners-warn>

State Department Terrorist Designations of ISIS Affiliates and Leaders in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Mozambique

<https://www.state.gov/state-department-terrorist-designations-of-isis-affiliates-and-leaders-in-the-democratic-republic-of-the-congo-and-mozambique/>

TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Shabaab mounts prison break in northern Somalia

Caleb Weiss – The Long War Journal: 5 March 2021

At least seven soldiers were killed when fighters of the Somali Islamist group al-Shabaab stormed a jail in the semiautonomous state of Puntland, police and the group said. Al-Shabaab said it had freed at least 400 prisoners, many of them its members, in its assault on the main prison in Bosaso.

<https://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2021/03/shabaab-mounts-prison-break-in-northern-somalia.php>

For more on this theme:

Morocco sees Sahel jihadists as magnet for local cells

<https://www.defenceweek.co.za/security/national-security/morocco-sees-sahel-jihadists-as-magnet-for-local-cells/>

UN Security Council: Taliban continues to patronize Central Asian Jihadists

<https://modern diplomacy.eu/2021/03/06/un-security-council-taliban-continues-to-patronize-central-asian-jihadists/>

The Pakistani Taliban is Back

<https://thediplomat.com/2021/03/the-pakistani-taliban-is-back/>

Heroin and War Crimes: Conflict Rages On in Mozambique

<https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/13980-heroin-and-war-crimes-conflict-rages-on-in-mozambique>

RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

Terrorism is evolving: Isolation is a route to radicalisation we cannot ignore

Matt Dryden – The Independent: 10 March 2021

A year of Covid restrictions could lead to an increase in vulnerable children adopting extremist ideologies – a proportion of whom may go on to commit terrorist offences such as school shootings.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/terrorism-isolation-radicalisation-school-shootings-b1815261.html>

For more on this theme:

COVID-19 and Terrorism in the West: Has Radicalization Really Gone Viral?

<https://www.justsecurity.org/75064/covid-19-and-terrorism-in-the-west-has-radicalization-really-gone-viral/>

Rethinking Terrorism: Social Media And Its Role In Fake Warfare — OpEd

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/08032021-rethinking-terrorism-social-media-and-its-role-in-fake-warfare-oped/>

How Indonesia Failed in Countering Religious Extremism

<https://intpolicydigest.org/how-indonesia-failed-in-countering-religious-extremism/>

Terrifying rise of far-right groups in Aus

<https://www.qt.com.au/news/terrifying-rise-of-far-right-groups-in-aus/4211070/>

Lessons for Reintegrating Islamic State Detainees

<https://www.lawfareblog.com/lessons-reintegrating-islamic-state-detainees>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: SOFT POWER

Chinese-style soft power

Juris Paideris – Modern Diplomacy: 6 March 2021

Upon closer inspection, China's soft power is nothing more than lazily hidden strong power, i.e., attempts to achieve economic, political and military dominance through the use of force.

<https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2021/03/06/chinese-style-soft-power/>

For more on this theme:

With Its Sputnik Vaccine Going Global, Russian Soft Power Is on Display

<https://www.voanews.com/episode/its-sputnik-vaccine-going-global-russian-soft-power-display-4601536>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: PROXY FORCES

Iranian Proxy Militia Claims to Have Cells In Washington DC

Steve Balestrieri – SOFREP: 7 March 2021

Iranian proxy militia groups claim to have active cells stationed in Washington, D.C., as well as other U.S. cities, according to messages in online forums used by these groups.

<https://sofrep.com/news/iranian-proxy-militia-claims-to-have-cells-in-washington-dc/>

For more on this theme:

Hand of Iran, Iraqi proxies seen in Ras Tanura attack

<https://thearabweekly.com/hand-iran-iraqi-proxies-seen-ras-tanura-attack>

Pawn And Proxy: Cold Truths Behind The Iran-Russia Alliance

<https://worldcrunch.com/opinion-analysis/pawn-and-proxy-cold-truths-behind-the-iran-russia-alliance>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: DISINFORMATION AND MALIGN INFLUENCE

China Accelerates Plans to Overtake US on World Stage, Top Commander Says

Jeff Seldin – Voice of America: 9 March 2021

Concerns about China's aggressive behavior are not new. U.S. military and intelligence officials have repeatedly warned of the danger. A top U.S. Navy admiral told lawmakers: China is actively involved in disinformation, espionage and cyber operations.

<https://www.voanews.com/usa/china-accelerates-plans-overtake-us-world-stage-top-commander-says>

For more on this theme:

Uniting against authoritarianism: a blueprint for the Quad

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/uniting-against-authoritarianism-a-blueprint-for-the-quad/>

U.S. Condemns Russia For Vaccine 'Disinformation,' Vows To Fight Back

<https://www.rferl.org/a/us-condemns-russia-vaccine-disinformation-pfizer-sputnik/31140742.html>

Germany is main target of Russian disinformation, EU says

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-eu-russia-germany-idUSKBN2B11CX>