

THE MARSHALL CENTER

transnational weekly



A CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICE FROM THE MARSHALL CENTER

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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Colombia must dismantle criminal networks, corruption in port city: U.N

Luis Jaime Acosta – Reuters: 19 March 2021

A United Nations human rights expert called on Colombia to dismantle criminal networks and corruption in Buenaventura, where civilians have been greatly impacted by the fighting between Colombian armed groups.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-colombia-conflict/colombia-must-dismantle-criminal-networks-corruption-in-port-city-u-n-idUSKBN2BB236?il=0>

For more on this theme:

Top aide to Malta's former prime minister charged with corruption

<https://www.politico.eu/article/top-aide-malta-keith-schembri-arrested-corruption-charges/>

Peruvian ex-president Vizcarra avoids pretrial jail time; corruption probe continues

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-peru-vizcarra-idUSKBN2BB04Q>

Zimbabwe's COVID-19 response set back by crime, corruption

<https://www.dailysabah.com/world/africa/zimbabwes-covid-19-response-set-back-by-crime-corruption>

In Brazil, Court's Decision Illustrates Corruption Probe Overreach

<https://insightcrime.org/news/brazil-courts-decision-illustrates-corruption-probe-overreach/>

Moldova's vaccine rollout hampered by corruption, says president

<https://www.euronews.com/2021/03/19/moldova-s-vaccine-rollout-hampered-by-corruption-says-president>

Corruption Is a National Security Threat. The CROOK Act Is a Smart Way to Fight It.

<https://www.justsecurity.org/75468/corruption-is-a-national-security-threat-the-crook-act-is-a-smart-way-to-fight-it/>

Car bomb, corruption and COVID: 'Sordid' drama rocks India's finance capital

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-india-police/car-bomb-corruption-and-covid-sordid-drama-rocks-indias-finance-capital-idUSKBN2BE1WT>

Another German conservative politician resigns amid corruption allegations

<https://www.politico.eu/article/germany-conservative-politician-alfred-sauter-bribery-accusations/>

Malaysia's police chief claims corruption within senior ranks of force

<https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/se-asia/malaysias-police-chief-claims-corruption-within-senior-ranks-of-force>

The president's bodyguard who amassed dozens of cars and houses

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/3/24/malawi-state-moves-to-seize-property-of-ex-presidents-bodyguard>

From corruption to state capture

<https://timesofmalta.com/articles/view/from-corruption-to-state-capture.860173>

Tanzania's Ports Boss Dismissed Over Corruption Allegations

<https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/tanzania-s-ports-boss-dismissed-over-corruption-allegations>

DRUG TRAFFICKING

Drug use among older persons a 'hidden epidemic', narcotics experts warn

United Nations News: 25 March 2021

Drug use among older people globally has risen in recent years, and countries must act to address this “hidden epidemic,” the International Narcotics Control Board said in its annual report.

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/03/1088252>

Chaos Is Opportunity for Myanmar's Drug Trafficking Syndicates

Sebastian Strangio – The Diplomat: 29 March 2021

The chaos in Myanmar, also known as Burma, could see a surge in methamphetamine production across the Golden Triangle region as crime syndicates seek quick cash to compensate for the disruption caused by the military coup.

<https://thediplomat.com/2021/03/chaos-is-opportunity-for-myanmars-drug-trafficking-syndicates/>

For more on this theme:

La Unión, El Salvador

<https://insightcrime.org/el-salvador-organized-crime-news/la-union-el-salvador/>

How an MS13 Clique in El Salvador Took a Cocaine Corridor

<https://insightcrime.org/investigations/how-an-ms13-clique-in-el-salvador-took-a-cocaine-corridor/>

Chalatenango, El Salvador

<https://insightcrime.org/el-salvador-organized-crime-news/chalatenango-el-salvador/>

Ahuachapán, El Salvador

<https://insightcrime.org/el-salvador-organized-crime-news/ahuachapan-el-salvador/>

Santa Ana, El Salvador

<https://insightcrime.org/el-salvador-organized-crime-news/santa-ana-el-salvador/>

San Miguel, El Salvador

<https://insightcrime.org/el-salvador-organized-crime-news/san-miguel-el-salvador/>

New drug cartel in Michoacán has its roots in illegal logging

<https://mexiconewsdaily.com/news/new-drug-cartel-in-michoacan-has-its-roots-in-illegal-logging/>

DEA Report: Drug Traffickers Adapt to COVID-19 Crisis

<https://insightcrime.org/news/dea-report-drug-traffickers-covid/>

Uncertainty for Honduras President After Brother's Life Sentence

<https://insightcrime.org/news/honduras-president-brother-life-sentence/>

How Asian Drug-Trafficking Networks Operate in Europe

<https://thediplomat.com/2021/03/how-asian-drug-trafficking-networks-operate-in-europe/>

Drug trafficking disputes causing Venezuelans to flee to Colombia: Colombian minister

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-colombia-venezuela-idUSKBN2BK0J5>

TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Illegal mining surges on Yanomami indigenous land, report says

Agence France-Presse: 25 March 2021

Illegal gold and diamond mining in the Amazon accelerated on Yanomami lands in 2020 when the pandemic led authorities to scale back enforcement operations, according to a report by two Indigenous organizations.

<https://www.wionews.com/world/illegal-mining-surges-on-yanomami-indigenous-land-report-says-373074>

For more on this theme:

Small-scale fishermen turn to apps and AI to tackle climate change

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-global-climate-fishermen-trfn-idUSKBN2AWOUI>

Ethiopia's Preventive Efforts Against Wildlife Poaching

<https://allafrica.com/stories/202103160988.html>

Brazil's isolated tribes in the crosshairs of miners targeting Indigenous lands

<https://news.mongabay.com/2021/03/brazils-isolated-tribes-in-the-crosshairs-of-miners-targeting-indigenous-lands/>

Money Isn't Everything: Ex-Illegal Loggers Regret Cutting Down Trees

<https://pulitzercenter.org/stories/money-isnt-everything-ex-illegal-loggers-regret-cutting-down-trees>

How technology can help to achieve at least 30% ocean protection

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/03/countries-pledging-to-protect-ocean-by-2030/>

Mexico City's roaring trade in animal trafficking

<https://www.independent.co.uk/stop-the-illegal-wildlife-trade/mexico-wildlife-trafficking-illegal-trade-b1813015.html>

A Toxic Trade: Illegal Mining in Colombia's Pacific Region

<https://insightcrime.org/news/toxic-trade-illegal-mining-colombia-pacific-region/>

Case Digest: Financial Flows and Payment Mechanisms Behind Wildlife Crime

<https://www.traffic.org/publications/reports/case-digest-an-initial-analysis-of-the-financial-flows-and-payment-mechanisms-behind-wildlife-and-forest-crime/>

Why it's so hard to prosecute wildlife crimes: Lessons from Tanzania

<https://mg.co.za/environment/2021-03-21-why-its-so-hard-to-prosecute-wildlife-crimes-lessons-from-tanzania/>

PAWS anti-poaching AI predicts where illegal hunters will show up next

<https://www.engadget.com/paws-anti-poaching-ai-predicts-where-illegal-hunters-will-show-up-next-203614412.html>

Stolen Forests: Uncovering Colombia's Illegal Timber Trade

<https://insightcrime.org/news/stolen-forests-uncovering-colombia-illegal-timber-trade/>

Report: Myanmar's Dirty Timber Entering EU

<https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/14079-report-myanmar-s-dirty-timber-entering-eu>

Guinea-Bissau's plan to lift logging ban sparks fears for forests

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/3/20/guinea-bissau-plan-to-lift-logging-ban-sparks-fears-for-forests>

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Child Trafficking Thrives Along Haitian-Dominican Border

Katya Bleszynska – InSight Crime: 29 March 2021

Children from Haiti are being trafficked to the Dominican Republic in large numbers, with girls mainly exploited for sex and boys forced to work. Though child trafficking from Haiti to the Dominican Republic has long been an issue, trafficking rings appear to be taking advantage of the coronavirus pandemic, which has worsened poverty and hunger in Haiti, to target more children.

<https://insightcrime.org/news/child-trafficking-thrives-along-haitian-dominican-border/>

For more on this theme:

Minister accuses Facebook of putting lives at risk by allowing smugglers' adverts for illegal Channel crossings

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/03/18/minister-accuses-facebook-putting-lives-allowing-smugglers-adverts/>

Information alone won't stop illegal migration from Côte d'Ivoire

<https://issafrica.org/iss-today/information-alone-wont-stop-illegal-migration-from-cote-divoire>

The need for integrated SOPs to combat human trafficking along India-Nepal border

<https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/need-integrated-sops-combat-human-trafficking-along-india-nepal-border/>

Saudi diplomats trained to tackle international human trafficking

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/1833341/saudi-arabia>

Bajo Cauca and Vaupés – Colombia's Child Recruitment Hotspots

<https://insightcrime.org/news/bajo-cauca-and-vaupes-colombias-child-recruitment-hotspots/>

Spain Looks at Human Trafficking Side of Prostitution

<https://www.voanews.com/europe/spain-looks-human-trafficking-side-prostitution>

AI Leads The Fight Against Human Trafficking & Harassment

<https://www.analyticsinsight.net/ai-leads-the-fight-against-human-trafficking-harassment/>

Collaborating to Break the Cycle of Modern Slavery

<https://www.cfr.org/blog/collaborating-break-cycle-modern-slavery>

Thailand enlists industry groups in slavery blacklist effort

<https://www.reuters.com/article/thailand-labour-trafficking-idUSL8N2LR06H>

Exclusive: How Albanian, Moroccan, and Kurdish Gangs Move Migrants Through Albania

<https://exit.al/en/2021/03/25/exclusive-how-albanian-moroccan-and-kurdish-gangs-move-migrants-through-albania/>

ORGANIZED CRIME

Pope urges fight against organised crime as mafia milks the pandemic

Philip Pulella – Reuters: 21 March 2021

The Roman Catholic pontiff urged the people to fight against the Mafia and other organized crime groups, accusing the criminals of “exploiting the pandemic.”

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-pope-mafia-idUSKBN2BD0GG>

For more on this theme:

Fighting the Mafia on Its Own Turf

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/23/opinion/mafia-land-agriculture-Italy.html>

How to stay ahead of the rise of synthetic fraud

<https://www.helpnetsecurity.com/2021/03/22/synthetic-fraud/>

MONEY LAUNDERING

Money laundering is a real issue in tech: Here’s what is being done to stop it

Scott Matteson – TechRepublic: 31 March 2021

Technology shows us that technology built for good people can be harnessed by bad actors. In this article, experts talk about how criminals are operating, and what you can do about it.

<https://www.techrepublic.com/article/money-laundering-is-a-real-issue-in-tech-heres-what-is-being-done-to-stop-it/>

For more on this theme:

High Anti-Corruption Court judges trained on money laundering adjudication in Ukraine

<https://www.coe.int/fr/web/corruption/-/high-anti-corruption-court-judges-trained-on-money-laundering-adjudication-in-ukraine>

North Korean appears in U.S. court on sanctions-evasion money-laundering charges

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-usa-court/extradited-north-korean-appears-in-u-s-court-over-money-laundering-idUSKBN2BE2T5>

Latvia’s ex-prime minister and ex-transport minister officially accused of illegalities with large sums of money

<https://bnn-news.com/latvia-s-ex-prime-minister-and-ex-transport-minister-officially-accused-of-illegalities-with-large-sums-of-money-223207>

Russia’s money laundering watchdog monitoring crypto to ruble transactions

<https://cointelegraph.com/news/russia-s-money-laundering-watchdog-monitoring-crypto-to-ruble-transactions>

The global anti-money laundering watchdog FATF issues updated guidance on crypto.

<https://coinounce.com/fatf-releases-updated-guidance-on-crypto/>

New Zealand an ‘easy target’ for money launderers

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/opinion-analysis/300262517/new-zealand-an-easy-target-for-money-launderers>

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Six years in the making: UN reaches global cyberspace consensus

Bart Hogeveen – The Strategist: 26 March 2021

After a lag of six years, a renewed global cyber consensus was reached when the United Nations agreed to the final report of the working group on information and communication technology developments in the context of international security.

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/six-years-in-the-making-un-reaches-global-cyberspace-consensus/>

For more on this theme:

(Global) Legal Digital Framework Must Be Created For Content Moderation, Says Head of European Court of Human Rights

<http://broadbandbreakfast.com/2021/03/legal-digital-framework-must-be-created-for-content-moderation-says-head-of-european-court-of-human-rights/>

(EU) Rights groups slam EU online terrorist content law

<https://www.dw.com/en/rights-groups-slam-eu-online-terrorist-content-law/a-56982510>

INTERNET FREEDOM

Myanmar citizens use protester toolkit to skirt Internet ban

Jamie Tarabay – Bloomberg: 24 March 2021

Hundreds of thousands of protesters and citizens in Myanmar, also known as Burma, are finding other ways to communicate since the military seized power and cracked down on internet use. People are downloading tools to bypass censorship restrictions and turning to alternative media sources and underground networks, according to new research.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-03-24/myanmar-citizens-find-ways-around-crackdown-on-internet>

For more on this theme:

(Uganda) Ugandan internet users unaware of digital rights

<https://www.observer.ug/businessnews/69030-ugandan-internet-users-unaware-of-digital-rights>

(Iran) Iran unplugs its people from the web

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/iran-unplugs-its-people-from-the-web-gltn3xkxm>

(China) China: Beating Beijing's censors

<https://www.chathamhouse.org/publications/the-world-today/2021-04/china-beating-beijings-censors>

(China) OPINION: Signal down in China: Why we should protect encryption everywhere

<https://news.trust.org/item/20210326114855-n608x/>

PRIVACY AND SECURITY

The Cybersecurity 202: NSA director says intelligence has a big blind spot: domestic Internet activity

Tonya Riley – The Washington Post: 26 March 2021

National Security Agency Director Gen. Paul Nakasone stressed that foreign hackers are taking advantage of the intelligence community's "blind spot" – domestic internet activity. "Our adversaries understand that they can come into the United States and rapidly utilize an internet service provider, come up and do their activities, and then take that down before a warrant can be issued, before we can actually have surveillance by a civilian authority here in the United States," he told the Senate Armed Services Committee in a rare hearing.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2021/03/26/cybersecurity-202-nsa-director-says-intelligence-has-big-blind-spot-domestic-internet-activity/>

For more on this theme:

(Australia) Australian companies need to rethink cybersecurity strategy

<https://www.afr.com/technology/australian-companies-need-to-rethink-cybersecurity-strategy-20210323-p57d7e>

(EU) Role of Encryption in GDPR Compliance

<https://www.tripwire.com/state-of-security/security-data-protection/role-of-encryption-in-gdpr-compliance/>

(U.K.) Cyber security complacency puts UK at risk, says NCSC head

<https://www.computerweekly.com/news/252498423/Cyber-security-complacency-puts-UK-at-risk-says-NCSC-head>

CYBER STATECRAFT

Watch out for Russia and China, UK's cyber security boss says

Reuters: 26 March 2021

Russia poses the most acute immediate threat to the United Kingdom in cyberspace, and China's ambition to dominate a host of new technologies will transform the 21st century world we live in, the head of Britain's cybersecurity center said.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-britain-security-cyber-idUSKBN2BI24L>

For more on this theme:

(Global) Cybersecurity In Quad-Ratic Equation

<https://www.outlookindia.com/website/story/opinion-cybersecurity-in-quad-ratic-equation/378674>

(China) Chinese Hackers Used Facebook To Target Uyghurs With Powerful iPhone And Android Spyware

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/thomasbrewster/2021/03/24/chinese-hackers-used-facebook-to-target-uyghurs-with-powerful-iphone-and-android-spyware/?sh=19987db37522>

CYBERATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

Cyber attack takes Channel Nine off-air

Aaron Tan – Computer Weekly: 29 March 2021

Australia's Nine Network has been the target of what may be the largest-scale cyberattack thus far on an Australian media company.

<https://www.computerweekly.com/news/252498532/Cyber-attack-takes-Channel-Nine-off-air>

For more on this theme:

(India) 52% of Indian firms fell victim to cyber attack in last 12 months: Sophos survey

<https://www.livemint.com/technology/tech-news/52-of-indian-firms-fell-victim-to-cyber-attack-in-last-12-months-sophos-survey-11617089719022.html>

(U.K.) UK government survey shows that two in five UK businesses experienced cyber attacks in the last year

<https://continuitycentral.com/index.php/news/technology/6104-uk-government-survey-shows-that-two-in-five-uk-businesses-experienced-cyber-attacks-in-the-last-year>

(U.S.) CNA Suffers “Sophisticated” Cyber-Attack

<https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/cna-suffers-sophisticated/>

(U.S.) Possible Cyber Attack Targets U.S. Virgin Islands Government

<https://www.govtech.com/security/Possible-Cyber-Attack-Targets-US-Virgin-Islands-Government.html>

CYBERCRIME

Ransomware tops U.S. cyber priorities, Homeland secretary says

Raphael Satter – Reuters: 31 March 2021

U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas will make stopping ransomware attacks a priority in the new administration. His focus on that subject shows the increasing need to meet the threat of data-scrambling software.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-cyber-ransomware/ransomware-tops-u-s-cyber-priorities-homeland-secretary-says-idUSKBN2BN31H>

For more on this theme:

(Global) ‘Like playing whack-a-mole’: Do cyber-crime crackdowns have any real impact?

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/like-playing-whack-a-mole-do-cyber-crime-crackdowns-have-any-real-impact/>

(U.K.) Pandemic leads to surge in cyber crime

<https://www.relocatemagazine.com/news/pandemic-leads-to-surge-in-cyber-crime-dsapsted-0321>

(U.S.) The Entrepreneurs Chalking Up A Winning Score In The War Against Cyber Crime

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/alisoncoleman/2021/03/30/the-entrepreneurs-chalking-up-a-winning-score-in-the-war-against-cyber-risk/?sh=385b813f17b1>

PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Cyber Security Playing Greater Role In Energy Companies' Digital Transformation

Jim Magill – Forbes: 27 March 2021

A rash of recent cybersecurity breaches highlights the vulnerability of even the country's most critical systems to cyber mischief.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/jimagill/2021/03/27/cyber-security-playing-greater-role-in-energy-companies-digital-transformation/?sh=26ea4e1e47bc>

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) U.S. Electric Grid Security: Distribution Systems Need Attention, Report Says

<https://www.msspalert.com/cybersecurity-markets/americas/us-eletric-grid-security-concerns/>

(Canada) Government of Canada announces funding to enhance cyber security in Canadian agriculture sector

<https://finance.yahoo.com/news/government-canada-announces-funding-enhance-141400947.html>

(U.S.) Trust no one becomes cyber mantra after massive hacking attacks

<https://www.stripes.com/news/us/trust-no-one-becomes-cyber-mantra-after-massive-hacking-attacks-1.667231>

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Mozambique on a knife's edge with its Cabo Delgado insurgency

Liesl Louw-Vaudran – Institute for Security Studies: 31 March 2021

An affiliate of ISIS has seized large swaths of territory in Mozambique, including another important port town, but the assault in late March demonstrated a new level of boldness. It's the latest attack in an escalating Islamist insurgency sweeping the region.

<https://issafrica.org/iss-today/mozambique-on-a-knives-edge-with-its-cabo-delgado-insurgency>

US-Backed Syrian Forces Launch Anti-IS Campaign in al-Hol Camp

Sirwan Kajjo and Zana Omer – Voice of America: 29 March 2021

Thousands of Kurdish-led forces launched a military operation at the sprawling al-Hol camp in northeast Syria, in a new effort to identify and arrest ISIS militants and tamp down escalating killings and violence in the camp.

<https://www.voanews.com/extremism-watch/us-backed-syrian-forces-launch-anti-campaign-al-hol-camp>

For more on this theme:

Inside an ISIS detention camp in Syria

<https://ca.news.yahoo.com/inside-isis-detention-camp-syria-025014779.html>

Tunisia Repatriates ISIS-linked Family Members From Libya

<https://english.aawsat.com/home/article/2869256/tunisia-repatriates-isis-linked-family-members-libya>

'My mother forced me to join... then they shot me': The return of Islamic State to Syrian refugee camps

<https://news.sky.com/story/creating-the-next-generation-of-jihadists-the-return-of-is-to-syrian-refugee-camps-12252486>

UK court ruling opens door for return of Daesh recruits

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/1828366/world>

Islamic State still a threat, Kurds warn two years after 'caliphate' falls

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/islamic-state-still-a-threat-kurds-warn-two-years-after-caliphate-falls/>

The Maldives – An Unlikely ISIS Haven

<https://globalriskinsights.com/2021/03/the-maldives-an-unlikely-isis-haven/>

Joint Communiqué by Ministers of the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS Small Group

<https://theglobalcoalition.org/en/foreign-ministers-global-coalition-small-group/>

Islamic State Claims Dayslong Attack on Mozambique Town

<https://www.voanews.com/africa/islamic-state-claims-dayslong-attack-mozambique-town>

Denmark considers repatriating ISIS-linked children from Rojava camps

<https://www.rudaw.net/english/world/310320211>

TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Reducing the threat of terrorism on a global — and local — level

Leanne Close – The Strategist: 25 March 2021

COVID-19 has had an impact on global terrorism, but pervasive online social media platforms have played a more significant role, increasing terrorists' ability to radicalize and incite individuals to commit terrorist acts and encouraging financial support for terrorist groups.

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/reducing-the-threat-of-terrorism-on-a-global-and-local-level/>

Full report:

Counterterrorism Yearbook 2021

<https://www.aspi.org.au/report/counterterrorism-yearbook-2021>

How Western Mali could become a gold mine for terrorists

Fahiraman Rodrigue Koné and Nadia Adam – Institute for Security Studies: 1 April 2021

Institute for Security Studies research in Kayes, Mali, shows long-standing vulnerabilities linked to the gold mining industry that extremists could exploit – not just to implant themselves in the region but to expand into Guinea and Senegal.

<https://issafrica.org/iss-today/how-western-mali-could-become-a-gold-mine-for-terrorists>

For more on this theme:

Indonesian police say new cell Islamic militant group was recruiting, training

<https://www.stripes.com/news/pacific/indonesian-police-say-new-cell-islamic-militant-group-was-recruiting-training-1.666465>

Multiple Jihadi Insurgencies, Cooperating With Bandits, Appear to be Converging in the Sahel

<https://www.cfr.org/blog/multiple-jihadi-insurgencies-cooperating-bandits-appear-be-converging-sahel>

DHS chief: Domestic extremism is “single greatest terrorism-related threat” in the U.S.

<https://www.axios.com/dhs-domestic-extremism-hate-crimes-threat-ff40eb3d-4866-40d1-933e-9207c21802c2.html>

Have the Taliban Changed?

<https://ctc.usma.edu/have-the-taliban-changed/>

The Mozambique Channel is the next security hotspot

<https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpretor/mozambique-channel-next-security-hotspot>

Singapore's Home-Grown Terrorists

<https://theaseanpost.com/article/singapores-home-grown-terrorists>

Pakistan's Dual Counter-Terrorism Challenges: Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan's Merger and Cross-Border Campaign from Afghanistan

<https://jamestown.org/program/pakistans-dual-counter-terrorism-challenges-tehreek-i-taliban-pakistan-merger-and-cross-border-campaign-from-afghanistan/>

RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

European jihadists ‘children’ at risk of radicalisation

Agence France-Presse: 28 March 2021

Heidi De Pauw, director of the association Child Focus, warns that the children of European jihadists left trapped in a Syrian camp after their fathers’ defeat on the battlefield now face radicalization.

<https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20210328-european-jihadists-children-at-risk-of-radicalisation>

For more on this theme:

Govt alone cannot tackle domestic violence, online radicalisation: Faishal Ibrahim

<https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/govt-alone-cannot-tackle-domestic-violence-online-radicalisation-faishal-ibrahim>

Sri Lanka’s “de-radicalisation” regulations draw strong criticism from HRW, ICJ

<https://economynext.com/sri-lankas-de-radicalisation-regulations-draw-strong-criticism-from-hrw-icj-79933/>

Why effective handling of Boko Haram deserters matters

<https://issafrica.org/iss-today/why-effective-handling-of-boko-haram-deserters-matters>

No Child’s Play: IS Propaganda Videos and the Recruitment of Children

<https://gnet-research.org/2021/03/23/no-childs-play-is-propaganda-videos-and-the-recruitment-of-children/>

How Do Those Vulnerable to Terror Recruitment Respond to YouTube Counter-Narrative Videos?

<https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/counterterrorism/how-do-those-vulnerable-to-terror-recruitment-respond-to-youtube-counter-narrative-videos/>

Let’s Play Prevention: Can P/CVE Turn the Tables on Extremists’ Use of Gamification?

<https://gnet-research.org/2021/03/29/lets-play-prevention-can-p-cve-turn-the-tables-on-extremists-use-of-gamification/>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: SOFT POWER

Europeans Divided Over Sputnik Diplomacy

Jamie Dettmer – Voice of America: 31 March 2021

Vaccine diplomacy is proving as divisive as vaccine nationalism – especially when it comes to Sputnik V.

<https://www.voanews.com/covid-19-pandemic/europeans-divided-over-sputnik-diplomacy>

For more on this theme:

Moscow and Beijing Seek to Counter Growing Turkish Influence in Central Asia

<https://jamestown.org/program/moscow-and-beijing-seek-to-counter-growing-turkish-influence-in-central-asia/>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: PROXY FORCES AND PRIVATE MILITARY GROUPS

Central African Republic: Rights experts concerned over 'Russian advisers' and close contacts with UN peacekeepers

United Nations News: 31 March 2021

The United Nations human rights commission has reported executions, torture and forced displacement of citizens in the Central African Republic. The U.N. claims the Wagner Group was involved.

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/03/1088802>

For more on this theme:

Yemeni Rebels Attack Aramco Refinery in Saudi Capital

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-03-19/houthi-rebels-say-attacked-aramco-in-riyadh-with-6-drones>

Iranian Proxy Militia Opens New Recruitment Center in Aleppo, Syria

<https://english.aawsat.com/home/article/2874471/iranian-proxy-militia-opens-new-recruitment-center-aleppo-syria>

Is China About to Deploy Private Military Companies in Central Asia?

<https://jamestown.org/program/is-china-about-to-deploy-private-military-companies-in-central-asia/>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: DISINFORMATION AND MALIGN INFLUENCE

China's disinformation on Xinjiang is political warfare, not diplomacy

Jake Wallis and Albert Zhang – The Strategist: 1 April 2021

A new report from the Australian Strategic Policy Institute's International Cyber Policy Centre highlights the lengths to which the Chinese Communist Party is going to deflect concerns about Beijing's treatment of Uyghurs and others.

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/chinas-disinformation-on-xinjiang-is-political-warfare-not-diplomacy/>

For more on this theme:

Russian Espionage Scandal in Bulgaria

<https://jamestown.org/program/russian-espionage-scandal-in-bulgaria/>

Special Operations team in Pacific will confront Chinese information campaigns

<https://www.c4isrnet.com/information-warfare/2021/03/25/special-operations-team-in-pacific-will-confront-chinese-information-campaigns/>

UK Slams China Sanctions Over Alleged Uyghur Disinformation

<https://www.voanews.com/europe/uk-slams-china-sanctions-over-alleged-uyghur-disinformation>

Russia Launches COVID Disinformation Campaign, Targets Western Vaccines

<https://www.voanews.com/episode/russia-launches-covid-disinformation-campaign-targets-western-vaccines-4637551>