

THE MARSHALL CENTER

transnational weekly



A CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICE FROM THE MARSHALL CENTER

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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

UK crime agency considers investigating Lebanon corruption report, sources say

John Irish and Samia Nakhoul – Reuters: 2 April 2021

Britain's organized crime agency is reviewing a report by a group of London-based lawyers that accuses Riad Salameh, Lebanon's central bank governor, and associates of money laundering and corrupt practices. Salameh denies the accusations.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-lebanon-crisis-britain/uk-crime-agency-considers-investigating-lebanon-corruption-report-sources-say-idUKKBN2BP147>

For more on this theme:

China link exposed in Malta corruption scheme

<https://euobserver.com/world/151397>

IMF: Scant transparency for COVID-19 emergency loans

<https://www.transparency.org/en/press/imf-covid-19-emergency-loans-corruption-scant-transparency>

The Global Vaccine Rollout Means Heightened Corruption Risk. Here's What to Know.

<https://www.barrons.com/articles/the-global-vaccine-rollout-means-heightened-corruption-risk-heres-what-to-know-51616796521>

All members of S. Africa's ANC charged with corruption must step aside or face suspension -Ramaphosa

<https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-safrica-politics-idUSKBN2BMOHN>

Fighting corruption: Germany gets a 'lobby register'

<https://www.dw.com/en/fighting-corruption-germany-gets-a-lobby-register/a-56808321>

FIFA's corruption and authoritarian regime problems

<https://www.axios.com/china-fifa-corruption-human-rights-world-cup-24274935-a1c0-4f1e-bdb5-7712e2066d50.html>

How the G20 can help COVID-19 recovery in 2021

<https://www.transparency.org/en/blog/g20-italy-covid-19-recovery-corruption-priorities>

Vaccine corruption in Lebanon and the World Bank's dilemma

<https://english.alaraby.co.uk/english/indepth/2021/3/25/vaccine-corruption-in-lebanon-and-the-world-banks-dilemma>

Corruption in Central America seen as biggest challenge for Vice President Kamala Harris

<https://www.ksat.com/news/local/2021/03/25/corruption-in-central-america-seen-as-biggest-challenge-for-vice-president-kamala-harris/>

Latin America Elites Seek Corrupt Access to Vaccines

<https://insightcrime.org/news/elites-smuggle-vaccines-latin-america/>

Global Insights: Transnational Kleptocracy and COVID-19

<https://www.ned.org/global-insights-transnational-kleptocracy-and-covid-19/>

DRUG TRAFFICKING

Drug flights and the impact of Covid-19 on illegal trafficking

Airport Technology: 8 April 2021

The coronavirus-induced halt to international travel led to a retraction in global commerce, impacting legal and illegal businesses alike. But if the pandemic's economic impact on legitimate trade can be easily assessed, understanding how much illegitimate trade coped with COVID-19 becomes much more difficult.

<https://www.airport-technology.com/features/drug-flights-impact-covid19-illegal-trafficking/>

For more on this theme:

ZeroZeroZero: Drugs by numbers – key stats about the UK drug trade

<https://www.digitalspy.com/tv/a35711669/key-stats-about-drugs-uk-zerozerozero/>

The seen and unseen threat of fentanyl: OPINION

<https://abcnews.go.com/US/unseen-threat-fentanyl-opinion/story?id=76629456>

Meth Markets Booming in East and Southern Africa

<https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/14120-meth-markets-booming-in-east-and-southern-africa>

Hashish and Hatred: The Desert Conflict in Western Sahara

<https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/14128-hashish-and-hatred-the-desert-conflict-in-western-sahara>

Pandemic not slowing cocaine trafficking in Tokyo, foreign dealer says

<https://www.tokyoreporter.com/crime/pandemic-not-slowng-cocaine-trafficking-in-tokyo-foreign-dealer-says/>

Australia's illicit drug problem is getting worse

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/australias-illicit-drug-problem-is-getting-worse/>

This Is What It's Like Trying to Buy Drugs During Venezuela's Economic Crisis

<https://www.vice.com/en/article/wx8vpm/this-is-what-its-like-trying-to-buy-drugs-during-venezuelas-economic-crisis>

Drug markets: A new strategy on collecting pricing data aims to improve this critical evidence base

<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2021-03-25-drug-markets-a-new-strategy-on-collecting-pricing-data-aims-to-improve-this-critical-evidence-base/>

Drug trafficking by international crime groups a growing problem in Finland

<https://www.helsinki-times.fi/finland/news-in-brief/18990-drug-trafficking-by-international-crime-groups-a-growing-problem-in-finland.html>

Three Drug Dealers Reflect on a Year of Lockdown

<https://www.vice.com/en/article/k7a499/three-drug-dealers-reflect-on-a-year-of-lockdown>

Biden-Harris first-year drug policy priorities to combat drug epidemic released

<https://www.wowktv.com/news/u-s-world/biden-harris-first-year-drug-policy-priorities-to-combat-drug-epidemic-released/>

TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

As WHO highlights COVID animal origins, China wildlife crackdown needs more teeth – experts

David Stanway – Reuters: 1 April 2021

China and its neighbors must not only crack down on the wildlife trade but also shut legal loopholes that allow disease-prone species to be farmed, experts said after an investigation concluded that COVID-19 most likely originated in animals.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-china-wildlife-idUSL4N2LU2VY>

For more on this theme:

US Urges Preservation of ‘Incredible Biodiversity’ in Cambodian Forest

<https://www.voanews.com/east-asia-pacific/us-urges-preservation-incredible-biodiversity-cambodian-forest>

Illegal mining surges on Amazon indigenous land – report

<https://www.bangkokpost.com/world/2089471/illegal-mining-surges-on-amazon-indigenous-land-report>

Indigenous people in the Amazon use satellite data, smartphones, drones to fight illegal logging

<https://yaleclimateconnections.org/2021/03/indigenous-people-in-the-amazon-use-satellite-data-smartphones-drones-to-fight-illegal-logging/>

To Stop the Next Pandemic, Curb the Trade in Wild Animals

<https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2021-03-31/to-stop-the-next-pandemic-curb-the-trade-in-wild-animals>

ASEAN Not Doing Enough For Its Wildlife

<https://theaseanpost.com/article/asean-not-doing-enough-its-wildlife>

New decisions by global conservation group bolster efforts to save Africa’s elephants

<https://theconversation.com/new-decisions-by-global-conservation-group-bolster-efforts-to-save-africas-ephants-158157>

US Concerned Over China’s Illegal Fishing

<https://www.voanews.com/episode/us-concerned-over-chinas-illegal-fishing-4638841>

Report: Chinese Fishing Companies Cheat Fishing License in Ghana

<https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/14133-report-chinese-fishing-companies-cheat-fishing-license-in-ghana>

Coronavirus: A death sentence for China’s live animal markets

<https://www.dw.com/en/coronavirus-a-death-sentence-for-chinas-live-animal-markets/a-56986431>

African elephants at growing extinction risk from poaching and habitat loss

<https://www.independent.co.uk/stop-the-illegal-wildlife-trade/africa-elephants-iucn-extinction-poaching-b1822332.html>

Sniffer dogs giving their two scents to detect smuggled wildlife

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/1834116/world>

How to spot red flags of illegal logging in your supply chain

<https://www.fm-magazine.com/news/2021/mar/illegal-logging-supply-chain-red-flags.html>

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Human smugglers use Facebook to connect with migrants and spread false hope of reaching U.S.

Julia Ainsley and Didi Martinez – NBC News: 5 April 2021

Human traffickers are “openly advertising their services on Facebook” to would-be migrants from Central America, promising safe passage over the United States/Mexico border and “fueling false hope” that the new Biden administration will welcome asylum seekers.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/immigration/human-smugglers-use-facebook-connect-migrants-spread-false-hope-reaching-n1262984>

For more on this theme:

Fifteen times more children crossing the Panama jungle towards the USA in the last four years

<https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/fifteen-times-more-children-crossing-panama-jungle-towards-usa-last-four-years>

Natural Disasters, Famine and Gangs Driving Central Americans’ Mass Migration to U.S.

<https://www.newsweek.com/natural-disasters-famine-gangs-driving-central-americans-mass-migration-us-1579004>

In Colombia, Child Soldiers Play Many Roles

<https://insightcrime.org/news/in-colombia-child-soldiers-play-many-roles/>

UK anti-slavery helpline records fewer cases due to coronavirus

<https://news.trust.org/item/20210406225603-wotii/>

A hidden army of ‘very brave’ nuns fight child trafficking

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/hidden-army-very-brave-nuns-fight-child-trafficking-n1262640>

Combat human trafficking

<https://kathmandupost.com/editorial/2021/04/07/combat-human-trafficking>

Dismantled Network Illustrates Pattern in the Exploitation of Venezuelan Migrants in Colombia

<https://insightcrime.org/news/dismantled-network-illustrates-pattern-exploitation-venezuelan-migrants-colombia/>

U.S. Sanctions Pakistani National For Allegedly Operating Human Smuggling Organization

<https://gandhara.rferl.org/a/us-sanctions-pakistani-national-human-smuggling/31192757.html>

The pandemic has curbed immigration to Europe but not to southern countries

<https://www.brusselstimes.com/opinion/162390/the-pandemic-curbs-immigration-to-europe-but-increases-landings-in-southern-countries/>

MONEY LAUNDERING

Bitcoin Cryptocurrency Adds to Venezuela Money Laundering Risk

InSight Crime: 7 April 2021

Venezuela is increasingly turning to the cryptocurrency Bitcoin, raising questions about its possible use in laundering money and evading U.S. sanctions, not unlike the way Venezuela already uses the gold trade.

<https://insightcrime.org/news/bitcoin-cryptocurrency-adds-venezuela-money-laundering-risk/>

For more on this theme:

New U.S. Anti-Money Laundering Laws and Sanctions Advisory Impose Compliance Obligations on Art Market

<https://www.artnews.com/art-news/market/new-u-s-anti-money-laundering-laws-and-sanctions-art-market-impact-1234588194/>

How Human AI and Machine Learning Technologies Are Leading the Fight Against Money Laundering and Financial Crime in 2021 and Beyond

<https://internationalbanker.com/technology/how-human-ai-and-machine-learning-technologies-are-leading-the-fight-against-money-laundering-and-financial-crime-in-2021-and-beyond/>

Report: Crime Syndicates Mutate in the Levant Amid War and COVID-19

<https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/14113-report-crime-syndicates-mutate-in-the-levant-amid-war-and-covid-19>

Philippines Widens Scope of Anti-Money Laundering Rules

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-04-04/philippines-widens-scope-of-anti-money-laundering-rules>

Shining the spotlight on anti-money laundering in Asia

<https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=6bdc51fa-9fc7-4a93-aa07-40eb595f6831>

Major U.S. Anti-Money Laundering Reforms Become Law

<https://www.jonesday.com/en/insights/2021/01/major-us-antimoney-laundering-reforms-become-law>

AML: UK Government Publishes Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing (Amendment) (High-Risk Countries) Regulations 2021

<https://www.natlawreview.com/article/aml-uk-government-publishes-money-laundering-and-terrorist-financing-amendment-high>

Panama Papers revenue recovery reaches \$1.36 billion as investigations continue

<https://www.icij.org/investigations/panama-papers/panama-papers-revenue-recovery-reaches-1-36-billion-as-investigations-continue/>

Nigeria loses \$18b annually to tax evasion, money laundering, others – CISLAC

<https://www.vanguardngr.com/2021/04/nigeria-loses-18b-annually-to-tax-evasion-money-laundering-others-cislac/>

Liberia urged to redouble efforts against money laundering

<https://thenewdawnliberia.com/liberia-urged-to-redouble-efforts-against-money-laundering/>

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

3 critical challenges for governing digitalization

Jim Hagemann Snabe – World Economic Forum: 6 April 2021

Tech governance is an existential question for our societies and democracies. It's a matter of national and global security, as well as social peace and progress.

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/04/3-critical-challenges-for-governing-digitalization-gtgs/>

For more on this theme:

(U.S., China) Great Power Internet Governance

<https://smallwarsjournal.com/jrnl/art/great-power-internet-governance-competing-china-soul-internet>

(Global) The Future of Cybersecurity is an International Cyber Convention

<https://intpolicydigest.org/the-future-of-cybersecurity-is-an-international-cyber-convention/>

(Global) Do we need a Paris Agreement for tech? Here's what world leaders and tech chiefs say

<https://europeansting.com/2021/04/07/do-we-need-a-paris-agreement-for-tech-heres-what-world-leaders-and-tech-chiefs-say/>

INTERNET FREEDOM

Myanmar's Internet Shutdown Is an Act of 'Vast Self-Harm'

Lily Hay Newman – Wired: 2 April 2021

The military leadership in Myanmar, also known as Burma, has ordered a wireless broadband shutdown without an end date.

<https://www.wired.com/story/myanmar-internet-shutdown/>

For more on this theme:

(Indonesia) The uncertain future of online free speech in Indonesia

<https://www.eastasiaforum.org/2021/04/02/the-uncertain-future-of-online-free-speech-in-indonesia/>

(Russia) Russia's Twitter throttling may give censors never-before-seen capabilities

<https://arstechnica.com/gadgets/2021/04/russias-twitter-throttling-may-give-censors-never-before-seen-capabilities/>

(Russia) How Russia Is Stepping Up Its Campaign to Control the Internet

<https://time.com/5951834/russia-control-internet/>

CYBER STATECRAFT

China as a 'cyber great power': Beijing's two voices in telecommunications

Rush Doshi, Emily de La Bruyère, Nathan Picarsic and John Ferguson – Brookings: April 2021

External Chinese government and commercial messaging on information technology speaks in one voice. Domestically, one hears a different, second voice.

<https://www.brookings.edu/research/china-as-a-cyber-great-power-beijings-two-voices-in-telecommunications/>

For more on this theme:

(Pakistan) Need of effective cybersecurity governance in Pakistan stressed

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/813861-need-of-effective-cybersecurity-governance-in-pakistan-stressed>

(U.S., Russia) The U.S. Needs a Stronger Cyber Defense Against Russia

<https://www.thecipherbrief.com/the-u-s-needs-a-stronger-cyber-defense-against-russia>

(Ukraine) Business representatives discuss Ukraine's Cybersecurity Strategy developed by NSDC

<https://en.interfax.com.ua/news/economic/735693.html>

CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

Digital technology can help the world prosper. Here's how

Hiroshi Kajiyama – World Economic Forum: 6 April 2021

Our world is filled with challenges common to all humankind. In addition, slowdown in economic growth, widening income disparities and other economic problems are prevalent in various parts of the world. The key to overcoming these common human challenges is innovative technologies.

<https://europeansting.com/2021/04/06/digital-technology-can-help-the-world-prosper-heres-how/>

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(Japan) Japanese PM Suga eyes stronger cyber defence capabilities

<https://www.defenceconnect.com.au/intel-cyber/7729-japanese-pm-suga-eyes-stronger-cyber-defence-capabilities-2>

(Kazakhstan) Kazakh Minister Promises Better Internet Quality, Greater Protection of Personal Data to Citizens

<https://astanatimes.com/2021/04/kazakh-minister-promises-better-internet-quality-greater-protection-of-personal-data-to-citizens/>

(Global) Bits and Bytes: Creating an Agile Governance Framework for the Future

<https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/bits-and-bytes-creating-an-agile-governance-framework-for-the-future/>

CYBERATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

University of California victim of ransomware attack

Jordan Williams – The Hill: 3 April 2021

University of California officials have confirmed that they were among the universities nationwide targeted by a massive ransomware cyberattack.

<https://thehill.com/policy/cybersecurity/546335-university-of-california-victim-of-ransomware-attack>

For more on this theme:

(U.K., China) Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China's website suffers cyber attack

<https://www.smh.com.au/world/europe/inter-parliamentary-alliance-on-china-s-website-suffers-cyber-attack-20210331-p57ffd.html>

(Europe) European Institutions Were Targeted in a Cyber-Attack Last Week

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-04-06/european-institutions-were-targeted-in-a-cyber-attack-last-week>

(U.S., Global) Cyber Insurance Firm Suffers Sophisticated Ransomware Cyber Attack; Data Obtained May Help Hackers Better Target Firm's Customers

<https://www.cpomagazine.com/cyber-security/cyber-insurance-firm-suffers-sophisticated-ransomware-cyber-attack-data-obtained-may-help-hackers-better-target-firms-customers/>

CYBERCRIME

How financial cybercrime targets shifted in 2020

Brandon Vigliarolo – TechRepublic: 1 April 2021

COVID-19 lockdowns may be behind a major change toward targeting e-commerce and using new forms of attacks, the cybersecurity firm Kaspersky finds.

<https://www.techrepublic.com/article/how-financial-cybercrime-targets-shifted-in-2020/>

For more on this theme:

(U.K.) Alert: Further targeted ransomware attacks on the UK education sector by cyber criminals

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/news/alert-targeted-ransomware-attacks-on-uk-education-sector>

(U.K., Global) How healthcare can fight cyber crime

<https://www.information-age.com/how-healthcare-can-fight-cyber-crime-123494611/>

(Global) One Cybercrime Gang Extorted \$75 Million From Targets: Study

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-04-07/one-cybercrime-gang-extorted-75-million-from-targets-study>

PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

ANALYSIS - As U.S. cities embrace tech, cyberattacks pose real-world risks

Jack Graham – Reuters: 7 April 2021

Shifting to smart tech makes critical infrastructure more vulnerable to attacks, as cities struggle with the high costs of fighting back.

<https://news.trust.org/item/20210407080319-nsndy/>

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) US looks to keep critical sectors safe from cyberattacks

<https://apnews.com/article/politics-electric-utilities-utilities-national-security-hacking-b1da2bcda1f-fedbf6d54b56f5879eebd>

(U.S., Globa) It's time to declare space systems as critical infrastructure

<https://www.politico.com/news/2021/04/02/its-time-to-declare-space-systems-as-critical-infrastructure-478848>

(Global) Cyber Security for Critical Infrastructure: Challenges and Solutions

<https://securityboulevard.com/2021/04/cyber-security-for-critical-infrastructure-challenges-and-solutions/>

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

In Bid to Boost Its Profile, ISIS Turns to Africa's Militants

Christina Goldbaum and Eric Schmitt – The New York Times: 7 April 2021

Two years after the fall of ISIS in Syria and Iraq, the terrorist group has found a new lifeline in Africa, where analysts say it has forged alliances with local militant groups in symbiotic relationships that have pumped up their profiles, fundraising and recruitment.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/07/world/africa/ISIS-Africa-Mozambique.html>

Does ISIS Live?

Kris Osborn – The National Interest: 7 April 2021

“Though ISIS is, by orders of magnitude, not the organization with the capability they once were, they are still a threat, and we are still on the ground in Iraq assisting and advising our Iraqi partners at their invitation to be there,” Pentagon spokesman John Kirby told reporters at a Pentagon briefing April 6.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/does-isis-live-182131>

For more on this theme:

Mozambique: Why IS is so hard to defeat in Mozambique

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-56597861>

The transformation of ISIS women in Syria's Al Roj camp

<https://english.elpais.com/international/2021-03-26/the-transformation-of-isis-women-in-syrias-al-roj-camp.html>

The Beauty Queen Who Became an ISIS Bride

<https://www.vice.com/en/article/epdy5j/black-flags-of-the-caribbean-book-extract>

A Tribunal for ISIS Fighters – A National Security and Human Rights Emergency

<https://www.justsecurity.org/75544/a-tribunal-for-isis-fighters-a-national-security-and-human-rights-emergency/>

Hyper-Reality, Identity and Mediatisation – A Sociological Reflection on the Pro-Islamic State Online Community

<https://gnet-research.org/2021/03/25/hyper-reality-identity-and-mediatisation-a-sociological-reflection-on-the-pro-islamic-state-online-community/>

U.S., Iraq agree on eventual withdrawal of U.S. combat troops

<https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/national-security/united-states-iraq-agree-eventual-withdrawal-u-s-combat-troops-n1263364>

Weeklong Operation Loosens Islamic State Grip on Syria's al-Hol Camp

<https://www.voanews.com/middle-east/weeklong-operation-loosens-islamic-state-grip-syrias-al-hol-camp>

TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

An unholy alliance: Illicit trade in East Africa is funding terrorists and warlords

Ventures Africa: 1 April 2021

The latest report by the Counter Extremism Project shows that illicit trade is the fuel driving some of the deadliest terror organizations operating in East Africa. The report, titled “An Unholy Alliance,” details how some of the notorious terrorist organizations are relying on the proceeds from illicit trade to conduct terror activities.

<https://venturesafrica.com/an-unholy-alliance-illicit-trade-in-east-africa-is-funding-terrorists-and-warlords/>

Why Do al-Qaida and the Islamic State Continue to Target Indonesia?

Bilveer Singh – The Diplomat: 1 April 2021

Recent attacks in Jakarta and Sulawesi suggest that militant jihadi groups continue to pose a potent threat to Indonesia.

<https://thediplomat.com/2021/04/why-do-al-qaeda-and-the-islamic-state-continue-to-target-indonesia/>

For more on this theme:

Attack on Transmitters Cuts Power to Nigerian City — Again

<https://www.voanews.com/africa/attack-transmitters-cuts-power-nigerian-city-again>

Islamist Group Asks Somalis to Shun AstraZeneca Shots on Effects

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-03-31/islamist-group-asks-somalis-to-shun-astrazeneca-shots-on-effects>

Reflections of the Rohingya in the Online Jihadi Propaganda

<https://dayan.org/content/reflections-rohingya-online-jihadi-propaganda>

The bitcoin terrorists of Idlib are learning new tricks

<https://www.wired.co.uk/article/bitcoin-crypto-terrorism-syria>

The intersection of cybercrime and terrorist activity

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/the-intersection-of-cybercrime-and-terrorist-activity/>

Cameroon Says Boko Haram Has Intensified Attacks for Supplies

<https://www.voanews.com/africa/cameroon-says-boko-haram-has-intensified-attacks-supplies>

How Boko Haram Fighters Have Been Training Fulani Herdsmen, Collecting Taxes

<http://saharareporters.com/2021/03/25/exclusive-how-boko-haram-fighters-have-been-training-fulani-herdsmen-collecting-taxes>

Engaging the world: How Hamas crafts its foreign policy

<https://www.middleeasteye.net/opinion/palestine-hamas-foreign-policy-crafts-engaging-world>

Hezbollah Defector Reportedly Revealed Secret Information About How The Militia Operates

<https://www.the961.com/hezbollah-defector-reveals-secrets/>

‘Familial terrorism’: How personal ties link suicide bombings in Southeast Asia

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-indonesia-blast-idUSKBN2B04RT>

RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

Beware the Women of ISIS

Emily Przyborowski – The National Interest: 2 April 2021

The female cadres of ISIS are poised to expand as a result of a new generation of extremists being incubated in Syria's assorted refugee camps.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/beware-women-isis-181897>

For more on this theme:

Radicalisation and Recruitment Online in Times of COVID-19: The Pandemic as a Propaganda Opportunity

<https://gnet-research.org/2021/03/26/radicalisation-and-recruitment-online-in-times-of-covid-19-the-pandemic-as-a-propaganda-opportunity/>

Repatriating ISIS Foreign Fighters Is Key to Stemming Radicalization, Experts Say, but Many Countries Don't Want Their Citizens Back

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/article/repatriating-isis-foreign-fighters-key-to-stemming-radicalization-experts-say-but-many-countries-dont-want-citizens-back/>

Former Extremists Describe What Led Them to Radicalization — and What Led Them Out

<https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/counterterrorism/former-extremists-describe-what-led-them-to-radicalization-and-what-led-them-out/>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: PROXY FORCES AND PRIVATE MILITARY GROUPS

Exclusive: Satellite images reveal how shadowy Wagner Group has become Vladimir Putin's 'private army'

Dominic Nicholls – The Telegraph: 7 April 2021

Intelligence images show Russia is supplying tanks and planes to the shadowy Wagner Group for a secret paramilitary war in Libya.

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/04/07/exclusive-uk-prepared-confront-putins-private-army-says-defence/>

For more on this theme:

A growing challenge for Iraq: Iran-aligned Shiite militias

<https://apnews.com/article/iran-middle-east-baghdad-tehran-iraq-ebcc325e288b8dad431c713283e-ab70c>

The US military must plan for encounters with private military companies

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2021/03/30/the-us-military-must-plan-for-encounters-with-private-military-companies/>

NATO Military Committee chair calls on Russia stop supporting its proxy forces in Donbas, pull troops out of Ukraine

<https://www.unian.info/politics/donbas-nato-military-committee-chair-calls-on-russia-stop-supporting-its-proxy-forces-pull-troops-11380681.html>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: DISINFORMATION AND MALIGN INFLUENCE

China Adopts Kremlin's 'Information War' Tactics

Jamie Dettmer – Voice of America: 5 April 2021

China is taking a page out of the Kremlin's playbook by seeking to highlight America's faults and weaponize the culture wars and identity politics currently buffeting the West, according to disinformation analysts.

<https://www.voanews.com/east-asia-pacific/china-adopts-kremlins-information-war-tactics>

For more on this theme:

US, EU to cooperate on China dialogue, Russia challenge

https://www.postguam.com/the_globe/world/us-eu-to-cooperate-on-china-dialogue-russia-challenge/article_286e3d70-8d23-11eb-ab6e-371ce3994ba6.html

The UK professor, a fake Russian spy and the undercover Syria sting

<https://www.theguardian.com/law/2021/mar/28/the-uk-professor-a-fake-russian-spy-and-the-undercover-syria-sting>

New ASU center to fight disinformation campaigns that threaten democracy

<https://news.asu.edu/20210330-global-engagement-new-asu-center-fight-disinformation-campaigns-threaten-democracy>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: HYBRID AND COVERT ACTIVITIES

Philippines says illegal structures found on reefs near where Chinese boats gathered

Brad Lendon – CNN: 1 April 2021

The Philippine military said that it has found “illegal” structures on reefs at Union Banks, a drowned atoll where Chinese maritime “fishing” vessels have been massing over the course of the past month.

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/04/01/asia/philippines-south-china-sea-structures-intl-hnk-scli/index.html>

For more on this theme:

UkrInform: Russia integrating occupied Donbas into its economic, military space

<https://www.kyivpost.com/ukraine-politics/ukrinform-russia-integrating-occupied-donbas-into-its-political-economic-and-military-space.html>

Demographic Transformation of Crimea: Forced Migration as Part of Russia's 'Hybrid' Strategy

<https://jamestown.org/program/demographic-transformation-of-crimea-forced-migration-as-part-of-russias-hybrid-strategy/>