

THE MARSHALL CENTER

transnational weekly



A CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICE FROM THE MARSHALL CENTER

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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

EU should impose anti-corruption sanctions on Russians, lawmakers say

Robin Emmott – Reuters: 29 April 2021

The European Union should follow Britain's example and impose new anti-corruption sanctions on Russians suspected of fraud and graft, the European Parliament said in a resolution that reflected hardening attitudes toward Moscow.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/eu-should-impose-anti-corruption-sanctions-russians-lawmakers-say-2021-04-29/>

For more on this theme:

Iraqis blame hospital fire on mismanagement and corruption

<https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20210425-iraqis-blame-hospital-fire-on-mismanagement-and-corruption>

China to put former top anti-corruption inspector on trial for graft

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/politics/article/3131155/china-put-former-top-anti-corruption-inspector-trial-graft>

Land Trafficking Fuels Constant Corruption in Bolivia

<https://insightcrime.org/news/corruption-fuels-land-trafficking-bolivia/>

Experts mull anti-corruption next steps in Ukraine

<https://eurasianet.org/event-experts-mull-anti-corruption-next-steps-in-ukraine>

National Anti-Corruption Strategy to be submitted

<https://www.theportugalnews.com/news/2021-04-24/national-anti-corruption-strategy-to-be-submitted/59529>

Cases against former Latin American leaders: a challenge for the credibility of the courts

<https://english.elpais.com/usa/2021-04-28/cases-against-former-latin-american-leaders-a-challenge-for-the-credibility-of-the-courts.html>

Washington Cracks Down on Guatemala Corruption

<https://insightcrime.org/news/washington-cranks-heat-guatemala-corruption/>

South Africa's ANC reaffirms 'step aside' rule for corruption-charged members

<https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/south-africas-anc-reaffirms-that-members-charged-with-corruption-must-vacate-2021-05-04/>

Lebanon's central bank governor faces new corruption allegations in France

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/activists-file-legal-complaint-over-lebanon-corruption-france-2021-05-03/>

U.S. targets Central America officials for possible sanctions over corruption

<https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/exclusive-us-targets-central-america-officials-possible-sanctions-over-2021-05-05/>

Anti-corruption in Lebanon is both a diversion and a political tool

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/1851681>

DRUG TRAFFICKING

EXCLUSIVE U.S. backing for Guatemala drug cartel fight key to ending graft, minister says

Frank Daniel – Reuters: 5 May 2021

Guatemala has asked the United States for support in fighting drug-cartel money laundering that the Central American country sees as a key source of corruption, Foreign Minister Pedro Brolo said, as Washington ramps up a focus on graft in the region.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/exclusive-us-backing-guatemala-drug-cartel-fight-key-ending-graft-minister-says-2021-05-05/>

Myanmar drug surge worry for neighbours including India

IANS: 30 April 2021

Illegal narcotics from the Golden Triangle region – Laos, Myanmar (Burma) and Thailand – have spiked in South and Southeast Asian countries as a result of pandemic-related supply gluts. A likely increase in narcotics production is worrying Myanmar's neighbors, including India.

<https://www.wionews.com/india-news/myanmar-drug-surge-worry-for-neighbours-including-india-381602>

For more on this theme:

China's dirty secret: How crime lords laundered Australian drug money through Beijing's controversial Belt and Road scheme – funding the heroin and meth plague Down Under

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9501919/Chinese-crime-lords-funnelling-drugs-cash-Australia-Belt-Road-scheme.html>

'We are trapped here.' A Mexican town isolated by cartel terror

<https://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2021-04-23/we-are-trapped-here-one-mexican-town-isolated-by-mob-terror>

A Mexican Drug Cartel Is Dropping Bombs on Cops With a Drone

<https://www.vice.com/en/article/dyvmza/a-mexican-drug-cartel-is-dropping-bombs-on-cops-with-a-drone>

Regulating khat could disrupt East Africa's illegal drug economy

<https://issafrica.org/iss-today/regulating-khat-could-disrupt-east-africas-illegal-drug-economy>

Mexico worries about scorn if another drug lord is released

<https://apnews.com/article/mexico-250106db0b8059a2561a28a6320834a0>

Son of Sinaloa Cartel leader pleads guilty in the US to drug trafficking

<https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/14333-son-of-sinaloa-cartel-leader-pleads-guilty-in-the-us-to-drug-trafficking>

Asia's multibillion dollar methamphetamine cartels are using creative chemistry to outfox police, experts say

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/05/03/asia/golden-triangle-precursors-intl-hnk-dst/index.html>

Methamphetamine Taking Over Mexico's Domestic Drug Market

<https://insightcrime.org/news/methamphetamine-mexico-drug-market/>

TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

How eDNA is revolutionizing the tracking of elusive species. It may soon be used to fight wildlife trafficking.

Rene Ebersole – The Washington Post: 1 May 2021

The developing field of environmental DNA (eDNA) is revolutionizing wildlife studies. With a lot more research, scientists say that eDNA could be promising as an investigative tool for law enforcement agents trying to identify where protected species are being sold.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/science/edna-finding-endangered-species/2021/04/30/43734ef8-872e-11eb-8a8b-5cf82c3dffe4_story.html

Illegal Wildlife Trade and Financial Investigations in West Africa

Alexandria Reid and Mark Williams – Royal United Services Institute (RUSI): 30 April 2021

Wildlife poachers with links to terrorism are rampaging across West Africa because local authorities are unable to control the illegal trade, according to the British think tank RUSI. Money is urgently needed to enable task forces across the region to tackle the growing criminality that helps fund extremist groups.

<https://rusi.org/publication/occasional-papers/illegal-wildlife-trade-and-financial-investigations-west-africa>

For more on this theme:

Navy, Coast Guard consider network tech to hedge against illegal fishing

<https://federalnewsnetwork.com/navy/2021/04/navy-coast-guard-consider-network-tech-to-hedge-against-illegal-fishing/>

COVID-19 compounds a poaching problem targeting the Amazon's pirarucu

<https://news.mongabay.com/2021/04/covid-19-compounds-a-poaching-problem-targeting-the-amazons-pirarucu/>

Drugs and agriculture cause deforestation to skyrocket at Honduran UNESCO site

<https://news.mongabay.com/2021/04/drugs-and-agriculture-cause-deforestation-to-skyrocket-at-honduran-unesco-site/>

Chinese Chemicals in Mexican Cartel Hands Feed Deadly U.S. Fentanyl Crisis

<https://www.newsweek.com/chinese-chemicals-mexican-cartel-hands-feed-deadly-us-fentanyl-crisis-1588948>

Kenya: Drug, Alcohol Abuse Fuel Illegal Scrap Metals Trade in Murang'a

<https://nation.africa/kenya/counties/muranga/drug-alcohol-abuse-fuel-illegal-scrap-metals-trade-in-murang-a-3387132>

Brazil's Cheaper Exotic Fish Still Targeted by Traffickers

<https://insightcrime.org/news/us-brazil-authorities-dive-into-illicit-killifish-trade/>

South Africa to end captive lion breeding, bone trade

<https://abcnews.go.com/International/south-africa-end-captive-lion-breeding-bone-trade/story?id=77451913>

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

People smugglers reap billions selling American dream

Yussel Gonzalez and Herika Martinez – Agence France-Presse: 18 April 2021

A 2018 report from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime estimated the annual revenue generated by smuggling migrants overland to North America to be as much as \$4.2 billion of the global total of \$7 billion.

<https://www.barrons.com/news/people-smugglers-reap-billions-selling-american-dream-01618795815>

For more on this theme:

Analysis: Biden's migrant strategy clouded by Central American graft

<https://www.reuters.com/article/usa-immigration-central-america/analysis-bidens-migrant-strategy-clouded-by-central-american-graft-idUSL8N2M66EX>

Intelligence Assessment: Pandemic, Policy Perceptions, Instability Driving Migration 'Resurgence'

<https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/border-security/intelligence-assessment-pandemic-policy-perceptions-instability-driving-migration-resurgence/>

Venezuela's Modeling Agencies Repeatedly Linked to Human Trafficking

<https://insightcrime.org/news/venezuela-modeling-agencies-repeatedly-linked-human-trafficking/>

MONEY LAUNDERING

Chinese money-laundering rings in Chicago, New York cleaning Mexican drug cartel cash

Frank Main and Jon Seidel – Chicago Sun Times: 30 April 2021

Chinese money launderers and Mexican drug dealers have used complex schemes to disguise millions in drug proceeds, making them seem to be legitimate transactions, according to law enforcement sources and court files.

<https://chicago.suntimes.com/2021/4/30/22408448/chinese-money-laundering-mexican-drug-cartel-mirror-swap-trade-based-money-laundering-xianbing-gan>

For more on this theme:

U.S. Detains Alleged Russian Operator Of Bitcoin Money-Laundering Website

<https://www.rferl.org/a/us-detains-russian-bitcoin-money-laundering/31228958.html>

Bitcoin: UK banks are getting tough on crypto, but money-laundering rules are the real problem

<https://theconversation.com/bitcoin-uk-banks-are-getting-tough-on-crypto-but-money-laundering-rules-are-the-real-problem-159651>

London used as 'money-laundering base', mafia trial prosecutor says

<https://www.cityam.com/london-used-as-money-laundering-base-mafia-trial-prosecutor-says/>

How Iran Used an International Playboy to Launder Oil Money

<https://www.occrp.org/en/how-iran-used-an-international-playboy-to-launder-oil-money/>

ORGANIZED CRIME

Smaller Mexico Cities Now Most Violent in the World

Max Radwin – InSight Crime: 1 May 2021

Bloodshed in Mexico has reached such a level that continued outbreaks of violence in individual, medium-size cities can register on a global scale, reflecting new hot spots where criminal groups are fighting for control.

<https://insightcrime.org/news/smaller-mexico-cities-now-most-violent-world/>

For more on this theme:

Fight against organized crime: New five-year strategy for boosting co-operation across the EU and for better use of digital tools for investigations

<https://www.eureporter.co/politics/european-commission/2021/04/16/fight-against-organized-crime-new-five-year-strategy-for-boosting-co-operation-across-the-eu-and-for-better-use-of-digital-tools-for-investigations/>

EUROPOL highlights corruption in ‘serious organized crime threat assessment’

<https://theshiftnews.com/2021/04/17/europol-highlights-corruption-in-serious-organized-crime-threat-assessment/>

How Global Network of Journalists Helps Expose Organized Crime

<https://www.voanews.com/press-freedom/how-global-network-journalists-helps-expose-organized-crime>

Report: Italian Mafia’s Cut in Tourism Sector is Over \$2.6 Billion

<https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/14298-report-italian-mafia-s-cut-in-tourism-sector-is-over-2-6-billion>

China’s New Silk Road: Navigating the organized crime risk

<https://globalinitiative.net/analysis/bri-crime/>

Observatory of Illicit Economies in Eastern and Southern Africa

<https://globalinitiative.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/GITOC-East-and-Southern-Africa-Risk-Bulletin-17.pdf>

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Russia's plot to control the Internet is no longer a secret

David Ignatius – The Washington Post: 4 May 2021

Russia's campaign to control the internet isn't just a secret intelligence gambit any longer. It's an explicit goal, proclaimed by Russian President Vladimir Putin as a key element of the Kremlin's foreign policy.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2021/05/04/russias-plot-control-internet-is-no-longer-secret/>

For more on this theme:

(Global) Why we need a publicly funded social network

<https://www.innovationaus.com/why-we-need-a-publicly-funded-social-network/>

INTERNET FREEDOM

Russia Can't Afford to Block Twitter — Yet

Dylan Myles-Primakoff and Justin Sherman – Foreign Policy: 30 April 2021

Online censorship is bogged down in technical difficulties.

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/04/30/russia-block-twitter-telegram-online-censorship/>

For more on this theme:

(China, India) Chinese Censors Delete Meme Mocking COVID-19 Deaths in India

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/covid-india-05042021083521.html>

(Canada) Your free speech is at risk with Ottawa's push to regulate online content, experts warn

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/bill-c10-user-generated-content-1.6007192>

(India) COVID-19 Is Devastating India. Its Government Is Trying To Censor Social Media.

<https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/pranavdixit/covid-india-online-censorship>

(China) 'Dog Biting Dog': China's Online Fight Could Further Empower Beijing

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/29/business/china-internet-alibaba-tencent.html>

PRIVACY AND SECURITY

Google holds the keys to web privacy in Africa and Asia

Nicolás Rivero – Quartz: 30 April 2021

The fate of Android users' privacy rests on an impending decision from Google: Should it follow in Apple's footsteps by imposing privacy restrictions on the Google Advertising ID that allows advertisers to track people's activity on Android devices?

<https://qz.com/2003273/googles-gaid-is-the-key-to-web-privacy-in-africa-and-asia/>

For more on this theme:

(China) China's internet watchdog finds 33 mobile apps broke data privacy rules

<https://www.reuters.com/technology/chinas-internet-watchdog-finds-33-mobile-apps-broke-data-privacy-rules-2021-05-03/>

(Global) Does Apple's new data policy prove it has too much power?

<https://www.dw.com/en/does-apples-new-data-policy-prove-it-has-too-much-power/a-57375606>

(China) China's New Privacy Regulation Reforms Tech Giants Social Retail Scene

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/tiffanylung/2021/05/02/chinas-new-privacy-regulation-reforms-tech-giants-social-retail-scene/?sh=4a08409b3fed>

(Global) Cybersecurity is too big a job for governments or business to handle alone

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/05/cybersecurity-governments-business/>

CYBER STATECRAFT

On Being a Responsible Cyber Power: The Agenda for the UK

Mary Haigh – Royal United Services Institute: 6 May 2021

The United Kingdom's "Integrated Review", published last month, mentions cyber power 22 times, and the foreword from the prime minister talks about the country being a "responsible cyber power." But what does a responsible cyber power mean? The concept requires clearer definition and a broader, collective effort.

<https://rusi.org/commentary/being-responsible-cyber-power-agenda-uk>

For more on this theme:

(U.K.) How GCHQ proposes to implement and use ethical AI

<https://www.computerweekly.com/feature/How-GCHQ-proposes-to-implement-and-use-ethical-AI>

(Global) A global clash of visions: The future of AI policy

<https://thehill.com/opinion/technology/551562-a-global-clash-of-visions-the-future-of-ai-policy>

CYBERATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

Cyberattack Throws Southern California Hospital System Offline for Days

Meghan Roos – Newsweek: 3 May 2021

San Diego-based Scripps Health is struggling to restore its information technology systems after a cyberattack May 1 that significantly disrupted care, impacted email servers and forced medical personnel to use paper records. Some critical care patients were diverted, and the online patient portal was taken offline.

<https://www.newsweek.com/cyberattack-throws-southern-california-hospital-system-off-line-days-1588355>

For more on this theme:

(Australia) Telstra service provider hit by cyber attack as hackers claim SIM card information stolen

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/breaking-news/telstra-service-provider-hit-by-cyber-attack-as-hackers-claim-sim-card-information-stolen/news-story/2ff32b2e3634506882102e9c9d012994>

(U.S.) Cyber attack on Illinois Attorney General's office appears far worse than first thought

<https://abc7chicago.com/cyber-attack-attorney-general-illinois-ag/10581045/>

(Belgium) Cyber-Attack on Belgian Parliament

<https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/cyber-attack-on-belgian-parliament/>

CYBERCRIME

Time to engage: The UN wades into a global cybercrime treaty debate

Summer Walker – Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime: 7 May 2021

Countries at the United Nations are expected this month to consider drafting a treaty on countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes.

<https://globalinitiative.net/analysis/un-cybercrime-treaty-debate/>

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Biden administration, Congress unite in effort to tackle ransomware attacks

<https://thehill.com/policy/cybersecurity/552036-biden-administration-congress-unite-in-effort-to-tackle-ransomware>

(U.S.) DoD Expands 'Hack the Pentagon' Program to All Public Systems

<https://www.meritalk.com/articles/dod-expands-hack-the-pentagon-program-to-all-public-systems/>

(U.S., Global) Experts Warn Hackers Are Taking Advantage Of Many People Working Online From Home During The Pandemic

<https://newyork.cbslocal.com/2021/05/03/cyber-crime-hackers-fbi-remote-work-darknet/>

(U.K.) Surge in cyber attacks leads to 'massive cost' for manufacturers – report

<https://uk.finance.yahoo.com/news/surge-cyber-attacks-leads-massive-230100033.html>

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

IS-land: Has the age of southern African terrorism properly begun?

Richard Poplak – Daily Maverick: 4 May 2021

The violent insurgency in the Mozambican province of Cabo Delgado has spurred discussion about whether Southern Africa will become a hub for international terror syndicates, in particular the Islamic State. According to the United Nations Security Council, terror and organized crime are increasingly interconnected – which means the region has a problem that the insurgency could massively compound.

<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2021-05-04-islamic-state-land-has-the-age-of-southern-african-terrorism-properly-begun/>

Covid ‘devastation’ threatens Syria’s ISIS lockup, says UN

James Reini – The National: 4 May 2021

Concerns are growing about a coronavirus outbreak at a sprawling camp in northeast Syria that houses tens of thousands of refugees, including families and supporters of ISIS.

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/mena/covid-devastation-threatens-syria-s-isis-lockup-says-un-1.1216673>

For more on this theme:

Cabo Delgado insurgency: The shifting shape of the illicit economy in northern Mozambique

<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2021-05-02-cabo-delgado-insurgency-the-shifting-shape-of-the-illicit-economy-in-northern-mozambique/>

ISIS human trafficking networks inquiry launched by British parliament

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/europe/isis-human-trafficking-networks-inquiry-launched-by-british-parliament-1.1213632>

UK looks at widening treason law to catch ISIS fighters

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/europe/uk-looks-at-widening-treason-law-to-catch-isis-fighters-1.1214541>

Iraqi Kurds plan special court to try suspected Islamic State fighters

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/apr/30/iraqi-kurds-plan-special-court-try-suspected-islamic-state-fighters>

ISIS Cyber Group Warns Android Downloads Could Leave Jihadists ‘Vulnerable’

<https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/cybersecurity/isis-cyber-group-warns-android-downloads-could-leave-jihadists-vulnerable/>

ISIS militants were released from prison step by step according to secret Turkish gov’t document

<https://nordicmonitor.com/2021/04/isis-militants-were-released-from-prisons-step-by-step-according-to-secret-turkish-govt-document/>

TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Explained: How Hezbollah built a drug empire via its 'narcoterrorist strategy'

Arab News: 3 May 2021

Experts believe Hezbollah's finances rely mainly on the sale of drugs. This results from a lack of funding caused by U.S. sanctions on a number of party members and against Iran, in addition to the collapse of the Lebanese state.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/1852636/middle-east>

Amid US pullout, Taliban issue threat to Afghan journalists

Kathy Gannon and Tameem Akhgar – The Associated Press: 5 May 2021

The Taliban issued a threat to Afghan journalists they accuse of siding with Afghanistan's intelligence agency in Kabul. In a statement, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid warned those Afghan journalists who give "one-sided news in support of Afghanistan's intelligence" service to stop or "face the consequences."

<https://apnews.com/article/taliban-journalists-a94fb8bc61852b20dc18e58d4a96e11f>

For more on this theme:

Boko Haram fighters have hoisted flag and forcefully acquired wives in Nigerian town, governor says

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/04/27/africa/bokoharam-hoists-flag-nigeria-intl/index.html>

Winning community trust can help rid Kenya of al-Shabaab

<https://issafrica.org/iss-today/winning-community-trust-can-help-rid-kenya-of-al-shabaab>

Mozambique Could Become Africa's Next Piracy Hot Spot

<https://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/articles/29610/on-piracy-africa-fears-another-hotspot-after-mozambique-attack>

10 years since Osama Bin Laden's death, a new beginning

<https://www.orfonline.org/research/10-years-since-osama-bin-ladens-death-a-new-beginning/>

World should not overlook Hezbollah's illegal activities

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/1851206>

'Jamaat-Hefazat Leaders Determined To Create Taliban State In Bangladesh': Dhaka Joint Commissioner Of Police

<https://swarajyamag.com/insta/jamaat-hefazat-leaders-determined-to-create-taliban-state-in-bangladesh-dhaka-joint-commissioner-of-police>

Germany Sees Spike in Politically Motivated Crimes

<https://www.voanews.com/europe/germany-sees-spike-politically-motivated-crimes>

Potential Seen for Regional Power Plays as US Departs From Afghanistan

<https://www.voanews.com/south-central-asia/potential-seen-regional-power-plays-us-departs-afghanistan>

RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

Kenya: Combating Extremist Narratives Around Covid-19

Abjata Khalif – Institute for War & Peace Reporting: 1 May 2021

Journalists in Kenya are working to stop radicals exploiting the pandemic as a recruitment tool.

<https://iwpr.net/global-voices/kenya-combating-extremist-narratives-around-covid-19>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: PROXY FORCES AND PRIVATE MILITARY GROUPS

How Iran's Militia Proxies Could Threaten Israel From These Four Countries

Paul Iddon – Forbes: 29 April 2021

If tensions between Israel and Iran deteriorate into an all-out war, the former could face Iran-backed militia proxy attacks from up to four regional countries.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/pauliddon/2021/04/29/how-irans-militia-proxies-could-threaten-israel-from-these-four-countries/?sh=29596fef5975>

For more on this theme:

Al-Sunni: Mercenaries must leave Libya

<https://www.libyaobserver.ly/inbrief/al-sunni-mercenaries-must-leave-libya>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: CYBER

Was China behind last October's power outage in India? Here's what we know.

Fionna Cunningham – The Washington Post: 29 April 2021

Despite the conflict along the Indian border, China had reasons to avoid a cyberattack. But that doesn't mean it wasn't behind the October 2020 attack that caused problems for Mumbai's electric grid.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2021/04/29/was-china-behind-last-octobers-power-outage-india-heres-what-we-know/>

For more on this theme:

New Tools, Old Tricks: Emerging Technologies and Russia's Global Tool Kit

<https://carnegieendowment.org/2021/04/29/new-tools-old-tricks-emerging-technologies-and-russia-s-global-tool-kit-pub-84437>

Analysis of the Iranian cyber attack landscape

<https://securityboulevard.com/2021/04/analysis-of-the-iranian-cyber-attack-landscape/>

The most famous Chinese cyberattacks

<https://www.theweek.co.uk/news/world-news/china/952661/the-most-famous-cyber-attacks-conducted-by-china>

New Chinese Malware Targeted Russia's Largest Nuclear Submarine Designer

<https://thehackernews.com/2021/05/new-chinese-malware-targeted-russias.html>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: DISINFORMATION AND MALIGN INFLUENCE

Scottish election 2021: Iranian regime ‘peddling disinformation’ in attempt to swing Scottish election

Beth Murray – The Scotsman: 3 May 2021

Iran is peddling misinformation to try to swing Scotland’s parliamentary elections in favor of pro-independence parties to destabilize the United Kingdom, a report has warned. A study from the U.K.-based Henry Jackson Society think tank found that operatives linked to Iran were creating fake accounts, groups and pages on Facebook and Twitter to target voters.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/scottish-election-2021-iranian-regime-peddling-disinformation-in-attempt-to-swing-scottish-election-3222700>

For more on this theme:

EU Considers Strengthening Code of Practice on Online Disinformation Amid COVID-19 Infodemic

<https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=4d7a4722-97db-42b3-891f-bc941dc7ca27>

Intelligence community creating hub to gird against foreign influence

<https://www.politico.com/news/2021/04/26/intelligence-community-hub-foreign-influence-484604>

The US military is turning to special operators to fend off Russian and Chinese influence in its neighborhood

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