

THE MARSHALL CENTER

transnational weekly



A CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICE FROM THE MARSHALL CENTER

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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Costa Rica moves on massive public corruption investigation

Javier Cordoba – The Associated Press: 14 June 2021

Costa Rican authorities executed dozens of searches and arrests in June as part of a sprawling public corruption investigation centered on the awarding of road construction and maintenance contracts.

<https://apnews.com/article/caribbean-costa-rica-business-0da8240b936cc5fc0222de3c1c3353ba>

Healthcare Is A Corruption Hotspot In The European Union, New Report Shows

Deb Gordon – Forbes: 16 June 2021

A new survey by Transparency International has found that 29% of European Union residents used well-connected friends or family to receive medical care during the pandemic. At least 6% of people paid bribes to access health care.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/debgordon/2021/06/16/healthcare-is-a-corruption-hotspot-in-the-european-union-new-report-shows/?sh=58f4a2455008>

Full Report:

Global Corruption Barometer EU: People worried about unchecked abuses of power

<https://www.transparency.org/en/news/gcb-eu-2021-survey-people-worry-corruption-unchecked-impunity-business-politics>

For more on this theme:

South Africa Seeks Interpol’s Help In Gupta Family Corruption Case

<https://www.ndtv.com/indians-abroad/south-africa-seeks-interpols-help-in-gupta-family-corruption-case-2455940>

Peru: Govt passes bill to strengthen transparency and prevent corruption

<https://andina.pe/Ingles/noticia-peru-govt-passes-bill-to-strengthen-transparency-and-prevent-corruption-848647.aspx>

Biden Says Ukraine Has Work to Do on Corruption to Get Into NATO

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-06-14/biden-says-ukraine-has-work-to-do-on-corruption-to-get-into-nato>

Inside South Africa’s rhino crisis: “If you lose the war on corruption, you lose the war on everything”

<https://uk.sports.yahoo.com/news/inside-south-africa-rhino-crisis-055906813.html>

Saudi Arabia Detains 136 People in Latest Anti-Corruption Drive

<https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/14631-saudi-arabia-detains-136-people-in-latest-anti-corruption-drive>

Investigating Venezuelan corruption, this prosecutor was jailed after targeting the bosses

<https://www.miamiherald.com/news/nation-world/world/americas/venezuela/article252129073.html>

Technology in the fight against corruption

<https://www.financierworldwide.com/technology-in-the-fight-against-corruption>

DRUG TRAFFICKING

Asia-Pacific Drug Trade Thriving as Gangs Make Billions in Profits, UN Says

Vijitra Duangdee – Voice of America: 10 June 2021

Asia's drug lords have established new manufacturing hubs and maritime trafficking routes to ramp up the supply of methamphetamine across the Asia-Pacific, the United Nations crime agency said.

<https://www.voanews.com/east-asia-pacific/asia-pacific-drug-trade-thriving-gangs-make-billions-profits-un-says>

Hezbollah's Multipurpose Drug Trade

Abdel Aziz Aluwaisheg – Arab News: 16 June 2021

Law enforcement agencies around the world have uncovered the extensive drug trafficking operations of Hezbollah. The main objective of its involvement in the narcotics trade is financial, to fund its expanding activities in Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Lebanon. However, more recently, there appears to be another motive: to undercut the social cohesion of its adversaries. That also means Iran's adversaries.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/1877971>

For more on this theme:

Wife of "El Chapo" Pleads Guilty to Drug Trafficking and Money Laundering

<https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/wife-el-chapo-pleads-guilty-drug-trafficking-and-money-laundering>

Illegal drugs trade goes digital for pandemic

<https://www.fijitimes.com/illegal-drugs-trade-goes-digital-for-pandemic/>

Europe's drug trade 'remarkably resilient' to pandemic disruption

<https://www.trtworld.com/magazine/europe-s-drug-trade-remarkably-resilient-to-pandemic-disruption-47553>

Cartel enforcers employed 'rampant violence' to control Tijuana drug trade for CJNG

<https://mexiconewsdaily.com/news/cartel-enforcers-used-rampant-violence-tijuana/>

The Youngest Traffickers: How Drug Cartels Exploit Children

<https://thecrimereport.org/2021/06/10/the-youngest-traffickers-how-drug-cartels-exploit-children/>

Atlantic Entrance to Panama Canal Awash with Cocaine

<https://insightcrime.org/news/atlantic-entrance-to-panama-canal-awash-with-cocaine/>

Enough fentanyl to kill San Francisco: the new wave of the opioid crisis sweeping California

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2021/jun/14/us-oid-crisis-california-fentanyl-deaths>

Drug Trafficking Networks Recruiting Smugglers on Facebook, Social Media

<https://americansecuritytoday.com/drug-trafficking-networks-recruiting-smugglers-on-facebook-social-media/>

TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

China-Backed SEZs Linked to Southeast Asia's Illegal Wildlife Trade

Sebastian Strangio – The Diplomat: 15 June 2021

A combination of loose state jurisdictions and proximity to China's economy facilitate the illegal wildlife trade.

<https://thediplomat.com/2021/06/china-backed-sezs-linked-to-southeast-asias-illegal-wildlife-trade/>

Brazil: Indigenous communities reel from illegal gold mining

Sam Cowie – Al Jazeera: 14 June 2021

Spike in violence linked to illegal mining activities prompts Indigenous communities to demand protection.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/6/14/indigenous-reel-from-brazil-illegal-gold-mining>

For more on this theme:

To Help Stop Illegal Fishing, Governments Should Leverage Port State Measures Treaty Tools

<https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2021/06/01/to-help-stop-illegal-fishing-governments-should-leverage-port-state-measures-treaty-tools>

UN Highlights Illegal Fishing With “Fight IUU Day”

<https://www.maritime-executive.com/editorials/un-highlights-illegal-fishing-with-fight-iuu-day>

Conservation activists suing Indonesian zoo could inspire global action on endangered species trade

<https://theconversation.com/conservation-activists-suing-indonesian-zoo-could-inspire-global-action-on-endangered-species-trade-161048>

We're clamping down on the ivory trade, but is it too late for elephants?

<https://www.independent.co.uk/world/ivory-trade-poaching-conservation-elephants-b1857473.html>

CSI, but for parrots: Study applies criminological tool CRAAVED to wildlife trade

<https://news.mongabay.com/2021/06/csi-but-for-parrots-study-applies-criminological-tool-craaved-to-wildlife-trade/>

Research documents extent of wildlife trade in Wuhan's markets

<https://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/research-documents-extent-of-wildlife-trade-in-wuhans-markets/>

Black Gold: Illegal Logging For Charcoal Wipe Out Rare Trees In Northern Uganda

<https://www.zenger.news/2021/06/07/black-gold-illegal-logging-for-charcoal-wipe-out-rare-trees-in-northern-uganda/>

In Peru, officials play a losing game of whack-a-mole with illegal miners

<https://news.mongabay.com/2021/06/in-peru-officials-play-a-losing-game-of-whack-a-mole-with-illegal-miners/>

Researchers investigate mining-related deforestation in the Amazon

<https://phys.org/news/2021-06-mining-related-deforestation-amazon.html>

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

How avocados are connected to influx of migrants from Michoacán to border cities like Tijuana

Salvador Rivera – KXAN: 10 June 2021

There's been a rise in the number of migrants from the state of Michoacán arriving in border cities like Tijuana, according to José María García, director of a shelter in the Mexican border city. García blames organized crime for forcing people to be displaced and flee.

<https://www.kxan.com/news/how-avocados-are-connected-to-influx-of-migrants-from-michoacan-to-border-cities-like-tijuana/>

For more on this theme:

Romania urged to effectively prosecute human traffickers and ensure access to compensation for their victims

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/romania-urged-to-effectively-prosecute-human-traffickers-and-ensure-access-to-compensation-for-their-victims>

Bangladesh trafficking gang lured girls using TikTok: Police

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/6/9/bangladesh-trafficking-gang-lured-girls-using-tiktok-police>

Involving the education system in Serbia in the detection of child trafficking

<https://www.coe.int/fr/web/belgrade/-/involving-the-education-system-in-serbia-in-the-detection-of-child-trafficking>

Covid-19 made poor more vulnerable to child trafficking, say NGOs

<https://www.indiatoday.in/coronavirus-outbreak/story/covid-19-poor-marginalised-vulnerability-child-trafficking-ngos-1812519-2021-06-08>

RAF's new drone 'could search Channel for people smugglers'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/06/04/rafs-new-drone-could-search-channel-people-smugglers-say-defence/>

Moving on: Exploring onward migration of refugees and migrants from East Africa

<https://mixedmigration.org/resource/moving-on-exploring-onward-migration-of-refugees-and-migrants-from-east-africa/>

Fact check: Is sea rescue a pull factor for refugees?

<https://www.dw.com/en/fact-check-is-sea-rescue-a-pull-factor-for-refugees/a-57804247>

Human Trafficking Poses 'Strategic Threat' to U.S. National Security: Report

<https://thecrimereport.org/2021/06/16/human-trafficking-poses-strategic-threat-to-u-s-national-security-report/>

ORGANIZED CRIME

Wildlife trafficking: a new frontier for organised financial crime

John Basquill – Global Trade Review: 15 June 2021

Pressure is growing on financial institutions to toughen their approach to environmental crime. G7 leaders are vowing to crack down on the illicit fund flows supporting wildlife trafficking, and campaign groups are warning that the activity has morphed from a conservation issue to a financial crime concern.

<https://www.gtreview.com/news/global/wildlife-trafficking-a-new-frontier-for-organised-financial-crime/>

For more on this theme:

The Telegram Conundrum: Criminals Exploit Messaging App's Privacy Protection Policy

<https://japan-forward.com/the-telegram-conundrum-criminals-exploit-messaging-apps-privacy-protection-policy/>

How an app to decrypt criminal messages was born 'over a few beers' with the FBI

<https://gcn.com/articles/2021/06/14/anOm-app-trap.aspx>

Myanmar Border Gun Seizures Stoke Fears of Illicit Post-Coup Arms Trade

<https://www.voanews.com/east-asia-pacific/myanmar-border-gun-seizures-stoke-fears-illicit-post-coup-arms-trade>

Report: Organized Crime Prevalent in "Tow Truck Wars"

<https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/14649-report-organized-crime-prevalent-in-tow-truck-wars>

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Russia, U.S. and other countries reach new agreement against cyber hacking, even as attacks continue

Ellen Nakashima and Joseph Marks – The Washington Post: 13 June 2021

Russia and the United States, along with 23 other countries, recently reaffirmed that states should not hack each other's critical infrastructure in peacetime or shelter cybercriminals who conduct attacks on other countries. But Russia, which was among the states originally agreeing to the norms at the United Nations, has violated them repeatedly over the years.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/russia-us-un-cyber-norms/2021/06/12/9b608cd4-866b-11eb-bfdf-4d36dab83a6d_story.html

For more on this theme:

(U.K., Global) UK tells UN that nation-states should retaliate against cyber badness with no warning

https://www.theregister.com/2021/06/11/uk_ungge_cyber_norms_submission/

(Global) A Brief Primer on International Law and Cyberspace

<https://carnegieendowment.org/2021/06/14/brief-primer-on-international-law-and-cyberspace-pub-84763>

(Global) The Sixth United Nations GGE and International Law in Cyberspace

<https://www.justsecurity.org/76864/the-sixth-united-nations-gge-and-international-law-in-cyberspace/>

INTERNET FREEDOM

Nigeria suspends Twitter operations, says platform 'undermines its corporate existence'

Tage Kene-Okafor – TechCrunch: 4 June 2021

The Nigerian government recently announced its decision to suspend the operations of social media platform Twitter in the country.

<https://techcrunch.com/2021/06/04/nigeria-suspends-twitter-operations-says-platform-undermines-its-corporate-existence/>

For more on this theme:

(Russia) Opinion: Russia prepares to test its new censorship tool on Google. Tech giants should not give in

<https://www.latimes.com/opinion/story/2021-05-28/russia-censorship-slowdown-google>

(U.S., Hong Kong, China) U.S. Bill Allocates \$30 Million To Help Hong Kong Bypass China's Great Firewall Internet Restrictions

<https://wccftech.com/u-s-bill-allocates-30-million-to-help-hong-kong-bypass-chinas-great-firewall-internet-restrictions/>

SECURITY

Data Breach Report Emphasizes Cybersecurity's Human Element

Drew Robb – Society for Human Resource Management: 15 June 2021

For all the millions of dollars an organization might spend on security technology, its employees' decisions and actions do the most to keep the company safe, according to the annual Verizon Data Breach Investigations Report.

<https://www.shrm.org/resourcesandtools/hr-topics/technology/pages/data-breach-report-emphasizes-cybersecurity-human-element.aspx>

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) White House Warns Business Leaders To Increase Cybersecurity Against Ransomware Attacks

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/edwardsegal/2021/06/04/white-house-warns-business-leaders-to-increase-cybersecurity-against-ransomware-attacks/?sh=42f82d926f56>

(U.S.) White House Open Letter on Ransomware Attacks Calls on Private Industry to Voluntarily Adopt Standards for Federal Contractors

<https://www.cpomagazine.com/cyber-security/white-house-open-letter-on-ransomware-attacks-calls-on-private-industry-to-voluntarily-adopt-standards-for-federal-contractors/>

(Global) More internet security for many, not for Central Asians

<https://advox.globalvoices.org/2021/06/12/more-internet-security-for-many-not-for-central-asians/>

PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Deloitte Shares Cyber Threat Data With State, Local Agencies; Srin Subramanian Quoted

Carol Collins – Executive Biz: 11 June 2021

State and local government agencies that belong to the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center, the federally backed organization that shares cybersecurity tools and intelligence, can now get insights from other industries, including the financial, health and utility sectors, through a new partnership between the center and the consulting firm Deloitte.

<https://blog.executivebiz.com/2021/06/deloitte-shares-cyber-threat-data-with-state-local-agencies-sri-subramanian-quoted/>

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) White House Official Briefed State AGs on Private-Sector Role Battling Ransomware

<https://www.nextgov.com/cybersecurity/2021/06/white-house-official-briefed-state-ags-private-sector-role-battling-ransomware/174683/>

(U.S.) States Should Be Encouraged to Form Public-Private Partnerships for Federal Broadband Funds

<https://broadbandbreakfast.com/2021/06/states-should-be-encouraged-to-form-public-private-partnerships-for-federal-broadband-funds/>

CYBERCRIME

Authorities Seized The Largest Stolen Login Marketplace On The Dark Web

Lee Mathews – Forbes: 11 June 2021

The U.S. Department of Justice announced this month that Slilpp, an infamous dark web marketplace where stolen credentials and identities are bought and sold, had been seized.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/leemathews/2021/06/11/authorities-seized-the-largest-stolen-login-marketplace-on-the-dark-web/?sh=2e1e97585061>

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) US Recovers \$2.3 Million Paid as Ransom in Pipeline Cyberattack

<https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/14607-us-recovers-2-3-million-paid-as-ransom-in-pipeline-cyberattack>

(U.K.) UK promises tougher line on cyber crime

<https://www.computerweekly.com/news/252502300/UK-promises-tougher-line-on-cyber-crime>

(New Zealand) Dealing with cyber crime: Some NZ businesses ‘feel they have no choice but to pay’

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/300332148/dealing-with-cyber-crime-some-nz-businesses-feel-they-have-no-choice-but-to-pay>

CYBERATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

Hackers Target State-Run Voice of Vietnam After Reports Critical of Popular Livestreamer

Radio Free Asia: 15 June 2021

A state-run news outlet in Vietnam was hacked a day after it published two reports critical of a YouTuber famous for exposing fraud among the country’s celebrities, local media reported.

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/vietnam/vov-06152021154759.html>

For more on this theme:

(Puerto Rico) Puerto Rico faces blackout after cyberattack, fire

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/6/11/electric-company-reports-fire-cyber-attack-in-puerto-rico>

(U.S.) UMass Lowell to remain closed Wednesday amid probe into possible cybersecurity incident

<https://www.wcvb.com/article/umass-lowell-closes-campus-investigating-possible-cybersecurity-incident/36730659#>

(U.S., Mexico) Why Mexican Cyber-Cartels Threaten U.S. National Security

<https://www.geopoliticalmonitor.com/why-mexican-cyber-cartels-threaten-u-s-national-security/>

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

France Arrests ‘High-Ranking’ Islamic State Fighter in Mali

Agence France-Presse: 16 June 2021

French forces in Mali have captured a man they describe as a “high-ranking fighter of the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara,” the French military said.

<https://www.voanews.com/africa/france-arrests-high-ranking-islamic-state-fighter-mali>

For more on this theme:

Dagestani Leadership Struggles With Countering Islamic State’s Propaganda Offensive

<https://jamestown.org/program/dagestani-leadership-struggles-with-countering-islamic-states-propaganda-offensive/>

Islamic State claims responsibility for attack on mine-clearing workers in Afghanistan: Monitoring group

<https://www.wionews.com/south-asia/islamic-state-claims-responsibility-for-attack-on-mine-clearing-workers-in-afghanistan-monitoring-group-390460>

Egyptian officials say IS militants abduct 5 people in Sinai

<https://apnews.com/article/islamic-state-group-africa-middle-east-egypt-786aea08ec-7c37258ed8f533f016da7c>

Singaporean woman detained under security act for supporting ISIS

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/world/2021/jun/09/singaporean-woman-detained-under-security-act-for-supporting-isis-2313813.html>

Iraq keeps focus on terror funding

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/05/iraq-keeps-focus-terror-funding>

Afghan IS group claims sticky bomb attacks in western Kabul

<https://apnews.com/article/islamic-state-group-kabul-race-and-ethnicity-8a084cd6115da37f03e259cf-5d85440c>

Islamic State of West Africa Province (ISWAP) Razes Down Military Formation In Kwamdi Village, Borno State

<https://www.thenigerianvoice.com/news/299513/islamic-state-of-west-africa-province-iswap-razes-down-mi.html>

Iraq Finds Remains of 123 People in IS Mass Grave

<https://www.voanews.com/extremism-watch/iraq-finds-remains-123-people-mass-grave>

Children of Islamic State committed no crime. Why are they being punished?

<https://www.middleeasteye.net/opinion/syria-war-islamic-state-children-no-crime-why-punished>

Long legal battle awaits four Kerala women who joined ISIS

<https://www.theweek.in/news/india/2021/06/12/long-legal-battle-awaits-four-kerala-women-who-joined-isis.html>

TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

EU Rules on One-Hour Removal of Online Terrorist Content Enter into Force

Homeland Security Today: 8 June 2021

The European Union has adopted a new regulation that is designed to crack down on the dissemination of terrorist content online.

<https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/cybersecurity/eu-rules-on-one-hour-removal-of-online-terrorist-content-enter-into-force/>

Analysis: Ivory Coast witnesses surge in jihadist activity

Caleb Weiss – FDD’s Long War Journal: 16 June 2021

Since late March, northern Côte d’Ivoire, also known as Ivory Coast, has been subject to a substantial increase in jihadist attacks, including the country’s first known instances of improvised explosive devices. This trend proves a worrying development as jihadist violence in the Sahel, especially in Mali and Burkina Faso, continues to spread southward, threatening the littoral West African states.

<https://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2021/06/analysis-ivory-coast-witnesses-surge-in-jihadist-activity.php>

For more on this theme:

Can Hezbollah Survive Nasrallah?

<https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/can-hezbollah-survive-nasrallah-669872>

Will Benin be next to see Islamist attacks?

<https://africanarguments.org/2021/06/will-benin-be-next-to-see-islamist-attacks-2/>

Al Qaeda figure tied to kidnappings reported killed in Mali

<https://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2021/06/al-qaeda-figure-tied-to-kidnappings-reported-killed-in-mali.php>

‘US to keep pressure on IS, Al Qaeda in Afghanistan’

<https://www.theweekendleader.com/Headlines/61995/us-to-keep-pressure-on-is-al-qaeda-in-afghanistan.html>

Suicide bomber kills at least 15 at Somalia military site

<https://apnews.com/article/somalia-suicide-bomber-2d3c682a38bbb75eb1cd3dbc89f26810>

Nigeria’s Boko Haram confirms chief’s death, urges loyalty

<https://news.yahoo.com/nigerias-boko-haram-confirms-chiefs-195406263.html>

Boko Haram Recruited Spies, Weapon Smugglers With N5,000 — Zulum

<http://saharareporters.com/2021/06/12/boko-haram-recruited-spies-weapon-smugglers-n5000-%E2%80%94-zulum>

Nasrallah says Hezbollah ready to turn to Iran to solve Lebanon energy woes

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/mena/lebanon/nasrallah-says-hezbollah-ready-to-turn-to-iran-to-solve-lebanon-energy-woes-1.1238779>

RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

Countering Terrorist Narratives & Strategic Communications: Lessons Learned For Tackling Far-Right Terrorism

The Soufan Center: 17 June 2021

In addition to efforts to degrade ISIS and al-Qaida and deny them control over territory and resources, policymakers and practitioners turned to understanding the strategic communications of such groups and the narratives they used to successfully radicalize and mobilize supporters. Far-right terrorists are now doing the same.

<https://thesoufancenter.org/research/countering-terrorist-narratives-strategic-communications-lessons-learned-for-tackling-far-right-terrorism/>

For more on this theme:

Counter-radicalization effort challenged by technological development

<https://en.antaranews.com/news/176714/counter-radicalization-effort-challenged-by-technological-development>

Terrorism, radicalisation gravest threats facing world: Rajnath Singh

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/terrorism-radicalisation-gravest-threats-facing-world-rajnath-singh-7361419/>

We're intervening too late to stop child radicalization

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/06/11/intervening-late-stop-child-radicalisation/>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: PROXY FORCES AND PRIVATE MILITARY GROUPS

How Iraq's Al-Hashd Al-Shaabi turned into an Iranian foreign policy instrument

Paul Iddon – Arab News: 15 June 2021

For Iran, proxy attacks by Iraqi militias are a way for it “to pressure the U.S. over its (Iran’s) nuclear program and sanctions.”

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/1875936/middle-east>

For more on this theme:

Iraq's 'Hezbollah Brigades' Militia Digs Tunnels East of Raqqa, Sets Up New Camp

<https://english.aawsat.com/home/article/3030646/iraq%E2%80%99s-%E2%80%98hezbollah-brigades%E2%80%99-militia-digs-tunnels-east-raqqa-sets-new-camp>

'It was our children they killed'

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/06/15/africa/central-african-republic-russian-mercenaries-cmd-intl/index.html>

Macron pitches Biden on plan to get foreign fighters out of Libya

<https://www.politico.eu/article/emmanuel-macron-joe-biden-withdrawal-fighters-libya/>

Chinese Security Firms Spread along the African Belt and Road

<https://africacenter.org/spotlight/chinese-security-firms-spread-african-belt-road/>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: CYBER

The FBI and DOJ Compare Ransomware Attacks to Terrorism, Adopts Coordinated Approach

Alicia Hope – CPO Magazine: 14 June 2021

The U.S. Department of Justice elevated the priority of ransomware attacks, comparing them to terrorist attacks in the wake of the massive cyberattack on Colonial Pipeline.

<https://www.cpomagazine.com/cyber-security/the-fbi-and-doj-compare-ransomware-attacks-to-terrorism-adopts-coordinated-approach/>

For more on this theme:

Fiona Hill says Russia's hackers 'already declared war' on the US and want to prove they're a 'major cyber force'

<https://www.businessinsider.com/fiona-hill-russia-already-declared-war-us-in-information-sphere-2021-6>

Ransomware's suspected Russian roots point to a long detente between the Kremlin and hackers

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/russia-ransomware-cyber-crime/2021/06/11/e159e486-c88f-11eb-8708-64991f2acf28_story.html

U.K. Cyber Chief Warns of Increasing Threat of Ransomware and State Espionage

<https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/cybersecurity/u-k-cyber-chief-warns-of-increasing-threat-of-ransomware-and-state-espionage/>

Ransomware: Russia told to tackle cyber criminals operating from within its borders

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/ransomware-russia-told-to-tackle-cyber-criminals-operating-from-within-its-borders/>

Critical entities targeted in suspected Chinese cyber spying

<https://apnews.com/article/government-and-politics-hacking-technology-business-7350235e07d46ba5afc1238b553ea4b9>

Increasing Nation-State Cyber Aggression Prompts Urgent Calls for Reinforcement

<https://www.meritalk.com/articles/increasing-nation-state-cyber-aggression-prompts-urgent-calls-for-reinforcement/>

Italy forms cybersecurity agency to counter Russian 'interference'

<https://www.wionews.com/world/italy-forms-cybersecurity-agency-to-counter-russian-interference-390826>

German intelligence warns of Iran's growing cyber attack capabilities

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/europe/german-intelligence-warns-of-iran-s-growing-cyber-attack-capabilities-1.1241981>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: INFORMATION WARFARE

Foreign Disinformation Feeds US Domestic Terrorism, Official Warns

Jeff Seldin – Voice of America: 17 June 2021

Newly unveiled efforts to combat a growing domestic terrorism threat in the United States will have to find a way to overcome a major obstacle: carefully crafted campaigns by foreign countries and terrorist groups to incite violence.

<https://www.voanews.com/usa/foreign-disinformation-feeds-us-domestic-terrorism-official-warns>

For more on this theme:

How recent disinformation campaigns tied to Russia, Pakistan blended fake engagement with real life

<https://www.cyberscoop.com/disinformation-russia-facebook-graphika-dfrlab/>

What is disinformation — and how can you fight it?

<https://www.dw.com/en/what-is-disinformation-and-how-can-you-fight-it/a-57865536>

Exclusive: Iran Steps up Efforts to Sow Discord Inside the U.S.

<https://time.com/6071615/iran-disinformation-united-states/>

Germany and France gear up to fight foreign interference ahead of elections

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/digital/news/germany-and-france-gear-up-to-fight-foreign-interference-ahead-of-elections/>

DOD intelligence officials ‘revamp’ efforts to combat Russian and Chinese influence campaigns

<https://www.stripes.com/theaters/us/2021-06-11/DOD-intelligence-officials-%E2%80%99revamp%E2%80%9D-efforts-to-combat-Russian-and-Chinese-influence-campaigns-1677554.html>

Shifting Focus, NATO Views China as a Global Security Challenge

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/06/14/world/europe/biden-nato-china-russia.html>

NATO Sees No Return To ‘Business As Usual’ With Russia

<https://www.rferl.org/a/nato-russia-relations/31307254.html>