

THE MARSHALL CENTER

# transnational weekly



A CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICE FROM THE MARSHALL CENTER

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## COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

### CORRUPTION

#### **World Whistleblowers Day 2021: Speaking Up Against Corruption is Crucial for a Just World, and We're Here to Help**

*Transparency International: 22 June 2021*

June 23 was World Whistleblower Day 2021, and Transparency International celebrated people courageous enough to come forward and report corruption, including several individual cases, and encouraged more people to reach out to its Advocacy and Legal Advice Centers around the world to report corruption in their countries.

<https://www.transparency.org/en/news/world-whistleblowers-day-2021-speaking-up-against-corruption-crucial-just-world-alacs-can-help#>

*For more on this theme:*

#### **Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelenskyy speeds up corruption crackdown, one oligarch at a time**

<https://www.euronews.com/2021/06/22/ukraine-s-volodymyr-zelenskyy-speeds-up-corruption-crackdown-one-oligarch-at-a-time>

#### **High-Profile Corruption Probe Tests Costa Rica's Justice System**

<https://insightcrime.org/news/corruption-probe-costa-rica-justice-system/>

#### **HRW: IMF Loan to Cameroon Should Be Contingent on Anti-Corruption**

<https://www.occpr.org/en/daily/14682-hrw-imf-loan-to-cameroon-should-be-contingent-on-anti-corruption>

#### **Fear of Powerful Politicians Causes 'Corruption That Slows the Economy,' Iraq's Oil Minister Says**

<https://www.newsweek.com/fear-powerful-politicians-causes-corruption-that-slows-economy-iraqs-oil-minister-says-1599980>

#### **Paraguay fights corruption in vaccination with transparency**

<https://www.explica.co/paraguay-fights-corruption-in-vaccination-with-transparency.html>

#### **Bulgarians look to Romania's Kövesi to fight high-level corruption**

<https://emerging-europe.com/news/bulgarians-look-to-romanias-kovesi-to-fight-high-level-corruption/>

#### **Former top police officer to be charged with corruption**

<https://timesofmalta.com/articles/view/former-top-police-officer-to-be-charged-with-corruption.878867>

#### **Potentially corrupt NSW government land purchase prompts inquiry into 20 similar deals**

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2021/jun/15/potentially-corrupt-nsw-government-land-purchase-prompts-inquiry-into-20-similar-deals>

#### **Iran's medicine shortages at its peak in 15 years due to corruption**

<https://irannewswire.org/irans-medicine-shortages-at-its-peak-in-15-years/>

## DRUG TRAFFICKING

### **Greek Captagon Bust Leads to a Criminal Gang and the Port at the Heart of Syria's Booming New Drug Trade**

*Ahmed Eid Ashour, Sameh Ellaboudy and Maher Shaeri – Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project; and Cecilia Anesi – Investigative Reporting Project Italy (IрпиMedia): 16 June 2021*

In December 2018, the Greek Coast Guard intercepted a Syrian ship loaded with cannabis and the drug Captagon off the coast of Crete. The investigation has led to a network of criminals with links to Syria's Assad family and evidence that the Syrian government is helping to fund its civil war through the drug trade.

<https://www.occrp.org/en/investigations/greek-captagon-bust-leads-to-a-criminal-gang-and-the-port-at-the-heart-of-syrias-booming-new-drug-trade>

### **European Drug Report 2021: Trends and Developments**

*European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA): 9 June 2021*

The EMCDDA released its newest data-packed report on drugs and drug trafficking in Europe, including how the COVID-10 pandemic has affected supply and use, which drugs are doing the most damage, and current trends in trafficking and production.

<https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/edr2021>

*For more on this theme:*

### **Cartel War or General Chaos: Behind the Killing Spree in Reynosa, Mexico**

<https://insightcrime.org/news/cartel-war-or-general-chaos-behind-the-killing-spree-in-reynosa-mexico/>

### **Report: Amidst Pandemic, Drug Dealers Moved Online**

<https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/14616-report-amidst-pandemic-drug-dealers-moved-online>

### **Mozambique Becoming Southern Africa's Cocaine Platform**

<https://insightcrime.org/news/mozambique-becoming-southern-africas-cocaine-platform/>

### **Banana growers from Magdalena, La Guajira and Cesar strengthen alliance with authorities to mitigate drug trafficking**

<https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9332331/banana-growers-from-magdalena-la-guajira-and-cesar-strengthen-alliance-with-authorities-to-mitigate-drug-trafficking/>

### **Patrick Gower's full interview with Mexico's Sinaloa Cartel on how they send meth to New Zealand**

<https://www.newshub.co.nz/home/new-zealand/2021/06/patrick-gower-s-full-interview-with-mexico-s-sinaloa-cartel-on-how-they-send-meth-to-new-zealand.html>

### **Methamphetamine use on the rise in Vietnam: UNODC**

<https://vietnamnet.vn/en/society/methamphetamine-use-on-the-rise-in-vietnam-unodc-745068.html>

### **Lebanon intercepts 250,000 Captagon pills hidden in water pumps bound for Saudi Arabia**

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/mena/lebanon-intercepts-250-000-captagon-pills-hidden-in-water-pumps-bound-for-saudi-arabia-1.1242081>

## TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

### **Illegal Fishing Is a Global Threat. Here's How to Combat It.**

*John C. Vann – Council on Foreign Relations: 4 June 2021*

Illegal and unregulated fishing is a global problem that devastates ecosystems, degrades food stocks and undermines fragile fishing economies. A coordinated effort among nations and international institutions is needed to combat the problem.

<https://www.cfr.org/article/illegal-fishing-global-threat-heres-how-combat-it>

### **What's the cost of illegal mining in Brazil's Amazon? A new tool calculates it**

*Shanna Hanbury – Mongabay: 11 June 2021*

The new calculator, introduced by the Federal Public Ministry and the Conservation Strategy Fund Brazil, uses data that includes environmental mitigation and health care costs to determine the damages caused by any particular case of illegal mining. This will save the government untold man-hours and allow the more effective prosecution of violators.

<https://news.mongabay.com/2021/06/whats-the-cost-of-illegal-mining-in-brazils-amazon-a-new-tool-calculates-it/>

*For more on this theme:*

### **Teaming up to Track Illegal Amazon Gold Mines in Peru**

<https://www.nasa.gov/feature/teaming-up-to-track-illegal-amazon-gold-mines-in-peru>

### **Rhino anti-poaching research goes nuclear**

[https://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2021-06/uotw-rar060721.php](https://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2021-06/uotw-rar060721.php)

### **US Southern Command Signs Partnership agreement with Global Fishing Watch**

<https://dialogo-americas.com/articles/us-southern-command-signs-partnership-agreement-with-global-fishing-watch/>

### **Study shows nearly 50,000 live animals on sale in China's Wuhan before COVID-19 began**

[https://www.zawya.com/mena/en/life/story/Study\\_shows\\_nearly\\_50000\\_live\\_animals\\_on\\_sale\\_in\\_China\\_Wuhan\\_before\\_COVID19\\_began-TR20210609nL2N2NR091X1/](https://www.zawya.com/mena/en/life/story/Study_shows_nearly_50000_live_animals_on_sale_in_China_Wuhan_before_COVID19_began-TR20210609nL2N2NR091X1/)

### **'Conservation litigation' tries to put a true price on wildlife crime**

<https://news.mongabay.com/2021/06/conservation-litigation-tries-to-put-a-true-price-on-wildlife-crime/>

### **The Illegal Sea Cucumber Trade in Kaukira, Honduras**

<https://insightcrime.org/investigations/the-illegal-sea-cucumber-trade-in-kaukira-honduras/>

### **Illegal logging in Philippines' Palawan stokes fears of a mining resurgence**

<https://news.mongabay.com/2021/06/illegal-logging-in-philippines-palawan-stokes-fears-of-a-mining-resurgence/>

### **Cuba Quietly Admits to Wildlife Trafficking Problem**

<https://insightcrime.org/news/cuba-quietly-admits-to-wildlife-trafficking-problem/>

### **Are zoos inadvertently complicit in wildlife trade? The case of a rare Borneo lizard**

[https://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2021-06/pp-azi061621.php](https://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2021-06/pp-azi061621.php)

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

### **Central America's Turbulent Northern Triangle**

*Amelia Cheatham – Council on Foreign Relations: 7 June 2021*

An analysis looks at the interrelated factors that create instability and help push migrants from the Northern Triangle countries of Central America toward the United States. Factors include environmental devastation from hurricanes, chronic violence and lack of economic opportunity.

<https://www.cfr.org/background/central-americas-turbulent-northern-triangle>

### **People Smugglers in Syria Take to TikTok**

*Laura Dihmis – Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP); and Mohammad Bassiki – Syrian Investigative Reporting for Accountability Journalism (SIRAJ): 23 June 2021*

Human smugglers in Syria are advertising their services on the social media app Tik Tok, promising trouble-free luxury travel from Damascus to Lebanon or even as far as Greece. The ads say that there will be no checkpoints or COVID-19 tests.

<https://www.occrp.org/en/37-ccb/ccb/14699-people-smugglers-in-syria-take-to-tiktok>

*For more on this theme:*

### **EU eyes billions in extra funds for Turkey migration deal**

<https://www.dw.com/en/eu-eyes-billions-in-extra-funds-for-turkey-migration-deal/a-58019261>

### **Greece: Pushbacks and violence against refugees and migrants are de facto border policy**

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2021/06/greece-pushbacks-and-violence-against-refugees-and-migrants-are-de-facto-border-policy/>

### **Frontex Failing to Protect People at EU Borders**

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/06/23/frontex-failing-protect-people-eu-borders#>

### **Vatican Diplomat on Human Trafficking: We Must Ensure that the Internet Promotes Human Dignity**

<https://www.ncregister.com/cna/vatican-diplomat-on-human-trafficking-we-must-ensure-that-the-internet-promotes-human-dignity>

### **Illegal Border Crossings Increase in Europe**

<https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/border-security/illegal-border-crossings-increase-in-europe/>

### **United States: Business And Human Rights – Analysing Modern Slavery Risks In Portfolio Companies: Practical Considerations For Investors**

<https://www.mondaq.com/unitedstates/corporate-governance/1078738/business-and-human-rights-analysing-modern-slavery-risks-in-portfolio-companies-practical-considerations-for-investors>

### **Most online recruitment in sex trafficking cases occurs on Facebook: analysis**

<https://thehill.com/policy/technology/technology/557757-most-online-recruitment-in-sex-trafficking-cases-occurred-on>

### **Europol: 630 Identified as Victims of Labor Exploitation**

<https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/14675-europol-630-identified-as-victims-of-labor-exploitation>

## PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

### INTERNET GOVERNANCE

#### **Taming the New Wild West**

*Richard Haass – Project Syndicate: 23 June 2021*

The increase in dangerous cyberattacks against key critical infrastructure and large corporations has started to move opinion in the United States toward a more regulated internet. Discussions begun by U.S. President Joe Biden and Russian President Vladimir Putin at their recent summit on setting boundaries could lead to an international pact.

<https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/biden-putin-meeting-cyber-security-will-depend-on-deterrence-by-richard-haass-2021-06>

*For more on this theme:*

#### **(Global) Online Freedoms: Safeguards Must Be Balanced With Free Expression**

<https://www.circleid.com/posts/20210616-online-freedoms-safeguards-must-be-balanced-with-free-expression/>

#### **(El Salvador) ANALYSIS: Crypto Critics Should Examine El Salvador Bitcoin Use**

<https://news.bloomberglaw.com/business-and-practice/analysis-crypto-critics-should-examine-el-salvador-bitcoin-use>

#### **(Nigeria) ‘Internet Connectivity Will Enable Digital Transformation, Education’**

<https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2021/06/17/internet-connectivity-will-enable-digital-transformation-education/>

### INTERNET FREEDOM

#### **UK government bid to censor the internet faces growing resistance**

*Scott Bicheno – telecoms.com: 23 June 2021*

The United Kingdom’s Online Safety Bill will place safety excessively ahead of freedom and encourage internet platforms to censor users even more than they already do, according to internet freedom advocates. They call the idea that Silicon Valley companies should police Britons’ online speech “Orwellian.”

<https://telecoms.com/510273/uk-government-bid-to-censor-the-internet-faces-growing-resistance/>

*For more on this theme:*

#### **(France) Cyberbullying trial tests French tools to fight online abuse**

<https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/cyberbullying-trial-tests-french-tools-fight-online-abuse-78422147>

#### **(Syria, Sudan) Syria and Sudan turn off the internet to suppress ... cheating by kids sitting exams**

[https://www.theregister.com/2021/06/23/syria\\_and\\_sudan\\_turn\\_off\\_internet/](https://www.theregister.com/2021/06/23/syria_and_sudan_turn_off_internet/)

## PRIVACY

### **How digital fingerprints affect our lives**

*Eminetra: 24 June 2021*

Our digital fingerprints leave behind huge amounts of personal information that can make us vulnerable. Regulation will help minimize the problem, but everyone who uses the internet should learn how to preserve a measure of anonymity and internet freedom.

<https://eminetra.com/how-digital-fingerprints-affect-our-lives/609154/>

*For more on this theme:*

### **(India) India's digital database for farmers stirs fears about privacy, exclusion**

<https://www.reuters.com/article/india-tech-farming/indias-digital-database-for-farmers-stirs-fears-about-privacy-exclusion-idUSL5N2NJ2NN>

### **(Philippines) Privacy commission boosts digital forensic capabilities**

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/06/24/privacy-commission-boosts-digital-forensic-capabilities/>

### **(Global) 6 Online Privacy Concerns in 2021 (and How to Defend Against Them)**

<https://techbullion.com/6-online-privacy-concerns-in-2021-and-how-to-defend-against-them/>

## SECURITY

### **Battling Chinese Big Tech encroachment in India**

*Gaurav Tyagi – Observer Research Foundation: 12 June 2021*

Chinese tech companies have a seemingly symbiotic relationship with the Chinese Communist Party and the state. They have helped developing nations acquire the latest technology and connect with the world, but at a cost. India has been a victim of Chinese espionage and data theft, and Chinese investment has become a threat to Indian security.

<https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/battling-chinese-big-tech-encroachment-in-india/>

*For more on this theme:*

### **(Australia) Australia Considers Mandating Ransom Payment Reporting**

<https://www.databreachtoday.com/australia-considers-mandating-ransom-payment-reporting-a-16926>

### **(EU) EU privacy watchdogs call for ban on facial recognition in public spaces**

<https://www.msn.com/en-gb/money/technology/eu-privacy-watchdogs-call-for-ban-on-facial-recognition-in-public-spaces/ar-AALh17b>

### **(Global) How Internet of Things Security Is Impacting Retailers**

<https://losspreventionmedia.com/how-internet-of-things-security-is-impacting-retailers/>

### **(Global) How to solve the cybersecurity workforce shortage**

<https://www.siliconrepublic.com/careers/how-to-solve-the-cybersecurity-workforce-shortage>

## CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

### **Experts Doubt Ethical AI Design Will Be Broadly Adopted as the Norm Within the Next Decade**

*Lee Rainie, Janna Anderson and Emily A. Vogels – Pew Research Center: 16 June 2021*

An international survey of tech experts and advocates by the Pew Research Center and Elon University found considerable concern over the lack of defined ethical standards in artificial intelligence (AI) development and worry that advances will be focused on profit and social control, but there is also optimism for advances in medicine and elsewhere that will make people's lives better.

<https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2021/06/16/experts-doubt-ethical-ai-design-will-be-broadly-adopted-as-the-norm-within-the-next-decade/>

*For more on this theme:*

#### **(U.S., Global) Can We Conceive of a New Internet?**

<https://news.columbia.edu/news/reimagine-internet-knight>

#### **(U.S., Global) Everyone Wants to Build a Cyber Range: Should You? Part 2**

<https://securityintelligence.com/posts/everyone-wants-cyber-range-part-2/>

#### **(Indonesia, Asia Pacific) Filling the gaps: Asia Pacific's cyber capacity building**

<https://www.thejakartapost.com/academia/2021/06/23/filling-the-gaps-asia-pacifics-cyber-capacity-building.html>

## CYBERCRIME

### **How Does One Get Hired by a Top Cybercrime Gang?**

*Brian Krebs – Krebs on Security: 15 June 2021*

This article analyzes how a 55-year-old web designer and mother of two came to work for the cybercrime group Trickbot, where she was deeply engaged in many aspects of ransomware attacks, and how her carelessness helped lead to her arrest.

<https://krebsonsecurity.com/2021/06/how-does-one-get-hired-by-a-top-cybercrime-gang/>

*For more on this theme:*

#### **(Global) Ransomware gangs shift efforts to most lucrative targets, report**

<https://www.computing.co.uk/news/4033381/ransomware-gangs-shift-efforts-most-lucrative-targets-report>

#### **(Global) Clop ransomware is back in business after recent arrests**

<https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/clop-ransomware-is-back-in-business-after-recent-arrests/>

#### **(U.S.) US Treasury Nominee: Preventing Crypto Money Laundering a Priority**

<https://beincrypto.com/us-treasury-nominee-preventing-crypto-money-laundering-priority/>

## PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

### ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

#### **Understanding the Meteoric Rise of the Islamic State in Mozambique**

*Michael Shurkin – Newlines Institute: 22 June 2021*

A recent attack on the northern Mozambican town of Palma by Ahl al-sunnah wa al Jamma'ah, a group affiliated with the Islamic State, has raised questions about its origins and rapid success in a part of the world few would associate with Islamist violence.

<https://newlinesinstitute.org/terrorism/understanding-the-meteoric-rise-of-the-islamic-state-in-mozambique/>

#### **Islamic State revives religious police in northeast Syria**

*Mohammed Hardan - Al-Monitor: 21 June 2021*

Hesba, the Islamic State's religious police, is back at work in the areas controlled by the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) in northeast Syria. The Hesba recently called on residents of Deir ez-Zor to shun engaging with the SDF and the U.S.-led international coalition and to resign from the local councils of the Kurdish-led Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria, threatening to kill anyone who violates their instructions.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/06/islamic-state-revives-religious-police-northeast-syria>

*For more on this theme:*

#### **UK's newest carrier with Marine Corps F-35s onboard joins Islamic State fight, stirs Russian interest**

<https://www.marinecorpstimes.com/news/your-navy/2021/06/21/uks-newest-carrier-with-marine-corps-f-35s-onboard-joins-is-fight-stirs-russian-interest/>

#### **UK stands firm in refusing to allow 'ISIS bride' to retain citizenship**

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/middle-east/2021/06/18/UK-stands-firm-in-refusing-to-allow-ISIS-bride-to-retain-citizenship>

#### **LNA Targets Terrorists in South Libya**

<https://english.aawsat.com/home/article/3037101/lna-targets-terrorists-south-libya>

#### **Iraqi ISIS leader sentenced to death**

<https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/308505>

#### **Operation Shader: What Hardware Has The UK Used Against IS?**

<https://www.forces.net/news/operation-shader-four-years-fighting-islamic-state-group>

#### **Former Australian citizen and ISIS bride Zehra Duman free in Turkey despite 7-year prison sentence**

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-06-11/zehra-duman-freed-from-prison-in-turkey/100066322>

#### **Iraqi ISIS-linked families returned from al-Hol want to go home**

<https://www.rudaw.net/english/middleeast/iraq/140620212>

## TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

### **Terrorists Attempted to Take Advantage of the Pandemic, Says Europol's New EU Terrorism Situation and Trend Report 2021**

*Europol: 22 June 2021*

Terrorists use any opportunity to erode democratic structures, spread fear and polarize society. In 2020, terrorist organizations attempted to take advantage of the global pandemic to spread hate propaganda and exacerbate mistrust in public institutions. The newly released "Terrorism Situation and Trend Report 2021" outlines the features, facts, figures and trends concerning terrorist attacks and arrests in the European Union in 2020.

<https://www.europol.europa.eu/newsroom/news/terrorists-attempted-to-take-advantage-of-pandemic-says-europol%E2%80%99s-new-eu-terrorism-situation-and-trend-report-2021>

### **Uzbek jihadis destroy antiquities in Idlib Museum**

*Khaled al-Khateb – Al-Monitor: 21 June 2021*

Uzbek jihadist affiliated with Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, which controls the northwestern Syrian province of Idlib, destroyed some antiquities such as statues in the Idlib Museum, claiming they were "false idols" that should not be displayed. A video showing the debris appears to have been filmed by one of the jihadists, who was speaking the language of Uzbekistan.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/06/uzbek-jihadis-destroy-antiquities-idlib-museum>

*For more on this theme:*

### **'Actors' destabilising Pakistan through terrorism: Dr Moeed**

<https://nation.com.pk/24-Jun-2021/actors-destabilising-pakistan-through-terrorism-dr-moeed>

### **Terrorism threat to Singapore remains high: report**

<https://en.vietnamplus.vn/terrorism-threat-to-singapore-remains-high-report/203529.vnp>

### **Sri Lanka pardons suspected Tamil Tigers convicted of terrorism**

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/6/24/sri-lanka-pardons-suspected-tamil-tigers-convicted-of-terrorism>

### **Taliban Reject Foreign Military Role in Guarding Kabul Airport After Troop Exit**

<https://www.voanews.com/south-central-asia/taliban-reject-foreign-military-role-guarding-kabul-airport-after-troop-exit>

### **Pashtun Clan Demands Protection From Taliban In Pakistan**

<https://gandhara.rferl.org/a/jani-khel-protest-taliban-pakistan/31307298.html>

### **Attorney General Merrick B. Garland Remarks: Domestic Terrorism Policy Address**

<https://www.justice.gov/opa/speech/attorney-general-merrick-b-garland-remarks-domestic-terrorism-policy-address>

### **Côte d'Ivoire inaugurates International Academy for Combating Terrorism**

<https://www.africanews.com/2021/06/10/cote-d-ivoire-inaugurates-international-academy-for-combating-terrorism/>

### **Rise in far-right extremists seen in Germany last year**

<https://ca.sports.yahoo.com/news/rise-far-extremists-seen-germany-100331537.html>

## RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

### **'Not like most action films': Facing the threat of prison radicalization**

*Interpol: 22 June 2021*

Officials from countries housing radicalized prisoners are being encouraged to leverage Interpol's blue and green notices in cases in which inmates might pose a threat when released. "Unlike most action films which end when the terrorist is caught, the threat posed by these individuals doesn't disappear once they are placed behind bars," said Greg Hinds, Interpol's counterterrorism director.

<https://www.interpol.int/en/News-and-Events/News/2021/Not-like-most-action-films-Facing-the-threat-of-prison-radicalization>

*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>

### **Dutch anti-terrorism agency dropped plan for secret anti-radicalization video campaign: report**

<https://nltimes.nl/2021/06/14/dutch-anti-terrorism-agency-dropped-plan-secret-anti-radicalization-video-campaign>

### **Ontario man who tried to join ISIS to be released on time served since arrest 18 months ago**

<https://globalnews.ca/news/7973526/ontario-man-join-isis-sentenced-time-served/>

## IRREGULAR WARFARE: PROXY FORCES AND PRIVATE MILITARY GROUPS

### **France slams Russian 'seizure of power' in CAfrica**

*DailyMail.com: 18 June 2021*

France has accused Russia of proceeding with a "seizure of power" in the Central African Republic, acknowledging that the CAR's cooperation with Russian mercenaries had prompted Paris to scale down its military support. France has suspended budgetary aid and military cooperation with the CAR, accusing its government of being complicit in an anti-French disinformation campaign backed by Russia.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-9700583/France-slams-Russian-seizure-power-CAfrica.html>

*For more on this theme:*

### **Ebrahim Raisi: Iran's proxy president**

<https://www.chathamhouse.org/2021/06/ebrahim-raisi-irans-proxy-president>

### **New arrests in Iraq point to ongoing struggle with militias and corruption**

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/mena/new-arrests-in-iraq-point-to-ongoing-struggle-with-militias-and-corruption-1.1239822>

### **China's maritime militia breaks rules and charts course for global dominance**

<https://news.yahoo.com/chinas-maritime-militia-breaks-rules-110000371.html>

## IRREGULAR WARFARE: INFORMATION WARFARE

### **Disinformation exports: How foreign anti-vaccine narratives reached West African communities online**

*Carlotta Dotto and Seb Cubbon – First Draft: 23 June 2021*

The use of sophisticated disinformation tactics is becoming more widespread, and artificial amplification techniques are regularly being used to spread disinformation in West Africa. Left unaddressed, they have the potential to disrupt vaccination efforts in the region.

<https://firstdraftnews.org/long-form-article/foreign-anti-vaccine-disinformation-reaches-west-africa/>

*For more on this theme:*

### **US takes down Iran-linked news sites, alleges disinformation**

<https://apnews.com/article/iran-middle-east-03e651ff86918c871d9e1baaa5e30e37>

### **Malign forces are using disinformation to undermine democracy in Scotland – Angus Robertson MSP**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/malign-forces-are-using-disinformation-to-undermine-democracy-in-scotland-angus-robertson-msp-3281034>

### **Iran: ‘Sabotage attack’ on civilian nuclear center thwarted**

<https://apnews.com/article/middle-east-iran-sabotage-business-media-995879deee39e4511fd756a6444d4f6c>

## IRREGULAR WARFARE: CYBER

### **EU pushes plans for Joint Cyber Unit in fight against increased cyber-attacks**

*John Leyden – The Daily Swig: 23 June 2021*

The European Union plans to stand up a new cyber unit in response to the threat posed by the rising tide of cyberattacks. The Joint Cyber Unit will allow countries to request assistance from each other and the European Union, including the possibility of calling in help from rapid response teams, according to draft plans for proposals submitted by the European Commission.

<https://portswigger.net/daily-swig/eu-pushes-plans-for-joint-cyber-unit-in-fight-against-increased-cyber-attacks>

Analysis:

### **The EU joint cybercrime unit is a positive step but faces significant hurdles**

<https://techmonitor.ai/technology/cybersecurity/eu-joint-cybercrime-unit>

For more on this theme:

### **Cyber Attacks Involving Huawei Devices in Canada Spiked after Meng Wanzhou Arrest**

<https://thetyee.ca/News/2021/06/24/Cyber-Attacks-Involving-Huawei-Devices-Spiked-After-Meng-Wanzhou/>

### **NATO Says Cyberattacks to Be Treated as Military Attacks**

<https://www.secureworldexpo.com/industry-news/nato-cyberattacks-military-attacks>