

THE MARSHALL CENTER

# transnational weekly



A CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICE FROM THE MARSHALL CENTER

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## COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

### CORRUPTION

#### **Hobbling Indonesia's anti-corruption body**

*Usman Hamid – The Interpreter: 29 June 2021*

The introduction of a so-called civics tests for investigators appears to be a thinly disguised attack on human rights.

<https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/hobbling-indonesia-s-anti-corruption-body>

#### **Will Honduras Win The Fight Against Corruption?**

*Nathaniel Parish Flannery – Forbes: 5 July 2021*

In 2020, Transparency International ranked Honduras among the world's most corrupt countries, 157 out of 180, slightly ahead of Iraq, Afghanistan and Venezuela, but far worse than Colombia, Panama and Mexico. Corruption, poor governance and violence continue to drive Hondurans to migrate. To get a sense of what's ahead in Honduras, Nina Lakhani, the author of "Who Killed Berta Cáceres?" answers some pressing questions.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/nathanielparishflannery/2021/07/05/can-honduras-fight-corruption/?sh=1416b461679b>

*For more on this theme:*

#### **Companies Linked To Uzbek Government Won Major COVID Construction Contracts**

<https://www.rferl.org/a/uzbek-corruption-covid-president/31330444.html>

#### **U.S. blacklists 55 Central American officials for corruption**

[https://www.upi.com/Top\\_News/US/2021/07/02/United-States-blacklists-Central-American-officials-ver-corruption/4161625203346/](https://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2021/07/02/United-States-blacklists-Central-American-officials-ver-corruption/4161625203346/)

#### **Boxer Pacquiao backs corruption claims with missing public funds allegation**

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/reuters/article-9752453/Boxer-Pacquiao-backs-corruption-claims-missing-public-funds-allegation.html>

#### **How blockchain can help dismantle corruption in government services**

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/07/blockchain-for-government-systems-anti-corruption/>

#### **Assessing the Threat of Weaponized Corruption**

<https://www.lawfareblog.com/assessing-threat-weaponized-corruption>

#### **'Accountability for all' policy: Corruption breeds poverty, undermines social and economic development, says NAB chairman**

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/859653-accountability-for-all-policy-corruption-breeds-poverty-undermines-social-and-economic-development-says-nab-chairman>

#### **Double harm when corruption meets discrimination**

<https://www.transparency.org/en/news/double-harm-corruption-discrimination-sdgs-leave-no-one-behind>

#### **Jacob Zuma, Former South African President, Is Arrested**

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/07/world/africa/jacob-zuma-arrested-south-africa.html>

## DRUG TRAFFICKING

### **Thriving Synthetic-Drug Trade Threatens Governance in SE Asia**

*Zachary Abuza – Radio Free Asia: 6 July 2021*

The COVID-19 pandemic has fueled the sales of illicit drugs, helping to develop new markets.

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/drug-07062021162444.html>

### **Lebanon's drug trade booms with help from Hezbollah's Captagon connection**

*Najia Houssari – Arab News: 7 July 2021*

Lebanese security forces say they have launched dozens of operations in recent months in search of laboratories manufacturing Captagon pills, while closely monitoring coastal and land borders with Syria to identify smuggling routes.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/1888981/middle-east>

### **How 'Narco-Highway' in Honduras Became National News**

*Santiago Previde – InSight Crime: 6 July 2021*

The future of a controversial highway in Honduras, thought to be a conduit for drug trafficking, is uncertain as the government and local associations remain at each other's throats.

<https://insightcrime.org/news/narco-highway-honduras-national-news/>

*For more on this theme:*

### **Tanzania, Kenya fingered as region's narcotics hub**

<https://allafrica.com/stories/202107020323.html>

### **From Brazil to Spain, how Algeria's port of Oran fits into the cocaine drug trade**

<https://www.theafricareport.com/105204/from-brazil-to-spain-how-algerias-port-of-oran-fits-into-the-cocaine-drug-trade/>

### **Afghan poppy trade zooms despite stranded fruit exports**

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=850069>

### **With rising human drug use, a collateral rise of dogs ingesting cannabis and opioids**

<https://theconversation.com/with-rising-human-drug-use-a-collateral-rise-of-dogs-ingesting-cannabis-and-opioids-162218>

## TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

### **Mekong Development Zones Facilitating Illicit Activities: Report**

*Sebastian Strangio – The Diplomat: 24 June 2021*

Economic development zones in mainland Southeast Asia have contributed to a range of illicit activities, including drug trafficking and wildlife trafficking, according to a new report from C4ADS, a U.S.-based research organization.

<https://thediplomat.com/2021/06/mekong-development-zones-facilitating-illicit-activities-report/>

### **Myanmar's warring military and rebels find common ground in corrupt jade trade**

*Andrew Nagemson and Kyaw Hsan Hlaing – Mongabay: 2 July 2021*

Global Witness, a nongovernmental organization, investigates how military leaders enriched themselves through jade mining and how the industry is intertwined with ethnic conflict.

<https://news.mongabay.com/2021/07/myanmars-warring-military-and-rebels-find-common-ground-in-corrupt-jade-trade/>

*For more on this theme:*

### **Report: Criminals in Central Africa Profit from New Surge in Gold Prices**

<https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/14747-report-criminals-in-central-africa-profit-from-new-surge-in-gold-prices>

### **First Ever 3D Printed Shark Fins Help Combat Illegal Wildlife Trade**

<https://www.3dnatives.com/en/3d-printed-shark-fins-combat-illegal-wildlife-trade-050720215/#!>

### **Strong evidence between wildlife trade and zoonotic disease risks, says study**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/strong-evidence-between-wildlife-trade-and-zoonotic-disease-risks-says-study/article35204260.ece>

### **A herd of elephants on its way from a zoo in Britain to the wilds of Kenya**

<https://us.blastingnews.com/lifestyle/2021/07/a-herd-of-elephants-on-its-way-from-a-zoo-in-britain-to-the-wilds-of-kenya-003342822.html>

### **This is how mass deforestation is wiping out species around the world**

<https://abcnews.go.com/US/mass-deforestation-wiping-species-world/story?id=78564880>

### **The other Amazon: Soybeans drive loss of S. America's second-largest forest**

<https://www.reuters.com/article/argentina-forests-deforestation-court-idUSL5N2052JB>

### **Honduran Court Finds Construction Executive Guilty in Activist's Murder**

<https://www.voanews.com/americas/honduran-court-finds-construction-executive-guilty-activists-murder>

### **Why the EU now needs a 'Green Prosecutor'**

<https://euobserver.com/opinion/152345>

### **North Macedonia park vote offers hope for lynx**

<https://news.yahoo.com/north-macedonia-park-vote-offers-161731482.html>

### **Uganda helps farmers grow trees for money in bid to reverse forest loss**

<https://news.trust.org/item/20210708044831-audzi/>

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

### **Human Traffickers Used Pandemic ‘To Grow Their Operations,’ Secretary Of State Says**

*Graison Dangor – Forbes: 1 July 2021*

The COVID-19 pandemic gave human traffickers more chances to prey on people, according to a U.S. State Department report released Thursday, which found that losing income, isolating to avoid the virus and doing more work or schooling online put people at greater risk of being recruited into forced and coerced labor.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/graisondangor/2021/07/01/human-traffickers-used-pandemic-to-grow-their-operations-secretary-of-state-says/?sh=85828fe94bf1>

Full report:

### **2021 Trafficking in Persons Report**

<https://www.state.gov/reports/2021-trafficking-in-persons-report/>

*For more on this theme:*

### **Forced labour main human trafficking crime in Malaysia, U.S. says**

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/forced-labour-main-human-trafficking-crime-malaysia-us-says-2021-07-02/>

### **Human Trafficking Gets a Powerful New Foe**

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/end-human-trafficking/202107/human-trafficking-gets-powerful-new-foe>

### **Human Rights Watch Submission to the Africa Regional Review on Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration**

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/07/06/human-rights-watch-submission-africa-regional-review-implementation-global-compact#>

### **Human traffickers ‘will target’ EU citizens who missed UK settlement deadline**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/crime/human-traffickers-will-target-eu-citizens-who-missed-uk-settlement-deadline-3294664>

### **Illegal Migrants, People Smugglers Face Tougher New Penalties in Britain**

<https://www.voanews.com/europe/illegal-migrants-people-smugglers-face-tougher-new-penalties-britain>

### **Leading fashion retailers face inquiry over suspected ties to forced labor in China**

<https://www.seattletimes.com/business/leading-fashion-retailers-face-inquiry-over-suspected-ties-to-forced-labor-in-china/>

### **Forced Labor Rising in Malaysia’s Rubber Glove Factories, Study Shows**

<https://www.voanews.com/east-asia-pacific/forced-labor-rising-malaysias-rubber-glove-factories-study-shows>

### **White House Announces Suspension of Imports of Certain Polysilicon Products Made with Forced Labor in Xinjiang**

[https://communications.bakerbotts.com/27/3900/june-2021/baker-botts-update--white-house-announces-suspension-of-imports-of-certain-polysilicon-products-made-with-forced-labor-in-xinjiang\(2\).asp](https://communications.bakerbotts.com/27/3900/june-2021/baker-botts-update--white-house-announces-suspension-of-imports-of-certain-polysilicon-products-made-with-forced-labor-in-xinjiang(2).asp)

## **PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)**

### INTERNET GOVERNANCE

#### **Why we need a global framework to regulate harm online**

*Cathy Li and Farah Lalani – World Economic Forum: 29 June 2021*

With more than 4.7 billion internet users globally, decisions about what content people should be able to create, see and share online had (and continues to have) significant implications. A new report by the World Economic Forum, “Advancing Digital Safety: A Framework to Align Global Action,” explores the fundamental issues that need to be addressed.

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/06/global-framework-regulate-harmful-online-content/>

*For more on this theme:*

#### **(Nigeria) Nigeria’s Twitter Ban Is a Bellwether Case for Internet Freedom**

<https://www.justsecurity.org/76950/nigerias-twitter-ban-is-a-bellwether-case-for-internet-freedom/>

#### **(Global) Global Democracies Need to Align to Fight Disinformation**

<https://www.wired.com/story/opinion-global-democracies-need-to-align-to-fight-disinformation/>

#### **(Global) Why Countries Need A National Artificial Intelligence Strategy**

<https://www.bntimes.com/politics/why-countries-need-a-national-artificial-intelligence-strategy>

### INTERNET FREEDOM

#### **Why internet freedom should be at the top of the global democracy agenda**

*Shames Abdelwahab and Mallory Knodel – Open Global Rights: 2 July 2021*

The internet freedom community is best placed to navigate the balance between cybersecurity and cyber sovereignty, but it needs support from democratic countries and corporations.

<https://www.openglobalrights.org/why-internet-freedom-should-be-at-the-top-of-the-global-democracy-agenda/>

*For more on this theme:*

#### **(U.K.) Why is media literacy prominent in the UK’s draft Online Safety Bill 2021?**

<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/medialse/2021/07/07/why-is-media-literacy-prominent-in-the-uks-draft-online-safety-bill-2021/>

#### **(Global) Ending Internet shutdowns: a path forward - Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association\* (A/HRC/47/24/Add.2)**

<https://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/47/24/Add.2>

#### **(Swaziland) Swaziland: Internet Shutdown in Eswatini Challenged in the High Court**

<https://allafrica.com/stories/202107050776.html>

## SECURITY

### **How U.S. cyber policy changed after SolarWinds**

*Will Croxton – CBS News: 4 July 2021*

U.S. President Joe Biden's administration imposed sanctions on Russia, ordered new cyber-security standards for federal contracts with software companies, and chose the nation's first national cyber director.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/solarwinds-60-minutes-2021-07-04/>

*For more on this theme:*

### **(Europe) Cyber security: Member states should cooperate with strategic partners**

<https://www.europeaninterest.eu/article/cyber-security-member-states-should-cooperate-with-strategic-partners/>

### **(Australia, India, U.S.) Aus Strengthens Cyber Security Partnership With Quad Partners India-US**

<https://ommcomnews.com/india-news/aus-strengthens-cyber-security-partnership-with-quad-partners-india-us>

### **(Europe) European Union Proposes a Joint Cyber Response Unit To Coordinate Reaction to Security Incidents**

<https://www.cpomagazine.com/cyber-security/european-union-proposes-a-joint-cyber-response-unit-to-coordinate-reaction-to-security-incidents/>

## PRIVACY

### **American Internet Giants Hit Back at Hong Kong Doxxing Law**

*Paul Mozur: The New York Times: 5 July 2021*

A trade group representing Google, Facebook, Amazon, Apple and others said changes to a Hong Kong privacy law could stop firms from providing services in the city.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/05/technology/hong-kong-doxxing-national-security-law.html>

*For more on this theme:*

### **(Hong Kong) Hong Kong Gets Its Great Firewall, One Brick at a Time**

<https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2021-07-06/with-doxxing-law-hong-kong-gets-its-great-firewall-one-brick-at-a-time>

### **(China, Global) China is cracking down on data privacy. That's terrible news for some of its biggest tech companies**

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/07/07/tech/china-didi-data-tech-crackdown-intl-hnk/index.html>

### **(The Netherlands) Dutch court will hear another Facebook privacy lawsuit**

<https://techcrunch.com/2021/07/02/dutch-court-will-hear-another-facebook-privacy-lawsuit/>

## CYBER STATECRAFT

### **The UK's Integrated Review And The Future Of Cyber – Analysis**

*Danny Steed – Elcano Royal Institute: 2 July 2021*

Cyber is a centrally crucial element to the United Kingdom's future vision of national security. The Integrated Review considers cyber as a core component of national power, rather than a mere security issue in and of itself.

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/02072021-the-uks-integrated-review-and-the-future-of-cyber-analysis/>

*For more on this theme:*

### **(Global) The West Should Not Be Complacent About China's Cyber Capabilities**

<https://carnegieendowment.org/2021/07/06/west-should-not-be-complacent-about-china-s-cyber-capabilities-pub-84884>

### **(India) Govt to unveil national cyber security strategy soon**

<https://www.freepressjournal.in/business/govt-to-unveil-national-cyber-security-strategy-soon>

### **(Thailand) Thailand's Digital Transformation Boosts Data Industry**

<https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2142475/thailands-digital-transformation-boosts-data-industry>

## CYBERATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

### **Swedish Coop supermarkets shut due to US ransomware cyber-attack**

*Joe Tidy – BBC: 4 July 2021*

Some 500 Coop supermarkets in Sweden have been forced to close because an ongoing “colossal” cyberattack is affecting organizations around the world.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-57707530>

*For more on this theme:*

### **(Global) Cybersecurity CEO: Hackers demanding \$70 million in global ransomware attack won't get that much**

<https://www.cNBC.com/2021/07/06/cybersecurity-ceo-hackers-wont-get-70-million-they-want-in-ransomware-attack.html>

### **(Australia) NSW Department of Education suffers cyber security attack**

<https://www.arnnet.com.au/article/689652/nsw-department-education-suffers-cyber-security-attack/>

### **(Afghanistan, China) Hackers breach Afghan government in China-related espionage campaign, cybersecurity firm finds**

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2021/jul/1/hackers-breach-afghan-government-in-china-related-/>

## PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

### ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

#### **ISIS targets electricity lines in Iraq to spread mayhem**

*Seth J. Frantzman – The Jerusalem Post: 6 July 2021*

About 45 electricity towers in Iraq have been targeted by terrorists in recent days, although local reports say most have been repaired.

<https://www.jpost.com/international/isis-targets-electricity-lines-in-iraq-to-spread-mayhem-673004>

#### **How women of Isis in Syrian camps are marrying their way to freedom**

*Bethan McKernan, Vera Mironova and Emma Graham-Harrison – The Guardian: 2 July 2021*

Hundreds of al-Hawl camp detainees have been smuggled out using bribes received from husbands they met online.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jul/02/women-isis-syrian-camps-marrying-way-to-freedom>

*For more on this theme:*

#### **The International Criminal Court Must Seek Justice for ISIS Atrocities**

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/international-criminal-court-must-seek-justice-isis-atrocities-188830>

#### **Why the Next Islamic State ‘Territorial Caliphate’ Will Be in Africa**

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/opinions/2021/06/28/why-next-islamic-state-territorial-caliphate-will-be-africa.html>

#### **ISIS in Afghanistan Remains a ‘Serious Threat,’ Special Envoy Warns**

<https://www.airforcemag.com/isis-in-afghanistan-remains-a-serious-threat-special-envoy-warns/>

#### **13-year-old boy in Syrian camp for ‘Caliphate Cubs’ narrates how children were taught guns and Quran by ISIS, wants to go home in London**

<https://www.opindia.com/2021/07/boy-narrates-how-minors-were-taught-guns-and-quran-by-isis-in-syria/>

#### **Kazakh efforts to repatriate ISIL fighters should be replicated**

<https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2021/7/7/kazakh-efforts-to-repatriate-isis-fighters-should-be-replicated>

#### **Syria Kurds Seek Help in Rehabilitating ISIS-Linked Minors**

<https://english.aawsat.com/home/article/3059941/syria-kurds-seek-help-rehabilitating-isis-linked-minors>

#### **Daughters in Afghan jail, two women take separate routes**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/indian-daughters-islamic-state-afghanistan-jail-7390727/>

#### **Council of Europe Urges Members to Allow Citizens Who Joined ISIS in Syria to Return**

<https://english.aawsat.com/home/article/3059841/council-europe-urges-members-allow-citizens-who-joined-isis-syria-return>

## TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

### **Feature: Cabo Delgado could become Africa's next jihadist frontier**

*Justin Cronje – Defence Web: 2 July 2021*

Fears are mounting that Mozambique's Muslim-dominated province of Cabo Delgado could become the next frontier for prolonged jihadist rebellion on the African continent.

<https://www.defencweb.co.za/featured/feature-cabo-delgado-could-become-africas-next-jihadist-frontier/>

*For more on this theme:*

### **Jihadist outfit continues to tap Turkish banking system to raise funds for al-Qaeda, ISIS**

<https://nordicmonitor.com/2021/06/jihadist-outfit-continues-tapping-turkish-banking-system-to-raise-funds-for-al-qaeda-isis/>

### **Borderlands in West Africa are ungoverned: why this is bad for security**

<https://theconversation.com/borderlands-in-west-africa-are-ungoverned-why-this-is-bad-for-security-161453>

### **Africa File: Terrorism's rising cost in Africa**

<https://www.criticalthreats.org/briefs/africa-file/africa-file-terrorism%E2%80%99s-rising-cost-in-africa>

### **No End in Sight for Insecurity and Banditry in Northwestern Nigeria**

<https://jamestown.org/program/no-end-in-sight-for-insecurity-and-banditry-in-northwestern-nigeria/>

### **East African intelligence chiefs call for united front against terrorism**

<https://www.africanews.com/2021/07/07/east-african-intelligence-chiefs-call-for-a-united-front-against-terrorism/>

### **Terrorists becoming increasingly innovative in coronavirus-hit world: UN counter-terrorism chief**

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/783233/terrorists-becoming-increasingly-innovative-in-coronavirus-hit-world-un-counter-terrorism-chief/>

### **Time to Confront China's 'Counterterrorism' Claims in Xinjiang**

<https://thediplomat.com/2021/07/time-to-confront-chinas-counterterrorism-claims-in-xinjiang/>

### **Jihadist terrorism takes hold in Burkina Faso**

<https://marketresearchtelecast.com/jihadist-terrorism-takes-hold-in-burkina-faso/92908/>

### **How Hezbollah controls the economy in Lebanon**

<https://cyprus-mail.com/2021/07/06/hezbollah-controls-economy-lebanon/>

### **Iran's calculations bring Haniyeh, Nasrallah together**

<https://theArabweekly.com/irans-calculations-bring-haniyeh-nasrallah-together>

### **Hamas calls for Saudi Arabia to resume ties, release prisoners**

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20210705-hamas-calls-for-saudi-arabia-to-resume-release-prisoners/>

## IRREGULAR WARFARE: PROXY FORCES AND PRIVATE MILITARY GROUPS

### **Is Iran preparing a new series of attacks on US, Israel with proxies?**

*Seth J. Frantzman – The Jerusalem Post: 5 July 2021*

The U.S. has been concerned about this possibility for years: Pro-Iran attacks may spill over to Syria.

<https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/is-iran-preparing-a-new-series-of-attacks-on-us-israel-with-proxies-672886>

*For more on this theme:*

### **'Hezbollah' Brigades Threaten Surprise Attack against US Forces in Iraq**

<https://english.aawsat.com/home/article/3063151/%E2%80%98hezbollah%E2%80%99-brigades-threaten-surprise-attack-against-us-forces-iraq>

### **U.S.-Iran Violence Poised to Escalate After New Strikes on American Bases in Iraq**

<https://www.usnews.com/news/world-report/articles/2021-07-07/us-iran-violence-poised-to-escalate-after-new-strikes-on-american-bases-in-iraq>

### **Iran's proxies are a threat to peace in Middle East**

<https://www.sundayguardianlive.com/world/irans-proxies-threat-peace-middle-east>

### **Putin's mercenaries take his war with the West to Africa**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/putins-mercenaries-take-his-war-with-the-west-to-africa-lmw7j6dst>

### **Russia Increases its Presence in the Central African Republic Amid UN Outcry**

<https://sofrep.com/news/russia-increases-its-presence-in-the-central-african-republic-amid-un-outcry/>

### **Leaders Committed to Transparency With African Partners**

<https://www.defense.gov/Explore/News/Article/Article/2679003/leaders-committed-to-transparency-with-african-partners/>

### **Why private foreign security companies are booming in Africa**

<https://www.dw.com/en/why-private-foreign-security-companies-are-booming-in-africa/a-58134009>