

THE MARSHALL CENTER

# transnational weekly



A CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICE FROM THE MARSHALL CENTER

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## COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

### CORRUPTION

#### **Hong Kong Popstar, Former Lawmaker Charged With ‘Corruption’ Over Campaign Rally Gig** *Cheng Yut Yiu and Gigi Lee – Radio Free Asia: 2 August 2021*

Hong Kong’s anti-corruption watchdog charged a singer and prominent pro-democracy activist Anthony Wong with “corrupt conduct” at a 2018 election rally, the latest legal action against dissent by authorities in the Chinese-ruled city.

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/rally-08022021092111.html>

#### **Guatemala appoints controversial new anti-corruption prosecutor**

*Al Jazeera: 3 August 2021*

Guatemala’s attorney general, under fire for sacking the country’s top anti-corruption prosecutor last month, has appointed a controversial new figure to take up the post. The move comes after the firing of the former prosecutor spurred mass protests and international criticism.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/8/3/guatemala-appoints-controversial-figure-to-tackle-corruption>

*For more on this theme:*

#### **“Grand corruption”: Dutch panel rules against dos Santos**

<https://globalarbitrationreview.com/grand-corruption-dutch-panel-rules-against-dos-santos>

#### **Furloughed port and airport workers ‘at risk of corruption’ by organised crime gangs**

<https://inews.co.uk/news/uk/port-airport-corruption-furlough-organised-crime-1121739>

#### **(Fight against) High level corruption in Montenegro**

<https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2021/07/23/fight-against-high-level-corruption-in-montenegro/>

#### **Collective action is key to fighting corruption in Lebanon, experts say**

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/1901341/middle-east>

#### **Fighting corruption in Afghanistan: stepping up integrity, transparency and accountability – UN Report**

<https://unama.unmissions.org/fighting-corruption-afghanistan-stepping-integrity-transparency-and-accountability-un-report>

#### **Former head of Algeria’s Sonatrach to face trial over corruption**

<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/former-head-algerias-sonatrach-face-trial-over-corruption-2021-08-04/>

#### **Analysts, Activists Demand Action to End Lebanon’s Rampant Corruption**

<https://www.voanews.com/middle-east/analysts-activists-demand-action-end-lebanons-rampant-corruption>

#### **Mexico referendum on investigating ex-presidents for corruption draws few voters**

<https://www.france24.com/en/americas/20210802-mexico-referendum-on-investigating-ex-presidents-for-corruption-draws-few-voters>

## DRUG TRAFFICKING

### **Germany: Drugs gangs grow more brutal and unscrupulous**

*Deutsche Welle: 27 July 2021*

The killing of a top journalist in the Netherlands shows that drug gangs are increasingly likely to use violence, a new German report shows. It also highlighted increased trafficking of new psycho-active substances.

<https://www.dw.com/en/germany-drugs-gangs-grow-more-brutal-and-unscrupulous/a-58658935>

### **Fishing Cooperatives Used to Mask Drug Shipments into Mexico**

*Scott Mistler-Ferguson – InSight Crime: 28 July 2021*

Mexico's largest criminal groups are outsourcing the retrieval of cocaine shipments to smaller groups posing as fishing cooperatives. It provided another example of how maritime infrastructure is subverted by the drug trade.

<https://insightcrime.org/news/fishing-cooperatives-drug-shipments-mexico/>

*For more on this theme:*

### **Warring drug cartel factions in north Mexico announce truce**

<https://apnews.com/article/mexico-drug-cartels-683ca74f2f4c577d6954894632201482>

### **India's illicit drug trade is being fuelled by prescription drugs and controlled chemicals**

<https://scroll.in/article/1000811/indias-illicit-drug-trade-is-being-fuelled-by-prescription-drugs-and-controlled-chemicals>

### **Narco Drones Got Caught Delivering Drugs to a Prison in Chile**

<https://www.vice.com/en/article/y3dxqv/narco-drones-got-caught-delivering-drugs-to-a-prison-in-chile>

### **Maldives among top destinations of drug cargoes from Pakistan**

<https://raajje.mv/103687>

### **Fentanyl Is Wreaking Havoc in Tijuana. Is the Rest of Mexico Next?**

<https://www.vice.com/en/article/v7exv/fentanyl-is-wreaking-havoc-in-tijuana-is-the-rest-of-mexico-next>

### **A Blend of Family and Politics in Guatemala's Cocaine Trade**

<https://insightcrime.org/news/family-politics-guatemala-cocaine-trade/>

### **This Woman Ran Her Own Mexican Drug Cartel — and It Ended Very Badly**

<https://www.vice.com/en/article/y3deg7/this-woman-ran-her-own-mexican-drug-cartel-and-it-ended-very-badly>

### **Amphetamine Seizures Highlight the Role of Syria in Trafficking**

<https://www.voanews.com/middle-east/amphetamine-seizures-highlight-role-syria-trafficking>

### **Hezbollah in Africa: Forgotten link in cocaine trafficking to Antwerp, Rotterdam**

<https://www.premiumpages.com/news/headlines/476718-hezbollah-in-africa-forgotten-link-in-cocaine-trafficking-to-antwerp-rotterdam.html>

## TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

### **Helping the maritime industry spot wildlife crimes**

*Frankie Youd – Ship Technology: 29 July 2021*

The wildlife trafficking industry is taking advantage of the weaknesses in maritime supply chains to illegally smuggle animals, plants and products. With estimates that 72% to 90% of wildlife products are trafficked by sea, new guidelines aim to assist the industry with this issue.

<https://www.ship-technology.com/features/helping-the-maritime-industry-spot-wildlife-crimes/>

### **Indonesia must act on illegal gold mining or fall for fool's gold**

*Muhammad Beni Saputra – East Asia Forum: 29 July 2021*

Indonesia's illegal gold mining problems reveal deeper issues with local corruption and economic inequality. In Sumatra, gold miners have complained about inconsistencies in tough security measures to eradicate mining. While there was a harsh crackdown on individual miners – with some ending up in jail – most oligarchs behind the lucrative business remain untouched.

<https://www.eastasiaforum.org/2021/07/29/indonesia-must-act-on-illegal-gold-mining-or-fall-for-fools-gold/>

*For more on this theme:*

### **EU sanctions no 'silver bullet' against Myanmar's illegal timber trade, experts say**

<https://news.mongabay.com/2021/07/eu-sanctions-no-silver-bullet-against-myanmars-illegal-timber-trade-experts-say/>

### **Illegal deforestation intensifies along Brazilian highway as agribusiness hopes swell**

<https://news.mongabay.com/2021/07/illegal-deforestation-intensifies-along-brazilian-highway-as-agri-business-hopes-swell/>

### **Better logging regulations 'last best hope' for Solomon Islands, study says**

<https://news.mongabay.com/2021/07/better-logging-regulations-last-best-hope-for-solomon-islands-study-says/>

### **New warning system to sound alarm on rainforest 'tipping points'**

<https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-climate-change-forests-trfn-idUSKBN2ET1ZA>

### **'Unseen Empire' turns a huge wildlife camera trap study into a game**

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/07/26/world/unseen-empire-camera-trap-game-spc-intl/index.html>

### **Indonesia must act on illegal gold mining or fall for fool's gold**

<https://www.eastasiaforum.org/2021/07/29/indonesia-must-act-on-illegal-gold-mining-or-fall-for-fools-gold/>

### **DOD Announces AI Competition to Detect, Defeat Illegal Fishing**

<https://www.defense.gov/Explore/News/Article/Article/2703739/dod-announces-ai-competition-to-detect-defeat-illegal-fishing/>

### **Inside an Illegal Hunt for the Endangered Pangolin: 'They're Being Wiped Out'**

<https://www.vice.com/en/article/wx5bz5/inside-an-illegal-hunt-for-the-endangered-pangolin-theyre-being-wiped-out>

## PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

### INTERNET GOVERNANCE

#### **Removing the risks from a decentralised internet**

*Julie Inman Grant – The Strategist: 30 July 2021*

Increasingly, people worry about the concentration of power in the digital environment and the control that large companies exercise over users' data and experiences online. The Australian government has opted to regulate "big tech" for a range of online harms. But more broadly, this concern has led to calls to "re-decentralise" the internet, harking back to the early days of the web before these companies, which now serve as gatekeepers to the internet, existed.

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/removing-the-risks-from-a-decentralised-internet/>

*For more on this theme:*

#### **(Global) Fight for control threatens to destabilize and fragment the internet**

<https://theconversation.com/fight-for-control-threatens-to-destabilize-and-fragment-the-internet-162914>

#### **(Africa) UNESCO to Host Regional Stakeholders Forum on Internet Governance Policy**

<http://www.businessghana.com/site/news/business/242815/UNESCO-to-Host-Regional-Stakeholders-Forum-on-Internet-Governance-Policy>

#### **(Global) Zuckerberg wants Facebook to become online 'metaverse'**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-57942909>

### INTERNET FREEDOM

#### **Iranians Fear Turning Into Another 'North Korea' If Draconian Internet Censorship Bill Passes**

*Golnaz Esfandiari – Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty: 1 August 2021*

Iranians are warning of public anger and drawing parallels with the world's most oppressive regimes as legislation makes its way through the country's parliament that could intensify online censorship and further restrict internet access.

<https://www.rferl.org/a/iran-online-censorship/31388203.html>

*For more on this theme:*

#### **(Cuba, U.S.) Cuba Needs a Free Internet**

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/07/29/cuba-free-internet-protests-censorship/>

#### **(Thailand) Thai media restrictions raise freedom of expression concerns**

<https://apnews.com/article/business-health-media-coronavirus-pandemic-ebbe28f11fb5a2f-12b6663522a148765>

#### **(Russia) Russia: Raid on investigative journalist raises concerns about press freedom**

<https://www.dw.com/en/russia-raid-on-investigative-journalist-raises-concerns-about-press-freedom/a-58709325>

## SECURITY

### **White House cyber chief backs new federal bureau to track threats**

*Maggie Miller – The Hill: 2 August 2021*

United States National Cyber Director Chris Inglis made the case for establishing an office within the Department of Homeland Security to track and analyze cybersecurity incidents to ensure the nation has an early warning system to understand adversary efforts to target U.S. organizations.

<https://thehill.com/policy/cybersecurity/566007-white-house-cyber-chief-backs-new-federal-bureau-to-track-cyber-threats?rl=1>

*For more on this theme:*

### **(China) China Orders 25 Tech Giants to Fix Raft of Problems**

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-07-30/china-orders-tech-giants-to-boost-data-security-protections>

### **(South Korea) S. Korea to step up support to fight ransomware attacks**

<http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20210805000742>

### **(Global) For hackers, space is the final frontier**

<https://www.vox.com/recode/22598437/spacex-hackers-cyberattack-space-force>

### **(Global) Has the costs of cybersecurity breaches exploded since the pandemic?**

<https://techhq.com/2021/07/has-the-costs-of-cybersecurity-breaches-exploded-since-the-pandemic/>

## PRIVACY

### **Amazon fined \$887 million for GDPR privacy violations**

*Jonathan Greig – ZDNet: 30 July 2021*

Amazon announced that it has been fined \$887 million for violating the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation rules on how to process personal data.

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/amazon-fined-887-million-for-gdpr-privacy-violations/>

*For more on this theme:*

### **(India) How Personal Data Protection Bill treats privacy of children's data and age of consent**

<https://theprint.in/theprint-valuead-initiative/how-personal-data-protection-bill-treats-privacy-of-childrens-data-and-age-of-consent/697611/>

### **(U.S.) What in-house counsel need to know about "reasonable" data security measures**

<https://www.reuters.com/legal/legalindustry/what-in-house-counsel-need-know-about-reasonable-data-security-measures-2021-08-03/>

## CYBER EXERCISES AND TRAINING

### **A Cold War is raging in cyberspace. Here's how countries are preparing their defenses**

*Michiel van Blommestein – ZDNet: 2 August 2021*

Much like conventional militaries, countries also need to perform occasional drills of their cybersecurity defenses. Instead of soldiers and tanks, these involve virtual machines – and months of pestering executives for their login credentials.

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/a-cold-war-is-raging-in-cyberspace-heres-how-countries-are-preparing-their-defenses/>

*For more on this theme:*

### **(U.S., France) US, France partner for bilateral training exercise, Cyber Fort III**

<https://www.cybercom.mil/Media/News/Article/2714684/us-france-partner-for-bilateral-training-exercise-cyber-fort-iii/>

### **(U.S.) US Cyber Games and TikTok turn cybersecurity into an esports**

<https://venturebeat.com/2021/08/02/us-cyber-games-and-tiktok-make-an-esport-out-of-cybersecurity/>

### **(India) Table-top war-gaming exercise held to fine-tune model of integrated theatre commands**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/table-top-war-gaming-exercise-held-to-fine-tune-model-of-integrated-theatre-commands/article35667327.ece>

## CYBERCRIME

### **Criminals exploited Microsoft Exchange after China ‘propped open the door’, intelligence agency says**

*Matthew Doran – ABC News: 29 July 2021*

China's actions in the massive Microsoft Exchange email server hack were akin to someone propping open the doors of people's homes for criminals to enter, the head of Australia's cyber warfare agency has said.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-07-29/china-microsoft-exchange-hack-criminals-weakness-propped-open/100335008>

*For more on this theme:*

### **(Global) How cyber criminals have latched on to online business tools**

<https://technical.ly/dc/2021/08/02/lior-kohavi-cybersecurity/>

### **(U.S.) CISA Launches Platform, Joint Effort to Fight Ransomware**

<https://governmentciomedia.com/cisa-launches-platform-joint-effort-fight-ransomware>

### **(Ghana) Empower the youth to fight cyber crime - Security expert to gov't**

<https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/Empower-the-youth-to-fight-cyber-crime-Security-expert-to-gov-t-1324984>

## CYBERATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

### **Hackers block Italian Covid-19 vaccination booking system in ‘most serious cyberattack ever’**

*Livia Borghese and Sharon Braithwaite – CNN: 2 August 2021*

The government of Lazio, Italy, took to Facebook early this month to notify residents of a “powerful” cyberattack on the information technology systems. Officials said the region’s databases and all systems were disabled, including the Salute Lazio portal and the system that manages COVID-19 vaccine bookings.

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/08/02/business/italy-hackers-covid-vaccine-intl/index.html>

*For more on this theme:*

### **(Global) US, UK and Australia issue joint cybersecurity advisory on top targeted vulnerabilities**

<https://www.securitymagazine.com/articles/95736-us-uk-and-australia-issue-joint-cybersecurity-advisory-on-top-targeted-vulnerabilities>

### **(South Africa) Cyber attacks expose the vulnerability of South Africa’s ports**

<https://issafrica.org/iss-today/cyber-attacks-expose-the-vulnerability-of-south-africas-ports>

### **(South Africa) ‘Death Kitty’ Ransomware Linked to South African Port Attack**

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-07-29/-death-kitty-ransomware-linked-to-attack-on-south-african-ports>

## PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

### **Home Affairs asks for a rush on Critical Infrastructure Bill to allow ASD to act lawfully**

*Asha Barbaschow – ZDNet: 29 July 2021*

The Critical Infrastructure bill is urgently required, the Australian Department of Home Affairs has argued, noting that the rules governing the individual designated sectors could be worked out later by the responsible minister.

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/home-affairs-asks-for-a-rush-on-critical-infrastructure-bill-to-allow-asd-to-act-lawfully/>

*For more on this theme:*

### **(Iran) Hackers used never-before-seen wiper in recent attack on Iranian train system**

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/hackers-used-never-before-seen-wiper-in-recent-attack-on-iranian-train-system-report/>

### **(U.S.) Critical infrastructure cyber defense legislation introduced in U.S. Senate**

<https://homelandprepnews.com/stories/71897-critical-infrastructure-cyber-defense-legislation-introduced-in-u-s-senate/>

### **(U.S.) Coast Guard looks to plug digital holes in maritime infrastructure under new cyber outlook**

<https://federalnewsnetwork.com/cybersecurity/2021/08/coast-guard-looks-to-plug-digital-holes-in-maritime-infrastructure-under-new-cyber-outlook/>

## PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

### ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

#### **Islamic State unit recruiting Taliban fighters who rejected peace deal: Report**

*Shankhyaneel Sarkar – Hindustan Times: 24 July 2021*

A report by the United Nations Security Council claimed that the leaders of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant-Khorasan are trying to recruit Taliban fighters who have rejected the U.S. and Afghan-Taliban peace deal.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/islamic-state-unit-recruiting-taliban-fighters-who-rejected-peace-deal-report-101627130142479.html>

#### **Britain cannot remove Isis members' citizenship without telling them, High Court rules**

*Lizzie Dearden – Independent: 31 July 2021*

The government can no longer strip suspected ISIS members of their British citizenship without telling them, the High Court has ruled. The power has become a major part of the United Kingdom's efforts to prevent jihadis returning from Syria by depriving them of travel documents and any right to assistance or repatriation.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/isis-syria-british-citizenship-be-gum-d4-b1894038.html>

*For more on this theme:*

#### **New Zealand to accept return of woman linked to ISIL (ISIS)**

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/7/26/new-zealand-to-accept-woman-linked-to-islamic-state>

#### **Russia beefs up Tajik base, warns of ISIS fighters in Afghanistan**

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/russia-says-isis-fighters-moving-into-afghanistan-several-countries-ifax-2021-07-28/>

#### **Canine 'super-detectors': the dogs working to free Iraq from Isis mines**

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2021/jul/26/how-super-detector-dogs-are-helping-free-iraq-from-the-terror-of-isis-mines>

#### **KRG working to formally recognize ISIS crimes: spokesperson**

<https://www.rudaw.net/english/kurdistan/260720212>

#### **ISWAP takes aim at the state in Cameroon**

<https://issafrica.org/iss-today/iswap-takes-aim-at-the-state-in-cameroon>

#### **The Role of the Islamic State in the Assad Regime's Strategy for Survival**

<https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/role-islamic-state-assad-regimes-strategy-survival>

#### **Bringing home Australian children trapped in Syrian camps**

<https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/bringing-home-australian-children-trapped-syrian-camps>

## TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

### **What the Boko Haram leader's death means for the war against terror**

*Jean-Loup Samaan – The National: 4 August 2021*

West Africa will regain global attention if ISIS finds a way to recreate a state-like entity in the region.

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/opinion/comment/2021/08/04/what-the-boko-haram-leaders-death-means-for-the-war-against-terror/>

### **Cameroon Says Boko Haram Attacks Military, Seduces Civilians**

*Moki Edwin Kindzeka – Voice of America: 30 July 2021*

Officials in Cameroon say Boko Haram militants appear to be changing their tactics and attacking only military and government targets to try to attract more recruits.

<https://www.voanews.com/africa/cameroon-says-boko-haram-attacks-military-seduces-civilians>

*For more on this theme:*

### **Exclusive: Taliban Puts Tajik Militants Partially In Charge Of Afghanistan's Northern Border**

<https://www.rferl.org/a/taliban-tajik-militants-border/31380071.html>

### **As Taliban Expand Control, Concerns About Forced Marriage and Sex Slavery Rise**

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/07/23/afghanistan-taliban-women-gender/>

### **What the Review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Tells Us About How Far We Have Come Since 9/11**

<https://www.justsecurity.org/77580/what-the-review-of-the-un-global-counter-terrorism-strategy-tells-us-about-how-far-we-have-come-since-9-11/>

### **GAO Makes Recommendations to Improve Countering Violent Extremism Strategy, Data Governance**

<https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/counterterrorism/gao-makes-recommendations-to-improve-countering-violent-extremism-strategy-data-governance/>

### **The Base proscribed as a terrorist organisation in the UK**

<https://www.counterterrorism.police.uk/the-base-proscribed-as-a-terrorist-organisation-in-the-uk/>

### **Al Qaeda launches 1st public campaign in 4 years to encourage lone wolf terrorist attacks**

<https://abc7chicago.com/al-qaeda-terrorism-terrorist-attack-inspire-magazine/10918191/>

### **Burkina Faso sees more child soldiers as jihadi attacks rise**

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/burkina-faso-sees-more-child-soldiers-as-jihadi-attacks-rise/2021/08/01/cd2e8458-f297-11eb-81b2-9b7061a582d8\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/burkina-faso-sees-more-child-soldiers-as-jihadi-attacks-rise/2021/08/01/cd2e8458-f297-11eb-81b2-9b7061a582d8_story.html)

### **IntelBrief: The Evolution of the Global Jihadist Movement from a One-Headed Monster to a Hydra**

<https://thesoufancenter.org/intelbrief-2021-july-30/>

## IRREGULAR WARFARE: PROXY FORCES AND PRIVATE MILITARY GROUPS

### **Treat Iraq's Iran-aligned militias like ISIS**

*Ranj Alaaldin – Brookings: 30 July 2021*

Iraq is beset with crises. Shiite militia groups tied to Iran routinely assassinate civilians and activists, and use rockets and drones to attack U.S. personnel, Iraqi military forces and U.S.-aligned actors such as the Kurdistan Regional Government.

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2021/07/30/treat-iraqs-iran-aligned-militias-like-isis/>

*For more on this theme:*

### **The PMF, Iran, and Recent Drone Strikes**

<https://theowp.org/the-pmf-iran-and-recent-drone-strikes/>

### **Iran's Suspected Energy Terrorism: Persian Gulf Tanker Hijacking**

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/arielcohen/2021/08/03/iranian-proxies-accused-of-maritime-hijacking-in-strait-of-hormuz/?sh=468088b93a3e>

## IRREGULAR WARFARE: CYBER

### **Global industry united in concern about nation-state cyberattacks**

*Annalaura Galo – The Strategist: 4 August 2021*

Attacks on information and communications technology infrastructure are becoming more common, as demonstrated by the recent spike in ransomware attacks affecting supply chains and the integrity of core information infrastructure. But the most destabilizing trend is the surge in cyber operations carried out by nation states and groups sponsored by governments.

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/global-industry-united-in-concern-about-nation-state-cyberattacks/>

*For more on this theme:*

### **Leaked Documents Reveal Iran's Contingency Plans for Sinking Cargo Ships, Attacking Fuel Infrastructure With Cyber Attacks**

<https://www.cpomagazine.com/cyber-security/leaked-documents-reveal-irans-contingency-plans-for-sinking-cargo-ships-attacking-fuel-infrastructure-with-cyber-attacks/>