

THE MARSHALL CENTER

# transnational weekly



A CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICE FROM THE MARSHALL CENTER

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## COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

### CORRUPTION

#### **Documents Reveal Attempts to Curb Guatemala's Anti-Corruption Unit**

*Alex Papadovassilakis – InSight Crime: 5 August 2021*

Before the firing of Juan Francisco Sandoval, Guatemala's top anti-corruption prosecutor, Attorney General Consuelo Porras pressured him to curtail investigations while his unit probed accusations of corruption in Porras' office.

<https://insightcrime.org/news/documents-reveal-attempts-curb-guatemala-anti-corruption-unit/>

#### **Saudi Arabia Arrests Over 200 in Latest Corruption Crackdown**

*Lara Dihmis – Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project: 11 August 2021*

Saudi Arabia's anti-corruption authority has arrested over 200 people, including government employees, on suspicion of bribery and corruption, according to a statement released last week.

<https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/14987-saudi-arabia-arrests-over-200-in-latest-corruption-crackdown>

*For more on this theme:*

#### **U.S.-DRC Partner to Combat Corruption, Fight Impunity, and Improve Security**

<https://cd.usembassy.gov/us-drc-partner-to-combat-corruption-fight-impunity-and-improve-security-080321/>

#### **Nicaragua grants nationality to former Salvadoran president accused in corruption probe**

<https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/nicaragua-grants-nationality-former-salvadoran-president-accused-corruption-2021-07-30/>

#### **America's best defense against China's mushrooming international corruption is dangling by a thread**

<https://news.yahoo.com/americas-best-defense-against-chinas-120300324.html>

#### **Tunisian president accuses politicians of corruption, embezzlement**

<https://news.yahoo.com/tunisian-president-accuses-politicians-corruption-071156521.html>

#### **It's corruption, stupid: Take steps to counter graft, or risk sliding towards a failed state**

<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/opinionista/2021-08-01-its-corruption-stupid-take-steps-to-counter-graft-or-risk-sliding-towards-a-failed-state/>

#### **Study suggests reforms to prevent bribery and corruption at major sporting events**

<https://phys.org/news/2021-08-reforms-bribery-corruption-major-sporting.html>

#### **President's Assassination, Corruption, Gang Violence Accelerate Haiti's Downward Spiral**

<https://www.heritage.org/americas/commentary/presidents-assassination-corruption-gang-violence-accelerate-haitis-downward>

#### **Foreign officials and corrupt business people targeted under changes to Australia's sanctions powers**

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2021/aug/06/foreign-officials-and-corrupt-business-people-targeted-under-changes-to-australias-sanctions-powers>

## TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

### **Can 'know your customer' checks help bring an end to the illegal wildlife trade?**

*Max Graham – Independent: 7 August 2021*

Identifying those who engage in the illegal trafficking of wildlife is difficult, but pioneering the use of a transnational tracking system could help bring them to justice.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/stop-the-illegal-wildlife-trade/stop-the-illegal-wildlife-trade-know-your-customer-b1834488.html>

### **Indigenous Amazon Communities Fight Deforestation with New Early-Alert Tool**

*Annie Sneed – Scientific American: 9 August 2021*

A pilot program reveals that deforestation declined when Peruvian Indigenous communities used an early-alert-system app to detect forest loss.

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/indigenous-amazon-communities-fight-deforestation-with-new-early-alert-tool/>

*For more on this theme:*

### **In South Africa, Poachers Now Traffic in Tiny Succulent Plants**

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/31/world/africa/south-africa-poachers-tiny-succulent-plants.html>

### **Meet the man using dogs and drones to save wildlife in Costa Rica**

<https://www.euronews.com/green/2021/08/01/meet-the-man-using-dogs-and-drones-to-save-wildlife-in-costa-rica>

### **To Better Fight Illegal Fishing, Governments Advance Information Sharing and Capacity Development**

<https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2021/07/29/to-better-fight-illegal-fishing-governments-advance-information-sharing-and-capacity-development>

### **Can We Spot Illegal Fishing Fleets from Space?**

<https://www.defenseone.com/technology/2021/08/can-we-spot-illegal-fishing-fleets-space/184300/>

### **Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing in the Pacific**

<https://dialogo-americas.com/articles/illegal-unreported-and-unregulated-fishing-in-the-pacific/>

### **IUU Replacing Piracy as Top Global Maritime Security Threat**

<https://seapowermagazine.org/iuu-replacing-piracy-as-top-global-maritime-security-threat/>

### **Going dark: Fishing vessels are switching off their tracking systems to avoid detection**

<https://geographical.co.uk/nature/oceans/item/4109-going-dark-fishing-vessels-are-switching-off-their-tracking-systems-to-avoid-detection>

### **Nigerian Authorities Seize Pangolin Scales Destined for Export**

<https://www.voanews.com/africa/nigerian-authorities-seize-pangolin-scales-destined-export>

### **TRAFFIC to Help Africa Fight Against Illegal Wildlife Trade**

<https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/14966-traffic-to-help-africa-fight-against-illegal-wildlife-trade>

### **End wildlife trade to save the African Lion**

<https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/End-wildlife-trade-to-save-the-African-Lion-1329508>

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

### **Human trafficking: UN chief calls for action as COVID leaves 'many millions' more vulnerable**

*United Nations News: 29 July 2021*

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres urged states to act against human trafficking, where a third of all victims are children.

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/07/1096682>

*For more on this theme:*

### **Brazil: Federal Police Combats Human Trafficking in International Operation**

<https://dialogo-americas.com/articles/brazil-federal-police-combats-human-trafficking-in-international-operation/>

### **Council's project "Preventing and combating trafficking in human beings" supported local authorities to review Standard Operating Procedures for Trafficked Persons**

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/pristina/-/council-s-project-preventing-and-combating-trafficking-in-human-beings-supported-local-authorities-to-review-standard-operating-procedures-for-traffic>

### **EU summons Belarus envoy over 'instrumentalization' of migrants**

<https://www.dw.com/en/eu-summons-belarus-envoy-over-instrumentalization-of-migrants/a-58773302>

## MONEY LAUNDERING

### **Chinese Broker Laundered Latin American Drug Money Around the World**

*Katie Jones – InSight Crime: 10 August 2021*

A Chinese businessman laundered tens of millions of dollars in drug money through a Guatemalan casino, a U.S. seafood export company, Miami banks and Chinese bank accounts in a case that reveals the wide reach of such money laundering networks.

<https://insightcrime.org/news/chinese-money-laundering-networks-expand-profit-latin-america/>

*For more on this theme:*

### **Crypto Exchange BitMex To Pay \$100 Million To Settle Claims Of Illegal Trading And Anti-Money Laundering Violations**

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/jonathanponciano/2021/08/10/crypto-exchange-bitmex-to-pay-100-million-to-settle-claims-of-illegal-trading-and-anti-money-laundering-violations/?sh=34ac912f4dc2>

### **Third of finance firms accelerate use of artificial intelligence to detect money laundering**

<https://www.computerweekly.com/news/252505107/Third-of-finance-firms-accelerate-use-of-artificial-intelligence-to-detect-money-laundering>

### **How Syrian jihadi group is laundering money in Idlib**

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/08/how-syrian-jihadi-group-laundering-money-idlib>

### **Africa: new playground for crypto scams and money laundering**

<https://issafrica.org/iss-today/africa-new-playground-for-crypto-scams-and-money-laundering>

## PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

### INTERNET GOVERNANCE

#### **Govt launches India Internet Governance Forum**

*The Economic Times: 9 August 2021*

The India Internet Governance Forum will be made up of 12 members from across the government, civil society, industry and associations and will be led by Anil Kumar Jain, CEO of the National Internet Exchange of India.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/technology/govt-launches-india-internet-governance-forum/articleshow/85178723.cms>

*For more on this theme:*

#### **(Global) Dark Classrooms and Bright Minds: Internet Governance Education During a Pandemic**

<https://circleid.com/posts/20210802-minds-internet-governance-education-during-a-pandemic/>

#### **(Africa) West African stakeholders embrace universality of Internet**

<https://guardian.ng/technology/west-african-stakeholders-embrace-universality-of-internet/>

#### **(Global) Why we need new rules and tools for cryptocurrencies**

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/07/new-rules-tools-cryptocurrencies/>

### INTERNET FREEDOM

#### **Nigeria's Twitter ban is proving costlier than just a regular internet shutdown**

*Alexander Onukwue – Quartz: 6 August 2021*

Nigeria's shutdown of Twitter, which occurred June 5, has become a multimillion dollar economic headache for the country. It has impacted businesses of all sizes, from banks to startups, that use social media for activities such as customer service and dispute resolution.

<https://qz.com/africa/2043666/twitter-ban-has-cost-nigeria-over-360-million-in-two-months/>

*For more on this theme:*

#### **(Iran) Iran Aims to End Online Freedoms “for Good”**

<https://slate.com/technology/2021/08/iran-protection-bill-internet-censorship.html>

#### **(Turkmenistan) VPNs Are Not A-OK: Turkmen Internet Users Forced To Swear On Koran They Won't Use Them**

<https://www.rferl.org/a/turkmenistan-vpn-koran-ban/31402718.html>

#### **(Thailand) Internet freedom declines further in Thailand**

<https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2161563/internet-freedom-declines-further-in-thailand>

## SECURITY

### **MoD Boosts Cyber-Resilience with Ethical Hacker Project**

*Phil Muncaster – InfoSecurity: 4 August 2021*

The United Kingdom Ministry of Defence has just completed a 30-day bug-bounty challenge that opened its systems to probing by ethical hackers.

<https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/mod-ethical-hacker-project/>

*For more on this theme:*

### **(Global) Mitigating Future Cybersecurity Risks By Studying The Past**

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbestechcouncil/2021/07/29/mitigating-future-cybersecurity-risks-by-studying-the-past/?sh=54ed0f585156>

### **(U.S.) Majority of employees take cybersecurity shortcuts, despite knowing risks**

<https://www.securitymagazine.com/articles/95722-majority-of-employees-take-cybersecurity-shortcuts-despite-knowing-risks>

### **(U.S.) America enlists Big Tech to help it develop and execute cyber security plans**

[https://www.theregister.com/2021/08/06/cisa\\_convenes\\_joint\\_cyber\\_defense\\_collaborative/](https://www.theregister.com/2021/08/06/cisa_convenes_joint_cyber_defense_collaborative/)

## CYBER STATECRAFT

### **Japan's new cyber security strategy: Significant dimensions**

*SD Pradhan – The Times of India: 6 August 2021*

Japan issued the outline for its “Next Cyber Strategy.” The three-year plan was prepared during increasing cyberattacks from China and deteriorating relations with that country on the issue of Taiwan. Japan’s relations with Russia are also on the downslide, and Japan perceives that Russia was also responsible for cyberattacks on Japan’s critical infrastructures.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/ChanakyaCode/japans-new-cyber-security-strategy-significant-dimensions/>

*For more on this theme:*

### **(Russia) Russian international information security strategy: Change and continuity**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/ChanakyaCode/russian-international-information-security-strategy-change-and-continuity/>

### **(Pakistan) Cabinet approves National Cyber Security Policy**

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2312448/cabinet-approves-national-cyber-security-policy>

### **(China) China's new software policy weaponizes cybersecurity research**

<https://thehill.com/opinion/cybersecurity/564318-chinas-new-software-policy-weaponizes-cybersecurity-research?r=1>

## CYBERCRIME

### **Researchers turn the spotlight on the hidden workers of the cybercrime world**

*Danny Palmer – ZDNet: 5 August 2021*

Phishing schemes, malware campaigns and other operations involve an array of workers beyond the criminal masterminds. Could giving them better opportunities for legitimate work help cut crime?

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/researchers-turn-the-spotlight-on-the-hidden-workers-of-the-cybercrime-world/>

*For more on this theme:*

### **(Global) Cyber criminals leak one million credit cards on the dark web**

<https://www.itpro.co.uk/security/cyber-crime/360534/cyber-criminals-leak-one-million-credit-cards-on-the-dark-web>

### **(Global) Cybercrime Costs Victims \$318 bn Annually**

<https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/cybercrime-victims-318-billion/>

### **(Global) Nation state cybercrime is a bigger threat than you might think**

<https://www.idgconnect.com/article/3627338/nation-state-cybercrime-is-a-bigger-threat-than-you-might-think.html>

## CYBERATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

### **Italy Probes Cyber Attack as an Act of Terrorism**

*David Klein – Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project: 5 August 2021*

Experts restored the website that handles the services of Italy's Lazio region after cybercriminals forced the administration to shut it down. Italy's news agency ANSA said that the FBI and Europol are involved in the investigation into the attack that came from abroad and that the attack is being investigated as an act of terrorism and as a cybercrime.

<https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/14967-italy-probes-cyber-attack-as-an-act-of-terrorism>

*For more on this theme:*

### **(Global) HTML smuggling is the latest cybercrime tactic you need to worry about**

<https://www.techrepublic.com/article/html-smuggling-is-the-latest-cybercrime-tactic-you-need-to-worry-about/>

### **(U.S.) Consulting group Accenture hit by cyberattack**

<https://thehill.com/policy/cybersecurity/567458-consulting-group-accenture-hit-by-cyberattack>

### **(Global) Massive Cyber-Attack: China hacks groups in Israel, Iran, Saudi Arabia**

<http://www.catchnews.com/international-news/massive-cyber-attack-china-hacks-groups-in-israel-iran-saudi-arabia-221298.html>

## PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

### **Protecting Canada's critical infrastructure: the road ahead**

*David Masson – iPolitics: 10 August 2021*

In addition to protecting the population from a physical virus, we need to protect the critical infrastructure that supports our country from cyber viruses.

<https://ipolitics.ca/2021/08/10/protecting-canadas-critical-infrastructure-the-road-ahead/>

*For more on this theme:*

### **(India) These are the most targeted industries in India by cyber attacks**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/gadgets-news/these-are-the-most-targeted-industries-in-india-by-cyber-attacks/articleshow/84869925.cms>

### **(U.S., Global) An Escalating Threat: How Smart Buildings Can Fall Victim to a Cyber Attack**

<https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/infrastructure-security/an-escalating-threat-how-smart-buildings-can-fall-victim-to-a-cyber-attack/>

### **(Europe) EU to counter cyber threats**

<https://www.neweurope.eu/article/eu-to-counter-cyber-threats/>

## PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

### ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

#### **ISIS using translated material to radicalize Indians: NIA**

*ANI – Big News Network: 12 August 2021*

India's National Investigation Agency has announced that ISIS is spreading its propaganda among the Muslim youth in India through materials translated into South-Indian languages, especially Malayalam.

<https://www.bignewsnetwork.com/news/270676556/isis-using-translated-material-to-radicalize-indians-nia>

For more on this theme:

#### **Albania repatriates 19 family members of dead ISIS fighters from Syria**

<https://www.euronews.com/2021/08/01/albania-repatriates-19-family-members-of-dead-isis-fighters-from-syria>

#### **Concern over struggle to prosecute Isis returnees as Turkey deportations loom**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/isis-fighters-syria-turkey-return-prosecution-b1895798.html>

#### **India and the Foreign Fighters Conundrum**

<https://www.justsecurity.org/77396/india-and-the-foreign-fighters-conundrum/>

#### **Tens of fighters returning from Libya join “ISIS West Africa Province”**

<https://en.218tv.net/2021/08/04/tens-of-fighters-returning-from-libya-join-isis-west-africa-province/>

#### **UN chief: Threat to global peace from Islamic State rising**

<https://apnews.com/article/middle-east-africa-health-coronavirus-pandemic-united-nations-66d7cd-63cce3e7327285312a714877ed>

#### **7 Years After Islamic State Genocide, Yazidi Survivors Still Seeking Justice**

<https://www.voanews.com/extremism-watch/7-years-after-islamic-state-genocide-yazidi-survivors-still-seeking-justice>

#### **Islamic State Group Smuggling Boys to Desert Training Camps**

<https://www.voanews.com/middle-east/islamic-state-group-smuggling-boys-desert-training-camps>

#### **Islamic State's determined expansion into Lake Chad Basin**

<https://issafrica.org/iss-today/islamic-states-determined-expansion-into-lake-chad-basin>

#### **Peshmerga commander warns ‘security vacuum’ enabling ISIS movements**

<https://www.kurdistan24.net/en/story/25213-Peshmerga-commander-warns-%27security-vacuum%27C2%AOenabling-ISIS-movements>

#### **Gaza resort bombed for holding mixed-gender concert**

<https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/gaza-resort-bombed-for-holding-mixed-gender-concert-676168>

#### **Landmines don't expire: the deadly legacy of war weapons in Kurdistan**

<https://www.kurdistan24.net/en/story/25222-Landmines-don%E2%80%99t-expire:-the-deadly-legacy-of-war-weapons-in-Kurdistan>

## TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

### **How Boko Haram mastered the art of 'self-sustaining' warfare**

*James Reinl – The National: 8 August 2021*

Boko Haram militants do not buy guns and ammunition on the black market to fuel their decadelong insurgency in West Africa – they simply nab weapons from the armies sent to fight against them, a study has revealed.

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/us-news/2021/08/08/how-boko-haram-mastered-the-art-of-self-sustaining-warfare/>

### **Who's Who In The Taliban: The Men Who Run The Extremist Group And How They Operate**

*Ron Synovitz – Gandhara: 6 August 2021*

“The most important question about Taliban command and control is the one we know the least about right now,” Afghan security analyst Ted Callahan said. “It centers on the Taliban in Doha right now who are negotiating with the Afghan government and to what degree they actually control the fighting on the ground.”

<https://gandhara.rferl.org/a/taliban-leadership-structure-afghan/31397337.html>

*For more on this theme:*

### **UN Report Warns Of 6,000 Pakistan Tehreek-i-Taliban Terrorists Operating In Afghanistan**

<https://www.republicworld.com/world-news/rest-of-the-world-news/un-report-warns-of-6000-pakistan-tehreek-i-taliban-terrorists-operating-in-afghanistan.html>

### **New Europol Report Warns of Lone Actors and Analyzes Decrease in Terrorism in 2020**

<https://jamestown.org/program/new-europol-report-warns-of-lone-actors-and-analyzes-decrease-in-terrorism-in-2020/>

### **Trends in Terrorist and Violent Extremist Use of the Internet | Q1-Q2 2021**

<https://www.techagainstterrorism.org/2021/07/30/trends-in-terrorist-and-violent-extremist-use-of-the-internet-q1-q2-2021/>

### **Al Qaeda group claims bus bombing in Damascus**

<https://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2021/08/al-qaeda-group-claims-bus-bombing-in-damascus.php>

### **Al Qaeda 'flocking to Taliban offensive'**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/world-news/2021/08/03/taliban-fights-capture-key-afghan-cities-us-intensifies-air/>

### **Designations of ISIS-Mozambique, JNIM, and al-Shabaab Leaders**

<https://www.state.gov/designations-of-isis-mozambique-jnim-and-al-shabaab-leaders/>

### **Boko Haram and ISWAP: Bloodshed and rivalry**

<https://www.modernghana.com/news/1096638/boko-haram-and-iswap-bloodshed-and-rivalry.html>

### **5 Richest Terrorist Groups In The World: ISIS Is Only Top 5**

<https://www.ibtimes.com/5-richest-terrorist-groups-world-isis-only-top-5-3269391>

## IRREGULAR WARFARE: PROXY FORCES AND PRIVATE MILITARY GROUPS

### **Wagner: Scale of Russian mercenary mission in Libya exposed**

*Ilya Barabanov and Nader Ibrahim – BBC: 11 August 2021*

A BBC investigation has revealed the scale of operations by a shadowy Russian mercenary group in Libya's civil war, which includes links to war crimes and the Russian military.

<https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/libya-russia-wagner-mercenaries-role-investigation>

*For more on this theme:*

### **Hezbollah's Rocket Fire on Israel Reveals Iran's Hand**

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/hezbollah%E2%80%99s-rocket-fire-israel-reveals-iran%E2%80%99s-hand-191569>

### **The Iranian Proxy Response to the US-Iraq Strategic Dialogue**

<https://www.criticalthreats.org/analysis/the-iranian-proxy-response-to-the-us-iraq-strategic-dialogue>

### **Hezbollah's motivations for launching campaign against Israel: Analysis**

<https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/israel/diplomacy-defense/1628671738-hezbollah-s-motivations-for-launching-campaign-against-israel-analysis>

## IRREGULAR WARFARE: CYBER

### **Multiple telcos compromised by Chinese state-backed hackers**

*Aaron Raj – Techwire Asia: 6 August 2021*

At least five global telecommunications companies have been compromised by Chinese state-backed hackers. Phone records and location data were among the data stolen, according to cybersecurity researchers.

<https://techwireasia.com/2021/08/telecommunication-companies-being-compromised-by-chinese-hackers/>

*For more on this theme:*

### **Cybersecurity Is the New 'Great Game'**

<https://www.sdxcentral.com/articles/news/cybersecurity-is-the-new-great-game/2021/08/>

### **Senators introduce bipartisan bill to sanction nations involved in ransomware attacks**

<https://thehill.com/policy/cybersecurity/566610-senators-introduce-legislation-to-sanction-nations-involved-in?r=1>

### **Worldwide, Nation-State Cyberattacks are a Top Concern for Industry**

<https://www.maritime-executive.com/editorials/worldwide-nation-state-cyberattacks-are-a-top-concern-for-industry>

### **Chinese cyber spies 'posed as Iranians while targeting Israeli government'**

<https://news.sky.com/story/chinese-cyber-spies-posed-as-iranians-while-targeting-israeli-government-12377895>

### **Cyber Diplomacy: Examining the Nation-State Threat to European Businesses**

<https://securityboulevard.com/2021/08/cyber-diplomacy-examining-the-nation-state-threat-to-european-businesses/>

## IRREGULAR WARFARE: INFORMATION OPERATIONS

### **Facebook removes Russian network that targeted influencers to peddle anti-vax messages**

*Elizabeth Culliford – Reuters: 10 August 2021*

Facebook has shut down accounts linked to a Russian firm that were involved in coordinated anti-vaccination smear campaigns targeting people in India, Latin America and the U.S.

<https://www.reuters.com/technology/facebook-removes-russian-network-that-targeted-influencers-peddle-anti-vax-2021-08-10/>

*For more on this theme:*

### **Influence for hire: the Asia–Pacific’s online shadow economy**

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/influence-for-hire-the-asia-pacifics-online-shadow-economy/>

### **China invents Swiss expert for Wuhan lab propaganda**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/china-accused-of-coronavirus-lab-leak-fake-news-over-non-existent-swiss-biologist-g6rxv2gm2>

### **A Government Practitioner’s Guide to Countering Online Foreign Covert Influence**

<https://www.lawfareblog.com/government-practitioners-guide-countering-online-foreign-covert-influence>