

THE MARSHALL CENTER

transnational weekly



A CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICE FROM THE MARSHALL CENTER

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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

OPINION: Collective action can stop corruption in the extractives sector

Helen Clark — Reuters: 7 September 2021

The countries most affected, and the industries where so much of the corruption takes place, need to be at the forefront of reforms.

<https://news.trust.org/item/20210908092148-1bjnl/>

For more on this theme:

Zambian President Hichilema inherits ‘empty treasury’

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-58408951>

Vanity Plates In Greece May Be A Form Of ‘Conspicuous Corruption’

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/02092021-vanity-plates-in-greece-may-be-a-form-of-conspicuous-corruption/>

Govt not doing enough to fight corruption – Survey

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/govt-not-doing-enough-to-fight-corruption-survey-3526026>

Austrian former far-right leader convicted on corruption charges

<https://www.politico.eu/article/austrian-court-convicts-on-heinz-christian-strache-on-corruption-charges/>

Mali’s former prime minister arrested over corruption claims

<https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/malis-former-prime-minister-arrested-over-corruption-claims-2021-08-26/>

Former deputy head of China’s top disciplinary team accused of taking 460 mln yuan in bribes

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202108/1232583.shtml>

Saudi king refers public security director to investigation with corruption charges -SPA

<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/saudi-king-refers-public-security-director-investigation-with-corruption-charges-2021-09-07/>

Corruption is Nigeria’s power sector demon

<https://guardian.ng/opinion/corruption-is-nigerias-power-sector-demon/>

Corruption has shattered the reputation of Mumbai police

<https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/mumbai-police-reputation-corruption-7487834/>

UNODC to make recommendations on strengthening anti-corruption laws

<https://www.stabroeknews.com/2021/09/04/news/guyana/unodc-to-make-recommendations-on-strengthening-anti-corruption-laws/>

Australia’s first anti-corruption party: FIN is now official

<https://independentaustralia.net/politics/politics-display/australias-first-anti-corruption-party-fin-is-now-official,15500>

DRUG TRAFFICKING

Drug trafficking threatens Indigenous Shipibo communities in Peru

Enrique Vera — Mongabay: 3 September 2021

The Flor de Ucayali municipality in Peru belongs to Indigenous Shipibo-Conibo communities and has been the site of intense deforestation, according to local sources and satellite data. Community members say the driver of forest loss is illicit coca cultivation.

<https://news.mongabay.com/2021/09/drug-trafficking-threatens-indigenous-shipibo-communities-in-peru/>

The Cocaine Market Is More Competitive And Violent

Eurasia Review: 8 September 2021

The cocaine trade in Europe is now more violent, diverse and competitive, according to a Cocaine Insights Report from Europol and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The report outlines the new dynamics of a cocaine market that represents a threat to European and global security.

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/08092021-the-cocaine-market-is-more-competitive-and-violent/>

For more on this theme:

Brazilian Federal Police Seizes Nearly 4 Tons of Cocaine in Fishing Boats

<https://dialogo-americas.com/articles/brazilian-federal-police-seizes-nearly-4-tons-of-cocaine-in-fishing-boats/>

Massive Drug Busts Target Albanian Weed Gangs Supplying Europe

<https://www.vice.com/en/article/qj89d3/massive-drug-busts-target-albanian-weed-gangs-supplying-europe>

Here's Why There's So Much Fake MDMA in the UK Right Now

<https://www.vice.com/en/article/xgx3ja/heres-why-theres-so-much-fake-mdma-in-the-uk-right-now>

Manx children as young as 12 receiving drugs sent in post by gangs

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-isle-of-man-58478488>

Social media and encrypted messaging apps in illicit narcotics trade

<https://english.mathrubhumi.com/features/specials/social-media-and-encrypted-messaging-apps-in-illicit-narcotics-trade-1.5969480>

Could the Taliban form an alliance with Mexico's drug cartels?

<https://www.dw.com/en/could-the-taliban-form-an-alliance-with-mexicos-drug-cartels/a-59086206>

New Regime, Same Old Drug Myths in Myanmar

<https://www.irrawaddy.com/opinion/guest-column/new-regime-same-old-drug-myths-in-myanmar.html>

Irish drug gangs gaining greater share of European cocaine market says EU's crime agency

<https://www.independent.ie/news/irish-drug-gangs-gaining-greater-share-of-european-cocaine-market-says-eus-crime-agency-40825923.html>

Messengers of a Drug War in the Cyberspace: The Case of Tamaulipas

<https://smallwarsjournal.com/jrnl/art/messengers-drug-war-cyberspace-case-tamaulipas>

TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Exploring Illegal Mining in Colombia's Amazon

InSight Crime: 8 September 2021

As gold prices skyrocket, criminal groups once solely dedicated to the trafficking of drugs and arms have moved into illegal mining.

<https://insightcrime.org/investigations/exploring-illegal-mining-colombia-amazon/>

New digital tools to track illegal wildlife trade online

Kathy Tzillivakis — Horizon: 3 September 2021

Today's trade in wildlife and wildlife products has shifted from physical markets to online marketplaces where traffickers apply e-commerce business models and use encrypted messages in an attempt to evade detection.

<https://ec.europa.eu/research-and-innovation/en/horizon-magazine/new-digital-tools-track-illegal-wildlife-trade-online>

For more on this theme:

Kenya's valuable sandalwoods are being uprooted to near extinction

<https://issafrica.org/iss-today/kenyas-valuable-sandalwoods-are-being-uprooted-to-near-extinction>

African campaigners say social media, airlines fuelling wildlife trade

<https://www.bignetwork.com/news/270956641/african-campaigners-say-social-media-airlines-fuelling-wildlife-trade>

Deforestation in Colombia's Amazon: Outlining the Problem

<https://insightcrime.org/investigations/deforestation-colombia-amazon-outlining-problem/>

The women on the front lines of safeguarding the Amazon

<https://news.mongabay.com/2021/08/the-women-on-the-front-lines-of-safeguarding-the-amazon/>

Illegal mining on Brazil indigenous land up 500% in a decade

<https://www.batimes.com.ar/news/latin-america/illegal-mining-on-brazil-indigenous-land-up-500-in-a-decade.phtml>

Bombs Away - Dynamite Smugglers Sell to Illegal Mines in Peru

<https://insightcrime.org/news/police-defuse-explosives-network-target-illegal-mining-peru/>

Indonesia's newly minted investigators to go after illegal fishing kingpins

<https://news.mongabay.com/2021/09/indonesias-newly-minted-investigators-to-go-after-illegal-fishing-kingpins/>

Tentacles of Illegal Octopus Trade Clutch Mexico Town

<https://insightcrime.org/news/tentacles-of-illegal-octopus-trade-clutch-mexico-town/>

How South Africa is tackling rhino poaching and rhino horn trafficking

<https://www.iol.co.za/dailynews/news/how-south-africa-is-tackling-rhino-poaching-and-rhino-horn-trafficking-a132491c-05b8-4514-bd9e-e5c52f24811a>

Rich countries may be buying illegal gold that's driving Amazon destruction

<https://news.mongabay.com/2021/09/rich-countries-may-be-buying-illegal-gold-thats-driving-amazon-destruction/>

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Tunisia: People smuggling on the rise despite obvious dangers

AFRICANEWS with AFP: 27 August 2021

People smugglers operating between Tunisia and the Italian island of Lampedusa have explained how they evade the authorities and bring migrants to Europe's shores.

<https://www.africanews.com/2021/08/27/tunisia-people-smuggling-on-the-rise-despite-obvious-dangers/>

For more on this theme:

UN decries high rate of human trafficking in Nigeria

<https://guardian.ng/news/un-decries-high-rate-of-human-trafficking-in-nigeria/>

Human Trafficking survivor inspires change in Zambia

<https://www.cnn.com/videos/tv/2021/08/26/cfp-voice-of-freedom-given-kachepa-spc.cnn>

UNHCR and IOM welcome government new action plan to combat human trafficking in Sudan [EN/AR]

<https://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/unhcr-and-iom-welcome-government-new-action-plan-combat-human-trafficking-sudan-enar>

Cambodia sees spike in human, sex trafficking cases in first half of 2021

<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50924773/cambodia-sees-spike-in-human-sex-trafficking-cases-in-first-half-of-2021/>

Anti-Trafficking in Persons project to combat human trafficking

<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50924907/anti-trafficking-in-persons-project-to-combat-human-trafficking/>

Human trafficking in sports: A faceless menace in Gambian sports

<https://thepoint.gm/africa/gambia/sports/human-trafficking-in-sports-a-faceless-menace-in-gambian-sports>

Nigeria: New Dimension to Human Trafficking

<https://allafrica.com/stories/202109080420.html>

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Beijing's growing influence on internet rules

Charles Martin-Shields — Development and Cooperation: 27 August 2021

China is exerting increasing influence in the setting of global technical standards for the internet. Beijing has expanded its role in the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), the United Nations agency overseeing radio, TV and internet transmission standards. The ITU's secretary general, Zhao Houlin, publicly supports China's efforts.

<https://www.dandc.eu/en/article/chinas-technological-clout-may-influence-internet-governance>

For more on this theme:

(Global) Learning in a Multistakeholder Environment: 15 Years of Summer School on Internet Governance

<https://circleid.com/posts/20210831-learning-in-a-multistakeholder-environment-15-years-of-summer-school-on-internet-governance>

(UAE) Abu Dhabi launches new internet domain name '.abudhabi'

https://www.zawya.com/mena/en/business/story/Abu_Dhabi_launches_new_internet_domain_name_abudhabi-WAM20210901121802957/

(Global) Cyberspace: The New Battleground for Competing Norms

<https://www.theelephant.info/op-eds/2021/08/27/cyberspace-the-new-battleground-for-competing-norms/>

INTERNET FREEDOM

Governments keep shutting off the internet, even as more people rely on it

Steven Melendez — Fast Company: 1 September 2021

Internet shutdowns have become a prevalent way for governments to control dissent, but they are increasingly disruptive as people's lives move online.

<https://www.fastcompany.com/90671193/internet-shutdowns-pandemic>

For more on this theme:

(Global) The draconian rise of internet shutdowns

<https://www.wired.co.uk/article/internet-shutdowns>

(Afghanistan) Will the Taliban restrict internet access in Afghanistan?

<https://www.dw.com/en/will-the-taliban-restrict-internet-access-in-afghanistan/a-59029364>

(Russia) Russia Blocks Access To Six VPN Providers Ahead Of Elections

<https://www.rferl.org/a/russia-vpns-blocked/31442607.html>

SECURITY

Cybersecurity Is National Security

Yonatan Striem-Amit — Security Boulevard: 2 September 2021

In the wake of escalating cyberattacks on U.S. infrastructure, it has become increasingly evident: Cybersecurity is national security.

<https://securityboulevard.com/2021/09/cybersecurity-is-national-security/>

For more on this theme:

(Global) The Hybrid Workplace: The Next Frontier of Cyber Security

<https://www.cpomagazine.com/cyber-security/the-hybrid-workplace-the-next-frontier-of-cyber-security/>

(Global) Why organisations can no longer ignore a joint approach to cyber and physical security

<https://www.ifsecglobal.com/cyber-security/why-organisations-can-no-longer-ignore-a-joint-approach-to-cyber-and-physical-security/>

(Global) Some Vital Lessons In How Systemic Risk Is Changing Cybersecurity

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/bobzukis/2021/09/02/some-vital-lessons-in-how-systemic-risk-is-changing-cybersecurity/?sh=6eeda7c14911>

PRIVACY

China's most popular app is developed by police and promoted by cyberspace security officer with huge social media followers

Coco Feng — South China Morning Post: 6 September 2021

An anti-fraud app developed by China's public security ministry that filters spam calls and warns of calls from abroad is now the most popular mobile app in the country. But the app's intrusiveness has also raised concerns about privacy.

<https://www.scmp.com/tech/policy/article/3147725/chinas-most-popular-app-developed-police-and-promoted-cyberspace>

For more on this theme:

(China) Beijing has a new legal architecture for sweeping control over user data

<https://qz.com/2051268/china-aims-to-control-but-also-unleash-the-economic-power-of-data/>

(Global) Under fire from privacy advocates, Apple delays controversial photo scanning plan

<https://www.cyberscoop.com/apple-child-sex-abuse-imagery-delay-privacy/>

(India) India's Anti-VPN Plan a Threat to Privacy, Internet Freedom: Experts

<https://www.thequint.com/tech-and-auto/indias-anti-vpn-plan-a-threat-to-internet-freedom-experts>

CYBER STATECRAFT

The Saudi digital government begins implementing website governance

The News Glory: 1 September 2021

The Saudi Digital Government Authority has asked all government agencies to register their digital platforms with the authority's website. The aims: regulate digital government, integrate agencies and improve the user experience.

<https://thenewsglory.com/the-saudi-digital-government-begins-implementing-website-governance/>

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) The Right Way to Structure Cyber Diplomacy

<https://warontherocks.com/2021/08/the-right-way-to-structure-cyber-diplomacy/>

(North Korea) Dealing With North Korea's Dangerous Cyberthreat

<https://www.heritage.org/cybersecurity/commentary/dealing-north-koreas-dangerous-cyberthreat>

(Italy) Fed up with constant cyberattacks, one country is about to make some big changes

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/fed-up-with-constant-cyberattacks-one-country-is-about-to-make-some-big-changes/>

CYBERCRIME

How Instant Cybersecurity Data Intelligence Will Stop Ransomware Attacks

Grant Wernick — The Fast Mode: 26 August 2021

Since the start of the pandemic, cybercrime has increased by 600%. Cybercriminals take advantage of new vulnerabilities and wreak more havoc than ever on people, businesses and economies.

<https://www.thefastmode.com/expert-opinion/20640-how-instant-cybersecurity-data-intelligence-will-stop-ransomware-attacks>

For more on this theme:

(Global) 'Ransomware will dominate the cybercrime landscape': Anil Valluri

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/ransomware-will-dominate-the-cybercrime-landscape-anil-valluri/article36158030.ece>

(Asia, Global) How e-discovery and digital forensics can help tackle cybercrime

<https://www.consultancy.asia/news/4394/how-e-discovery-and-digital-forensics-can-help-tackle-cyber-crime>

(Global) Microsoft warns of elaborate new cybercrime scheme to steal your login details

<https://www.techradar.com/news/microsoft-warns-of-elaborate-new-cybercrime-scheme-to-steal-your-login-details>

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

New Zealand's latest terror attack shows why ISIS is harder to defeat online than on the battlefield

Joe Burton — *The Conversation*: 4 September 2021

A recent attack by an ISIS sympathizer in a New Zealand supermarket shows that extreme ideology still holds strong appeal for some disaffected Muslims living in the West. ISIS ideology did not die in Syria and Iraq with the defeat of the Islamic State group and its plans to establish a caliphate.

<https://theconversation.com/new-zealands-latest-terror-attack-shows-why-isis-is-harder-to-defeat-online-than-on-the-battlefield-167336>

Islamic State in Khorasan Province's Campaign against Afghan Women

Riccardo Valle — *The Jamestown Foundation*: 7 September 2021

The Islamic State's Khorasan Province (ISKP) has emerged as a threat to Afghan women by developing an ideology that justifies killing them. Now, under a Taliban-led government in Afghanistan, ISKP is likely to continue its recent killings of several women because the group considers even the slightest female involvement in public affairs to be un-Islamic.

<https://jamestown.org/program/islamic-state-in-khorasan-provinces-campaign-against-afghan-women>

For more on this theme:

Joint Operations Force arrests top ISIS leader in Libya

<https://www.libyaobserver.ly/news/joint-operations-force-arrests-top-isis-leader-libya>

Is ISIS Making a Comeback in Libya? | Opinion

<https://www.newsweek.com/isis-making-comeback-libya-opinion-1626037>

What Is Known About ISIS-K Funding in Afghanistan?

<https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/counterterrorism/what-is-known-about-isis-k-funding-in-afghanistan/>

Al Qaeda & ISIS 20 Years After 9/11

<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/article/al-qaeda-isis-20-years-after-911>

Threat of Islamic State rebounds in Afghanistan

<https://theArabweekly.com/threat-islamic-state-rebounds-afghanistan>

Emotions raw before Paris trial for Islamic State carnage

<https://apnews.com/article/soccer-sports-religion-trials-paris-1c0332c13b10c6d-5d4744c59376f97d5>

Extremist was released from New Zealand jail despite fears

<https://apnews.com/article/new-zealand-islamic-state-group-3bd1cbbec8eeda30caa0797f52ae227>

TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Before the Taliban took Afghanistan, it took the internet

Emerson T. Brooking — Atlantic Council: 26 August 2021

For a generation, the Taliban clearly articulated the purpose of its propaganda regime. This information strategy helped the Taliban seize power in Afghanistan. It will likely continue to guide Taliban actions in the months ahead.

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/before-the-taliban-took-afghanistan-it-took-the-internet/>

Short on Money, Legal and Otherwise, the Taliban Face a Crisis

Alexandra Stevenson — The New York Times: 2 September 2021

The Taliban have long tapped underground banks and opium to fund Afghanistan's insurgency. Fixing the nation's problems will require a lot more than that.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/02/business/economy/afghanistan-taliban-financial-crisis.html>

For more on this theme:

How Will the Taliban Deal With Other Islamic Extremist Groups?

<https://carnegieendowment.org/2021/08/31/how-will-taliban-deal-with-other-islamic-extremist-groups-pub-85239>

Nigeria Jihadist Surrenders Spark Debate Over War Strategy

<https://www.thedefensepost.com/2021/08/27/nigeria-jihadist-surrenders-debate/>

Hezbollah Seeks to Capitalize on Lebanon's Energy Crisis

<https://www.voanews.com/episode/hezbollah-seeks-to-capitalize-lebanons-energy-crisis-4790661>

20 years after 9/11, jihadi terrorism rises in Africa

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2021/08/30/20-years-after-9-11-jihadi-terrorism-rises-in-africa/>

Can Machine Learning Predict the Future Terrorism?

<https://www.analyticsinsight.net/can-machine-learning-predict-the-future-terrorism/>

Who is in the Taliban's new cabinet as group declares Afghanistan an 'Islamic emirate'

<https://inews.co.uk/news/world/taliban-new-cabinet-afghanistan-islamic-emirate-1187391>

After US exit from Afghanistan, a new jihadist landscape

<https://www.csmonitor.com/World/Middle-East/2021/0903/After-US-exit-from-Afghanistan-a-new-jihadist-landscape>

Pentagon chief: al-Qaida may seek comeback in Afghanistan

<https://apnews.com/article/afghanistan-united-states-jamal-khashoggi-kabul-middle-east-6b4d72c5f3f-5e88c7dace6bfc5fef8b1>

Opinion | Al-Qaeda Is Thrilled That the Taliban Control Afghanistan — But Not For the Reason You Think

<https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2021/09/07/al-qaeda-taliban-complex-relationship-509519>

RADICALIZATION

Al-Qaida, Islamic State group struggle for recruits

Charles Kurzman — *The Conversation*: 3 September 2021

The reason terror groups are having a recruitment problem, according to an article in the Islamic State's online daily newspaper, is "love of life and hatred of death."

<https://theconversation.com/al-qaida-islamic-state-group-struggle-for-recruits-166808>

For more on this theme:

How to Deradicalize Your Town

<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2021/09/lesson-belgium-how-deradicalize-your-town/619992/>

Extreme views and conspiracism rising among England's pupils, research finds

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2021/sep/07/extreme-views-and-conspiracism-rising-among-englands-pupils-research-finds>

Save the Children: Extremist groups recruiting youngsters through online platforms

<https://www.helsinkitimes.fi/finland/news-in-brief/19930-save-the-children-extremist-groups-recruiting-young-people-through-online-platforms.html>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: INFORMATION OPERATIONS

Global Chinese Influence Campaign Sought To Spark Protests In US: Mandiant Report

Brad D. Williams — *Breaking Defense*: 8 September 2021

"This direct call for physical mobilization is a significant development compared to prior activity, potentially indicative of an emerging intent to motivate real-world activity outside of China's territories," Mandiant Threat Intelligence researchers noted.

<https://breakingdefense.com/2021/09/mandiant-details-global-chinese-influence-campaign-that-sought-to-spark-protests-in-us/>

For more on this theme:

Pro-Russian Disinformation Systematically Spread Using Western Media Channels

<https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/russian-disinformation-western/>

In Kenya, Influencers Are Hired to Spread Disinformation

<https://www.wired.com/story/opinion-in-kenya-influencers-are-hired-to-spread-disinformation/>

Kosovo Urged to Start Countering Russian Media Disinformation

<https://balkaninsight.com/2021/09/07/kosovo-urged-to-start-countering-russian-media-disinformation/>

How the Central African Republic is Vulnerable to Fake News

<https://inkstickmedia.com/how-the-central-african-republic-is-vulnerable-to-fake-news/>

Iran in Latin America: Malign Alliances, "Super Spreaders," and Alternative Narratives

<https://dialogo-americas.com/articles/iran-in-latin-america-malign-alliances-super-spreaders-and-alternative-narratives/>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: CYBER

Spies for Hire: China's New Breed of Hackers Blends Espionage and Entrepreneurship

Paul Mozur and Chris Buckley — The New York Times: 26 August 2021

China's state security ministry is recruiting from a vast pool of private-sector hackers who often have their own agendas and sometimes use their access for commercial cybercrime, experts say.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/26/technology/china-hackers.html>

For more on this theme:

Why cyber attacks will define 21st century warfare

<https://www.raconteur.net/technology/cybersecurity/why-cyber-attacks-will-define-21st-century-warfare/>

China's Most Recent Cyberattack May Be Linked To AI Research

<https://screenrant.com/microsoft-exchange-hack-china-motive/>

Russian cybercrime continues as government-backed attacks on companies dwindle, CrowdStrike says

<https://www.cyberscoop.com/crowdstrike-russia-wizard-spider/>

China accused of cyber attacks on Norwegian IT systems

<https://www.computerweekly.com/news/252506219/China-accused-of-cyber-attacks-on-Norwegian-IT-systems>

Germany protests to Russia over pre-election cyberattacks

<https://apnews.com/article/technology-europe-russia-elections-germany-26ea77a3b96b94d5760aab48c9d-fc008>