

THE MARSHALL CENTER

transnational weekly



A CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICE FROM THE MARSHALL CENTER

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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Ukraine approves bill to boost independence of anti-corruption bureau

Natalia Zinets – Reuters: 19 October 2021

Ukraine's parliament has passed legislation to strengthen the independence of the Western-backed national anti-corruption bureau, a requirement for Kyiv to secure more loans from the International Monetary Fund under a \$5 billion loan deal.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/ukraine-approves-bill-boost-independence-anti-corruption-bureau-2021-10-19/>

Kazakhstan's Light Rail Corruption Case Drags on

Paolo Sorbello – The Diplomat: 16 October 2021

The capital's light rail might never be built, and the corrupt officials who stole public funds might never be convicted.

<https://thediplomat.com/2021/10/kazakhstans-light-rail-corruption-case-drags-on/>

For more on this theme:

Pandora papers: as ordinary Lebanese suffer, elite secretly drain off billions

<https://theconversation.com/pandora-papers-as-ordinary-lebanese-suffer-elite-secretly-drain-off-billions-169383>

Doctors come out of their shells, demand end to corruption, incompetence in COVID handling

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1500925/doctors-come-out-of-their-shells-demand-end-to-corruption-incompetence-in-covid-handling>

China's anti-corruption watchdog finds public hospitals vulnerable to graft and bribery

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/politics/article/3152212/chinas-anti-corruption-watchdog-finds-public-hospitals>

Majority of Portuguese consider corruption increased over last year

<https://www.portugalresident.com/majority-of-portuguese-consider-corruption-increased-over-last-year/>

U.S., EU 'Very Disappointed' As Ukraine Delays Appointing Anti-Corruption Head

<https://www.rferl.org/a/ukraine-anti-corruption-office/31501183.html>

Odesa Mayor Charged With Corruption, In Latest Criminal Case

<https://www.rferl.org/a/ukraine-odesa-mayor-corruption/31497418.html>

Could Indigenous demonstrations against corruption lead to lasting change in Guatemala?

<https://www.americamagazine.org/politics-society/2021/10/08/indigenous-demonstrations-corruption-authoritarianism-guatemala>

Chile corruption probe after president cited in Pandora Papers

<https://www.dw.com/en/chile-corruption-probe-after-president-cited-in-pandora-papers/a-59453232>

DRUG TRAFFICKING

The Intimate Relationship Between Cocaine and Illegal Timber in Brazil's Amazon

Ciro Barros – InSight Crime: 14 October 2021

For some time, research has highlighted the significant volume of illegal logging in the Brazilian timber market and its relationship to deforestation in the Amazon rainforest. What's new, however, is the growing overlap between the routes used by drug trafficking groups and illegal logging groups.

<https://insightcrime.org/news/intimate-relationship-between-cocaine-illegal-timber-brazil-amazon/>

Ecuador president declares state of emergency over drug violence

Agence France-Presse: 19 October 2021

President Guillermo Lasso has decreed a state of emergency to confront drug trafficking and other crimes in Ecuador, saying the military and police will take to the streets to provide security.

<https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20211019-ecuador-president-declares-state-of-emergency-over-drug-violence>

For more on this theme:

Pandemic creates 'perfect storm' for opioid crisis

<https://www.wsav.com/news/health-news/pandemic-creates-perfect-storm-for-opioid-crisis/>

Afghan drug menace might worsen as Taliban indicate legalising poppy

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/south-asia/afghan-drug-menace-might-worsen-as-taliban-indicate-legalising-poppy/articleshow/86858743.cms>

The Village That Ditched the Drug Trade for Tourism

<https://globalpressjournal.com/americas/mexico/village-ditched-drug-trade-tourism/>

Drug trade fuelled western NSW virus spike

<https://www.mandurahmail.com.au/story/7469726/drug-trade-fuelled-western-nsw-virus-spike/>

Snapchat rolls out safety features to cut down on sales of illegal drugs after string of fentanyl deaths

<https://www.insider.com/snapchat-features-cut-down-illegal-drug-sales-after-fentanyl-deaths-2021-10>

Through the haze: Detecting drug traffickers along the border

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/407110/through-haze-detecting-drug-traffickers-along-border>

How Mexico's Cartels Use Video Games to Recruit Children

<https://insightcrime.org/news/mexico-cartels-use-video-games-recruit-new-hitmen/>

West Africa: A growing drug-trafficking hub

<https://www.macaubusiness.com/west-africa-a-growing-drug-trafficking-hub/>

Mexico's powerful Jalisco cartel is flexing its muscles at opposite ends of Latin America

<https://www.businessinsider.com/mexicos-powerful-jalisco-cartel-is-expanding-through-latin-america-2021-10>

TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Private businesses could transform global fight against wildlife crime

Michael Pflanz – Independent: 14 October 2021

New initiatives in transport and shipping show the value of collaboration between the private and public sectors in the fight against wildlife trafficking.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/campaigns/giantsclub/wildlife-crime-global-fight-b1938199.html>

Malaysia's Indigenous Penan block roads to stop logging in Borneo

Rachel Donald – Mongabay: 14 October 2021

In an attempt to block logging operations by timber company Samling, Penan indigenous tribespeople have erected two separate blockades in Malaysian Borneo's Baram region.

<https://news.mongabay.com/2021/10/malaysias-indigenous-penan-block-roads-to-stop-logging-in-borneo/>

For more on this theme:

China's wildlife food ban is vital for public health and threatened species — our research reveals what must happen next

<https://theconversation.com/chinas-wildlife-food-ban-is-vital-for-public-health-and-threatened-species-our-research-reveals-what-must-happen-next-169745>

Bangladesh Takes Major Step To Protect Threatened Sharks And Rays

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/melissacristinamarquez/2021/10/11/bangladesh-takes-major-step-to-protect-threatened-sharks-and-rays/?sh=18a9d303592f>

FOREST Act bill would hold global suppliers accountable for illegal deforestation

<https://news.mongabay.com/2021/10/forest-act-bill-would-hold-global-suppliers-accountable-for-illegal-deforestation/>

Facebook Addresses Illegal Sales of Amazon Rainforest Lands on Its Platform

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/facebook-addresses-illegal-sales-of-amazon-rainforest-lands-on-its-platform-180978859/>

Ecuador Counters Illegal Fishing with Help from Canada, US

<https://dialogo-americas.com/articles/ecuador-counters-illegal-fishing-with-help-from-canada-us/>

Tracking The Dark Fleet of Illegal Fisheries

<https://www.theyucatantimes.com/2021/10/tracking-the-dark-fleet-of-illegal-fisheries/>

How Kenya coast guards are confronting illegal fishing on Lake Naivasha

<https://www.businessdailyafrica.com/bd/data-hub/kenya-guards-confronting-illegal-fishing-lake-naivasha-3581220>

Attack on Romanian Film Crew Reveals Dangers of Environmental Beat

<https://www.voanews.com/a/attack-on-romanian-film-crew-reveals-dangers-of-environmental-beat/6262977.html>

A taste for pangolin meat and the fall of an African wildlife cartel

<https://indianexpress.com/article/world/africa-wildlife-cartel-pangolin-poaching-elephant-rhino-7579223/>

ORGANIZED CRIME AND MONEY LAUNDERING

Albanian Organised Crime Crackdown Found Wanting

Klodiana Lala – Balkan Insight: 20 October 2021

Albania's government vowed to use the full "force of the law" in confiscating the ill-gotten gains of organized crime. The results were underwhelming.

<https://balkaninsight.com/2021/10/20/albanian-organised-crime-crackdown-found-wanting/>

For more on this theme:

Yakuza death sentence won't stop organized crime

<https://menafn.com/1102949555/Yakuza-death-sentence-wont-stop-organized-crime>

Contraband Chinese Cigarettes Take Latin America by Storm

<https://insightcrime.org/news/contraband-chinese-cigarettes-take-latin-america-by-storm/>

In Mexico, Majority of Violent Crimes Go Unpunished

<https://thecrimereport.org/2021/10/12/in-mexico-majority-of-violent-crimes-go-unpunished/>

US Department of Justice creates cryptocurrency enforcement unit

<https://www.theverge.com/2021/10/7/22714241/us-justice-department-cryptocurrency-enforcement-unit>

Anti-Money Laundering and Countering Terrorism Financing: A new package to overhaul the European regulatory framework

<https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=cc4e9307-70c1-4d2a-af3f-04792a9b7187>

As Japan's yakuza mob weakens, former gangsters struggle to find a role outside crime

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/japan-yakuza-crime-gangsters/2021/10/17/556a255c-2b0a-11ec-baf4-d7a4e075eb90_story.html

A Ukrainian Oligarch Bought a Midwestern Factory and Let it Rot. What Was Really Going On?

<https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2021/10/17/ukrainian-oligarch-midwestern-factory-town-dirty-money-american-heartland-michel-kleptocracy-515948>

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Considerations On Governance Of Cyberspace: Does It Require A Different Form?

Deniz Lizge Oksuz and Av. Yigit Yildiz – Neziroglu Law Firm: 7 October 2021

Discussions on whether we need a different form of internet governance have become necessary because of the rapid development of technology.

<https://www.mondaq.com/turkey/it-and-internet/1119080/considerations-on-governance-of-cyberspace-does-it-require-a-d305fferent-form>

For more on this theme:

(Global) Moves at UN Signal That the Search for a New Tech Envoy May Be Underway

<https://www.passblue.com/2021/10/20/moves-at-un-signal-that-the-search-for-a-new-tech-envoy-may-be-underway/>

(India, Global) Sovereignty in a ‘Datafied’ World

<https://www.orfonline.org/research/sovereignty-in-a-datafied-world/>

INTERNET FREEDOM

On Internet Freedom, China and Taiwan Are Worlds Apart

Sarah Cook and Allie Funk – The Diplomat: 12 October 2021

One is ranked as the most oppressive digital environment. The other is among the freest.

<https://thediplomat.com/2021/10/on-internet-freedom-china-and-taiwan-are-worlds-apart/>

For more on this theme:

(China) China plans to ban non-Communist media outlets in a further blow to free speech

<https://www.wionews.com/world/china-plans-to-ban-non-communist-media-outlets-in-a-further-blow-to-free-speech-420272>

(Swaziland) Eswatini government shuts down internet

<https://nation.africa/kenya/news/africa/eswatini-government-shuts-down-internet--3584874>

(Burma, Global) Facebook Objects to Releasing Private Posts About Myanmar’s Rohingya Campaign

<https://www.voanews.com/a/facebook-objects-to-releasing-private-posts-about-myanmar-s-rohingya-campaign/6271245.html>

(Cambodia) Cambodia’s Internet Gateway Ushers in Silence, Media Say

<https://www.voanews.com/a/cambodia-s-internet-gateway-ushers-in-silence-media-say-/6277380.html>

PRIVACY

The COVID-19 pandemic has made us reliant on digital technologies, eroding our privacy

Brice Arnel Simeu – The Conversation: 13 October 2021

By the end of 2020, 71% of workers in the United States had switched in whole or in part to teleworking. Our lives have “telemigrated” to online spaces and platforms.

<https://theconversation.com/the-covid-19-pandemic-has-made-us-reliant-on-digital-technologies-eroding-our-privacy-168792>

For more on this theme:

(Canada) To protect our privacy and free speech, Canada needs to overhaul its approach to regulating online harms

<https://theconversation.com/to-protect-our-privacy-and-free-speech-canada-needs-to-overhaul-its-approach-to-regulating-online-harms-170256>

(India, China) India exploring regulation to test Chinese smartphones for snooping, data security concerns

<https://telecom.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india-exploring-regulation-to-test-chinese-smartphones-for-snooping-data-security-concerns/87085299>

(U.K.) ICO to step in after schools use facial recognition to speed up lunch queue

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2021/oct/18/privacy-fears-as-schools-use-facial-recognition-to-speed-up-lunch-queue-ayrshire-technology-payments-uk>

CYBERCRIME

Russian Corruption Makes It Harder to Crack Down on Ransomware

Patrick Tucker – Defense One: 20 October 2021

Hackers who learned skills in government service are branching out “for their own personal enrichment,” Pentagon cyber leader says.

<https://www.defenseone.com/technology/2021/10/russian-corruption-makes-it-harder-crack-down-ransomware/186252/>

For more on this theme:

(Global) Hackers Incorporated: How Cybercrime Is Moving From The Basement To A Booming Industry

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbesbusinesscouncil/2021/10/08/hackers-incorporated-how-cyber-crime-is-moving-from-the-basement-to-a-booming-industry/?sh=7e369af64396>

(Global) Cyber-attack Response Takes More than Two Working Days

<https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/cyberattack-response-more-than-two/>

(Global) US allies vow cooperation on cybercrime

<http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20211015000789>

CYBERATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

Acer Taiwan falls victim to cyber attack

Sabina Weston – ITPro: 18 October 2021

Hackers obtained employee data three days after they breached Acer India servers.

<https://www.itpro.co.uk/security/hacking/361274/acer-taiwan-falls-victim-to-cyber-attack>

For more on this theme:

(Israel) Criminal Gang Blamed for Cyber Attack on Hospital

<https://hamodia.com/2021/10/18/criminal-gang-blamed-for-cyber-attack-on-hospital/>

(Japan) Olympus suffers second cyberattack in 2021

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/olympus-announces-second-cyberattack-in-2021/>

(U.S., Russia) Major Russian hacking group linked to ransomware attack on Sinclair: report

<https://thehill.com/policy/cybersecurity/577599-major-russian-hacking-group-linked-to-ransomware-attack-on-sinclair?r=1>

PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Australia's essential services could be forced to report when they are under cyber-attack

Daniel Hurst – The Guardian: 19 October 2021

The Morrison government hopes to push through laws allowing the Australian Signals Directorate to provide direct assistance to industry as a “last resort.”

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2021/oct/20/australias-essential-services-could-be-forced-to-report-when-they-are-under-cyber-attack>

For more on this theme:

(Global) How Utilities Should Conduct Cybersecurity Training

<https://biztechmagazine.com/article/2021/10/how-utilities-should-conduct-cybersecurity-training>

(U.S.) Shoring up cybersecurity in critical infrastructure and the nation's defense supply chain

<https://www.securitymagazine.com/articles/96315-shoring-up-cybersecurity-in-critical-infrastructure-and-the-nations-defense-supply-chain>

(U.S.) Industry panel: U.S. space systems need protection against cyber attacks

<https://spacenews.com/industry-panel-u-s-space-systems-need-protection-against-cyber-attacks/>

(U.S.) Agencies Warn of Ongoing Cyber Threats to Water Treatment Facilities

<https://www.nextgov.com/cybersecurity/2021/10/agencies-warn-ongoing-cyber-threats-water-treatment-facilities/186137/>

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Will US Drawdown in Iraq Reboot Islamic State Militants?

Heather Murdock – Voice of America: 14 October 2021

Some Iraqis fear a U.S. withdrawal could help ISIS to rise again; others are more optimistic.

<https://www.voanews.com/a/will-us-drawdown-in-iraq-reboot-islamic-state-militants-/6271201.html>

Islamic State Fighters Now Chasing Boko Haram To North-West Region — Governor EI-Rufai

Sahara Reporters: 14 October 2021

Nigeria's Kaduna state governor admits that his biggest fear is that Boko Haram insurgents are relocating to the northwest region after being displaced in the war-torn northeast by ISIS West Africa Province.

<http://saharareporters.com/2021/10/14/islamic-state-fighters-now-chasing-boko-haram-north-west-region-%E2%80%93-governor-el-rufai>

For more on this theme:

Netherlands to soon bring back more ISIS-affiliated women to stand trial

<https://nltimes.nl/2021/10/11/netherlands-soon-bring-back-isis-affiliated-women-stand-trial>

Sudan reports crackdown on suspected Islamic State cells in Khartoum

<https://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2021/10/sudan-reports-crackdown-on-suspected-islamic-state-cells-in-khartoum.php>

The children of IS: 'It's a disaster we cannot deal with'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-58888364>

Intensifying Violence Between Taliban, IS-K Heralds New War In Afghanistan

<https://gandhara.rferl.org/a/taliban-islamic-state-khorasan/31507469.html>

Defeats of Al-Shabaab insurgents in Mozambique forces them into new areas

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/world/africa/defeats-of-al-shabaab-insurgents-in-mozambique-forces-them-into-new-areas-1.4697512>

Who finances Mozambique's insurgency?

<https://mg.co.za/africa/2021-10-13-who-finances-mozambiques-insurgency/>

Afghanistan's war is over, but the Taliban faces a new hurdle: Enforcing the law — and protecting Afghans from ISIS

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/taliban-policing-isis-afghanistan/2021/10/18/7e3dce46-26a7-11ec-8739-5cb6aba30a30_story.html

Officials: Iraq arrests mastermind of deadly 2016 bombing

<https://apnews.com/article/middle-east-arrests-iraq-bombings-baghdad-5765685b3816fe6e658509304e885815>

TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Are terror attacks increasing in Europe? — Analysis

Seth J. Frantzman – The Jerusalem Post: 16 October 2021

After attacks in the U.K. and Norway, questions are being asked about whether a new wave of extremism could be bubbling to the surface.

<https://www.jpost.com/international/after-uk-and-norway-are-terror-attacks-increasing-in-europe-682165>

Taliban promise cash, land, to families of suicide bombers

Samya Kullab – The Associated Press: 19 October 2021

The Taliban have promised plots of land to relatives of suicide bombers who attacked U.S. and Afghan soldiers. The provocative gesture seems to run counter to their efforts to court international support.

<https://apnews.com/article/afghanistan-kabul-taliban-f5a69b1c2676f9345b8dce490798d4ee>

For more on this theme:

Movement of the Taliban in Pakistan (TTP) consolidates power in tribal areas

<https://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2021/10/movement-of-the-taliban-in-pakistan-ttp-consolidates-power-in-tribal-areas.php>

Malhama Tactical: Now Jihadists for Hire

<https://idsa.in/idsacomments/malhama-tactical-now-jihadists-for-hire-sa-kidwai-141021>

Mali Contemplates Negotiating With Al Qaeda

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/mali-contemplates-negotiating-al-qaeda-195249>

Hezbollah leader declares his group has 100,000 fighters

<https://apnews.com/article/middle-east-lebanon-beirut-civil-wars-hassan-nasrallah-a3c10d99cca2ef-1c3d58dae135297025>

RADICALIZATION

'De-radicalisation' offers Moroccan prisoners route to freedom

Ismail Bellaouali – Agence France-Presse: 16 October 2021

A program, launched in 2017 and led by Morocco's prison service with several partner organizations, aims to help terror detainees who are willing to question their beliefs.

<https://news.yahoo.com/radicalisation-offers-moroccan-prisoners-route-014935301.html>

For more on this theme:

Universities must be proactive in tackling radicalization

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/opinion/126597972/universities-must-be-proactive-in-tackling-radicalisation>

Council of Europe recommends measures to protect children against radicalization

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/council-of-europe-recommends-measures-to-protect-children-against-radicalisation>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: INFORMATION OPERATIONS AND MALIGN INFLUENCE

Russia is the world's leading exporter of instability

Iuliia Mendel – Atlantic Council: 19 October 2021

Russia has emerged over the past two decades as the world's leading exporter of instability. This has become a central pillar of Vladimir Putin's foreign policy, allowing Moscow to undermine potential opponents from within while enabling the Kremlin to punch well above its true geopolitical weight.

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/russia-is-the-worlds-leading-exporter-of-instability/>

For more on this theme:

War still rages in Syrian border town at heart of Iran's regional ambition

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/oct/09/war-syrian-border-town-iran-regional-ambition-islamic-state-middle-east>

Repackaging Pandora: How Russia's information apparatus is handling a massive leak of data on offshore finance

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2021/10/08/repackaging-pandora-how-russias-information-apparatus-is-handling-a-massive-leak-of-data-on-offshore-finance/>

Russia's Energy Influence In Europe Is Growing

<https://oilprice.com/Energy/Natural-Gas/Russias-Energy-Influence-In-Europe-Is-Growing.html>

Countering China's Gray Zone Strategy

<https://smallwarsjournal.com/jrnl/art/countering-chinas-gray-zone-strategy>

Hybrid Warfare and Active Measures

<https://smallwarsjournal.com/jrnl/art/hybrid-warfare-and-active-measures>

U.S. bets on Latin America to counter China's influence

<https://ticotimes.net/2021/10/13/u-s-bets-on-latin-america-to-counter-chinas-influence>

Win Some, Lose Some: China's Campaign for Global Media Influence

<https://jamestown.org/program/win-some-lose-some-chinas-campaign-for-global-media-influence/>

Chinese Regime's Widespread Influence Operations in Canada Documented in French Report

https://www.theepochtimes.com/chinese-regimes-widespread-influence-operations-in-canada-documented-in-french-report_4039717.html

Russia Tries to Boost Asia Ties to Counter Indo-Pacific Alliances

<https://www.voanews.com/a/russia-tries-to-boost-asia-ties-to-counter-indo-pacific-alliances/6272006.html>

How Russia used Duma elections to increase its influence in occupied territories

<https://emerging-europe.com/news/how-russia-used-duma-elections-to-increase-its-influence-in-occupied-territories/>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: PROXY FORCES AND PRIVATE MILITARY GROUPS

Losses for Iran's Proxies in Iraqi Election Reflect Broader Challenges To Iranian Influence

Lewis Palmer – The Media Express: 14 October 2021

It has been widely reported that political candidates representing Iran-backed Shiite militias suffered substantial losses in Iraq's recent parliamentary elections. The outcome has been vigorously rejected by Iran's proxies and by the Islamic Republic itself.

<http://themediainexpress.com/2021/10/14/losses-for-irans-proxies-in-iraqi-election-reflect-broader-challenges-to-iranian-influence/>

For more on this theme:

Terrorists, Cocaine, And Power: A War Within Venezuela

<https://oilprice.com/Energy/Energy-General/Terrorists-Cocaine-And-Power-A-War-Within-Venezuela.html>

The Golan Heights Could Blow Up as Iran Becomes More Aggressive While Israel Issues Warnings

<https://sofrep.com/news/the-golan-heights-could-blow-up-as-iran-becomes-more-aggressive-while-israel-issues-warning/>

Russia's shadow army looks to the Sahel

<https://marketresearchtelecast.com/russias-shadow-army-looks-to-the-sahel-international/174790/>

Russian Mercenaries' Potential Advent to Mali

<https://jamestown.org/program/russian-mercenaries-potential-advent-to-mali/>

Libya: UN lauds mercenary withdrawal plan on 'path towards peace and democracy'

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/10/1102642>