

THE MARSHALL CENTER

transnational weekly



A CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICE FROM THE MARSHALL CENTER

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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

How Corruption Ruined Lebanon

Rania Abouzeid – The New York Times Magazine: 28 October 2021

The deadly port blast, the triple-digit inflation, the energy shortages – Lebanon’s many crises have a shared root: misrule by a self-dealing elite.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/28/magazine/corruption-lebanon.html>

A corruption-busting Honduran prosecutor took on the president. It didn’t end well.

Drazen Jorgic – Reuters: 29 October 2021

A prosecutor made gains against graft in Honduras. As probes got ever closer to President Juan Orlando Hernández, though, the government fought back. Reuters looks at the corruption and impunity leading record numbers of Hondurans to migrate north.

<https://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/honduras-corruption-prosecutor/>

For more on this theme:

Buhari’s gov’t incompetent, failed to curb corruption — The Economist

<https://punchng.com/buharis-govt-incompetent-failed-to-curb-corruption-the-economist/>

Liberia to launch anti-corruption innovation project that will encourage citizens’ participation

<https://frontpageafricaonline.com/news/liberia-to-launch-anti-corruption-innovation-project-that-will-encourage-citizens-participation/>

Whistleblower Protections: A Key to the Success of President Biden’s “Fight Against Corruption”

<https://www.natlawreview.com/article/whistleblower-protections-key-to-success-president-biden-s-fight-against-corruption>

‘How corruption is plunging Nigerians further into poverty’

<https://guardian.ng/features/law/how-corruption-is-plunging-nigerians-further-into-poverty/>

Renewing Magnitsky: The best weapon against an emerging security threat

<https://thehill.com/opinion/national-security/579000-renewing-magnitsky-the-best-weapon-against-an-emerging-security-threat?rl=1>

US sanctioning Lebanese businessmen, lawmaker over alleged corruption

<https://thehill.com/policy/finance/578929-us-sanctioning-lebanese-businessmen-lawmaker-over-alleged-corruption?rl=1>

Mexican judge jails ex-Pemex boss at center of corruption case

<https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/mexican-judge-orders-ex-pemex-boss-lozoya-taken-into-custody-2021-11-03/>

DRUG TRAFFICKING

Laos makes Asia's largest ever drug bust

BBC News: 28 October 2021

Laotian police have netted Asia's biggest single seizure of illegal drugs, according to a United Nations official.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-59062134>

Afghan poppy season returns in force under Taliban rule

Moyuru Baba – Nikkei Asia: 29 October 2021

Afghanistan's opium poppy farmers resumed cultivating the crop this month with apparent impunity, despite assurances from the Taliban that the country will not become a hotbed for the illegal drug trade.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/International-relations/Afghanistan-turmoil/Afghan-poppy-season-returns-in-force-under-Taliban-rule>

For more on this theme:

US sanctions reveal how Mexico's powerful Jalisco cartel is seizing control at a major Pacific port

<https://www.businessinsider.com/us-sanctions-show-mexicos-powerful-jalisco-cartel-controls-major-port-2021-10>

How a Single Mom Became the Boss of Guatemala's Drug Lords

<https://www.vice.com/en/article/88nzt5/guatemala-drug-lord-bosses-cotton-vasquez-chacon-rossell>

Turkish-backed Syrian groups pursue drug operations in Aleppo

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/10/turkish-backed-syrian-groups-pursue-drug-operations-aleppo>

Women Are Rising to Power in the Legendary Sinaloa Cartel

<https://www.vice.com/en/article/v7e95y/sinaloa-cartel-valencia-luz-fajardo-rise-to-power>

Syria's Black Desert emerges as centre of Captagon drug boom

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/mena/captagon-crisis/2021/10/25/syrian-drug-production-threatens-regional-havoc-arab-officials-warn/>

Watch Iraqi special forces raid drug rings 'more dangerous than terrorism'

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/mena/captagon-crisis/2021/10/25/drug-trade-spreads-in-conflict-ridden-iraq/>

The Inside Story – Afghanistan's Addiction Crisis TRANSCRIPT

<https://www.voanews.com/a/the-inside-story-afghanistan-s-addiction-crisis-transcript/6279936.html>

Smuggler's paradise: Captagon production thrives in Lebanon's lawless Bekaa valley

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/mena/captagon-crisis/2021/10/25/smugglers-paradise-captagon-production-thrives-in-lebanons-lawless-bekaa-valley/>

Corrupt politicians and Hezbollah terror cells tied to region's drug epidemic, says UN

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/mena/captagon-crisis/2021/10/25/rising-captagon-production-in-lebanon-and-syria-prompts-un-investigation-call/>

TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Kenya is Africa's gate for illegal wildlife trade – Sentry

Victor Amadala – The Star: 3 November 2021

Kenya remains a leading spot for laundering proceeds of illegal wildlife trafficking, logging and fishing in Africa, a report by Sentry on illicit financial flow shows.

<https://www.the-star.co.ke/business/kenya/2021-11-03-kenya-is-africas--gate-for-illegal-wildlife-trade-sentry/>

Illegal wildlife trade is much more damaging than we think

Fermin Koop – ZME Science: 28 October 2021

Species are targeted around the globe by illegal and unsustainable wildlife trade, leading to biodiversity loss and extinction. So far, nothing new – but the effects of trade on targeted species are the tip of the iceberg, with repercussions that affect ecosystems and society in more ways than thought, a new study warns.

<https://www.zmescience.com/science/hidden-costs-illegal-wildlife-trade-26102021/>

For more on this theme:

Mexico loses thousands of hectares of forests every year due to clandestine logging

<https://marketresearchtelecast.com/mexico-loses-thousands-of-hectares-of-forests-every-year-due-to-clandestine-logging/183695/>

\$200 million in gold extracted in Amazon mine through illegal licenses

<https://news.mongabay.com/2021/10/200-million-in-gold-extracted-in-amazon-mine-through-illegal-licenses/>

Pandemic-fueled wave of illegal fishing boats prompts call to divert Border Force resources

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-10-28/pandemic-fuels-wave-of-illegal-fishing-boats/100560412>

China's ivory ban at risk from legal online trade in woolly mammoth tusks, secret probe finds

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3154702/chinas-ivory-ban-risk-legal-online-trade-woolly-mammoth-tusks>

Numerous endangered species in SE Asia face extinction, studies show

<https://www.rfa.org/english/commentaries/asia-endangered-11032021105833.html>

Africa's Crackdown on Informal Gold Miners Spreads to Mali

<https://finance.yahoo.com/news/africa-crackdown-informal-gold-miners-094545451.html>

Congo to Ban Log Exports to Reduce Pressure on its Forests

<https://learningenglish.voanews.com/a/congo-to-ban-log-exports-to-reduce-pressure-on-its-forests/6295514.html>

Brazil is failing to stop illegal logging of the Amazon

<https://qz.com/2075846/brazil-is-failing-to-stop-illegal-logging-of-the-amazon/>

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Can Technology Stop Human Trafficking?

Andrea Cipriano – The Crime Report: 1 November 2021

Experts from around the world met online to discuss strategies to combat the global rise in human trafficking, as well as come up with ways to use technology to prevent and investigate cases, according to United Nations News.

<https://thecrimereport.org/2021/11/01/can-technology-stop-human-trafficking/>

For more on this theme:

Traffickers abusing online technology, UN crime prevention agency warns

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/10/1104392>

Act now to stamp out child labour by 2025: FAO chief

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/11/1104632>

Explained: Why Human Trafficking Remains One Of The Top Organised Crimes In India

<https://www.indiatimes.com/explainers/news/human-trafficking-in-india-552763.html>

COVID Exacerbated Human Trafficking – But New Tools Are Emerging to Fight it

<https://eurweb.com/2021/10/30/covid-exacerbated-human-trafficking-tools-to-fight-it/>

Final Draft of National Action Plan against Human Trafficking Out Soon

<https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2021/11/03/final-draft-of-national-action-plan-against-human-trafficking-out-soon/>

Ghana needs national data on human trafficking – FTS

<https://www.ghanabusinessnews.com/2021/11/03/ghana-needs-national-data-on-human-trafficking-fts/>

The Surge In Online Child Exploitation, Trafficking And Abuse — And What To Do About It

<https://www.ibtimes.com/surge-online-child-exploitation-trafficking-abuse-what-do-about-it-3327259>

Illegal Cigarettes Produced with Slave Labor in Brazil

<https://insightcrime.org/news/illegal-cigarettes-produced-with-slave-labor-in-brazil/>

Colombia's most powerful cartel is making millions 'helping' desperate migrants get through a deadly South American jungle

<https://www.businessinsider.com/colombian-cartel-profiting-off-of-migrants-going-through-deadly-jungle-2021-10>

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET FREEDOM

Media targeted during Sudan's military coup

International Press Institute – IFEX: 1 November 2021

Freedom of expression and digital rights have come under fire during Sudan's military coup as journalists have been detained and access to social media has been blocked.

<https://ifex.org/media-targeted-during-sudans-military-coup/>

Full report:

Sudan's military must free arrested journalists, end internet block

<https://ipi.media/sudans-military-must-free-arrested-journalists-end-internet-block/>

For more on this theme:

(Indonesia) Indonesian internet blocks amid social unrest lawful, court rules

<https://www.reuters.com/business/media-telecom/indonesian-internet-blocks-amid-social-unrest-lawful-court-rules-2021-10-27/>

(Russia) Russia strengthens its internet censorship powers

https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/russia-strengthens-its-internet-censorship-powers-121102201757_1.html

(Pakistan) 'Chilling pattern': Pakistani journalists 'targeted' by cyber law

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/11/2/pakistan-journalists-targeted-cyber-crime-law-press-freedom>

CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

UAE Cyber Security Council launches internship programme

Khaleej Times: 23 October 2021

A new program seeks to enhance interns' cybersecurity skills and knowledge, provide them with professional and business acumen, and further protect the United Arab Emirates' digital transformation.

<https://www.khaleejtimes.com/tech/uae-cyber-security-council-launches-internship-programme>

For more on this theme:

(Global) DiploFoundation Develops Simulated Cyber-Attack Game

<https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/diplofoundation-simulated/>

(Vietnam, Singapore) Vietnam, Singapore Explore Strengthening Cybersecurity Ties

<https://opengovasia.com/vietnam-singapore-explore-strengthening-cybersecurity-ties/>

(U.S.) DISA Moves to Combat Intensifying Cyber Threats with Artificial Intelligence

<https://www.nextgov.com/cybersecurity/2021/11/disa-moves-combat-intensifying-cyber-threats-artificial-intelligence/186530/>

PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

What Agencies and Industry Can Learn from Sharing Cyber Threat Intel

Tony D'Angelo – Nextgov: 25 October 2021

Federal agencies should seek industry partners that can keep them better informed and offer resources they can't access.

<https://www.nextgov.com/ideas/2021/10/what-agencies-and-industry-can-learn-sharing-cyber-threat-intel/186348/>

For more on this theme:

(South Korea) South Korea's Approach to the Metaverse

<https://thediplomat.com/2021/11/south-koreas-approach-to-the-metaverse/>

(Africa) Airtel Africa and UNICEF announce multi-million dollar partnership to scale-up digital learning for children across Africa

<https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/airtel-africa-and-unicef-announce-multi-million-dollar-partnership-scale-digital>

(Global) Connecting every school to the internet

<https://www.technologydecisions.com.au/content/futureed/news/connecting-every-school-to-the-internet-1009706564>

CYBERCRIME

These ransomware criminals lost millions of dollars in payments when researchers secretly found mistakes in their code

Danny Palmer – ZDNet: 26 October 2021

BlackMatter ransomware had a bug that allowed cybersecurity researchers at Emsisoft to hand out decryption keys to victims – removing the need to pay ransoms.

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/cybersecurity-researchers-secretly-cost-ransomware-criminals-millions-of-dollars-after-finding-mistakes-in-their-code/>

For more on this theme:

(Libya) Libyan HoR passes controversial “combating cyber crime” bill

<https://www.libyaobserver.ly/news/libyan-hor-passes-controversial-combating-cyber-crime-bill%C2%A0>

(Global) Cybercrime matures as hackers are forced to work smarter

<https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/cybercrime-matures-as-hackers-are-forced-to-work-smarter/>

(Scotland, Global) Sharing valuable lessons after a cyberattack

<https://futurescot.com/sharing-valuable-lessons-after-a-cyberattack/>

CYBERATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

Hackers-for-hire are biggest cybersecurity threat -EU agency

Foo Yun Chee – Reuters: 28 October 2021

Hackers for hire emerged as the biggest threat to online security in the past 15 months, European Union cybersecurity agency ENISA said in its annual report. The COVID-19 pandemic and home working created opportunities for cybercriminals.

<https://www.reuters.com/technology/hackers-for-hire-are-biggest-cybersecurity-threat-eu-agency-2021-10-27/>

For more on this theme:

(Africa) INTERPOL Report Identifies Top Cyber Threats in Africa

<https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/cybersecurity/interpol-report-identifies-top-cyber-threats-in-africa/>

(India) Centre launches pan-India helpline for cyber crime, frauds

<https://theshillongtimes.com/2021/10/27/centre-launches-pan-india-helpline-for-cyber-crime-frauds/>

(Global) Natural Disasters Can Set the Stage for Cyberattacks

<https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2021/10/25/natural-disasters-can-set-the-stage-for-cyberattacks>

PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

India's critical infrastructure like gas and water vulnerable to cyber attacks: study

M.P. Praveen – The Hindu: 23 October 2021

“India topped the list of 20 countries with 13 critical installations using default credentials, making them highly vulnerable,” said Rahul Sasi, the founder of CloudSEK, a global artificial intelligence-driven digital risk management enterprise.

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/technology/indias-critical-infrastructure-like-gas-and-water-vulnerable-to-cyber-attacks-study/article37137665.ece>

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) America's new war on terror has gone digital

<https://www.msnbc.com/opinion/america-s-new-war-terror-has-gone-digital-n1282011>

(U.S., Global) DHS Secretary: “Killware,” Malware Designed To Do Real-World Harm, Poised To Be World's Next Breakout Cybersecurity Threat

<https://www.cpomagazine.com/cyber-security/dhs-secretary-killware-malware-designed-to-do-real-world-harm-poised-to-be-worlds-next-breakout-cybersecurity-threat/>

(Global) Cyberattacks to critical infrastructure threaten our safety and well-being

<https://theconversation.com/cyberattacks-to-critical-infrastructure-threaten-our-safety-and-well-being-170191>

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

ISIS-K Expanding 'Faster than Anticipated,' Experts Warn

Trevor Filseth – The National Interest: 28 October 2021

While ISIS-Khorasan (ISIS-K) and the Taliban share ideological similarities, the two groups have emerged as major enemies in Afghanistan, and ISIS-K has acted to undermine the Taliban's legitimacy among Sunni Afghans.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/isis-k-expanding-%E2%80%98faster-anticipated%E2%80%99-experts-warn-195655>

The Fractious Future of the Islamic State in West Africa

Stig Jarle Hansen – War on the Rocks: 3 November 2021

Africa was supposed to be the Islamic State's success story. Observers saw the group's rising attacks there as proof that the continent had become the new center of global jihad. In reality, the Islamic State faces many problems in Africa, largely of its own making.

<https://warontherocks.com/2021/11/the-fractious-future-of-the-islamic-state-in-west-africa/>

For more on this theme:

Anjem Choudary orchestrating online campaigns in support of extremists despite Isis conviction

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/anjem-choudary-twitter-telegram-prison-b1943749.html>

Sweden repatriates 3 women accused of ties to ISIS, 8 children from Syria

<https://www.kurdistan24.net/en/story/25999-Sweden-repatriates-3-women-accused-of-ties-to-ISIS,-8-children-from-Syria>

Nigerian official says new leader of ISIL-linked group killed

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/10/22/nigerian-official-says-new-leader-of-isil-linked-group-killed>

New wave of ISIS-affiliated families leave al-Hol camp

<https://www.rudaw.net/english/middleeast/syria/241020211>

Sweden will aid anti-ISIS mission for as long as Iraq wants: Ambassador

<https://www.rudaw.net/english/interview/22102021>

ISIS-K Fighter Hiding In Afghanistan Reveals The Terrorist Group's Cross-Border Ambitions

<https://knewz.com/knewz-exclusive-isis-k-fighter-hiding-in-afghanistan-reveals-the-terrorist-groups-cross-border-ambitions/>

Why Is the Islamic State in Afghanistan's Propaganda Targeting China?

<https://thediplomat.com/2021/10/is-the-islamic-state-in-afghanistan-targeting-china/>

TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Timeline for Potential Attacks by Islamic State, Al-Qaida Getting Shorter

Jeff Seldin – Voice of America: 26 October 2021

Both the Islamic State terror group's Afghan affiliate and al-Qaida could be ready to launch strikes against the United States and the West sooner than previously thought following the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan.

<https://www.voanews.com/a/timeline-for-potential-attacks-by-islamic-state-al-qaida-getting-shorter/6286646.html>

Al-Shabaab profiting from climate change, UN Panel of Experts on Somalia says

Aggrey Mutambo – Nation: 30 October 2021

In a report submitted to the United Nations Security Council, the panel said the terrorist group al-Shabaab was using people's exposure to climate change to cement their influence in Somalia and the region.

<https://nation.africa/kenya/news/africa/al-shabaab-profiting-from-climate-change-un-panel-of-experts-on-somalia-says-3601668>

For more on this theme:

Al-Qaeda terrorists flee as Yemeni forces capture strategic region in Ma'rib

https://en.abna24.com/news/al-qaeda-terrorists-flee-as-yemeni-forces-capture-strategic-region-in-marib_1191654.html

US military exit from Syria unlikely anytime soon, officials say

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/10/26/will-us-leave-syria>

'Why I returned to Boko Haram and how I escaped'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-59002677>

Hezbollah Has No Choice but Escalation

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/10/25/hezbollah-escalation-lebanon-beirut-port-blast-amal-movement/>

Is Hezbollah trying to spark a confrontation between the army and the Lebanese Forces?

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/1954546>

Foreign Aid Won't Moderate the Taliban

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/10/27/taliban-afghanistan-foreign-aid-assistance-moderate-human-rights/>

Afghan Pilots Who Fled To Tajikistan Say Taliban Is Threatening Relatives Back Home

<https://gandhara.rferl.org/a/afghan-pilots-taliban-threatening-families/31525885.html>

Putin Says Russia Mulling Removing Taliban From Terrorist List

<https://www.rferl.org/a/putin-taliban-terror-list/31523297.html>

Syrian jihadi group cracks down on last pocket of rivals in Idlib

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/11/syrian-jihadi-group-cracks-down-last-pocket-rivals-idlib>

RADICALIZATION

Australian defence force strengthens vetting procedures to prevent extremists from joining

Daniel Hurst – The Guardian: 31 October 2021

The measures, which include better information sharing with the intelligence agency Asio, are driven by concerns that extremists have sought to join the Australian defence force “to obtain training and capability.”

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2021/nov/01/australian-defence-force-strengthens-vetting-procedures-to-prevent-extremists-from-joining>

For more on this theme:

Psychology of the Radical

<https://smallwarsjournal.com/jrnl/art/psychology-radical>

Repentant Boko Haram Fighters Should Have A Faculty In Nigerian Army University — Gombe Governor

<http://saharareporters.com/2021/10/27/repentant-boko-haram-fighters-should-have-faculty-nigerian-army-university-%E2%80%94-gombe>

Iraqi envoy to Saudi Arabia reviews anti-terror center’s efforts against extremism

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/1961181/saudi-arabia>

How the world can stop the radicalization of innocents in Syria

<https://thehill.com/opinion/international/579829-how-the-world-can-stop-the-radicalization-of-innocents-in-syria?rl=1>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: CYBER

Google Issues Public Warning About Iranian State-Sponsored Hacking Group

Scott Ikeda – CPO Magazine: 28 October 2021

For some years now, Google has been issuing warnings directly to users who appear to have been targeted by a state-sponsored hacking group. The company has taken the unusual step of issuing a general public warning about one of these groups via its blog because of a large-scale campaign targeting academics and international conference attendees.

<https://www.cpomagazine.com/cyber-security/google-issues-public-warning-about-iranian-state-sponsored-hacking-group/>

For more on this theme:

China Flaunts Its Offensive Cyber Power

<https://warontherocks.com/2021/10/china-flaunts-its-offensive-cyber-power/>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: PROXY FORCES AND PRIVATE MILITARY GROUPS

Iran's drones are a buzzing menace for Saudi Arabia

Ilan Zelayat – Atlantic Council: 28 October 2021

Going largely unnoticed, small but sophisticated Iranian-made armed drones have undercut the security balance in the Gulf region and the Arabian Peninsula over the past few years, ushering in a novel asymmetrical menace.

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/menasource/irans-drones-are-a-buzzing-menace-for-saudi-arabia/>

For more on this theme:

Saudi-Iran 'proxy wars' play out in embattled Lebanon

<https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20211031-saudi-iran-proxy-wars-play-out-in-embattled-lebanon>

Iran Responsible for Drone Attack on U.S. Base in Syria

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/iran-responsible-drone-attack-us-base-syria-195658>

Biden targets Iran drone program with sanctions

<https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/579104-biden-targets-iran-drone-program-with-sanctions?rl=1>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: INFORMATION OPERATIONS AND MALIGN INFLUENCE

China: The patriotic 'ziganwu' bloggers who attack the West

Tessa Wong – BBC: 21 October 2021

A new crop of bloggers known as the “ziganwu,” whose rise in fame on Chinese social media has been inextricably linked with the ascendancy of Chinese nationalism, has been attacking the West on popular sites. Their name refers to the infamous “wumao” army of trolls who are paid to spread state propaganda – but the difference is that the ziganwu do it for free.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-58922011>

For more on this theme:

Exposing the Chinese government's oppression of Xinjiang's Uyghurs

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/exposing-the-chinese-governments-oppression-of-xinjiangs-uyghurs/>

Biden says China and Russia skipping summit will diminish their influence

<https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/579713-biden-chides-china-and-russia-for-skipping-climate-summit?rl=1>

China trying to influence media, businesses in US, other places: Pentagon

https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/china-conducts-influence-operations-to-target-media-businesses-in-us-other-countries-121110301818_1.html

China's Growing Influence in Cambodia and Laos Has Vietnam on Edge

<https://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/articles/30083/as-china-vietnam-relations-grow-tense-hanoi-considers-its-options>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: INFORMATION OPERATIONS AND MALIGN INFLUENCE

Australia expands footprint in Southeast Asia to tackle China's influence

Tom Allard – Independent: 27 October 2021

Australia and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations agreed to establish a “comprehensive strategic partnership,” a sign of Canberra’s ambition to play a bigger role in the region.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/australasia/australia-southeast-asia-china-influence-b1946380.html>

For more on this theme:

China hounds Taiwan with ‘greyzone’ war plane incursions

<https://news.yahoo.com/china-hounds-taiwan-greyzone-war-035919214.html>

Australia accuses China of undermining world trade

<https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20211021-australia-accuses-china-of-undermining-world-trade>

China's U.N. Interference Reaches a Brazen New Stage

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