

THE MARSHALL CENTER

transnational weekly



A CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICE FROM THE MARSHALL CENTER

CONTENTS

COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

- Corruption
- Drug Trafficking
- Trafficking in Scarce or Protected Resources
- Human Trafficking and Irregular Migration

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

- Internet Governance
- Internet Freedom
- Cybersecurity
- Cybercrime
- Cyberattacks, Threats and Vulnerabilities
- Protection of Critical Infrastructure

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

- ISIS and Foreign Fighters
- Terrorism Around the World
- Irregular Warfare: Proxy Forces and Private Military Groups
- Irregular Warfare: Information Operations and Malign Influence
- Irregular Warfare: Cyber

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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

How African countries tackle corruption

Gwendolin Hilse – Deutsche Welle: 1 December 2021

From establishing special commissions to mounting public billboards, Africa has made strides in tackling corruption. Deutsche Welle correspondents in Nigeria, Uganda and Zimbabwe report on the battle.

<https://www.dw.com/en/how-african-countries-tackle-corruption/av-59986104>

Malawi Police Arrest Former Government Officials on Corruption and Fraud Charges

Lameck Masina – Voice of America: 8 December 2021

Two former cabinet ministers and a former reserve bank governor are arrested in Malawi over the sale of a state-owned bank. The government says the actions are aimed at cleaning up corruption. The opposition Democratic Progressive Party says they are political persecution.

<https://www.voanews.com/a/malawi-police-arrest-former-government-officials-on-corruption-and-fraud-charges/6344414.html>

For more on this theme:

Austria's ex-chancellor Kurz quits politics after corruption scandal

<https://www.france24.com/en/video/20211202-austria-s-ex-chancellor-kurz-quits-politics-after-corruption-scandal>

Cyprus' desperately needs an independent Anti-Corruption Authority

<https://cyprus-mail.com/2021/12/05/cyprus-desperately-needs-an-independent-anti-corruption-authority/>

Combatting corruption is key to creating a sustainable path of future growth for South Africa

<https://www.news24.com/citypress/business/combating-corruption-is-key-to-creating-a-sustainable-path-of-future-growth-for-south-africa-20211207>

Can fight against corruption be won?

<https://www.ghanaiantimes.com.gh/can-fight-against-corruption-be-won/>

Corruption probe launched at Bosnia's biggest pharmaceuticals manufacturer

<https://www.intellinews.com/corruption-probe-launched-at-bosnia-s-biggest-pharmaceuticals-manufacturer-229255/>

Congo Investigation a Chance to Fight Corruption

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/12/02/congo-investigation-chance-fight-corruption#>

Statement by the UNDP Administrator: International Anti-Corruption Day 2021, 9 December

<https://www.undp.org/speeches/statement-undp-administrator-international-anti-corruption-day-2021-9-december>

DRUG TRAFFICKING

On Syria's ruins, a drug empire flourishes

Ben Hubbard and Hwaida Saad – The New York Times: 6 December 2021

After a decade of bloody civil war that has decimated the population, destroyed much of the country's infrastructure and ruined the economy, Syria's Assad government has turned to the lucrative dirty business of narcotics dealing.

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/world/middle-east/on-syria-s-ruins-a-drug-empire-flourishes-1.4747876>

The Taliban's War On Drugs

Bradley Devlin – The American Conservative: 2 December 2021

Will the reemergent Taliban prohibit growing opium poppy like they did in 2000?

<https://www.theamericanconservative.com/articles/the-talibans-war-on-drugs/>

For more on this theme:

Belgian Port City Grapples With a Flood of Cocaine

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/12/04/world/europe/belgium-antwerp-cocaine.html>

Ireland Seizures Highlight Growing Role in Cocaine Trade

<https://insightcrime.org/news/ireland-seizures-highlight-growing-role-cocaine-trade/>

Families in Rosario, Argentina, Paint Homes to Avoid Attacks

<https://insightcrime.org/news/families-in-rosario-argentina-paint-homes-to-avoid-attacks/>

By tackling both supply and demand, our strategy will reduce the misery of drugs

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/dec/06/tackling-supply-demand-strategy-misery-drugs>

Instagram's algorithm directly connects teens to 'drug dealers selling everything from opioids to party drugs,' researchers say

<https://www.businessinsider.com/teens-instagram-drug-dealers-in-2-clicks-researchers-say-2021-12>

'More than Mafia dolls': Mexican author highlights role of drug traffickers' wives in new book

<https://www.euronews.com/culture/2021/12/07/more-than-mafia-dolls-mexican-author-highlights-role-of-drug-traffickers-wives-in-new-book>

Courier, postal cargo favourite modes of drug trafficking: DRI

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/courier-postal-cargo-favourite-modes-of-drug-trafficking-dri/articleshow/88133034.cms>

Colombia's Gulf Clan: The Capture of a Kingpin and the Future of Colombia's Cartels

<https://globalriskinsights.com/2021/12/colombias-gulf-clan-the-capture-of-a-kingpin-and-the-future-of-colombias-cartels/>

Cancer Causing Drug & Animal Dewormer Found Cut Into Cocaine Bound For Australia

<https://www.hit.com.au/story/cancer-causing-drug-animal-dewormer-found-cut-into-cocaine-bound-for-australia-189143>

TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Environmental Crime, A Global Security Issue

Manesh Samtani – Regulation Asia: 2 December 2021

Interpol's Rory Corcoran says environmental crime is funding global terrorism and criminal organizations, while also affecting the sustainability agenda.

<https://www.regulationasia.com/environmental-crime-a-global-security-issue/>

Cameroon Deploys Military to Assist Rangers as Poaching Increases

Moki Edwin Kindzeka – Voice of America: 6 December 2021

Cameroon has deployed its military to help rangers crack down on poachers on the eastern border with the Central African Republic. Cameroon wildlife officials say poaching is again increasing after pandemic restrictions saw a drop in animals being killed.

<https://www.voanews.com/a/cameroon-deploys-military-to-assist-rangers-as-poaching-increases/6341052.html>

For more on this theme:

Colombia launches strategy to tackle environmental crimes

<https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/colombia-launches-strategy-tackle-environmental-crimes-2021-12-06/>

Following the wildlife traffickers' money

<https://mg.co.za/environment/2021-12-03-following-the-wildlife-traffickers-money/>

Financial Action Task Force High-Level Conference 2021 — Leipzig, Germany

https://cites.org/eng/news/sg/fatf_high-level_conference_2021_remarks_of_cites_sg_07122021

Singapore's thriving online bird trade needs system to ensure legality

<https://www.traffic.org/publications/reports/trading-faces-live-bird-trade-on-facebook-in-singapore/>

Chinese boats spotted illegally hauling tuna in Indian Ocean

<https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/chinese-boats-spotted-illegally-hauling-tuna-indian-ocean-81635056>

Why Robots Are Set to Win the Fight for Fish

<https://www.maritime-executive.com/editorials/why-robots-are-set-to-win-the-fight-for-fish>

Indonesia ranks high on legal wildlife trade, but experts warn it masks illegal trade

<https://news.mongabay.com/2021/12/indonesia-ranks-high-on-legal-wildlife-trade-but-experts-warn-it-masks-illegal-trade/>

Illegal wildlife trade: Is there a better way to solve this problem?

<https://phys.org/news/2021-12-illegal-wildlife-problem.html>

Smugglers using government amnesty scheme as a new tool for exotic wildlife trade

<https://india.mongabay.com/2021/12/smugglers-using-government-amnesty-scheme-as-a-new-tool-for-exotic-wildlife-trade/>

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Modern slavery is far from abolished

Martina Schwikowski and Mouhamadou Kane – Deutsche Welle: 2 December 2021

Despite international efforts to abolish slavery, it is alive in certain parts of the world. Global warming and the COVID-19 pandemic are not helping matters.

<https://www.dw.com/en/modern-slavery-is-far-from-abolished/a-59990800>

DHS leading fight against human trafficking, White House report shows

Liz Carey – Homeland Preparedness News: 7 December 2021

According to a report released by the White House, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security is leading the Biden administration's efforts to combat human trafficking.

<https://homelandprepnews.com/stories/75048-dhs-leading-fight-against-human-trafficking-white-house-report-shows/>

For more on this theme:

Treasury Details Efforts to Combat Human Trafficking

<https://www.natlawreview.com/article/treasury-details-efforts-to-combat-human-trafficking>

Modern slavery is far from abolished

<https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/business-and-human-rights/publications/resources-energy-and-modern-slavery-practical>

Aligning anti-trafficking programs with UN Sustainable Development Goals

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/12/07/opinions/bukeni-waruzi-anti-trafficking-sustainable-development-goals-spc-intl/index.html>

Infographic: The Hotspots Of Modern Slavery

<https://www.ibtimes.com/infographic-hotspots-modern-slavery-3350596>

Modern slavery can be hidden behind even the most innocent businesses

<https://www.cityam.com/modern-slavery-businesses-britain-global-supply-chain/>

Australian fast fashion giant to keep factories secret despite modern slavery concerns

<https://www.perthnow.com.au/news/australian-fast-fashion-giant-to-keep-factories-secret-despite-modern-slavery-concerns-c-4786959>

Exploiting the vulnerable: Alleged beatings and modern slavery in Nepali restaurant trade

<https://www.financeuncovered.org/investigations/modern-slavery-nepali-restaurants-human-trafficking-allegations/>

UN expert: Contemporary forms of slavery exist in Sri Lanka

<https://apnews.com/article/business-race-and-ethnicity-united-nations-sri-lanka-slavery-132373e5687de9419c41abee4874179c>

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Internet Governance Forum promotes inclusive digital future for all

United Nations News: 7 December 2021

Leveraging the power of the internet while tackling the risks of cyberspace is the focus of a U.N. meeting on internet governance.

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/12/1107322>

For more on this theme:

(European Union) Council of Europe at Internet Governance Forum 2021

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/council-of-europe-at-internet-governance-forum-2021>

(Global) ICC at IGF2021: Keep the internet whole

<https://iccwbo.org/media-wall/news-speeches/icc-at-igf2021-keep-the-internet-whole/>

(India, Global) PM Modi congratulated India IGF efforts towards defining the roadmap of Internet Governance

<https://www.dqindia.com/pm-modi-congratulated-india-igf-efforts-towards-defining-the-roadmap-of-internet-governance/>

INTERNET FREEDOM

Artificial Intelligence Works to Outsmart Governments' Internet Censorship

Julie Taboh – Voice of America: 7 December 2021

Two computer scientists at the University of Maryland have developed an artificial intelligence system that can detect and evade internet censorship in repressive countries.

<https://www.voanews.com/a/artificial-intelligence-works-to-outsmart-governments-internet-censorship-6342765.html>

For more on this theme:

(U.S., Global) How Biden can make his internet freedom agenda a success

<https://www.brookings.edu/techstream/how-biden-can-make-his-internet-freedom-agenda-a-success/>

(Russia) Russia Blocks Tor Browser's Main Website in Censorship Push

<https://www.pcmag.com/news/russia-blocks-tor-browsers-main-website-in-censorship-push>

(U.S., Global) White House to fund tech to evade censorship and increase privacy

<https://www.reuters.com/technology/white-house-fund-tech-evade-censorship-increase-privacy-2021-12-08/>

(China) Beijing Silenced Peng Shuai in 20 Minutes, Then Spent Weeks on Damage Control

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/12/08/world/asia/peng-shuai-china-censorship.html>

CYBERSECURITY

Is the UK government's new IoT cybersecurity bill fit for purpose?

Carly Page – TechCrunch: 4 December 2021

Security experts find flaws with how the United Kingdom plans to secure internet of things devices.

<https://techcrunch.com/2021/12/04/uk-internet-of-things-cybersecurity-bill/>

For more on this theme:

(U.K.) Adapting higher education to address the cybersecurity skills shortage

<https://www.helpnetsecurity.com/2021/12/07/cybersecurity-higher-education/>

(Global) What Microsoft's shift to passwordless means for cybersecurity

<https://www.securitymagazine.com/articles/96623-what-microsofts-shift-to-passwordless-means-for-cybersecurity>

(Turkey) Turkey's cyber fortress fights digital threats around-the-clock

<https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/turkeys-cyber-fortress-fights-digital-threats-around-the-clock/news>

CYBERCRIME

Cybercrime predictions for 2022: Deepfakes, cryptocurrencies, and misinformation

Maya Horowitz – Big Think: 4 December 2021

While cybercriminals continue to leverage the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, they will also find new opportunities for attacks such as deepfakes, cryptocurrency and mobile wallets.

<https://bigthink.com/the-future/cybercrime-2022/>

For more on this theme:

(Global) Update On Evolving Cybercrime Tactics

<https://securityboulevard.com/2021/12/update-on-evolving-cybercrime-tactics/>

(U.S.) US Military Fights Against Ransomware: Cyber Crime is Massive in the Country, Needing More to Fight Against It

<https://www.techtimes.com/articles/268973/20211205/us-military-fights-against-ransomware-cyber-crime-massive-country-needing-more.htm>

(Russia, Global) Google sues alleged Russian cyber criminals

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-59571417>

(Global) The Evolving Technology of Cybercrime

<https://securityboulevard.com/2021/12/the-evolving-technology-of-cybercrime/>

(Global) Cybercrime supply chain: Fueling the rise in ransomware

<https://www.helpnetsecurity.com/2021/12/06/cybercrime-supply-chain/>

CYBERATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

Cyber-Attack on Planned Parenthood

Sarah Coble – InfoSecurity Magazine: 2 December 2021

A cyberattack on Planned Parenthood Los Angeles exposed patients' personal information.

<https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/cyberattack-on-planned-parenthood/>

For more on this theme:

(U.K.) Spar cyber attack hits more than 300 convenience stores

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-lancashire-59554433>

(U.S., Canada) Canadian man facing federal charges related to Alaska cyber attack

https://www.newsminer.com/news/alaska_news/canadian-man-facing-federal-charges-related-to-alaska-cyber-attack/article_9dcf7a28-57cd-11ec-89d9-0312793908c7.html

(U.K., Global) Lloyd's of London: Cyber Insurance Will Not Cover Cyber Attacks Attributable to Nation-States

<https://www.cpomagazine.com/cyber-security/lloyds-of-london-cyber-insurance-will-not-cover-cyber-attacks-attributable-to-nation-states/>

PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Chinese Ransomware Attacks Major Energy Network! Potentially Shutting Down Power for 3 Million Homes

Teejay Boris – Tech Times: 8 December 2021

Chinese ransomware hackers attacked the network of CS Energy, which powers 3 million households in Australia.

<https://www.techtimes.com/articles/269092/20211208/chinese-ransomware-attack-major-energy-network-chinese-ransomware-shut-down-power-3-million-homes.htm>

For more on this theme:

(U.S., Global) Preparing for and Preventing an Inevitable Cyber Attack

<https://www.govtech.com/sponsored/preparing-for-and-preventing-an-inevitable-cyber-attack>

(U.S.) Why Cybersecurity Risk for the Water Industry Is So High

<https://www.channelfutures.com/from-the-industry/why-cybersecurity-risk-for-the-water-industry-is-so-high>

(U.S.) Cybersecurity: Federal Actions Urgently Needed to Better Protect the Nation's Critical Infrastructure

<https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-22-105530>

(Cuba, U.S.) FBI: Cuba ransomware group hit 49 critical infrastructure organizations

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/fbi-cuba-ransomware-hit-49-critical-infrastructure-organizations/>

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

US officials say humanitarian effort in Syria is another means to counter ISIS

Barbara Starr – CNN: 3 December 2021

United States special operations forces in northeastern Syria have been quietly providing medical care to communities without health services after years of war. The visits are done in partnership with the Syrian Defense Forces, which operate alongside the U.S. in a yearslong effort to root out ISIS fighters.

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/12/03/middleeast/us-special-ops-syria-sdf-aid-intl/index.html>

ISIL committed war crimes at Mosul prison, UN investigation finds

Al Jazeera: 3 December 2021

The head of a United Nations team investigating Islamic State group's atrocities in Iraq has said the armed group's fighters committed crimes against humanity at a prison in the northern city of Mosul, where at least 1,000 mostly Shia Muslim prisoners were systematically killed seven years ago.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/12/3/isil-committed-war-crimes-at-mosul-prison-un-investigation-finds>

For more on this theme:

Iraqi Counter-Terrorism Service topples ISIS cell it says was responsible for assassinations in 6 provinces

<https://www.kurdistan24.net/en/story/26532-Iraqi-Counter-Terrorism-Service-topples-ISIS-cell-it-says-was-responsible-for-assassinations-in-6-provinces>

Rojava hands over ISIS-affiliated girls to Swiss delegation

<https://www.rudaw.net/english/world/06122021>

Isis-K escalates terror attacks in Afghanistan and Pakistan in show of resistance against Taliban

<https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/article/3158929/isis-k-escalates-terror-attacks-afghanistan-and-pakistan-show-resistance>

Global Coalition against ISIS: Morocco Co-Chairs Africa Focus Group

<https://northafricapost.com/54130-global-coalition-against-isis-morocco-co-chairs-africa-focus-group.html>

Iraq repatriates 100 ISIL fighters from Syria's Kurdish forces

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/12/8/iraq-repatriates-100-isil-fighters-from-syria-kurdish-forces>

Mumbai: Two persons accused of radicalising youths to join ISIS plead guilty before special NIA court

<https://www.opindia.com/2021/12/two-persons-accused-of-radicalising-youths-to-join-isis-plead-guilty/>

TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

The Taliban are losing the fight against Islamic State

Oved Lobel – The Strategist: 6 December 2021

On paper, the Taliban have every advantage against Islamic State group's Afghanistan affiliate; in practice, there's no evidence their take-no-prisoners campaign has affected the group to any great extent.

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/the-taliban-are-losing-the-fight-against-islamic-state/>

20 Years After 9/11, Al-Qaida Retains a Deadly Relevance in Malaysia

Rueben Dass and Jasminder Singh – The Diplomat: 2 December 2021

Despite al-Qaida's apparent dormancy, Malaysian authorities can't afford to underestimate the potential threat.

<https://thediplomat.com/2021/12/20-years-after-9-11-al-qaida-retains-a-deadly-relevance-in-malaysia/>

For more on this theme:

Yazidi genocide: landmark guilty verdict for IS jihadi could transform how atrocities are brought to justice

<https://theconversation.com/yazidi-genocide-landmark-guilty-verdict-for-is-jihadi-could-transform-how-atrocities-are-brought-to-justice-173043>

WATCH: House Oversight subcommittee hearing on Al-Qaida, ISIS and other militant groups

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/watch-live-house-oversight-subcommittee-hearing-on-al-qaida-isis-and-other-militant-groups>

UN Human Rights Chief Makes First Visit to Burkina Faso

<https://www.voanews.com/a/un-human-rights-chief-makes-first-visit-to-burkina-faso/6336883.html>

Jihadist attacks flow into littoral West Africa

<https://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2021/12/jihadist-attacks-flow-into-littoral-west-africa.php>

Burkina Faso's 1.3M Displaced People Increasingly Fall Victim to Terrorists

<https://www.voanews.com/a/burkina-faso-s-1-3m-displaced-people-increasingly-fall-victim-to-terrorists/6339240.html>

Boko Haram escapees now confronted by uncertain future

<https://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/boko-harem-escapees-now-confronted-by-uncertain-future-1.4746111>

India highlights link between Al-Qaeda-ISIL-LeT-Jaish

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/india-highlights-link-between-al-qaeda-isis-let-jaish/articleshow/88084110.cms>

The emergence of Jemaah Islamiyah's political front

<https://www.todayonline.com/commentary/emergence-jemaah-islamiyahs-political-front>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: PROXY FORCES AND PRIVATE MILITARY GROUPS

How Mosul's liberators became occupiers

Judit Neurink – Al Monitor: 1 December 2021

Civilians in the Iraqi city of Mosul complain about the power of the militias that freed them from ISIS but turned to occupier later on.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/11/how-mosuls-liberators-became-occupiers>

For more on this theme:

Iran-Hezbollah help Hamas, Islamic Jihad trounce Israel with propaganda – exclusive

<https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/exclusive-iran-hezbollah-help-hamas-islamic-jihad-trounce-israel-with-propaganda-688000>

Mercenaries and private military security: Africa's thin grey line

<https://www.premiumpost.com/features-and-interviews/498500-mercenaries-and-private-military-security-africas-thin-grey-line.html>

Russia's Influence in the Central African Republic

<https://www.crisisgroup.org/africa/central-africa/central-african-republic/russias-influence-central-african-republic>

Africa cannot afford a situation where governments' employment of mercenaries becomes the norm

<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2021-12-01-africa-cannot-afford-a-situation-where-governments-employment-of-mercenaries-becomes-the-norm/>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: INFORMATION OPERATIONS AND MALIGN INFLUENCE

China's approach to global economic governance

Jue Wang and Michael Sampson – Chatham House: 6 December 2021

Beijing is using multilateral and bilateral approaches to influence reforms in global institutions.

<https://www.chathamhouse.org/2021/12/chinas-approach-global-economic-governance>

For more on this theme:

Here we go again: Russia's energy 'diplomacy' in Moldova

<https://www.chathamhouse.org/2021/12/here-we-go-again-russias-energy-diplomacy-moldova>

Six Things You Need To Know About Why Russia's Threat to Ukraine Matters

<https://aclj.org/foreign-policy/six-things-you-need-to-know-about-why-russias-threat-to-ukraine-matters>

Is China Stacking the Technology Deck by Setting International Standards?

<https://thediplomat.com/2021/12/is-china-stacking-the-technology-deck-by-setting-international-standards/>

NATO Must Adapt to an Era of Hybrid Threats

<https://carnegieeurope.eu/strategieurope/85900>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: CYBER

SecDef Austin 'very concerned' about Russian aggression toward Ukraine

Valerie Insinna – Breaking Defense: 4 December 2021

“They’ve invaded before, and as we look at the numbers of forces that are in the border region, as we look at some of the things that are occurring in the information space, as we look at what’s going on in the cyber domain, it really raises our concern,” U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said.

<https://breakingdefense.com/2021/12/secdef-austin-very-concerned-about-russian-aggression-toward-ukraine/>

For more on this theme:

The fight against China’s ideology requires a free and open internet

<https://thehill.com/opinion/technology/583489-the-fight-against-chinas-ideology-requires-a-free-and-open-internet>

Report says Russian hackers haven’t eased spying efforts

<https://apnews.com/article/technology-russia-europe-hacking-espionage-5bd6870ed-499856534187827c5506c42>

Ransomware attacks soar, hackers set to become more aggressive — Canada spy agency

<https://www.reuters.com/technology/ransomware-attacks-soar-hackers-set-become-more-aggressive-canada-spy-agency-2021-12-06/>

Ransomware attack on Australian utility claimed by Russian-speaking criminals

<https://www.reuters.com/technology/ransomware-attack-australian-utility-claimed-by-russian-speaking-criminals-2021-12-08/>

Cybersecurity company says Chinese hackers targeting Southeast Asian nations

<https://thehill.com/policy/technology/584941-southeast-asian-nations-broadly-targeted-by-chinese-hackers-report>

Microsoft seizes domains used by Chinese cyber espionage group

<https://siliconangle.com/2021/12/06/microsoft-seizes-domains-used-chinese-cyber-espionage-group/>

Twitter shuts propaganda accounts in six countries

<https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20211202-twitter-shuts-propaganda-accounts-in-six-countries>