

THE MARSHALL CENTER

# transnational weekly



A CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICE FROM THE MARSHALL CENTER

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## COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

### CORRUPTION

#### **Can Blockchain Bring An End To Corruption?**

*Oilprice.com – Huffington Post: 3 January 2018*

The use of blockchain technology could save a huge portion of the current \$2 trillion lost globally to public sector corruption each year. Blockchain can be used to implement systems that promote transparency and allow for tracking goods and services around the globe, undermining the potential for graft in the public sector.

[https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/can-blockchain-bring-an-end-to-corruption\\_us\\_5a4d6ba8e4b0d86c-803c7bd4](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/can-blockchain-bring-an-end-to-corruption_us_5a4d6ba8e4b0d86c-803c7bd4)

#### **AU dedicates 2018 African anti-corruption year**

*Xinhua: 2 January 2018*

The African Union (AU) is getting serious about corruption, declaring that 2018 will be the year of anti-corruption for Africa. The AU Commission chairperson decreed, “As we work towards building stronger institutions and promoting prosperity, the fight against corruption assumes even greater importance and urgency. It is a well-recognized fact that corruption hinders efforts aimed at promoting democratic governance, socio-economic transformation and peace and security.”

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-01/02/c\\_136867471.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-01/02/c_136867471.htm)

*For more on this theme:*

#### **Ukraine Needs U.S. Help to Fight Corruption**

<http://foreignpolicy.com/2018/01/04/ukraine-needs-u-s-help-to-fight-corruption/>

#### **Anti-corruption prosecutor fights for Greece’s good name**

<https://www.politico.eu/article/in-greece-a-prosecutors-mission-to-stamp-out-graft/>

#### **Bulgarian President Radev vetoes anti-corruption law**

<http://sofiaglobe.com/2018/01/02/bulgarian-president-radev-vetoes-anti-corruption-law/>

#### **‘We need CHANGE’ Spain slammed for ignoring global pressure to crackdown on corruption**

<https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/900241/spain-corruption-europe-council-report-trip-greco>

#### **Tanzanians think corruption in their country has declined. The reality is very different**

<https://qz.com/1168677/tanzanians-think-corruption-in-their-country-has-declined-the-reality-is-very-different/>

#### **Walking the talk on corruption**

<http://www.straitstimes.com/opinion/walking-the-talk-on-corruption>

#### **Want to beat corruption? Create more taxpayers, says ex-WTO chief**

<https://www.themalaysianinsight.com/s/30848/>

#### **Iranians Take to Streets With Anti-Corruption Demands**

<https://www.occrp.org/en/27-ccwatch/cc-watch-briefs/7448-iranians-take-to-streets-with-anti-corruption-demands>

## DRUG TRAFFICKING

### **Sessions terminates US policy that let legal pot flourish**

*Sadie Gurman – The Associated Press: 4 January 2018*

U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions is rescinding an Obama-era policy that helped states legalize recreational marijuana. The Justice Department will reverse the so-called Cole and Ogden memos that set guidelines for federal prosecution of cannabis and allowed legalized marijuana to flourish in states across the country. Federal attorneys in states where pot is legal will now be able to prosecute cases where they see fit.

<https://apnews.com/19f6bfec15a74733b40eaf0ff9162bfa>

### **Inside Paraguay's Illegal Cannabis Plantations**

*Matias Maxx – InSight Crime: 28 December 2017*

Pedro Juan Caballero, a city in Paraguay along the border with Brazil, has become a hotbed of drug production. Farmers cultivate plantations with near impunity and traffic the marijuana crop to Brazil.

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/inside-paraguay-illegal-cannabis-plantations/>

*For more on this theme:*

### **'It is a war': Brazil prison authorities warn of more violence after deadly riot**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/jan/04/prison-riot-brazil-nine-dead-more-violence-drugs-goias>

### **Turkey Police Should Break Drug Dealers' Legs, Minister Says**

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-01-03/turkish-police-should-break-legs-of-drug-dealers-minister-says>

### **Once popular Mexican towns deteriorate as warring drug cartels provoke killings, drug addiction and violence**

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/in-sight/wp/2017/12/29/once-popular-mexican-towns-deteriorate-as-warring-drug-cartels-provoke-killings-drug-addiction-and-violence/>

### **Commandos free Afghans from Taliban "Red Unit", destroy \$3.4 mill of hashish in Helmand**

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/261140/commandos-free-afghans-taliban-red-unit-destroy-34-mill-hashish-helmand>

### **From Bloody Drug War to Legal Pot: 10 Global Drug Policy Highlights (and Lowlights) of 2017**

<https://www.alternet.org/drugs/10-global-drug-policy-highlights-lowlights-bloody-drug-war-legal-pot>

### **GameChangers 2017: Colombia's Cocaine Explosion Stokes Political and Social Crises**

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/gamechangers-2017-colombia-cocaine-explosion-stokes-political-social-crises/>

### **How Peru Spent Its Anti-Drug Budget Over the Past Five Years**

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/how-peru-spent-anti-narcotic-budget-past-five-years/>

### **Drug Traffickers Resort to Shipping Containers in Colombia**

<https://dialogo-americas.com/en/articles/drug-traffickers-resort-shipping-containers-colombia>

## ORGANIZED CRIME AND MONEY LAUNDERING

### **Pricey swim bladders attract drug cartels**

*Mexico News Daily: 1 January 2018*

Organized crime, in an effort to supplement drug incomes, is pushing two species into oblivion. The endangered totoaba fish is caught for its swim bladders, which fetch more per ounce than cocaine. But the types of nets used for totoaba also haul in the extremely rare vaquita porpoise – researchers believe only 30 are left.

<https://mexiconewsdaily.com/news/pricy-swim-bladders-attract-drug-cartels/>

### **Caribbean Nations Join to Tackle Criminal Networks**

*Geraldine Cook – Diálogo: 4 January 2018*

Caribbean nations have joined together to defeat organized crime in its many forms. During a recent security conference, military and defense leaders agreed to cooperate regionally to fight narco-trafficking, terrorism, cyber crime and piracy.

<https://dialogo-americas.com/en/articles/caribbean-nations-join-tackle-criminal-networks>

*For more on this theme:*

### **France Refers 15 ‘Hezbollah’ Members to Criminal Court on Drug, Money-Laundering Charges**

<https://aawsat.com/english/home/article/1131781/france-refers-15-%E2%80%98hezbollah%E2%80%99-members-criminal-court-drug-money-laundering>

### **Exclusive: Mexico’s attorney general vows to crack down on money laundering**

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mexico-corruption-exclusive/exclusive-mexicos-attorney-general-vows-to-crack-down-on-money-laundering-idUSKBN1EU06Y>

### **Japan’s banks secure access to police agency database to help screen for yakuza and other ‘anti-social forces’**

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2018/01/04/national/crime-legal/japans-banks-secure-access-police-agency-database-help-screen-yakuza-anti-social-forces/#.Wk83WzdOkaE>

### **This Politician Wants To Eliminate All Of Mexico’s Crime. His Plan To Do It Has People Livid.**

[https://www.buzzfeed.com/karlazabludovsky/mexicos-leading-presidential-candidate-thinks-he-can-end?utm\\_term=.ugPG9WYOG#.eexlaX8QI](https://www.buzzfeed.com/karlazabludovsky/mexicos-leading-presidential-candidate-thinks-he-can-end?utm_term=.ugPG9WYOG#.eexlaX8QI)

### **Mexico falls short on prosecuting money laundering: report**

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mexico-corruption/mexico-falls-short-on-prosecuting-money-laundering-report-idUSKBN1ES1F5>

### **Macao turns to facial recognition to fight money laundering**

<https://www.centralbanking.com/central-banks/financial-stability/3341036/macao-turns-to-facial-recognition-to-fight-money-laundering>

### **EU’s rules to prevent tax evasion and money laundering enter into force**

<https://www.neweurope.eu/article/eus-rules-prevent-tax-evasion-money-laundering-enter-force/>

## TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

### **Militias turn their guns on wildlife in central Africa**

*Kennedy Senelwa – The East African: 3 January 2018*

To fuel insurgencies, militant groups require money. Lately, these groups are turning to exotic animal poaching, smuggling items such as elephant tusks and leopard skins around the globe.

<http://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/news/Militias-turn-their-guns-on-wildlife-in-Central-Africa/2558-4248884-format-xhtml-g0ko6kz/index.html>

### **The strange figures behind a secret trade**

*Misha Glenny – BBC News: 4 January 2018*

As organized crime gains recognition as one of the world's top threats, the need to do something about this multinational scourge becomes more urgent. But if the way the world handled rhino poaching is any indication, much remains to be done.

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/resources/idt-sh/rhino\\_poaching](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/resources/idt-sh/rhino_poaching)

*For more on this theme:*

### **Community Leader Tortured and Killed for Opposing Land Trafficking in Peru**

[http://www.earthisland.org/journal/index.php/elist/eListRead/community\\_leader\\_killed\\_over\\_land\\_trafficking\\_peru/](http://www.earthisland.org/journal/index.php/elist/eListRead/community_leader_killed_over_land_trafficking_peru/)

### **Galamsey Fight Takes A New Twist**

<https://www.modernghana.com/news/826353/galamsey-fight-takes-a-new-twist.html>

### **What it takes to stop a poacher**

<http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/meet-shekhar-kumar-niraj-who-is-fighting-against-wildlife-poaching/article22357611.ece>

### **Illegal poaching on the decline: Authority**

<http://www.ethpress.gov.et/herald/index.php/news/national-news/item/10496-illegal-poaching-on-the-decline-authority>

### **People take out protest march against illegal mining**

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/people-take-out-protest-march-against-illegal-mining/>

### **These heroic rats detect land mines. Now they might help save an endangered anteater.**

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/animalia/wp/2017/12/22/these-heroic-rats-detect-land-mines-now-they-might-help-save-an-endangered-anteater/>

### **Indonesia has a carrot to end illegal logging; now it needs a stick**

<http://www.eco-business.com/opinion/indonesia-has-a-carrot-to-end-illegal-logging-now-it-needs-a-stick/>

### **ACC sniffing out corruption in a wood pile**

<https://www.namibian.com.na/62950/read/ACC-sniffing-out-corruption-in-a-wood-pile>

### **How Augmented Reality Is Helping Raise Awareness About One of Armenia's Most Endangered Species**

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/travel/how-augmented-reality-helping-raise-awareness-about-one-armenias-most-endangered-species-1-180967670/>

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

### **Latin American Smugglers Are Now Trafficking Asylum Seekers From Across the Globe**

*Laura Dixon, Pedro Noel, Andrea Arzaba, Sally Hayden, Mauro Pimentel and Selase Kove-Seyram – Pacific Standard: 4 January 2018*

Instead of braving the Mediterranean Sea to reach Europe, migrants from Asia and Africa are now using Latin America smugglers to get to the United States and Canada.

<https://psmag.com/social-justice/asylum-seekers-are-turning-to-latin-american-smugglers>

### **Ouster of a brutal militia from Libya's smuggling hub chokes off migrant flow**

*Sudarsan Raghavan – The Washington Post: 28 December 2017*

After a fierce street battle, the gang in charge of Libya's smuggling mecca has been ousted by another armed group. This has led to the clearing of the city, and the slave auctions and migrants have all but disappeared.

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/ouster-of-a-brutal-militia-from-libyas-smuggling-hub-chokes-off-migrant-flow/2017/12/28/ad3668e6-e5ad-11e7-a65d-1ac0fd7f097e\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/ouster-of-a-brutal-militia-from-libyas-smuggling-hub-chokes-off-migrant-flow/2017/12/28/ad3668e6-e5ad-11e7-a65d-1ac0fd7f097e_story.html)

*For more on this theme:*

### **Egypt detains 75 people in human trafficking probe**

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-egypt-arrests/egypt-detains-75-people-in-human-trafficking-probe-idUSKBN1ET1XM>

### **Patrolling Rio Grande by boat provides unseen challenges to Border Patrol**

[http://www.themonitor.com/news/local/article\\_1d0ec51c-f104-11e7-a202-3b7ab27b0abf.html](http://www.themonitor.com/news/local/article_1d0ec51c-f104-11e7-a202-3b7ab27b0abf.html)

### **Israel offers to pay African migrants to leave, threatens jail**

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-israel-migrants/israel-offers-to-pay-african-migrants-to-leave-threatens-jail-idUSKBN1ES0UY>

### **Italy to deploy troops to Niger over human trafficking**

<http://www.tv360nigeria.com/italy-to-deploy-troops-to-niger-over-human-trafficking/>

### **Making money from EU's migration policies in Libya**

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/making-money-eu-migration-policies-libya-180102100915057.html>

### **Taking away their children won't stop Central American border crossers**

<http://thehill.com/opinion/immigration/367115-taking-away-their-children-wont-stop-central-american-border-crossers>

### **UN readying training guidelines to help cabin crews identify, report human trafficking**

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=58382#.Wk9AQzdOkaE>

## PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

### INTERNET GOVERNANCE

#### **Brazil's Effort to Fight Fake News Raises Concerns About Censorship**

*Taisa Sganzerla – Brazil: 1 January 2018*

Brazil's efforts to block false news reports on the internet have critics calling foul and claiming that the country's internet governance actions are blocking not only false information, but legitimate news.

<http://brazzil.com/brazils-effort-to-fight-fake-news-raises-concerns-about-censorship/>

*For more on this theme:*

#### **(Africa) Digital rights x be promoted – NGO**

<https://newtelegraphonline.com/2018/01/digital-rights-x-promoted-ngo/>

#### **(India) The Digital Future of Governance: Inclusive, Responsible and Trackable Growth**

<http://smartcity.eletsonline.com/the-digital-future-of-governance-inclusive-responsible-and-trackable-growth/>

#### **(Global) In 2018, digitisation will change the way you interact with the government**

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/internet/in-2018-digitisation-will-change-the-way-you-interact-with-the-government/articleshow/62307220.cms>

### INTERNET FREEDOM

#### **Iran Is Blocking the Internet to Shut Down Protests**

*Ankita Rao – Motherboard: 1 January 2018*

With protests spreading across Iran decrying government corruption, crackdowns and censorship, the government is blocking the internet on mobile networks to try to disrupt gatherings and stop protesters from amplifying their message.

[https://motherboard.vice.com/en\\_us/article/wjpxjy/iran-is-blocking-the-internet-to-shut-down-protests](https://motherboard.vice.com/en_us/article/wjpxjy/iran-is-blocking-the-internet-to-shut-down-protests)

*For more on this theme:*

#### **(Indonesia) Indonesia introduces new Internet censorship system**

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1218011/world>

#### **(China) With Its Search Engine Blocked in China, Google Has Found a New Inroad: eSports**

<http://fortune.com/2018/01/05/google-china-esports-chushou/>

#### **(Yemen) Caught in Conflict, Internet Users in Yemen Face Blocking, Shutdowns and Slow Speed**

<https://globalvoices.org/2018/01/03/caught-in-conflict-internet-users-in-yemen-face-blocking-shutdowns-and-slow-speed/>

## PRIVACY AND SECURITY

### **Internet Users in China Expect to Be Tracked. Now, They Want Privacy.**

*Paul Mozur: The New York Times: 4 January 2018*

China's technology giants have been ensnared in rising consumer concerns about the way their data is being handled. The same privacy concerns torpedoed a \$1.2 billion deal and will continue dogging Chinese tech companies as they expand into developed markets such as the United States.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/04/business/china-alibaba-privacy.html>

*For more on this theme:*

### **(Global) All the Ways Your Smartphone and Its Apps Can Track You**

<https://fieldguide.gizmodo.com/all-the-ways-your-smartphone-and-its-apps-can-track-you-1821213704>

### **(U.S.) Snubbing FCC, States Are Writing Their Own Net Neutrality Laws**

<https://www.fastcompany.com/40510095/snubbing-fcc-states-are-writing-their-own-net-neutrality-laws>

### **(U.S., Global) Data Privacy, Security Top Microsoft's Hot Button Tech Issues in 2018**

<http://www.eweek.com/security/data-privacy-security-top-microsoft-s-hot-button-tech-issues-in-2018>

## CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

### **Cyber is the new black: Australia's cyber security strategy**

*Euan Moyle – Foreign Brief: 5 January 2018*

Australia is moving toward implementation of its cyber security strategy on multiple fronts. The country plans to focus on regional engagement, promoting public-private partnerships and improving cyber engagement strategies.

<https://www.foreignbrief.com/asia-pacific/cyber-black-australia-cyber-strategy/>

*For more on this theme:*

### **(China) The 4 policies that most affected China's internet in 2017**

<http://technode.com/2017/12/30/2017-internet-policies/>

### **(Canada) In 2018, will Canada finally lay out its cyber foreign policy?**

<https://www.opencanada.org/features/2018-will-canada-finally-lay-out-its-cyber-foreign-policy/>

## PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

### **Siyata Mobile Announces All 50 States Opt-In for United States FirstNet Public Safety Network**

*Maria Burns – The Daily Telescope: 2 January 2018*

First responders across the United States have a wireless broadband network to call their own. With all 50 states, two U.S. territories and Washington, D.C., joining FirstNet, public safety responders have a new choice for their communications that will save lives and protect communities.

<http://dailytelescope.com/pr/siyata-mobile-announces-all-50-states-opt-in-for-united-states-firstnet-public-safety-network/39572>

*For more on this theme:*

### **(Canada) Multiple announcements of broadband internet funding criticized as waste of money**

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/broadband-internet-announcements-canadian-taxpayers-federation-1.4472881>

### **(Global) No one is safe: 5 cybersecurity trends for 2018**

<https://www.ciodive.com/news/no-one-is-safe-5-cybersecurity-trends-for-2018/513989/>

### **(U.S.) NSF Awards \$5.7 Million To Protect U.S. Cyberspace**

<http://www.ladailypost.com/content/nsf-awards-57-million-protect-us-cyberspace>

## PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

### **Is a Good Offense the Best Defense Against Hackers?**

*Raymond Pompon – Dark Reading: 4 January 2018*

With a new proposal, the United States could open the door to allowing companies to “hack back” when their cyber security has been breached.

<https://www.darkreading.com/partner-perspectives/f5/is-a-good-offense-the-best-defense-against-hackers/a/d-id/1330157?>

*For more on this theme:*

### **(U.S., China) Chinese Intellectual Property Policies Demand a Smart U.S. Trade Policy Response – One President Trump Doesn’t Appear to be Considering**

<https://www.cato.org/blog/chinese-intellectual-property-policies-demand-smart-us-trade-policy-response-one-president>

### **(China, Germany) China and Germany in a dust up over cybersecurity**

<https://www.csoonline.com/article/3245186/security/china-and-germany-in-a-dust-up-over-cybersecurity.html>

### **(Canada) New Certification Program Will Help Protect Companies From Cyber Attacks**

<http://huddle.today/new-brunswick-launches-cybersecurity-standards-for-businesses-across-canada/>

## CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

### **Israel equips high schoolers with courses on internet big data**

*Martin Suan – TechnoChops: 4 January 2018*

Israel is known for its elite military cyber tool – Unit 8200. And now it is looking to expand and improve its capabilities by introducing high school students to big data in the classroom and pre-training future recruits.

<https://www.technochops.com/israel-equips-high-schoolers-courses-internet-big-data/8748/>

*For more on this theme:*

### **(U.S.) Joint Force Looks For a Leg Up In Cyberspace**

<https://www.afcea.org/content/joint-force-looks-leg-cyberspace>

### **(U.S.) Illinois City Banks on Tech to Attract Millennials**

<http://www.govtech.com/network/Illinois-City-Banks-on-Tech-to-Attract-Millennials.html>

### **(Europe) Building a digital future**

<http://www.budapesttimes.hu/2018/01/04/building-digital-future>

## COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

### **Why are cyber-criminals dumping Bitcoin?**

*Davey Winder – SC Magazine: 4 January 2018*

Cyber criminals appear to be dropping bitcoin for more private crypto-currencies as law enforcement develops new technology and techniques to monitor and match transactions to crimes.

<https://www.scmagazineuk.com/why-are-cyber-criminals-dumping-bitcoin/article/734738/>

*For more on this theme:*

### **(U.S.) To fight cyber crime, we need swords, not just shields**

<http://thehill.com/opinion/cybersecurity/367061-to-fight-cyber-crime-we-need-swords-not-just-shields>

### **(Global) Warning: Global cyber crime reaches new highs and worse to come**

<https://www.itwire.com/security/81314-warning-global-cybercrime-reaches-new-highs-and-worse-to-come.html>

### **(Global) Could Cyber-crime Actually Make The Internet Safer? [Infographic]**

<https://www.business2community.com/infographics/cyber-crime-actually-make-internet-safer-infographic-01982305>

### **(U.S.) This Team Is a Lean, Mean Cyber Crime-Fighting Machine**

<https://www.afcea.org/content/team-lean-mean-cyber-crime-fighting-machine>

## INFORMATION SHARING

### **How DHS' automated information sharing program continues to evolve, grow**

*David Thornton – Federal News Radio: 29 December 2017*

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security is looking to improve its automated information sharing program in 2018. The department has expanded to more than 200 entities and shares 45,000 indicators every month with federal and nonfederal partners.

<https://federalnewsradio.com/dhs-15th-anniversary/2017/12/how-dhs-automated-information-sharing-program-continues-to-evolve-grow/>

*For more on this theme:*

### **(U.S.) FERC Aims to Broaden Cyber Incident Reporting Requirements**

<https://www.natlawreview.com/article/ferc-aims-to-broaden-cyber-incident-reporting-requirements>

### **(Europe) One Small Step in Defence, One Giant Step for EU**

<http://www.euinside.eu/en/news/one-small-step-in-defence-one-giant-leap-for-eu>

## CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

### **How DHS Protects Federal Networks by Breaking into Them**

*Phil Goldstein – FedTech: 2 January 2018*

To improve security in federal and critical infrastructure systems, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's National Cybersecurity Assessments and Technical Services team is hacking into them and offering training to shore up vulnerabilities.

<https://fedtechmagazine.com/article/2018/01/how-dhs-protects-federal-networks-breaking-them>

*For more on this theme:*

### **(Global) The labs that protect against online warfare**

<http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20180103-the-labs-that-protect-against-online-warfare>

### **(U.S., Global) Critical Infrastructure – the Big Cyber Threat of 2018**

<https://www.intelligencepost.com/critical-infrastructure-big-cyber-threat-2018/>

### **(Global) Ukraine used as a “training ground” for Russian hacking attacks on west**

<https://www.scmagazineuk.com/ukraine-used-as-a-training-ground-for-russian-hacking-attacks-on-west/article/734379/>

## PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS

### **Islamic State Vows to Topple Rival Hamas in Gaza, Threatens Attacks on Israel**

*Rikar Hussein – Voice of America: 4 January 2018*

ISIS has threatened Hamas in Gaza for not taking a stronger stand against the U.S. announcement that it prefers Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. In a gruesome execution video, the Islamic State branch in the Sinai Peninsula called on supporters to attack Hamas as long-simmering tensions between the rival terrorist groups erupted into the open.

<https://www.voanews.com/a/islamic-state-hamas-gaza-israel/4193407.html>

### **Singapore's Islamic State Jihadi**

*Bilveer Singh – The Diplomat: 3 January 2018*

Singaporean jihadist Megat Shahdan, aka Abu Uqayl, released a video last September in which he threatened to launch attacks in Singapore. Recently, he starred in another video in which he called on ISIS supporters to go on the offensive and “slay the enemies of Allah wherever one can find them.”

<https://thediplomat.com/2018/01/singapores-islamic-state-jihadi/>

*For more on this theme:*

### **Islamic State-affiliated fighters in Somalia release first official video**

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2017/12/26/islamic-state-affiliated-fighters-somalia-release-first-official-video/981105001/>

### **Islamic State Threat Endures After Defeats, U.S. General Warns**

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-01-01/u-s-general-citing-gains-warns-islamic-state-still-a-danger>

### **In Tangled Afghan War, a Thin Line of Defense Against ISIS**

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/25/world/asia/eastern-afghanistan-isis.html>

### **IS like a ‘cornered cat trying to save itself’**

<http://www.news.com.au/world/middle-east/is-like-a-cornered-cat-trying-to-save-itself/news-story/1214a5b9455db45a3128492a048b728d>

### **Islamic State collected US\$500,000 through abduction in Diyala: Official**

<https://www.iraqnews.com/iraq-war/islamic-state-collected-us500000-abduction-diyala-official/>

### **‘Islamic State’ seeks new foothold in Africa**

<http://www.dw.com/en/islamic-state-seeks-new-foothold-in-africa/a-41977922>

### **Is Islamic State back in Kirkuk?**

<https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2018/01/turkey-iraq-is-isis-back-in-kirkuk.html>

## TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

### **Why the Taliban Isn't Winning in Afghanistan**

*Seth G. Jones – Foreign Affairs: 3 January 2018*

It appears many experts overestimate the Taliban. In this piece, the author argues that the group, while resilient, is fairly beaten down. But despite its weakness and its inability to make significant gains, the Taliban remains a problem.

<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/afghanistan/2018-01-03/why-taliban-isnt-winning-afghanistan>

### **Nigeria said it defeated Boko Haram. So why is it throwing more money into the fight?**

*Siobhán O'Grady – Los Angeles Times: 25 December 2017*

Nigerian officials recently declared the military had defeated Boko Haram. Even more recently, the government declared it was dedicating another \$1 billion to the fight. The two declarations certainly seem contradictory – is Boko Haram defeated or not?

<http://www.latimes.com/world/la-fg-nigeria-boko-haram-20171221-story.html>

*For more on this theme:*

### **Report: Islamic State, Al-Qaeda Vie for Control of Jihadist Movement in India**

<http://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2017/12/27/report-islamic-state-al-qaeda-vie-control-india/>

### **How Islamist Movements Fared in 2017**

<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/article/how-islamist-movements-fared-2017>

### **China, Pakistan, Afghanistan ask Taliban to join peace process**

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1214821/world>

### **Taliban Strategy In Afghanistan: 2017 And Beyond**

<https://gandhara.rferl.org/a/afghanistan-taliban-strategy/28936181.html>

### **Hamas 'Just Waiting for Abbas to Die,' as Palestinian Unity Deal Falters**

<https://www.algemeiner.com/2017/12/26/hamas-just-waiting-for-abbas-to-die-as-palestinian-unity-deal-falters/>

### **Israel: Hezbollah Will Start Third Lebanon War if It Uses New Rockets to Hit Gas Platforms**

<http://www.newsweek.com/israel-hezbollah-will-start-third-lebanon-war-if-it-uses-new-rockets-hit-gas-769278>

### **Hezbollah plays down Iran protests, sees “nothing to worry about”**

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-iran-rallies-hezbollah/hezbollah-plays-down-iran-protests-sees-nothing-to-worry-about-idUSKBN1ES1T6>

### **Boko Haram: How insurgents who came to steal bricklaying machine, food items kidnapped Chibok schoolgirls**

<http://dailypost.ng/2017/12/27/boko-haram-insurgents-came-steal-bricklaying-machine-food-items-kidnapped-chibok-schoolgirls/>

## FOREIGN FIGHTERS

### **Where Did The Islamic State Fighters Go?**

*Greg Myre – NPR: 1 January 2018*

The head of the U.S. Defense Department has warned that some ISIS fighters escaped and are headed toward the West to conduct attacks.

<https://www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2018/01/01/574967338/where-did-the-islamic-state-fighters-go>

### **U.S.-Led Coalition Says IS Fighters Moving Freely Through Syrian Territory**

*Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty: 28 December 2017*

According to the U.S.-led coalition fighting ISIS in Syria, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad is allowing ISIS fighters to move about areas the Syrian government controls with impunity. The U.S. says it will have to rely on Russia and Syria to take action against terrorists in those areas.

<https://www.rferl.org/a/syria-us-says-islamic-state-militants-moving-freely-through-territory/28943312.html>

*For more on this theme:*

### **The battle to stop Uygurs fleeing China from joining Islamic State**

<http://www.scmp.com/news/china/policies-politics/article/2126124/battle-stop-uygurs-fleeing-china-joining-islamic-state>

### **Armenia prevents Islamic State member from entering the country**

[http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/news/250452/Armenia\\_prevents\\_Islamic\\_State\\_member\\_from\\_entering\\_the\\_country](http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/news/250452/Armenia_prevents_Islamic_State_member_from_entering_the_country)

### **The Lost Children of ISIS**

<http://foreignpolicy.com/2018/01/02/the-lost-children-of-isis/>

### **ISIS in our own backyard: Group's U.S. followers are diverse, in places large and small**

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2018/01/04/fight-against-isis-teenager-playing-basketball-fbi-agent-and-couple-their-honeymoon-heres-how-isis-s/953954001/>

### **Police Chief Claims Airstrikes Killed Foreign Fighters In Northern Afghanistan**

<https://gandhara.rferl.org/a/afghanistan-jawzjan-is-airstrike/28951560.html>

### **Hundreds of ISIS Fighters Are Hiding in Turkey, Increasing Fears of Europe Attacks**

<http://www.newsweek.com/hundreds-isis-fighters-are-hiding-turkey-increasing-fears-europe-attacks-759877>

### **Islamic State: What happened to all the foreign fighters?**

<https://news.mb.com.ph/2017/12/29/islamic-state-what-happened-to-all-the-foreign-fighters/>

### **Council Of Europe Leading The Legal Fight Against Daesh**

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/ewelinaochab/2017/12/30/council-of-europe-leading-the-legal-fight-against-daesh/#5e25776867bc>

### **ISIS returnees will bring new risks in 2018**

<http://www.atimes.com/risks-will-isis-returnees-bring-new-2018-year/>

## RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

### **The Bureau of Prisons: Allowing a Terrorist to Radicalize Others**

*Patrick Dunleavy – The Algemeiner: 2 January 2018*

The jailed New Jersey man accused of a terrorist attack in New York, Ahmad Khan Rahimi, reportedly distributed material to fellow inmates, including speeches by Osama bin Laden; literature on how to make bombs; and copies of Inspire, the online magazine published by al-Qaida. The materials were found on his personal laptop.

<https://www.algemeiner.com/2018/01/02/the-bureau-of-prisons-allowing-a-terrorist-to-radicalize-others/>

### **'No clear evidence' social media leads to more violent behavior, UN-backed study reports**

*United Nations News Centre: 29 December 2017*

According to a new United Nations study, violent extremists certainly recruit over the internet, but there is not enough evidence to indicate if social media plays an effective role in radicalization.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=58364#.Wk9aKzdOkaE>

Full report:

### **Youth and violent extremism on social media**

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0026/002603/260382e.pdf>

*For more on this theme:*

### **MALCOLM: 'Deprogram' radical Islamists. How?**

<http://torontosun.com/opinion/columnists/malcolm-deprogram-radical-islamists-how>

### **One Brooklyn Man's Lonely Journey to Jihad**

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/03/nyregion/akhror-saidakhmetov-terror-brooklyn-nyc.html>

### **Five Myths about Jihadi Radicalization**

[http://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2018/01/five\\_myths\\_about\\_jihadi\\_radicalization.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2018/01/five_myths_about_jihadi_radicalization.html)

### **Firewall against radicalism: Secular, integrated Turks in Europe**

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/opinion/barcin-yinanc/firewall-against-radicalism-secular-integrated-turks-in-europe-124725>

### **Rethinking 'Radicalization': Dutch Researcher Discusses What Makes a Homegrown Terrorist**

<https://www.algemeiner.com/2017/12/27/rethinking-radicalization-dutch-researcher-discusses-what-makes-a-homegrown-terrorist/>

### **Radicalization: The road to terrorism**

<https://www.dailysabah.com/op-ed/2017/12/30/radicalization-the-road-to-terrorism>

### **'An incredible transformation': how rehab, not prison, worked for a US Isis convert**

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2018/jan/04/american-isis-abdullahi-yousuf-rehabilitation>

## COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

### **The Year in Review: Counterterrorism**

*Daniel Byman – Lawfare: 29 December 2017*

It appears that U.S. counterterrorism efforts proved fruitful in 2017. Terrorism is still a major problem, but the defeat of ISIS in most of Iraq and Syria indicates a net win for counterterrorism forces.

<https://www.lawfareblog.com/year-review-counterterrorism>

### **Malaysia's Counterterrorism Strategy: Keeping ISIS in Check**

*Michael Hart – Geopolitical Monitor: 2 January 2018*

Malaysia is taking counterterrorism seriously. Considering the risks posed by returning foreign fighters as well as homegrown terrorists, the country is doing its best to counter the emerging threats.

<https://www.geopoliticalmonitor.com/malysias-counterterrorism-strategy-keeping-isis-in-check/>

*For more on this theme:*

### **Lessons For 2018: Islamic State phenomenon must get nations to strengthen multilateral cooperation**

<https://blogs.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/talkingturkey/lessons-for-2018-islamic-state-phenomenon-must-get-nations-to-strengthen-multilateral-cooperation/>

### **Boko Haram: State of counter-insurgency operations**

<https://www.vanguardngr.com/2017/12/boko-haram-state-counter-insurgency-operations/>

### **Senior counterterrorism official expresses concern about access in U.S. to lethal weaponry**

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/senior-counterterrorism-official-expresses-concern-about-access-in-us-to-lethal-weaponry/2017/12/21/dad95cce-e664-11e7-833f-155031558ff4\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/senior-counterterrorism-official-expresses-concern-about-access-in-us-to-lethal-weaponry/2017/12/21/dad95cce-e664-11e7-833f-155031558ff4_story.html)

### **Can the United States Adopt Morocco's Counterterrorism Methods At Home?**

<https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2017/12/237373/can-united-states-adopt-moroccos-counterterrorism-methods-home/>

### **Morocco gains significantly in crackdown on terror cells**

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-12/26/c\\_136851561.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-12/26/c_136851561.htm)

### **Indonesia to Double Counterterror Force**

<http://www.benarnews.org/english/news/indonesian/indonesia-militants-12292017161824.html>

### **UK eyeing 'extremism' tax on social media giants**

<https://techcrunch.com/2018/01/02/uk-eyeing-extremism-tax-on-social-media-giants/>

### **2017: A record year for US counterterrorism strikes**

<https://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2018/01/2017-a-record-year-for-us-counterterrorism-strikes.php>

## CONSEQUENCE MANAGEMENT

### MILITARY ROLE IN DISASTERS

#### **California wildfires: State Military Reservists answer the call**

*Crystal Housman – Army.mil: 2 January 2018*

In early December the California National Guard and military reservists rushed to help battle wildfires spreading rapidly across the state. From standing up relief efforts to coordinating supplies, soldiers dropped what they had been doing to answer the call.

[https://www.army.mil/article/198686/california\\_wildfires\\_state\\_military\\_reservists\\_answer\\_the\\_call](https://www.army.mil/article/198686/california_wildfires_state_military_reservists_answer_the_call)

#### **From hurricanes to fires, 2017 disasters tested DoD amid concern that forces are stretched thin**

*Jeff Daniels – CNBC: 22 December 2017*

After assisting with three major hurricanes across the U.S., the already thinly stretched U.S. armed forces had to cut back on other missions. In addition, the cost of supporting those disasters is staggering, forcing the defense budget to shift priorities.

<https://www.cnbc.com/2017/12/22/disasters-in-2017-tested-pentagon-amid-concern-forces-stretched-thin.html>

*For more on this theme:*

#### **Top Army humanitarian moments of 2017: providing critical assistance after natural disasters**

[https://www.army.mil/article/198331/top\\_army\\_humanitarian\\_moments\\_of\\_2017\\_providing\\_critical\\_assistance\\_after\\_natural\\_disasters](https://www.army.mil/article/198331/top_army_humanitarian_moments_of_2017_providing_critical_assistance_after_natural_disasters)

#### **Military Seeks to Learn Lessons of 2017 Hurricane Season**

<https://www.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1393074/military-seeks-to-learn-lessons-of-2017-hurricane-season/>

#### **Army Corps of Engineers Questions Puerto Rico Power Restoration Stats**

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2017/12/24/army-corps-engineers-questions-puerto-rico-power-restoration-stats.html>

#### **Joint Colorado Guard team trains to perform in hot zones**

[https://www.army.mil/article/198662/joint\\_colorado\\_guard\\_team\\_trains\\_to\\_perform\\_in\\_hot\\_zones](https://www.army.mil/article/198662/joint_colorado_guard_team_trains_to_perform_in_hot_zones)

#### **Tragedies of 2017 showed how military medical partners can help at home**

<http://www.king5.com/article/news/nation-now/tragedies-of-2017-showed-how-military-medical-partners-can-help-at-home/465-02471f27-522a-4d5c-9e5a-d58598afd56e>