

THE MARSHALL CENTER

transnational weekly



A CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICE FROM THE MARSHALL CENTER

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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Corruption In The Balkan Countries Is Impeding EU Membership

Alon Ben-Meir – Value Walk: 9 January 2019

The Western Balkan nations are mired in corruption schemes and ties to organized crime. These factors make it difficult for the European Union to consider the countries' accession because they are unlikely to meet the social, political and human rights standards fundamental for membership.

<https://www.valuewalk.com/2019/01/corruption-balkan-countries-eu-membership/>

Romania mired in corruption woes as presidency begins

Eszter Zalan – EUObserver: 10 January 2019

Romania has begun its six-month stint at the helm of the European Union's rotating presidency with its increasingly populist government in conflict with the bloc over the rule of law and the fight against corruption.

<https://euobserver.com/political/143871>

For more on this theme:

Guatemala court blocks government's bid to expel UN team

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-46813367>

More than \$1 billion retrieved from corruption, economic crimes

<https://vietnamnews.vn/politics-laws/483494/more-than-1-billion-retrieved-from-corruption-economic-crimes.html#pkpXl6hrtLrcP9jz.97>

Ethiopia charges ex-head of military firm METEC with corruption

<https://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFKCN1P41W1-OZATP>

Yemeni groups call on WFP to reveal aid 'corruption'

<https://www.apnews.com/aa2eeb34612541cf95b3954957e2583a>

Mnangagwa Set To Dissolve Anti-Corruption Body (ZACC), Ineffectiveness Cited- Reports

<https://news.pindula.co.zw/2019/01/10/mnangagwa-set-to-dissolve-anti-corruption-body-zacc-ineffectiveness-cited-reports/>

Anti-Corruption Commission and Judiciary strengthening ties in the fight against corruption

<https://www.thesierraleonetelegraph.com/anti-corruption-commission-and-judiciary-strengthening-ties-in-the-fight-against-corruption/>

Former Kyrgyz Prime Minister Faces 20 Years on Corruption Charges

<https://thediplomat.com/2019/01/former-kyrgyz-prime-minister-faces-20-years-on-corruption-charges/>

How China's Belt and Road reportedly funded corruption in Malaysia

<https://supchina.com/2019/01/08/how-chinas-belt-and-road-reportedly-funded-corruption-in-malaysia/>

US: New York Takes Steps to Combat Chronic Corruption

<https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/9096-us-new-york-takes-steps-to-combat-chronic-corruption>

DRUG TRAFFICKING

Myanmar cracking down on opium, but conflicts push drug trade

Al Jazeera: 11 January 2019

Opium cultivation in Myanmar, also known as Burma, continues to drop, according to a United Nations report, though ongoing violence in parts of the country continues to hamper counter-narcotics efforts. The report said the amount of land used for opium poppy cultivation dropped 10 percent in 2017, the fourth consecutive year of declines.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/01/myanmar-cracking-opium-conflicts-fuel-drug-trade-190110083026170.html>

Full Report:

Myanmar Opium Survey

https://www.unodc.org/documents/southeastasiaandpacific/Publications/2017/Myanmar_Opium_Survey_2017_web.pdf

Asia's budding interest in corporate cannabis

Nile Bowie – Asia Times: 9 January 2019

Even traditionally anti-drug Asian nations are considering legalizing marijuana to capture the profits from the budding cannabis industry.

<http://www.atimes.com/article/asias-budding-interest-in-corporate-cannabis/>

For more on this theme:

Marijuana Legalization 2019: Which States Will Consider Legal Weed in Year Experts Predict Will Be ‘Real Game-Changer’

<https://www.newsweek.com/which-states-legalization-marijuana-2019-1275736>

El Chapo Trial: How a Cartel Prince Left the Drug Trade

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/04/nyregion/el-chapo-trial.html>

Trump's wall won't do anything about the opioid epidemic

<https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2019/1/8/18174768/trump-wall-opioid-epidemic-heroin>

Thailand, 3 countries to join hands against drug trafficking

http://www.nationmultimedia.com/detail/around_thailand/30361692

GameChangers 2018: As Opioids and Cocaine Boom, the Americas Wilt

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/gamechangers-2018-as-opioids-and-cocaine-boom-the-americas-wilt/>

Eco-friendly drug dealers are now selling cocaine in reusable plastic vials

<https://metro.co.uk/2019/01/07/eco-friendly-drug-dealers-are-now-selling-cocaine-in-reusable-plastic-vials-8318269/>

Monopoly of medical cannabis not in public interest: Experts

<http://www.nationmultimedia.com/detail/national/30361798>

TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Illegal Logging in Chihuahua is Now Mexico Cartel Territory

Deborah Bonello – InSight Crime: 10 January 2019

In the Mexican state of Chihuahua, the drug trafficking organizations are also taking over illegal logging. With both profitable, cartels can launder their money and double their profits by controlling both illicit activities.

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/illegal-logging-chihuahua-mexico-cartel/>

Extinct mammoths could be given protected status in bid to save elephants

Lucy Campbell – The Guardian: 10 January 2019

A new proposal from Israel would give the long-extinct woolly mammoth a protected species status. If granted, the protection would be the first of its kind for an extinct species. It would prevent traffickers from selling elephant ivory under the guise that it is woolly mammoth ivory.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/jan/10/trade-in-ivory-from-extinct-mammoths-could-be-banned>

For more on this theme:

'Industrial scale' illegal gold looting costing South Africa R14bn a year – report

<https://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/industrial-scale-illegal-gold-looting-costing-south-africa-r14bn-a-year-report-20181230>

The Biggest Issues for Wildlife and Endangered Species in 2019

<https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/extinction-countdown/the-biggest-issues-for-wildlife-and-endangered-species-in-2019/>

Africa is divided over ivory trade ahead of wildlife meeting

<https://www.apnews.com/d8fe0ee51a18499e9381326f10bf7ce6>

Illegal wildlife trade: A devastating challenge across the planet

<https://www.technologytimes.pk/illegal-wildlife-trade-challenge-planet/>

Wild otters are the latest exotic pet trend

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/2019/01/wild-otters-popular-exotic-pets/>

Woolly mammoth DNA found in illegal ivory samples seized in Cambodia

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/woolly-mammoth-dna-ivory-illegal-discovery-cambodia-wildlife-conservation-a8711241.html>

Report: Illegal Logging Still Rampant in Cambodia's Prey Lang Forest

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/cambodia/illegal-logging-cambodia-01092019153808.html>

Illegal logging in Peru

<https://theecologist.org/2019/jan/08/illegal-logging-peru>

UP: Drones, GPS-fitted trucks to help keep a check on illegal mining

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/lucknow/up-drones-gps-fitted-trucks-to-help-keep-a-check-on-illegal-mining/story-YynuWmJ4hxoamMOWmgbcvK.html>

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Trans Women: The Unseen Victims of Human Trafficking

Elizabeth Salazar Vega – InSight Crime: 7 January 2019

Because most government registration systems limit gender classifications to male or female, it is impossible to document the treatment of transgender people who are victims of human trafficking. This report seeks to reveal the vulnerabilities of trans youth and adults who are trafficked.

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/trans-women-unseen-victims/>

EU illegal migrants hit five-year low as Spain becomes main gateway Europe

Jessica Jones – The Telegraph: 5 January 2019

Irregular migration to Europe plummeted last year, a report by the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) revealed. The level of migration in 2018 was down more than 90 percent from 2015 and down roughly 25 percent from 2017, the report said. But it also showed an increase in migrants coming across the western Mediterranean from Morocco to Spain.

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/01/05/eu-illegal-migrants-hit-five-year-low-spain-becomes-new-gateway/>

For more on this theme:

Niger: Europe Migration

<https://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/peopleandpower/2019/01/niger-europe-migration-190110051916545.html>

Getting to the Heart of Irregular Migration in Nigeria's Markets

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2019/01/getting-heart-irregular-migration-nigerias-markets/>

An “Informal” Turn in the European Union's Migrant Returns Policy towards Sub-Saharan Africa

<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/eu-migrant-returns-policy-towards-sub-saharan-africa>

IOM: 4,600 migrants died or missing in 2018

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20190109-iom-4600-migrants-died-or-missing-in-2018/>

EU Migration Policies in the Sahel: Stagnation in a Mode of Crisis

<https://www.eubulletin.com/9436-eu-migration-policies-in-the-sahel-stagnation-in-a-mode-of-crisis.html>

The Migrant Route to Europe is Changing

<https://www.undispatch.com/migrant-route-to-europe/>

UN human trafficking report: Record number of girls reported as victims

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/01/07/world/un-2018-global-report-on-trafficking-in-persons/index.html>

Global Report on Trafficking In Persons 2018

http://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/2018/GLOTIP_2018_BOOK_web_small.pdf

Human Trafficking: How We Can Recognize and Combat It

<https://www.defense.gov/explore/story/Article/1727937/human-trafficking-how-we-can-recognize-and-combat-it/>

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Internet Governance Outlook 2019: Innovative Multilateralism vs. Neo-Nationalistic Unilateralism

Wolfgang Kleinwächter – CircleID: 8 January 2019

To decentralize or centralize? To go multistakeholder or nation-run? These are the questions being posed in what will likely be a critical year for the future of the internet.

http://www.circleid.com/posts/20190108_internet_governance_2019_innovative_multilateralism_vs_neo/

For more on this theme:

(Global) Internet governance project (IGP) survey on IPV6 adoption, initial reports

<https://hub.packtpub.com/internet-governance-project-igp-survey-on-ipv6-adoption-initial-reports/>

(Global) Setting an International Cyber Agenda for 2019

https://www.thecipherbrief.com/column_article/setting-an-international-cyber-agenda-for-2019

INTERNET FREEDOM

Court Rules Public Officials Can't Block Critics on Facebook

Vera Eidelman – American Civil Liberties Union: 9 January 2019

The U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that public officials can no longer block or defriend critics of their work or policies. The ruling cites free speech protections under the First Amendment. It equates official social media pages with public forums, where all opinions can be voiced.

<https://www.aclu.org/blog/free-speech/internet-speech/court-rules-public-officials-cant-block-critics-facebook>

For more on this theme:

(China) Twitter Users in China Face Detention and Threats in New Beijing Crackdown

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/10/business/china-twitter-censorship-online.html>

(China) Chinese VPN user fined for accessing overseas websites as part of Beijing's ongoing 'clean up' of internet

<https://www.scmp.com/tech/policy/article/2180960/chinese-vpn-user-fined-accessing-overseas-websites-part-beijings-ongoing>

(China) China's Internet Censor Tightens Grip on Blockchain Companies

<https://www.financemagnates.com/cryptocurrency/news/chinas-internet-censor-tightens-grip-on-blockchain-companies/>

PRIVACY AND SECURITY

Will this new Congress be the one to pass data privacy legislation?

Cameron F. Kerry – Brookings: 7 January 2019

Protecting personal information privacy is an opportunity for bipartisan agreement in the new U.S. Congress. Both sides of the aisle have expressed interest in this topic.

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/techtank/2019/01/07/will-this-new-congress-be-the-one-to-pass-data-privacy-legislation/>

For more on this theme:

(India) Govt surveillance and data governance and sovereignty to dominate tech policy debate in India

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/govt-surveillance-and-data-governance-and-sovereignty-to-dominate-tech-policy-debate-in-india/articleshow/67413163.cms>

(U.S., Global) New Data on Cybersecurity in the Manufacturing Industry Shows Small Manufacturers Play Critical Role in Securing the Supply Chain

<https://www.apnews.com/70962e6559244ff1a7c4be00cb371da0>

(Global) Are Privacy Concerns Halting Smart Cities Indefinitely?

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/danielnewman/2019/01/08/are-privacy-concerns-halting-smart-cities-indefinitely/#2881b11969ba>

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

What the government shutdown means for our nation's cybersecurity

Suzanne Spaulding – The Hill: 10 January 2019

The partial government shutdown may be making some key federal departments and agencies more vulnerable to cyber security breaches, experts said.

<https://thehill.com/opinion/cybersecurity/424763-what-the-government-shutdown-means-for-our-nations-cybersecurity>

For more on this theme:

(U.K.) UK accelerates autonomous cyber security plan with publication of new report.

<https://www.transportsecurityworld.com/uk-accelerates-autonomous-cyber-security-with-publication-of-new-report>

(U.S.) Strategies & Solutions to Enforce DoD's Cybersecurity 'Lines of Effort'

<https://americansecuritytoday.com/strategies-solutions-to-enforce-dods-cybersecurity-lines-of-effort/>

PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Power cooperatives tapped to bring internet to provinces

Philippine Daily Inquirer: 10 January 2019

In the Philippines, electric cooperatives have partnered with the Department of Information and Communications Technology to use its fiber optic network as digital transmission lines to expand internet connectivity.

<https://technology.inquirer.net/82545/power-cooperatives-tapped-to-bring-internet-to-provinces>

For more on this theme:

(Global) Connecting the last unconnected billions

<https://bdtechtalks.com/2019/01/07/internet-access-for-everyone/>

(Global) Fortinet serves as a Founding Partner of World Economic Forum's Centre for Cybersecurity

<https://www.eletimes.com/fortinet-serves-as-a-founding-partner-of-world-economic-forums-centre-for-cybersecurity>

PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Latvia clamps down on internet piracy

Chris Dziadul – Broadband TV News: 10 January 2019

Latvia has passed a law that requires internet service providers to block access to TV broadcasts that violate intellectual property rights.

<https://www.broadbandtvnews.com/2019/01/10/latvia-clamps-down-on-internet-piracy/>

For more on this theme:

(China, U.S.) The Strategic Consequences of a US-China Rift on Intellectual Property

<https://thediplomat.com/2019/01/the-strategic-consequences-of-a-us-china-rift-on-intellectual-property/>

(China, U.S.) How China Might Repel the US Intellectual Property Trade Offensive

<https://thediplomat.com/2019/01/how-china-might-repel-the-us-intellectual-property-trade-offensive/>

(New Zealand) GCSB's cyber-vigilance saved organisations \$27m

<https://www.computerworld.co.nz/article/655994/gcsb-cyber-vigilance-saved-organisations-27m/>

CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

Time to take e-governance to South Africans

William Gumede – Business Report: 7 January 2019

E-governance has the ability to give South Africa a leg up fighting corruption by boosting transparency and cutting through bureaucracy. As technology gets cheaper and more people get connected, e-governance becomes more beneficial and practical.

<https://www.iol.co.za/business-report/opinion/time-to-take-e-governance-to-south-africans-18710908>

For more on this theme:

(Global) Bringing Capacity Building in Cybersecurity to the fore

https://idsa.in/idsacomment/capacity-building-cybersecurity-to-the-fore_csamuel_261218

(India) India's initiative for cyber crimes against women and children

<https://www.opengovasia.com/indias-initiative-for-cyber-crimes-against-women-and-children/>

(Liberia) The Year 2018: A Review Of Liberia's ICT Sector

<https://www.liberianobserver.com/news/the-year-2018-a-review-of-liberias-ict-sector/>

COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

RBI's 'tokenisation' move to fight rising cyber crimes in India

Niti Kiran – Business Today: 10 January 2019

To fight cyber crime, India now allows authorized card payment networks to mask card details by using a unique alternate code called a token, thereby reducing risk of data theft.

<https://www.businesstoday.in/current/economy-politics/tokenisation-to-fight-against-rising-cyber-crime-in-india/story/308654.html>

For more on this theme:

(India) India has witnessed a 457% rise in cybercrime from the year 2011 to 2016: Report

<https://www.gizbot.com/news/india-has-witnessed-457-rise-cybercrime-from-the-year-2011-to-2016-report-056756.html>

(Global) Should cyber officials be required to tell victims of cyber crimes they've been hacked?

<https://theconversation.com/should-cyber-officials-be-required-to-tell-victims-of-cyber-crimes-theyve-been-hacked-109510>

(Germany) Germany's Mega-Leak Takeaway: Noisy Young Hacker Got Caught

<https://www.bankinfosecurity.com/blogs/germanys-mega-leak-takeaway-noisy-young-hacker-got-caught-p-2704>

INFORMATION SHARING

The CISO vs the cyber criminal

ITWeb: 8 January 2019

As cyber criminals adapt, chief information security officers must do more with the limited security budgets they have. That includes sharing information across companies, industries and borders to help cut costs and prevent or shorten potential attacks.

<https://www.itweb.co.za/content/xA9POvNY1Paqo4J8>

For more on this theme:

(Russian, Baltics) Countering Russian disinformation the Baltic nations' way

<https://www.keranews.org/post/countering-russian-disinformation-baltic-nations-way>

(China) Weapons of Mass Consumerism: Why China Wants Your Personal Information

<https://www.justsecurity.org/62187/weapons-mass-consumerism-china-personal-information/>

(Global) Why cybercriminals are stalking your social media accounts

<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/cnainsider/why-cyber-criminals-are-stalking-social-media-accounts-free-wifi-11100764>

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Security firm says worldwide cyber campaign targeting dozens of domains linked to Iran

Olivia Beavers – The Hill: 10 January 2019

Cyber attackers in Iran could be behind a wave of hacks on government and communications infrastructure that will require a coordinated global response to repel, according to the cyber security firm FireEye Inc. The campaign has already spread across the Middle East, North Africa, Europe and North America.

<https://thehill.com/policy/cybersecurity/424714-security-firm-says-cyber-campaign-targeting-dozens-of-domains-across>

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) U.S. government agency formed to focus on cyber and infrastructure security

<https://www.hydroworld.com/articles/2019/01/u-s-government-agency-formed-to-focus-on-cyber-and-infrastructure-security.html>

(U.S., Global) Cyber Attacks: Igniting The Next Recession?

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/rajindertumber/2019/01/05/cyber-attacks-igniting-the-next-recession/#24ed1645dbe4>

(Global) Blockchain Technology can be Critical to IoT Infrastructure Security

<https://www.entrepreneur.com/article/325855>

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS

How the Iraqi crackdown on the Islamic State may actually increase support for the Islamic State

Kristen Kao and Mara Revkin – The Washington Post: 7 January 2019

The harsh actions by the Iraqi government to fight ISIS – which many see as collectively punishing the Sunnis – are creating the embers from which an ISIS 2.0 could spark.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2019/01/07/is-iraqs-post-islamic-state-justice-strategy-misguided/>

Analysis: Islamic State expanded operations in Somalia in 2018

Caleb Weiss – Long War Journal: 4 January 2018

Based on the number of operations ISIS claims to have conducted, it may have expanded operations throughout Somalia in 2018. If the claims can be validated, they would demonstrate a significant increase over previous years, with 66 operations in 2018 alone – more than the total number of claimed operations in Somalia in 2016 and 2017 combined.

<https://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2019/01/analysis-islamic-state-expanded-operations-in-somalia-in-2018.php>

For more on this theme:

Don't let Islamic State monsters get away with murder

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/dont-let-islamic-state-monsters-get-away-with-murder/2019/01/10/5f11fb7e-150b-11e9-b6ad-9cfd62dbb0a8_story.html

As Iraq's Shiite militias expand their reach, concerns about an ISIS revival grow

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/dont-let-islamic-state-monsters-get-away-with-murder/2019/01/10/5f11fb7e-150b-11e9-b6ad-9cfd62dbb0a8_story.html

Black Flags in Kashmir – Mere Shadows or the Coming of Islamic State?

<https://www.thewire.in/politics/kashmir-isis-jamia-masjid-azadi-politics>

Turkey Is An Unreliable Partner In The Fight Against ISIS

<https://www.cfr.org/blog/turkey-unreliable-partner-fight-against-isis>

Amid confusion Trump admin signals Syria pullout won't be rapid

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/01/09/politics/us-syria-withdrawal-confusion/index.html>

ISIS is far from being defeated as a fighting force or ideology

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/01/08/middleeast/isis-analysis-lister-intl/index.html>

The biggest terrorist threat to America isn't a migrant caravan. It's still ISIS

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/opinion/2019/01/09/the-biggest-terrorist-threat-america-isn-migrant-caravan-still-isis/vhdO2paI6WK5rWlxDONZBK/story.html>

Turkey Is Lying About Fighting ISIS

<https://www.cfr.org/article/turkey-lying-about-fighting-isis>

TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Violence Grows in Northern Afghanistan, but Neither Side Is Gaining Much Ground

Najim Rahim and Mujib Mashal – The New York Times: 10 January 2019

With stalled peace talks, both the Taliban and the Afghan National Security Forces are moving ahead with operations. Though both groups have had some significant successes, the battle lines have yet to shift.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/10/world/asia/afghanistan-war-winter.html>

Al-Qaeda Mufti Abu Hafs sheds light on Iran, Qatar influence on extremist groups

Huda al-Saleh – Al Arabiya: 8 January 2019

Mahfouz Ould al-Walid, known as “Abu Hafs al-Mauritani,” the former al-Qaida mufti, has revealed the relationships between Qatar and several extremist groups as well as those groups’ relations with Iran. The relationships were fostered to further political goals, he said.

<http://english.alarabiya.net/en/features/2019/01/08/Al-Qaeda-Mufti-Abu-Hafs-sheds-light-on-Iran-Qatar-influence-on-extremist-groups.html>

For more on this theme:

Pentagon: Taliban Distancing from Sunni Al-Qaeda While Getting Cozy with Iran

<https://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2019/01/04/pentagon-taliban-distancing-sunni-al-qaeda-getting-cozy-iran/>

Airstrike Kills Al Qaeda Operative Behind USS Cole Attack

<https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/airstrike-kills-al-qaeda-operative-behind-uss-cole-attack>

Al Qaeda-linked terrorist group advances in Syria

https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/al-qaeda-linked-terrorist-group-advances-in-syria-119011000088_1.html

Al Qaeda-linked operations room calls for another mediation effort in Syria

<https://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2019/01/al-qaeda-linked-operations-room-calls-for-another-mediation-effort.php>

Somalia: ISIL And Al Shabaab Declare War On Each Other

<https://www.strategypage.com/qnd/somalia/20190108.aspx>

Afghanistan says end to war a ‘dream’ without Taliban talking to government

<https://ca.reuters.com/article/topNews/idCAKCN1P316Y-OCATP>

Afghanistan peace talks in doubt after Taliban’s abrupt walkout

<https://www.foxnews.com/world/taliban-talks-in-question-after-abrupt-cancelation>

The Taliban and the Changing Nature of Pashtun Nationalism

<https://nationalinterest.org/feature/taliban-and-changing-nature-pashtun-nationalism-41182>

The US is greatly downplaying the size of the Afghan Taliban

<https://www.trtworld.com/asia/the-us-is-greatly-downplaying-the-size-of-the-afghan-taliban-23152>

Taliban, ISIS still potent threat for Pakistan

<https://nation.com.pk/07-Jan-2019/taliban-isis-still-potent-threat-for-pakistan>

RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

Most ISIS recruits in the U.S. aren't immigrants. They're actually native-born Americans, new study suggests

Gillian Friedman – Deseret News: 6 January 2019

The Rand Corp. released a new report examining why ISIS has been more successful than its predecessor, al-Qaida, in recruiting in the United States. The findings reveal that the number of U.S. recruits drawn to al-Qaida and its affiliates has declined precipitously, commensurate with the ascent of ISIS, and that the average terrorist recruited by ISIS is younger, less educated and a U.S.-born citizen.

<https://www.deseretnews.com/article/900049423/most-isis-recruits-in-the-us-arent-immigrants-theyre-actually-native-born-americans-new-study-suggests.html>

Full report:

Trends in the Draw of Americans to Foreign Terrorist Organizations from 9/11 to Today

https://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/research_reports/RR2500/RR2545/RAND_RR2545.pdf

Deradicalisation and Disengagement in Somalia: Evidence from a Rehabilitation Programme for Former Members of Al-Shabaab

James Khalil, Rory Brown, Chris Chant, Peter Olowo and Nick Wood – Royal United Services Institute (RUSI): January 2019

RUSI examines efforts in Somalia to disengage and deradicalized former members of al-Shabaab through the Serendi rehabilitation center. This program is designed to weaken the group's influence by providing an attractive alternative. The report analyzes the program's effectiveness and makes a case for exploring similar initiatives in comparable environments.

https://rusi.org/sites/default/files/20190104_whr_4-18_deradicalisation_and_disengagement_in_somalia_web.pdf

For more on this theme:

France faces the daunting task of curbing prison radicalization to prevent 'ISIS 2.0'

<https://www.post-gazette.com/news/faith-religion/2019/01/09/France-extremist-Islamic-prison-radicalization-Strasbourg-terrorist-attack-ISIS/stories/201901010732>

Neuroimaging shows social exclusion spurs extremism in those vulnerable to radicalization

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/01/190110101413.htm>

Curb social media to check radicalization: Army chief

https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/curb-social-media-to-check-radicalization-army-chief-119010900965_1.html

Violent Extremism in the Czech Republic

<https://eeradicalization.com/violent-extremism-in-the-czech-republic/>

A Talk with the European Network Against Racism (ENAR)

<https://eeradicalization.com/a-talk-with-the-european-network-against-racism-enar/>

FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Problem of captured IS fighters grows as US plans Syria exit

Deb Riechmann and Susannah George – The Associated Press: 9 January 2018

With the pending withdrawal of U.S. troops from Syria, it remains unclear what will be done with the hundreds of foreign ISIS fighters from the U.S. and Europe.

<https://www.apnews.com/6424fbe50f34463aa3df5f0ac15d0628>

For more on this theme:

Syria war: My son was an IS fighter, now I'm trying to save his children

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-middle-east-46830113/syria-war-my-son-was-an-is-fighter-now-i-m-trying-to-save-his-children>

Withdrawing From Syria Leaves a Vacuum That Iran Will Fill

<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/syria/2019-01-08/withdrawing-syria-leaves-vacuum-iran-will-fill>

COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

The FBI is Trying Amazon's Facial-Recognition Software

Frank Konkel – Defense One: 4 January 2019

The U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation is piloting Amazon Rekognition to sort the enormous volumes of video footage it collects during investigations. The pilot program kicked off in early 2018.

<https://www.defenseone.com/technology/2019/01/fbi-trying-amazons-facial-recognition-software/153929/>

For more on this theme:

China, Pakistan Conclude Bilateral Counterterrorism Exercises

<https://thediplomat.com/2019/01/china-pakistan-conclude-bilateral-counterterrorism-exercises/>

UAE, Pakistan agree to devise effective 'counter-terrorism' policies

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/473204-UAE-Pakistan-agree-to-devise-effective-counter-terrorism-policies>

Afghanistan after Mattis: A revised strategy to focus on counterterrorism and the Afghan Security Forces

<https://www.brookings.edu/research/afghanistan-after-mattis-a-revised-strategy-to-focus-on-counterterrorism-and-the-afghan-security-forces/>

U.S. Sets Strategy Against WMD Terrorism

<https://www.armscontrol.org/act/2019-01/news/us-sets-strategy-against-wmd-terrorism>

A U.S. Terrorism Prevention Strategy

https://www.thecipherbrief.com/column_article/a-u-s-terrorism-prevention-strategy

CONSEQUENCE MANAGEMENT

WATER SECURITY

Despite increased rainfall, earth faces widespread drought: Australian study

Xinhua: 13 December 2018

Rainfall is increasing as temperatures rise, but drought is still expected because, overall, the soil is much drier. Drier soil means the water is being absorbed into the earth rather than replenishing the water cycle. Unless countries do something to improve their infrastructure, water scarcity will grow worse.

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-12/13/c_137671206.htm

Early-warning tools aim to prevent 'water wars,' curb droughts

Linda Givetash – NBC News: 25 December 2018

The lack of water poses a global security challenge. Researchers are rising to meet that challenge by developing ways to forecast and prevent water conflicts.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/early-warning-tools-aim-prevent-water-wars-curb-droughts-n917001>

For more on this theme:

Cooperation key to UAE water security

<http://www.fruitnet.com/eurofruit/article/177500/cooperation-key-to-uae-water-security>

Population boom a threat to water security — MWSS

<http://manilastandard.net/news/national/284570/population-boom-a-threat-to-water-security-mwss.html>

MMRA: Water Security in Libya at risk

<https://www.libyaobserver.ly/inbrief/mmra-water-security-libya-risk>

International Desalination Association Co-Organizes The World Future Energy Summit (WFES) Water Forum And Tech for Good Forum With MASDAR And Reed Exhibitions

<https://www.wateronline.com/doc/international-desalination-wfes-water-forum-tech-masdar-reed-exhibitions-0001>

Snow and Ice Melt Patterns Help Predict Water Supply for Major Asian River Basins

<https://www.newsecuritybeat.org/2018/12/snow-ice-melt-patterns-predict-water-supply-major-asian-river-basins/>

Pakistan could run out of water by 2025. Here's how

<https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/indepth/2018/12/20/how-pakistan-could-run-out-of-water-by-2025>