

THE MARSHALL CENTER

transnational weekly



A CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICE FROM THE MARSHALL CENTER

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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Steinmetz Sentence Opens New Front in War on Mining Corruption

Hugo Miller and Thomas Biesheuvel – Bloomberg: 26 January 2021

Beny Steinmetz, a French-Israeli businessman, was convicted in a Swiss court on charges of corrupting foreign public officials in a bid to reap iron ore resources in Guinea. He was sentenced to five years in prison.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-01-26/steinmetz-sentence-opens-new-front-in-war-on-mining-corruption>

South Korea set-up anti-corruption investigation agency

Islam Uddin – Anadolu Agency: 21 January 2021

South Korea's Constitutional Court said that the establishment of a powerful anti-corruption investigation agency is constitutional, clearing the way for the new body's full operation.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/south-korea-set-up-anti-corruption-investigation-agency/2117882>

For more on this theme:

Anti-corruption watchdog chief nominee vows neutrality, independence

<http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20210119000788>

Navalny Says Member Of Anti-Corruption Foundation Detained On Extremism Charge

<https://www.rferl.org/a/navalny-says-member-of-anti-corruption-foundation-detained-on-extremism-charge/31047678.html>

Iraqi port revenue surges as anti-corruption move bears fruit

<https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2021/01/iraq-basra-port-umm-qasr-corruption.html>

Government charges former Bermuda premier with corruption

<https://apnews.com/article/ewart-brown-puerto-rico-lawsuits-bermuda-courts-fb34e5e4070d8b742766e9a1904bc8af>

Former Kyrgyz Prime Minister Abylgaziev Arrested On Corruption Charges

<https://www.rferl.org/a/former-kyrgyz-prime-minister-abylgaziev-arrested-on-corruption-charges/31071427.html>

Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission Evaluating Laws Hindering Corruption Fight

<https://frontpageafricaonline.com/front-slider/liberia-anti-corruption-commission-evaluating-laws-hindering-corruption-fight/>

Lawyer For Navalny's Anti-Corruption Foundation Forcibly Kicked Out Of Russia

<https://www.rferl.org/a/31069479.html>

Corruption Watch 'seeks clarity' on anti-graft vaccine procurement measures

<https://www.news24.com/news24/southafrica/news/corruption-watch-seeks-clarity-on-anti-graft-vaccine-procurement-measures-20210121>

DRUG TRAFFICKING

Explainer: The arrest of Asia's 'most-wanted' drug boss

Tom Allard – Reuters: 24 January 2021

Dutch police have arrested the alleged leader of a large Asian drug syndicate who is listed as one of the world's most-wanted fugitives and has been compared to Mexican drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-netherlands-australia-drugs-arrest-ex-idUSKBN29TOA6>

Twin Menace Of Golden Triangle And Golden Crescent For India – Analysis

Anondeeta Chakraborty – Eurasia Review: 26 January 2021

The Golden Triangle and the Golden Crescent are considered two of the safest havens for illicit drug manufacturing and trading on the planet. Because India is located between the Golden Crescent and the Golden Triangle, the country is a robust hub of illicit drug traffic.

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/26012021-twin-menace-of-golden-triangle-and-golden-crescent-for-india-analysis/>

For more on this theme:

Has the illegal drug trade outsmarted a pandemic?

<https://www.euronews.com/2021/01/15/has-the-illegal-drug-trade-outsmarted-a-pandemic>

US Real Estate Firms Forfeit \$50m in Alleged Drug Money

<https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/13642-us-real-estate-firms-forfeit-29m-in-alleged-drug-money>

Mexico's Fentanyl Crisis Reached New Heights in 2020

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/mexico-fentanyl-crisis-2020/>

Meth Use Is on the Rise in Southeast Asia – And COVID Is To Blame

<https://www.vice.com/en/article/epdq4k/meth-use-is-on-the-rise-in-southeast-asia-and-covid-is-to-blame>

Cocaine-stuffed shipments of bananas ended up at Canadian grocery stores due to a drug-trafficking mix-up

<https://www.insider.com/cocaine-stuffed-banana-boxes-landed-at-canadian-grocery-stores-2021-1>

Some Colombians fear ex-paramilitary leader deported from US

<https://apnews.com/article/world-news-south-america-drug-trafficking-colombia-crime-d60d037be1fbc9067b1e494c2a2e997d>

How Mexican drug cartels are using TikTok to entice young people into organized crime

<https://www.courier-journal.com/story/news/2021/01/27/mexican-drug-cartels-using-tiktok-to-entice-young-people/6701080002/>

Drug-linked intimidation has 'chilling effect' on inner city areas

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/drug-linked-intimidation-has-chilling-effect-on-inner-city-areas-1.4467578>

£148 million to cut drugs crime

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/148-million-to-cut-drugs-crime>

TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Uganda's illegal wildlife traders undeterred by COVID-19 restrictions

Mohamed Daghar – Institute for Security Studies: 25 January 2021

Asia's massive appetite for Africa's wildlife has sustained a profitable international smuggling business, despite lockdowns. Measures to help curb the spread of COVID-19 in Uganda – such as restrictions on movement – apparently have not deterred the illegal international wildlife trade. In addition to being a source country, Uganda is a transit node and a regional logistical hub for the trade in illegal wildlife from Central Africa.

<https://issafrica.org/iss-today/ugandas-illegal-wildlife-traders-undeterred-by-covid-19-restrictions>

To Prevent Pandemics and Protect Biodiversity, Combat Wildlife Crime

Stewart M. Patrick – World Politics Review: 25 January 2021

National governments need to close the gaps in two major multilateral treaties to more effectively tackle the illicit trade of wild animals, which threatens global public health. The Global Initiative to End Wildlife Crime proposes a practical approach that the world should embrace, the author says.

<https://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/articles/29374/to-prevent-pandemics-and-protect-biodiversity-combat-wildlife-crime>

For more on this theme:

'Timber Mafia' From India Running Amok in Bhutan

<https://thediplomat.com/2021/01/timber-mafia-from-india-running-amok-in-bhutan/>

Environmental assassinations bad for business, new research shows

<https://news.mongabay.com/2021/01/environmental-assassinations-bad-for-business-new-research-shows/>

Illegal Mining: Mineral Checkposts Coming-up Around Srinagar City

<https://menafn.com/1101464720/Illegal-Mining-Mineral-Checkposts-Coming-up-Around-Srinagar-City>

Illegal Sierra Leonean Miners Dying in Liberia

<https://frontpageafricaonline.com/news/illegal-sierra-leonean-miners-dying-in-liberia/>

US Coast Guard to help combat illegal fishing in the Caribbean

http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/latestnews/US_Coast_Guard_to_help_combat_illegal_fishing_in_the_Caribbean

South America Plans Regional Response to China's Squid Fleet

<https://www.maritime-executive.com/editorials/south-america-plans-regional-response-to-china-s-squid-fleet>

China And Russia Hate Indo-Pacific's New Collaborative Surveillance Webs

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/craighooper/2021/01/17/china-and-russia-hate-indo-pacifics-new-and-colaborative-surveillance-webs/?sh=74f922fb7abf>

How a shrimp farming "mafia" is displacing Indian fishing communities

<https://thefishsite.com/articles/how-a-shrimp-farming-mafia-is-displacing-indian-fishing-communities>

ORGANIZED CRIME AND MONEY LAUNDERING

The Threat That Cannot Be Addressed Alone

Andrew J. Tiongson – Americas Quarterly: 26 January 2021

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, transnational criminal organizations have adjusted their tactics, techniques and procedures. Combating organized crime in the Americas requires cooperation among the hemisphere's countries.

<https://americasquarterly.org/article/the-threat-that-cannot-be-addressed-alone/>

School's Out in Most of Latin America. Gangs Are Thrilled.

John Otis – Americas Quarterly: 26 January 2021

As 2020 drew to a close, more than 97% of students across Latin America remained physically out of school because of COVID-19, according to a study by UNICEF. This has been a disaster for the region's education systems – and a potential bonanza for criminal organizations that suddenly have an even bigger pool of idle young people to recruit from.

<https://www.americasquarterly.org/article/schools-out-in-latin-america-gangs-are-thrilled/>

For more on this theme:

US Treasury Under New Mandate to Probe Chinese Money Laundering

<https://www.voanews.com/east-asia-pacific/voa-news-china/us-treasury-under-new-mandate-probe-chinese-money-laundering>

Explained: Why Italy's largest trial in 30 years, against 'Ndrangheta mafia, is significant

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-why-italys-largest-trial-in-30-years-against-ndrangheta-mafia-is-significant-7148017/>

What COVID-19 Revealed About Illicit Trade

<https://americasquarterly.org/article/sponsored-content-what-covid-19-revealed-about-illicit-trade/>

How Transnational Crime Is Mutating in the Age of COVID-19 in Latin America

<https://americasquarterly.org/article/the-other-mutating-virus-the-pandemic-and-organized-crime/>

Attacks at sea aren't all linked to piracy. Why it's important to unpick what's what

<https://theconversation.com/attacks-at-sea-arent-all-linked-to-piracy-why-its-important-to-unpick-whats-what-153591>

How COVID-19 Is Influencing Organized Crime and Conflict

<https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/counterterrorism/how-covid-19-is-influencing-organized-crime-and-conflict/>

When Politics and Crime Collided in Peru

<https://americasquarterly.org/article/the-governor-and-the-gangs-when-politics-and-crime-collided-in-peru/>

Q&A: Brazil's Pioneering Fight Against Gang Money Laundering

<https://americasquarterly.org/article/to-fight-organized-crime-in-latin-america-defund-it/>

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Internet Governance and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Part 7: Articles 20-21

Klaus Stoll and Sam Lanfranco – CircleID: 20 January 2021

Internet governance, like all governance, needs to be founded on guiding principles from which all policymaking is derived. There are no more fundamental principles to guide policymaking than the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

<http://www.circleid.com/posts/20210120-internet-governance-and-universal-declaration-human-rights-part-7/>

For more on this theme:

(Global) Building a Decentralized and Uncensorable Internet — The Nexus Protocol

<https://news.bitcoin.com/building-a-decentralized-and-uncensorable-internet-the-nexus-protocol/>

(Global) Davos Agenda: What you need to know about technology

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/01/davos-agenda-what-you-need-to-know-about-technology-fourth-industrial-revolution-tech-for-good-cyberattacks-cybercrime-digital-skills-5g/>

(Europe, U.S.) 6 developments that will define AI governance in 2021

<https://www.brookings.edu/research/6-developments-that-will-define-ai-governance-in-2021/>

INTERNET FREEDOM

Iran Deems Signal ‘Criminal Content,’ Removes From Local App Stores

Golnaz Esfandiari – Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty: 15 January 2021

Iran’s government has moved to block Signal after Iranians flocked to the messaging platform following privacy concerns from Facebook-owned WhatsApp.

<https://www.rferl.org/a/iran-deems-signal-criminal-content-removes-from-local-app-stores/31048089.html>

For more on this theme:

(Tajikistan) Tajikistan: Authorities somehow find more room for internet censorship

<https://eurasianet.org/tajikistan-authorities-somehow-find-more-room-for-internet-censorship>

(Iran) Iran’s technology minister indicted for failing to properly implement internet censorship

<https://www.intellinews.com/iran-s-technology-minister-indicted-for-failing-to-properly-implement-internet-censorship-200768/>

(Russia) Russia wages online battle against TikTok and YouTube

<https://www.deccanherald.com/international/world-news-politics/russia-wages-online-battle-against-tiktok-and-youtube-942308.html>

PRIVACY AND SECURITY

Google Seeks to Allay Publishers' Fears Over Privacy Ad Changes

Aoife White – Bloomberg: 25 January 2021

Google announced that new tests show promising results for the technology it hopes will replace cookie-based ad targeting.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-01-25/google-seeks-to-allay-publishers-fears-over-privacy-ad-changes>

For more on this theme:

(Global) Apple to take the internet by storm with its new privacy changes causing Facebook and Google to face huge amount of loss

<https://www.digitalinformationworld.com/2021/01/apple-to-take-internet-by-storm-with.html#>

(Pakistan) Terror groups in Pakistan switch to new messaging apps amid privacy debate

https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/terror-groups-in-pakistan-switch-to-new-messaging-apps-amid-privacy-debate-121012400363_1.html

(U.K.) UK resumes privacy oversight of adtech, warns platform audits are coming

<https://techcrunch.com/2021/01/22/uk-resumes-privacy-oversight-of-adtech-warns-platform-audits-are-coming/>

(Europe) Privacy complaint targets European parliament's COVID-19 test-booking site

<https://techcrunch.com/2021/01/22/privacy-complaint-targets-european-parliaments-covid-19-test-booking-site/>

CYBER STATECRAFT

A Neglected Frontier: Challenges to Japan's Cyber Security

Samuel Arnold-Parra – Global Risk Insights: 23 January 2021

What steps has Japan been taking, and what barriers are there to enhancing Japan's cyber security?

<https://globalriskinsights.com/2021/01/a-neglected-frontier-challenges-to-japans-cyber-security/>

For more on this theme:

(Zambia) Zambia readies new cyber security policy but pundits not convinced

<https://itweb.africa/content/rxP3jqBm4KrMA2ye>

(U.S.) Biden calls for 'most ambitious effort ever' to modernize federal IT, cybersecurity

<https://www.fedscoop.com/biden-calls-ambitious-effort-ever-modernize-federal-cybersecurity/>

(North Korea) Why North Korea Excels in Cybercrime

<https://www.darkreading.com/threat-intelligence/why-north-korea-excels-in-cybercrime--/a/d-id/1339887>

CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

India speaks 120 languages. But on internet, laws only in govt's favourite Hindi and English

Malavika Rajkumar – The Print: 25 January 2021

The right to access translated text is guaranteed by the Constitution of India and is one of the core aspects of justice and open data.

<https://theprint.in/opinion/india-speaks-120-languages-but-on-internet-laws-only-in-govts-favourite-hindi-and-english/591677/>

For more on this theme:

(Austria, Global) Five key takeaways from Austria's mobile government (mGov) experience

<https://blogs.worldbank.org/governance/five-key-takeaways-austrias-mobile-government-mgov-experience>

(Nigeria) How a hackathon sparked resilience and innovation throughout one of the largest western African cities

<https://www.preventionweb.net/news/view/75652>

(Moldova, NATO) Cyber Incident Response Capability established in the Republic of Moldova with NATO support

https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news_180758.htm?selectedLocale=en

CYBER CRIME

International police agencies dismantle 'world's most dangerous' criminal hacking network

i24NEWS and Agence France-Presse: 27 January 2021

A team of international law enforcement and judicial groups says it disrupted the infrastructure used by cyber criminals to spread what authorities described as the “world’s most dangerous malware.” The Emotet botnet is one of the most prolific malware viruses used by cyber criminals over the past decade.

<https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/technology/1611765106-international-police-agencies-dismantle-world-s-most-dangerous-criminal-hacking-network>

For more on this theme:

(Global) The World Needs a Cyber-WHO to Counter Viruses in Cyberspace

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/01/24/the-world-needs-a-cyber-who-to-counter-viruses-in-cyberspace/>

(Global) 6 principles to unite business in the fight against cybercrime

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/01/cyber-security-governance-principles/>

(Global) How can healthcare organisations fight increased cyber crime in 2021?

<https://www.computerweekly.com/feature/How-can-healthcare-organisations-fight-increased-cyber-crime-in-2021>

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

The Islamic State Stopped Talking About China

Elliot Stewart – War on the Rocks: 19 January 2021

ISIS has adopted a “systematic silence” on the Xinjiang Uyghur issue and Chinese atrocities committed on the community.

<https://warontherocks.com/2021/01/the-islamic-state-stopped-talking-about-uyghurs/>

Think-Tank: Support for IS Extremist Group Declining in Indonesia

Riza Chadijah – BenarNews: 21 January 2021

Pro-ISIS activity and support for it in Indonesia declined last year, but authorities should not rest easy because militant groups are splintering to produce small “pop up” terror cells to conduct jihad operations, warns Jakarta-based think tank Institute for Policy Analysis of Conflict.

<https://www.benarnews.org/english/news/indonesian/ipac-report-01212021174927.html>

For more on this theme:

Could Kazakhstan Efforts to Repatriate Foreign Fighters Be a Model?

<https://www.voanews.com/extremism-watch/could-kazakhstan-efforts-repatriate-foreign-fighters-be-model>

Philippine Commander: Suspected Indonesian Bomber Says Parents Forced Her to Join IS

<https://www.benarnews.org/english/news/philippine/suicide-bomb-suspect-indonesia-philippines-01152021160026.html>

Terror Arrests Drop in Malaysia Due to Pandemic, New Policing Approach

<https://www.benarnews.org/english/news/malaysian/my-counter-terror-01152021181945.html>

Why is ISIS ignoring Chinese atrocities on Uyghurs, while US terms it genocide?

<https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/why-is-isis-ignoring-chinese-atrocities-on-uyghurs-while-us-terms-it-genocide20210128120454/>

Isis: From Cardiff to the Caliphate

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-55796316>

Trials are held the ISIS style in al-Hol camp: Autonomous Administration

<https://english.enabbaladi.net/archives/2021/01/trials-are-held-the-isis-style-in-al-hol-camp-autonomous-administration/>

ISIS is regrouping, gaining strength in Iraq’s disputed territories: Peshmerga ministry official

<https://www.rudaw.net/english/middleeast/iraq/27012021>

TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Al Qaeda ‘gaining strength’ in Afghanistan, U.S. Treasury says

Thomas Joscelyn – FDD’s Long War Journal: 25 January 2021

The U.S. Treasury Department said that al-Qaida is gaining strength in Afghanistan while “continuing to operate with the Taliban under the group’s protection.”

<https://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2021/01/al-qaeda-gaining-strength-in-afghanistan-u-s-treasury-says.php>

Amid crisis, Hezbollah ‘bank’ a lifeline for some Lebanese

Bassem Mroue – The Associated Press: 27 January 2021

As more Lebanese fall into poverty during the country’s economic crisis, increasing numbers are turning to the financial arm of the Hezbollah militant group for help, despite criticism and U.S. sanctions levied against it.

<https://apnews.com/article/world-news-financial-markets-lebanon-9e4faa6cb08b59cc773ee08ed501a-ca1>

For more on this theme:

Taliban prisoners released under peace deal arrested after rejoining fight, official says

<https://www.stripes.com/news/middle-east/taliban-prisoners-released-under-peace-deal-arrested-after-rejoining-fight-official-says-1.659766>

From the midst of society: Jihadi online media productions and how different groups deal with them

https://www.uni-mainz.de/presse/aktuell/12929_ENG_HTML.php

European, South Asian countries need to adopt a multifaceted response to counter terrorism: Think tank

<https://www.aninews.in/news/world/europe/european-south-asian-countries-need-to-adopt-a-multifaceted-response-to-counter-terrorism-think-tank20210127023445/>

Amid Biden-Ordered Review of Afghanistan Troop Drawdown, Report Finds al-Qaida Gaining Strength

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2021/01/27/amid-biden-ordered-review-of-afghanistan-troop-drawdown-report-finds-al-qaeda-gaining-strength.html>

Afghanistan- The Scene Behind al-Qaeda and Iran Relations

<https://menafn.com/1101480405/Afghanistan-The-Scene-Behind-al-Qaeda-and-Iran-Relations>

Violence in West Africa’s Sahel displaces record 2 million people, U.N. says

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-sahel-security-refugees-idUSKBN29R1QX>

Nigeria names new military chiefs amid spreading militant violence

<https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-nigeria-security/nigeria-names-new-military-chiefs-amid-spreading-militant-violence-idUSKBN29V1RG>

RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

Islamic State And Taliban Use Different Strategies To Appeal To Women In English-Language Magazines

Eurasia Review: 27 January 2021

New research from the University of Exeter addresses questions surrounding how women are framed in jihadi rhetoric and what roles they play within these frames.

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/27012021-islamic-state-and-taliban-use-different-strategies-to-appeal-to-women-in-english-language-magazines/>

For more on this theme:

Radicalisation in the EU: what is it? How can it be prevented?

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/security/20210121STO96105/radicalisation-in-the-eu-what-is-it-how-can-it-be-prevented>

Religious leaders urge Singaporeans to join forces to battle online radicalisation of young people

<https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/religious-leaders-urge-singaporeans-to-join-forces-to-battle-online-radicalisation-of-young>

Inquiry launched into radicalisation in UK jails

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/779699-inquiry-launched-into-radicalisation-in-uk-jails>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: DISINFORMATION AND MALIGN INFLUENCE

What Is So Foreign About Foreign Influence Operations?

Hedvig Ördén and James Pamment – Carnegie: 26 January 2021

When combating influence operations, focusing on discouraging misleading digital market techniques is a more versatile, effective strategy than focusing on whether foreign or domestic actors are involved.

<https://carnegieendowment.org/2021/01/26/what-is-so-foreign-about-foreign-influence-operations-pub-83706>

For more on this theme:

Xi Jinping touts coronavirus cooperation as China persists with vaccine disinformation push

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/01/26/asia/xi-jinping-china-vaccine-intl-hnk/index.html>

Chinese and Russian influence campaigns risk undermining Covid-19 vaccination programs

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/chinese-and-russian-influence-campaigns-risk-undermining-covid-19-vaccination-programs/>

Russia's great wall

<https://thehill.com/opinion/international/535476-russias-great-wall>